

Mayor assures residents city will thrive in 2010 - A3

THURSDAY
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2010

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NOVI NEWS

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High school group brings social issues to the forefront - A5

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Call to artists

The City of Novi's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department (PRCS) is seeking Michigan artists and local art educators to exhibit and teach at the Novi Civic Center.

PRCS provides a wide variety of sports, leisure and creative arts programs, senior and adult activities and services, and family events. PRCS is offering opportunities for emerging and established Michigan artists to exhibit at the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery; 100,000 people visit the Novi Civic Center every year. It is the home of The Novi Theatres and is the location for an array of programs and community events. Exhibitions are not limited to any media, and all applicants will be considered for solo and group shows. Specific project requests and site specific works are welcome. Please contact Kathryn Knapp at kknapp@cityofnovi.org or (248) 347-0509 for more information and application forms.

PRCS is also accepting submissions for qualified and enthusiastic art educators to teach youth and adult creative arts programs. Please send cover letter and résumé to: Kathryn Knapp, Creative Arts Coordinator, Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 or email to kknapp@cityofnovi.org.

Dine with Doc

Each month, Providence Park Hospital hosts a free dinner presentation about a current health topic. The public is welcome to attend this casual dinner, health presentation and Q & A. There is no charge to attend.

Dr. Nisha Chellam will discuss managing stress effectively Jan. 28. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation runs from 7-8 p.m. with questions and answers immediately following. To register, call 1-866-501-DOCS.

Free H1N1 vaccines

Botsford Hospital is reaching out to the community to share its supply of H1N1 vaccine. Free vaccines for both adult and children are available and are being given at an event held at Botsford Hospital's main campus at 28050 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The event will take place in the hospital's Community Room in the Zieger Building. This building is located across from the Emergency Center walk-in entrance. Parking is available at the Zieger Building.

School district looks to community for help

Forums to address budget issues, solicit ideas

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community Schools District faces an uncertain future as funding cuts from the state are forcing administrators and board members to analyze the way public education is provided.

And in an effort to generate ideas, the district is asking the community to get involved and attend the Focus on our Future forums throughout the month of February.

Supt. Peter Dion said the goal is to give community members a clearer picture of the budget, to help them understand the cost of various programs and services and for district

officials to gather input.

"We hope to gain what our community and staff think is most important in the district and to help set ourselves up for the future," he said.

Novi is facing a reduction of \$445 per pupil for a total of \$2.8 million this year, and budget projections for the next two school years are not much brighter. The latest amended budget has the district facing a \$4.4 million deficit, forcing it to dip into its fund equity to help cover it. The ending fund equity is at 10.35 percent.

Colleen Berman, who has two daughters at Parkview Elementary, said she is concerned but not pan-

MEETING DATES

(All meetings 7-9:30 p.m.)
Feb. 8, Orchard Hills Elementary
Feb. 9, Novi Woods Elementary
Feb. 10, Deerfield Elementary
Feb. 24, Parkview Elementary
Feb. 25, Village Oaks Elementary

icked about the situation. She understands if the district doesn't act now, it could dig itself an even bigger hole. She said she will be attending at least one of the forums to voice her thoughts and learn more about where the cuts are being focused.

"I have a concern that a lot of the cuts are going to go toward elementary schools because that seems to be an easy place to go," she said. "However, if we take apart the

elementary schools, I don't care what you have at the high school — you won't have students who will benefit from those programs."

Dion and Berman are hopeful that parents and residents will want to get involved because the quality of the district affects a lot more than just students, like home values and the quality of the city as well.

Said Dion: "If you have an outstanding school district like we do, you will have an outstanding city. And we are going to continue to be the lighthouse district in the state."

Each meeting will consist of an overview, a series of five interactive priority stations and a wrap-up ending with a brief survey.

nmueller@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Twins help kick off Novi Newbies program

Library reaching out to newest members of community with help from city hospital

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Public Library is focused on getting children interested in reading at a young age.

In an effort to make that happen, the library has partnered with the Friends of the Novi Library, the city and Providence Hospital to start the Novi Newbies program.

The program is part of an effort to help new parents of Novi by giving them a gift bag containing infant clothing, bib, storybook and library and city information. It also highlights the importance of reading to infants.

"We want to connect with them young so they have many years with the library," library Director Julie Farkas said. "We want them to get a library card and also hope that their parents will have an opportunity to connect with us, too."

The first recipients of the Novi Newbies gift bags were Mona Manavi's twin boys Alexander and Nicolas. The two were New Year's Eve babies and can barely keep their eyes open, but mom was excited the library reached out to them.

"I hope they come to the library more often," she said.

The idea behind the program is to get families to enjoy the love of reading,



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Public Library staff members Margi Karp-Opperer, Donna Pace and library director Julie Farkas present Mona Manavi and her twins Alexander, left, and Nicolas a gift bag from the library as part of the Novi Newbies program intended to encourage a lifetime of reading.

and that is why the library chose to start with the youngest people joining the Novi community.

Annually, Providence Hospital in Novi sees about 240 Novi babies. Thanks to the \$1,000 Elaine R.

Irvin Friends award from the metro Detroit Book and Author Society, those babies will all receive gift bags,

giving them a head start.

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New snow plowing policy encounters few hiccups.

Mild winter, new technology likely reason why

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It's still early and Novi has yet to be pounded by a large winter storm, but the new snow plowing policy implemented by city council in early December appears to be working.

The city has had 14 storms since Dec. 7, and of those 14, eight fit the level one category. Level one means that for snowfall less than four inches and no accumulation of ice, all major city and county roads will be salted on continuous basis as needed. Once they are clear, local roads will be plowed and salted,

but only during normal weekday hours.

The other six storms were level two, meaning snowfall of four inches or more and any accumulation of ice. During those storms, drivers will work continuously to keep the pavement bare on major roads first before doing the same on local roads. Overtime may be used to ensure both major and local roads are taken care of.

Andrew Mutch was one of several council members concerned about the change, and is still hesitant to call it a success.

Please see SNOW, B2

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Wiktorowski, Novi DPS field operations senior manager, hooks a hose to the back of one of the city's plows to show the new brine solution the city is using to battle icy conditions on the roads. By liquefying road salt, the city is able to use it more precisely and it will be more effective at lower temperatures.



Changes to Novi's snow removal policy is saving the city money, and advancements in technology will help continue that money-saving trend in the future.

SNOW
FROM PAGE B1

"So far so good right now," he said. "I haven't heard too many complaints but the jury is still out because we have had a pretty mild winter... It may be a couple years until we see if it is working or not."

After the first 30 days, the department of public services has received only six complaints and spent just \$81,000 on total labor. During that same time frame in 2007-2009, the city had 18 storms, DPS received 116 complaints and labor costs were \$140,000. In 2008-2009, there were 16 storms, 44 complaints and labor costs of \$181,000.

Matt Wiktorowski, DPS field operations senior manager, said the reduced number of complaints is likely the result of the weather and a new automated phone system that gives residents winter maintenance information to help answer questions.

Under the new policy, the city is currently saving about \$1,800 per storm event by not paying overtime.

Another place the city is seeing savings is in the amount of salt being used on the roads. Through all of last year the city used 9,900 tons, this year it is on pace to only use 7,500 tons.

Weather also is a factor in that number, but utilizing new technology has been key. The city has nine trucks outfitted with applicators that pre-wet the salt with brine.

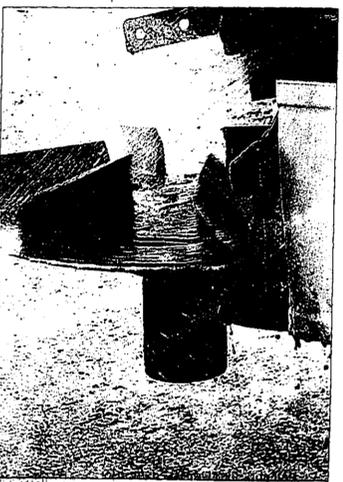
Rob Hayes, city engineer, said pre-wetting the salt activates it quicker and eliminates bounce and scatter. It also keeps the salt from going into drains and streams.

They also are mixing de-icers with brine because it prevents a bond from occurring on the pavement and keeps the roads safer.

"Our drivers notice the difference," Wiktorowski said. "They are not having to go out several times and the results are much better."

At the end of winter, DPS will be giving a final report to council.

"My focus will always be on resident satisfaction and are we maintaining the roads in a safe and passable way," Muteh said.



A brine solution is sprayed on the rock salt as it comes out of an applicator attached to the plows.

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Mayor assures residents city will thrive in 2010



Economic development key to success

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi Mayor David Landry knows the economic climate facing the city and state is going to force the council and administration to make some tough decisions in the near future.

And at the 2010 State of the City Address, Landry announced that there will be some "belt tightening" but assured residents that services will not be compromised as a result.

"We will not panic and we will not manage this city out of fear," he told the large audience gathered at the Rock Financial Showplace last Thursday.

The focus in 2010 will be on economic development, an area he said is "a major reason we are doing so well." Attracting diverse businesses, which Novi has done successfully over the last few years, remains a top priority and will help the city better cope with an expected \$3.8 million decrease in 2010.

"Economic development not only raises taxable values, but a diverse tax base provides a stabilizing effect," Landry said.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Attendees of the 2010 State of the City Address listen to Novi Mayor David Landry's speech last Thursday.

The mayor's address highlighted the accomplishments of several areas of the city including public services and the school district.

He is proud that Novi boasts an unemployment rate (5.9 percent) that is much lower than the state's rate of 14.7 percent, that home values in Novi are not declining as fast as other areas in the county and that of the 327 home foreclosures that took place in 2008-2009, 226 were resold.

Fixing roads will continue to be a top priority, especially

Grand River Avenue and Novi Road between Grand River and Ten Mile Road. The Novi Road project, which is funded by the county and the city, could be back on the books this year if the county comes up with its portion of the money.

The city also will be analyzing a study done on the police and fire departments to find ways save money in those areas as well.

"We are going to decrease expenses by becoming more efficient," he said.

In closing, Landry put to

rest some resident's fears that Novi is in worse financial shape than officials are letting on. He noted that the millage rate of 10.5416 mills hasn't changed in 10 years, that the city ended 2009 \$1.4 million in the black and that the ending fund balance of 17.5 percent is the highest the city has had in years.

"To me, this answers the question -- 'Is the city being conservative with my tax dollars?'" he said.

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EDUCATION

High school group brings social issues to the forefront

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Senior Ashleigh Bowne is the girl who is never satisfied and always wants to be better than her friends.

Then there's junior Michael Cauchi who really wants to have a beer.

Don't forget about Elizabeth Miller who is uncomfortable in her own body and lacks self-confidence.

And keep in mind that Courtney Morelock is about to start college and doesn't know a single person.

Actually those descriptions are not intended for the people named, but they are in fact scenarios every high school student across the country faces. These four Novi High School students just happen to be part of a social issue theater troupe called (*awkward pause...*) that takes such scenarios and performs them for their peers in a way that gets students thinking and at times brings comfort.

"A lot of times parents and teachers don't understand what we are going through, and we are a group of teens so we understand because we face similar problems," Bowne said. "We aren't here to tell students what to think, but just to think."

(*awkward pause...*) was started by teacher Heather McKaig during the 2003-2004 school year, and the mission statement is "to create an awkward pause that provokes thought and inspires discussion." The group features about 20 students, some with theater backgrounds and others who are stepping on stage for the first time.

"The idea is to hold a mirror up to our audience and hope they see themselves in it and ask themselves questions," McKaig said. "We are trying to get kids to see the consequences, both



Members of the Novi High School drama group (*awkward pause...*) finish a rehearsal of their "Facebook" sketch on a recent Thursday night in the school's black box theatre.



Novi High School student and (*awkward pause...*) troupe member Chris Gray rehearses his skit for an upcoming show.



(*awkward pause...*) troupe member Katherine Ferris rehearses a scene from their "Facebook" sketch on Jan. 21.

good and bad." The group performs several times throughout the school year, including a shows for just freshman and sophomores and a spring break show catered to juniors and seniors.

The shows feature a combination of funny and serious skits and cover topics that are grade specific. They talk about funny issues with Facebook, stereotypes students face daily and other social issues. Every session ends with a talk-back session that encourages discussion between the audience and cast.

Miller said the shows are intended to make people feel more comfortable about issues they may not want to bring up with their parents or even their friends.

"We are representatives of what they are feeling and going through in high school," she said.

Morelock, who graduated from Novi High School last year and was in the troupe, said being in (*awkward pause...*) meant a lot to her.

"What we do also is very therapeutic to ourselves and we hope it is to others as well," she said. "I hope through this we touch other people."

At the end of February, the group will be heading up north to perform at four different high schools. McKaig said she hopes both her students, and the students they will be performing for, see they all share similar experiences despite being from completely different areas.

But the ultimate goal, as it is for every show, will be to have a positive influence on someone's life.

"If one person thinks about a decision they are about to make then we will have done our job," Cauchi said.

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Futuristic Cities teach tomorrow's leaders

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

You won't find Neopolis on a map, but the futuristic ideas found in this and other make believe places spawned by an area competition taught students to apply math, science and engineering skills in real life situations.

"Not everyone has the same idea," explained Derek Blunden, a Northville Christian School student who attended the Michigan Regional Future City Competition Monday at Rock Financial in Novi.

Learning about teamwork was key while students worked for months to develop prototypes of their cities.

"It helped me grow and widened my appreciation for math and science," explains Luke Kohlmeier, a student at St. Valentine School in Redford. He was among a team of student presenters who spent the morning Monday talking to judges about the school's model city.

The winner of this year's competition is Birney Middle School in Southfield. Second to fifth place winners, in order, were St. John Lutheran, Rochester, St. Joseph School, Lake Orion; St. Valentine School and Power Middle School in Farmington.

The competition included 24 living spaces designed by more than 700 seventh and eighth grade students from Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties.

Long before the Haiti earthquake disaster, the Michigan Regional Future City Competition asked students to

create affordable living spaces for people who have lost their homes due to disasters or financial emergencies.

Collectively the students spent thousands of hours planning, designing and applying their math and science skills hoping for the "Best City of the Future" title.

Birney students created "SCUBIE: Spherical Contained Quality Underwater Building Establishment" designed for the year 3008. This is the fifth year that the school has taken part in the competition.

Sponsored and organized by The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD), the program challenged students to ensure that the living space they created was made of sustainable materials, have a low-carbon emissions footprint and achieve the "Green Ideals" of energy efficient buildings.

St. Valentine student Madelyn Omietanski, said she developed a love for math and science while using formulas for the school's make believe city, Neopolis, which is based in the year 2230 on the coast of Tasmania. It runs on fusion energy and the housing has green roofing and solar panels.

"It taught us how math and science are used in the real world," Omietanski said. "The more I learned, I realized how fun math and science can be. It inspired me and made me think."

Novi Middle School student, Nithin Adapa, said that while working on his school's prototype city he realized he didn't want to become a city designer, "because it's way too much

work." He's leaning toward becoming a doctor or another type of engineer.

Working two hours a day for two months on the Universal Mall, Northville Christian students designed apartment complexes inside mountains.

Some of the other entries included, "EcoTropolis," a city located in Australia that uses plasma gasification to remove waste.

Each team, which worked under the guidance of an engineer and a teacher, was asked to display residential, commercial and industrial areas, power plants, transportation systems, community services and communication systems.

They had to consider environmental controls and traffic density, as well as calculate tax needs and develop operating budgets using SimCity software. Their city models had to include recycled materials.

Students developed their problem-solving skills and teamwork strategies, as well as research and presentation skills while increasing their awareness of community related issues.

Birney Middle School students will go on to represent Michigan in the national competition in Washington, D.C., Feb. 14-20 during National Engineers Week.

"Future City is a unique competition in that it allows students to apply concepts to solve real-life problems," said Ron Smith, ESD's Director of Education.

The competition is funded in part by the DTE Energy Foundation and the Ford Motor Company Fund.

NOVI ON CAMPUS

Michigan Tech

The following Novi students were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester, earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher: Brian Gulewich, senior, construction management; Ashal Shah, senior, mechanical engineering; and Andrew Shaw, freshman, biomedical engineering.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Scholarships

Community Financial, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth (CFP) and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF), will be awarding 11 \$1,000 scholarships in April. Applications

can only be made online by going to <http://scholarships.egant.org>, creating an account and logging in. Read the guidelines for our "Community Financial Margaret Dunning and George Lawton Scholarships." Deadline to submit four copies of your application is March 5.

Novi Educational Foundation Invites you to the

2010 Green Gala

Olympic Celebration

March 27th at the Rock Financial Showplace

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- ★ Hors d'oeuvres and Desserts
- ★ Live and Silent Auction
- ★ Music, Dancing and Games
- ★ Chances to win raffle prizes donated by local merchants
- ★ Cash Bar

Your participation will help the Novi Educational Foundation, in its 23rd year, to continue providing scholarships and teacher grants throughout the district. Your support will help make a difference in Novi education.

Event Information

When: Saturday, March 27th beginning at 7 PM

Where: Rock Financial Showplace, Novi, MI

Price: \$60.00/person



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www.NoviEducationalFoundation.org





Rock the Box

Microwave Terrific (above) takes the stage on Jan. 22 for Novi High's Rock the Box fund-raiser to benefit the school's instrumental music program.



PHOTOS BY JOHN REIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senate panel approves taxpayer-friendly bill

Taxpayer-friendly legislation that I sponsored to help promote recycling and reuse of heavy equipment parts was approved by the Senate Finance Committee and took the first step toward passage on the Senate floor.



Nancy Cassis

This is about green jobs. Recycling heavy equipment components for reuse protects our environment and employs hundreds of Michigan workers.

headquartered in Novi for more than 66 years and now employs more than 500 people statewide.

Senate Republicans announce significant reforms

Along with my colleagues, I hear weekly from constituents that government spending is out-of-control. Michigan job providers and families have been tightening their belts and adjusting their budgets for years.

Over the next several weeks, the Senate Reforms and Restructuring Committee will hold hearings on these proposals.

Legislators anticipate hearing Gov. Jennifer Granholm lay out her plans when she delivers her final State of the State address on Wednesday, Feb. 3 beginning at 7 p.m.

Governor's State of the State address on Feb. 3

Legislators anticipate hearing Gov. Jennifer Granholm lay out her plans when she delivers her final State of the State address on Wednesday, Feb. 3 beginning at 7 p.m.

We all know that Michigan job providers and families are struggling. Instead of increasing their tax burden, I hope the governor will balance the 2010/2011 budget through reforms and restructuring - not by raising taxes.

Nancy Cassis is the state senator for Oakland County's 15th District: Commerce Twp., Highland Twp., Holly Twp., Lyon Twp., Milford Twp., Northville city (part), Novi city, Novi Twp., Orchard Lake city, Rose Twp., South Lyon city, Walled Lake city, West Bloomfield Twp., White Lake Twp. and Wilom city. Visit www.SenatorNancyCassis.com for the latest information and updates on issues in Lansing, or contact her toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

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G. VICTOR CARLESS Age 55, Jan. 23, 2010. Funeral was January 22 at Orchard United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills. Donations may be made to Fox Run Benevolent Fund.

DR. RICHARD ALLEN CHASE Age 68, of South Lyon, passed away on January 25, 2010 at his home, surrounded by family.

DR. MELISSA M. (FAULKNER) MOTSKALL Of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away on January 20, 2010. Wife of Jon and loving mother of Nanette and Alexis.

ROSEMARY BANNON FINN Age 74, Jan. 20, 2010. Funeral was Jan. 23 at St. Colette Church, Livonia. Donations can be made to Food For The Poor.

PAUL SCOTT FISHER Age 57, of South Lyon, passed away Jan. 20, 2010. Memorial service was held Sat., Jan. 23, 2010 at Salem Walker Church.

First-ever designer Passover tables event at Temple Beth El on Feb. 4

In advance of the Jewish holiday of Passover, metro-Detroiters will have the opportunity to mingle and admire more than 20 exotic Passover "tablescapes" innovated by the area's most creative interior designers.

According to Elise Foltyn, who co-chairs the event along with Fair Radom, "This event is not necessarily just about using your most beautiful linens and finest china. It's about incorporating those beautiful pieces into a tablescape that reflects your own special sentiment or makes a bold statement. It will provide guests a venue to gather table-setting ideas to apply to their own dining room tables - and not necessarily just for Passover."

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Matt Quinn Novi resident Matthew C. Quinn, a partner at Royal Oak-based Gabe, Quinn & Seymour PLLC (www.gabequinnseymour.com) with additional offices in Novi at 28200 Town Center Drive, Suite 145, was recognized by SuperLawyers magazine among the top Michigan attorneys in government/court appointed mediator.

the City of Lathrup Village and the township attorney for the Charter Township of Lyon. Quinn is the former Mayor of Novi from 1987-93. Quinn is a member of the American Bar Association (section of state and local government law), State Bar of Michigan (real property law section and the public law section), Oakland County Bar Association, the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, and Michigan Association of Planners. He is also an Oakland County Circuit Court appointed mediator.

Parker & Kenny Craig and Linda Parker of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Dr. Megan Parker DVM, to Dr. Howard Kenny DVM, son of Dr. James Kenny DVM and Noreen Kenny of Clawson, Ireland. Both the bride-to-be and groom-elect live in Clawson, Mich. She is a graduate of Michigan State University. He is a graduate of the University of Dublin. Her grandparents are Frank and Mickey Elias of Novi. A summer 2011 wedding is planned.

Corbin & Helmick Major Adam R. Corbin and Miss Amanda L. Helmick, together with their families, are pleased to announce their engagement. The bride-to-be is the daughter of the late Donald Helmick of Cumberland, Maryland and Edward Button of Hagerstown, Maryland and the late Deborah Button. Amanda graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in advertising and marketing. She works as an orthopedic and urology medical sales specialist in Charleston, WV. The prospective groom is the son of Robert and Jeannelle Corbin of Farmington Hills. Adam graduated from the University of Michigan with a

bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is currently serving as a C-130 pilot in the West Virginia Air National Guard. A July 2010 wedding is planned.

Your Invitation to Worship

Worship listings for Brighton, Milford, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, White Lake, and Plymouth. Includes church names, addresses, and service times.

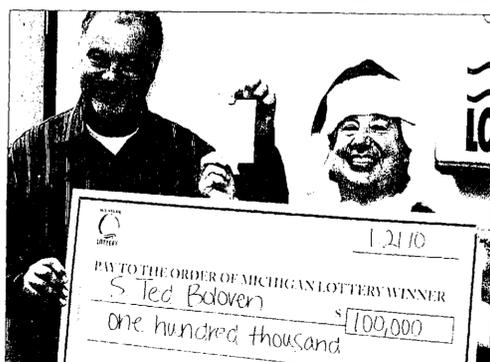
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstowne@hometownlife.com...

Church of the Holy Family Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org

Crosspointe Meadows Church Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dcnazarene.org

Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tae Kwon Do



Lottery winner

On Christmas Eve, Soterios Boloven's (left) brother Steve, dressed as Santa Claus, presented him with a Michigan Lottery Millionaire Raffle ticket...

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchoftheholycross.com

First Baptist Church of Northville Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: (248) 348-1020

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church Location: 45300 W. 11 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org

First Presbyterian Church of Northville Location: 200 E. Main St. Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpresville.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Location: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi Contact: (248) 349-0565

Orchard Hills Baptist Church Location: 23455 Novi Road Contact: Pastor Jon Iix (248) 349-5665

Our Shepherd Presbyterian Church Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth Contact: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891

St. James Catholic Location: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi Contact: (248) 347-7778

St. John Lutheran Church Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills Contact: (248) 474-0584 or visit stjohnlutheran.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Location: 201 Elm St., Northville Contact: (248) 349-3140

Unitarian Universalist Church of Farmington Location: 25301 Halstead Road, Farmington Hills Contact: www.uufarmington.org

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church Location: 40000 Six Mile Road Contact: (248) 374-7400 or (248) 374-5978

YOUTH INTERFAITH JOURNEY Time/Date: 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays Details: This religious education program is open to the public and currently enrolling new students.

Advertisement for Great Lakes Dermatology featuring Michael R. Cohen, D.O., Board Certified Dermatologist, specializing in skin, hair, and nail care.

Advertisement for Ferndale Blues Festival, featuring Svedka and Paramount Vodka, presented by MetroTimes.

Advertisement for Thera-Gesic Pain Cream, highlighting its effectiveness for real pain therapy.

Advertisement for a new furnace, offering a 45% off heater sale and free estimates.

Advertisement for Stay Warm, Spend Less on Heat.com, featuring updated infrared heater technology.

Advertisement for Thera-Gesic Pain Cream, stating it really works and comparing it to other products.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9-10 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children 9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT 7 p.m.: Adult elective classes; jr. and sr. high student ministries; children's programs (M-Pact Girls Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade) - contact (248) 348-9031

Novi - Northville Center for Jewish Life Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.

Novi United Methodist Location: 46171 W. 10 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit umc-novi.com

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PUBLIC SAFETY

CEMS to move into fire stations

Residents should expect better level of service

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The Novi City Council on Monday unanimously approved a contract allowing Community Emergency Medical Services access to two fire stations in Novi in an effort to increase their coverage area.

Fire Station No. 3, which is located on the south side of Nine Mile Road east of Novi Road, will house CEMS from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the week and 24 hours on the weekends. Old Fire Station No. 4, near Providence Park Hospital, was unused, but now will be occupied by CEMS 24 hours a day.

Mayor David Landry said the move is a "great idea" because 73 percent of the calls out of Fire Station No. 3 are between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"We already have these ambulances in the city, but the fact that we are dedicating them to this area makes us more efficient," he said. "And I would certainly expect this is going to reduce response times."

Prior to approval of the contract, CEMS regularly posted in select parking lots throughout Novi. The move to permanent locations is expected to reduce response times, requiring CEMS to make 90 percent of its runs within seven and a half minutes as opposed to eight.

'The whole key to this is location, location, location. By moving the ambulances into these stations it will increase the coverage for the city of Novi as well as decrease service time when the ambulance goes out.'

LARRY RAGNONE, CEMS logistics manager

generate revenue for the city as CEMS will pay \$600 per month rent for using old Fire Station No. 4.

"The whole key to this is location, location, location," said Larry Ragnone, logistics manager at CEMS. "By moving the ambulances into these stations it will increase the coverage for the city of Novi as well as decrease service time when the ambulance goes out."

Ragnone also said that when one ambulance leaves the station another one from the area is moved into a strategic location to ensure there always is coverage.

Council member David Staudt said he hoped a third phase of the proposal, which was not included in Monday's contract, also happens. That phase would allow CEMS to share occupancy at Fire Station No. 3 during the daytime hours as well.

"I hope we can make that determination quickly," he said.

The contract also is going to

Drunk driver caught with improper plate

Novi police arrested a man at 12:06 a.m. on Jan. 19 for drunk driving after an officer observed the man speeding on Novi Road, north of Thirteen Mile Road, and having an improper license plate.

According to the report, the officer caught up to the speeding vehicle and after running the plate, found it was supposed to be attached to a Chrysler Town and Country and not the Ford Explorer it was on.

After stopping the vehicle, he approached the driver who smelled strongly of intoxicants. The man said he did not have enough money to pay for the plate transfer and admitted to drinking three beers.

He failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .21 percent. The legal limit for drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

The man was arrested and issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and improper plate. He was lodged at the Novi Police Department and released when sober.

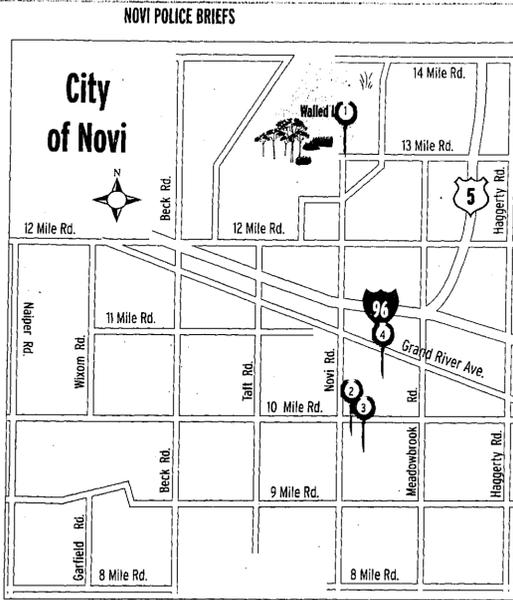
Woman caught driving drunk

A 25-year-old Novi woman was arrested at 1:43 a.m. on Jan. 24 for drunk driving after turning without a signal and drifting in her lane while traveling on Novi Road near Arena Drive.

The officer observed the vehicle touch the center lane line a couple times and when she stopped for the red light at Grand River Avenue, she was ahead of the white line on the pavement.

She admitted to drinking and told police she felt "buzzed."

The woman was unable to pass field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content



of .22 percent. The legal limit for drivers is .08 percent.

She was arrested and issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released when sober.

SUV vandalized by unknown suspect

A Pontiac man had the tires on his Range Rover slashed while it was parked between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Jan. 22 outside of an apartment on Riverside Drive.

The victim said he discovered both passenger side tires were slashed in the morning by an unknown object and person.

Police have no suspects at this time and the case has been forwarded to the detective's bureau for further investigation.

Mailboxes damaged

Several mailboxes on different streets in the city were damaged last weekend.

One incident occurred on Bethany Way, where the homeowner said a neighbor from down the street brought his mailbox to him earlier in the day on Jan. 24. The man said he did not know who might have done it, and the same incident occurred about two years ago.

In a similar incident on Scarborough Lane, three mailboxes were dented and a fourth was found in a neighbor's yard. One of the victims said they saw a dark-colored truck cruising through the subdivision late Saturday night and the damaged mailboxes were found Sunday morning.

Another incident took place on Bloomfield Court, where the owner called police after his mailbox was shattered. A neighbor said they saw a vehicle in the area and she heard a loud noise but was unable to see what was hit.

Police have no suspects in any of the incidents.

Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

Home health care workers charged in Northville thefts

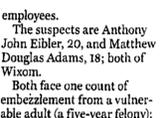
Two Home Health Care workers have been charged with multiple felonies stemming from a series of thefts from a Northville Township family.

The wife hired the Whitmore Lake based company to assist in the care of her 66-year-old husband who has Alzheimer's. The thefts occurred over a two-three month period. The suspects stole jewelry and cash from the residents' home and pawned the jewelry at a gold exchange store located in Howell.

The homeowner became suspicious when she noticed some of their jewelry items missing from the home and



Eibler



Adams

Camper, RV show rolling into Rock

The annual Detroit Camper & RV Show is coming to Rock Financial Showplace Feb. 10-14.

See all types of new recreation vehicles with over 200 units and 50 brands displayed; folding campers, motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, park models and fifth wheel travel trailers, ranging in price from \$4,999 to more than \$400,000. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the RV industry, the show will feature a special historical display showcasing some of the earliest RVs in the country.

Booths featuring parts and accessories, campground information, on site RV financing and RV rentals make this the complete RV show experience. Consumers can pick up the new 2010 RV & Campsite guide to camping and RV dealers in Michigan (now includes coupons). Enjoy special discounts on folding campers from

\$4,999; trailers from \$8,999; motorhomes from \$49,999. 2009 model closets and discounts on 2010 models plus, manufacturer rebates on select RVs. Admission costs \$9 for 13 and older; free for children 12 and under; \$5 for seniors ages 55 and older on Feb. 10-11. "Select your discount" coupons are available on www.marvac.org, at southeast Michigan and Flint area Sunoco and Big Boy restaurants. With this special coupon, consumers can choose one of three discounts offered — \$1 off adult admission any day; senior admission for \$5 on Wednesday or Thursday, or 2-for-1 admittance coupon on Friday.

Advertisement for Got Game? featuring sports equipment and the slogan 'Yep, got scores, too.'

Fight PROSTATE CANCER

If you have prostate cancer, and are considering radiation treatment, put that radiation precisely where it will do the most good. GPS for the Body® provides maximum radiation benefits while minimizing the chance of damaging healthy tissue or causing unwanted side effects.

Fight your prostate cancer with the pinpoint accuracy of GPS for the Body® — the most advanced technology available today.

Find out more about GPS for the Body® by calling one of our nurse advisors.

GPS for the Body® Precision Guidance for Radiation Therapy

1888-316-4031 gpsforthebody.com

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS Forums: Be part of Novi school district's future

Next month, residents of Novi will have five opportunities to voice their opinions on how the local school district should budget its money.

Focus on our Future forums will be held at the five elementary schools from 7-9:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 (Orchard Hills), 9 (Novi Woods), 10 (Deerfield), 24 (Village Oaks).

Each forum will have an overview, interactive presentation and a survey. Those who can't attend will be able to offer input via an electronic or paper survey.

The forums will also provide a detailed look at the district's \$66 million budget, breaking down the costs for programs, services, salaries, etc. as well as funding sources — local, state, federal, etc.

Knowing where the money comes from and how it's spent are key steps in determining what to cut, what to keep and what to change.

The district recently privatized its custodial services, resulting in significant savings. A controversial, tough decision — one of many more that will have to be made as education funding shows no indication of improving.

Be a part of that process and share your thoughts with the district. While others are racing to the top, Novi is there. Your input can help maintain that position.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices, on the Web at hometownlife.com.

Man arrested after bullet goes through neighbor's window

Drinking at four-o'clock in the afternoon playing with a gun? He was licensed to carry a concealed pistol? It is my understanding that before you can become licensed to carry a pistol you have to go through a great deal of safety training. A gun in untrained hands scares me, but a drunk with a gun? I don't feel safe having this guy walking around with a gun in public. It has to be gun school training 101 that guns and alcohol don't mix. I hope our Police and Prosecutor's Office look closely look at his training and drinking and take away his license to carry a pistol.

concerned49377

School board to consider hiring two employees

OK, I can possibly understand the Dean vs Assistant Principal position, but are we seriously considering hiring an Executive Secretary? What are our administrators thinking?

rebeightone

NOVI NEWS

GANNETT

Cal Stone
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor / Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What will be your favorite sport to watch in the Winter Olympics in Vancouver?



Well, of course, figure skating ... I've skated my whole life and I've coached at Novi Ice Arena, and because we've got some Olympic hopefuls who've skated in Novi.

Tracie Nussbaum
Novi



Oh, man, for me it's got to be hockey because hockey's favored this year. The U.S. has a strong team.

Bob Drake
Wixom



I love them all. But probably the extreme sports: snowboarding and skiing.

Kim Woods
Commerce Township



We watch all the Olympics, but probably skiing, downhill. The problem with the Olympics is that you forget which sports there are until they come around

Jon Robison
Novi

LETTERS

Is raising taxes the solution?

This is in response to Tom Watkins' challenge to candidates for public office this year. First, let me say this is not an announcement of candidacy by me. That being said, I've reviewed some of Mr. Watkins' statements.

Not seeing effort by any political party at job creation. What about the tax credit for filmmaking brought about by Gov. Granholm and the Democrats? It is working! People are rushing in for training and are getting jobs with the possibility for more. All the while, the Republicans keep scaring investors with talk of retracting it, thus slowing job creation.

Next, "standard party cheers — cut taxes/raise taxes." Well I agree with half that: "cut taxes" is the standard answer for Republicans and in so doing has poisoned the public's mind to any honest debate on taxes. As they say, two things in life are certain — death and taxes. No one is off of either. One is unavoidable; the other, a necessity.

As his challenge for the candidates to make their case to cut or raise taxes to create jobs, he shouldn't expect any candidates to opt for the raise-taxes option. I made that mistake in 2008 and it brought an onslaught of mass mailing attacking me, but it did get my name and face into homes I could not reach. If I were a candidate, however, I would, as I did before, propose unemployment compensation not be listed as taxable income as it wasn't before Gov. John Engler made it so. Would this tax cut create any jobs? Maybe, but even if it didn't it would ease the burden as one looks, trains and awaits that next job. Besides, is it right to make someone without a job pay taxes for not having a job?

In 2009, economists stated national unemployment rose to a level not seen since 1983. That was two years into Reagan's tax-cut, trickle-down economics.

FDR raised taxes and got the country out of the Great Depression. Bill Clinton raised taxes, the economy boomed and gave us a budget surplus. And, yes, Jim Blanchard raised taxes and, to coin a phrase, "fixed a hole in the roof."

So we can ask working people to forgo something like a lunch at McDonald's per week, or tell the job seekers to go there and seek employment.

Am I saying raise taxes? No, at least not publicly (and, remember, I am not currently a candidate). Let's see if any candidates take the challenge.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Is Kennedy's cause dead?

The late Sen. Edward (Ted) Kennedy served in the U.S. Senate for 47 years, being second only to Michigan's Sen. John Dingell. Sen. Kennedy said many times that universal health care was the "cause of his life."

It's very sad that the year following Sen. Kennedy's death, any type of concrete health care reform is dead in the water. In addition, his successor, Scott Brown, is a Republican to the right of Sen. John McCain, who defends waterboarding as a interrogation technique.

At least he did speak respectfully of Sen. Kennedy in his acceptance speech.

Linda A. Koch
Milford

Let's Save Michigan — an idea whose time has come

The day started with Brunch with Bach at the Detroit Institute of the Arts, nurtured by an eye-opening exhibit of the Work Projects Administration (WPA). It featured 100 prints of the Depression-era WPA federal art project, which employed thousands of artists during the Great Depression.

It ended with Let's Save Michigan. Let's Save Michigan is a grass-roots campaign to inspire Michiganders to advocate and get informed about public policy that will help cities attract a talented workforce vital for an innovative, knowledge economy. It is supported by the Michigan Municipal League. The goal is to not only have a skilled and talented workforce, but also have an army of people willing to take action to improve their communities.

Jacob Bronowski, the noted intellectual, mathematician and biologist at Cambridge University, perhaps captured the essence of Let's Save Michigan best when he remarked, "The world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation."

Let's Save Michigan is attempting to take action and engage Michiganders to take ownership of our state's future. The Let's Save Michigan movement is using social media outlets such as Facebook (www.facebook.com/letsavemichigan) and the Internet (www.letsavemichigan.com) to help spread its message.

A 20-something Sean Mann, is the engine behind Let's Save Michigan. "Our goal is to raise awareness about the importance of quality urban communities that are safe, have vibrant arts and cultural activities, walkable neighborhoods, decent jobs and a strong education system. The desire is to push these vital, sustainable, quality-of-life issues into the debate leading up to the crucial 2010 statewide elections," Mann said.

As I wandered through the DIA's WPA Depression-era art, soaking in how the artist captured the human misery and triumph during this period of our history, I thought how sad it is that art funding is another casualty of Michigan's economic downturn. I wish we had the art funding to put artists to work capturing how the global, disruptive and transformational economy is changing Michigan.

No one is coming to our state's rescue. It is collectively up to all of us to pull together and rebuild our state and state.

First my true believe — and then act. Let's Save Michigan.

Tom Watkins of Northville is a business and educational consultant. He served the citizens of the state as superintendent of public instruction (2001-05) and an elected member of the Wayne County Charter Commission (1980-82). Write to him at towatkins@aol.com.

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COMMENTARY

remaining finalists. Details on the poster competition, which runs Dec. 15 through Feb. 15, are at www.letsavemichigan.com. It has posters in the fashion of Works Progress Administration artwork of the Great Depression to highlight turnaround efforts and rally Michigan residents to revive the state, which has been leading the parade of economic decline the past decade.

The DIA is a beacon of inspiration and hope. Let's Save Michigan strongly believes with the right policies and leaders in place, Michigan can create the vibrant communities that will attract 21st century innovative/knowledge workers critically needed to help rebuild our state.

They believe our cities — Detroit, Grand Rapids, Pontiac, Saginaw, Flint and other struggling urban centers — can be the epicenter of Michigan's rebirth.

Let's make Michigan the place it can be — and the place it needs to be for us all to thrive. Michigan can emerge from the current economic downturn stronger, more livable and more likely to withstand future economic crises, but only if we persuade our elected officials to put the right policies in place.

COME TOGETHER To save Michigan, we must come together and fight for smart reinvestment in our cities. Struggling cities shouldn't be abandoned to sprawl and blight.

Let's Save Michigan believes our cities should be transformed into centers for culture and innovation to become the magnets for a talented workforce and tomorrow's job creators.

Michigan helped lay the groundwork for the American middle class. Yet, as we also know, our world has changed in substantial ways and doing what we have always done will not get us where we need to go. What we need now is a new reality. We must seize the opportunity to redefine and rebuild our great state. Clinging to our past successes will not enable us to obtain and maintain future greatness.

The arts have away of refreshing the soul and nurturing the spirit. Refresh yours at the DIA. Check it out on the Web, www.dia.org, and in person.

Be reminded of the strength of the American people by viewing the prints from the Depression-era WPA federal art project. Then check out and take action to help revitalize Michigan by joining with Let's Save Michigan.

No one is coming to our state's rescue. It is collectively up to all of us to pull together and rebuild our state and state.

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Pageant watch

Novi's very own Miss Michigan Nicole Blaszczyk, 22, will vie for the title of Miss America at 8 p.m. Saturday on TLC. Blaszczyk, who graduated from Novi High School, overcame back-to-back runner-up finishes at Oakland and Wayne county pageants in 2007 and 2008 to win the state's top honor in 2009.

Her talent is lyrical dance, which she honed at Sheryl's School of Dance in Novi and her platform is Families Facing Substance Abuse: Support Survival and Prevention.

Michigan's Kirsten Haglund is the most recent winner of Miss America when she won in 2008, and she also was the first teenager to wear the Miss America crown.

Free investment classes at library

The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of Better Investing will offer two free investment classes. Learn about excellent stock and mutual fund research tools — both online and paper based — and ways to use them to improve your selections by utilizing these library resources. On Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 7-8 p.m. "Introduction to Morningstar" and on Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7-8 p.m. "Introduction to Value Line" will be presented at the Novi Public Library, 4294 S.W. 10 Mile Road.

Prior registration is requested. Email registration@semichbetterinvesting.net or call (734) 233-4290.

Musical troupe to perform in Novi

Wayne State University's Confucius Institute will be sponsoring the nationally recognized Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) Musical Troupe on Jan. 29 at the Novi High School Auditorium. The 23-member troupe will perform a number of traditional and contemporary Chinese songs and dances.

The evening will feature a champagne raffle, a chance to have your photo taken in a photo booth and dancing to the sounds of the Simone Winale Band. The co-hosts for the event are Julie Curry and Charlotte Walker. Committee members include Andria Bohaj, Lauri Bolo-Schreuder, MGN-NC-P, Ann Conrad, Susan Glassford, Lori Gresham, Kathie Hantamaki, Michael Jacobs, M.D., Sue Kolachalam, JoAnne Leslie, Maureen McCorry, Denise McLean, Beverly J. Moore, M. Elizabeth Moore, Rita Raina, OD, Jackie Schwartz, Nina Shah, Carol Shager, Jennifer Stewart, Courtney Tegre, Betsy Thompson, Sandy Tohar and Marilyn Wick.

To become a corporate sponsor for the event, please add in the program book or donate an item to the silent auction, please contact Providence Health Foundation at (248) 849-5744.

Computer for beginners

"Computers for Beginners" will be offered at the Walled Lake City Library on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. Each session is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required as there is limited space. To register, call the Walled Lake City Library at (248) 624-3772.

Coffee with Crawford

State Rep. Hugh D. Crawford today announced the opportunity for local residents to meet with him in the community.

Coffee with Crawford will be at the Coffee Beanery,

Friends' Ball to benefit Providence

The Providence Health Foundation 2010 Friends' Ball will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 6 p.m. at the Diamond Court at Rock Financial Showplace, Novi. This year, Art Van Elslander will receive the prestigious Order of Charity award and physicians Bruce H. Kole, M.D., Daniel R. Piper, M.D., Bruce M. Silverman, D.O., and Teck-Mun So, M.D., will be the recipients of the Caduceus

When Taking on the IRS, Get Professional Help

You receive an audit or collection letter from the IRS. What do you do? Get professional help. There is an old proverb, "He who acts as his own lawyer has a fool for a client." When dealing with the IRS, you should retain a lawyer or accountant to represent you. For the initial audit, at least, this might be the accountant who prepared your tax return.

Why is it so critical to retain professional representation at the outset? Is it OK to see how the audit goes first, and then retain a lawyer or accountant if necessary?

Depending on the nature and amount of the tax, whether a return was filed on time and other factors, there are many strategic issues to consider at the outset of a tax case. Waiting to see how the audit goes first may foreclose strategies that otherwise might have been available. Listed below are some of the key

factors in a tax case: • What type of tax or tax return is involved? • What is the likelihood of a tax assessment and for how much? • Are there defenses? • Was the same issue audited in one or more prior years, and what was the result? • Is there a chance of a criminal tax case? • Will your spouse be jointly and severally liable? • Will your spouse be eligible for innocent spouse relief? • Will the audit be conducted via mail, at the IRS offices or at your business? • Is that process controllable? • Will you be able to pay the liability if one is assessed? • Can an Offer in Compromise be submitted? • Will the IRS accept a payment plan? • Are the taxes dischargeable in

bankruptcy? Will they be dischargeable in bankruptcy in one, two or several years? • What is the statute of limitations? • What assets do you and your spouse have, and which can the IRS take to satisfy the liability? • When you take on the IRS, make sure you have a skilled professional in your corner.

If you need help with a tax case, feel free to contact Mr. W. Halley at (248) 457-7073 or mail to: W.Halley@bmlaw.com. Mr. Halley received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Michigan, and an advanced degree in tax law from Wayne State University. Mr. Halley was named one of the top corporate lawyers in metro-Detroit in the November, 2009, issue of *Business* magazine.

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(Right) Miss Michigan Nicole Blaszczyk, from Novi, stands with Buca di Beppo Paisano partner Ryan Smith and Miss Oklahoma Taylor Treat at Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant Las Vegas as the two women prepare for the 2010 Miss America Pageant. The pageant airs at 8 p.m. on Saturday on TLC.

located at 49328 Pontiac Trail in Wixom on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10-11:30 a.m.

"As your voice in Lansing, it is important for me to stay connected with your needs and ideas," said Crawford, R-Novi. "I look forward to this opportunity for local residents to express their thoughts and concerns, and discuss what is happening in Lansing and our community."

An appointment is not necessary for district office hours. Residents unable to meet Crawford during the scheduled office hours can contact him at (517) 373-0827 or by e-mail at hughcrawford@house.mi.gov to make an appointment.

Applicants for county's mental health authority sought

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is seeking interested citizens to volunteer to serve the community through appointment to the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority.

Four citizen representatives are sought to serve as members of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. The individuals selected by the Board will be responsible for assuring the provision of services and support to adults with mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances as well as persons with developmental disabilities.

The Board seeks to fill the following four vacancies on the Oakland County Mental Health Authority: • One individual Primary Consumer of Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), which is someone who is currently receiving services to serve on the Community Mental Health Authority.

• One individual Secondary Consumer of Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) which is someone who has a family member receiving mental health services from the Community Mental Health Authority. • Two individuals either from the General Public

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Glaucoma sneaks up on seniors

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.
 Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com or by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48176. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Travel Extravaganza
Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30
Location: Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia
Details: Find travel values, exclusive offers, rock-bottom pricing and travel experts to meet and talk with. Enter to win a three- or four-day cruise aboard Royal Caribbean International. Some of the participating vendors will be Royal Caribbean International, Apple Vacations, Carnival Cruise Lines, Delta Vacations, Universal Orlando, Cayman Islands Department of Tourism and much more.
Contact: Brookside Travel at (248) 344-4747

Gardeners Of Northville & Novi Club Meeting
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8
Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street

Social Time and garden lecture - Posture & Posies: guest will be physical therapist Renee Cottrell. The public is welcome.
Contact: gardenersnorthville-novi.org or Renee (248) 231-2334

Draw Nelson & Chris Buhalis Concert
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13
Location: Newport Furnishings, 52504 Grand River Avenue, Wixom
Details: Comfy Couch Concert with Chris Buhalis opening for Draw Nelson. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students ages 8-18.
Contact: <http://www.comfycouchconcerts.com>

American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays
Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck roads
Details: Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post.
Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or dstrikulis@mlr.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or pneric@aol.com.

BUSINESS

Metro Novi BNI
Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of 8 Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an elevator speech; develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.
Contact: For more information, contact Julie Faquette at 248-797-5665 or juliefaquette67@gmail.com; www.metrobninovi.com.

Novi Chamber of Commerce
 The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities.
Location: 41875 Hile Road #201, Novi
Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com.

Threads of Power - 11th Annual Philanthropic Breakfast
Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10
Location: Nordstrom at Twelve Oaks
Details: Join us in our philanthropic pursuit to support those who need a hand with gently used business clothing in order to re-enter the business world. Clothes will be donated to the Woman's Center of Southeast Michigan in Ann Arbor and to the Church of the Holy Family in Novi.
\$20 pre-registration + one item of clothing; \$30 at the door.
Novi Chamber / EWO Networking Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16
Location: Marriott Detroit Livonia, 7700 N. Laurel Park Dr., Livonia
Details: Ruth Ann Hallori of Innovation Network will speak on the topic "Get Creative to Build Your Business." \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16; \$30 at the door.
Business to Business Breakfast
Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Location: Haopion World of Rugs, 43223 Twelve Mile Rd., Novi
Details: Join us for networking and a light



Fancy Friday

Mrs. Lyon and Mrs. Stewart's kindergarten classes at Deerfield Elementary School celebrated Fancy Friday, Jan. 22 in honor of the letter 'F'. Students also did a weeklong author study of Jane O'Connor, author of the 'Fancy Nancy' books. They celebrated by dressing very fancy and ate fancy finger food (Fritos, fruit, fudge-striped cookies, Vienna fingers, goldfish, and fruit punch).

breakfast: \$5 payable at the door.

Novi Toastmasters Club
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday

Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome - and bring a friend! Visit www.novitostmasters.com

Novi Rotary Club
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road

Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information: novirotary.org.

NIGHTLIFE

Andiamo Novi / Dirty Martini Lounge / Andiamo Theater
Location: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 348-3838

Andiamo Lounge: local entertainers 8 p.m. Wednesdays; Old Vegas Night 6:30 p.m. and Dave Cronin 8:30 p.m. Thursdays; Pete Dimascio 8:30 p.m. Fridays; Laurie Johnson 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Andiamo Theater: "Act Your Wage - The Pink Slip and Fall of an Automotive CEO" 8 p.m. Wednesday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday, and 5 p.m. Sunday
Dirty Martini Lounge: Killer Flamigos 10 p.m. Thursday; DJ Whip 10 p.m. Friday; Paul Martindale 10 p.m. Saturday.

Liquor Store
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 305-8135

Mbarjo
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 374-3420

Bar Louie
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44375 12 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 662-1100

The Grapevine of Novi
Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 344-4044; www.thegrapevine-novi.com

Live music Saturdays: 8:30-midnight Jan. 30 - The Messarounds (dues)

The Post Bar
Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 465-9600
Wednesdays: WYLD! Wednesday with DJ Joey "A" & mc Jevon Hollywood
Thursdays: DJ Tommy Holiday
Fridays: Famous Friday with DJ IMIX & mc Jevon Hollywood
Mix Lounge
Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-6499 or mixnovi.com
Thursday-Saturday: DJ

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
Library Hours
Location: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1

a.m.-5 p.m. (September-May). The Library will be closed Monday, Jan. 18.
Details: Listed below are all programs take place at the library.

Contact: (248) 349-0720
Website: www.novipubliclibrary.org

Story Times: Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.
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Booked for Lunch
Time/Date: 12-1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.
Details: Join your neighbors in a lively book discussion during your lunch hour. Bring your lunch and the library will provide a beverage. This month's selection to be discussed is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein.

Intro To the Internet for Seniors
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.
Details: This class introduces the basics of the Internet in a relaxed, supportive environment. You will discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn about using search engines to find information. The class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Register online, by calling 248-349-0720 or stop by our welcome desk. Prerequisite: You must know the basics of using a computer mouse OR have taken "Mastering the Mouse for Seniors."

English Conversation Group
Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.
Details: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills. No need to register.
Friends Board Meeting
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.
Details: The Friends Board meets the second Wednesday of the month to discuss business, programming, etc.
Low Vision Help
Time/Date: 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11.
Details: What common eye diseases can lead to needing vision rehabilitation? Hear about low vision aids to help with daily living and what the library has to offer, as well. Presented by Dr. Amy Crissman, Doctor of Optometry. Call to register.
Better Investing with Morningstar
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11.
Details: BetterInvesting provides investor support and education through a nationwide network of volunteers. Bonnie Reyes from the Southeast Chapter will provide an informative presentation this evening. Learn how to utilize Morningstar to maximize your portfolio. Please register.
Wixom Public Library
Location: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Contact: (248) 624-2512 or visit wixomlibrary.org

Museum Adventure Pass
Details: Card holders can check out free passes, for two to four people, to many area museums, cultural centers and historical sites. See detroitadventurepass.org for more information.
ESL Cafe
Time/Date: 3:30 p.m. every Thursday
Details: Coffee and conversation. Improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries trying to improve their English. No tests; instructor help, free.
Contact: Karin at the Information Desk.

Seniors
Novi Senior Center
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

Annual Mini Battle of the Books
Time/Date: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.
Details: Every year we have a 3rd-4th grade Mini-Battle of the Books, where teams read 4-5 books and answer questions about them. Teams are formed the day of the Battle, so all you have to do is read the books and be ready to have fun! Titles of the books to be read for this year's Mini-Battle will be announced on Dec. 1 (on this spot, in the library, and on the library's web site). Join us to win prizes and make new friends.
Genealogy Roundtable Discussion
Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.
Details: Join us for a meeting of fellow genealogists to share hints, resources, and solutions to dead ends. This is not a class. YOU decide the topics. For all genealogists; beginner to advanced.
Snack Tales
Time/Date: 7-7:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8.
Details: Each time we meet you will get a chance to listen to some great stories and cook up a tasty snack. Grades K-4 welcome. Registration required.
Better Investing with Value Line
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Details: BetterInvesting provides investor support and education through a nationwide network of volunteers. Bonnie Reyes

Watch a Flick
Time/Date: 2:20-4:50 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5.
Details: Relax after a long week of school by joining us for a snack and a movie. Grades 9-12 welcome.

Annual Mini Battle of the Books
Time/Date: 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.
Details: Every year we have a 3rd-4th grade Mini-Battle of the Books, where teams read 4-5 books and answer questions about them. Teams are formed the day of the Battle, so all you have to do is read the books and be ready to have fun! Titles of the books to be read for this year's Mini-Battle will be announced on Dec. 1 (on this spot, in the library, and on the library's web site). Join us to win prizes and make new friends.

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'Sunset provisions' will have much impact in new year

As the crystal ball fell in Times Square, several hundred provisions in the Internal Revenue Code lapsed as well; the "sunset provisions" on many sections of the tax law expired. While many were reveling in the festivities of a new year on December 31, many tax professionals wondered what Congress had on tap for 2010. Included in the expiration were the federal estate tax, the generation-skipping transfer tax, several income tax credit and deduction incentives, as well as many specific provisions tailored to certain taxpayers.

The biggest "hole" in this sunset was the elimination of the estate tax. Although many individuals were not directly affected by the estate tax, most estate plans prepared



Dan Hoops

in the past 25 years (specifically those with revocable living trusts) planned for an estate tax of some sort. Whether this meant maximizing the credit from the estate tax (from \$600,000 to \$3,000,000), the unlimited marital deduction, or retaining highly-appreciated property to take advantage of the step-up in basis.

As it currently stands with Congress, there is no estate tax. In the event Congress does not restate some form of estate tax, individuals can pass all of their property to their loved ones free of estate

tax. That's great if you have a gross estate in excess of \$3.5 million (or \$7 million if you are married). However, the beneficial step-up in basis is not available to individuals who receive property from a decedent. The basis is simply the starting point for determining the amount of a taxable gain when property is sold, exchanged or transferred. A step-up in basis means that this starting point is the fair market value of the property, rather than the basis in the hands of the original owner. This is a huge problem and will result in many people having to pay a capital gains tax.

The following is an illustration of what this means: Mr. A purchased a building in 1979 for \$100,000. The

property appreciated in value over time and upon Mr. A's death, he had a fair market value of \$2 million. If Mr. A sold the property during his life, his original cost basis (\$100,000) would be used to determine how much capital gain he would pay if he were to sell his building. So, if Mr. A held on to his building and bequeathed it to his daughter, the step-up in basis would mean the daughter has a \$2 million basis. These are the tax consequences under the previous and current tax law if Mr. A's daughter sells the building for its \$2 million fair market value.

The following is an illustration of what this means: Mr. A purchased a building in 1979 for \$100,000. The

Although Mr. A's estate would not be taxable under the estate tax (even if we used the 2009 \$3.5 million threshold), his daughter finds herself in a worse position under the current scenario. Anyone inheriting property under the current law will not be entitled to the stepped-up basis, resulting in many more people paying a capital gains tax than an estate tax.

So the question on many minds is: what is going to happen? Will the estate tax become a retroactive tax? Meaning if it is re-enacted - lets say - on February 25, 2010, would it still affect individuals who died between January 1, 2010 and February 24, 2010?

Proposed bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives for almost a year now. Some believe that the estate

tax will be revised somewhat (on gross estates in excess of \$5 million), while others believe it will be completely eliminated (with the above capital gain scenario being the revenue replacement). However Congress acts will be interesting, as people die with each passing day.

Daniel S. Hoops is an associate professor at Walsh Business College teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Business Law and Taxation Department. Hoops holds a master of laws degree in estate planning from the University of Miami School of Law, a juris doctor degree from the Michigan State University Detroit College of Law and a bachelor of musical arts degree from the University of Michigan. Hoops is a 1987 graduate of Novi High School. He can be reached at Walsh College at (248) 823-1334 or dhoops@walshcollege.edu.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE A11

or from the Mental Health Profession to serve that community have working involvement with mental health services.

Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 12. To apply or receive more information about these positions, to obtain and submit an application online go to www.wco.org.com/hoc/news/04p_applications. To print out an application form, go to the listed website above or call (248) 858-0103 to request an application.

Mail completed application forms to: Oakland County Board of Commissioners, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Dept. 470, Pontiac, MI 48341 or fax to (248) 858-1572.

Book signing

Deerfield Elementary Principal Richard Njus will be hosting a signing for his book, "Touching Hearts Educating Minds," 4-6 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Borders Bookstore, 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi. The book is catered toward educators and parents and will be

available for purchase for \$15. **Preschool open house**
 Novi Cooperative Preschool, located at 41671 Ten Mile Road, will host an open house from 10 a.m.-noon on Jan. 30. Call (248) 349-3223 for more information, or visit www.novipreschool.com.

Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 12. To apply or receive more information about these positions, to obtain and submit an application online go to www.wco.org.com/hoc/news/04p_applications. To print out an application form, go to the listed website above or call (248) 858-0103 to request an application.

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 • Wine
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 Between Sheldon & Northville Rds.
248-349-1477

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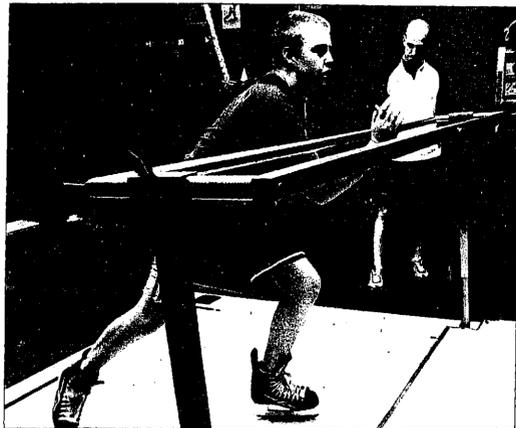
The mission of MEGA is to have fun and inspire greatness in others through sports and physical fitness. MEGA the student is encouraged to set goals and explore new challenges. The student develops self confidence and an innate worth that can last a lifetime.

One goal is to serve our families in the community by promoting physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle. MEGA Fun and Fitness offers an array of activities for children of all ages (mom and dad can even get in on the fun and participate in our taekwondo school). MEGA offers gymnastics instruction, tumbling for cheerleaders, fitness classes, and taekwondo. MEGA Fun and Fitness also offers field trips for your organization and MEGA hosts some of the best parties around.

If your child is interested in participating on a competitive team, MEGA Fun and Fitness also offers competitive teams in gymnastics and Olympic style Taekwondo.

How did you first decide to open your business?

Owner Kim Tanskanen and husband Juba have been involved in the sport of gymnastics for over 25 years. Juba was born and raised in Jyväskylä, Finland. He received a degree in physical therapy from Jyväskylä Institute of Finland. He has been involved in gymnastics since childhood and has experience as a gymnast, coach and judge. As a gymnast, he was a member of the Finnish National team and has vast experience in



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Walled Lake Western hockey team member Blake Pinchuck trains on the hockey treadmill at Wixom's Total Sports complex on Monday, Jan. 18, under the direction of trainer Gordy Schaeffer. The treadmill, where skaters "skate" on a thin layer of moving plastic, increases strength and stride for the players as it's slightly inclined.

international competitions, including the World Championships. He has been a part of the Finnish Gymnastics Federation as a Head Team Coach for the Junior and Senior National Teams. He has produced many champions, including the 1997 World High Bar Champion. He also possesses the highest judging rating, the Brevet Judging credential, which allows him to judge international events.

Juba moved to the United States in 1998 to become the director and head team coach for a gymnastics club in Lansing, Michigan. He is now happy to be working in his own gym, inspiring young children to be the best they can be. Kim started gymnastics at the age of 6. She continued in the sport through the collegiate level. Kim possesses a bachelor's degree in athletic training and a master's degree in business administration and healthcare management. She has coached and instructed beginner level gymnasts through the

elite level. Most recently, she has qualified several of her young gymnasts to the USA Gymnastics TOP (talent opportunity program) National Team.

With our knowledge of business and sport, our passion was to create a gym that has a place for everyone. With the help from a very qualified working staff, MEGA Fun and Fitness is just that. We are very thankful for being given the opportunity to teach children of all ages all about healthy living

in a very fun environment. Why did you choose Novi?

We were looking for a community atmosphere, and we felt that Novi offered this benefit. Not only do we provide services to others, but we always want to be able to give back to our community. We have worked with the Novi Youth Assistance for several years, and it just felt right to move to Novi. What makes your business unique?

Our business is unique in that it has that family feel when you walk in the door. It is always nice to walk into a business and be greeted by a staff who knows your name. Our front office staff does not miss a beat.

Our instructors love children! They love to teach, and most possess a bachelor's degree in teaching. It is about fun and learning.

We understand that accidents do happen, but we take pride in the fact that MEGA Fun and Fitness can offer a fun place that is also a safe place to learn. Our staff is safety certified by USA Gymnastics, first aid and CPR certified, and the owners both have backgrounds in the medical field. There are specific procedures in place to take care of our students should an accident occur.

How has the recent economy affected your business?

We are so thankful that so many parents believe that their children should remain active and participate in physical fitness activities. We hope that parent will continue to keep their children active through physical activity.

MEGA Fun and Fitness is offering a 2 for 1 special through February 2010 to help those who are on a tight budget. Two

DETAILS

Business Name: MEGA Fun and Fitness

Address: 22475 Heslip Dr. (off Nine Mile Road, between Novi and Meadowbrook roads)

Your name/Title: Kim and Juba Tanskanen - owners

Business Opened: August 2005

Number of employees: 15

Hours of operation: 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

Your business specialty: gymnastics, Taekwondo and fitness classes

Phone: (248) 344-9344

Web site: www.mega-gym.com

students can take class for the price of one. It can be a sibling, friend, cousin, etc. We know how important it is to teach kids a healthy lifestyle and stay active.

Always know why you are running or owning your business. Know your purpose and stick to it, even through difficult times. Know your core values, abide by what you believe, and never give up.

Believe it or not our process to open our business in Novi took over two years. Trust in others and have a lot of patience.

What's the saying -- good things come to those who wait... and wait... and wait!

What is in store for the future of your business?

We are planning on continued growth in Novi, and being able to give back more each year. We are planning on adding a fitness course in the gym, and a zip line for some added fun.

Auto show created a buzz; dealerships ready to compete

Customers are ready — now it's up to individual dealerships and manufacturers.

That seems to be the message area auto dealers are taking from the North American International Auto Show that ended last Sunday.

"We've already had customers come in after visiting the auto show," said Douglas North of North Brothers Ford in Westland. They say they're ready to buy, he said, and they're looking for the best deal.

Kit Tennyson of Tennyson Chevrolet in Livonia said, "We've got a lot of great cars, and they all look good. The auto show always generates customers."

Customers are a lot more "excited" about cars compared with last year, said Scott LaRiche of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth. The auto show was the best in recent history, he said, and it created a real buzz. People are far more receptive to buying a new vehicle now that the economy has improved, he said, and there's an attractive array of new models.

"But it's still a very competitive market," said Bob Griffin of Bill Brown Ford in Livonia. "The auto show created some excitement," he said, but it's the cars and dealerships that draw customers into the showroom, "with quality and service."

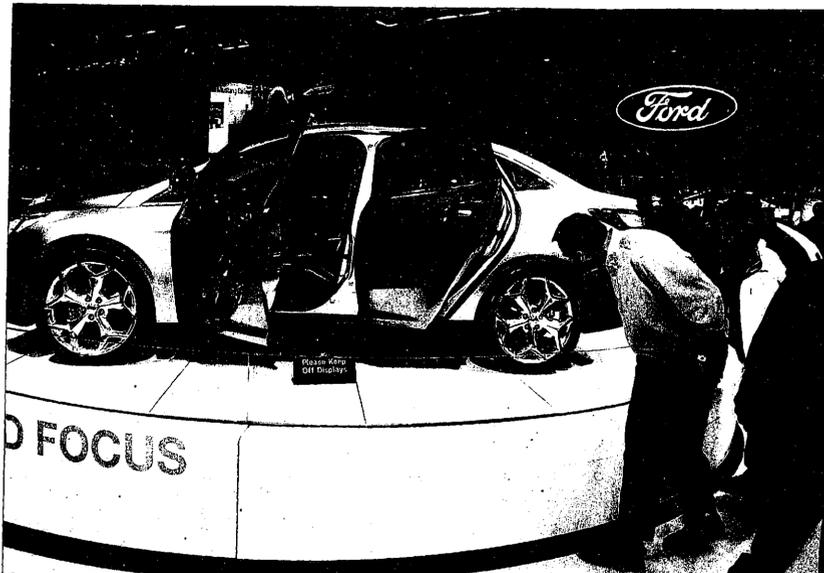
This year's show put a spotlight on technology, Griffin said. Some vehicles can parallel park themselves, he noted, "and the technology is getting better and better."

The show demonstrated that manufacturers are more quality conscious than ever before, said Paul Zimmerman, of George Matic Chevrolet in Redford. "Our quality is second to none," he insisted, and that will make Chevrolets — particularly the new Volt — very competitive.

"This was the best show I've seen in 15 years," said Rick Hodges of Victory Toyota in Canton. "It's obvious that people are more excited. There's a good selection of vehicles and people are ready. I think people want to start feeling good again."

This year's show put great emphasis on alternative-fuel vehicles, said John Rogin of Livonia's Rogin Buick. "And that's probably the wave of the future."

But customers are still motivated by their needs, Rogin insisted. Somebody with six people in the family is still interested in a bigger vehicle, rather than a compact. "Fortunately gasoline is still



Birmingham resident Duncan Currie looks at the wheels of a Ford Focus at the North American International Auto Show on Thursday afternoon.

"We've already had customers come in after visiting the auto show."

DOUGLAS NORTH, North Brothers Ford in Westland

reasonable," Rogin said, so people are still buying vans or SUVs. "If you have a hot vehicle, people will come to your showroom," particularly if your dealership has a reputation for service.

The auto show — and the buzz it generated — is part of an encouraging trend, said Richard Kujala of Don Massey Cadillac in Plymouth. Sales have been ticking upward for the last 60 days, he said. "The optimism is growing, and I think this will be a very good year."

— Pat Murphy, staff writer



Marilyn Winsand gets out of a Smart Car as her husband, Amos, looks on.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oakland offers business workshops

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars offered at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For location specifics and pre-registration, visit www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar or call (248) 858-0783. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business - Marketing is an essential part of business success. All products/services must be sold to well-targeted audiences with a wide-ranging marketing mix. Our staff/SCORE counselors can guide you through successful techniques and marketing principles helping you to promote your products and services to the most promising customers-your target audience. Presented by The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC). Thursday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. For location specifics and pre-registration, visit www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar or call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$40 (make check payable to E.M.U.), which includes all materials. No refunds.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

(AM) Morning Class 9 a.m. to 12/2:30 p.m. (PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. to 9/9:30 p.m. February 2010
9 - Pre-Business Research (PM)
16 - Start A Business (PM)
17 - Team SBA Financing Roundtable
23 - Write A Business Plan (PM)
24 - WBE Certification Orientation
25 - Small Business Loan Workshop
The Web site address for Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

Workshops is www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

TDA Insurance launches campaign

TDA Insurance, an independent insurance agency located in Novi, announced the launch of their new website and digital marketing campaign.

TDA Insurance has partnered with Astonish Results, LP, a digital marketing and training company for the insurance industry, to create a new online marketing campaign. The Astonish Results marketing strategy has been implemented by TDA Insurance to help the agency find and keep new customers. Featuring a "Virtual Insurance Office" and "Virtual Insurance Agent," TDA Insurance is confident that its new system will better meet the needs of its clients.

TDAnow.com was created to make the online experience of insurance shopping easier. The site is divided into clear categories, making it simple for an insurance shopper to visit TDAnow.com, find the type of insurance they are looking for, and gain a better understanding of their policy options. If shoppers have questions about the type of insurance they may need, TDAnow.com has a "Service Center" section for providing answers. TDA Insurance' new site even offers a "Free Online Rate Quote" form that the insurance seeker can fill out in just a few moments of their time.

TDA Insurance provides customers in the Novi, Northville, and other surrounding areas in Michigan with various lines of both personal and business insurance coverage. It is TDA Insurance's hope that the new TDAnow.com will provide its clients with an entertaining, educational and enjoyable insurance shopping experience.



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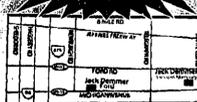
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THURSDAY
January 28,
2010

SECTION B

LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com



Novi Cheer place second twice, B4

Microfilm Copy

Puzzle page inside, B6



Novi treys bounce Stevenson

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Novi used a barrage of three-pointers Tuesday evening to knock off KLA Central boys basketball leader Livonia Stevenson.

But the long-range marksmanship came from a most unlikely source — a 6-foot-8 center.

Junior Samer Ozeir, who finished with a game-high 22 points, popped in four of his team's nine triples to propel the Wildcats to a key 71-54 victory.

Stevenson, which had its six-game winning streak snapped, falls to 6-2 overall and 3-1 in the division. Novi, meanwhile, is now 7-2 overall and 3-1 in the KLA Central.

The Wildcats led 15-12 after one quarter, but Stevenson pulled ahead 29-25 with 2:19 to go until halftime on two of senior guard Bobby Nubert's team-high 20 points.

Novi, however, pulled even at intermission, 31-31, with 29.4 seconds left on Justin Hopton's triple, one of four by the Wildcats.

The other three during the period came from Ozeir.

"He (Ozeir) had a great start to the year and had some huge games," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "We expect him to get and hit open shots. He just has to let the game come to him and it was certainly good to see him make shots."

The Wildcats, hitting 8-of-16 shots from the floor, outscored Stevenson 19-9 during the third quarter to take control of the game. The period ended on Ozeir's tip-in at the buzzer.

Novi then put it away by making 6-of-9 fourth-quarter shots along with 8-of-11 free throws.

The closest Spartans would get was 57-50 with 4:36 remaining when Jonathan Campbell converted a conventional three-point play.

"It looked like boys among men," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "We

Junior captain David Sparling placed fifth in the 189-pound weight class during the Wildcats' trip to the Holt Invite Jan. 23.

Injured grapplers pinned short of title hopes



Lions, Mustangs too much for Novi wrestlers

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Novi's hopes of a KLA Central Division wrestling title may be gone after last week's quad meet in their own gym, but the team still has a shot at second place before next week's 24-team KLA meet.

The Wildcats fell in a pair of tough competitions against first-place South Lyon and defending-champion Northville on Jan. 20.

With senior captain Connor Caldwell, seniors Glenn Malear, Adam Paul and junior Beau Bielski

Senior captain Alex Engrebretson gets a quick victory over his Mustang counterpart in a 160-pound matchup Jan. 20 at Novi.

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

ON TAP

The Wildcats were scheduled to travel to Livonia Stevenson (2-2 Central) yesterday for their final dual meet of the season. "If we wrestle, we should win. If they wrestle how they wrestled against South Lyon and Northville, we will beat Stevenson. They're an up-and-coming team," assistant coach Dan Jilg said Sunday. The team now prepares for the KLA Team Championship quad meet, which takes place 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the West Division champion (Hartland or Brighton). The KLA Individual Championships will then take place Feb. 6 before MHSAA district meets begin.

Please see **HOOPS, B3**

Wildcats skiing steadily to wins 'Cats go 2-1 on slopes despite warmer weather

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

A consistently strong week from Novi's top skiers allowed both Wildcat teams to go 2-1 at Alpine Valley in White Lake and draw their records to 2-1 on the season.

The teams began the week against a strong Lakeland team on Jan. 19. Lakeland's girls took first through fourth, securing the victory as Novi's top four finished fifth through eighth overall. Senior Sara Arne led the girls with a two-run time of 48.14 seconds in the 10-26 loss. Junior Michelle Rich (50.58), sophomore Lucia Li (51.33) and senior Lindsey Johnson (55.79) followed as six of 16 skiers got disqualified between the two teams.

Novi's boys team managed to surprise the Eagles for a 16-20 victory behind strong trips down the slope from senior Jake Walczak (40.66) and junior Austin Feight (41.46), who finished second and third overall.

ON TAP

The skiers hit the slopes against Walled Lake Northern today before facing Milford and Walled Lake Western Monday and Tuesday. The team will then compete in the divisional championships next Thursday. All meets are 4p.m. at Alpine Valley in White Lake.

The teams' Jan. 20 meet against Hartland had nearly mirrored results between the boys and girls teams. Novi took second, third, fourth and sixth in both meets en route to a pair of victories over this group of Eagles. The only difference was Hartland's fourth score came from a ninth-place finish in the boys meet and a 10th-place finish in the girls meet, resulting in 15-23 boys and 15-24 girls scores.

Six of the top eight skiers from the previous day's meet placed again for Novi. A DQ during Walczak's first run meant junior Steven Speers (56.57) was the Wildcats' fourth scorer for the boys, behind Halley (60.22), Feight (62.32) and Hotta (63.27).

For the girls, Johnson (64.05), senior Hailey Spillane (65.60), Arne (67.82) and Rich (70.33) placed against a shorthanded Hartland squad.

"The boys pulled off an upset win over Lakeland, led by senior team captain Jake Walczak and junior Austin Feight," assistant coach Benjamin Fisher said. "The boys' other senior team captain, Harper Halley, has been a solid performer as well and has been instrumental in helping to lead the team to two victories last week, in and out of the

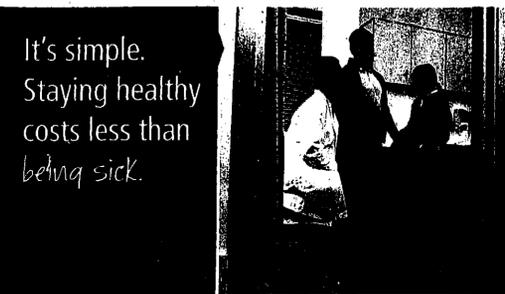
course."

Please see **SKI, B3**



Wildcat Sara Arne.

JOHN HEIDENSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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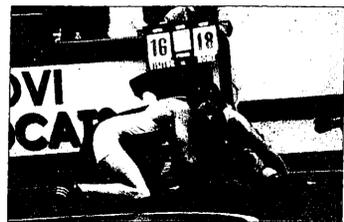
Senior Aswin Reddy competes in the 140-pound weight class during the Wildcats' trip to the Holt Invite Jan. 23.

WRESTLING FROM PAGE B1

all out of the lineup due to injuries, Novi still managed to jump out to an 11-0 lead following victories by senior Adam Troher (152 pounds), senior captain Alex Engebretson (160) and sophomore Jake Dobras (189). The Lions roared back, winning the next four matches to take an 18-11 lead before sophomore Shanka Paul (112) pinned his opponent to cut South Lyon's lead to 18-17.

Sophomores Matt Aoun (130) and Giddiani Albuerne (125) both won by pin fall to put Novi ahead 29-24, but the next two matches went South Lyon's way and that pair of pin fall victories gave the Lions a big enough lead to put the dual meet away. Senior captain Martin Bunney (145) wrapped things up with a Novi victory, but South Lyon still won 36-32 as the teams split the 14 matches.

The younger guys we put in really stepped up to the challenge. They really came to perform, assistant coach Dan Jilg said. "A few little mistakes cost us the match and that's how things happen sometimes."



Farman wrestles a Northville opponent Jan. 20 at Novi.

Andrew Park (103) both won their matches by pin fall to put Novi ahead 18-16.

After losing the next two matches, Albuerne came up big by pinning his Mustang opponent to push Novi to a 24-20 lead, but Northville rallied, winning the next five matches (two by pin fall) to secure a 42-24 victory over Novi.

"On paper, we could've won, but paper doesn't matter. We had to do it on the mat, not on paper," Jilg said.

The pair of losses drops Novi to 2-2 in Central Division dual meets (3-8 overall). If the Wildcats defeated Livonia Stevenson last night, the team would have a shot at second place in the division behind South Lyon (3-0 Central), pending how the Lions and Mustangs (2-1 Central) fared in last night's quad meet against Plymouth Salem (1-2 Central) and South Lyon East (0-3 Central).

Although South Lyon had beaten Northville 34-33 two weeks ago, Novi's match against the Mustangs didn't end as closely as it had with the Lions.

Engebretson (160) posted a quick, lopsided victory to start the second dual meet of the night for Novi's grapplers, but Northville won the next two matches by pin fall before junior Al Mencer (215) won his match to narrow Northville's lead to 12-6. Sophomore Jimi Keller (285) and freshman

Novi sent 11 wrestlers to the

Wildcat cagers rout East 72-37

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Last Friday's girls basketball contest between Novi and South Lyon East was a game of streaks, but a booming 20-0 run in the second quarter put East away early as the Wildcats won 72-37 at home to improve to 9-1 (4-1 KLLAA Central).

Novi came out firing with deep penetration in the first quarter to start on an 8-0 run, all on layups. But the Cougars wrapped up the quarter on an 8-0 run of their own to cut Novi's lead to 12-10.

The Wildcats came out on fire in the second quarter. Led by senior Kelsey Masserant (game-high 25 points, 15 rebounds) and freshman Brittany Bereluka (three points, three assists), Novi went on a 14-0 run over the opening 2:30 of the quarter as part of a 20-0 run before East senior Kate Grunevald (12 points, 11 rebounds) stopped the bleeding with a layup 4:35 into the quarter.

"Masserant is strong and improving. Brittany made some good passes to Kelsey, which was good to see," Novi coach Bill Kelp said.

Novi outscored the Cougars 25-4 in the second quarter behind 15 points from Masserant, including six of Novi's seven baskets in the first 2:30.

"I thought we played pretty well," Masserant said. "Just the inside, the deep passes were wide open. Our guards looking up and seeing me for the fast break was big."

Coming out of halftime with a 37-14 lead, Novi junior Meghan Robinson quickly made a steal and dribbled in for a layup to score her only two points of the game. The Wildcats had an all-around team effort, as 12 of Novi's 13 players scored by the end of the night.

Grunevald and sophomore Taylor Jones (team-high 13 points) battled on East's behalf, but were undersized, overmatched and without much help against a strong Novi squad.

"I thought we handled their pressure pretty well. Defensively, we have to get better," Kelp said. "With Megan Robinson and (Maddie) Sinkovich starting, they did a really nice job."

Novi led by as many as 40 points before Grunevald hit a pair of free throws and junior Katie Devingillo



Novi varsity basketball player Kathleen Barry drives to the basket during the Wildcats' Jan. 22 game against South Lyon East.

ON TAP

The Wildcats look to be even more dominant this week as they begin the second half of Central Division play by hosting South Lyon (5-4, 2-2) tomorrow and visiting Plymouth Salem (8-2, 5-0) Tuesday. Both games are at 7 p.m. and Novi looks to avenge their lone loss of the season against Salem, which occurred when two of Novi's starters were out of action.

Robinson and Sinkovich both had solid games after joining the starting lineup, helping lead Novi to victory.

Novi varsity basketball player Kathleen Barry drives to the basket during the Wildcats' Jan. 22 game against South Lyon East.

The JV Cats improved to 8-2 after splitting their two games last week.

On Friday night, Novi wrapped up the first half of the season with a 60-23 victory over South Lyon East. Novi outscored the Cougars by 22 points in the third quarter. Sophomores Nicole Hill and Anna Lausch led all scorers with 10 points each, while freshman Jade Antolee finished with eight points and 11 rebounds.

The JV Wildcats fell to Livonia Stevenson following a tough 45-40 overtime game Jan. 19. Novi climbed back from a 10-point halftime deficit to force overtime, but came up short in the end.

Sophomore Shannen Sherwood finished with six points and eight rebounds, while sophomore Abby Robinson had nine points and sophomore Natalie Paul added six points.

Chipping in for the Cougars were sophomore Willow Cohn (five points), senior Courtney Emery (two points) and junior Lisa Smith (one point).

Novi's performance came just a few days after a 70-47 triumph over Livonia Stevenson (3-6, 2-2 Central). Leading by one point at halftime, the Wildcats broke through with 25 points in the third quarter to put the game out of reach. Johnson had 18 points and five assists, while Masserant added 16 points and eight rebounds, and Bereluka had 10 points. Assistant coach Corey Markos also scored.

The freshmen girls defeated Livonia Stevenson 53-37 Jan. 19 as three players finished in double figures for points. Erin Dircks led the team with 14 points, while Kelly Lewis and Anna Gruedich each had 11 points as Novi's freshmen improved to 9-0. Also chipping in were Kasey Lowmye (six points), Kelly Cauchi (five points) and two points each from Kate Dusenbury and Rebecca Rush. The Novi girls basketball program is now a combined 26-3 at the halfway point of the season.



Novi skier Hailey Spillane competes at Alpine Valley on Jan. 20.



Wildcat Brandon Dubois.

SKI FROM PAGE B1

"Consistent performers are senior team captain Lindsey Johnson and senior Hailey Spillane, taking second and third respectively in both the Hartland and WLC meets," Fisher said. "Senior Sara Arne and junior Michelle Rich have been consistent finishers as well, having their times count as our top four racers in all three meets."

Novi's closest match of the week was last Thursday against Walled Lake Central. Walczak (41.15) and Halley (41.63) finished second and

third against the Vikings, but Feight (43.79) and Horta (44.00) followed at seventh and eighth as the boys lost 16-20. Novi's girls edged out Central 17-19 as Johnson led the way in 44.52 seconds. Spillane (44.95) followed in third place, as Arne (45.95) and Rich (48.35) finished fifth and seventh, respectively.

"The closest meet was the WLC boys meet. Essentially, we lost by about one-third of a second," Fisher said. "Snow conditions were progressively softer as temperatures trended warmer during the week."

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

Novi's Eric Waltram.



Novi's Lindsey Johnson skis at Alpine Valley on Jan. 20.

HOOPS FROM PAGE B1

got outworked on the glass and on the defensive end. They (Novi) executed their offense better. They beat us in every phase of the game.

"We knew he (Ozeir) would shoot 'threes,' but we did not defend him as well as we should have."

Hopton, a senior guard, added 12 points, while senior guard Jeremy Mims contributed 10 for the Wildcats, who shot 25-of-54 from the floor (46.2 percent) and committed just nine turnovers.

"At the beginning of the year we were efficient, but since holiday break we haven't shot it as well," Heitsch said. "It was a matter of time to get our confidence back. We also made some changes to open up the floor. We felt if we'd commit to defense and rebound, we'd have the freedom offensively."

The game took on added importance for the Wildcats, who also got eight points from 6-5 forward Ryan Jak and seven from 6-4 junior Rob Laney.

"I didn't tell the team that, but yes, it was a must win because you don't want to be two back with six (games) to go," Heitsch said. "And two of those losses are at home."

"In this division the talent level has increased. We don't necessarily have the best athletes. People have caught up in ability to guard us in transition."

Stevenson, with a total of four triples on the night, had no other players score in double figures other than Naubert.

C.J. Mwila and Jordan El-Sabeh each added seven points as the Spartans shot only 19-of-53 from the floor (35.8 percent) and committed 13 turnovers, including six in the final eight minutes.

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The Novi varsity competitive cheerleading squad performs in a quad meet on Jan. 20 at Livonia Stevenson.



The Novi varsity competitive cheerleading squad performs in a quad meet on Jan. 20 at Livonia Stevenson.



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Cheer

The Wildcats' competitive cheer squad came back from fourth of the four teams after two rounds to nearly win their Jan. 20 quad meet at Livonia Stevenson. Trailing Northville, Stevenson and South Lyon, Novi's team had an impressive 299,5006 score in the third and final round to finish just 2.5 points behind a first-place Mustangs team. Northville finished with 714,656, as Novi earned 712,1036 points. Stevenson came in third with 705,6944 and South Lyon wrapped the meet up with 666,956 points.

The junior varsity squad was also strong with a 476,0352 score, good for second place behind the JV powerhouse from Stevenson, who earned a score of 666,956.

Novi's varsity squad also finished second last Saturday at the Grosse Ile Invite. The Wildcats had the best second-round score (215,3104) of the five teams and was never any worse than tied for second place. With 678,6104 points after three rounds, Novi beat out Stevenson, Woodhaven and Plymouth, but fell short to Wyandotte (690,8888).

The team will take to the mats next at the Northville Invitational 1 p.m. Saturday.

Figure Skating

Novi's figure skating team had a strong showing Jan. 18 at Farmington Hills Ice Arena in their second district meet of the season.

The Level B team, which most of the nine skaters compete on, took fourth place of 10 teams with 19 points. The Wildcats came in second place in jumps and fifth in both moves and spin. Although they were best out by United Farmington (28), Plymouth-Canton (24) and Farmington Hills Mercy (21) last week, they remained in second place in the overall standings with 42 points when combined with the first district meet in December. Overall, the team trails United Farmington (55 points) for first in Level B, but holds a narrow lead over Plymouth-Canton (40), Livonia Ladywood (37) and Mercy (37).

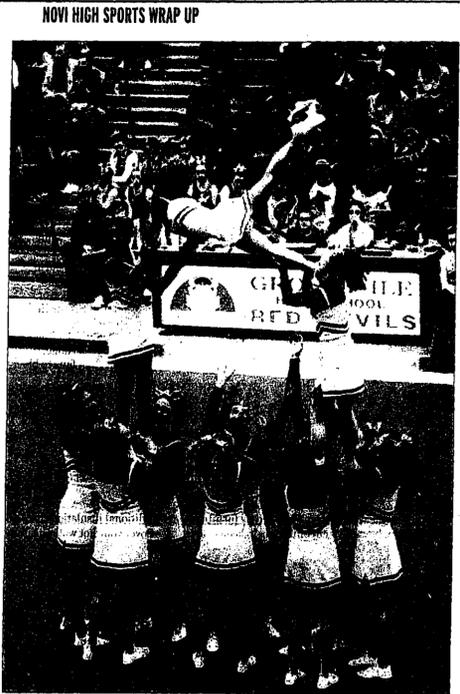
In Level A competition, a small group of Novi competitors tied for sixth place with Mercy behind a 15-point performance. Taking third in spin, sixth in jumps and 10th in moves, Novi moved into eighth overall with 28 points in Level A.

The team will look to hold onto second place in Level B at the third and final district meet 4:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at Farmington Hills Ice Arena. The top three teams in the district will advance to States.

Although Novi's Level A skaters won't make it to States as a team, they look to close the narrow margins and pass Mercy, Plymouth-Canton and Howell in the final standings, all which are within five points of Novi.

Boys basketball

With two victories this week, the boys basketball moved to first place in the KLA Central Division with a 4-1 record



Novi's cheer team took second place at the Jan. 23 Grosse Ile Invite. The Wildcats finished with 678,6104 points, falling short to Wyandotte's 690,8888.

Novi High Sports Wrap Up

Novi dismantled South Lyon East 70-35 last Friday as all 13 players got in the game and 11 scored. The team was led by junior Samer Ozeiri's 19 points and senior Antwan Batwo's 18 points, followed by junior Brian Bush's eight points and all eight other scorers landing between two and five points apiece. The Cougars fell to 2-7 (1-4 Central).

Novi's bowling program is still looking for its first win of the season, as the boys and girls teams are a combined 0-19-1. Last Thursday, the teams both fell to Waterford Mott. Junior Brandon Gillespie had the high games for the boys team with scores of 191 and 215 during the 22-8 loss. Senior Brittany Affholter led the girls with 219 in their 24-6 loss.

Two days prior, on Jan. 19, the boys team lost to Plymouth Salem 26-4. Junior Stephen Cullen shot 195. The girls lost 25-6 and Affholter had a high game

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REAL ESTATE

Red Cross offers winter home safety tips

The American Red Cross wants everyone to be prepared and safe when Ole Man Winter comes knocking on the door.

"Heating the home is expensive and one of the leading causes of home fires," said Scott Conner, Red Cross senior vice president for Preparedness and Health and Safety Services. "We have steps people can follow to cut their risk of starting a fire in their home, and to cut down on their heating bills."

USE ALTERNATIVE HEATERS SAFELY

First, never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

Never leave alternative heaters unattended — turn off space heaters or extinguish the fireplace before going to bed or leaving home.

Keep all flammable materials and potential fuel sources — including but not limited to newspapers, matches, bedding, clothing, carpets and rugs — at least three feet away from heat sources such as space heaters, fireplaces and stoves.

Place your space heater on a hard, level, non-flammable surface. Do not put space heaters on rugs or carpets, near bedding or drapes, and keep children and pets away. Look for a space heater model that shuts off automatically if the heater falls over.

Keep the fire in your fireplace using a glass or metal screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs. Never leave fireplaces unattended. Be sure to have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and furnaces professionally inspected once a year.

BE PREPARED

Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home. Check them once a month by pressing the test button, and replace batteries as necessary.

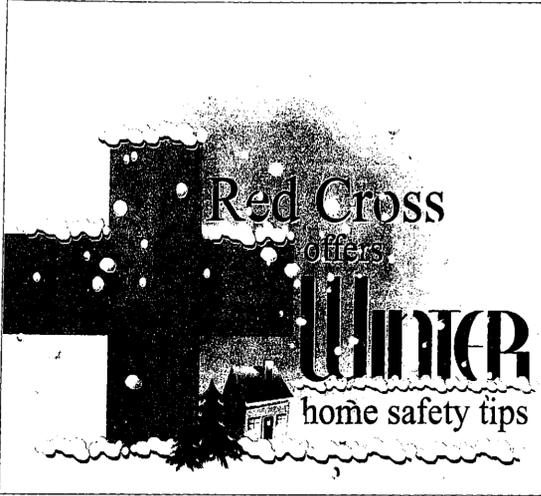
Make sure both your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly, and practice your home fire escape plan so every member of your family, including young children and elderly, can get out quickly and safely. Your escape plan should include at least two routes out for every room in the home, and a meeting place outside your home.

REDUCE YOUR HEATING BILLS

Some experts are predicting that most of the country will see temperatures below normal this winter. The Red Cross offers these suggestions on how to get your home ready for the cold weather.

Simple solutions —

- Turn down the thermostat and put on a sweater. You'll be surprised at the savings on your heating bill.
- Close off any rooms you aren't using and close heat vents or turn off radiators in those rooms.
- Make sure heat vents aren't blocked by furniture.
- If you can, buy heavy curtains to help keep cold air out of your home, even in the kitchen. Open them during the day to let the sun help warm your house, and close them at night. Use "fabric snakes,"



or old rugs in front of windows and doors to help eliminate drafts.

If you have a wood burning fireplace, use it to cut down on your heating bill. Make sure you close the damper when not in use or heat will escape through it. If you can seal off the fireplace when not in use, do so.

Turn off vent fans in the kitchen and bathroom as soon as the job is done.

Seal your ceiling fans to blow air down.

Insulate

Drafts mean cold air is leaking into your home. Use either insulating tape or caulking strips to surround your windows and door moldings. You can also cover windows with plastic sheeting. If you have storm windows or storm doors, get them up to keep the cold out.

Cold air can even seep into the house through outlets, so insulate your light switch and outlet plates with foam pads.

Additional insulation tips:

- Cover your hot water heater with insulating material. You'll use less energy to heat the water.
- Prevent frozen pipes — when the weather is very cold outside, open cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around water pipes. Let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe — even at a trickle — helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing. Keep the thermostat set to a consistent temperature.
- If your home sits above ground and some of your pipes are exposed, wrap them to save on energy and prevent freezing.
- Turn off any outside faucets, drain your hose, and cover the faucets. Use caulking or weather stripping around all pipes where they enter the house — yet another way to eliminate drafts.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.

Talk to pros on New York market

Q: I know that the economic slowdown has affected New York City, but I am interested in buying a condominium unit in the upper east side area of New York and am wondering what you would suggest that I do.

A: As you may know, initially most of the high-rise living units were co-ops in New York but that has changed dramatically.

Indeed, many co-ops have been converted to condominiums, and I note that there is new construction of condominiums in the upper east side, near the East River and not far from the bridge that goes to Queens and LaGuardia Airport. The prices have slipped somewhat and there are possibilities for negotiations. Another area that is hot in terms of development is the SoHo area depending upon who you want to live in New York City. You are best advised to consult with two or three different Realtors initially to find one who best suits your interests.

It is also important that you retain an attorney as you will have to have one at your closing should you purchase real estate. An attorney may also be able to give you some insight into the operation of the condominium association and/or the developer, so, you are best advised to retain a condominium-wise attorney, not just a real estate attorney.

Q: We are thinking about moving to suburban New York City and are wondering what you can tell us about areas in Connecticut.

A: Obviously Connecticut has been a suburban playground for New York workers for many years. A number of lovely cities intersect the Merritt Parkway and Route 15 to cities like Stamford, New Rochelle and West Port, all of which are near Long Island Sound and are within a one hour to one and one-half hours of driving to Manhattan. These communities are also serviced by rail commuter services and while the prices are steep, relatively speaking, they have evened out and, in some instances, bargains are obtainable. Again, you are best advised to consult with a knowledgeable real estate expert.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit rmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD - OAKLAND

These are the area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of October 12-16, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	Bloomfield Township 5411 Lane Lake Rd \$284,000 522 Newborne Pointe \$239,000 3252 Poplar \$262,000 2673 Plum Brook Dr \$215,000 216 S Williamsburg Rd \$199,000 Cleriston 2367 Willowbrook \$185,000 6486 Deer Ridge Dr \$195,000 3835 Klais Dr \$250,000 5083 Maybee Rd \$135,000 5360 Old Mill Rd \$135,000 Auburn Hills 899 Chase Way Blvd \$950,000 3937 Crested Bend \$92,000 Beverly Hills 32660 Belvile Trl \$175,000 15621 Buckingham Ave \$230,000 20040 Old Capra Rd \$170,000 Bishop Farms 3190 Bingham Rd \$240,000 Birmingham 2120 Avon Ln \$285,000 2400 Devois Ln \$145,000 1968 E Mellon Rd \$173,000 1950 Shirley Rd \$500,000 1843 Stanley Blvd \$485,000 575 Woodside Ave \$320,000	Warren Township 2188 Briar Ct \$253,000 8216 Dickert St \$114,000 4256 Drifwood Dr \$210,000 6004 Greenview Dr \$215,000 Dawlborg 6861 Tamryn Dr \$225,000 Farmington 22501 Farmington Ct \$250,000 Farmington Hills 3332 Fulham Dr \$225,000 36911 Kenmore Dr \$295,000 31134 Starbridge Dr \$270,000 Lake Orion 2327 Hamerslea Rd \$103,000	Novi 1357 Marina Pointe Blvd \$340,000 3743 Rolling Hills Rd \$235,000 Novi 23547 Highmeadow Dr \$275,000 25731 Mulberry Ln \$265,000 45334 Roundview Dr \$245,000 2367 Willowbrook \$185,000 Oakland Township 4246 Bold Mews \$249,000 5360 Old Mill Rd \$155,000 Oxford 181 Fox Ct \$166,000 1792 High Pointe Dr \$159,000 206 Oxford Lake Dr \$153,000 291 Seymour Lake Rd Unit 6220000 \$150,000 Rochester 519 E University Dr \$53,000 1888 Peble Ridge Dr \$450,000 Rochester Hills 655 Fieldstone Dr \$145,000 3332 Fulham Dr \$225,000 1790 Jason Cir \$218,000 2362 Lassiter Dr \$182,000 3400 Louvaine Ave \$97,000 1665 Northumberland Dr \$186,000	South Lyon 323 Torrent Ct \$172,000 979 Westford Way \$130,000 712 Whitney Dr \$186,000 1822 Willowood Rd \$138,000 146 Wimpole Dr \$160,000 South Lyon 1147 Fountain View Cir \$80,000 3557 E Grand Pines Dr \$450,000 26335 Great Plains Dr \$46,000 2479 Martindale Rd \$215,000 Southfield 1942 Dorset St \$70,000 28219 E Larkwood Dr \$115,000 19970 Harden Cir \$87,000 29238 Rock Creek Dr \$39,000 25465 Saint James \$93,000 Troy 3449 Balfour Dr \$490,000 3710 Beach Dr \$190,000 3922 Boulder Dr \$226,000 3399 Galwick Dr \$307,000 2104 Lancer Dr \$340,000 2728 Lovington Dr \$60,000 2680 Roundtree Dr \$45,000 3406 Upton Dr \$170,000	West Bloomfield 301 W Big Beaver Rd \$325,000 Waterford 3465 Alisa Ln \$105,000 3039 Baily Way \$151,000 4574 Elizabeth Lake Rd \$128,000 1321 Faircrest Dr \$65,000 4358 Heathstone Dr \$159,000 3557 E Grand Pines Dr \$355,000 4710 Meigs Ave \$45,000 1429 Parkcrest Dr \$26,000 4836 Rossett Ave \$56,000 121 Waverly Pl \$64,000 194 S Avery Rd \$27,000 West Bloomfield 3221 Bloomfield Shore Dr \$345,000 1536 Cardinal Ridge Ct \$180,000 7214 Hidden Creek Ct \$490,000 White Lake 8816 Cove Ct \$160,000 9100 Mainway St \$16,000 5499 Portage Trl \$112,000 9493 Shelby Dr \$160,000 1650 Kilmory Ct \$77,000
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HOMES SOLD - WAYNE

These are the area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 5-9, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	Canton 43587 Abbey Cir \$246,000 4444 Hunters Cir \$170,000 1945 Inwood Rd \$92,000 1005 Poppleton Rd \$250,000 41625 Torrington Dr \$539,000 Barren City 28651 Barton St \$66,000 32990 Barton St \$86,000 28438 Block St \$50,000 35111 Beck St \$66,000	Warren 31960 Bridge St \$53,000 32665 Dover St \$115,000 7089 Helen St \$100,000 Livonia 3737 Bennett St \$177,000 14640 Brodin Ct \$113,000 18586 Comstock \$152,000 15316 Fairfield St \$35,000 19239 Laurel Rd \$230,000 29571 Lori St \$129,000 15468 Mayfield St \$85,000	Novi 14040 Merriman Rd \$80,000 35558 Orangelawn \$118,000 1642 Penn Dr \$200,000 16012 Riverside St \$175,000 18216 Wilby St \$100,000 Northville 383 First St \$103,000 46353 Troutcraft Dr \$130,000 17803 Willowview Dr \$640,000 Plymouth 4119 Graysstone Blvd \$52,000	Westland 120 Hartsough St \$133,000 500 Provincetown Ln \$147,000 Redford 11432 Columbia \$60,000 9949 Farley \$75,000 16650 Inlander Rd \$60,000 16020 Meadowbrook Rd \$100,000 10339 Mercedes \$89,000 9655 Nathalie \$21,000 18915 Olympia \$59,000	Westland 9127 San Jose \$67,000 9276 Tecumseh \$55,000 Westland 12938 Ashley Ave \$24,000 6181 Emily Ct \$112,000 8307 N Henry Blvd \$6573,000 38655 Farmer Rd \$150,000 14719 Sandburn St \$94,000 34202 Sheridan St \$78,000
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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne County will meet Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate (exit 37 from I-75). Matt Bezonson, of Sherlock Homes Inspection Ltd., will speak on home inspections.

There will be a free Investor Educational Forum at 6 p.m. or dinner in the dining room with other members and investors. Registration is 7 p.m., member presentation 7:15 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m. For information, visit realwaynecounty.org.

Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will host a free 69-minute Career Seminar 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9. Questions regarding startup cost, commission and success potential will be answered. The office is at 36642 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 266-9000 to reserve a seat.

Plymouth Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will host a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Candidates would benefit from previous experience or successes in: service industries, account management, retail sales, small business operations, marketing or event planning. Candidates should have: good people/communication skills, some computer knowledge, a strong work ethic, and an optimistic "can do" attitude.

Seminar includes: cost vs. income potential, available training, company profit share, commission structures. Call (734) 459-4700 to reserve a free seat.

Rental Property

A Beginners' Workshop for Rental Property Investors will be held three consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, four hours per day in Royal Oak. This event will provide a basic foundation that gives the beginning investor with the knowledge and confidence to make their initial investment and enhance their financial success.

Price: \$99 for three days. Presented by the Real Estate Investors of Oakland. To register, contact: www.REIAofOakland.com; (800) 747-6742.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Mondays. To reserve a spot, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 9275 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present its economic forecast luncheon and meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 3, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue in Sterling Heights. Featured guest speaker is David Crowe, chief economist of the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. He will address the economic issues facing the home building industry during 2010. In conjunction with this event, industry awards will be given to BIA's 2009 President Darshan S. Grewal of Singh Development LLC and the other award honorees. Registration fees are \$40 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members with advance reservations made by Jan. 22; \$60 for members after Jan. 22, and \$75 for guests. Registration fees include entry to BIA's Builders & Remodelers Trade Show at the same location from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. Please RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

MARKETPLACE

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LOOK HERE

Announcements & Notices 6200

NOTICE

is hereby given (unit may or may not include the following: household goods, recreational items and/or misc. goods) that on 2:45-3:00 p.m. on the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

The National Storage Center, 1574 Alloy Parkway, Highland, MI, 48356.

Tina Weishaar #161; Christie Weishaar #229; Randall Rutz #403; William J. Denton #304-305; Sandra Coleman #329; Mark Gibson #141; Mark Gibson #153; Jeff Winslow #230231; Michael McClellan #59; Tamala Meyers #14; Shannon Dewitt #42; Shawnee Faught #118

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Absolutely Free 7000

CHURCH ORGAN Needs new home. Kimball-Stadus, model K600 U-Haul, (517) 549-1415

COMPUTER DESK with hutch, 4x2", Birmingham area. (248) 258-1976

LARGE WOOD pallets, Christmas tree, Entertainment center. (248) 207-7222

SAMPLE PAINT PINTS-LATEX 20 pints, mostly beige and green shades, Benjamin Moore. Call: (248) 320-4234

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

WOOD BY-FOLD DOORS 2 sets for 6 closets, 3 sets for 4 closets. Hardware incl. Birmingham area. 248-258-1975

Antiques/Collectibles 7020

PUMP ORGAN w/STOOL 1800's \$1200. 1930's Linen press, \$500. Formal oak dining set, carved inlay. \$1800. Kidney shaped pine tables \$140/pair. 517-223-8427

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US-23 W. on M-59, corner of E. Grand River & Laison Rd. Diamonds & Gemstone Jewelry Power Equip. & Tools Old & Collectible Coins Electronics & Music Instr. See website for large list, photos, & terms. Rowley's Auction Service 810-237-7296 rowleyauctions.com

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FURNITURE - Grandfather clock - 7ft, Chickering Grand Piano - 6ft, complete dining room set. Call for appl. (Livonia) 734-812-2012

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WASHER/DRYER, STACKED Frigidare Gallery. Good cond. Runs excellent on 220 Volt. \$1,100. Milford area. (248) 363-3899

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TOSHIBA COLOR TV 26", \$25, home entertainment center, \$50, micro fiber reclining love seat, Tan, \$75, matching end tables w/matching lamps, \$50, leather lounge chair w/ottoman, \$75, all in excellent cond. 517-552-1581

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1011 Decker Road Walled Lake, MI 48390 248-960-1200

Over 46 years in business. Also buyers of copper, brass, aluminum, steel

Lee Wickenhiser Estate AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 10:00 am

1-96 to Howell exit 137 (D-19Oak Grove Rd.), north 12 miles to Cohoctah Rd., east 1/2 mile to Oak Grove, north 3 miles to 13627S. Byron, BYRON 48418

Tractors are 1-Owner: Ford 5000 diesel, JD 50, farm equipment. 2009 Ariens lawn tractor, appliances, furniture, antiques & collectibles. Lots of great items!

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'10 FORD F250 XLT S-CAB 4x4 Snow plow, only 500 miles. \$36,995 Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

GMC 1992 1500 reg. cab, 4x4, long bed, 350V8, auto, trailer pkg. \$3,199. 810-599-6270

Mini-Vans 8240

HANDICAP VANS - USED, BOUGHT & SOLD. Mini & full size. I come to you, Call Dale anytime, 517-882-7299

OLDSMOBILE 1998 Silhouette. Good cond., runs good, 174k miles. \$2,000. (517)672-6923

Vans 8250

'09 CHEVY G2500 CARGO VAN V8, like new, priced to move. \$17,995 Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

DODGE SXT, 2004 Full size handicap, ramp entry, remote start, auto doors, quick release. 43k miles. 25mpg. \$22,000. (810) 229-4994

DODGE 2000 RAM 1500 4x4 TUNE AUTO: 734-456-5686 tymeauto.com

GMC 07 Sierra 1500, SLT, 271, 6.3L, cap, low p, 30k, warranty \$24,500. 517-549-3396

RANGER 2001 4x4 Extended cab, higher mi but priced right, only \$5999. TUNE: 734-456-5686 tymeauto.com

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