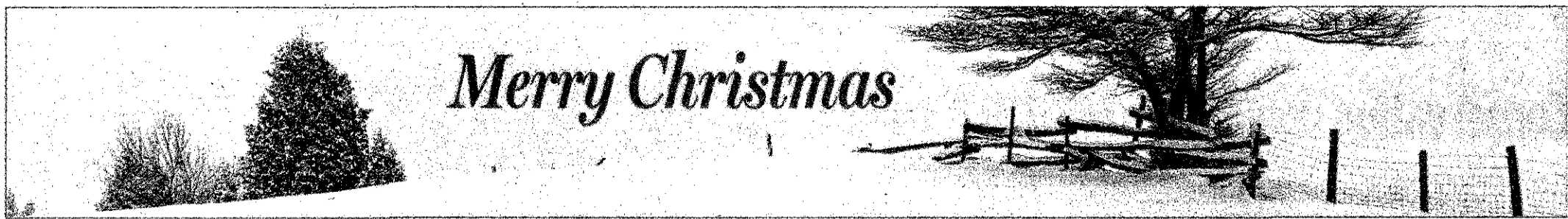


Merry Christmas



SUNDAY
December 23, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

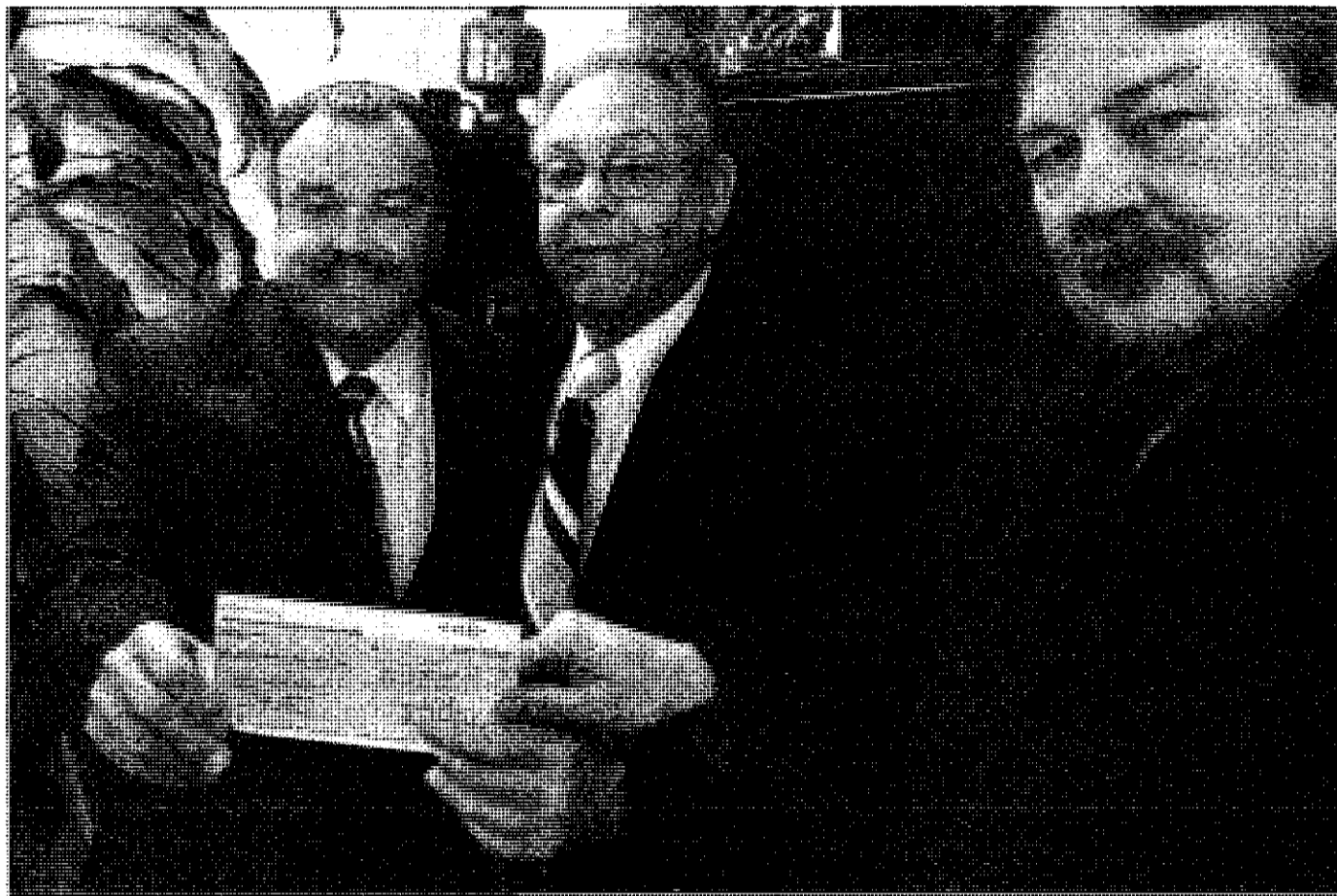
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SHARE YOUR RESOLUTIONS

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.



Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy (from left), Harold Kominars of Canton and school board President Kip Monit show off the check for \$66,081.34 that the retired dentist donated to set up scholarships at Wayne Memorial and John Glenn High schools.

Dentist's donation creates scholarship for needy students

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Dentist Harold Kominars remember the 1960s, when cooperative education students would work in his office. The boys would cut the grass and shovel the walks and the girls would train to be dental assistants.

More than 40 years later, the Canton resident is continuing to help students. This time it's in the form of a scholarship for needy students at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools.

Kominars delivered a check for \$66,081.34 to school officials last week to establish a scholarship fund in his and

his wife's names.

"I feel this is a beautiful way to make a donation," Kominars said. "The scholarships will be modest, but they will be enough to help the student."

Kominars took advantage of a change in federal tax law that allows individuals to donate up to \$100,000 and not have to pay taxes. The money is from an IRA he liquidated, Kominars said.

According to Superintendent Greg Baracy, the scholarship will be given to one student at each school, most likely beginning in 2009. The scholarships, renewable for up to four years, will follow students through their under-

graduate career. Once they have completed their studies, new scholarships will be given out. Baracy estimated that the scholarship will be in the range of \$1,300-\$1,400.

"The counselors will pick out the needy students," Baracy said. "They'll fill out the application and have to show need and meet the criteria, but most of the selections will come from the counselors."

In addition to the application, students must be accepted to an accredited community college or university, maintain a 3.0 grade-point average and attend classes. They also have to be willing to report their grades and attendance to

Kominars.

"It would be more favorable to follow one student through, if they have the desire and attend school," Kominars said. "Once they get started, if they're a pretty good student, they can continue on."

"That's why this is so special," Monit added. "Some students only have enough money for one year and then have to drop out."

The scholarships aren't tied to any particular curriculum. Kominars favors the student selecting the course of study and where they want to go.

Kominars grew up in Detroit and graduated from

Please see **DONATION, A2**

'Terrific guy'

Police Department names Novakowski as Officer of Year

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland top cop Richard Novakowski has earned a stellar reputation for taking drugs and guns off city streets, solving crimes and convincing suspects to confess their crimes.

"He's a terrific guy and a terrific officer," Police Chief James Ridener said.

He's also Westland's Police Officer of the Year.

Novakowski, who joined the Westland police force eight years ago, was honored earlier this month after a selection committee decided that he stood out among his fellow officers.

Novakowski came to Westland after he worked for the Detroit Police Department's Tactical Services Section.

"This experience that he brought with him made him one of the best instinctive police officers on the street," Ridener said, reading a statement during the awards ceremony.

"Richard made numerous arrests for drugs, robberies and other crimes. Also, he took a lot of guns off the streets of Westland."

Novakowski has gained the respect of his colleagues for his ability to talk with people and solve problems. Last August, police had two men in custody for the stabbing death of maintenance worker Gerald William Dean Jr. 45, outside of Country Court Apartments on Wildwood north of Ford.

Novakowski interviewed both suspects, and "within an hour Richard obtained a confession from the first suspect and shortly after obtained a state-

ment from the second suspect that cleared him," Ridener said.

The one suspect, 18-year-old Christopher Long, is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for first-degree murder.

In May of 2003, Novakowski had a close call and narrowly avoided his own shooting. He was investigating a case in which a man was accused of threatening a girlfriend with a .45-caliber pistol by putting it to her head.

The girlfriend led Novakowski to the suspect, who drew the pistol and pointed it at Novakowski before being shot.

"The man ignored the verbal commands to drop the gun, and fearing for his life and his partner's life, Richard was forced to shoot this man," Ridener said. "The man later died of that wound in surgery. After a lengthy and thorough investigation by our department and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Richard was cleared of any wrongdoing."

Novakowski has worked on the road patrol and in the Special Investigations Unit, mostly investigating drug cases.

"During his three years and four months in narcotics, Richard investigated over 1,000 cases, authored approximately 150 search warrants, helped serve another 150 search warrants and was responsible for seizing more than \$250,000 in proceeds from narcotics sales," Ridener said.

Novakowski returned to the road patrol and "continues to solve cases and problems," Ridener said.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

Defendant faces trial in chase case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Redford man will face trial amid allegations he led police officers from four agencies on a 100-mph chase from Westland to Detroit, where authorities said he slammed into a Michigan State Police car before he was captured.

Hosea Moore, who already spent time in prison for selling cocaine, fleeing from police, receiving stolen property and carrying a short-barrel shotgun, could find himself behind bars again, if he's convicted of a new round of felony charges.

Moore was ordered to stand

trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after he waived his preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

Moore, 44, is accused of stealing a 2006 Chevy Trailblazer in Livonia and going to a Westland group home on Ann Arbor Trail west of Middlebelt, where authorities said he was harassing his girlfriend. The couple already had been having problems before the Dec. 9 incident.

Westland police went to the group home after a disturbance was reported, and Moore is charged with struggling with officers before breaking free and running to the stolen vehicle. An

officer chased the suspect and tried to pull him out of the Trailblazer, but Moore is accused of pulling off, dragging the officer and then running over his foot.

The officer received minor injuries.

Moore is charged with leading officers from Westland, Garden City, Livonia and Michigan State Police on a chase that moved north on Middlebelt, east on I-96 to Davison and then to Livernois, Westland police Sgt. Chris Benson has said.

Moore is accused of driving through a residential area and ultimately ramming a state police car before fleeing on

foot. Officers used a Taser to stop him and arrest him.

Moore faces trial on charges of third-degree fleeing and eluding, driving a stolen vehicle, assaulting an officer, causing malicious destruction of the state police car, resisting arrest, being involved in a domestic violence incident and being a fourth-degree habitual offender.

A not-guilty plea has been entered for him. He remains jailed in lieu of a \$500,000 cash bond as he awaits trial. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Making merry and bright

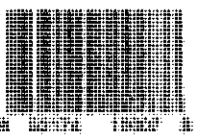
Looking more like Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, Dave Hermann of Livonia joins Mary Belcher and Celeste Williams of Westland in singing at the Maplewood Senior Center Christmas party. The music was provided by The Wrightones.

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Volume 43
Number 60



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Man waives hearing in foiled holdup case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A 19-year-old Westland man will face trial for charges he tried to rob the Dunkin' Donuts shop on the southeast corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt.

Ian Kiligian faces trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after he waived his preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court. If convicted of assault with intent to commit robbery, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Kiligian is accused of order-

ing a 17-year-old female worker to hand over money during the Dec. 8 incident. Police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said Kiligian is accused of brandishing a drywall saw that resembled a knife.

The worker pretended she couldn't get the cash register drawer open, and she told police the suspect left the store.

Kiligian is accused of running to nearby London Townhouses, northeast of Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt, where he lived with his girlfriend. Borisch said the suspect then fled across

Middlebelt into a residential neighborhood, where he was arrested.

Kiligian is accused of hiding under a swimming pool deck on Fremont until a police dog found him.

A not-guilty plea has been entered for him as he awaits trial. He is jailed in lieu of a \$250,000 cash bond.

Police had sought Kiligian for the incident after the Dunkin' Donuts employee, with help from a friend, identified him as someone they knew in school.

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Garden City Hospital programs focus on wellness

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, Dec. 24

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting

Clinic at 5 p.m. Attention, CPAP and BIPAP users: Did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Garden City Hospital's Sleep Disorders Center can help. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center in Room 329 at Garden City Hospital, 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 with any questions or for more information.

CPR - Adult at 6 p.m. Approved by the American Heart Association, the class provides hands-on CPR training to adults. Participants are prepared to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies in victims, age 8 and above. This class is offered at Garden City Hospital's Health & Education Center, 6701 Harrison, just north of Maplewood. There is a \$40 fee. Participants will receive certification upon successful completion. Call Community Education at (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 27

Strength and Stretch at 11 a.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Get Up and Move at 4 p.m.

(Tentatively scheduled, call to confirm) This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect

compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Friday, Dec. 28

American Red Cross Blood Drive 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allan Breake Medical Office Building on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (734) 458-4259. Walk-ins are always welcomed.

Get Up and Move at 9 a.m.

(Tentatively scheduled, call to confirm.) This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started

for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1, 3 and 5 p.m. (Tentatively scheduled, call to confirm.) An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. (Tentatively scheduled, call to confirm.) This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Monday, Dec. 31

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Tentatively scheduled, call to confirm.) An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Daily Programs

Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or faxed to her attention at fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wrestling Club

Westland Bottle Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 5-14. The club meets on Monday and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. The club runs from November through March and costs \$20. For questions or more information, contact Judy at judylaw122@yahoo.com or calling (734) 634-4595.

New Year's Eve parties

Ring in the New Year at a party, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The festivities include live performances by Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Blues Brothers impersonators. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$85 per couple, or reserve a table of eight for just \$320. The ticket package includes an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, open bar with a champagne toast at midnight while watch the ball drop at Times Square in New York City. Designated Drivers will be available

to ensure a safe beginning to the New Year. For tickets or more information, contact Laurie at (734) 637-5553 or by e-mail at lbarra@comcast.net or the hall staff at by calling (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail to vbarra@comcast.net.

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

■ Ring in the New Year with Jimmy Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday, Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (oven-baked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Due to the Christmas holiday, tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19. For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

Fife & Drum Corps

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is collecting alumni contact information so it can reach out to alumni members regarding future events and performances. People who are Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps alumni, can send their contact information - name, phone number, e-mail address - to alumni director Robin Leclerc at rleclerc@wideopenwest.com.



Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy, left, and police Lt. Michael Matich, right, were among the local firefighters and police officers who recently shopped with children at Meijer during the store's Shop With A Hero program. The store provided gift cards and food baskets to select children and their families for the holiday season.

Higher Rock Cafe

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month

at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 8 p.m. Check it out on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734)

722-3660.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

One-day-a-month volunteer drivers are needed to transport seniors and

disabled who are unable to drive to medical appointments. Phone messenger volunteers are also needed to help set up rides to the medical appointments. This is also a one-day-a-month opportunity that can be done right from home. People interested in helping can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or contact him by e-mail at GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

Substance abuse support

A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. Call (734) 655-1100.

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- Hand Bell Choir
- Special Childrens' Message
- Christmas Carol Sing

Traditional Candlelight Service 9:00 pm

- Adult Chancel Choir
- Selected Scripture Readings
- Traditional Christmas Carol Sing

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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 moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. 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

mated 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. Find Population Estimates on SEMCOG's new Web site under Data and Maps, then By Subject.

Womenscenter offers women's book group

The Womenscenter 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 Womenscenter 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' Womenscenter, 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 Womenscenter, a facility that provides educational and supportive resources for area women. For information on the Womenscenter Book Group and other program offerings, call the Womenscenter at (248) 522-3642.

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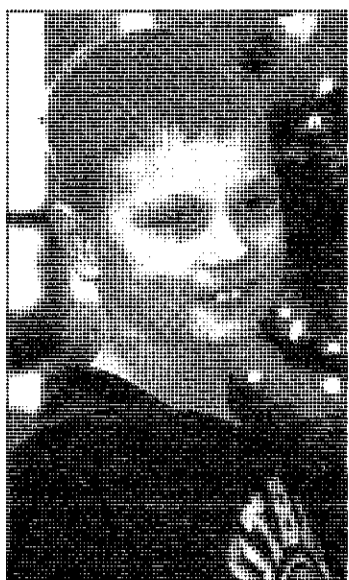
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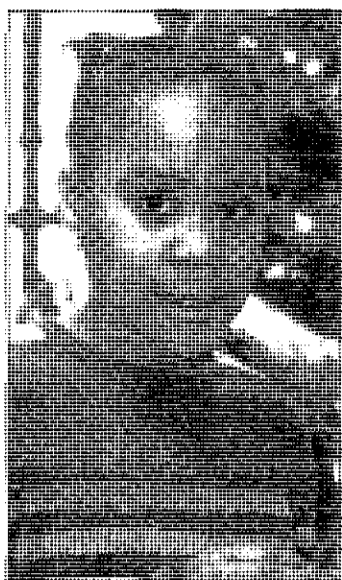
OPINION

COMMUNITY VOICE

All I want for Christmas is ...



"Heelys. They're shoes that have wheels in the heels."
Austin Shackelford
Redford



"A game for my VTech - Shrek the Third."
Kamille Williams
Redford



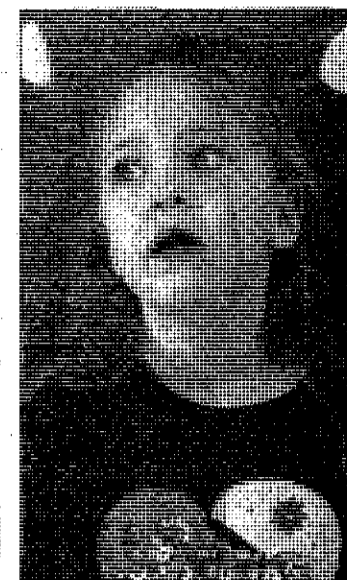
"An iPod ... any kind."
Christina Torres
Redford



"I want a Nintendo DS and the Legend of Spyro game."
Trent Griffith
Westland



"I want a Jaba the Hut with a wiggly tail and all the little Star Wars planes, they come in a big box."
Dylan Conley
Westland



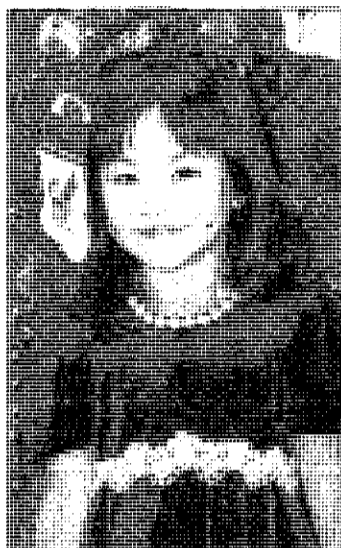
"I want a (Baby Alive) Wet and Wiggles doll, a necklace and a tent. I can't know my whole list."
Kimberly Fox
Westland



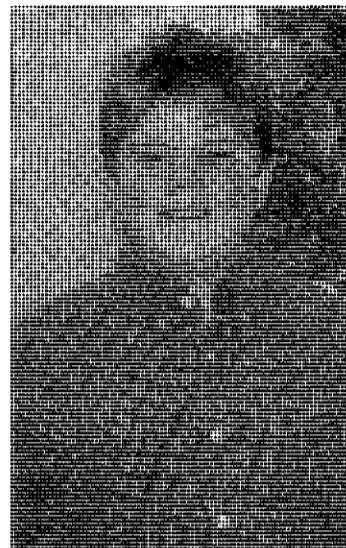
"I want a doll, a penguin toy and a heart pillow and that's it."
Linnea Price
Westland



"A Nintendo DS and my family and friends to have A Merry Christmas."
Kelsey Ward
Garden City



"A Belle doll. She's tall to my shoulder, and Jasmine slippers."
Janna Cupp
Garden City



"An iCoaster with an iPod and the war to end."
Zachary Witt
Garden City



"That everyone gets what they want and the war will end with peace and justice every day."
Justin Wolkhamer-Romp
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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.



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

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.

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.



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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

B (LW)

Sunday, December 23, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

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Poole cues up Franklin OT victory vs. Wildcats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

BOYS HOOPS

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

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

Junior forward Jeffery Poole led the expedition with a career-high 26 points - 20 of which came after the halftime break.

Four other Patriots broke the double-digit barrier including senior guard Ryan Matthey (17 points), senior forward Israel Woolfork (14), junior forward Connor Leidal (13) and senior guard Kevin Percin (11).

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

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

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

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

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

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

No ordinary Joe

University of California (Pa.) quarterback Joe Ruggiero (Livonia Franklin) led the Vulcans to a 13-1 overall record and a berth in the NCAA Division II football semifinals before losing to eventual champion Valdosta State (Ga.), 28-24, in the national semifinals.

The 6-foot-2, 195-pound senior, a three-year starter, threw for 2,365 yards (211-of-345 for 61 percent) and 25 touchdowns with only nine interceptions.

In his final game, Ruggiero threw three TD passes and was 23-of-36 for 230 yards and one interception (coming on the final drive at the Valdosta 10-yard line with 2:10 left).

The transfer from Wayne State threw for 779 yards in four games as a freshman before going down with a broken leg. He threw for 2,200 yards and 20 TDs as a sophomore and 2,118 yards and 15 TDs as a junior.

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.

Christenson lauded

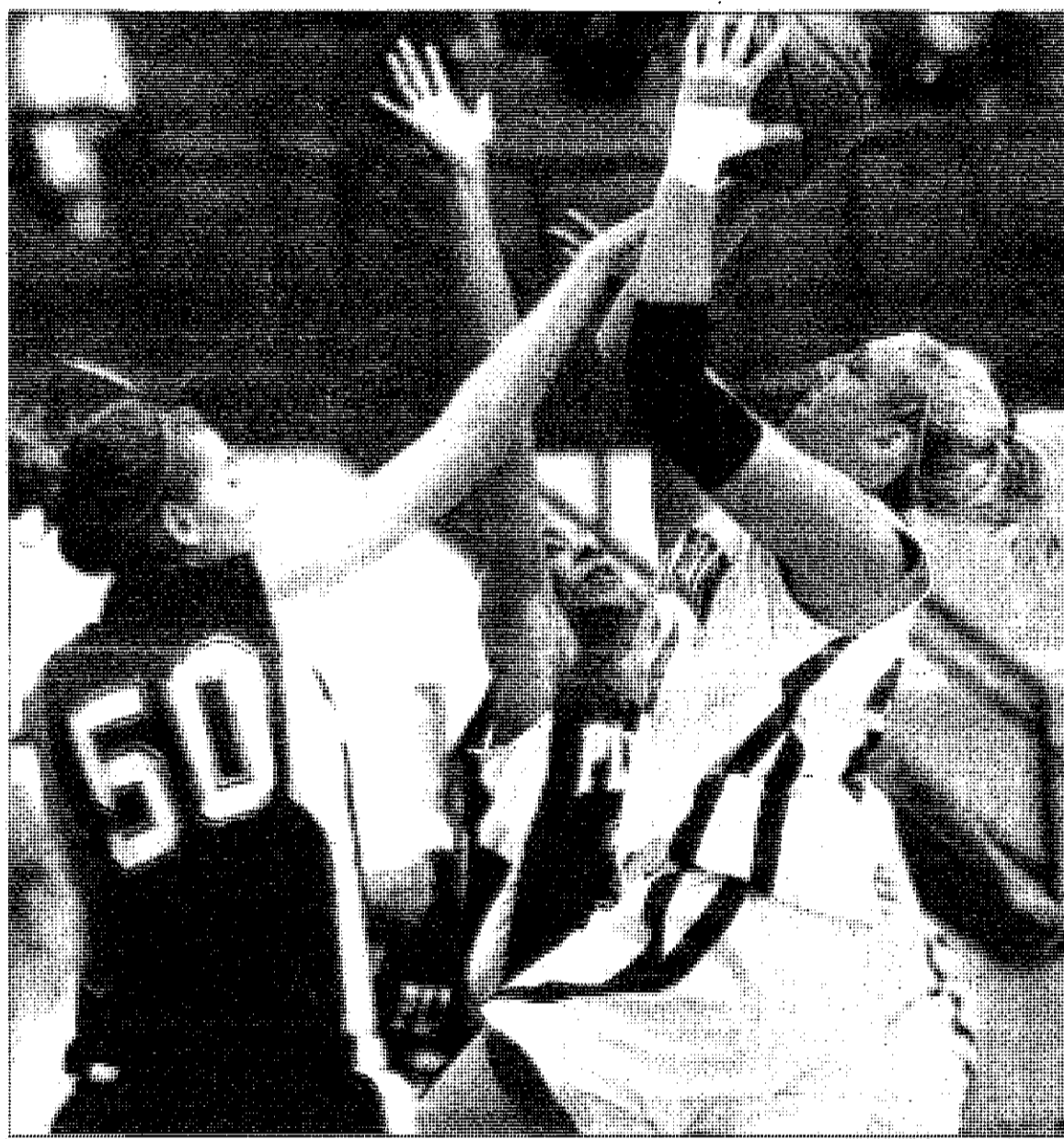
Grand Valley State senior defender Sue Christenson (Livonia Ladywood) recently earned Daktronics NCAA Division II first-team All-America honors in women's soccer.

Christenson helped the Lakers to a 21-1-1 overall record and a berth in the NCAA Division II Final Four before losing to Tampa (Fla.) University, 2-1.

Christenson sparked a defense that ranked second in Division II in goals-against average (.359) and eighth in shutout percentage (.636).

Grand Valley also outscored its opponents 88-10.

Christenson, who ranks as the all-time leader in games played for the Lakers (85) was also named to the All-Region and All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams.



Franklin's Ashley Price (right) drives to the basket defended by Plymouth's Katie Moss (50) and Shaakira Haywood in Thursday's 47-46 WLAA-Western Division setback.

Plymouth clips Patriots, 47-46
Klonowski spurs win

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 Michelle Reilly, whose team led 37-30 after three quarters.

"Before tonight she played too unselfishly at times, but tonight she did what

GIRLS HOOPS

we needed her to do."

Junior guard Brianna Taylor, who scored a two-point basket to end the game, along with 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.

ANNAPOLIS 46, CLARENCEVILLE 42:
Freshman Justina WilliamsPlease see **GIRLS HOOPS, B2**

MU women's team romps to 65-31 win

Caryn Inman scored a team-high 14 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead the Madonna University women's basketball team to an easy 65-31 non-conference win Friday at home over Rochester College.

The Crusaders, who won their second straight, improved to 3-8 overall. Rochester falls to 3-13.

Tabatha Wydryck and Rebecca Ruffli each added 10 points for MU, which led 37-14 at halftime.

Sheryl Jager chipped in with nine points. MU shot 44.4 percent from the field (24-of-54) and outscored Rochester 29-10 off the bench.

Jessica Crook scored nine for Rochester, which committed a total of 30 turnovers and shot just 21.3 percent from the floor (10-of-47).

MADONNA 62, OLIVET COLLEGE 54: A 21-point effort by forward Tabatha Wydryck sparked the Crusaders (2-8) victory Wednesday against visiting Olivet College (3-6).

Caryn Inman added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Crusaders, while forward Christie Carrico chipped in with eight points and 11 boards.

Amy Brackenwagen tallied 12 points for the Comets. Madonna led 37-36 at halftime and shut down Olivet in the second half, allowing just 18 points.

DAYTONA BEACH (FLA.) 64, SCHOOLCRAFT 61: Schoolcraft College's trip to the Daytona (Fla.) Christmas Classic turned out to not be one to remember.

On Tuesday, the Lady Ocelots lost to host Daytona Beach CC despite a 17-point effort from Antoinette Brown, 11 points from Taylor Langham (Salem) and 10 from Shana King.

Sheray Brown led Schoolcraft (9-2) with 11 rebounds, while Brown pulled down nine.

The top scorer for Daytona Beach (13-3) was Tiffanie Stephens, with 20 points.

Schoolcraft also lost Monday to Central Florida CC in the tourney opener, 83-63.

Rosenick spurs Chargers, 52-38

There were a lot of bright spots in Livonia Churchill's 52-38 boys basketball win Thursday night at home over Walled Lake Northern.

The Chargers improved to 4-2 overall, but more importantly earned their first Western Division win in the WLAA opener for both teams.

Senior forward Ryan Rosenick scored 19 points and hauled down 13 rebounds as the Chargers pulled away from a 24-

23 halftime advantage.

Andrew Vagnetti chipped in with nine points, while senior forward Nick Seger finished with six points and 10 rebounds as Churchill outscored Northern 28-15 in the second half.

"The second half we rebounded the ball and played harder on defense,"

BOYS HOOPS

Churchill coach Jim Solak said, "We were outrebounded 23-12 the first half, but in the second half we outrebounded them 20-16. We put forth a heck of an effort on the boards, especially Rosenick and Seger."

The Chargers also got a boost from senior point-guard Daran Carey, who finished with five points, four steals and

Please see **CHARGERS, B2**

Stevenson grapplers win tiebreaker

See a roundup of area prep mat results on B3.

PREP WRESTLING

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

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

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

The comeback was sparked by senior Ziad Kharbush's 9-1 major decision over Austin Root at 171 pounds.

Emanuel Onwuemene (189), Matt

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

"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 starter were out. We wrestled one freshman and five sophomores tonight. The dual meet was exciting from start to finish."

Glenn 1st at Woodhaven

On Dec. 15, senior 215-pounder James Kelly, who went 5-0 on the day, was the MVP as Westland John Glenn captured the Woodhaven Tournament with wins over Harper Woods Notre Dame (62-11), Lincoln Park (43-22), Garden City (48-27), Ann Arbor Pioneer (65-3) and Riverview in the finals (40-3).

On Wednesday, Glenn used seven sophomores in its lineup to open WLAA-Lakes Division dual meet action with a 56-19 win over visiting Walled Lake Northern to improve to 12-3 overall.

Senior Jeremiah Austin (19-0) and sophomore Anthony Pavlich (18-1) are both ranked in the top ten in their respective weight classes in Division 1.

GIRLS HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

scored 18 points and Kelly Sapikowski added 13 Friday night as host Dearborn Heights Annapolis (8-0) stormed back in the final quarter to beat Livonia Clarenceville (3-5).

"We played a lot, lot better tonight, but it was one of the most frustrating games I've coached in a long time," said Clarenceville coach Julie Patterson, whose team relinquished an eight-point lead in the final three minutes.

Senior guard Amanda Moody led the Trojans with 16 points and six steals. Amber O'Halloran added 10 points.

Annapolis made 13-of-30 free throws, including 10-of-21 in the decisive fourth period.

Clarenceville was 4-of-7 from the line.

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 WLLA-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.

W.L. WESTERN 74, WAYNE 43: All 12 players scored Thursday as host Walled Lake Western (7-1, 1-0) rolled to the WLLA-Western Division victory over Wayne Memorial (3-5, 0-1).

Melanie Wilkerson scored a game-high 20 points for the victorious Warriors, who led 41-26 at halftime.

Lauren Williams contributed eight for Western.

Wayne senior guard Trena Barbee paced all scorers with 26 points, while teammate Nastassia Goines contributed 12.

"They (Western) had their game plan and they were ready for us," Wayne first-year coach Leslie Williams said. "They (Western) had a lot of breakaway layups. We didn't play transition defense and they (Western) also were able to utilize the post."

W.L. NORTHERN 43, CHURCHILL 36: Melissa Guiles led the way with 11 points Thursday to spark host

Walled Lake Northern (5-2, 1-0) past Livonia Churchill (2-5, 0-1) in a WLLA-Lakes Division encounter.

Churchill led 17-12 at halftime and 30-27 after three quarters before the Knights went on a 16-6 fourth-quarter run.

Northern was 17-of-33 from the foul line, while Churchill was 8-of-16.

Chelsea Manasian paced the Chargers with seven points.

W.L. CENTRAL 53, STEVENSON 24: Kelly Costello scored 14 points and Porsche Dudley added 13 to lead Walled Lake Central (5-3, 1-0) to the WLLA-Lakes Division triumph Thursday at Livonia Stevenson (3-5, 0-1).

Krista Hakola and Brooke Gustafson each tallied eight points for the victorious Vikings, who led 24-15 at intermission before pulling away with an 18-2 third-quarter surge.

Kaylee McGrath scored 11 to lead the Spartans, who were 8-of-16 from the foul line.

"Everything we did, they (Central) had a counter for it," Stevenson first-year coach Pat Cannon said. "They (Central) shot lights out - 48 percent - and beat us in the half-court."

Stevenson runs mark to 10-0 with 4-1 triumph vs. Knights

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's been a Bo Derek kind of start to the boys hockey season for Livonia Stevenson.

The No. 1-ranked team in Division 1 is a perfect 10-0 following a 4-1 WLLA-Lakes Division triumph Friday night over visiting Walled Lake Northern at Edgar Arena.

The Spartans jumped on the Knights (2-4, 0-1) quickly by scoring three times within a span of 4 minutes and 14 seconds in the first period.

Stevenson outshot the Knights 9-2 during the 15-minute period.

Brandon Mazzaco scored at 4:35 from Marc Villaire and Mike Gibbons followed by Zach Roberts' unassisted shorthanded goal at 7:11. John Vella made it 3-0 at 8:49 from Mike Voran and Sean Lerg.

Northern, outshot 21-13 for the game, got on the board at 1:19 of the second period when Greg Smith scored from Alex Taylor.

In the final period, Voran scored at the 11-minute mark from Ryan Baraton and Vella on a power-play.

"We've been getting off to good starts, but we have to work on putting three good periods of hockey together," said Stevenson first-year coach David Mitchell, whose team is 1-0 in the Lakes.

"That's what we're going to stress the second half of the

PREP HOCKEY

year. We've done the necessary things to win games up to this point, but our schedule is going to get tougher and I want us to continue to improve game-in and game-out. We need to improve our consistency."

CHURCHILL 5, SALEM 1: State-ranked Livonia Churchill (8-1, 1-0) opened WLLA-Lakes Division play Wednesday with a victory over the visiting Rocks (3-5, 0-1) at Edgar Arena.

Churchill took a 1-0 lead at 4:15 of the first period on Christo Papaioannou'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 Satkowiak 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 Haburn.

Churchill used two netminders 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."

W.L. WESTERN 4, FRANKLIN 3: Despite being outshot 27-12, visiting Walled Lake Western (2-8, 1-0) earned the WLLA-Western Division victory Wednesday over Livonia Franklin (3-4, 0-1) at Edgar Arena.

Western jumped out to a 2-0 first-period advantage on Chad Schram's goal from Dave Learner and Ben James at 4:26 followed by Jeff Cartwright's goal from James and Nick Doggett at 11:12.

Schram's power-play goal just 16 seconds into the second period from J.J. Pierce made it 3-0 before the Patriots answered on Ben Kubiak's goal at 4:01 from Robbie Beattie and Tyler Miller at 4:01 followed by Jordan Short's goal from Tyler Barnes and Eric Volk 43 seconds later.

In the third period, Came scored at 3:01 from Matt Welker and Alex Brantigan to make it 4-2.

The Patriots pulled to within one just 50 seconds later on an Alex Wypych goal from Dan Ostrosky and Beattie.

ANN ARBOR 6, LADYWOOD 2: Angie Chronis tallied two goals and added four assists to lead the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Pioneers (7-0, 5-0) to a victory Wednesday over visiting Livonia Ladywood (5-5-1, 5-3) at Veterans Arena.

Kristina Harter chipped in with two goals and one assist for Ann Arbor, which led 1-0 after one period and 3-1 after two periods. Kathryn Gissiner and J.J. Chronis also scored for the Pioneers.

Heather Sartorius tallied both goals for the Blazers. Abby Kienbaum assisted on the first goal, while Ashley Ballarin assisted on the second.

Ladywood goalie Michelle Wynnemko faced 26 shots, while the Blazers had a total of 17 shots.

CHARGERS

FROM PAGE B1

no turnovers in 30 minutes of action.

"Daran played the best game of his career," Solak said. "We needed his leadership."

Senior guard Andy Tinkey scored 10 points for the Knights (1-4, 0-1), who made 6-of-10 free throws.

Churchill connected on 12-of-19 from the foul line.

WAYNE 56, W.L. WESTERN 51: Wayne Memorial (4-2, 1-0) overcame a slow start Thursday to post a WLLA-Western Division win over visiting Walled Lake Western (3-3, 0-1).

Junior Robert Woodson paced a balanced Wayne scoring attack with 18 points. Jeremy Lovelady, a 6-10 senior center, added 13 points, while senior guard John Hill finished with 11.

Western senior guard Sean Armstrong paced all scorers with 23 points. Dramel Hogan and Quinton Cooper each added eight.

Wayne got down 14-4 after one quarter, but rallied with an 18-4 second-period run followed by a 26-14 third-quarter outburst before holding on.

"We came out with a diamond press, but then we went to a zone (defensive) and it changed the whole game," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said.

The Zebras led 51-33 during one point of the fourth quarter before holding on.

"We hope to learn some things from this," Woodard said.

Wayne was 11-of-15 from the foul line (73 percent), while Western was 9-of-18 (50 percent).

JOHN GLENN 64, SALEM 43: Earl Hardison's 18-point effort carried defending WLLA-Lakes Division champion Westland John Glenn (4-0, 1-0) to victory Thursday at home over the Rocks (1-3, 0-1).

Glenn led 29-21 at halftime and 45-33 after three quarters before going on a 20-10 fourth-quarter run.

Stefan Marken and Keshawn Martin chipped in with 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Rockets.

Dorian Prather came off the bench to score six points.

Salem senior forward Grant Stone paced all scorers with 20 points.

The Rocks made 15-of-22 free throws, while Glenn was 8-of-15.

W.L. CENTRAL 46, STEVENSON 24: Derek Mitchell scored a game-high 23 points as Walled Lake Central (3-3, 1-0) won its third straight game Thursday against visiting Livonia Stevenson (2-3, 0-1).

Brandon Voss added nine for the Vikings, who outscored Stevenson by 10 in the second quarter, 18-8, and led by the same at halftime, 25-15. It was 33-23 after three quarters.

"Derek did a nice job; he had seven or eight rebounds to go with his points," Central coach Denny Butcher said. "Brandon Voss did a nice job scoring in the paint. He had nine points that were big."

"We were 11-of-20 at the line. We need to focus on making free throws late. We gave them opportunities to stay in the game. We have to be able to finish off games with our free throws."

Brian Rowe scored 12 points and Jordan El-Sabeh 10 to pace the Spartans (2-3, 0-1).

"We gave up 18 points in the second quarter and that was the difference," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said.

"We've got to learn to play all four quarters."

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
 Thursday, Dec. 27
 John Glenn vs. Detroit Denby at Detroit Renaissance, 3:30 p.m.
 (L'Anse Creuse North Invitational)
 Franklin vs. S.C. Shores South Lake, 6 p.m.
 L'Anse Creuse North vs. Pt. Huron, 7:30 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 28
 L'Anse Creuse North Inv., 6 & 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 29
 John Glenn at Det. Renaissance, 7 p.m.
 (Roundball Classic at Oakland Univ.)
 Clarenceville vs. Det. Univ. Prep, 12:40 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
 Friday, Dec. 29
 (Kalamazoo Loy Norrix Holiday Hoops)
 Ladywood vs. Benton Harbor, 3 p.m.
 Monroe vs. Loy Norrix, 6 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 29
 Loy Norrix Holiday Hoops, 3 & 6 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**
 Friday, Dec. 28
 Franklin vs. Churchill at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
 Friday, Dec. 28
 Trenton Team Dual Meet, 9 a.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 29
 Salem Holiday Tournament, TBA.
- PREP BOWLING**
 Saturday, Dec. 29
 Bangor John Glenn Tourney at Monitor Lanes, 9 a.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 Thursday, Dec. 27
 (Warner Southern, Fla. Tournament)
 Madonna vs. Warner Southern (Fla.), 1 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 28
 (Warner Southern, Fla. Tournament)
 Madonna vs. Ind. Wesleyan-Emmanuel, 1 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 29
 Warner Southern (Fla. Tournament), TBA.
- 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.
- MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE**
 Monday, Dec. 31
 Ignition at Milwaukee Wave, 7:35 p.m.
 TBA-time to be announced.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

- MU softball camp**
 Madonna University softball coach Al White is hosting softball fundamentals camp, which includes two sessions.
- The first session is from 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Jan. 5 through Jan. 26; the second is set for while 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning Jan. 13 through Feb. 3.
- The fundamentals camp sessions will focus on all aspects of fast-pitch softball, according to White.
- For more information, call White (734-432-5783).
- LHA needs Bantams**
 The Livonia Hockey Association is in need of Bantam-age players born 1993 or 1994 interested in playing in the LHA.
- For more information, call the LHA office at (734) 422-5172.
- Baseball coaches wanted**
 The Capitol Park Senior Little League is seeking coaches for the boys 13-18 division.
- The CPSLL, which is based out of Redford, encompasses both the Redford American and North Redford Central Little Leagues, with boundaries extending from Nine Mile south to Joy Road and from Telegraph Road west to I-275.
- Livonia residents are eligible to join.
- For more information, call Bill Sullivan (313) 535-8143 Michelle Saur (586) 243-9136.

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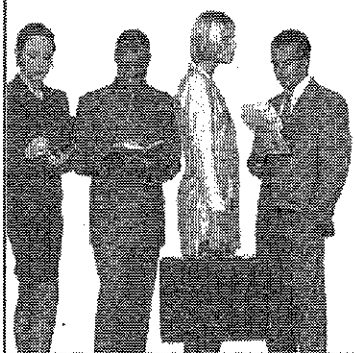
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Send resume to AVL Powertrain Engineering, Inc., Attn: Norine McElroy, 47519 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170-2438.</p> <p>GEOLOGIST/ TECHNICIAN Rapidly growing civil, environmental and geotechnical firm with offices in MI and OH, is looking for a 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 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@manksmithgroup.com EOE</p> <p>Help Wanted-Dental 6040</p> <p>CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANT Farmington Hills Podiatry Office needs Chairside Assistant. No experience necessary. Full time position available. For information, please contact 248-478-1150.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 6040</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Entry-Level for a fast paced, modern dental office. Email resume to: exceptional.dentaloffice@yahoo.com</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT Plymouth Endodontic office. 2 days/wk. Exp'd w/X-ray cert. Fax resume: 734-459-8281</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Pictures Can Make A Difference! 1-800-679-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Help Wanted-Medical 6060</p> <p>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</p> <p>DISPENSING OPTICIAN For private optometric office. Front desk, contacts, insurance & dispensing exp. Full-Time. Call & ask for Vicki. (248) 348-1330</p> <p>FRONT DESK PERSON Experienced only. Dearborn doctor's office, days, full time. Fax resume to: 313-274-8717</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 6060</p> <p>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</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT Full-Time X-Ray experience needed. Please fax resume to: (248) 855-1323</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT With High Experience Very busy Internal Medicine office in Livonia. Fax Resume Attn: Christina 734-779-2121</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Experienced full time Medical receptionist wanted for busy OB/GYN office in West Bloomfield. Excellent benefits and 401(k). Please fax resume to: 248-932-1179.</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Need for immediate temporary 4 month full-time position at Birmingham Infectious Disease office. Fax resume: 248-540-0139</p> <p>PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION Saturday accelerated class beginning in Jan. 5850. Call us at: (313) 382-3857</p> <p>RN & LPN For Western Wayne, Macomb County for home care. Excellent rates and bonuses. Fax Resume at: 313-730-9172</p> <p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120</p> <p>AUTO SALESPERSON (M/F) No prior sales experience necessary. We offer training, a fun environment and excellent income potential. Fax resume to Eugene at: 734-946-0084 or Call: 734-946-0011</p> <p>CAREER OPPORTUNITY Join Primerica, a division of Citigroup. Get paid for helping families solve financial problems. High earning potential. Flexible schedule. Training is provided. Call Simon at: 1-877-695-9635</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120</p> <p>NEWSPAPER SALES POSITION For composing and selling classified and display ads for statewide chain of legal newspapers. QuarkXPress experience required. Please e-mail resume to: stfval@legalsnews.com</p> <p>REAL ESTATE BROKER or AGENT To work with land developer. Commission only. Full or part time. Fax: 248-559-8070</p> <p>Sales</p> <p>Magie WINDOW COMPANY is looking for confident, hard working positive individuals. Full-Time positions, 8hrs. of overtime allowed each week. Must have transportation to Westland Mall area. Transportation provided from there. Position is door to door appt. setting. \$30-\$60/Kyrr. hly + bonus. Paid training. Brian: 734-748-9790 Tom: 734-286-4320</p> <p>Help Wanted-Part-Time 5200</p> <p>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 Need 734-454-4517</p> <p>Help Wanted-Domestic 6240</p> <p>HOUSEKEEPER Very detail cleaning. Organizing tasks. Extremely trustworthy and dependable. Past exp. references, fluent English, own transportation. Mon, Wed., Fri., 8am-5pm. W. Bloomfield/ Orchard Lake Wendy 248-363-6008</p> <p>NANNY/ HOUSEKEEPER Mon. & Wed., after school. 248-321-1212.</p>
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ADHD grown up Psychiatrist's book focuses on ADHD adults

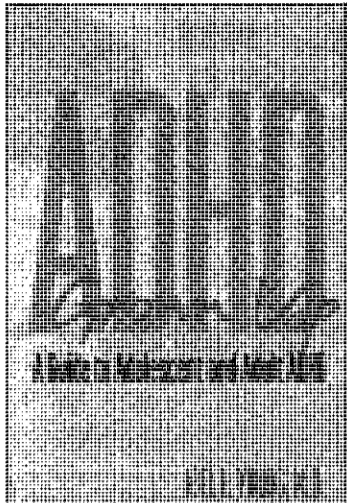
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

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."

Frequently, 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, or 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.

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

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

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

UPCOMING
Spash classes to begin
HAP's free Senior Splash Bash & Moms in Motion classes begin in January in five southeast Michigan communities with indoor pools including Southfield and Troy. Any adult can join. Classes not limited to HAP members. Programs runs Jan. 1, to March 20, at the Troy Indoor Municipal Pool, 3179 Livernois, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-10 a.m. and 10-11 a.m., and Jan. 22 to March 20, at Southfield High School, 24675 Lahser, Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m. For more information, call (313) 664-8420.

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

successful in college, managing their AD/HD. This session is open for 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.

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. For information about corporate ticket rates and tables, call Susan Kilkie 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 easypower.com. The fee includes a powerful hypnotic session plus Greenberg's book, The Right Weight: 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.easypower.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

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

The cost of the 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

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. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.



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Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$211	\$225	\$245	\$3000	\$239
	\$2000	\$240	\$253	\$274	\$2000	\$268
	\$1000	\$268	\$281	\$301	\$1000	\$296
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Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$341	\$350	\$354	\$3000	\$3514
	\$2000	\$2540	\$2553	\$2598	\$2000	\$2593
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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.



Chat Room

Paul Melrose

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 or at (248) 474-4701. The staff of the center can be reached through www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com or through (248) 474-4701.



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

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.

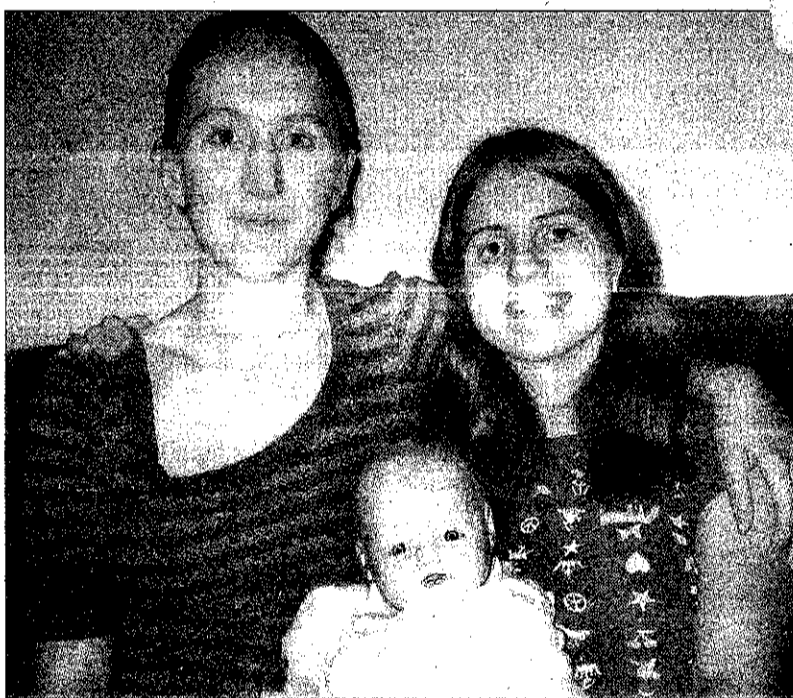
There, in the corner, was the tree, alive with the flickering of real lit candles, secured in flower-like metal holders that clipped to the tree branches. (Nobody seemed concerned about the hazardous nature of this common practice.)

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 McGone, 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 Garreiss 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.

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.

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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 us. Don't be afraid!

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

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

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

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

Area arena hosts national skating event Jan. 5

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

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

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

Arthritis Today

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND OSTEOARTHRITIS

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



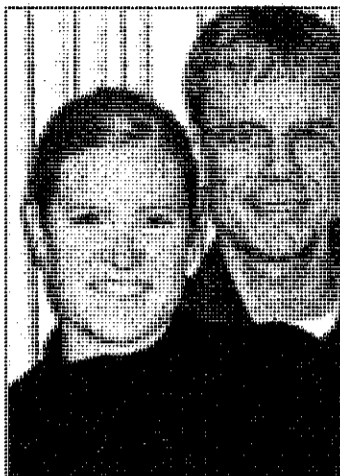
ENGAGEMENT

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



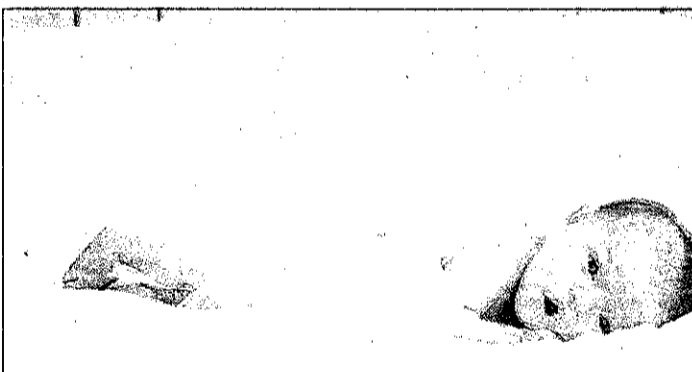
at the Livonia Apostolic Christian Church with a reception at Livonia's Italian American Center. After a honeymoon in Sarasota, Fla., the couple plans to make their home in Van Wert.

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,

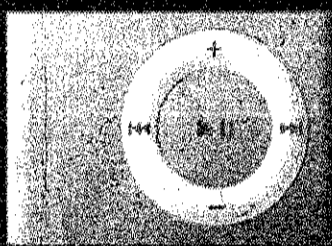
action figures, anime, toys and collectibles, Hero Clix, and collectible statues. More than 100,000 comics will be for sale or trade.

Tables are available, \$50 in

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

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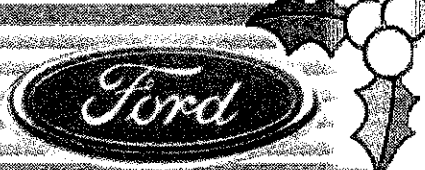
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