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December 23, 2007

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Guard charged in gas station shooting

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

While investigating the scene of the shooting of Scott Correctional Facility Lt. Joseph Candie Wednesday, police found a dozen spent shell casings from a .38-caliber revolver lying on the ground.

When, later in the day, 44-yearold Darren Johnson of Redford Township was found bleeding from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound on Belle Isle, police said a .38caliber revolver was recovered.

That, along with other evidence uncovered during the first day of



Johnson



Candie

the investigation, led to the arrest of Johnson, who by then was recovering at Detroit Receiving Hospital from surgery related to his wounds.

On Thursday, Judge Michael Gerou of Plymouth's 35th District Court traveled to the hospital and presided over the arraignment of Johnson on first-degree murder and felony firearms charges.

If convicted, Johnson faces life in

Police say Johnson, a corrections officer at Scott Correctional Facility, shot Candie to death following a heated argument at a Plymouth Township gas station shortly after 5 a.m. Wednesday.

Witness accounts of the argument led police to believe the victim knew the shooter. Johnson worked for

Candie on the prison's third shift.

According to Department of Corrections spokesman Russ Marlan. Johnson had been an acting sergeant at Scott, but two weeks ago voluntarily gave up that position and asked to be a corrections officer. Marlan said he had no idea why Johnson made the request.

It was also unclear whether that request had anything to do with the argument between the two men.

Plymouth Township Police Detective David Hayes acknowledged the finding of the shell casings at the scene and the recovery of the revolver when Johnson was found, but said the department was waiting

on ballistics tests to see if the casings matched the gun.

Candie, 39, a 14-year veteran of the Department of Corrections, spent the last three years at Scott, where he was a shift commander on the midnight shift, according to Marlan. Candie had previously worked at the Western Wayne Correctional Facility down the street, which was closed a few years ago. He leaves behind his

Marlan said Johnson was hired May 1, 1988, and had spent his entire career at Scott.

fiancée and a 10-year-old daughter.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

FISH swims along in its 35th year

BY BRAD KADRICH

Ask just about anyone what "FISH of the day" means to them, and you're likely to hear words like cod or shrimp or flounder.

Pose the question to someone in the Plymouth-Canton area who doesn't have a car, or the money to take a cab to a doctor's appointment or grocery shopping, the term is likely to have a very different meaning.

"FISH" of the day is the term used to describe the person responsible for coordinating the daily ride schedule for FISH of Plymouth-Canton, the civic organization which for 35 years has prided itself on providing just such services.

And, while the typical client would probably be described as disabled or a senior citizen, the service is available to anyone.

"We have one client who is a young woman whose children get treated at Children's Hospital," said Lila Vincent, a member of the group's steering committee. "These people have no means of transportation.

According to information provided by Vincent, FISH started in the Anglican Church in England, with the first American chapter founded in West Springfield, Mass., in 1964.

Please see FISH, A6



Joann Page of Plymouth gets a ride from a Plymouth FISH volunteer. FISH celebrated its 35th anniversary this year.



CHRIS EUPICA

Ahnaleza, Lydia and Andrea Wilseck prepare meals at a soup kitchen as part of Trinity Church's holiday outreach program.

Season of touch

Church spreads acts of kindness throughout community

BY LAUREL THOMAS GNAGEY CORRESPONDENT

Vicki Bigham still remembers the "long, pretty nightgown" she got her mother for Christmas 27 years ago. The Canton resident also recalls the nervous excitement she felt when she and her vounger sister were taken to a large warehouse to pick out gifts for all 10 members of their family.

Although the name of the organization has escaped her memory, the now 41-year-old Bigham has never forgotten the kindness extended to the family at a time when her father was laid off from his job at Ford Motor Co. and the prospect for Christmas gifts looked bleak.

"I just thought it was really great that they did this," she said. "It was an awesome experience."

Bigham had an opportunity to give back recently when she helped several other members of a Trinity Church committee

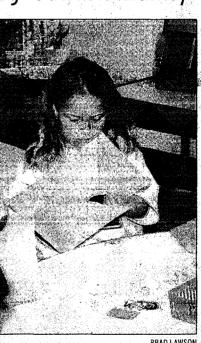
plan a new focus for its annual Christmas program — one that encouraged members of the church to reach out to the community and "show God's love in small, unexpected ways," said Ellie Schupra, director of outreach.

"Our hope is not just to reach out to those in need, although this is a big part of it," Schupra said. "We want our members to think about how they can do very small acts of kindness to those we see every day in our community."

Organizers of the program coordinated several activities that began in November and will run through January, and they encouraged members to come up with their own random acts of kindness.

"So if you recently went through a drive-through and the person at the window said your meal was paid by the customer ahead of

Please see KINDNESS, A6



Lilli Keehn, 6, Canton, makes decorations for Thanksgiving boxes that were assembled with food items donated by Trinity Church members.

Chamber 12 hires newa3 director o'

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

Committee members interviewing potential candidates for the soon-tobe-vacant executive director's job at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce were hoping to land someone with experience.

They accomplished exactly that. Wesley Graff, a veteran chamber staffer who has worked at the Detroit chamber and was president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, has accepted the position, Plymouth chamber officials announced Thursday.

Graff is slated to start Jan. 15 and will be formally introduced to the community at the annual State of the Chamber breakfast in late January. He will work with Fran Toney, the current executive director, until she retires in April.



"I'm very excited about Plymouth, because I think Plymouth is poised to continue to be an outstanding community moving forward," Graff said. "Plymouth has great quality of life, a lot of great corporations, including a lot of foreign corporations, which I'm very impressed by.

"(Toney) has done a great job, and I'm very excited to have the opportunity to follow (Toney) and what she's done."

While he had most recently been director of marketing for a Garden City catering company, Graff has extensive experience in chamber work. From April 2003 to September 2006 he was president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. He left Livonia for a similar job at the Greater Mankato (Minn.) chamber, but left after seven months.

"He seems to have the qualities that will help the chamber grown and prosper," said James Vermeulen, a member of the search committee who also sits on the chamber board. "He has spent his whole career working with chambers. He has extensive success in marketing and managing large and small chambers."

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APARTMENTS AUTOMOTIVE CROSSWORD PUZZLE **D4 B**5 HEALTH HOMETOWNLIFE Jobs **NEW HOMES** D1 **OBITUARIES** C4 OPINION A7 D2 REAL ESTATE

SPORTS

Coming Thursday in **filter**



Pewter Penn ornaments

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling the last of the collectible pewter ornaments of the Penn Theatre.

Ornaments are \$10 each and can be purchased at the Plymouth Symphony Office at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 451-2112.

Library blood drive

The recent snow storm greatly reduced the amount of blood collected by the American Red Cross.

Hoping to help increase the blood inventory for southeast Michigan, the Plymouth District Library will host a blood drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28.

Reserve a time slot by calling the Library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 217. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Fife & Drum alumni

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is in the process of compiling alumni information to reach out to our alumni members regarding future events and performances.

If you are a Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps alumni, please forward your contact information (name, phone number, email address) to our Alumni Director, Robin Leclerc (rleclerc@wideopenwest.com)

Council on Aging

■ Plymouth Community Council on Aging presents The Heinzman School of Irish Dance and also a presenta-



Taking the stage

Guy Louis, who has been a cornerstone of the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Music in the Park for more than 15 years, will be the featured performer in a concert designed to raise funds for the benefit of the Tanger School Playground. Louis, creator and performer of Chautauqua Express Musical Programs, features active audience participation, expert musicianship and light-hearted humor. In a performance organized by the Plymouth Rotary A.M., Louis takes the stage 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5 at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth. Tickets are \$3 for children, \$5 for Adults and can be purchased at The Penn Theatre, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, 44427 Ann Arbor Rd # B, Plymouth, MI, or by calling Debra Madonna at 734-377-0914. Sponsors of the event are Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Marcel & Debra Madonna & Family, QuixWorks Therapeutic Massage, S & N Graphic Solutions, Gerry Sabatini and TangentLife.

tion by Jane Saylor, "Writing Skills," Jan. 14, 1:30-3 p.m., at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for information.

■ Stroke Screenings by Life Line, hosted by the Council on Aging, will be held Friday, Jan. 18, at the Plymouth Township Friendship Station.

had been sledding with

Pre-registration is required. Call to schedule appointments for screenings at (800) 324-1851. Screenings available are Stroke Screen/Carotid Artery \$45, Abdominal Aortic. Aneurysm Screening \$45, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening \$45, Osteoporosis Screening \$35 or all four (4) screenings for \$129.

Me & My Shadow class

Young children and their grown-ups are invited to frolic indoors this winter at New Morning School's Me & My Shadow Parent & Young Child Classes, a fun, nurturing and educational introduction to preschool for 2-, 3- and 4year-olds and their grownups.

Activities include music and finger-play, art and discovery projects, snack and story time. all centered around a learning theme. New Morning School's Me & My Shadow classes provide special one-on-one time for parents and children, and encourage children to take their first steps toward socializing with their peers.

Parents can choose from two eight-week sessions beginning Jan. 11. Classes run on Friday morning from 9-10 a.m. or 10:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$72 for the entire session.

To enroll, please call (734) 420-3331, or download the registration form at www.newmorningschool.com

Garden Club

Beneath frosty autumn carpets, the gardens are awaiting their future displays for 2008. Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth is looking for gardens in the Plymouth area for its annual Garden Walk taking place next June. Over the years, all manner of gardens have delighted visitors, ranging from compact city gardens to watery, wildflower, herb, cutting, and expansive country gardens.

Anyone interested in opening their special garden can contact Georgia Randinitis at (734) 459-7146 or Marilyn Detmer at (734) 454-4625.

Cruise for the arts

Patrons can help the arts thrive in the community and cruise the Caribbean at the same time.

The first Plymouth Community Cruise, sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary A.M., is scheduled March 22-29, a seven-day cruise of the western Caribbean. Ports of Call (round trip from Ft. Lauderdale) include Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; Princess Cays, Bahamas; and two days at sea.

Prices start at \$969 per person, and a \$200 per-cabin contribution will be made in the cruiser's name to the **Plymouth Canton Symphony** Society upon return.

For reservations and more information, contact Kathy or Kate at Carlson Wagonlit Travel, (734) 455-5810.

Legion meets

■ The American Legion, Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 and Ladies Auxiliary Unit 112 meet the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All war-time veterans are welcome. Ladies must be a mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter or great-granddaughter of a war-time veteran and are also welcome.

Meetings are held at IOOF Hall, 344 Elizabeth (at Ann Arbor Trail) in downtown Plymouth, For information, call (734) 459-7324.

■ The Plymouth American Legion Passage-Gayde Post #391 conducts its monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township.

All interested military veterans should contact Commander Mike O'Malley, (734) 459-7890, for more information.

Sled stolen during outing at Plymouth Township Park

A woman reported an LL Bean tübe sled was stolen during a family outing in Plymouth Township Park at McClumpha and Ann Arbor Trail Dec. 17.

friends and let the friends continue to use the sled while he left to go get warmed up. Upon his return, the friends told him they "turned around The woman said her son and the sled was gone." According to the woman, who asked to remain anonymous, the parent who picked **CANTON CINEMA** the children up "was told the same story."

She said the sled, which was of some \$129, "is very heavy and was the only one like it" being used at the park that

Anyone with information can contact the Plymouth Township Police Department, (734) 354-3232.

Fire runs

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Dec. 12-18:

■ Tuesday, Dec. 18 -Residential rescue runs on Harding, on Ann Arbor Trail, on Rockledge, on Newport, on Beck and on Russell; commercial rescue runs on Ann Arbor Road, on Main and on 5 Mile; rescue run on Joy;

vehicle accident with extraction on northbound I-275 at Ann Arbor Trail.

■ Monday, Dec. 17 - vehicle accidents on M-14 west of Beck, on westbound M-14 at I-275 and on eastbound Ann Arbor Road at I-275; residential rescue runs on Harvey, on Haggerty and on Risman; commercial fire on Ann Arbor Road.

■ Sunday, Dec. 16 -Residential rescue runs on Sheridan, on Meadow Court, on Erin, on Ann Arbor Trail and on Riveredge; commercial rescue run on Haggerty:

downed wires on Jib; rescue run at northbound I-275 and Ann Arbor Road.

■ Saturday, Dec. 15 -Residential rescue runs on Sheldon and on Ann Arbor Road; vehicle accident on Joy over I-275.

■ Friday, Dec. 14 -Residential rescue runs on Dogwood and on Joy; commercial rescue runs on Sheldon and on Haggerty; vehicle accident on Beck south of N. Territorial.

Thursday, Dec. 13 -Residential rescue runs on Sheridan, on Hunter Creek

on Risman, on Lilley, on Irvin and on Hunt Club; commercial rescue run on Beck; mutual-aid rescue run on Haggerty; rescue run on Ann Arbor Road; industrial rescue run on Sheldon; carbon monoxide detector run on Russell.

■ Wednesday, Dec. 12 - Commercial rescue run on Sheldon; rescue runs to public buildings/schools on Haggerty and on Beck; residential rescue runs on Ann Arbor Trail, on Heritage, on Andover and on Elizabeth; investigation on







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2-Park Unlimited Admission Ticket:

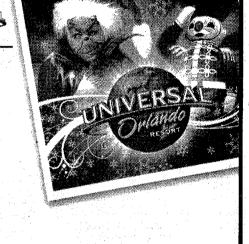
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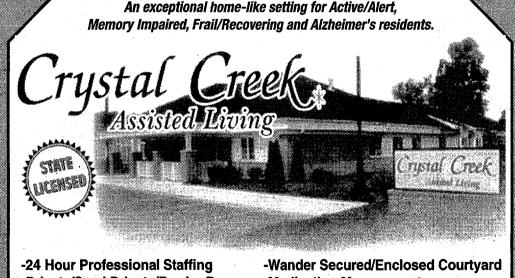
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-Planned Activities

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8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to federal guidelines, the Charter Township of Plymouth decided on December 12, 207 to submit the following projects for funding from the 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

LOCATION 201 South Main 1160 Sheridan 42375 Schoolcraft

9955 N. Haggerty Rd.

LOCATION

201 South Main

42375 Schoolcraft

1160 Sheridan

2008 PROJECTS SENIOR SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

MULTI-YEAR (7-year) SENIOR CENTER ANNEXATION

ADMINISTRATION

2008 PROJECTS

SENIOR SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

TOTAL

TOTAL

75,970.00 10,700.00 \$107.000.00

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION

If Wayne County determines after all applications are received that additional funds are available for public service projects the proposed allocations submitted are:

MULTI-YEAR (7-year) SENIOR CENTER ANNEXATION

37,775.00 44,360.00 10,700.00 \$107,000.00

OE08577166 - 3x3

14,165.00

14.785.00

Publish: December 23, 2007

9955 N. Haggerty Rd.

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION

Senior soldier

Age waiver puts local vet in thick of Iraq war

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The holiday season, for many, is a time for rejoicing and reflection while spending time with family and friends.

For Mike Neuman of Plymouth Township, the fact he's home spending the holidays with those he loves is a reason, in itself, to be grateful.

Neuman recently returned from a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq. At age 54, he was the oldest soldier in his brigade, serving as a team leader for an Army military police company.

Actually, it was the second tour of duty for Neuman, a Vietnam-era vet who was active in the Marines from 1971-74, and on inactive ready reserve the following three years. However, he never was

deployed to Vietnam. I jokingly tell the Vietnam vets I owed them a war, so that's why I went back in,"

for the U.S. Army at age 49.

"A friend of mine was in the military police company out of Pontiac and suggested he could get me in with an age waiver," Neuman said. "One weekend a month, two weeks out of the year, it sounded OK.

"From the time I went to the time they deployed me was three years," he added. "I thought I was going to get through my enlistment without being deployed, but it didn't happen."

Many wonder why, at the age of 49, the civil engineer would consider interrupting his career to enlist in the Army National Guard.

"Before Sept. 11, my son toured New York City and I have pictures of him outside the World Trade Center," Neuman said. "I always felt he was one of my biggest reasons to serve. Somebody had to ante up, and I felt it was me."

Neuman's MP company trained Iraqi police for combe respected and trusted by

duty that put Neuman right in the middle of constant danger.

'We were in the new Baghdad district in Iraq, the most mortared (forward operating base) in all of Iraq," Neuman said. "Somebody said we had been mortared 481 times during our tour, and that's only the ones that hit, not including the ones that missed or didn't explode. So we spent a lot of time in bun-

"Physically, the lack of sleep ... it was the toughest thing I've ever done in my life," he added. "It was harder than Marine Corps boot camp.'

Of course, it didn't help Neuman was serving with soldiers who were nearly three times his junior.

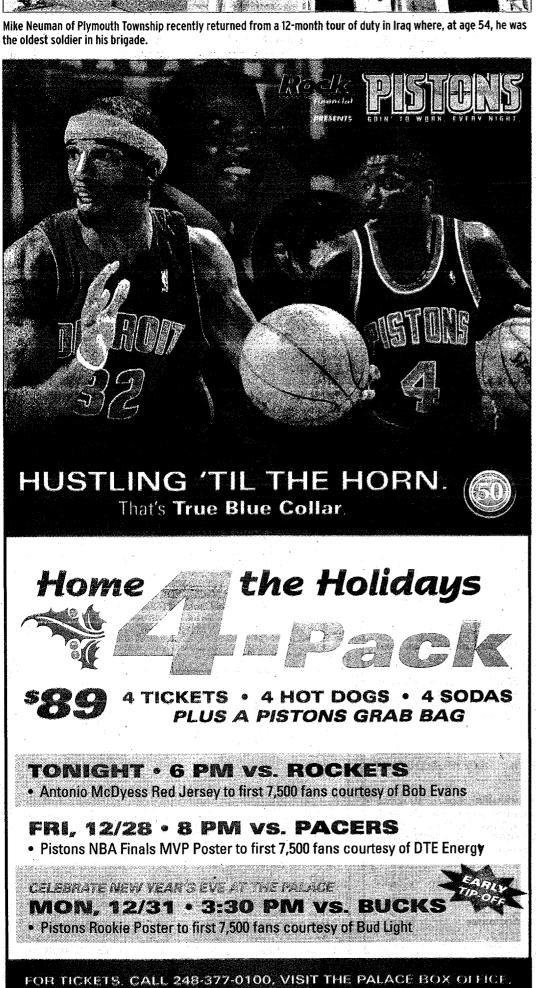
"It was like living with my son," Neuman said. "I tried to keep up with them, but I failed miserably.

"But I never regretted it," he added. "At times I asked but I never regretted it."



During his 12-month tour in Iraq, Plymouth Township resident Mike Neuman's MP company trained Iraqi police for community policing "so they would be respected and trusted by the local population." It was duty that put Neuman right in the middle of constant danger.





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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 23, 2007

Stephanie Stein's next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30.

Hearing delayed for former PCA teacher

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

The case involving the former Plymouth Christian Academy teacher accused of having a sexual relationship with a former student has been adjourned until after the new

Stephanie Ann Stein, 31, was scheduled for a calendar conference on Tuesday in Third Circuit Court but the hearing was adjourned in order to give Judge David A. Groner more time to read materials submitted by defense attorney Todd Flood.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Lora Weingarden said she was hoping to proceed this week but that Flood submitted a 70-page transcript of another case that he wanted Groner to review.

"I've been ready for weeks," Weingarden said, adding that the submitted transcript isn't of a similar case but that Flood has offered it because of its

sentencing guidelines.

Flood could not be reached for comment.

Stein's next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30.

The Canton woman allegedly began a relationship with a 15-year-old boy in February and ended it in September. The boy, who has testified that he still has feelings for the married mother of two, had Stein as his teacher two years ago at

The boy no longer attends the Academy and Stein resigned from her part-time teaching position in June.

Stein has been charged with two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, each a 15-year felony; one count of using the Internet to communicate with a minor to commit a crime, a four-year felony; and one count of distributing obscene material of a sexual nature to a minor, a two-year felony.

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\$27.25

Fund-raisers planned for survivors of home explosion

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

As the new year approaches, people are still opening their hearts — and their wallets - to Dave and Jan Goble.

Those wishing to make a donation to the couple, whose Canton home exploded after a gas leak Nov. 19, will have several opportunities to do so in the coming days.

The Detroit Ignition will donate \$4 of each ticket sold for its Jan. 4 game at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. A silent auction to benefit the township couple will take place during the game. Michelle Greene, Detroit Ignition spokesperson, said the sports organization is familiar with the Gobles through their participating in youth soccer.

'We want to do everything we can to support them in this time of need," she said.

Jan Goble, who was hospitalized following the tragedy, was finally released last week. Both she and Dave, both 64, were inside their 3,500square-foot Waterview Court

home when it was destroyed by a natural gas leak explosion. Jan suffered multiple broken ribs, a fractured back, collapsed lung, lacerated spleen and a fractured leg. Dave walked away from the wreckage with minor burns, bruises and a few cuts.

Dave said he and his wife, who are now leasing a Canton home while they wait to rebuild their home, are appreciative of all the support they've received.

"I'm very grateful," he said. "And my wife is doing very well. It's a miraculous recovery." In addition to the Ignition fund-raiser, the Wendy's restaurant located at 655 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth will donate money to the couple. According to a press release, the eatery will donate 10-percent of all of its sales during the hours of 4-8 p.m. on Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18.

People can also make donations to the family through their church: Canton Friendship Church, P.O. Box 871027, Canton, MI 48187.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700 Dave and Jan Goble



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Christmas dinner

St. Dunstan Catholic Church is hosting their annual Christmas Day Dinner for anyone who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m. The dinner is free but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049. Youth Philharmonic

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, has openings for interested student musicians in our intermediate and advanced orchestras and also the sax choir. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at Churchill High School. For more information contact Kathy Bilger at (734) 464-8704 or e-mail auditions@LYPM.org

New Year's Eve parties ■ Ring in the New Year with Jimmy Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks. 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday, Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (ovenbaked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7,15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

You can also ring in the New Year at a party, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The festivities include live



Singing for food

Members of Girl Scout Troop 482 from Tonda Elementary School recently went Christmas caroling through the Sunflower subdivision and gathered presents for a familyi they'd adopted from the Goodfellows. The troop also made a donation to the annual cheer club sponsored by the observer and the Plymouth Salvation Army.

performances by Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Blues Brothers impersonators. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$85 per couple, or reserve a table of eight for just \$320. The ticket package includes an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, open bar with a champagne toast at midnight while watch the ball drop at Times Square in New York City. Designated Drivers will be available to ensure a safe beginning to the New Year. For tickets or more

information, contact Laurie at (734) 637-5553 or by e-mail at Ibarra@ comcast.net or the half staff at by calling (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail to vbarra@comcast.net.

A New Year's Eve party will be held Monday, Dec. 31, at AMVETS Post 171 Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner, open bar and dancing. For tickets, call (734) 721-9440.

Genealogical society

The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets 7 p.m. Jan. 3 to hear David Bridgens of the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing talk about "Treasures Located in Farmers. Outhouses-the Last Place to Look for Genealogical Information." There's a help session at 6 p.m. The meeting takes place at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 W. Grand

River, in Howell. For more information, call (810) 227-7745. Suicide Loss Support Group

New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering an ongoing support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This monthly group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday and fourth Monday of each month at the First United Methodist Church in Northville located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road. No registration is necessary for this monthly drop-in support group. For further information about this group or about the many other free, age and loss specific groups offered for children, teens, and adults, please call New Hope Center

for Grief Support at 248-348-0115 and

visit us at www.newhopecenter.net Caring for aging parents

With the fastest growing population segment being 85 years and older, the demands of caring for an aging loved one, baby boomers, spouses and even adult grandchildren are finding themselves spread thin for knowledge and resources in caregiving. In honor of National Home Health Care and Hospice month this November, Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan would like to let people know about its free Consumer's Guide to Home Health Care. Containing information on home health care and * Medicare fraud this booklet provides harried caregivers with a place to begin. To receive the booklet, call (800) 882-5720, ext. 8374.

Gardeners meet

The Gardeners of Northville and Novi meet the second Tuesday of the month September through May at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA **January 10, 2008**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, January 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD, CANTON, MI 48188. The following agenda will be

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Cathy Johnson, Vicki Welty, Steven Johnson, and Dawn Zuber.

Acceptance of Agenda

Taleb & Abdallah Holdings, 15111 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126, for commercial property located at 45495 Michigan Ave. (Amoco), south side of Michigan Ave. between Belleville and Dewitt Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00, Section 6A.06; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.15; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, sign variance. Zone C-3

Parcel 132 99 0010 712 (Building) TABLED FROM THE DECEMBER 13, 2007

Henry Ford Health System, One Ford Place, Detroit, MI 48202, for commercial medical property located at 6100 Haggerty Rd., east side of Haggerty Rd. between Ford and Warren Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00, Section 6A.15; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, sign variance. Zone LI-1 Light Industrial Parcel 047 01 0005 000

(Building) TABLED FROM THE DECEMBER 13, 2007

Fairmont Sign Company, 3750 E. Outer Dr., Detroit, MI 48234, for commercial property (Borders/Petco) located on the south side of Ford Rd. between Morton-Taylor and Oakview Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.22, master signage plan for shops at Morton-Taylor.

Parcel 057 99 0001 710 (Building) TABLED FROM THE DECEMBER 13, 2007 MEETING-REQUEST TO REMOVE

Approval of the December 13, 2007 Minutes

All written comments need to be submitted to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Publish December 23, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: December 23, 27 & 30, 2007

Publish: January 20 and 23, 2007

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION DECEMBER 28, 2007 AT 10:00 AM. THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1986	GMC	Jimmy	S/W	1G5CT18E8G0512939
1987	Ford	Mustang	2-Dr	1FABP40A7HF177745
1995	Ford	Taurus	S/W	1FALP57U0SG146025
1997	Chevy	Lumina	4-Dr	2G1WL52MXV1184138
1991	Chevy	Corsica	4-Dr	1G1LT53T0ME142180
1987	Chevy	Caprice	4-Dr	1G1BN51H4HX13311
1987	Ford	Escort	S/W	3FALP15P3VR143140
1999	Chevy	Cavalier	4-Dr	1G1JC5246X7227230
1992	Ford		4-Dr	1FALP53U1NG201804
1995	Pontiac		2-Dr	1G2JB124XS7546291
2001	Mercury	Sable	4-Dr	1MEHM55S91G648474
1988	Dodge		Van	2B7FK13K2JR767394
1995	Pontiac	48,000	4-Dr	1G2NE55M6SC702264
1993	Ford		Van	1FDEE14N4PHB55662
1978	Suzuki	Motorcycle	RM250	RM25035425

Take the long view and ignore short-term market news

Dear Rick: I thought when the Federal Reserve cut interest rates that was good news for the stock market. Why did the market tumble when the Federal Reserve cut

interest rates by a quarter point?

It is nearly impossible to predict how the stock market will react over the short run. Good news **Money Matters** is bad news and bad news Rick Bloom is good news.

to make decisions based upon how the market is doing over

I always tell

investors never

the short run.

The stock market adversely reacted to the Federal Reserve's announcement because speculators and traders were hoping for a half-percent cut as opposed to a quarter-percent cut.

It is difficult to analyze or predict the stock market over the short run. In today's world, we are flooded with economic data on a daily basis and it's impossible to attempt to determine how the market will react to certain numbers. For example, it's not unusual for a company to report record profits and have their stock decline the why the market reacts one same day. Or the exact opposite happens where a company reports disappointing earnings and all of a sudden their stock

gains in value.

The reality of the situation is when economic data comes out, it is generally historic information — what has happened over the last week or quarter. The stock market, on the other hand, is always looking forward.

My advice is ignore the daily information. The economic data we are flooded with is almost all short-term information. Investors should not be making decisions on what happened over the last month or the last quarter.

There is no rhyme or reason way or another based upon economic data. In fact, when I talk to portfolio managers who manage billions of dollars, they say be cautious and don't overreact to economic reports whether good or bad. The more people ignore the economic chatter, the better a portfolio will perform.

Dear Rick: I am getting ready to retire. I am lucky to have a pension. Should I take my pension as joint and survivor where my wife gets 65 percent of my benefit when I die, or just for my lifetime. My insurance agent recommends that I take the pension for my lifetime and then buy a life insurance policy to protect my wife.

Which way would you go? It is better for you and your spouse to take a joint and survivor pension versus buying life insurance.

In addition to the financial considerations, there are other issues with life insurance. The first is if for some reason you don't make the premium pavments. I recognize that people say "I will not let my life insurance lapse," however, it hap-

Another reason to take the ioint and survivor benefit is if the company offers health care. Typically, if the spouse is not covered under the pension, there would not be any health care benefit. Unfortunately, this is something that many insurance agents who are just anxious to make a sale forget to Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

Manketplace

tell the consumer.

I have seen hundreds of situations where the issue is a joint survivor pension vs. the life insurance option and I can count on one hand the number of times when the life insurance made sense economically. Those were rare cases and unusual situations.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m.

SEMCOG releases region's final population estimates for 2007

The seven-county region of Southeast Michigan closes 2007 with an estimated population of 4,888,203, according to figures released by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

This new estimate represents a 1.1 percent increase in population since the 2000 census.

"Given the Census Bureau's mid-year estimates of population from the last two years, it's clear that the region's population growth has slowed and has actually been losing people since 2005," explained Xuan Liu, SEMCOG's Data Center Manager. "This change is an indication of the region's weak economy. The region's weak economy has, in turn, impacted the residential housing market, which has also slowed considerably. Obviously, we're concerned about these downward trends."

Although the region as a whole has experienced little increase in population over the past few years, significant growth has taken place in a number of areas since the last census. Livingston County has grown nearly 25 percent, from a population of 156,951 in 2000 to a current esti-

SEMCOG Estimate Percent Growth Community Census 2000 December 2007 194,979 **Livingston County** 156,951 24.2 849,822 **Macomb County** 788,149 7.8 **Monroe County** 145,945 158,511 8.6 1,221,395 **Oakland County** 1,194,156 2.3 St. Clair County 164,235 174,957 **Washtenaw County** 322,770 352,061 9.1 1,936,678 **Wayne County** 2,061,162 -6.0 4,888,203 4.833.368 1.1

SOURCE: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

mated population of 194,979. Macomb County has added the most residents -61,673since the 2000 census. All other counties, except for Wayne, have experienced single-digit percentage growth since the 2000 census.

Among Southeast Michigan communities, Macomb Township has grown the most since the 2000 census, but is now growing at a slower

rate. Since the 2000 census, it has added more than 25,000 people (or an average of nearly 4,000 a year); however, growth over the past two years has slowed.

In 2007 Macomb Township grew by about 2,100 people, ending the year with an estimated population of 75,865.

The number of households in Southeast Michigan, while growing more than three times

as fast as population since the 2000 census (4.3 percent) has also slowed in the past three years. Households are growing at a faster rate than population primarily due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of one- and two-person households. There were 1,845,218 households counted in the 2000 census; the region closes 2007 with an estimated 1,925,324 households. During that period, the region averaged more than 11,000 new homes annually, but in 2007, households grew by just 1,889 (2,488 less than 2006).

In Southeast Michigan, there are an estimated 2.50 persons per household at the close of 2007. Livingston County has the highest persons per household at 2.70; Washtenaw County, at 2.34, is the lowest. These numbers reflect a continuing trend in the region and in the specific counties noted.

Population and household figures for all counties and communities in Southeast Michigan are updated monthly on SEMCOG's Web site — www.semcog.org. Find Population Estimates on SEMCOG's new Web site Subject.





9h, Baby! Do you have an adorable baby that was born in 2007? Would you like to show him/her off to the world? Then this is an opportunity to do just that! The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers will publish a page of the babies born in 2007 on January 31, 2008. You could win a gift certificate to a local restaurant! Fill out the coupon below and send it along with a photo of your cute adorable baby. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, if you'd like your photo returned. All entries MUST be received no later than January 21, 2008. Two lucky entries will be picked from a random drawing for the dinner gift certificates, one valued at \$100 and the other valued at \$50. The winners will be announced on the "Oh, Baby 2008" page, January 31, 2008. Your Cost...\$20 per buy! Buy 1: Southfield, Farmington, Troy, Rochester, West Bloomfield and Birmingham Buy 2: Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Garden City and Westland Buy 3: Royal Oak, Clawson, Berkley, Huntington Woods, Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge Send a photo, stamped Observer & Eccentric self-addressed envelope and \$20 to: **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers** Attention: Classifieds 36251 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia, Michigan 48150 Please Print Child's Name (First, Middle & Last) Date of Birth Hospital Parents' Name Check for \$20 enclosed. Buy:_ Please bill my: Visa Master Card American Express or Discover Card. (Circle one) Expiration Date Credit Card Number Card Holder's Signature_



Womencenter offers women's book group

The Womencenter at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills is hosting an eight-session book group for women beginning Jan. 9 and meeting on alternate Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

The Womencenter Book Group is led by center Director Arlene Frank. The cost is \$12, and is open to the public. It will meet in the campus' Womencenter, J Building, Room 309.

"Reading is an adventure for the imagination. You can enhance the journey by sharing insights," Frank said. "We will discuss literature by and about women." Participants are asked to read "The Unknown Errors of Our Lives", by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, before the Jan. 9 session. This group is sponsored by the Womencenter, a facility that provides educational and supportive resources for area women. For information on the Womencenter Book Group and other program offerings, call the Womencenter at (248) 522-3642.



8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

FISH started in Plymouth-Canton in July 1972

While transportation now makes up the largest part of the organization's duties, other services - baby-sitting, meal preparation, housework, etc. — are provided. They are coordinated by the "FISH of the Day," a volunteer who answers phone calls from those requesting service and arranges for that service to be provided. Volunteer drivers use their own cars - at their own cost without reimbursement for gas — to transport clients.

The group is funded exclusively by donations. While the rides are free, clients are given a self-addressed envelope at the end of the ride in case the client wishes to make a donation. Other sources of funding: Vincent's bridge club makes an annual \$250 donation, while clients and churches provide the rest.

Thanks to Gary Simon, a steering committee member who now serves as the group's treasurer, the

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group needs fewer donations. Simon switched FISH from an answering service - which was costing the group more than \$70 per month — to a voicemail system that costs some \$17 a

month. "The clients get a chance to donate, but many of our clients don't have two nickels to rub together," said Simon, who joined FISH in 2005 after seeing a notice that said the group needed drivers. "I was already retired and I was

teer." Appointments are available Monday-Friday, and can be made twice a month, and the group is doing about 30 rides per month at the moment, Vincent said.

looking for ways to volun-

Simon said clients are "very appreciative," but that he volunteers for an entirely different reason.

"It's not unusual four people to tell us, 'You guys are angels," Simon said. "I do it for selfish reasons — it makes me feel good."

For information or to contact a FISH volunteer, call (734) 480-3940.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,

AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE FOOD.

you, that may have been someone from Trinity," Schupra said. "Or if you woke up to the recent snow and found your driveway already had been shoveled, perhaps it was someone from the church."

A Christmas program titled "Peppermint Mocha," featuring music and drama, prepared the congregation for the season of giving. Through the illustration of a young woman's personal struggle and the kindness of a stranger - who merely offered her a peppermint mocha and coat as she sat outside in the cold - those who attend the church were urged to create "mocha moments" and reach out to

"I think Christmas is about touch. I think Christmas is also about God reaching down to touch our lives through Christ," Senior Pastor William Moore said during the presen-

To kick off the series of activities, Thanksgiving boxes were prepared and delivered to area families, and



Tim Harrison, Ann Arbor, washing windows at the Marathon station at Cherry Hill and Canton Center in Canton.

Trinity joined several other churches in the area to provide Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes through Operation Christmas Child. In the latter drive, more than 8,000 shoeboxes of toys, clothing and toiletries were gathered to be sent to children who otherwise would not have gifts for Christmas, and some 200 of those boxes came from the church located at Ann Arbor Road and Gotfredson.

Trinity members provided gifts to Denby Home for unwed teens and the Angel Tree program for children of incarcerated parents. Opportunities to serve at area soup kitchens and food pantries also were organized, and church members handed out gift bags at a local grocery and video store, and helped ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

A favorite activity of some members was a recent gas' buy-down. For two hours Dec. 8, members pumped gas and washed windshields at the Marathon station at Cherry Hill and Canton Center in Canton. The church bought 20 cents of each gallon of gas for those who would allow members to fill their tanks.

For Matt and Mandy Murphy from Dexter, the gas buy-down was the perfect way to serve others.

"We have been wanting to do a service project for so long and have not found a way to get involved," Mandy Murphy said. "My husband and I are not the most extroverted people, but this was an easy way to spend three or four minutes, serving people, telling them about Trinity and showing them that God loves them.'

Murphy said some people were skeptical, thinking the members were trying to sell something or promote their church, and some even refused assistance. But most, she said, were "thrilled to be served" and grateful for the price break on gas, which dropped from \$2.88 a gallon to \$2.68.

Marina Evans, 14, of Plymouth, was one of several youth group members at the buy-down who washed windshields, kept track of how many gallons were pumped and handed out peppermint mocha mix and candy to customers. Evans looked at the array of activities in a booklet the church prepared and decided it was the one she wanted to do.

"I thought it would be fun," she said. "I feel that God is with me and I am actually working and helping him as well. There was one lady who

said, 'You are really touching my heart,' because her hus-

band died three days before." Several small groups served at the Capuchin, Gleaner's, Hope Clinic and Grace Centers

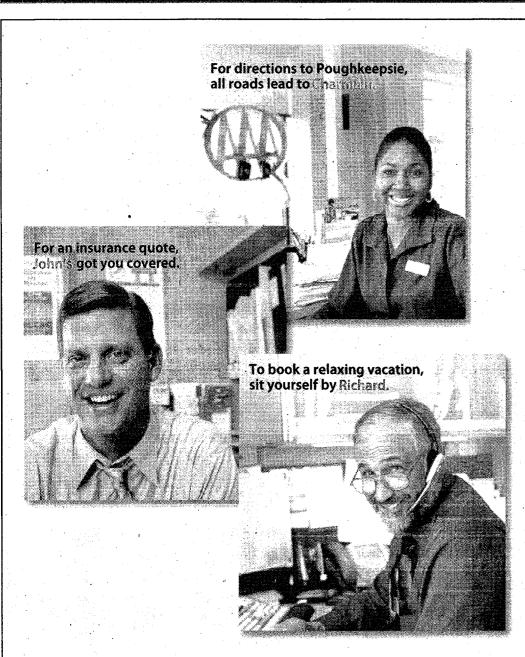
of Hope soup kitchens. Dave and Kelly Stott of Canton took their sons, Jacob, 11, and Travis, 9, to Hope Clinic, where they helped serve a meal to more than 50 people.

"I felt good helping other people, but felt bad there were that many people that couldn't afford a meal," Kelly Stott said. Most of those served were older adults, she said, but one young family particularly touched her sons as they watched the children come back for seconds, thirds and fourths.

"My kids were really amazed at how poor people were, and how hungry," Kelly said. "They felt compassion and, at the same time, felt fortunate to have the home they have."

Trinity has scheduled events through January, but Schupra said the hope is that members will perform random acts of kindness even after the organized activities are over.

'We want mocha moments to continue beyond the traditional season of giving and extend throughout the year," she said.



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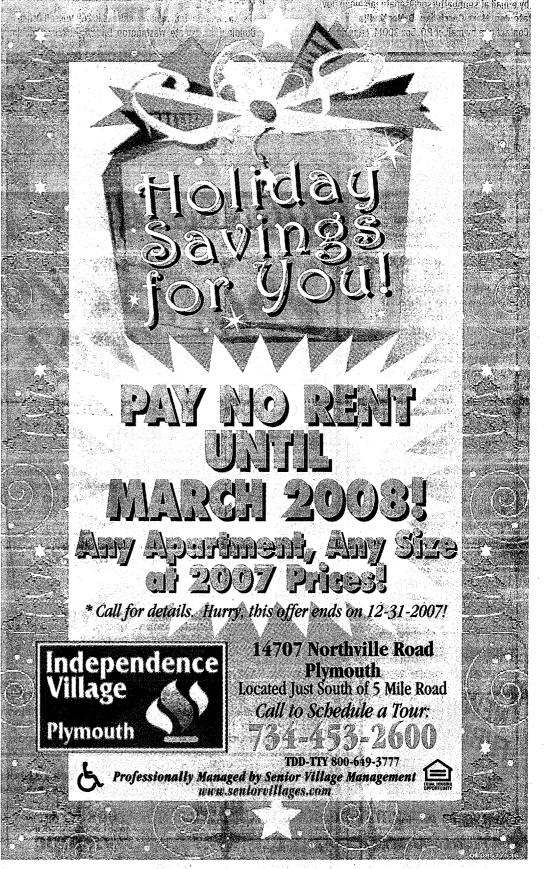
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OUR VIEWS

Focus on St. Nick's worth, not girth

"He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf." — "Twas the Night Before Christmas

Just when people started feeling comfortable again wishing others "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays," politically correct grinches decided Santa is a bad role model for kids because he is overweight.

According to a story on local TV last week, some Santa

Children young enough to still

believe in Santa should not be

concerned about body shape.

If they are, it's only because

adults have pointed it out to

schools in Great Britain are trying to trim a few inches off his middle, and some U.S. health officials think his appearance and late-night habit of snacking on cookies while his reindeer eat carrots is a poor example.

First, we need to cut Santa some slack. He's hundred of years old and works only one day a year. It's no surprise he's put on a few pounds.

Secondly, the size of Santa's lap is probably the last thing little kids think about when they're sitting on it. We would guess that TOYS are the most important thing on their minds. Children young enough to still believe in Santa should not

them.

be concerned about body shape. If they are, it's only because adults have pointed it out to them.

Childhood obesity is a serious health problem, and we aren't making light of it. Parents should make sure their children

making light of it. Parents should make sure their children eat nutritious food and get plenty of sleep and exercise yearround.

But saying Santa has anything to do with childhood obe-

sity is ridiculous, and we hope he puts coal this Christmas in anyone's stocking who does.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

Set the record straight

As promised, the Plymouth-Canton school board changed the election date to odd-year May elections on last Tuesday. In doing so, we have saved the Plymouth-Canton school district \$100,000 next year alone. The long-term savings will amount to \$200,000 every four years.

By moving our elections to odd May only, we save even more by sharing election costs with Schoolcraft College, decreasing our average election costs to \$25,000 per year. If we had changed to an annual November date, this would have been more costly, averaging \$42,000 per year.

It was a difficult decision for me as a board member for two reasons. First, a well-meaning, but obviously ill-informed community member circulated a petition encouraging board members to change to an annual November election. Secondly, historically more people tend to vote in November elections. However, the additional savings to the district of \$13,000 is money that can be put directly back into the classrooms annually.

It is important to note that the legislature may change all of this. It was critical to make the decision that we did for now because of the savings it provided to our budget.

I encourage everyone to take the time to become informed on political issues and to get out and vote no matter when an election occurs.

Dianne Gonzalez

Plymouth-Canton Board of Education trustee

Don't buy toys from China

In Linda Chomin's article about the toy recalls from China because of the lead content, she discussed ways to protect kids from these toys. All of the suggestions were good, and she even included calling your senators, "... call their U.S. senators and representatives and tell them the Consumer Protection Product Safety

LETTERS

Commission needs more funding and staff to protect our children better ..."

But what about calling them and asking them to stop buying toys from China? Even with more funding, people are capable of making mistakes. The best way is to get toys made is in some other country that had not as many recalls as China toy companies have had. While it may not be cheap, can you really put a price on children's safety?

Katrina Czajkowski

Livoni

Tired of Quicken talk

I don't know Dan Gilbert, owner of Quicken Loans personally, nor do I know if he was actually contemplating moving his mortgage company out of Michigan. I have never talked to him about it. I don't believe most of the people that have an opinion about who is responsible for letting him move from Livonia to Detroit have talked to him either. I do know that I'm tired of hearing about it.

Most of the employees will stay with the company because it's a good place to work. I know quite a few that work in the Livonia office and they come from Livonia, Detroit, Canton, Westland, South Lyon, Taylor, etc. Some will be driving a little farther and some will have a shorter drive. Most of them probably stayed on the premises for lunch because it was inconvenient to give up a parking space for that short hour, so nearby restaurants probably didn't get a lot of their business and won't lose much.

The buildings will remain in Livonia, so someone will still have to pay property taxes on them and eventually another business will move in. The fact remains that Dan Gilbert is moving his company to another Michigan city in three or four years and may have planned on doing that all along. Maybe he was just playing a game with everyone.

Enough already!

Marlene Katafias

Livonia

Ron Paul is good choice

As you know, the 2008 presidential election is coming up in a year. I believe that electing our next president is a very important decision to make. There are many candidates running, but only two are widely known. I have asked more than 100 students and people of my community who they believe would be the top choice. Every single one of them drew a blank. Their only response was "I don't think it would be Clinton or Obama." I also asked if they could name a few candidates and only a few could. Others named were Mitt Romney, John Edwards, "that mayor of New York," and to my surprise, John Kerry.

This is a problem. The only known candidates are two unacceptable choices in my opinion. It's not that I feel Clinton or Obama are bad people, but I feel Obama's lack of political experience and Clinton's past as first lady could get in the way of important decision making.

My vote in 2008 is going to a man named Ron Paul. This is my choice through many hours of research. I am not trying to force my opinion of Ron Paul for president on people, but I do feel the lesser known candidates deserve more news coverage. The media is turning a critical election into a popularity contest. This election is for leadership, responsibility and honesty for the future of our country. If you give less attention to the nonsense and more to the candidates, people will be able to make an educated choice. This is a very important subject and I want society to be more aware of it.

I am just 17, soon to be an 18-year-old student who has not yet had to face the harsh realities of the world, but I am concerned for my future. When the time comes for me to face life, I want to be sure it's a world of order and what's right.

I have a message and I will make sure it gets heard. I only ask for your cooperation.

Michael Joseph Van Cott Westland

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48909; by phone at (517) 373-7350; toll-free at (866) 262-7307; or by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville
Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, Mi

48909-7514; by phone at (517) 373-3816; or by e-mail at MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall.

9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtwp.org.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office

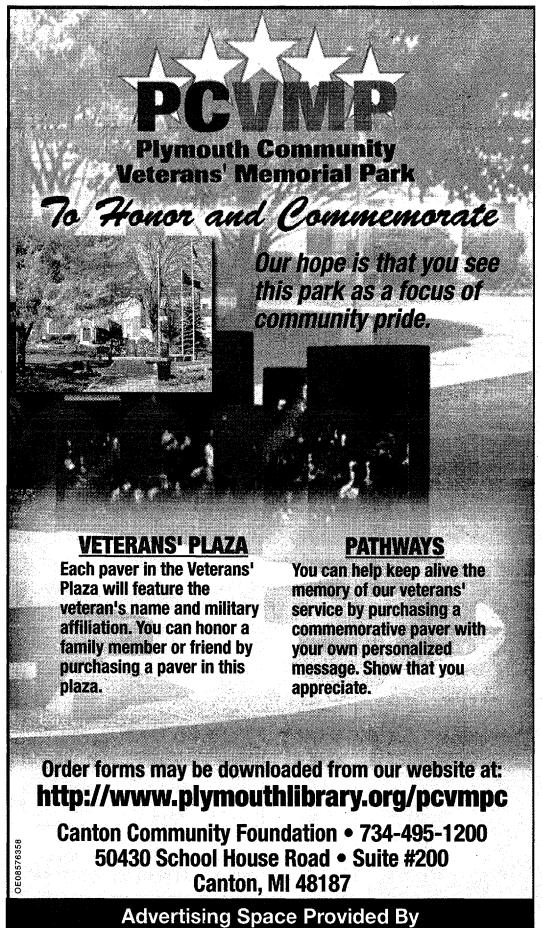
Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him

at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388: He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.gov. U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

In Washington, D.C., the address is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822, TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@ stabenow.senate.gov. In Detroit, her office is at 243 W. Congress, Suite 550. Call (313) 961-4330. She also has a Web site - stabenow.senate.gov.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter

His Washington, D.C., mailing address is 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Call him at (202) 225-8171 or send a fax by dialing (202) 225-2667. His district office is at 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 161, Livonia, MI 48152. Call him at (734) 632-0314 or send a fax at (734) 632-0373. He also has an Web site - mccotter. house.gov.



The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



December heralds a season of change

hirling, swirling snow and occasional sprinkles of ice have put to bed any thoughts that old season, autumn, lingers. Winter is upon us and December brings great changes of nature's way – a new season of exploration.

In the northern sections of the county coyotes trek under moonless nights, seeking rabbits and mice. And not far from the freezing shoreline of Orchard Lake, a few coyotes, well adapted to suburban life, make short work of geese that loitered a bit too long to feast on remnant lawn grasses. Those coyotes deserve a big thank you from lakeshore owners bothered by abundant geese, not a comment like one I received, "He acted like a citizen that owned the place."

And yes, coyotes do appear now and then on the shoulders of I-75. Abundant road kill from one end of the county to the other, mostly deer, is easily scavenged treats. Nature's way is working.

If your only access to winter's way is a drive in the car, or watching from the picture window, there is still much to see. Red-tailed hawks are on their winter "spotting perches" along I-75 and M-59. They perch sentinel-still,



Nature's W

Jonathan Schechter waiting for motion near road's edge. Scurrying mice make an endless supply of White Castle size meaty morsels, with the occasional squirrel

sional squirrel or rabbit being the double whopper of furry wild

meat. Hang suet on your feeder and it won't take long for a bevy of black capped chickadees and woodpeckers to respond to your offerings: Suet is a touch of paradise for all birds that want this fatty offering of energy and nutrition. Downy woodpeckers are my personal favorite when it comes to the suet watch. A few downvs have also re-discovered more natural protein - the tiny curled up grub inside the swollen "galls" of last summer's golden rods.

With the phenomenal expansion of the range of wild turkey, expect these big beauties to start making appearance under feeders throughout sections of the county that are not totally encircled by homes and highways, but not



SCHECHTER

really wild either.

Don't expect to find them on the streets of downtown
Birmingham or among

December also bri wintry sky treat that deems a PHA. Her n 3200 Phaethon. PHA

Southfield high-rises but hearsay says a few are already appearing just a bit west of the West Bloomfield Woods Nature Preserve. Maybe they are heading for the strip malls of Orchard Lake Road? And turkeys are finding living to their liking in many of our Oakland County and Metro Parks.

Any doubt I held that turkeys were not curious evaporated the day after my new septic field was constructed at the edge of my meadow. First light of the new day, brought turkey tracks all over the powdery snow as they explored the top of the freshly turned, snowy earth. Their presence inspired me to throw down a mix of winter wheat and clover seed. A treat for spring.

December also brings a wintry sky treat that NASA deems a PHA. Her name is 3200 Phaethon. PHA? That's the NASA abbreviation for a potentially hazardous asteroid. She will zoom by Earth at the close range of 2 million miles.

Look to the west before dawn – or after midnight on the 13th and you may witness a good Geminid meteor shower, as fragments break off and enter our atmosphere at 100,000 m.p.h.

According to NASA astronomer Bill Cook of the Marshall Space Flight Center, "The show really heats up after midnight and by dawn on Friday, Dec. 14, there could be dozens of bright meteors per hour streaking across the sky."

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. E-mail him at Oaknature@aol.com.

Get on the ball. CDORTS

Celebrate end-of-year holidays the fire safe way

any people gather and enjoy family and friends during the holiday season. While decorating the house and cooking are highlighted, take a few tips to help keep an unwanted fire from visiting your home this season.

Candles are part of many celebrations and decorations during this season. Candles have grown in popularity recently, and their role in unwanted fires is also on the rise. Keep candles in large, sturdy candle holders and never leave them unsupervised. Make sure they are at least one foot away from combustibles or any combustible that can be blown their way, such as drapes, curtains or shears. Keep the matches and lighters stored high out of the reach of children. Allow children to "help" with keeping an eye on the candles or fires in the fireplace, and let them know that they can take on more responsibility for friendly fires when

they get older.

Make sure that any holiday lighting is approved for the use you have in mind. Indoor lights should stay indoors and outdoor lights should remain outside. Make sure the lights bear the mark of an inspecting agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and check them every year for cracks or fraying in the wires.

Bad cords should be discarded and replaced, and use power strips with built-in circuits as a way to keep the current at acceptable levels.

Turn lights off when you leave the house or go to bed.

Cooking safety should never take a "back burner." Keep a zone near the stove or oven free from hazards and interruptions, to allow you to focus on safe cooking. Cook on back burners when possible, and keep handles turned in toward the stove. This keeps children from reaching up and pulling hot



Tom Kiurcki

items down
onto themselves, and
also keeps
the danger of
bumping pot
handles while
walking past
the stove and
spilling to a

minimum.

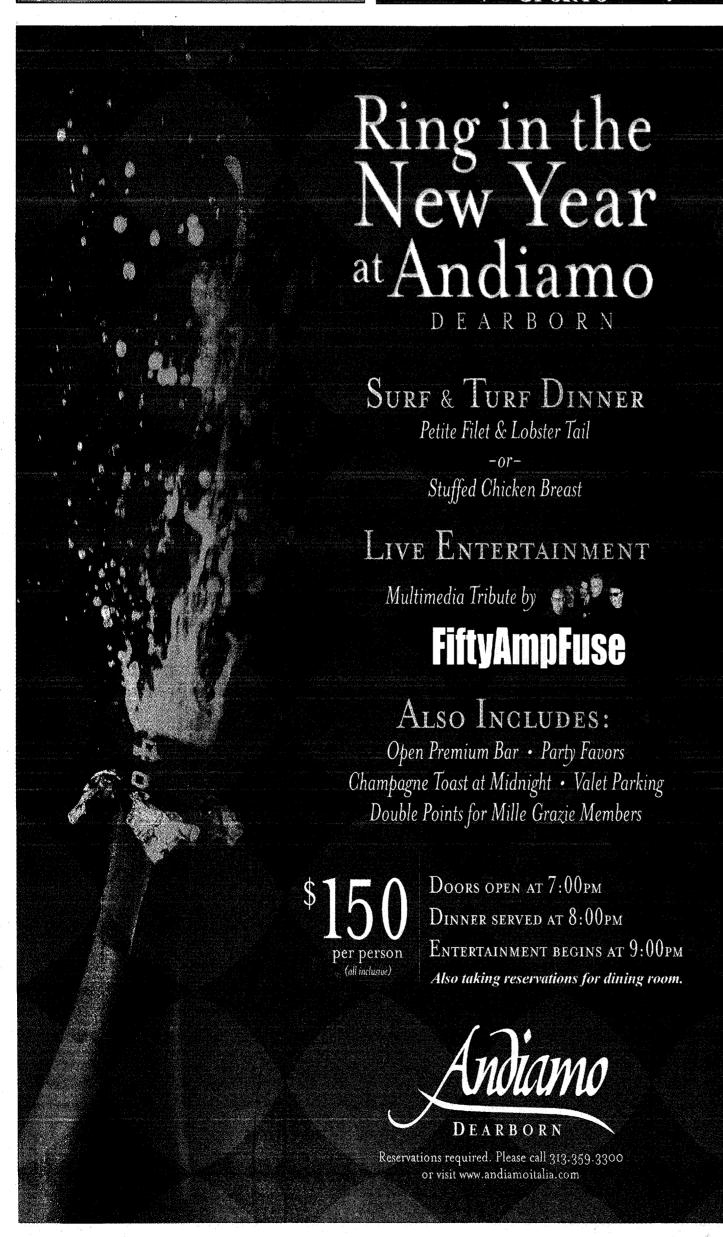
Make sure you have plenty of smoke alarms in your home. There should be one in almost every room, and a minimum of one per floor and outside the sleeping areas in the home. Smoke alarms should be tested every month, so choose an easy day to remember, such as the first of the month when you change calendar months. Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years, as they are more likely to fail after ten years of ser-

Plan and practice a home. fire escape plan. This includes making a map of your home and label every room and find two ways out of every room in case on is blocked by fire and/or smoke. If children are big enough to open their bedroom windows unassisted, they may be able to get themselves out in case of fire. If they cannot, then an adult needs to be in charge or getting that child out. You may also have to make similar plans for special needs and elderly residents in your home.

While smoke alarms are excellent items to reduce your chances of dying in home fires, carbon monoxide alarms are needed to warn you of increased levels of carbon monoxide in your home. The two alarms are different, so make sure both of them are part of your safety plan.

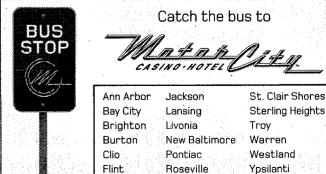
Your Livonia firefighters want to wish you and your family a happy, and fire safe, Holiday season.

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.









For locations and reservations call Blue Lakes Charters & Tours 866-2-ROLLEM (866-276-5536)

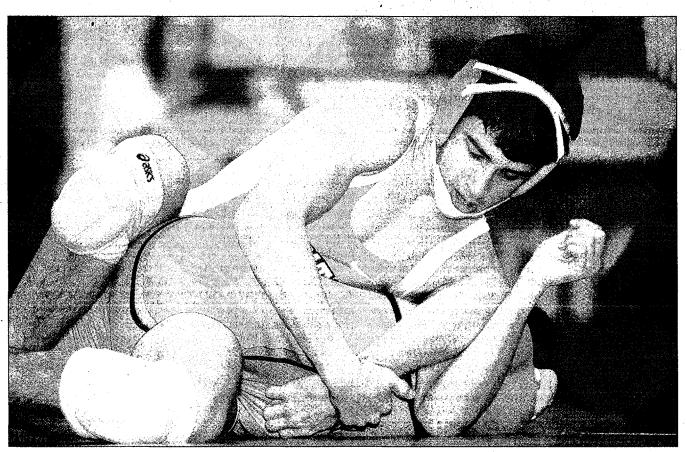
Saginaw

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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers www.hometownlife.com

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com



Canton's Jeremy Filippelli gets the upperhand on his 130-pound opponent during Wednesday's match at Northville. Both Filippeli and the Chiefs won handily in the team's first WLAA meet of the 2007-08 season.

Chief wrestlers corral Mustangs

Stevenson nips Salem. Please see Page B3.

Canton's wrestling team opened its Western Lakes Activities Association schedule Wednesday night with an emphatic 55-14 triumph over Northville in the Mustangs' gymnasium.

The Chiefs won nine of their matches via pins or technical falls on the way to improving their overall dual-meet record to 7-3.

Notching victories for the Chiefs were 103-pound Waleed Faraj, who pinned his opponent in 1:56; Donnie Watkins, who won 19-3 at 125; Jeremy Filippelli, who won by technical fall, 16-0, at 130; 130-pound Steve Cox, who cruised to a 22-6 triumph; 140-pound Brent Winekoff, who won convincingly, 18-3; 145-pound Braden Price, who

pinned his opponent in 3:36; Rodger Kropp, who conquered his foe, 22-7; Adam Powers, who registered a pin in 3:35 at 189; 215-pound Dan Wanshon, who pinned his opponent in 1:18; and heavyweight Luke Konsitzke, who won by forfeit.

Canton coach Casey Randolph said the most exciting match of the night was between past state qualifiers Carl Lucke and Jonny D'Anna at 119. Canton's Lucke dropped a hard-fought 5-4 decision.

"This was an awesome match," said Randolph. "Carl was up 4-2 late into the third period and gave up an escape then a last-second takedown off a scramble."

On Dec. 5, the Chiefs posted a pair of victories — 66-9 over Grosse Pointe South and 31-25 over Southgate Anderson — in quad meet held in the Phase III gymnasium.

"During the match against Southgate Anderson, the gym was electrified,' said Randolph. "One of the most exciting matches was Mitch Kuchenberg's 6-4 win at 160 over Anthony Golema. Mitch scored the last two points on a takedown late in the third period. It sealed the win for us and the bench went crazy."

Lucke, Filippelli, Cox, Winekoff, Kropp, Powers and Wanshon also notched W's for the Chiefs.

On Dec. 8, Canton placed fifth at the highly competitive Davison Duals. Faraj, Filippelli, Winekoff, Price, Wanshon and Tyler Bourcier all won three matches for the Chiefs. Lucke and Kropp both won four matches while Watkins and Cox went 5-0.

Franklin cagers overcome 'Cats in OT thriller

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin's boys basketball team went mountain climbing Thursday night in the Plymouth gymnasium.

The Patriots stood at the base of a Mt. Everest-like 21-4 deficit midway through the first quarter before clawing back to post a 84-79 overtime victory over the Wildcats in a game that featured a ping pong-like pace.

Junior forward Jeffery Poole led the expedition with a career-high 26 points - 20 of which came after the halftime break. Four other Patriots broke the double-digit barrier: senior guard Ryan Matthey (17 points), senior forward Israel Woolfork (14), junior forward Connor Leidal (13) and senior guard Kevin Percin

The Wildcats lost despite strong efforts from seniors Navraj Sandhu, who registered a near triple-double with 28 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists; and Brandon Roberts, who netted 20 points.

Franklin improved to 2-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division opener for both teams. Plymouth slipped to 1-4.

The Patriots benefitted from several clutch shots during crunchtime, including a triple (while getting fouled) by Percin with 40.6 seconds left to put his team up 72-71; and a spinning, driving layup by Poole with 13 ticks remaining that gave the Patriots a 74-72 advantage. Roberts hit the most significant shot of

regulation for Plymouth when he banked in a slicing layup with 5.6 seconds left to knot the game at 74-all. Percin had an opportunity to win it at the other end, but his long trey rimmed out at the buzzer.

The Wildcats missed three free throws during the final 94 seconds of the fourth quarter.

'We've been working so hard on playing with poise, taking care of the ball and

Please see HOOPS, B2

Henry saluted

Madonna University senior guard Charlie Henry (Canton Agape Christian) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball Player of the Week.

Henry helped the host Crusaders to a pair of wins in the Michigan **Educational Credit** Union championship recently posting 33 points during a twogame stretch, including 21 in the championship win over Albion College to capture tournament MVP honors.

For the week, henry averaged 16.5 points and 4.5 assists while shooting 55 percent from the floor (11-of-20) and 61.5 percent (8-for-13) from three point territory.

HVS offerings

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering a multitude of events this winter, including the usual soccer, flag football and dodge ball Winter 2 session that is slated for Jan. 2-Feb. 29. For more information on these offerings, visit www.hvsports.com or call (734) HV-SPORT. The deadline for registering is Dec. 16.

HVS will also host a winter break sports all-sport camp from Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. The half-day price (8 a.m. to noon; or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) is \$25 per day while the full-day cost (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) is \$45 per day.

A soccer camp run by **Detroit Ignition players** will also be available from 1-4 p.m. for \$25. Participants must preregister for the camps; no walk-ups will be allowed.

Among the new programs offered at HVS is a soccer clinic called "Lil' Kickers," which is part of a nationwide contingent with classes for children 18 months

through 9 years of age. The classes start in January and are \$12.50

for each class. Those who sign up for a full season of eight classes will receive a free uniform (soccer shirts and jersey).

The program will be

run by certified instructors Christie Rife and Amy Callahan. For more informa-

tion, call (734) HV-SPORT.

Baseball camp

Precision Baseball in Canton will be holding a "Holiday Baseball Camp" Dec. 26-28 from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

The camp, which will be run by Wayne State University head baseball coach Jay Alexander, will focus on fundamental instruction in hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, baserunning, injury prevention and strength-andconditioning.

a Precision Baseball skills camp T-shirt. For more information.

Campers will receive

call (734) 459-5921.

Plymouth wins behind Klonowski's big night Plenty was at stake Thursday night

when host Livonia Franklin tangled with the Plymouth girls basketball team.

Sophomore forward Stacey Klonowski scored a game-high 19 points and Troi Davis added 10, including two gameclinching free throws with only eight seconds remaining as Plymouth earned the 47-46 triumph in the Western Lakes **Activities Association-Western Division** opener for both teams.

Katie Moss and Shaakira Haywood each contributed eight points for the Wildcats (4-4, 1-0), who survived a 16-10 Franklin run in the final quarter.

"She (Klonowski) did a little bit of everything tonight," said Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly, whose team led 37-30 after three quarters. "Before tonight she played too unselfishly at times, but tonight she did what we needed her to

Junior guard Briauna Taylor, who scored a two-point basket to end the game, and senior center Ashley Price,

Junior forward Brittany Taylor contributed nine.

The trio combined for 37 points on 14of-31 shooting.

"We made a lot of mental errors, we took a shot we did not need to take at the end and we had a turnover before that at mid-court," said Franklin first-year coach Dave McCall, whose team slipped to 6-2 overall and 0-1 in the division. "And we were cold, we didn't make a lot of shots."

Plymouth was 12-of-18 from the foul line, while Franklin was 9-of-12.

SALEM 56, JOHN GLENN 39: Alaya Mitchell poured in a game-high 20 points, while 5-foot-11 junior Chelsea Davis scored eight of her 12 points in the third quarter to lead the Rocks (6-1, 1-0) to the WLAA-Lakes Division win Thursday over visiting Westland John Glenn (3-5, 0-1).

Salem broke away from a 24-23 halftime lead with an 18-9 third-quarter run.

Brittany Brown scored nine of her 11 points in the third period for the Rockets. Brittany Holbroke and Nyah McReynolds added seven and six, respectively.

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Klonowski scrambles for a loose ball with Livonia Franklin's Briauna Taylor during Thursday's **WLAA Western** Division clash. Klonowski scored 19 in the Wildcats' 47-46 victory.

Stacey

each tallied 14 points for the Patriots. 条条 条条

wo-thousand-and-seven

Canton Educational Park.

was a banner year for

athletes at the Plymouth-

Poetic justice: Saluting those who made 2007 a memorable year

It's two days before Christmas

What a fine time to honor all the hard-working heroes, whose percentage of effort

deserve a pat on the back. The AD's are short-handed, but keep all teams on track.

Dear school board members, please consider this plea: Instead of cutting another AD,

I'll be the first to admit the need for music and art, but without high school sports, there'd be less spirit, less heart.

Cases in point: The exploits

Schmitt cut through the water with determination and style. A U.S. Olympic team berth

Thornton made quite a splash in the high jump with hops. It was impressive how quickly

Phillips' feat was astounding, the wrestler didn't lose one! This Eagle's future is glowing, nearly as bright as the sun.

Plymouth's grid squad for one. Puryear proved elusive, the 'Cats' D' hit a ton.

Canton's dominant hoop team hoisted another gold crown,

Led by Waid, Neil & Butler;

Paced by Kielty & Martin, the Chiefs took the Division.

In the long run many harriers in cross country did shine. deBear, Spitz and Hahn

In soccer, a bunch sparkled, namely Rolfe, Cope ℧ Zech, who humbled their foes,

Otts, Priebes and Grings, who deflated strong pitchers with their powerful swings.

softball's Klonowski and Deli, who ate up good fastballs

攀攀

Thanks to all of the coaches who inspired their teams, with first-class motivation, not loud rants and screams.

you deserve a gold statue in the Fans' Hall of Fame.

damp rain you did sit, when the score was lopsided, you never said quit.

that's my No. 1 wish. May '08 bring you joy, like a 3-pointer that goes swish.

Ed Wright is the Sports Editor for the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He ewright@hometownlife.com.

Ed Wright

Following are a few verses I put together to recognize some

I was inspired

unfolded before

daily by the

efforts that

my eyes on

the fields and

in the arenas

throughout Observerland

and beyond.

of the past year's standouts individuals who excelled both on and off the playing fields and courts. I know it, I'm not a poet

 but bear with me for about 20 column inches.

and all through the Park, not an athlete is stirring the scoreboards are dark.

was a "1" with two zeroes. But first Tom and Sue

let's bring it back up to three.

of Allison, Eric and Corey, who brought to the Park true state champions' glory.

she may own in a while.

he mastered the Fosbury Flops.

Teams made the playoffs,

Eric throwin' dunks down.

They bumped, set and spiked with amazing precision.

outkicked their foes to the line.

made them feel just like Shrek. Hitting looked easy for the

Few hurlers could strike out

like peanut butter and jelly.

And to all of you parents who did not miss a game,

In shivering cold and

To close, Happy New Year,

can be reached at (734) 953-2108 or

Mustangs earn 'big' victory over Chiefs

STAFF WRITER

When you're playing against Northville's boys basketball team, sometimes it's difficult to see the forwards through the

Canton found that out the hard way during Thursday night's 55-48 setback to the Mustangs, whose starting frontcourt is larger than that of some small-college teams.

"They're very long along inside — I think they go 6-8, 6-6 and 6-6," said Chief coach Dan

PREP HOOPS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 23, 2007

Colligan, whose team dropped to 3-3. "We go 5-10, 5-10 and 6-3 down low, so Northville definitely had the height advantage. Plus, they play a 2-3 zone and it's hard to find gaps in there with all those long arms and big bodies. At times we made good decisions tonight, but at other times we struggled.

"I thought the boys played extremely hard. The effort was definitely there. Northville's won about 16 or 17 (Western) division games in a row, so it's not easy going over there. We're getting better every game, though."

The Chiefs were led by a trio of seniors: Chris Bailey top the scoring ledger with 17 points while Neil Sharma (10 points and 12 rebounds) and Ryan Seely (seven points) also enjoy solid nights.

Greg Haase, who at 6-3 is one of the "smaller" Mustangs, led Northville with 18 points.

The Mustangs galloped to a 15-10 lead after one quarter before the resurgent Chiefs rebounded to cut their halftime

deficit to 23-22. The game was knotted at 36-all after three quarters, but the hosts outscored Canton 19-12 over the final eight

"They hit a couple of back-toback threes (Dan Kirkpatrick and Steve Anderson) that pushed the lead up to 10 with about five minutes to play," Colligan said. "We never got real close the rest of the game.'

Canton struggled from the free throw line, nailing just 7-of-15 attempts (46 percent). Northville made 6-of-10 from the stripe.

Chelsea Atzinger led the winners with nine points. Northville led 4-3 after one quarter, 15-7 at the half and 20-11 with eight minutes to play. Both teams struggled from the charity stripe. Canton connect-

making good decisions when the pressure's on," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault. "Tonight was a huge step for us. The biggest thing was keeping our poise while playing from behind practically the whole

Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner said his team was done in by Franklin's frequent trips (33) to the charity stripe.

"We played well enough to win, so this is obviously a very disappointing loss," said Van Wagoner. "They went to the line 13 times in the fourth quarter and four more times in the overtime, so that was definitely a factor. Part of it was we just weren't getting good position on defense. The other part was that we weren't getting any breaks."

Leidal opened the overtime with a three from the wing, but Sandhu answered with an oldfashioned three-point play to re-deadlock the game at 77-all.

After Poole and Roberts traded driving layups, Matthey gave the Patriots a lead they would never relinquish when he

swished one of two free throws with 1:27 to go.

Poole snared a missed Plymouth shot with 1:05 to play. Franklin then erased nearly a minute off the clock with a weave before Poole deposited a missed Woolfork shot with 14.5 seconds left to put the visitors up 82-79.

Sandhu's deep triple with 8.3 ticks remaining was off the mark, Matthey secured the rebound and nailed a pair of freebies at the other end to close

"Ryan Matthey played great under pressure tonight — he made some great decisions," said Rheault. "And Jeffery Poole did a good job of finishing. All night we recognized their defense and made good choices.

Franklin buried 24-of-33 free throws while the Wildcats connected on 14-of-22.

Senior forward David Harvey played a strong game at both ends of the court for the Wildcats, finishing with 10 points. Senior forward Garrett Rebain added nine points while Mike Hanchett chipped in with seven in limited min-

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Defense prevails: Northville 24, Canton 13

STAFF WRITER

The defense didn't rest during Thursday night's Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division girls basketball opener

The same can't be said for the scoreboard operator. In one of the lowest-scoring contests in the

history of WLAA basketball, the Mustangs hung on for a 24-13 victory in a game played in Canton's Phase III gymnasium. Northville's 11-point second quarter was the only quarter either team scored more than five points. The Chiefs'

shots," said Canton coach Brian

Samulski, whose team slipped to 1-6. "In my opinion, we played pretty good defense tonight — good enough to win most games. When you only give up 24 points, you expect to win. But we need somebody besides Baylee (Hollowell) to

offense with five points. Kayla Bridges was next with four.

ed on just 3-of-10 free shots while Northville hit half its 14 freebies.

The Chiefs return to action Friday when they host Okemos at

Salem icers rock Warriors with 8-spot

The Salem boys hockey team's offense was running on all cylinders Friday night in the Rocks' 8-5 triumph over Walled Lake Western in a game played at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The high-octane victory improved Salem's record to 4-5 overall and 2-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Warriors slipped to 3-8.

We started slowly, but we picked it up in the second period," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "We outshot them 30-12, so we put a lot of pucks on the net."

Western skated to an early 2-0 advantage in the first period, but the Rocks exploded for four goals in each of the final two stanzas.

Senior captain Joel Cheesman led the winners with three goals and two assists. Junior defenseman Sam Ott also excelled, registering a hat-trick and an assist. Eddie Mazrowicz and Ryan Quigley added singles

The Plymouth-Canton-

Bloomfield, 8-0, on Saturday,

Dec. 15 at the Southfield Civic

Arena. The game was stopped

after the second period due to

the Michigan Metro Girls High

School Hockey League's mercy

Following an 8-0 setback to

Grosse Pointe North on Dec.

MMGHSHL standings.

18, the Penguins are 4-5 in the

"The girls played very well against Bloomfield," said PCS

Salem Penguins thumped

for Salem. Quigley's goal

PREP HOCKEY

was his first high school net-Mark Barkoff earned the

win between the pipes after he relieved starting goalie Andy Sensoli to start the second period.

"Joel was our best player on the ice tonight, both offensively and defensively," said Ossenmacher. "He's been playing very well the past month or so."

CHURCHILL 5, SALEM 1: State-ranked Livonia Churchill (8-1, 1-0) opened WLAA-Lakes Division play Wednesday with a victory

0-1) at Eddie Edgar Arena. Churchill took a 1-0 lead at 4:15 of the first period on Christo Papaioannou's goal

over the visiting Rocks (3-5,

from Mike Wovnick. In the second period, the Chargers added three more goals for a 4-0 advan

tage-Garrett Miencier

from Nathan Milam and Keith Yackley; Milam on a power-play from Miencier; **Cody Atkins from Travis** Satkowiak and Scott Sundberg. At 1:48 of the third period,

season on another power-play from Nick Harakas and Cody Atkins. Salem's Sam Ott scored with 52 seconds left from

Milam notched his 21st of the

Haburne. Churchill used two netminders as Derrick Daigneau went the first 40 minutes before giving way to Aaron Crouse.

Michael Hochkins and Steve

Mark Barkoff went all the way in goal for the Rocks.

There was not much flow to the game early on," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We picked up the pace and played pretty well the latter half of the game. Our defensive zone coverage has improved since our loss and the offense is starting to come around."

between Northville and Canton. quarter scores were 3-4-4-2. step up and score." "Northville packed it in with a Hollowell paced the Chiefs 2-3 zone and we didn't hit many







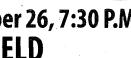
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PREP HOCKEY

Penguins throttle Bloomfield, 8-0

a nice job passing and moving the puck up the ice."

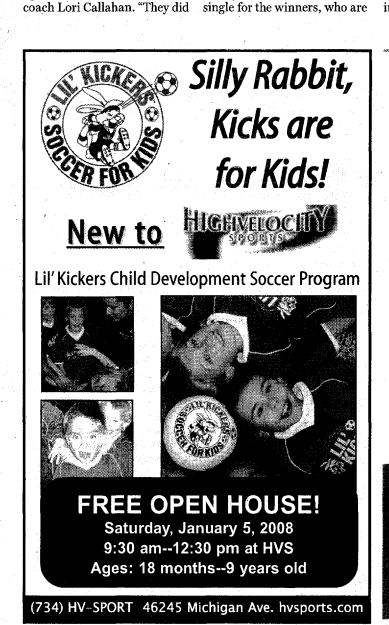
The Penguins netted five goals in the first period and three in the second. Four players registered their first goal of the season: Brittany Chiado, Brooke Caccevelli, Kaitlyn Burris (two) and Katie Rokakis. Jenny Grodus found the back of the net twice and Kelsey Nikkila tacked on a

off until Jan. 12.

Ashley Zaborowski, Rhianna Fletcher and Monica Dovle excelled defensively for PCS. Michelle Shaffer chalked up her second shutout of the sea-

Alumni game

The Penguins will be holding their annual alumni game on Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. All graduated formers players are encouraged to call Callahan at (734) 455-5159 if they are interested in playing.



THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 27
Salem at Allen Park Tourney, 7 p.m.
Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception
Christmas Tournament, TBA

Friday, Dec. 28
Salem at Allen Park Tourney, TBA Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception
Christmas Tournament, TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 28
Detroit Community at Salem, 7 p.m.
Okemos at Canton, 7 p.m.
BOYS HOCKEY Friday, Dec. 21
W.L. Western at Salem
at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 22
Content Carbon Plabard

Canton at Gabriel Richard at Yost Arena, 7:30 p.m. Plymouth at West Bloomfield at Orchard Lake Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29
Plymouth at Ottawa
at Bell Knapp Ice Arena, 5 p.m.
WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 29 lem Individual Tournament, 9 a.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Thursday, Dec. 27 Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29 Whalers at Saginaw Spirit, 7:11 p.m.

none own le $60 \, \mathrm{M}$

Spartan matmen edge Salem by thinnest of margins

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

It went to the scorebook Wednesday night as Livonia Stevenson won based on the criteria against host Salem in a Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division wrestling match after being deadlocked at 34-all.

The Spartans, now 5-1 overall and 1-0 in the Lakes, trailed 18-0 in the early going after losing their first four matches.

Leading the Rocks' early charge were 125-

PREP WRESTLING

pounder Kevin Bennett, who decisioned Tom Myshock, 9-3; 130-pound Kevin Hayter, who pinned Nick Degillio in 3:11; 135-pound Alex Kemp, who decisioned Anthony Mainella, 4-1; and Johannes Olind, who pinned Charlie Kokenakes at 140.

Following losses at 145 and 152, Salem regained a bit of momentum with Jeremy

Epley's pin of Andrew Schramm at 160. The Stevenson comeback was sparked by senior Ziad Kharbush's 9-1 major decision over Austin Root at 171 pounds.

Emanuel Onwuemene (189), Matt Greenman (215), Austin Micallef (285) and Michael Fobar (112) followed with pins. Andy Staub (152) and Raz Markosian (145) also notched victories for Stevenson, which was declared the winner by earning first-points in nine of the 14 matches.

Other victors for the Rocks were Devin Stratton, who pinned Adam Moyer in 0:57 at 103 and Steve Shen, who prevailed in a major

decision over Josh Ivezaj, 9-0, at 119.

"We've gone to a tiebreaker before, but never to the sixth criteria — we almost had to have a coin flip," said Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan. whose team is 6-2 overall and 1-0 in the division. "The upperclassmen did their jobs and our young kids battled all night long. It was a good win for us because three of my starters were out. We wrestled one freshman and five sophomores tonight. The dual meet was exciting from start to fin-

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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other how powerful and reading and driving. By Elena Lombari

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their

various visual goals." Patients often end up using weak, clumsy handheld magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr Smith prescribes hands free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits telescopic devices surgeons use during operations,' says Dr. Smith. "That's convenient they ar

> Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the vision requirement for driving" Dr. Smith

explained. Michigan is one of the 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving. Mr. Charles Willim, age 81, of Taylor came to get his driver license restored after macular degener-

ation reduced his vision to 20/70. Dr. Smith fit him with special driving telescopes that improved his vision to 20/40. A few weeks later Charles passed his road test and is now a licensed driver again. "Those telescopic glasses are pretty darn

good" he said. Buddy Standafer, age 70, of Westland had diabetic eye problems. He came to reinstate his driver license and read better. His regular vision as 20/200 but with special driving telescopes he saw 20/50. Prismatic reading glasses got him reading

newsprint. Two months later his license was restored. "Now I see the traffic lights much better. I am happy to be on the road again. I tell a lot of people about Dr. Smith

"Buddy said. Paid Advertisement



Buddy Standafer wearing driving telescopes

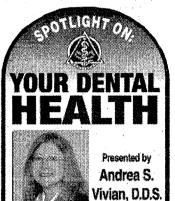
Dr. Smith also advises patients on using sun filters and nutritional supplements to prevent further vision loss. Special glasses and telescopes range in price from \$600 to \$2,500. "Every patient is unique, with different amounts of vision and individual goals," says Dr. Smith. "I strive to help patients resume doing what matters most to them. Meeting patient goals with suitable solutions ultimately improves independence and quality of life."

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it. You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

1-877-677-2020

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.



REPLACEMENTS

If missing teeth are not replaced, a person's ability to eat and drink properly can be seriously compromised. To avoid these unwanted outcomes, your dentist will likely recommend a removable partial denture or "removable bridge" if some natural teeth remain in the mouth. These prosthetics consist of replacement teeth attached to a pink or gum-colored plastic base and metal framework that holds the denture in place in the mouth In some circumstances fixed bridges or implants may be possible instead. If all teeth are missing due to decay, injury, or illness, a full denture can be fitted to the mouth, eight to twelve weeks after all remaining teeth are removed. In the meantime, patients— are outfitted with "immediate" dentures until the "conventional" dentures are ready for permanent use.

Whether it involves and dentures cosmetic work fillings, or complex restorations, any program we suggest for your good dental health will be thoroughly discussed with you before we begin. When you are looking or state-of-the-artist, from people who really dentistry from people who really care, welcome to our office. Our dental team works smoothly and efficiently together, devoted to making your dental experience comfortable as well as enhancing, Call us at 734-453-9413 for an appointment at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth

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ADHD grown up

Psychiatrist's book focuses on ADHD adults

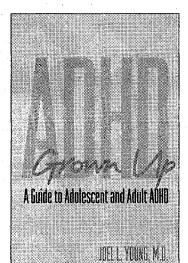
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Dr. Joel L. Young felt like he was in two different worlds as a resident at the University of Michigan Hospitals nearly 20 years ago. Child psychiatrists regularly spoke of ADHD, while adult psychiatrists did not even discuss the diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. That started Young wondering about what happened to children with

ADHD when they grew up. The result is the Rochester Hills psychiatrist's new book, ADHD Grown Up: A Guide to Adolescent and Adult ADHD, published by W.W. Norton. Based on 15 years of treating adults and adolescents with ADHD, the book was written for health professionals as well as patients and covers such topics as the diagnostic screening process; reasons for misdiagnosis; ADHD treatments including medications, psychotherapy and coaching; and the possible connection between ADHD and fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue.

Young is medical director of the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine in Rochester Hills and a staff physician at Beaumont

Hospital, Royal Oak. "The common myth is that children outgrow ADHD. In the early 1990s, when I got interested, it was fundamentally considered to be a disorder of children," said Young, a West Bloomfield resident. "I started looking for adults with ADHD. I would treat them. I



Dr. Joel L. Young's book was written for health professionals as well as patients and covers such topics as the diagnostic screening process; reasons for misdiagnosis; ADHD treatments including medications, psychotherapy and coaching, and the possible connection between ADHD and fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue.

had very little supervision. I was a little bit of a cowboy. I didn't get a lot of guidance. I started using what was available, primitive medicines. I had an extremely gratifying experience treating these adults with ADHD, which affects about 9 percent of school age children, about 4.7 percent of the American adult population."

Young was contacted by Norton about four years ago after the psychiatrist's articles on the subject appeared in academic and medical journals. He spent the next 21/2 years researching ADHD extensively and working on the

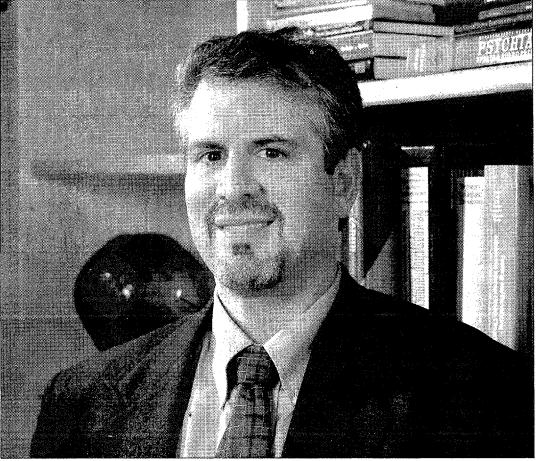
text, which includes case histories of patients whose identities have been camouflaged.

"Adult symptoms include inattention, distractibility, impulsive behavior where people sometimes act or say things before they think," Young said. "Some people with ADHD also have hyperactivity, where they have a hard time slowing down or sitting down, but that's more common in young people. Hyperactivity is less common in adults, particularly women."

Judith Redmond could sleep for long periods of time, but had no idea ADHD was causing her fatigue until she was diagnosed with the inattentive type in 1988. Once she was successfully treated with ADHD medication and cognitive behavioral therapy, Redmond went on to become a psychotherapist after graduating from Oakland University. She'll continue on ADHD medication the rest of her life.

"As a child, I had difficulty paying attention, day dreaming. Even though I knew I was smart, I had trouble achieving in school," said Redmond, 58, of Farmington Hills. "I have three children and would be exhausted. As a stay-at-home mother, it was difficult to keep track of car pools, but I would do it and it would take an enormous amount of caffeine. Since I've been treated, I can use my brain. Now I love to learn. I remember. I pay attention. In my life, it's unlocked my potential."

Young describes the three types of ADHD in the book.



Dr. Joel L. Young drew on 15 years of experience to write his book on adults and adolescents with ADHD.

"One is predominantly hyperactive and impulsive, and primarily among young boys," Young said. "The inattentive type is where they're distracted and sometimes fatigued and is predominantly women and young girls. The combined type combines symptoms of both and is the most common and affects men and women. Men and women do experience it differently. The key thing is you don't have to have hyperactivity to have ADHD. A lot of women reject it because they're not hyperactive, but underactive.

"Adults tend to underperform at work because they struggle with the same symptoms, have lower job satisfaction, are more likely to get laid off, particularly in this economy because they're con-

sidered marginal employees. ADHD also affects relationships. There's much greater conflict in homes where children or parents have ADHD, more fighting between siblings and between parent and child. Families with ADHD are more likely to have divorce. It affects all aspects of one's life."

Young said individuals with ADHD are likely to be misdiagnosed as having depression, but in fact are dealing with ADHD as well. "Only about 30 percent have just ADHD," Young said. "Seventy percent have depression, high levels of anxiety and panic, high rates of alcohol and marijuana abuse, high rates of chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia."

Frequently, patients consult Young after being on numer-

is minimal

Brian from

Ypsilanti e-

mails asking

life.

compared to

the value of a

ous medications and going through psychotherapy. In the book, Young includes questions for individuals and mental health professionals to identify ADHD. Once a diagnosis is made, treatment can begin. Young discusses ADHD medications in Chapter 9 of the book. Chapter 10 includes information on psychotherapy

and coaching. "Medications have become a lot more sophisticated in the last 10 years. We now haveabout 10 medications that we use regularly," Young said.

For more information, visit the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine Web site at www.rcbm.net, or www. wwnorton.com.

Ichomin@hometownlife.com

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

December

Flu shot clinics University of Michigan Health System's Michigan Visiting Nurses offers flu clinics throughout the area in December. Flu shots \$33, pneumonia shots \$84. Clinics open to public, most limited to age 12 and older. Call (888) 547-7295 or

visit www.umvn.org. Flu shot clinics

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Livonia Urgent Care, 37595 Seven Mile, (734) 542-6100, and Western Wayne Urgent Care, 2050 Haggerty, Suite 140, Canton, (734) 259-0500. The cost is \$25, but covered for those with Medicare.

Flu shots

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is providing flu shots (\$25) and pneumonia shots (\$40) at Oakland and Wayne County locations. For weekly listings, call (800) 296-8660 or visit www.vna.org. Homebound service also available. \$40 service fee applies that is not covered by insurance. Must have a physician's prescription. Call (800) 882-5720, Ext. 8752.

Holiday cards

The American Lung Association of Michigan is selling holiday cards to support lung health research, education and advocacy. To see samples, visit www.buyholidaycards.com. For details, call (248) 784-2030 or (800) 543-5864.

UPCOMING Spash classes to begin

HAP's free Senior Splash Bash & Moms in Motion classes begin in

January in five southeast Michigan communities with indoor pools including Southfield and Troy, Any adult can join. Classes not limited to HAP members. Programs runs Jan. 1, to March 20, at

the Troy Indoor Municipal Pool, 3179 Livernois, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-10 a.m. and 10-11 a.m, and Jan. 22 to March 20, at Southfield High School, 24675 Lahser, Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m. For more information, call (313) 664-8420.

CHADD meeting

Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder meet Monday, Jan. 7, at Way Elementary on W. Long Lake Rd. east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, Registration begins at 7 p.m. for the meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. The Parent Group will have Fran Parker Ph.D., Mary Jo Schuster and Kevin Roberts moderating a panel of college students who have been

successful in college managing their AD/HD. This session is open for There will be a simultaneous adult informal support group in a different room. Free to CHADD members, \$5 donation per non-member families. If school is closed due to inclement weather, the phone line at (248) 988-6716 will indicate if meeting is cancelled. The Web site is www.

chadd.net/527. Fibromyalgia support

The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS Support Group features speaker Dr. Michael Hsu 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church on 2055 Merriman, south of Ford road. Hsu, a clinical lecturer and research fellow in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan, is part of Healing Through Affective Self-Awareness in Fibromyalgia, a randomized control trial with Providence internist Dr. Howard Schubiner. Donations are accepted. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday. For more information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

Joint replacement seminars To educate the community

about joint replacement options Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. No charge. To register or for information, call (734) 655-2400.

Hospice benefit

Internationally renowned and award winning photographer Linda Solomon will be a special guest at A Grand Night for Hospice XX, a black tie extravaganza with An Enchanted Evening théme, Saturday, Jan. 26, at The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. The annual event hosted by The Women's Committee for Hospice Care (WCHC), a nonprofit organization that raises money and grants funds for nonprofit hospices in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. Tickets \$300 patron, \$500 benefactor. For information, call (248) 680-7150, or visit www. wchcinc.org. For information about corporate ticket rates and tables, call Susan Kiltie at (248) 359-1167.

CARE House of Oakland County Circle of Friends holds its annual fund-raising luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 29, begins at noon, preceded by a jewelry show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by designer Sharon Meyer, at The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham, A portion of proceeds will be donated to CARE House. Speaker is Naomi Griffith, a consultant on child welfare issues, a storyteller and author

of Red Clay and Vinegar: Looking at Family Through the Eyes of a Southern Child. She uses humor and her own experiences to challenge and inspire audiences in business, education, juvenile justice, mental health, child abuse prevention and family violence systems. Circle of Friends patron level tickets are \$150, luncheon tickets \$75. Call (248) 332-7173.

Wellness seminars

With Rena Greenberg to quit smoking and lose weight 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 29 (weight loss) at St. John Oakland Hospital, 28000 Dequindre at 11 Mile, Corporate Services Building; 3-5 p.m. or 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30 (weight loss) at Providence Medical Center Livonia, 37595 Seven Mile at Newburgh; 10 a.m. to noon (stop smoking) and 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive. Administration Services Bldg. auditorium, Ann Arbor; 6:30-8.30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4 at St. John Macomb Hospital, 11800 E. 12 Mile at Hoover). Main Entrance, Auditorium, and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center, 18101 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, Kalman Auditorium, Main-Entrance.

The programs combine the power of hypnosis with behavior modification. The first 45 minutes of each session is free. If the participant feels comfortable with the program, they pay \$79.99. Save \$10 by registering at easywillpower.com. The fee includes a powerful hypnotic session plus Greenberg's book, The Right Weigh: Six Steps to Permanent Weight Loss, behavior modification booklet, home reinforcement hypnosis CD, and unlimited free repetitions of the hypnosis for one full year, if needed. No reservations required. Call (800) 848-2822 or visit www.easywillpower. com.

ONCOING

New parents support group Meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For details, call (248) 858-7766.

H.U.G.S. support group

Help, Understanding and Grief Support Group and counseling for parents who have suffered a pregnancy or newborn loss, meet 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-4847. There is no pre-registration

Defibrillators can save lives

Tammy from Grosse Pointe emails and says that she saw a defibrillator in her gym. Do those machines really work?

Tammy, yes they do. I think it is so important to have defibrillators. I have them in both my health clubs. In fact, a new study finds defibrillators in public places can save lives.

Researchers conducted a study in 11 cities in the U.S. and Canada. They found survival rates with a defibrillator are 21/2 times greater than CPR alone. About 300,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac death each year. Experts hope defibrillators can decrease that number.



Peter's **Principles**

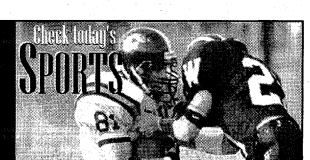
what he can do to reduce his Peter Nielsen blood pressure. Brian, you may want to throw away

the salt shaker. Researchers put a group of adults with hypertension on a "no salt added diet" for six weeks. They found half the group decreased their systolic

The cost of the number by 12.1 and their just from reducing their salt intake to only 3 to 7 grams a day. Experts say avoiding pre-salted foods and not adding salt to food can significantly reduce your blood pressure. And don't forget to exercise!

> If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www. peternielsen.com. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.









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December is a month of miracles

ecember might be called "miracle" month. Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of lanterns burning for eight days. It points us to a story of liberation. The Christmas miracle describes the birth of Christ, and God becoming Emmanuel, God being born into the human race. Miracles

play a role in many of the world's religions. Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism speak of miracles in their faiths as well.

There are many definitions of miracles. A common one would describe an event or something happening that is "wonderful." It is statistically unlikely to

happen; it is beneficial. Why think of miracles in the month of December?

The element of miracle, whether it derives from faith or is just used casually, is a part of the happy times of people doing good for others, thinking of a time of relationships and the possibility of life becoming better, even the gift of "new life." One of the most popular movies on TV over the December holidays, with a Christmas theme, is It's AWonderful Life. George Bailey learns that he is important, that people love him, that life would not be the same for those who know him. A miracle of love, perhaps?

Chat Room

Paul Melrose

I have thought about the miracles I see in the work I do as a counselor. Recently a client shared that finally there is some sense of accepting and moving beyond a loved one's suicide. Another person has shared a sense of "gaining control" over this person's life. A couple decided to look more closely at their relationship to take hold of it and plan their future together.

One definition I find particularly interesting comes from the Christian saint Augustine. He said that a miracle is "whatever is hard or appears unusual beyond the expectation or comprehension of the observer." I think that is a quality of life that is there, if we are just able to see it. Sometimes our own expectations and particularly understandings and assumptions limit the possibilities that might exist.

Perhaps the real miracle is gaining the ability or taking the risk to see life differently. That is what clients in counseling and psychotherapy often have to be helped to do, in order to get beyond the conflict or issue which feels limiting and directed them to a therapist. Many of the words of our religious leaders these days challenge the believer to look beyond their own cultural and worldly experiences to see something that might not otherwise be there. Christians are challenged to see a world of peace. Muslims are challenged, though it is a staple of their faith, to give a certain percentage of their wealth to help others and thereby create "miracles" for others.

While the December holidays can bring as much sadness and depression, from stress, sad memories and family conflicts, those are exactly the places where miracles can occur. The miracle will be whatever happens that breaks into a person's normal experience that has qualities of surprise, beneficence, and the wonderment of how did that happen. Perhaps one of the biggest miracles we Michiganders experience this holiday season is the many ways that people are reaching out to each other with gifts, food, money and many places trying to address mental and emotional and spiritual needs. Wouldn't the real miracle if we kept this attitude and it continued in our lives all year? Happy Holidays!

Dr. Paul Melrose is executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached through www.paulmelrose.com or at (248) 474-4701. The staff of the center can be reached through www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com or through (248) 474-4701.



The toys of Christmas past leave strong memories with our readers.

Do you have fond memories about the toy train you received one Christmas as a child or the doll house your dad made with real shingles? Here are the stories our readers shared of special gifts from holidays past.

BABY DIMPLES

My greatest memory of Christmas rewinds to the '30s to that wonderful Christmas Eve in my hometown of Two Rivers, Wis., when I first laid eyes on Baby Dimples, the most beautiful doll I had ever seen.

The door to the living room had been closed for days while my parents decorated the live tree and on Christmas Eve they opened it.

There, in the corner, was the tree, alive with the flickering of real lit candles, secured in flower-like metal holders that clipped to the tree branches. (Nobody seemed concerned about the hazardous nature of this common practice.)

I was awestruck! By the beauty of the tree — and by what was under it. The most surprise of surprises! There she was, lying in her crib under the glowing greenery - the most beautiful smiling dimpled porcelain face (and limbs) — the soft-stuffed body. Blue eyes that opened and closed and a cherubic voice that captured your heart, saying "Mamma, Mamma" when you turned her over.

She was all in pink, pale lacy dress, matching bonnet, white button shoes and a bib embroidered

with her name, Baby Dimples. I always treasured that doll and perhaps because I was an only child who liked to give life to inanimate

Readers share stories of holidays past



Courtney Lovio (left) and sister Kristen Lovio of Farmington are caring for their grandmother Eunice Lovio's doll Baby Dimples.

objects, she became very real to me. I couldn't teach her, of course, as I did my other dolls (she was much too young). I could only embrace, to have and to hold ...

But life went on and adult reali-

ties supplanted the world of make believe (I had long since moved to Michigan) and I reluctantly relinquished her to foster care, under the supervision of my young granddaughters, Courtney and Kristen

Lovio of Farmington. When they, in turn, outgrew the doll fantasy era, she was relegated to their basement storage area where she's been lingering in limbo

years, my beloved Baby Dimples - while I've debated with myself whether to call Child Protective Services on her behalf. maybe make her a ward of the state, my Beloved Baby Dimples. Eunice Lovio, Redford

4 SPECIAL GIFTS

This request for a special childhood memory began for me an about Christmases past. I am the youngest of four widely spaced siblings. Most of my life I considered Christmas memories to be bittersweet, but as I enter my 50th year, the memories are more sweet than bitter. I had a very loving and caring family.

Four memories stand out most for me: The first was a treasured little chenille Santa that came on a Christmas package from my eldest brother when he lived in New York with his wife. I cannot remember what gift I received, but to this day that Santa ornament gets a special spot on my family Christmas tree, and every year my children hear

Please see MEMORIES, C4

Events offer merry ways to celebrate the holidays

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

The holidays are a busy time of year. Here are a few ways to slow down and enjoy the season.

A FINNISH CHRISTMAS

The Finnish American Singers weren't humming Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow last Sunday, Dec. 16, when they had to cancel their annual holiday concert. Ilene Yanke and the rest of the choral

37595 Seven Mile, Livonia

734-542-6100

group were warmed up and ready for their annual performance of

Finnish carols and classical music. Yanke, the Singers president, and several of the members had spent days baking goodies for the Bake Sale held in conjunction with the concert to raise funds. She says don't worry, the cookies will keep and the concert has been rescheduled for 3 p.m. today (Sunday, Dec. 23), at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$10. For information, call (248) 478-6939.

The Finnish Christmas tarts and ginger cookies and a variety of open-faced sandwiches will be served after the concert.

"I was big time disappointed. The annual holiday concert is so important to me," said Yanke, "so one of our members bagged the cookies. We have 57 bags of cookies."

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOURS Experience Christmas by candle-

light when Greenmead Historical Park offers tours of the homes and buildings including Newburg Church Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 26-27, in the village on Newburgh, south of Eight Mile in Livonia.

Walk along a path lit by luminaries to visit parlours from the past. Afterward, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies while listening to Christmas carols by the Livonia Civic Chorus.

Tickets are \$5 adults, \$3 stu-Please see CELEBRATE, C2



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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 23, 2007

TOM HOFFMEYER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Finnish American Singers, from left, Maire Vint, Ilene Yanke, Diana Haefelan, Dee Aebersold, and Birgit Kuck hold a sample of the baked goods that will be available at their rescheduled holiday concert Sunday, Dec. 23. The Dec. 16 concert had to be canceled due to snow.

FROM PAGE C1

dents. For more information, call (248) 477-7375.

"Last year we had a wonderful turnout. I hope people are looking for something old fashioned to do after Christmas, looking to do something a little different," said Linda Wiacek, recreation supervisor. "It really is a pretty time."

The tours last about 90 minutes and depart the park's gift office 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Advance tickets recommended but available the evening of the

"It's decorated for the traditional Christmas correct to the time period," said

Wiacek. "The 17th Michigan Civil War re-enactors will be in the Kingsley and Shaw homes, both Civil War era homes. There are no lights in the house. It's all candles and enough light to make it safe. The church is lit with candles and white lights with soloists from Stevenson High School including Aria DeGillio."

CROSSROADS CEILI

Celebrate Christmas Irish style at the Crossroads Ceili 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 29-30, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$16. Call (313) 537-3489.

This year's gathering features performances by Seamus Connolly accompanied by pianist Barbara MaGone, All-Ireland champion harpist

Siobhan McKinney, Redford fiddler Mick Gavin and sons Sean and Michael. Step dancers from the Heinzman School of Irish Dance and Nick Gareiss of Mount Pleasant heat up the floor.

"We're delighted to have Nick an old style step dancer," said Mick Gavin who was recently inducted into the Irish Music Hall of Fame. "Nick's been in Ireland since September as part of the world music program at University of Limerick. Last week he performed with The Chieftains in Ireland."

According to Gavin, Connolly is one of the most respected Irish musicians in North America. He won the National Fiddle championship 10 times and is the Artist in Residence Sullivan Chair in Irish Music at Boston College.

In addition to music and dance performances, the ceili offers workshops on fiddle, piano, guitar, banjo, pennywhistle and flute noon to 4 p.m. on both days.

"We bring in internationally known guest musicians," said Gavin. "It's an opportunity for young people to learn more about technique and styles of Irish music. There are basically three styles of Celtic music - Scottish, Irish and Cape Breton. They're very, very different, different interpretations but the same structure of music. We will cover all three styles."

CHRISTMAS WITH THE DEER Spend Christmas with the

deer and pay no admission to any of the 13 Metroparks Tuesday, Dec. 25. Although the Interpretive and Farm Learning centers will be closed, the trails, sledding

The Metroparks have a number of events planed during the holidays including horse drawn sleigh rides or hayrides noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 26, to Jan. 1, at the Farm Learning Center at Kensington Metropark (Milford/Brighton area). Cost is \$3 adults, \$2 children/seniors. For information, call (800) 477-3178 or (248) 685-1561. The Farm Learning Center is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at Kensington, but closed Christmas Day.

Learn about deer through the seasons 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at Kensington's Nature Center during a short hike and by watching slides. The cost is \$2 per person. Or help with the New Year's Bird Count 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Kensington Nature Center. To register, call (800) 477-3178.

Enjoy 60 miles of groomed ski trails, ice rinks, sledding or tobogganing hills and snowboarding hills. A vehicle entry permit is required and costs \$20/\$12 senior citizens (annually), or \$4 daily. For details, call (800) 477-2757 or visit www.metroparks.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MAGIC

The Wonder Merchants performance troupe rings in the New Year with a variety show which includes plenty of magic 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 (doors open at 8:30 p.m., Afterglow until 12:30 a.m., at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge, Canton.

Tickets are \$45 includes performance, late night buffet and champagne toast at midnight. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.canton-mi.org/vil-

7 pm- 2 am lagetheater. hills and cross-country ski Ichomin@hometownlife.com Featuring Live Music RARE BLEND trails will be available to enjoy (734) 953-2145 **Grantland Street Players** hold auditions for 'Oliver'

The Grantland Street Players are looking for adults and children to fill more than 30 roles in their production of the musical Oliver.

Auditions for adults (and ages 15 and up) take place 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 or 18; children ages 5-10 at noon Saturday, Jan. 12 or 19, and children ages 11-14 at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 or 19, at the Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, one half block west of Inkster Rd., one half mile south of I-96. Livonia.

Please be prepared to sing a portion of a song of your choice from Oliver. You may be asked to read from the script

(English and Cockney accent is preferred). If you are inexperienced and would like to be a part of the chorus (vendors, bar singers, adults, orphans, children) you are welcome to join us. Don't be afraid!

Rehearsals will be held on Saturdays and Sundays. Actors will rehearse in groups rather than full cast.

Production dates are May 23-25, and May 30 to June 1.

Fridays and Saturdays evening shows (time TBD), Saturdays and Sundays 2 p.m. matinee.

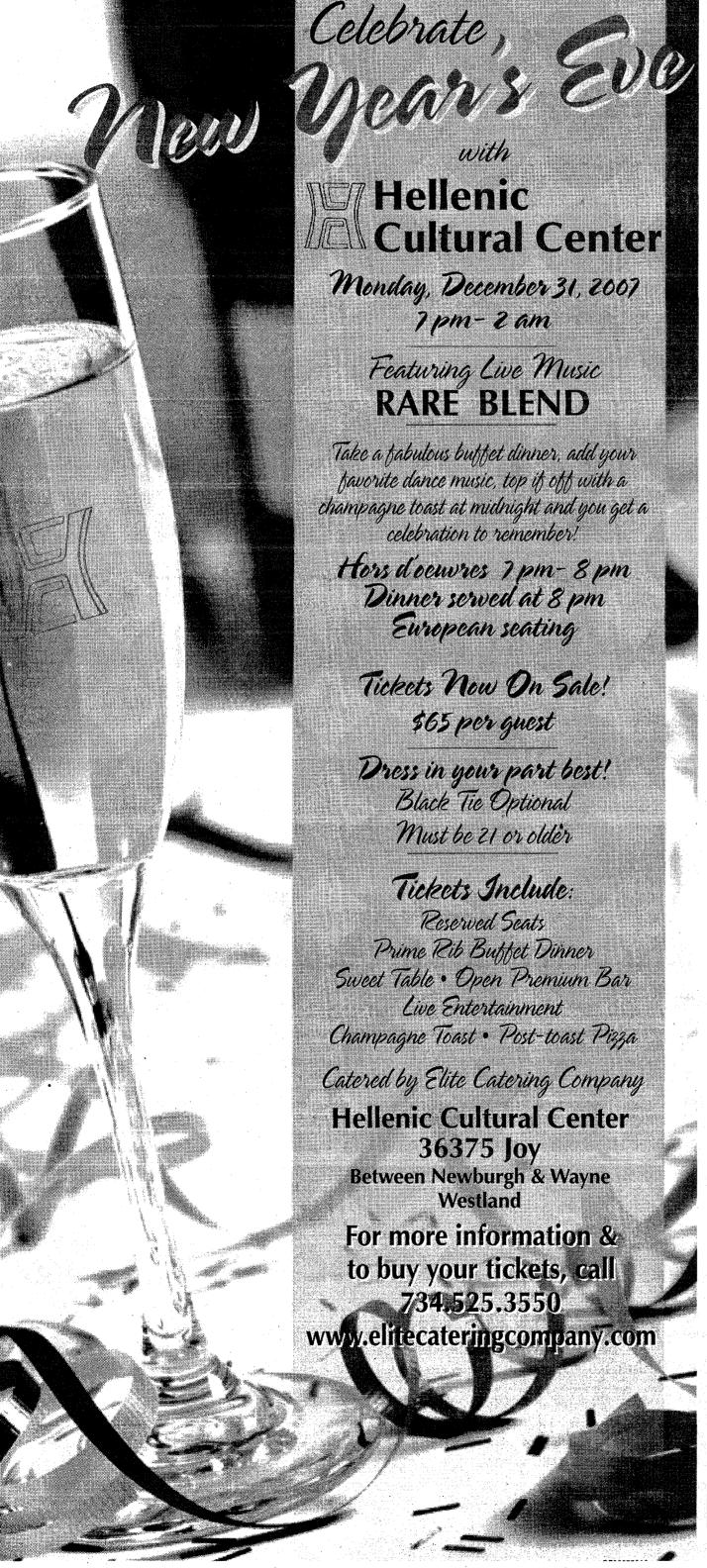
For more information, send e-mail to nlflo@aol.com or call (313) 535-8962.

Area arena hosts national skating event Jan. 5

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena will host a special free clinic 10-11:20 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, as part of U.S. Figure Skating's National Skating Month. It's Great To Skate welcomes new skaters to a fun-filled event with free skating instruction, demonstrations of different ice sports, and raffle prizes.

Every year, U.S. Figure Skating Member Clubs reach out to the community through It's Great To Skate activities at local rinks. The goal of National Skating Month is to increase awareness and participation in the sport, which has enjoyed consistent growth. National Skating Month activities offer people of all ages the opportunity to learn the basics of ice skating from professionally trained instructors across the United States. This year, U.S. Figure Skating is joining forces with USA Hockey and US Speedskating to promote all aspects of skating.

U.S. Figure Skating, the national governing body for the sport, is comprised of approximately 1,425 member clubs representing nearly 184,000 members. For information about the free It's Great To Skate clinic or any other programs at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, call Michelle Sibley at (248) 478-8800.



Arthritis Today

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RHEUMATOID **ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOARTHRITIS**

At times, I see new patients who come for treatment for their "arthritis." When I ask what type o arthritis they have, often the reply is: "arthritis, rheumatoid or osteoarthritis. Does it matter?" It matters a great deal. Rheumatoid and osteoarthritis are two opposite conditions with different

Rheumatoid arthritis causes inflammation. The lining cells of joints respond to attacks by heumatoid induced antibodies by countering with fluid and chemicals that cause swelling and pain In contrast, osteoarthritis results from a wearing away of the cartilage that covers the tops of bones that form joints. This wearing away is like the wearing down of tread on a tire. Joint fluid may accumulate but comes from the irritation caused by the bones of the joint rubbing against each

Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis differs markedly from therapy for osteoarthritis. In rheumatoid arthritis a number of drugs either alone or in combinations work to stop the body from producing antibodies against joint lining cells.

In contrast, treatment for osteoarthritis is simple as no medicine now exists to restore or reverse the wearing away of cartilage. Therapy consists of plain medication, weight loss, if indicated, and exercise to strengthen the thigh muscles.

Joint surgery in rheumatoid arthritis gives uncertain results, but surgery in osteoarthritis, particularly of the hip and knee, lasts for life.

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com

ANNIVERSARY

Herringtons celebrate 50th anniversary

The Rev. and Mrs. Willet J. Herrington III of Garden City are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on Dec. 21, 1957, at Redford Presbyterian Church. The couple have three children, Elizabeth Herrington, Paul Herrington and Martha Robertson.



ENGAGEMENT

Gasser-Stoller

Sue and Randy Gasser of Livonia join LeAnn and Rod Stoller of Van Wert, Ohio, in announcing the engagement and upcoming marriage of Alexis Suzanne Gasser and Jonathan Todd Stoller.

Alexis is a 2004 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She is currently a senior at Illinois State University in Bloomington, Ill., and is student teaching at Bloomington Junior High School. Alexis plans to graduate in May 2008.

Jon is a 2000 graduate of Van Wert High School. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from Ohio State University in 2004. Jon is currently working as a certified public



at the Livonia Apostolic Christian Church with a reception at Livonia's Italian American Center. After a honeymoon in Sarasota, Fla., the couple plans to make their home in Van Wert.

NEW VOICES

Shelby Alexis Bolish

accountant at Arend, Laukhuf &

The wedding will be in June 2008

Stoller Inc. in Van Wert, Ohio.

Ashley and Robert Bolish III of Westland announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Alexis Bolish, on Dec. 5, 2007.

Dec. 5, 2007.
Grandparents are Jessica and
Michael Cardwell of Pinckney,
Robert and Donna Bolish of Ohio and
Marsha and Steven Sand of Westland.
Great-grandparents are Joseph and
Merlene Kittka of Westland.





Tessa Marie Selke Adkins

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Keith and Linzi Adkins of Ann Arbor proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Tessa Marie Selke Adkins. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long at birth, on Oct. 16, 2007, at the University of Michigan Birth Center in Ann Arbor. Proud grandparents are Douglas and Shelia Selke of Rochester Hills and Kennel and Janice Adkins of Garden City. Tessa Marie's great-grandparents are Leonard and Dorothy Selke of Utica, Bill and Marie Brazel of Pontiac and Willia B. Adkins of Pikeville, Ky.

Dec. 30 show offers comics, collectibles

Motor City Conventions brings back its X-Trava Con Comic Book, Toy, and Nonsport Car Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Knights of Columbus Hall,

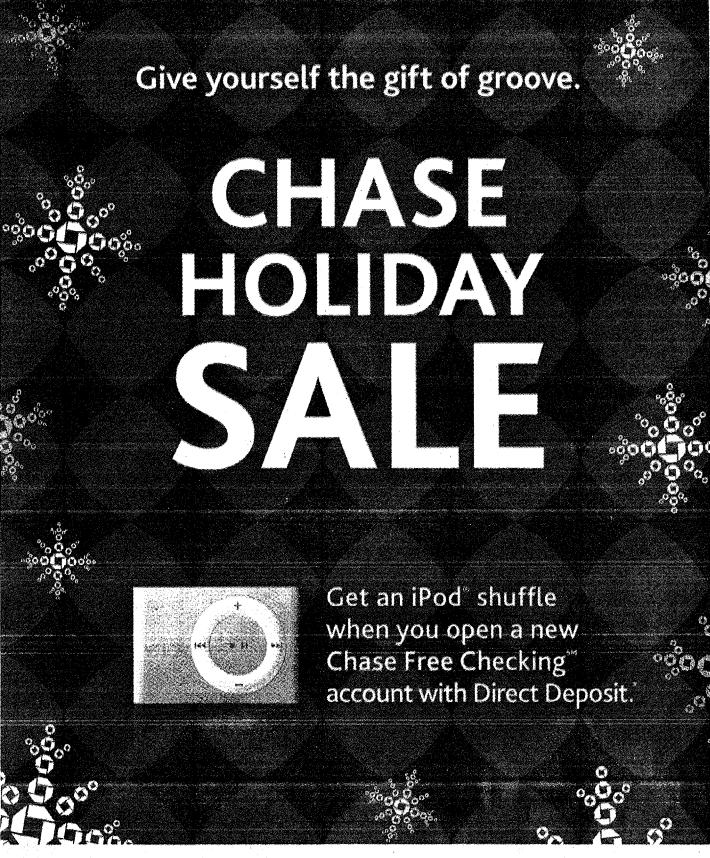
19801 Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, Livonia. Admission is

The show offers a large selection of non-sports cards,

action figures, anime, toys and collectibles, Hero Clix, and collectible statues. More than 100,000 comics will be for sale or trade

Tables are available, \$50 in

advance, \$55 at the show or more information, call (248) 426-8059 or visit www.motorcityconventions.com.





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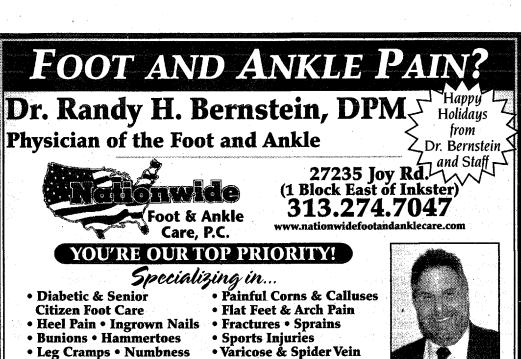


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the story of how and when I received it. My second favorite memory is of a card that my second brother made for me the first year he was married and away from home. This card was made on a folded piece of white paper that was painted over with black ink. In the ink they sketched a simple winter scene, on the inside of the card was a verse written by my brother. The verse was simple and in every line there was the knowledge that this person knew everything about who and what I was. I treasured that card for the longest time. As an adult, I looked high and. low for that card, I was certain it had been saved in my mother's Bible; the sacred place where she stored all those very special works of art we made, but sadly it was not there, so it remains á memory in my mind

and heart alone. My third memory is of a gift my sister gave me. In the '60s it was everything to own a Barbie doll. I yearned for a Barbie. My sister saved cereal box tops and the small amount of cash required to send away for a Calico Lassie doll. I loved my sister for trying so hard to make my wishes come true. My fourth memory is of another doll I received as a little girl. This doll came from my grandmother in Pennsylvania. The doll's name was Leena Cleana, a wrinkled faced, knobby handed doll with an apron full of pockets with cleaning supplies in it. I did not find Leena as welcoming as my sister's new full sized dancing doll with elastic straps on her feet, but I did play with Leena and to this day I think she has had an impact on who and what I am. I love to clean, much to my children's dismay, and I realize that it is not what the gift is, but rather the love behind the gift that is most important.

MATCHING OUTFITS

City

Rita Magdowski, Garden

My mom was working two jobs to care for my brother and me. She saved S&H Green Stamps and sewed all of my clothes. One year, when things were really tight, she spent all of her green stamps on a fire engine for my prother that had a ladder that went six feet high. While we were out playing or napping, she took the scraps from all of my clothes and made matching outfits for one of my favorite dolls. She had a neighbor build a little closet, and make little hangers for my doll's clothes. Every time I wore a favorite outfit, I took my doll to school, dressed just like me!

Sandi Kyle, Livonia

MAGIC SCISSORS

Get nice and comfy and let me tell you about the time

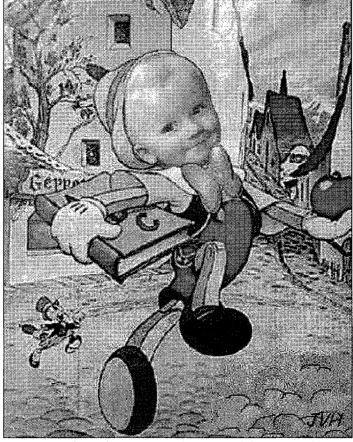
little Jimmy Van Hollebeke (me) received his first important gift — The Scissors! Jimmy was 5 years old in 1950 and he already had a hero -Pinocchio. He had two books about Pinocchio. One was a comic book and the other was a Little Golden Book, both loving Christmas gifts from his Aunt Lorine.

Mom gave Jimmy gifts too but not as lovingly chosen. She gave her son a practical gift ... a pair of scissors. Not adult scissors of course — little shiny red plastic scissors for kids, nice and safe with blunt ends and rather dull cutting edges. They were more of a learning aid than a real tool, but they were beautiful and they really cut paper. Jimmy was as happy as he could be with this gift. He drew pictures and snipped them out. He cut Howdy Doody out of the newspaper. Such fun. And so it came to pass that the little boy had nothing left to cut up. Mama, by now, had put some callous reality in his head with regard to rules. You don't cut up anything that belongs to others. You don't trim your hair, don't cut the tablecloth. Many, many things had to be left unassaulted.

Eventually boredom set in. The child wanted to cut some things out but couldn't think of anything then it struck him like a bolt of lightning. He would cut out his favorite Pinocchio pictures. His first choice was the treasured Little Golden Book with the breathtaking picture of Monstro the whale. It was the neatest picture he had ever seen. Snip snip ... captured! And look here at the beginning ... Geppeto carving the unpainted Pinocchio. Snip snip .. liberated. Jimmy grabbed his comic book. There were tons of pictures in there. The young editor was no longer bored. He was doing real work, work with a purpose, and creative too. He had accomplished something to really be proud of. The tyke took his new collection of priceless pictures to

show Mama. "JIMMY! These pictures were in the Pinocchio books that Aunt Lorine gave you for Christmas," she exclaimed. "I thought you loved those

Mama did instill some guilt in the young slasher and he decided not to further pillage scissors aside and like all little boys moved on to other interests. Some weeks passed but Pinocchio was always there, lurking in his subconscious and it wasn't long before the magic puppet resurfaced in our little hero's thoughts. He had created that collection of pictures from his enchanted Pinocchio books. Let's go look at them now. The lad searched and searched but was unable to locate the valuable cache. He asked his Mother who



Jim VanHollebeke made use of a pair of scissors to put himself into Pinocchio.

bad, Goering, the chief of

the German Air Force had

and its suburbs trying to

bombed and burned London

defeat us and so we were not

thinking of Christmas gifts

or dinners, but just keeping

warm and staying alive. A few

days before school closed for

Christmas, these Italian pris-

pieces of wood (carved nicely)

gliders, yo-yos etc. I received a

small carved bird which I had

until just before we moved to

Canada in August 1946. I am

of war on their return to Italy

after WWII remembered the

school children and the warm

its present giving can bring no

Helen Ann Ermete, Livonia

This takes place during the

Under a small Christmas

unwrapped plain white box. It

All Christmas Day 1 played

with that toy car and went to

bed with it, a happy little boy.

Thanks to the Goodfellows for

Every year I remember that

Christmas with my check to

A BEARY, MERRY CHRISTMAS

1960s. My mother, brother and

I lived with our grandparents.

My mom worked as a cook at

the local hospital so we did not

have much money. I was at the

age where I wanted to believe

in Santa Claus but something

brother, who was older by two

years, knew the truth but went

along with if for my sake. All

I wanted for Christmas was a

black and white panda teddy

bear that I had seen in the

window of Woolworth's Five

and Dime store downtown

but my mother was not sure

told me he was not real. My

I grew up in a small

Southern town in the late

Gerald C. Majeske Sr.,

contained long winter under-

wear, mittens, socks, hard

candy and a toy tin windup

tree there was a single

police car with a siren.

that great Christmas.

the Goodfellows.

Livonia

feelings that Christmas and

matter how small the gift.

GOODFELLOWS GIFTS NOT

FORGOTTEN

Depression.

sure these Italian prisoners

oners of war had made from

small gifts such as airplane

needed a "Pinocchio fix." Then another brainstorm. He would gather the two books and look at the superb pictures remaining in them but the books were nowhere to be found. He asked his Mama, "Where's my Pinocchio books?" but Mom had no answer.

Jimmy never gave up the search. Years came and went and occasionally he'd recheck with Mom if she had yet found his lost treasures. It was many years later when he finally realized it was his own mother who was responsible for all his grief. She had done what she always did with junk — discreetly thrown the stuff away. Come to think of it, those beautiful red plastic scissors

were gone too. Jim VanHollebeke, Redford

A WARTIME MEMORY

I could write you about the Christmas when I was 6 years old and one of my aunts gave me a beautiful doll, whose eyes opened and shut. This was in 1931. My two younger brothers were fascinated by these eyes, and within a week took a hammer and broke the doll's head

to see how these eyes worked. Several years later (about 1941) we were living in a suburb of W. London, England. We noticed a group of men in cocoa-colored uniforms, walking about in the main street area. We found out that these men were Italian prisoners of war and that they were billeted at Osterley Manor (a large beautiful home and grounds) in Norwood Green. As we went to schools in Norwood and Heston we would see these men and when summer arrived we would watch them playing soccer (football) with no shoes on. We would cheer

that Santa could fit the bear in his sleigh with all of the other toys. He was a large bear and I could just picture him sitting on my bed with all of my other bears. I realize now that the bear was probably more than my mom could afford on a cook's salary. My brother and I went to bed early in anticipation of

the toys that we would get. It had snowed all day and the roads were bad. We just knew that Santa would somehow leave presents at our house even though the coal fireplace was used for heating at all times. I remember waking up to the sound of the back door opening and closing and of packages rustling. I got up and went to the kitchen and there was the black and white panda bear sitting in the chair. My aunt came in the kitchen carrying other presents and I asked her if the bear was mine and why was his nose so cold and wet. She said that she had found him shivering on the back porch and that Santa must have dropped him from his sleigh. She said that I needed to take him to bed to warm him up.

My brother got the bicycle and army men that he wished for. I got an Easy Bake Oven and the bear. I named him "Tommy" and he sat on my bed until I went away to college.

Debra Fowlkes, Westland

A HOUSE FOR IMAGINATION

As a girl growing up in Livonia in the '70s I loved Louisa May Alcott's books, The Borrowers, Anne of Green Gables and Little House in the Prairie. I dreamt of owning a real doll house complete with miniatures of the 19th century. I wanted something like the Wagonschuts house on Six Mile Road that I looked at longingly every day on the school bus to Dickenson Junior High. My 14th Christmas I was surprised by an immense half-finished Victorian doll house of my own. My dad had ordered a kit and when it arrived he found it was a large doll house, but it came in very small pieces down to the individual shingles. He put it in the basement furnace room and told me not to go in there. I imagined some dangerous project or even a surprise, but not a doll house. He enlisted the help of my brother for parts of it, and by Christmas morning it looked enough like the finished product to elicit a gasp of awe and delight. He had spent hours of patience gluing real wood veneer strips on the floor and added a stone chimney.

I immediately began planning ways to make it my own. We bought the light blue paint and white trim for the exterior. I wore out the route to the doll house store in Plymouth choosing wallpaper for each room and spending my savings on pieces of replica furniture. I sewed a tiny quilt and pillows for one of the beds. My brother printed a tiny portrait of me directly from a negative. I built some of the furniture from kits and some came from the house my mom had as a child. I especially love the curtains my

mom sewed for each room. My childhood dream house came to life nurtured by the care and detail of my family. It stands as a symbol of my girlhood and my imaginings in times gone by. Now 30 years

later, I enjoy many time periods, including the present and the future.

Cathy Dyer, Livonia

A BIBLE GIFT

My special childhood memory was when I was young I received a gift. I ever so carefully, unwrapped the gift. It was a small rectangular, white box. Nothing on the outside to give away what was inside. I carefully opened the box. Inside was a Bible! I read and cherished this Bible.

My father and sister were killed by a drunk driver when I was young. This left my mother and I. My memories are beautiful memories of my entire family together on Christmas. I miss them both dearly. I am very fortunate to have the good mother that I have.

Dr. Gregory Zotos, Ph.D., Livonia

A SACRIFICE FOR ROLLER **SKATES**

I will be 70 years old in February '08 and I remember as a young child, my father sold his blood to the Red Cross for \$25 so he could buy Christmas presents for me, my brother (at the time) and my Mom. I remember he bought me a pair of roller skates with a key and leather straps to hold them on my shoes to skate on the sidewalk. They had metal wheels. I felt so special and how I loved my Dad

for that present. Sandy Servalish, Westland

WARM AND COZY PJS

My favorite Christmas memory is about the most ordinary of gifts: pajamas. Each year of my early childhood, my Grandparents sent us a box of goodies from Florida the week before Christmas. We saved the box to open on Christmas Eve as part of my mom's birthday celebration. So much excitement built up for our Christmas Eve festivities. We had special food, Christmas music, secret gifts for mom and the Christmas box.

Inside the box were always two presents for each child. One present was an extravagant toy like the year we received a working telephone set. Two cute, pink princess hones with 100-feet of cable let us talk for hours all over the house. Since our home had only one stationary phone in the kitchen, like the homes of most of my friends in 1971, the luxury of a phone in your room was exciting.

But it was the second, simpler present that stays with me all these years. Each child also received a special pair of pajamas to wear on Christmas Eve as we waited for Santa to arrive. Those soft furry PJs kicked off the holiday with a predictable sense of comfort and gratitude. As we put out milk, cookies and a letter to Santa, we felt warm, safe and

My mother and my grandfather both passed away too young, and by 1980 our special Christmas Eve birthday parties drifted into memories. But I can still bring them back as I tuck my daughter into bed on Christmas Eve wearing soft new Christmas pajamas and a contented smile.

Janet Gallo, Redford

them on and try to talk to immediately claimed ignorance of any knowledge. them. Jimmy was distressed. He That Christmas was



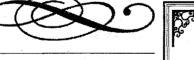
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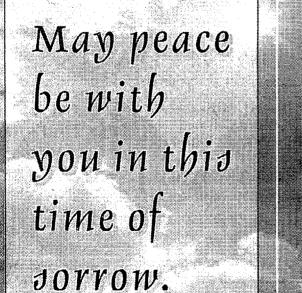
SHIRLEY M. GRIFFIS

Age 85, of Livonia., Died 12-18-2007. Sister of Alice (Bill) Wilkinson & Janet (Dennis) Gibbish.









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Puppets bring original story to life BY SHARON DARGAY STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Thomas Lange will trade his clerical garb for a green monster hand puppet at the 5p.m., service on Christmas Eve. He won't do much sermoniz-

ing, but will use a "fun voice" — a little gruff and befitting a green monster — when he addresses the congregation at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills. "Every year we've done some-

thing a little different for our children's Christmas program," said Lange, who has written each production for the past six years.

"This one that we do on Christmas Eve gets adult and youth actors together. We put on a program that's not done by the kids, but it's intended to be for the kids. "

Two years ago, he wrote a twist on the Chronicles of

"This year our director said we should be a little less intense. We

wanted to do something really appealing to the kids."

The result is "Home for Christmas," an original story about an orphan who wants to be adopted into a family for Christmas and a toy that wants to be loved by a child.

The story is set in a toy store, with actors playing customers, storekeeper and supplying the puppet voices. In the end, the orphan "adopts" the toy and she, in turn, is adopted by a new

Lange had just seen the animated film, Meet the Robinsons, which includes a character that's adopted, when he started writing the Christmas Eve drama. Galatians Chapter 4, Verse 5 "To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." also inspired him.

"The whole idea is that we are adopted by God," he explained.

The church's puppet ministry appeals to the youngest members of the congregation and seemed a perfect fit for a Christmas Eve

drama.

"My philosophy with little children is that I don't expect them to grasp the theme. What I'm going for is simple ideas, like God is their father and he loves them, so they feel they have a home at church, too." Lange said adults may enjoy

the production, but that the story, dialogue and humor is aimed at 5- to 12-year-old youngsters. The family-oriented service also will include caroling, candlelight and a gift for children. Church members must remove the props and set after the performance to make way for the traditional candlelight service held at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

The church, located at 28000 New Market, north of 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road, in Farmington Hills, also offers a service at 10 a.m. on Christmas

For more information, call the church at (248) 553-3380 or visit www. popicms.org.

MAKING DECEMBER MEANINGFUL



WORKWISE meaningfulness often arise in our private lives at this time of year. Robbie Blinkoff, consumer Mildred L. anthropologist and managing director of Context-Based Research Group

Questions about

L.L.C., in Baltimore, says that "December is the one month where very clearly work and life intersect. The meaning you attribute to yourself outside of the workplace comes into the workplace a little bit. Everything, including a mitten-drive, brings a little of your personal self into the workplace in a very specific way."He remarks that, on the one hand, contentiousness may arise; on the other, open sharing of world views. What can you do to increase an awareness of meaningfulness in the workplace? COMMUNITY

Kimberly DiStefano, HR manager at Global Lead L.L.C., an HR diversity consulting firm headquartered in Cincinnati, mentions that her firm is a little different through its "employee-related team-building through community-driven work. Volunteerism is a

form of renewal for the employee, creating team spirit, whether or not you celebrate." This month she's beginning something new in her work with a batteredwomen's shelter. She's inviting others in her office of about 37 employees to join her in preparing, delivering and serving food.

"There is no need for coercion," she explains. "Volunteering builds camaraderie among associates. You work with people you (don't) work with during the day . . . connecting with people on a very deep, human level.

Shawn Krahmer, associate professor of Historical Theology at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, also views the season as "an opportunity to build community in the workplace. We're all thinking about what has value for us and what will make this season meaningful. Why not take that opportunity to talk to others about that? How do we recognize our common humanity? Holidays (bring) a desire to get back to something more basic, less complicated. How do we use our impulse to get back to the basics (rather than get lost in the details in our work)?" CHARACTER

A more secular value, but nonetheless a value which reflects meaningfulness, appears in your desire to increase your personal potential. Doug Vermeeren, motivational speaker at Douglas Vermeeren Co. in

Calgary, Alberta, observes that for many people, December brings time to reflect upon their work, "looking forward, analyzing what they've done, where they've been and where they're going, re-dedicating themselves where they've fallen short. It's an ideal time to look to the future and find a new course, a new dimension to what they can do." He's not talking about busy-ness in the workplace but the development and enhancement of substance, or character.

Vermeeren suggests asking these questions: Were my actions this year the best ones?

-- Do I need not so much to think outside of the box but find a different one? - Was I so focused upon perfectionism that I was

"stopped by question marks?" -- Did I forget to improvise?

-- Did I fail to ask others for help? Blinkoff, the anthropologist, further states that "the month of December has taken the idea of giving and pulled it enough outside of religion that the month, regardless of your religious feeling, is just a time to connect and to give. It's not about religion or Christmas per se. People just want to connect. Just do something." That something may mean reaching out

to different colleagues or potential customers, internal or external, to bring more meaning to your work. Krahmer, the theologian, says that if you're in a



Global Lead L.L.C., in Cincinnati, Angela Durhum, Jason Harris, Karen Coburn, Kimberly DiStefano and Gustavo Gisbert enjoy volunteering and team-

huilding at the same time. position to make working easier for others, the spirit of December may inspire you to invite others to bring a family's special food to share or to be flexible and patient with others. "This is not a time to push someone hard on something," she comments. "It may be to be a little more flexible with hours or hire a temp so that the extra things" get done.

'It's about community at the end of the day," Blinkoff notes, what Krahmer calls "basic values, which can draw people together."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2007 Passage Media.)



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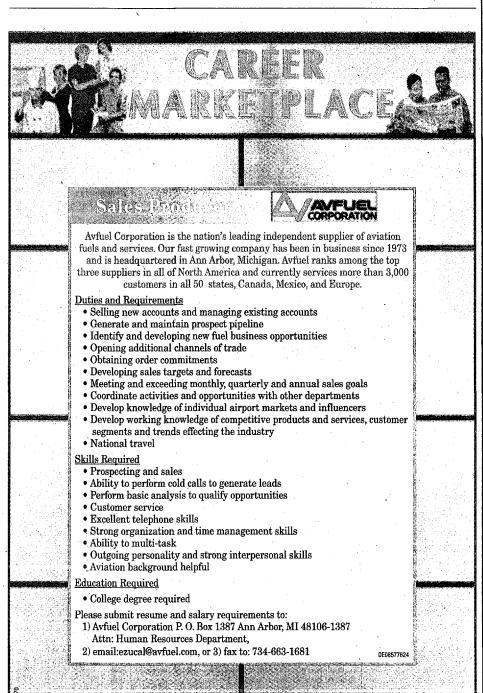
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Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 4x4, \$13,998. AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 CHEVY SUBURBAN Z71 2003, leather, DVD, more, only

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

CHEVY TAHOE 2005 4WD, silver birch, 5.3 V-8, GM

Certified, \$23,995. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

CHEVY TRAIL BLAZER LS 2006 4x4, only 7,000 miles, loaded, sharp!! \$20,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

CHEVY TRAIL BLAZER LT 2006 4x4, black 2 tone, leather, sunroof, Navigation, sharp, \$19,995. Red Holman

(734) 721-1144





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\$214 PER MONTH.

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FUSIONS 2007, 14 to choose.

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miles. \$11.984.

Ford

ports Utility

CHEVY TRAIL BLAZERS ready, several to choose from, priced to sell. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

DODGE DURANGO 2002 wheel drive. \$8,998 AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 FORD ESCAPE 2002, auto leather, moon, loaded, \$8,995 with warranty.

Bad credit, no credit OK COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616 FORD ESCAPE 2008, hard to low miles, like new

OPEN SATURDAY Dec. 29, 9am-3pm Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2008, 4x4, leather, priced to sell at \$18.999 JACK DEMMER

Ford 734-721-2600 FORD ESCAPE XLT 2002 4x4 loaded, big savings, \$9,940 NORTH BROTHERS FORD

(734) 524-1264 FORD ESCAPE XLT 2008 leather, moon, 4x4, \$18,998. AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 FORD EXCURSION 2005 Limited, loaded, leather, entertainment, 33K, \$25,999. JACK DEMMER

Ford 734-721-2600 FORD EXPEDITION 2001 4x4 V-8 4.6 liter, leather, heated seats, great for the family, like brand new! \$10,995 warranty

WAYNE (734) 721-1616 FORD EXPEDITION 2004 Eddie Bauer 4WD, DVD, moonroof, 3rd row, heated & cooled seats, absolutely loaded & like new, one owner,

must see, \$15,400. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890 FORD EXPEDITION 2004 Eddie Bauer, DVD, moon, 3rd row, heat & cooled seat, it's got it all, rides like silk, \$15,490.

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(734) 522-0030 FORD EXPEDITION 2004, sage green, 4x4, leather, only

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FORD EXPEDITION EL LIMIT-AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPEDITION FX4 2003 4x4, loaded, priced tomove **Bill Brown Ford**

(734) 522-0030 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2000

AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2000 leather, moon, V-8, 4.6L \$8,995 with warranty Financing for everyone! COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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EXPLORER SPORT XLS 2004, nice &

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030 FORD FREESTYLE LIMITED

2005, AWD, \$16,998 (248) 355-7515 FORD FREESTYLE LIMITED 2006 Leather & loaded Certified \$16,940. #P20290

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RedHolman (734) 721-1144

GMC ENVOY 2002, 4x4 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

GMC ENVOY SLT 2002, one owner, leather, only \$11,995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

What Others

You're Approved For The Auto **YOU Want GUARANTEED!** Call For Details ASK FOR MR. SCOTT (248) 355-7515 ĀVIS FORD

Sports Utility

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8290

GMC ENVOY XL SLT 2003 white, 4x4, DVD, 3rd seat, heated leather, \$13,795.

Red Holman_ (734) 721-1144

GMC ENVOY XUV SLT 2005, 4x4, carbon, sunroof, leather, low miles, only \$17,995.

Red Holman...

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GMC JIMMY SLS 1999 4x4, V-6, auto, air, alloy wheels, sharp!! \$6,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

GMC YUKON SLE 2007, red, 6,882 miles, 3rd seat, 6 disc, \$AVE, \$28,788.

> Red.Holman_ (734) 721-1144

GMC YUKON XL 2004 1500. auto, V-8 5.3L flex fuel, leather, moonroof, fully loaded, \$17 995 2 vr 24K warranty

GMC VIIKON YI 2006 4v4 black, sunroof, DVD, leather, 6,100 actual miles! \$AVE Red.Holman_

WAYNE (734) 721-1616

(734) 721-1144 GMC YUKON XL SLT 2002 4x4, sunroof, leather, special

Red.Holman_ (734) 721-1144 GMC YUKON XL SLT 2003. white, leather, power moon

45K. \$20.995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

HONDA CRV 2004 4WD, auto, maroon, only 52K, one owner, gas mileage & dependable, \$14,990. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

HONDA CRV LX 2005 4x4, AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

KIA SPORTAGE LX 2006, auto, 2WD, silver, 39K, \$13,340. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

LINCOLN AVIATOR 2004 4x4, AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 2000 4x4, V-8 5.4 liter, leather, pre-mium sound, running boards, \$11,995 with warranty. inancing for everyone! WAYNE (734) 721-1616

Sports Utility

LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 2004 loaded, leather, moon, entertainment sys, power hatch, power reclining seats, \$23,900. JACK DEMMER

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Ford 734-721-2600

(248) 355-7515 MERCURY MARINER 2006 Hybrid, 11K, \$26,998. AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2007, 4WD, \$19,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 2002 4x4, auto, V-6 3.5 liter, 76K, \$9,995 with warranty. COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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VEHICLES FORD ESCAPE XLT 2005, FORD EXPLORER XLT **2006** 4x4, third row, \$21,200 FREESTYLE LTD

2006, leather, loaded, certified, \$16,940 150 SUPER CAB 2005, . \$18.970 EXPLORER XLT 2003 4x4. auto, air, loaded, \$11,940 FORD F150 2005 Supercab XLT, 3.9%, \$20,900. RD FREESTYLE LIMITED 2005, leather, rear air, \$16,840. Stk#

FUSION SEL 2006, loaded, lets deal, \$16,840. Stk FOCUS SE 2006, cert 5.9% **North Brothers**

(lord) 734-524-1264

SATURN OUTLOOK XR 2007 loaded, one owner, only 9,746 miles, a steal at \$27,500. **SATURN of PLYMOUTH** (734) 453-7890

SATURN VUE 2003 V-6 3.0

auto, red. ABS, alloys, 64K serviced up ready for snow, SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

SATURN VUE 2004, auto, V-6 3.5 liter, metallic blue, 61K moonroof. ABS, extra sharp, SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

Enjoy the thrill of driving

comprehensive inspection checklist.

Have available Leasing and Financing.

Sports Utility

SATURN VUE 2006, 30K, V-6, auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, **SATURN of PLYMOUTH** (734) 453-7890

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TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 2006 Sport, auto, 4WD, \$26,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 2007, 4WD, 3,3 V-6, auto, snow white, winter ready, hurry only one left \$18,950. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet

888-372-9836 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER SPORT 2007, 29K, V-6, auto, air, pw/pl, alloy wheels, \$19,770. SATURN of PLYMOUTH

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CHEVY CORVETTE 2006. victory red, power top, Nav. six speed, \$44,995. 888-372-9836

8340

TL 2003 3.2 4 dr., white, beautiful auto, must see, **SATURN of PLYMOUTH** (734) 453-7890

8360 Buick

Edition, leather, only 34K, extra low one owner, \$10,590. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

sharp! Full power, save, only JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600

moonroof, 3800-V-6, loaded, only \$16,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

LACROSSE CXS 2007, 9 to choose, all loaded, leather, most moonroofs. JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900 LUCERNE CXS 2007, 5 to choose, moonroofs, leather, loaded, from \$20,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

8380 Cadillac

CTS 2007, 06, 05, several to from \$18.950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

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DEVILLE 2002, one owner leather, crimson red, \$12,995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

DTS 2005, leather, moonroof, fully loaded, only \$20,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

SRX 2005, leather, only 20,000 miles, loaded, sharp! \$22,950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK

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CAVALIER 1999 4 dr., auto,

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

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Red Holman_

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CAVALIER 2004 2 dr. coupe

alloy wheels, air, only 55K,

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

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COBALT 2005, auto, air, low

Red Holman

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COBALT 2007, only 1,400 miles, auto, air, sharp!! \$13,950

JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

COBALT LS 2006, 40K, auto,

air, tilt, AM/FM stereo, ABS, a

SATURN of PLYMOUTH

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COBALT LS 2006, auto, air, \$8,840. Stk# P20276 NORTH BROTHERS FORD

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CORVETTE, 1987 -52K,

Red on Red, glass top, exc

HHR 2007, like new, great

MPG. \$12,700. Stk 8C8052A NORTH BROTHERS FORD

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IMPALA 2007, GM Certified,

as low as 4.9% APR. Several

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet

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IMPALA SS 2006, V-8, auto,

silver stone metallic, low

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet

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MALIBU LT 2007, V-6, auto.

several to choose from, as

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet

888-372-9836

low as 4.9% APR

miles, two to choose from.

to choose from. \$14,995

734-355-4655

cond. \$8,000 firm.

8400

AVEO 2006 4 dr., black, air auto, CD, GM Certified, 100K powertrain, \$8,988. Red.Holman_

air, \$3,395.

tan. \$7.995.

miles, \$9,988.

steal, \$9,885

Chevrolet

(734) 453-7890

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet

Acura

CENTURY 2002 Special

CENTURY 2005, loaded,

LACROSSE 2006, loaded, leather, priced to self @\$13,900.

LACROSSE CX 2007, power

choose, sharp, moonroofs,

8420

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

> bright gray, low miles, great on gas, \$5,995. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

> PT CRUISER 2001 Limited. with warranty.

PT CRUISER 2003 Limited, leather, moon, low miles great car, \$10,895.

(734) 721-1144 PT CRUISER 2004, only 47K, silver, auto, one owner, clean

CAVALIER 2004 2 dr., blue air, auto, alloys, CD, 15,264 actual miles! \$9,495

clean, sale priced!! \$11,850

MAGNUM SXT 2007, full

(734) 721-1144 NEON ES 2000 4 dr., one owner, auto, air, \$4,295. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac**

NEON SE 2005, low miles AVIS FORD

Ford 8480 **CROWN VIC LX 2007** Leather, loaded, great miles 4 to choose from starting

CROWN VICTORIA 2007 Police car edition, 12K, priced JACK DEMMER

CHRYSLER 300M LTD 2005, NAV., loaded, silver, like new,

PLYMOUTH NEON 2001 4 dr.,

loaded, moon, leather, \$7,995 Financing for everyone. COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

RedHolman

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CALIBER SXT 2007 Sport 25K one owner, silver, extra SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

power, low miles, look like new, \$19,588. Red Holman_

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as low as \$14,999.

JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600

to sell at \$16,888 Ford 734-721-2600

8480 EDGE SE 2008

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734-421-7000 ESCORT ZX2 1998, full power, nice nice car! \$4,495. With warranty. 1st time buyer program available.
COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

FIVE HUNDRED 2006 Limited, AWD, navigation, only 18K, \$19,995.

OPEN SATURDAY Limited. MUSTANG 2006 Convertible, 10K, auto, \$19,998. AVIS FORD Bill Brown Ford

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MUSTANG 2007 Convertible, auto, loaded, leather, satellite radio, priced to sell, \$18,999. **FOCUS 2008 SE COUPE** BRAND NEW! SIGN & DRIVE \$192 PER MONTH JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600 SEE OUR FULL PAGE MUSTANG GT Convertible, 35th Anniversary, 15K, \$14,998. AVIS FORD **BILL BROWN FORD**

734-421-7000 FOCUS SE 2001, auto, air, pw/pl, budget priced, \$5,140. Stk# 8T0031B

NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264 FOCUS ZTS ST 2006. low

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030 FOCUS ZX3 2007, only 7K, Bill Brown Ford

FOCUS ZX4 2006, auto, moon, low miles AVIS FORD

(734) 522-0030

(248) 355-7515 FOCUS ZX5 2006, heated seats, 9K, \$11,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FUSION 2006, certified, very TAURUS 2001, brown metallic, clean. Low payments. Ask for Bryan O'Neil **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** North Bros. L/M (734) 453-2500 TROY TAURUS 2006, certified, low

FIND IT ONLINE HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

(248) 283-6377

8480

Ford North

Brothers Timeria. \$300 GIFT CARD ON ALL CERTIFIED

all colors, low miles, name **VEHICLES** rucus SE 2007, great /alue, certified, \$11,980. 3tk #20152 500 LIMITED 2005, leather, MUSTANG 2005, 5 speed, moonroof, \$15,500. Stk#

> MUSTANG 2005, V-6, certified, \$13,803. Stk# 7C9276A FORD FREESTAR 2007, 6 yr. 100K warranty, \$15,960. Stk# P20367 FOCUS ZX3 2005, auto, air, \$10,860. Stk# 8C9017A FOCUS 2006, great gas, \$11,500. 7C1332A FORD ESCAPE 2008, V-6, 4x4, 100K warranty \$19,940, P20321

like new, 100K warranty, \$16,300. P20322 **North Brothers**

FORD FREESTAR 2007,

(timela) 734-524-1264

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355) TAURUS 2007, 10 to choose

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030 TAURUS'S 2006 SE, SEL'S, 20 to choose from, as low as \$10,901.

JACK DEMMER

Ford 734-721-2600 TAURUS SE 2000 Wagon, very clean, must see, **Bill Brown Ford**

> (734) 522-0030 Continued In The

> > NEXT

SECTION



Buick • Pontiac • MMMMM > OPEN SATURDAY 10am - 3pm< Over 500

2008 G6 SEDAN 2008 ENVOY 2WD



Plus tax, license, title & doc fees.

10,000 miles per year, \$2,219 due at signing

Plus tax, license, title & doc fees.

per Month

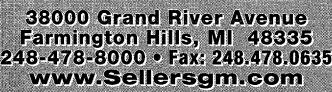
for 39 Months



10,000 miles per year, \$0 due at signing Plus tax, license, title & doc fees.

REPUTATION IS EVERYTHING

Must Qualify for financing through GMAC.



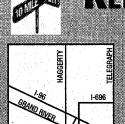
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per Month

for 39 Months

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Are backed by a Protection Plan. Up to 100,000 miles or 6 years. Come with BMW Roadside Assistance. Are supported by BMW of North America and a nationwide network of BMW Centers. and let us take care of the payments.

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0% Financing **Up to 36 month contract on all 2004 MY CPO 3 series, 5 series, 7 series, Z4, X3 and X5 models through BMW Financial Services. \$2,500 down payment required.

Subject to approved credit. See dealer for details.

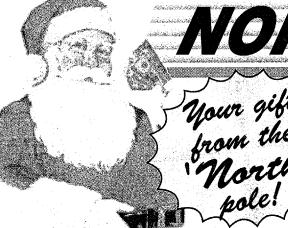
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\$2000 DOWN GET \$100 CASH BACK! \$2611.91 Due at Signing!



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edge FWD se

Automatic O/D trans, 3.5 L V6 eng, 17" painted alum wheels P235/65R17 BSW tires & more. Stock #8T3035 Was \$26,094 NOW 522,589*

24 MONTH LEASE

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Auto, air, fog lamps, power driver's seat, privacy glass, safety canopy, conv pkg and more. Stock #879170 Was \$23,020 NOW \$19,259* **24 MONTH LEASE**

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2002 CHEVY

TRACKER 4X4

V6, power wind & locks

K**B**B S11,**18**0

NE \$8950

2004 MERCURY

GR MARQUIS GL

What a ride!

KBB \$13,935

NB \$12,160

1999 FORD

F150

LIGHTNING

515,860

2005 FORD

F150 SUPERCAB

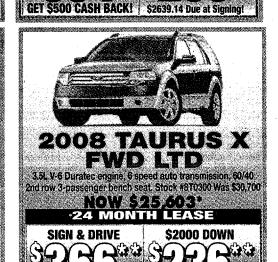
4X4 - XLT

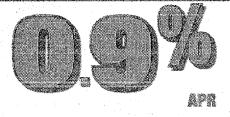
KBB \$23,275

NB \$18,240



24 MONTH LEASE



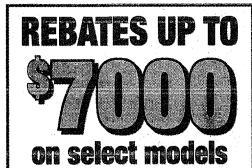


Plus \$3000 on select models to qualified buyers CLOSED Mon. Dec. 24 & Tues. Dec. 25

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Saturday 9 am - 3 pm



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2006 FOGUS SE

2006 CHEVY

COBALT LS

KBB \$10.450

NB \$2740

2007 CHEVY

HHR - GREAT MPG

Like new!

KBB \$12.930

NR S12.140

2006 FORD

FREESTYLE SEL

Stock #P20324

KBB \$17,840

NB \$15,690

Certifice APR as low 940,860 MOM/ONLY/

1998 FORD **1997 FORD**

ESCORT LX

Auto, air

53740

2006 FORD

TAURUS SE

Low Payments

KBB \$11,500

MB 59950

2005 JEEP

LIBERTY

RANGER 4X4 SUPERCAB

\$7850

ESCAPE XLT NB \$10,220

2005 FORD FIVE HUNDRED KBB \$17,490

SPORT 4X4 KBB S13,125 NB \$12,750 **2006 FORD 2006 FORD**

Minimum for

vour trade

FUSION SEL Certified **KBB** \$16,770 NB 515,870

EXPLORER 4X4 - XLT KBB \$21,340

2006 FORD

NB \$20,540 \$1000

2001 FORD

4x4, big savings! KBB \$11.12**5**

Lim, leather, moon

NB 515.500

FREESTYLE Limited - leather KBB \$18,440 NE S15,940

2005 FORD CREW 4X4 **FX4**

KBB \$25,090 NB \$20.960

2007 FORD FREESTAR Like new, 100k war. KBB \$18,410 NB 510.300

2003 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR Loaded!

2003 FORD F350 DUALLY 4X4 LARIAT KBB \$30,900 KBB \$22,780 NB \$21,640

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Expert Service, Fast Turnaround, Lowest Prices. We Service All Makes & All Models No Appointment Necessary!



tire rotation and

brake inspection Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation.

Rotate and inspect four tires.Dual-rear-wheel vehicles extra.

🥰 Quick Lane Offer valid with coupon. Taxes extra. No other discounts apply. Offer expires 12/31/07



YOUR VEHICLE, AND MORE

✓ Rotate and Inspect Four Tires ✓ Inspect Brake System ✓ Test Batterv

(up to 5 quarts)

✓ Genuine Motorcraft®

Oil and Filter Change

Air Filters ✓ Check Belts and Hoses

✓ Top Off All Fluids



cooling system flush

Inspect radiator for leaks. Check hoses, clamps and belts. Pressure test system for leaks. Drain and refill radiator. Includes up to one gallon of coolant. Disposal fee extra, if applicable. See service Advisor for details.

Offer valid with coupon. Taxes extra.

Taxes extra.



four-wheel alignment

Check and adjust camber and toe. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles.

No other discounts apply. Offer expires 12/31/07



✓ Check Air and Cabin



transmission service Change up to five quarts of automatic transmission/transaxle fluid. Inspect and lubricate

linkage and controls (where applicable). Road test. Disposal fee extra, if applicable.



No other discounts apph

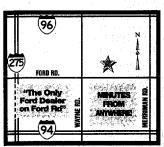
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Limited to stock on hand and retail front counter sales only. Offer valid w Taxes extra. Quick Lane

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*A-Plan pricing plus tax, title, all rebates included in price. Expires 1-02-08. +Focus gets \$100 cash.

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The traditional farmhouse look of the Copeland (D6706) would fit in the country as well as in town. It has large

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20'0 X 24'0

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

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from 9-10:20 a.m. Wednesday, Jan.

23, at 879 Benjamin in Troy, in a

of Southeastern Michigan (BIA)

presents Green Built Training

windows, a covered porch, and round the front door. a pleasant façade. Windows on each side, inviting a guest warmly to enter the home, sur-

FAMILY

UNFIN STORAGE

The family room unfolds upon entry into the Copeland.

BED 2

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

It is a large, open room with

MASTER SUITE

BED 3

a gas fireplace on the right, and stairs to the second floor on the left. On the rear wall is long entertainment center.

As one heads into the kitchen, there is a large storage cabinet on the left, ideal for storing the vacuum cleaner, brooms, mops, and anything else needed. Across the hall is a half bath. The dining room is in the rear adjacent to the corner kitchen. The bay windows of the dining area bathe the area in natural light, making it ideal for the family meals. A door to the garage is at the end of the stairs to the unfinished basement.

The kitchen has a corner pantry and an oversized refrigerator. There is a lot of counter space and a window over the sink that looks out over the backvard.

Al of the bedrooms are upstairs. The master suite is in the rear with 9-foot ceilings and large windows. In one corner is a long walk-in closet and in another corner is a full bath with a shower. Just outside the master suite door is a large linen closet. Behind folding doors are the washer.

and dryer. Just beyond is a door leading to a large unfinished storage area, ideal for holiday decorations, or even as a large playroom for the

Adjacent to the master bath is a secondary bath with a tub for the other two bedrooms. This arrangement is ideal for the family with smaller children that need to be close to Mom and Dad. Bedroom 2 has a 10-foot ceiling and a walk-in closet behind folding doors. Bedroom 3 has a wall closet. Each room also has a large window in the end.

For a study plan of the COPELAND (6706), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans. com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or

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of Southeastern Michigan (BIA)

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tion, call (248) 862-1008. ■ Building Industry Association kicks off the Sales and Marketing Council (SMC) programs for 2008 with a Roundtable Discussion, "You're At A Networking Event ... Now What?" on Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Kirk Armstrong of Gerry Weinberg & Associates will lead the discussion focused on how to get a conversation transitioned into your business without appearing needy or offensive by using proven, sys-

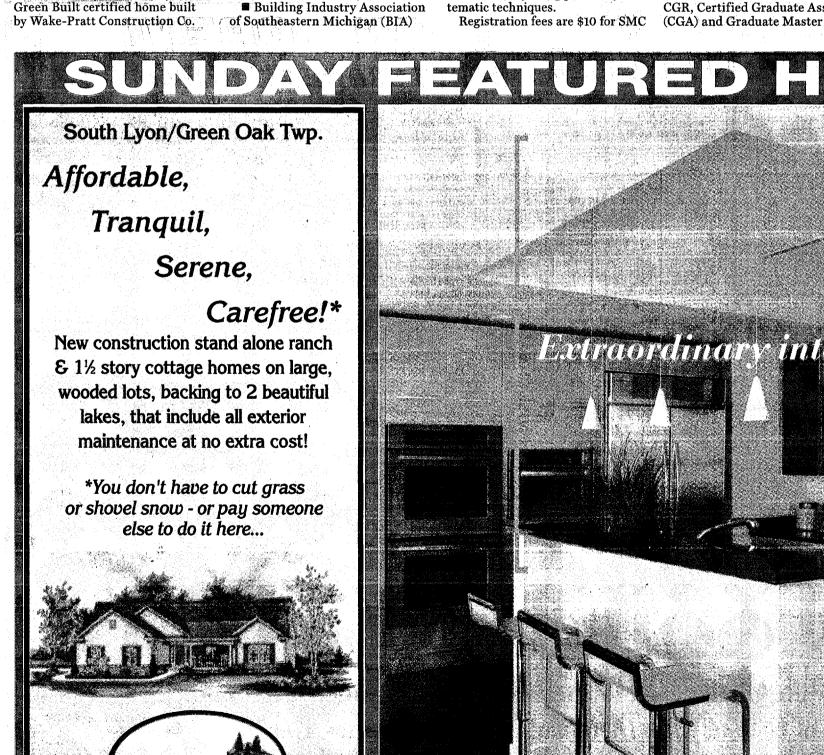
members, \$20 for BIA members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Remodelors Council (RC) will present a Negotiating Skills seminar, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is part of the Certified Graduate Remodelor (CGR) series and counts toward CGR, Certified Graduate Associate Builder (GMB) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builder Professional Services Group Inc. will present methods and strategies to negotiate with customers, employees, subcontractors, suppliers and government officials. Participants will gain confidence in these skills through role-playing following lectures and exercises.

calling (800) 562-1151.

Registration fees are \$155 for Remodelors Council members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.









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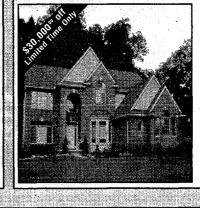


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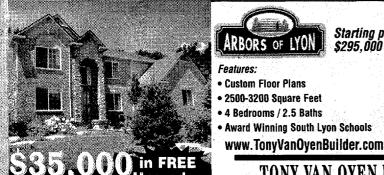
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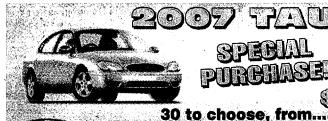
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- of films
- 15 Big —
- elephant 16 Honcho
- (2 wds.) 18 Say softly
- 20 Frat letter 21 Boat implement
- annovance 26 Widespread
- damage 29 - be an honor!
- 30 Edible root 31 Draft animals 32 Sales pitches
- 34 Guitarist

- 33 Technical word
- 1 "Jaws" portrayer 2 Whip 3 Kirghiz range

DOWN

4 Rainy season 5 Muscle cell 6 Hideout

35 Hot tub 36 Like twilight

39 Food cooker

40 Is that —? 41 Like a knight

49 Seldom seen

52 Long-active

volcano'

53 Quaint hotel

recipe 55 Moose or elk

54 Follow the

50 Retiree's kitty 51 Roman historian

45 Soft

37 Tycoon's home

- 8 Swallowed
- 9 Weep over
- 10 Versatile vehicle 11 Square-dance
 - 19 Boot liner
 - partner 17 Center

RYE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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22 Qt. parts

23 Farewells 24 Carefree

escapade

25 TV statuette

26 Pocket flaw

27 Graph lines 28 Goose-down

- 33 Coached 35 Unflinching
- 36 Benedictine
- title 38 Cigar residue 39 He played
- 41 Debate side 42 Tempo
- 43 Ocean-going bird
- 44 Pet name
- 45 A fifth of DX 46 Coffee dispenser
- 47 Fernando Valley

48 Mare's tidbit

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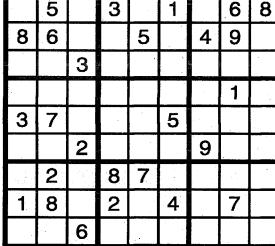
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your sudoku

Numbers



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N	A	T	I	\mathbf{V}	I	T	Y	K	O	
C	N	A	S	E	T	Y	U	I	L	
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	Ι	
N	O	P	M	G	Ι	F	T	S	N	
O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	L	G	
E	M	Z	S	L	I	G	H	T	S	
L	E	E	G	G	N	O	G	W	S	

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

		4	2	8	6	L	S	9	ω	7
		9	7	9	Þ	ε	2	6	8	L
	6	ω	L	ø	7	8	(J)	ი	4	
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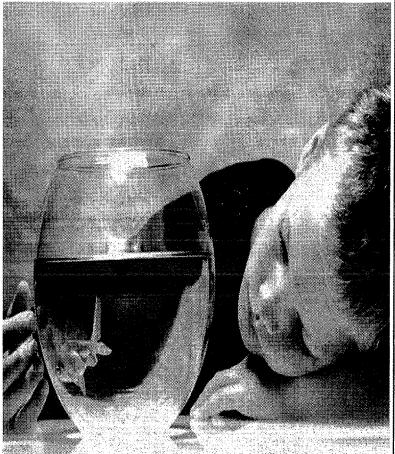
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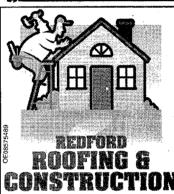
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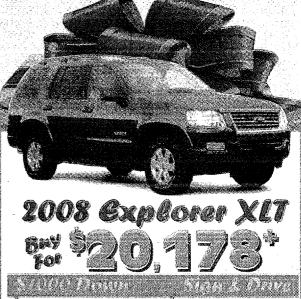


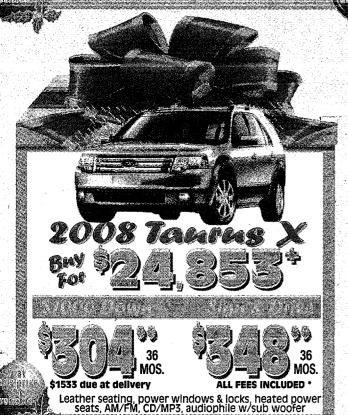
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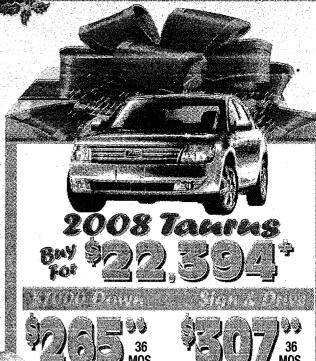






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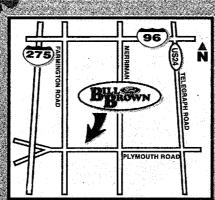
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