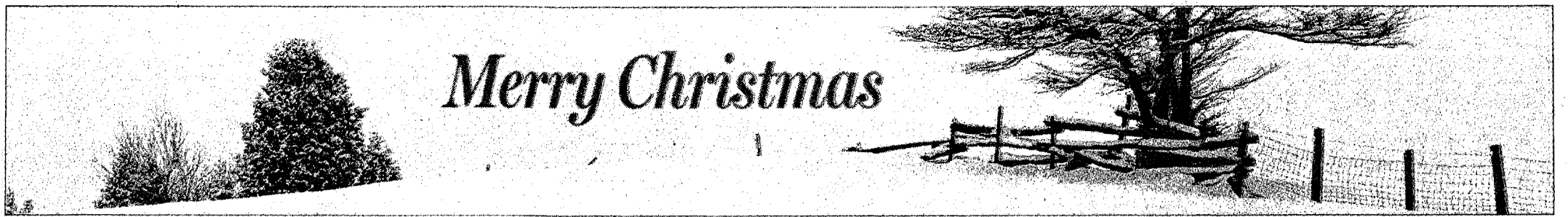


Merry Christmas



SHARE YOUR RESOLUTIONS

The Observer Newspapers want to share your resolutions with your fellow readers. Resolutions and wishes can be of the personal nature, or a wish for your family or your community. Simply e-mail your thoughts to kkuban@hometownlife.com and they will appear in a future edition of the newspaper.

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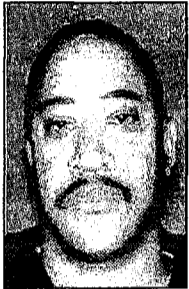
Guard charged in gas station shooting

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-year-old Darren Johnson of Redford Township was found bleeding from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound on Belle Isle, police said a .38-caliber 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 prison.

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 fiancée and a 10-year-old daughter.

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

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FISH swims along in its 35th year

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

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.



Ahnalesa, Lydia and Andrea Wisbeck 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 younger 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

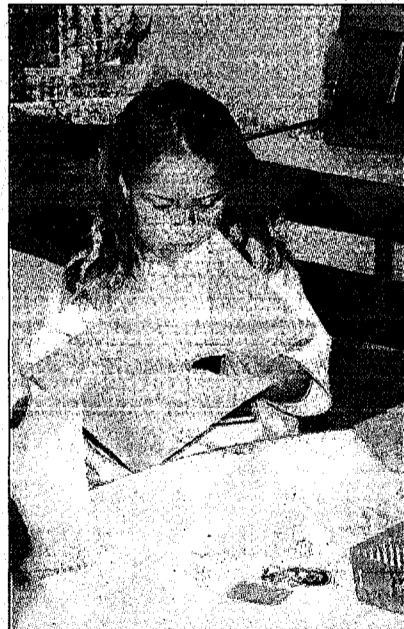
plan a new focus for its annual Christmas program — one that encouraged members of the church to reach out to the community and "show God's love in small, unexpected ways," said Ellie Schupra, director of outreach.

"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 hires new director

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

Committee members interviewing potential candidates for the soon-to-be-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.



Graff

"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 grow 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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# 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," Neuman said with a smile. "I guess I'm not very smart."

Neuman, who was too old to re-enlist in the Marines, opted

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 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.

"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 bunkers."

"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 myself what I got myself into, but I never regretted it."

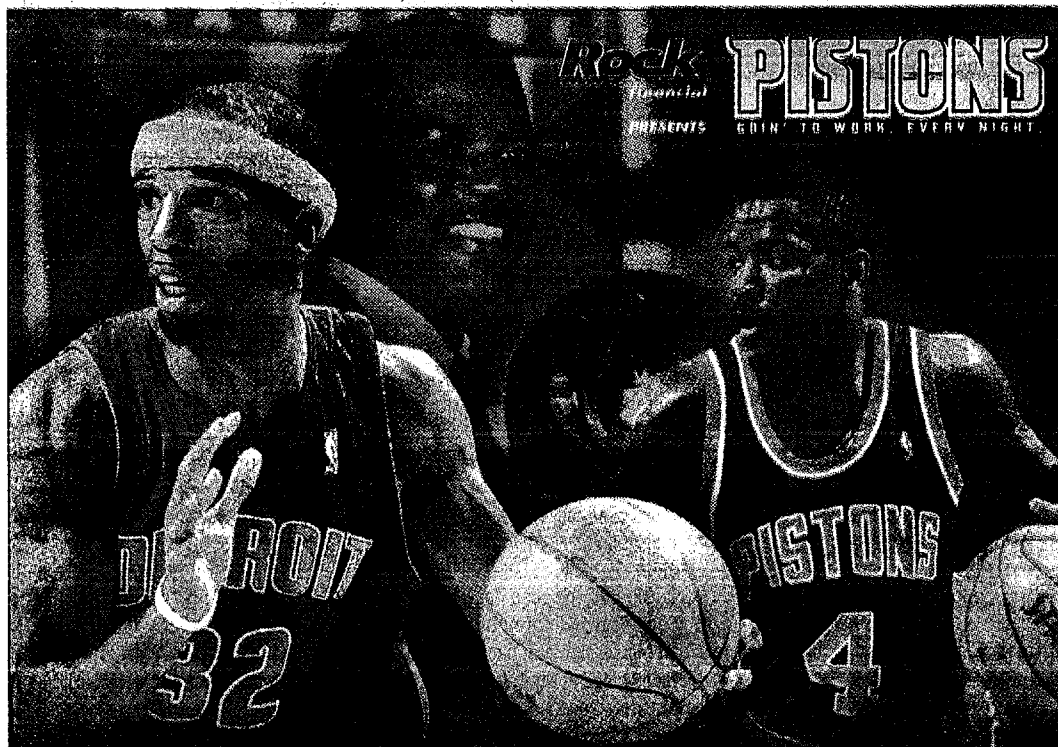
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During his 12-month tour in Iraq, Plymouth Township resident Mike Neuman's MP company trained Iraqi police for community policing "so they would be respected and trusted by the local population." It was duty that put Neuman right in the middle of constant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



Mike Neuman of Plymouth Township recently returned from a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq where, at age 54, he was the oldest soldier in his brigade.



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# 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?**



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

It is nearly impossible to predict how the stock market will react over the short run. Good news is bad news and bad news is good news. I always tell investors never to make decisions based upon how the market is doing over

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 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 why the market reacts one 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 payments. I recognize that people say "I will not let my life insurance lapse," however, it happens. Another reason to take the joint 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

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 [moneyatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneyatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

## 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			
Community	Census 2000	December 2007	Percent Growth
Livingston County	156,951	194,979	24.2
Macomb County	788,149	849,822	7.8
Monroe County	145,945	158,511	8.6
Oakland County	1,194,156	1,221,395	2.3
St. Clair County	164,235	174,957	6.5
Washtenaw County	322,770	352,061	9.1
Wayne County	2,061,162	1,936,678	-6.0
Southeast Michigan	4,833,368	4,888,203	1.1

SOURCE: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

ated population of 194,979. Macomb County has added the most residents — 61,673 — since 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.semco.org](http://www.semco.org). Find Population Estimates on SEMCOG's new Web site under Data and Maps, then By Subject.

## 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.

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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.

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**FISH**

FROM PAGE A1

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

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 looking for ways to volunteer."

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.

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.

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**KINDNESS**

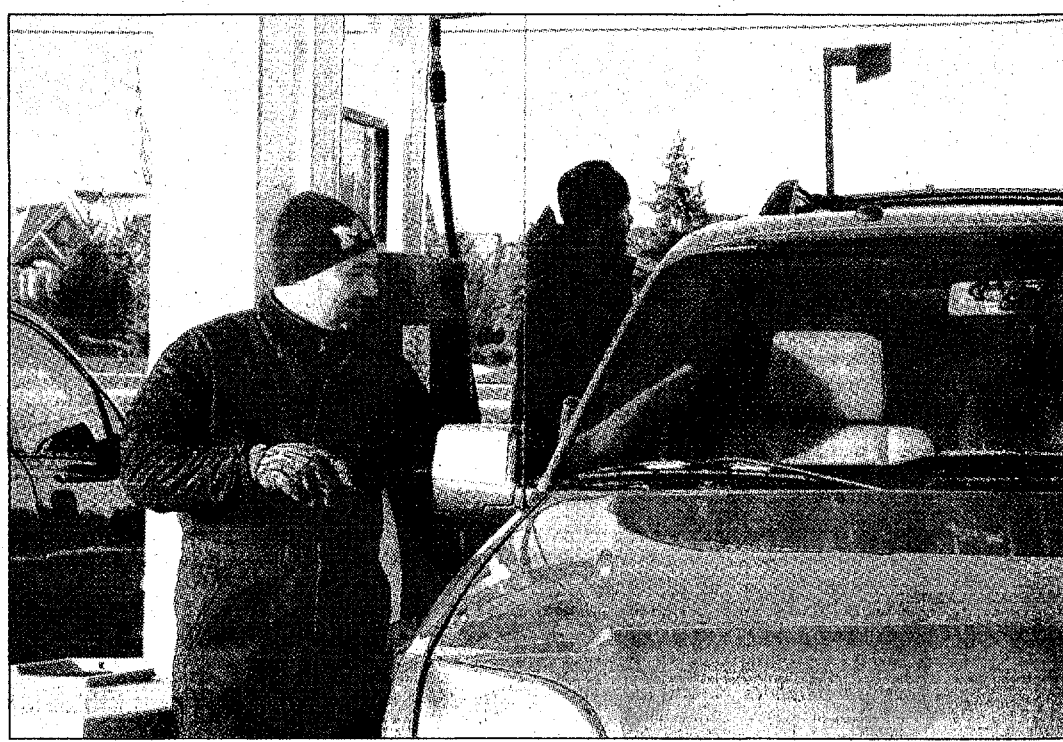
FROM PAGE A1

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 others.

"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 presentation.

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



ELLIE SCHUPRA

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 husband 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.

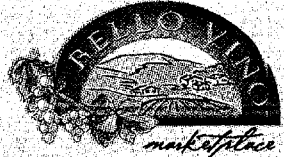
"We want mocha moments to continue beyond the traditional season of giving and extend throughout the year," she said.

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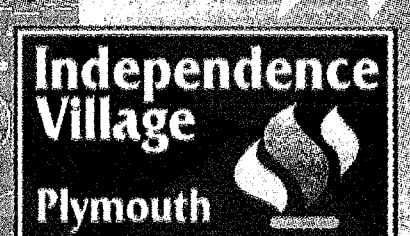


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OUR VIEWS

## 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 grinchers decided Santa is a bad role model for kids because he is overweight.

According to a story on local TV last week, some Santa 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 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 eat nutritious food and get plenty of sleep and exercise year-round.

But saying Santa has anything to do with childhood obesity 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."*

**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 them.**

## 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 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**  
Livonia

## 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 Corrivueau, 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 MarcCorrivueau@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 a Web site - mccotter.house.gov.

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# December heralds a season of change

Whirling, 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 Way**  
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 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 downys 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



SCHECHEER

really wild either.

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

# Celebrate end-of-year holidays the fire safe way

Many 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 sheers. 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 Kiurski

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 service.

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.

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## SPORTS

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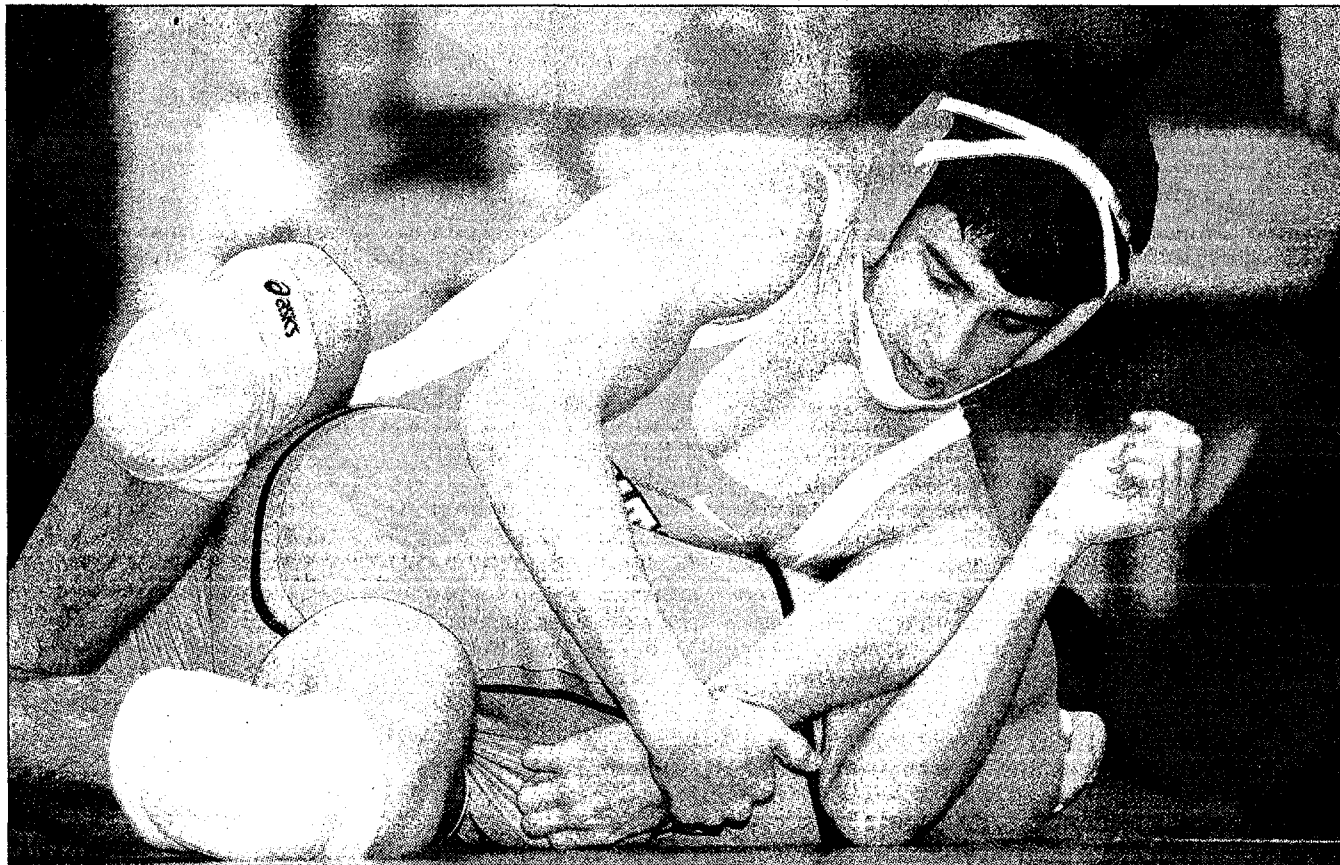
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Sunday, December 23, 2007

The Observer &amp; Eccentric Newspapers

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ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Canton's Jeremy Filippelli gets the upperhand on his 130-pound opponent during Wednesday's match at Northville. Both Filippelli 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; Roger 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.

## 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 game-clinching 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 do."

Junior guard Brianna Taylor, who scored a two-point basket to end the game, and senior center Ashley Price, each tallied 14 points for the Patriots.

Junior forward Brittany Taylor contributed nine.

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



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

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Poetic justice: Saluting those who made 2007 a memorable year

Two-thousand-and-seven was a banner year for athletes at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

I was inspired daily by the efforts that unfolded before my eyes on the fields and in the arenas throughout Observerland and beyond.

Following are a few verses I put together to recognize some 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.

*It's two days before Christmas and all through the Park, not an athlete is stirring the scoreboards are dark.*

*What a fine time to honor all the hard-working heroes, whose percentage of effort was a "1" with two zeroes.*

*But first Tom and Sue 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, let's bring it back up to three.*

*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*

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

*Schmitt cut through the water with determination and style. A U.S. Olympic team berth she may own in a while.*

*Thornton made quite a splash in the high jump with hops. It was impressive how quickly he mastered the Fosbury Flops.*

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

*Teams made the playoffs, 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; Eric throwin' dunks down.*

*Paced by Kielty & Martin, the Chiefs took the Division. They bumped, set and spiked with amazing precision.*

*In the long run many harriers in cross country did shine. deBear, Spitz and Hahn outkicked their foes to the line.*

*In soccer, a bunch sparked, namely Rolfe, Cope & Zech, who humbled their foes, made them feel just like Shrek.*

*Hitting looked easy for the Otts, Priebe and Grings, who deflated strong pitchers with their powerful swings.*

*Few hurlers could strike out softball's Klonowski and Deli, who ate up good fastballs*

*like peanut butter and jelly.*

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

*And to all of you parents who did not miss a game, you deserve a gold statue in the Fans' Hall of Fame.*

*In shivering cold and damp rain you did sit, when the score was lopsided, you never said quit.*

*To close, Happy New Year, 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 can be reached at (734) 953-2108 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

# Sidelines

### 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 two-game 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 pre-register 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 information, 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-and-conditioning.

Campers will receive a Precision Baseball skills camp T-shirt. For more information, call (734) 459-5921.

# Mustangs earn 'big' victory over Chiefs

## HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

### PREP HOOPS

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

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

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 minutes.

"They hit a couple of back-to-back 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.

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 game."

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 old-fashioned 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 the scoring.

"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 Reban added nine points while Mike Hanchett chipped in with seven in limited minutes.

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# Defense prevails: Northville 24, Canton 13

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

The defense didn't rest during Thursday night's Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division girls basketball opener between Northville and Canton.

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' quarter scores were 3-4-4-2.

"Northville packed it in with a 2-3 zone and we didn't hit many 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 step up and score."

Hollowell paced the Chiefs offense with five points. Kayla Bridges was next with four.

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 connected 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 7 p.m.

# Salem icers rock Warriors with 8-spot

### PREP HOCKEY

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 Ossennmacher. "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

for Salem. Quigley's goal was his first high school net-finder.

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 Ossennmacher. "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 over the visiting Rocks (3-5, 0-1) at Eddie Edgar Arena. Churchill took a 1-0 lead at 4:15 of the first period on Christo Papaionnou's goal from Mike Woynick.

In the second period, the Chargers added three more goals for a 4-0 advantage — Garrett Miencier

from Nathan Milam and Keith Yackley; Milam on a power-play from Miencier; Cody Atkins from Travis Satkowski and Scott Sundberg.

At 1:48 of the third period, Milam notched his 21st of the season on another power-play from Nick Harakas and Cody Atkins.

Salem's Sam Ott scored with 52 seconds left from Michael Hochkins and Steve Haburne.

Churchill used two net-minders as Derrick Daigneau went the first 40 minutes before giving way to Aaron Crouse.

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."

# Penguins throttle Bloomfield, 8-0

### PREP HOCKEY

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins thumped 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 rule.

Following an 8-0 setback to Grosse Pointe North on Dec. 18, the Penguins are 4-5 in the MMGHSHL standings.

"The girls played very well against Bloomfield," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "They did

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 Cacevelli, Kaitlyn Burris (two) and Katie Rokakis. Jenny Grodus found the back of the net twice and Kelsey Nikkila tacked on a single for the winners, who are

off until Jan. 12.

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

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.

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Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception Christmas Tournament, TBA  
Friday, Dec. 28  
Salem at Allen Park Tourney, TBA  
Saturday, Dec. 29  
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.  
Friday, Dec. 21  
W.L. Western at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 22  
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  
Salem 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.

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# Spartan matmen edge Salem by thinnest of margins

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

## PREP WRESTLING

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-

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 1:40. Following losses at 145 and 152, Salem regained a bit of momentum with Jeremy Epley's pin of Andrew Schramm at 1:60. The Stevenson comeback was sparked by

senior Ziad Kharbush's 9-1 major decision over Austin Root at 1:71 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 finish."

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Whether it involves bridges and dentures, cosmetic work, simple 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-art 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 (1 blk. E. of Kellogg Park).

P.S. Beneath the place where missing teeth once stood, shrinking alveolar bone creates hollows in the face that make a person look older and less healthy.

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**Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind**

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.  
By Elena Lombardi

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 telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are. 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 degeneration 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.

**1-877-677-2020**

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

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
Farmington Hills based real estate development company seeks an administrative assistant with 5 plus years experience with real estate firm or practice. Must be highly organized and proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Transcription from dictation required. Please forward your resume via email to: ccorden@grandsakwa.com

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
Quickbooks, light payroll, data entry, some errands. dblake@randson@yahoo.com

**Help Wanted-Engineering 6030**

**DESIGN ENGINEER**  
for diesel engine manufacturer in Plymouth, MI. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and two years experience leading cross-functional design and analysis of internal combustion diesel engine components and subsystems from concept through prototyping including reviewing and integrating customer specifications and manufacturing requirements into designs; conducting Design Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (DFMEA) and Finite Element Analysis (FEA); developing design verification testing plans and procedures and presenting concept designs and plans to management for review. Send resume to AVL Powertrain Engineering, Inc., Attn: Norine McElroy, 47519 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170-2438.

**GEOLOGIST/TECHNICIAN**  
Rapidly growing civil, environmental and geotechnical firm with offices in MI and OH, is looking for a highly motivated entry level **Geologist/Technician** in our Canton, MI office. Candidate should have a BS or MS in Geology/Hydrogeology, Engineering or related science and should have a min. of 2 yrs of environmental related field experience, including soil and groundwater sample collection and processing, remedial system operation and maintenance and field activity documentation. Knowledge of general construction practices helpful. Collecting accurate and precise field activity documentation is required. Must also be willing to travel during the week to job sites throughout MI, possess excellent communication skills and have a valid driver's license. New hires must pass a company-paid physical. Send resume to: HR, The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc, 1800 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee, OH 43537; fax to: (419) 891-1595; email to: hr@manniksmithgroup.com EOE

**Help Wanted-Dental 6040**

**CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANT**  
Farmington Hills Podiatry Office needs Chairside Assistant. No experience necessary. Full time position available. For information, please contact 248-478-1150.

**Help Wanted-Dental 6040**

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Entry-Level for a fast paced, modern dental office. Email resume to: exceptional.dentaloffice@yahoo.com

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Plymouth Endodontic office. 2 days/wk. Exp'd w/X-ray cert. Fax resume: 734-459-8281

**FINANCIAL/TREATMENT COORDINATOR**  
Needed for growing, high tech Southfield dental practice. Experience and computer knowledge a must. Please fax resume to: 248-569-9231, Attn. Pia.

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**MARKETING COORDINATOR**  
Part time, 20-25 hrs per week for busy Southfield office. Dental experience a must. Self motivated, creative idea person to be in charge of all aspects of our marketing program. Send resume to: 248-569-7914.

**Help Wanted-Medical 6060**

**Director of Nursing**  
For a Home Care Agency in NW Suburb. Salary and Benefits negotiable based on experience. RN license required. Experience in Home Health Care facility preferred. Plenty of room for growth within the company. (734) 727-0440 EXT. 24 Or email: andrea@maplemanorrehab.com

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Experienced only, Dearborn doctor's office, days, full time. Fax resume to: 313-274-8717

**Help Wanted-Medical 6060**

**Histotechnologist**  
Mohs surgeon seeks **HistoTech** with frozen section experience to process fresh tissue with Mohs frozen section techniques in his expanding, private practice. Background in histology, cryostat preparation and maintenance, and histo-chemical staining is essential. Full or part-time, excellent pay and benefits. Ann Arbor area. Fax resume today: 734-996-8767 or a2derm@aol.com

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
Full-Time, X-Ray experience needed. Please fax resume to: (248) 855-1323

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT With High Experience**  
Very busy Internal Medicine office in Livonia. Fax Resume Attn: Christina 734-779-2121

**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST**  
Experienced full time Medical receptionist wanted for busy 08/GYN office in West Bloomfield. Excellent benefits and 401(k). Please fax resume to: 248-932-1179.

**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST**  
Need for immediate temporary 4 month full-time position at Birmingham Infectious Disease office. Fax resume: 248-540-0139

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**Help Wanted-Part-Time 5200**

**RECEPTIONIST**  
Busy Plymouth Real Estate office has an opening for a part time Receptionist. Approx. 20 hours a week possible days, weekends and/or evenings. Some computer experience necessary, phone skills and professional demeanor a must. References requested. Fax resume to attn Alissa Nead 734-454-4517

**Help Wanted-Domestic 5240**

**HOUSEKEEPER**  
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## ADHD grown up

### Psychiatrist's book focuses on ADHD adults

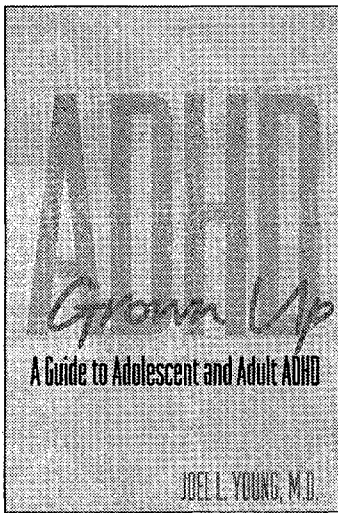
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

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 2½ years researching ADHD extensively and working on the

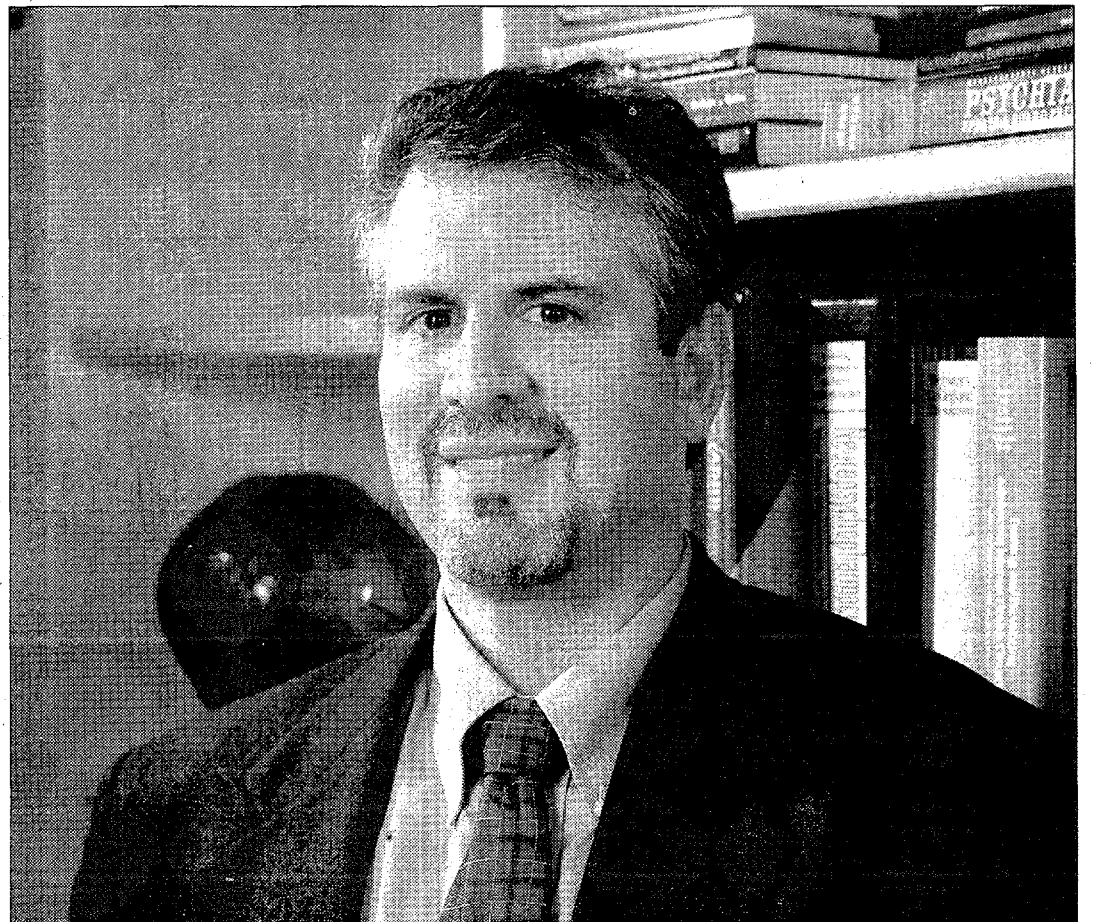
text, which includes case histories of patients whose identities have been camouflaged.

"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."

Recently, patients consult Young after being on numer-

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 have about 10 medications that we use regularly," Young said.

For more information, visit the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine Web site at [www.rcbm.net](http://www.rcbm.net), or [www.wwnorton.com](http://www.wwnorton.com).

lchomin@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](http://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](http://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](http://www.buyholidaycards.com). For details, call (248) 784-2030 or (800) 543-5864.

### UPCOMING

#### Spash classes to begin

HAP's free Senior Splash Bath & 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 parents to bring teens or pre-teens. 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](http://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 theme, 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.easywillpower.com).

### ONGOING

#### 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 required.

## Defibrillators can save lives

### Tammy from Grosse Pointe e-mails 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 2½ 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

#### Peter Nielsen

The cost of the defibrillators is minimal compared to the value of a life.

Brian from Ypsilanti e-mails asking what he can do to reduce his 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

number by 12.1 and their diastolic number by 6.8, 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](http://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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	\$0	\$263	\$277	\$0	\$289	\$303
Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$211	\$225	\$3000	\$239	\$254
	\$2000	\$240	\$253	\$2000	\$268	\$282
	\$1000	\$268	\$281	\$1000	\$296	\$311
	\$0	\$296	\$310	\$0	\$325	\$339

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	\$1000	\$1510	\$1548	\$1000	\$1561	\$1646
	\$0	\$563	\$602	\$0	\$639	\$653
Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$3461	\$3500	\$3000	\$3514	\$3554
	\$2000	\$2540	\$2553	\$2000	\$2593	\$2607
	\$1000	\$1593	\$1606	\$1000	\$1646	\$1707
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## December is a month of miracles

December 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 A Wonderful 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?

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](http://www.paulmelrose.com) or at (248) 474-4701. The staff of the center can be reached through [www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com](http://www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com) or through (248) 474-4701.



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

## Special childhood memories

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.

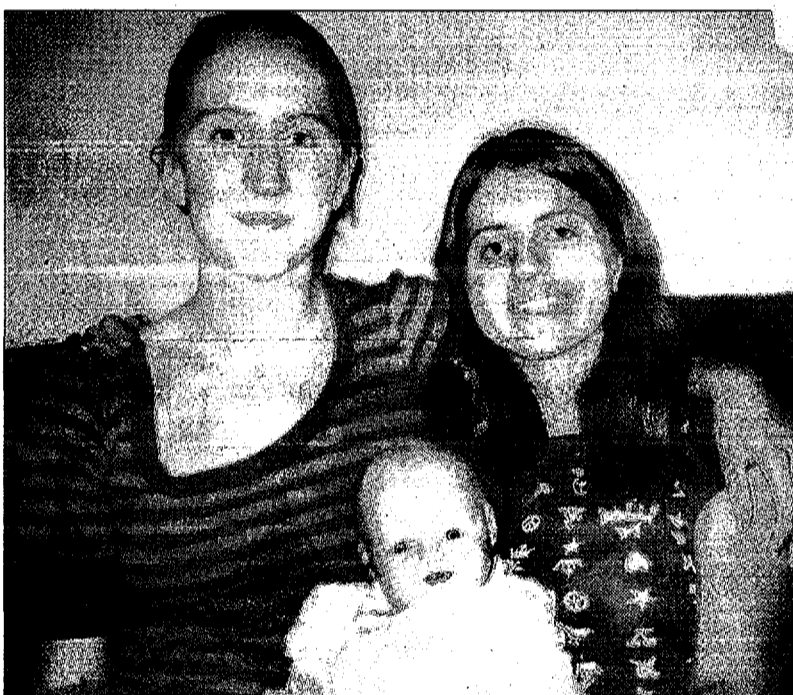
There, in the corner, was the tree, alive with the flickering of real lit candles, secured in flower-like metal holders that clipped to the tree branches. (Nobody seemed concerned about the hazardous nature of this common practice.)

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 for 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 influx of memories and reflections about Christmases past. I am the youngest of four widely spaced siblings. Most of my life I considered Christmas memories to be bitter-sweet, 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

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."

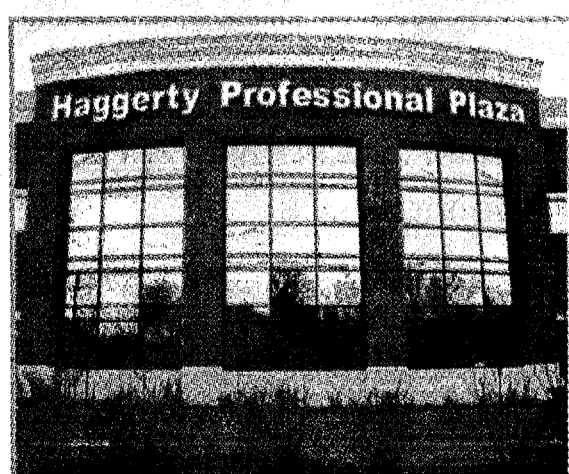
**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOURS**  
Experience Christmas by candle-

light when Greenmead Historical Park offers tours of the homes and buildings including Newburgh 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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TOM HOFFMEYER | 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.

## CELEBRATE

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 tours.

"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, penny-whistle 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 hills and cross-country ski trails will be available to enjoy

nature.

The Metroparks have a number of events planned 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](http://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/village-theater](http://www.canton-mi.org/village-theater).

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## 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 in. 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](mailto: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.

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It matters a great deal. Rheumatoid and osteoarthritis are two opposite conditions with different sources and different treatments.

Rheumatoid arthritis causes inflammation. The lining cells of joints respond to attacks by rheumatoid 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 other.

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 pain 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.

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**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 accountant at Arend, Laukhuf & Stoller Inc. in Van Wert, Ohio. The wedding will be in June 2008

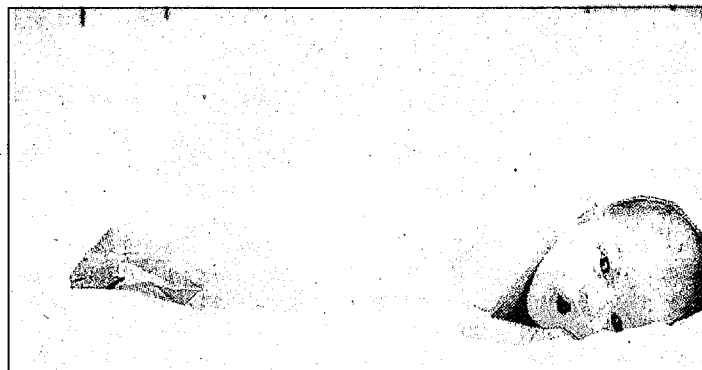
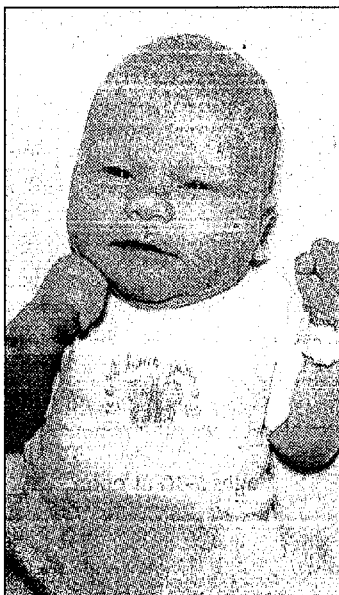


at the Livonia Apostolic Christian Church with a reception at Livonia's Italian American Center. After a honeymoon in Sarasota, Fla., the couple plans to make their home in Van Wert.

**NEW VOICES**

**Shelby Alexis Bolish**

Ashley and Robert Bolish III of Westland announce the birth of their daughter, Shelby Alexis Bolish, on 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**

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 Non-sport 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 \$3. 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](http://www.motorcityconventions.com).

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- Minimal downtime
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Dr. Miller has over 12 years experience in treating venous diseases and has received many honors and awards including being named one of "Detroit's Top Docs" by Hour Magazine.

**Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D.**

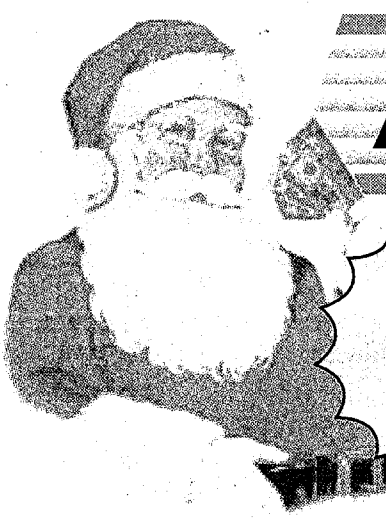
Before AFTER



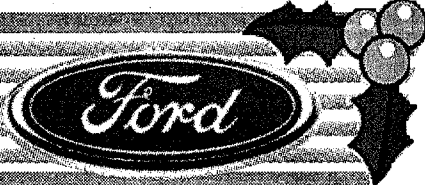








# NORTH BROTHERS



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**2008 FUSION SE**  
2.3L I4 engine, 5-speed automatic transmission, P205/60R16 all season and more. Stock #8C8104 Was \$20,295  
**NOW \$16,819\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$259\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$137\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2447.07 Due at Signing!

**2008 FOCUS SES 4 DOOR**  
2.0L DOHC eng, auto trans, P195/60R15 BSW tires, Sirius satellite radio & much more. Stock #8C9033 Was \$17,005  
**NOW \$14,964\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$263\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$156\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$100 CASH BACK! \$2611.91 Due at Signing!

**2008 TAURUS AWD LIMITED**  
3.5L V-6 Duratec engine, 6 speed auto trans, P225/55R18 BSW tires and much more. Stock #8C7099 Was \$29,445  
**NOW \$24,420\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$334\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$204\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2623.55 Due at Signing!

**2008 F150 4x4 XLT SUPERCAB**  
5.4L FFV V-8, elec 4 spd auto O/D, P255/70R17 OWL all-terrain, 3.55 ratio lim, slip axle, 7150# GVWR pkg., elec. shift-on-fly, trailer tow pkg., 17" Mach alum w/pain accents. Stock #8T8017 Was \$33,475  
**NOW \$25,129\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$334\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$205\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2639.14 Due at Signing!

**2008 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 \$22,589\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$336\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$210\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2556.34 Due at Signing!

**2008 ESCAPE XLT Powermoon • Sat. Radio**  
Auto, air, fog lamps, power driver's seat, privacy glass, safety canopy, conv pkg and more. Stock #8T9170 Was \$23,020  
**NOW \$19,259\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$337\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$209\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2524.43 Due at Signing!

**2008 EXPLORER XLT 4 DOOR 4X2**  
Air, illum, visors, 4.0L SOHC V6 eng, 5 spd auto trans w/ O/D, P245/65R17 A/S tires, 17" cast alum whls. Stock #8T5005 Was \$27,710  
**NOW \$21,004\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$338\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$210\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2700.47 Due at Signing!

**2008 TAURUS X FWD LTD**  
3.5L V-6 Duratec engine, 6 speed auto transmission, 60/40 2nd row 3-passenger bench seat. Stock #8T0300 Was \$30,700  
**NOW \$25,603\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**SIGN & DRIVE \$366\*\* PER MO.** **\$2000 DOWN \$236\*\* PER MO.**  
GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2656.34 Due at Signing!

**0.9%**  
APR  
Plus \$3000 on select models to qualified buyers

**CHRISTMAS WEEK HOURS**  
CLOSED Mon. Dec. 24 & Tues. Dec. 25  
**OPEN**  
WEDNESDAY TIL 9  
THURSDAY TIL 9  
FRIDAY TIL 6

**Saturday**  
9 am - 3 pm

**REBATES UP TO \$7000**  
on select models

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<b>2006 FORD TAURUS SE</b> Low Payments KBB \$11,500 NB \$9950	<b>2001 FORD ESCAPE XLT</b> 4x4, big savings! KBB \$11,125 NB \$10,220	<b>2007 CHEVY HHR - GREAT MPG</b> Like new! KBB \$12,930 NB \$12,140	<b>2004 MERCURY GR MARQUIS GL</b> What a ride! KBB \$13,935 NB \$12,160
<b>2005 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 4X4</b> KBB \$13,125 NB \$12,750	<b>2005 FORD FIVE HUNDRED</b> Lim, leather, moon KBB \$17,490 NB \$15,500	<b>2006 FORD FREESTYLE SEL</b> Stock #P20324 KBB \$17,840 NB \$15,690	<b>1999 FORD F150 LIGHTNING</b> <b>\$15,860</b>
<b>2006 FORD FUSION SEL</b> Certified KBB \$16,770 NB \$15,870	<b>2006 FORD FREESTYLE</b> Limited - leather KBB \$18,440 NB \$15,940	<b>2007 FORD FREESTAR</b> Like new, 100k war. KBB \$18,410 NB \$16,300	<b>2005 FORD F150 SUPERCAB 4X4 - XLT</b> KBB \$23,275 NB \$18,240
<b>2006 FORD EXPLORER 4X4 - XLT</b> KBB \$21,340 NB \$20,540	<b>2005 FORD CREW 4X4 F X 4</b> KBB \$25,090 NB \$20,960	<b>2003 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR</b> Loaded! KBB \$22,780 NB \$21,640	<b>2003 FORD F350 DUALY 4X4 LARIAT</b> KBB \$30,900 NB \$28,140

**\$1000 Minimum for your trade**

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

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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.  
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Valid only at North Brothers Ford. Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Diesels extra. Synthetic oils extra. Expires 12/31/07.  
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✓ Check Air and Cabin Air Filters  
✓ Check Belts and Hoses  
✓ Top Off All Fluids

**\$89.95**  
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. No other discounts apply. Offer expires 12/31/07. **Quick Lane** TIRE & AUTO CENTER

**\$89.95**  
automatic transmission service  
Change up to five quarts of automatic transmission/transaxle fluid. Inspect and lubricate linkage and controls (where applicable). Road test. Offer valid on most vehicles. Disposal fee extra, if applicable.  
Offer valid with coupon. Taxes extra. No other discounts apply. Offer expires 12/31/07. **Quick Lane** TIRE & AUTO CENTER

**\$99.95**  
four-wheel alignment  
Check and adjust camber and toe. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles.  
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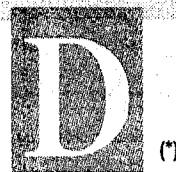
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OE08577306

# New Homes



Sunday, December 23, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

## Copeland can adapt for life in town or country

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

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

round the front door. The family room unfolds upon entry into the Copeland. It is a large, open room with

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 backyard.

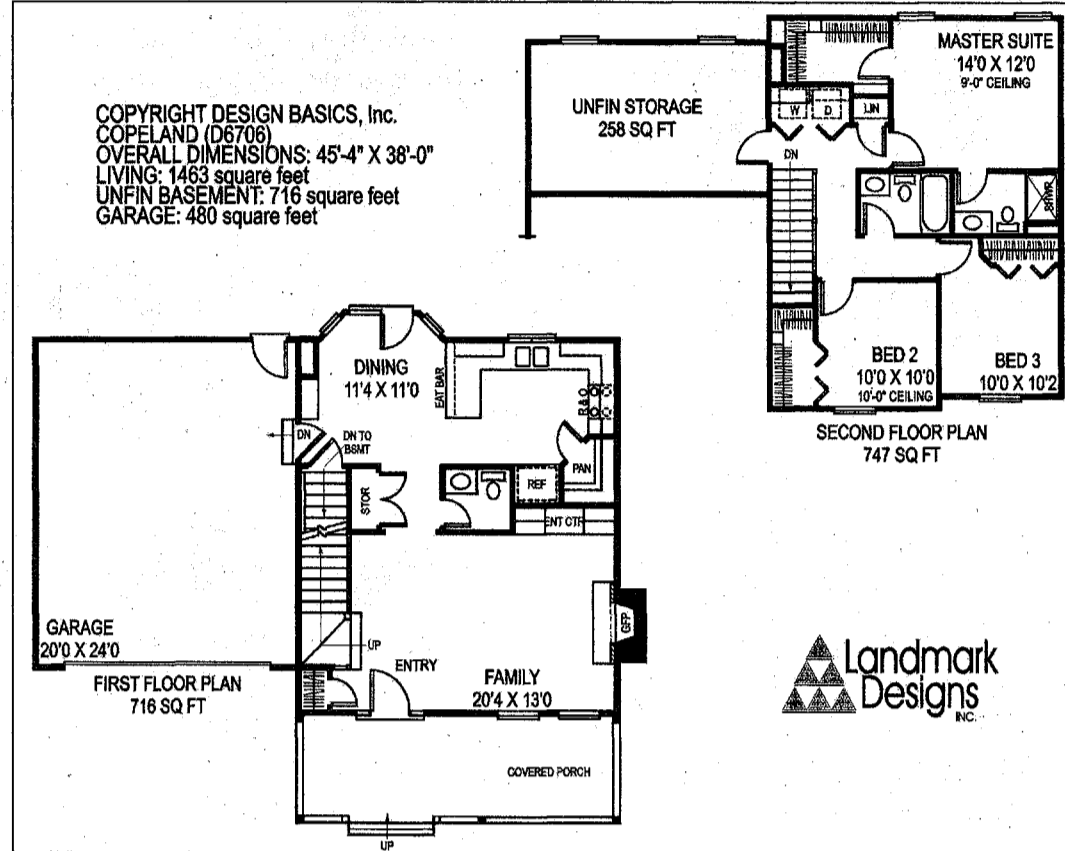
All of the bedrooms are upstairs. The master suite is in the rear with 9-foot ceilings and large windows. In one corner is a long walk-in closet and in another corner is a full bath with a shower. Just outside the master suite door is a large linen closet. Behind folding doors are the washer



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 kids.

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.lidiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



### BRIEFS

#### Appraising and Sales

Century 21 Today offers career seminars Tuesday or Saturday noon to 1 p.m. at 28544 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Call Steve Leibhan at (248) 855-2000, Ext. 238.

#### BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training from 9-10:20 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 879 Benjamin in Troy, in a Green Built certified home built by Wake-Pratt Construction Co.

In this first of five trainings, Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses the technical and sales aspects of Building Green using materials and methods that result in Green Built certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement.

The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA)

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, systematic techniques.

Registration fees are \$10 for SMC

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 Remodelers 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 Remodeler (CGR) series and counts toward CGR, Certified Graduate Associate (CGA) and Graduate Master

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.

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

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# LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS WE'RE OPEN MONDAY 9-2

**ALL NEW 2008 EXPLORER XLT**  
AM/FM/CD, pwr windows, pwr locks, tilt, alloy wheels, safety canopy w/ side air bag.

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$217*</b>	<b>\$258*</b>	<b>\$274*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE

**ALL NEW 2008 ESCAPE XLT**  
Moonroof, Satellite Radio, auto, air. ALL NEW DESIGN!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$226*</b>	<b>\$248*</b>	<b>\$273*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	36 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE

**ALL NEW 2008 FOCUS SE**  
Auto, air, pwr windows/locks, tilt, cruise, front, side & canopy air bags and much more!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$133*</b>	<b>\$161*</b>	<b>\$189*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	36 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE

**ALL NEW 2008 FUSION SE**  
ABS, PW/PL, 6-airbag protection, 6-disc CD/MP3, pwr seats, steering wheel radio control.

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$150*</b>	<b>\$199*</b>	<b>\$207*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE

**NEW 2008 TAURUS SEL**  
ABS, side air bags, traction control, V6, safety canopy system.

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$199*</b>	<b>\$239*</b>	<b>\$271*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE

**NEW 2008 EDGE SE**  
Front, side & canopy air bags, MP3 ready, V6, pwr windows/locks, 17" alum wheels, tilt, cruise.

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$229*</b>	<b>\$269*</b>	<b>\$313*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE

**NEW 2008 F150 SC 4X4 XLT**  
Trailer tow pkg, stereo CD, FULL POWER! Americas Work Horse!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$199*</b>	<b>\$239*</b>	<b>\$279*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE

**NEW 2008 MUSTANG COUPE**  
V6, cast alum wheels, pwr windows/locks, premium sound, cruise, tilt.

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
<b>\$212*</b>	<b>\$242*</b>	<b>\$272*</b>
24 Mo. LEASE	36 Mo. LEASE	36 Mo. LEASE

**DEMO BLOWOUT!!! SPECIAL PURCHASE!!!**

<p><b>2008 F150 SUPER CAB</b> WAS \$34,965 BUY NOW <b>\$26,900</b> SAVE OVER \$8,000</p>	<p><b>2008 EDGE AWD LTD</b> WAS \$33,213 LOADED! BUY NOW <b>\$31,900</b> SAVE OVER \$1,300</p>	<p><b>2007 MUSTANG GT CONV'T</b> WAS \$33,355 BUY NOW <b>\$24,950</b> SAVE OVER \$8,400</p>
--	--	---

**ROUGH PERFORMANCE DEALER!!! 2008 ROUSH'S Available to the Public at WHOLESALE PRICING!!!**

**2008 MUSTANG BULLITT IS HERE!**

**2007 TAURUS' SPECIAL PURCHASE!**  
30 to choose, from... **\$10,950**

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**TRUCK / VAN / SUV**

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06 ESCAPE LTD Leather, moonroof, LOADED.....14,950	04 VUE AWD V6 LOADED.....12,950
05 EXPLORER XLT 4X4.....14,950	05 EXPLORER SPORT TRAC LOADED.....12,950
06 E150 CARGO VAN.....15,950	03 GRAND CHEROKEE LTD 4X4.....13,950
05 EXPLORER LTD 4X4 LOADED.....15,950	07 FREESTAR SEL LOADED.....14,950
07 GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4.....16,950	05 ESCAPE XLT 4X4.....14,950
05 F150 CREW CAB XLT 4X4.....19,950	07 EXPLORER E.B. Leather, LOADED.....19,950
07 EXPLORER E.B. 4X4 Leather.....21,950	05 F150 EXT CAB 4X4 FX4.....19,950
06 F250 EXT CAB 4X4.....22,450	06 EXPLORER LTD 4X4.....21,950

**CARS! CARS!**

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06 COBALT LOADED.....9,450	06 STRATUS.....9,950
06 HYUNDAI ELANTRA Auto.....9,950	03 GRAND PRIX GT Leather, moon.....9,950
06 FORD 500 SE LOADED.....13,950	07 COBALT Auto, Air.....9,950
07 LaCROSSE Black, LOADED.....13,950	04 BONNEVILLE SE Leather, moon, LOADED.....10,950
07 MAZDA 3 Black, LOADED.....13,950	07 PT CRUISER LOADED.....10,950
07 MONTE CARLO LS.....13,950	07 MALIBU LT LOADED.....11,950
07 IMPALA Black, LOADED.....14,950	01 MUSTANG GT CONV'T.....12,950
04 MUSTANG GT CONV'T.....15,950	05 IMPALA LS Moon, LOADED.....13,450
08 GRAND PRIX LOADED.....16,950	07 FUSION SE LOADED.....14,950
07 EXPLORER E.B. LOADED.....22,950	05 VOLVO XC 70 LOADED.....23,950

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**2008 Fusion SE**  
Buy For **\$16,093\***

**\$178\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$214\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1295 due at delivery  
Automatic transmission, air conditioning, power windows & locks, speed control



**2008 Focus Coupe SE**  
Buy For **\$13,468\***

**\$156\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$192\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1271 due at delivery  
Auto trans, A/C, power windows & locks, keyless entry, AM/FM, CD/MP3, audio input jack, side air bags



**2008 Explorer XLT**  
Buy For **\$20,178\***

**\$247\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$289\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1531 due at delivery  
Moon roof, Sirius radio, running boards, power windows, locks & drivers seat, speed control, tilt wheel



**2008 Taurus X**  
Buy For **\$24,853\***

**\$304\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$348\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1533 due at delivery  
Leather seating, power windows & locks, heated power seats, AM/FM, CD/MP3, audiophile w/sub woofer

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**\$500**

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**2008 Taurus**  
Buy For **\$22,394\***

**\$265\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$307\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1492 due at delivery  
Sync, leather, tilt wheel, pwr wndws & locks, heated pwr seats, AM/FM, CDX6/MP3, audiophile w/subwoofer



**2008 Escape XLT**  
Buy For **\$18,594\***

**\$240\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$279\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1375 due at delivery  
Moonroof, auto trans, AM/FM/CD w/Sirius radio, power windows, locks & seat, speed control, tilt wheel



**2008 F150 4x4 XLT Supercab**  
Buy For **\$23,379\***

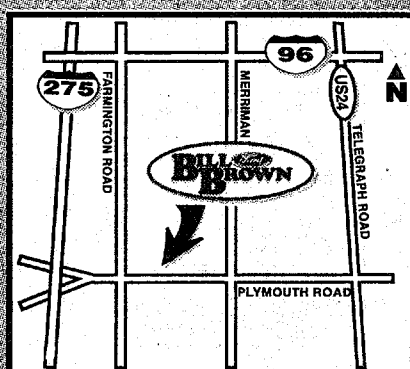
**\$225\*\*** 24 MOS. **\$287\*\*** 24 MOS.  
\$1501 due at delivery  
FREE Tow & Co, electronic shift on the fly, sliding rear window, PW, PL, speed, tilt & more.



**2008 Edge SE**  
Buy For **\$21,884\***

**\$263\*\*** 36 MOS. **\$303\*\*** 36 MOS.  
\$1415 due at delivery  
A/C, power windows A& locks, speed control, AM/FM, CDX6/MP3 sound system, convenience group

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