

Board of review ready for appeals - A2

THURSDAY
February 18,
2010

Hometown Weeklies

Volume 54
Number 39

75 CENTS

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



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NOVI NUTSHELL



Free fries, chili for a year

Known for their always-made-fresh burgers, a new Bagger Dave's restaurant is slated to open Sunday, Feb. 21 at noon in Novi Town Center.

The restaurant will be giving away free fries and chili for a year to the first 100 people in line when they open at noon. Winners will receive a coupon book with 52 coupons they can use each week for either their Amazingly Delicious Turkey Black Bean Chili, fresh-cut fries, Dave's Sweet Potato Chips or Dave's Diced Potatoes.

"Bagger Dave's burgers are made from a never-frozen, premium beef blend. With more than 30 toppings available, guests can build their own legendary burgers," said Jim Clear, Novi Town Center manager. "Diners of all ages will enjoy the warm, inviting atmosphere in Bagger Dave's, from their friendly and memorable service to the historical community photos and the electric train that runs above the dining room and bar areas."

Bagger Dave's is located at 26054 Novi Road and will be open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 7-10 Friday-Saturday.

Help with stress

If stress and everyday activities have you reaching for pain pills or a heating pad to relieve back pain, Dr. Tom Neuner of the Michigan Head & Spine Institute has another option. Dr. Neuner will host a free seminar on how to relieve and prevent stress through chiropractic techniques. Join him from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Keystone Medical Center, 46325 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 100 in Novi. Refreshments will be served and attendees are eligible to win two tickets to a Red Wings game. Register at www.mhsi.us.

Tax appeal talk

State Rep. Hugh D. Crawford today announced a Tax Appeal Town Hall for property owners who wish to appeal their property tax assessment.

The free "How to Appeal your Property Tax Assessment" seminar takes place Monday, Feb. 22 from 7-9 p.m. at the Rock Financial Showplace.

Enrollment numbers on the rise

Novi tallies an estimated 6,243 students

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It appears enrollment in the Novi Community School District is stabilizing as figures from count day Feb. 11 show the district is up 26 students from September.

Officials have seen an increase of 58 students since last February, a welcome sign since the district saw a drop of 14 students in September two years ago and a loss of 114 students in September last school year.

Supt. Peter Dion said he is happy to see the numbers starting to balance out, but still has concerns.

"That's a hard one to try to esti-

mate because we are a professional, transient community and are dependent on the economy," he said. "If the economy bottoms out, and from all I hear we are at the bottom, I don't know if we can get worse. How long we stay here is the huge question."

The unofficial count last Thursday was 6,243 students, which includes primary special education, K-12 and alternative education. Enrolled students who have an unexcused absence on count day may be counted as long as they show up within 10 school days following count day, or 30 days if the absences are excused.

This count, combined with the September 2010 count, helps deter-

"That's a hard one to try to estimate because we are a professional, transient community and are dependent on the economy. If the economy bottoms out, and from all I hear we are at the bottom, I don't know if we can get worse. How long we stay here is the huge question."

PETER DION, Novi Schools superintendent

mine how much state funding the district will receive. The fall numbers count for 75 percent of the enrollment figure and a February count determines the other 25 percent.

This current school year, the district received \$8,799 per pupil, but in October and November was cut \$445.

FOCUS ON FUTURE

The school district is continuing its Focus On Our Future forums to

get input from staff and community members about how to handle budget cuts from the state.

Two forums remain, Feb. 24 at Parkview Elementary and Feb. 25 at Village Oaks Elementary. Both forums start at 7 p.m.

The district also has a survey on its Web site at www.novi.k12.mi.us/ that officials want residents to complete.

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2/18/2010



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Special guest

Ibrahim Aminou, a member of the Ghanese drumming group "Sunkwa," visits Novi's Orchard Hills Elementary on Feb. 12 and tells students of how there are "talking drums" in Africa that communicate between villages. See our online video at hometownlife.com.

Volunteers help ease stresses of tax season

Free program helps senior citizens and low-income families

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Wixom resident Jean Demetri has always paid someone to do her taxes for her.

But finally she got fed up paying the outrageous prices to get simple tax help and decided to try the AARP Tax-Aide program at the Novi Public Library.

The free program is available to senior citizens and low- and middle-income families in the area and has become a popular offering.

"Last year was the first time I used them and it was great," Demetri said Monday as she filed her taxes. "I'm going to keep coming back."

Jim Lane, AARP district coordinator, is one of several volunteers who help people prepare their state and federal taxes. The two sessions at the library were filled immediately

and ones at the Novi Senior Center also are filling quickly.

"For quite a few people, the program is very important," he said. "And I really enjoy doing it. It's very fulfilling."

Taxes are done on a computer and electronically filed for faster returns. Direct deposit also can be done.

Each appointment lasts about one hour, and if the counselor, who is recertified every year, cannot solve an issue, they will recommend the person visit a paid tax preparer. None of the counselors has been trained to prepare taxes for small businesses, farm subsidy, rental properties, if a person has sold more than four investments and military.

The service is available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 and April 1, 8 and 15 at the Novi Senior Center. The service is by appointment only, and counselors cannot be paid for their work. Call (248) 347-0414 to schedule an appointment.

The Novi Public Library also is hosting Walter Powrozek, an independent wealth manager from SIGMA Financial Corp., at 1 p.m. Feb. 23 to educate people about the new tax law changes to Roth IRAs that are being introduced. Call the library at (248) 349-0720 to sign up.

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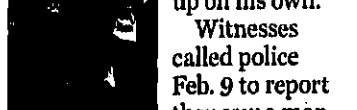


GANNETT

Former council member, House speaker DeRoche suspected of drunken driving

Saline city attorney to decide on charges

The former speaker of the Michigan House issued an apology Monday after being arrested last week on suspicion of drunken driving after police said he was so inebriated that he couldn't stand up on his own.



Witnesses called police Feb. 9 to report they saw a man, who police later identified as former Republican Speaker Craig DeRoche, drunkenly leave his car and walk up to a store in Saline, near Ann Arbor, Saline police Chief Paul Buntzen said.

Officers arrived at about 5:30 p.m. to find DeRoche stumbling in the snow, Buntzen said. A breath test showed his blood-alcohol content was 0.249 percent, more than three times Michigan's legal limit for driving of .08, police said.

"The officers were very concerned because, although that's a very high blood-alcohol level, he couldn't stand up without being helped," Buntzen said.

Police took DeRoche to a hospital, where he was evaluated and a blood test was administered. Test results won't come back for a few weeks.

City attorney Allan Grossman

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Powerful

The Novi Chamber of Commerce held its 11th annual Threads of Power breakfast at the Cafe Bistro, located on the second floor of Westmont in the 12 Oaks Mall.

Board of review ready for appeals

Taxable values expected to decrease throughout Novi

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The majority of residents in Novi will notice a taxable value decrease when they receive their notice of assessment, taxable valuation and property classification in the mail in the coming days.

That is good news for homeowners who will likely see property tax decreases, but bad news for the city which relies on that money to provide services.

Glenn Lemmon, city assessor, said he looked at everything effecting values in neighborhoods, including transfers of ownership through foreclosure or transfer between two individuals rather than transfers with the bank getting rid of property.

"We tried to make an effort to recognize the economic conditions going on in the world, so we have reduced quite a few assessments," he said. "I'm not giving 100-percent weight to sales from foreclosure, but am giving considerable weight in an effort to recognize what is going on."

Homeowners who have concerns that their state equalized value and taxable value are too high can appeal to the Novi Board of Review. They can appeal in writing or in person.

Ron Boron, one of four board members, said they expect a large turnout this year. "People have this impression that because their neighbor sold their house for \$10,000 below market, that is what they should be taxed at -- and that is false," he said. "What people need to

"They cannot worry about today's value is, but make their point to the board of review what their value was on Dec. 31. Make a presentation that makes sense to us. You cannot just come say, 'I want my taxes lowered.'"

GLENN LEMMON, Novi city assessor

realize is we use current sales. We do not use foreclosures and bank sales; those are never figured into assessing the true value of a house and neighborhood."

Also the assessments are done in December, and the assessor is not sure what values will be like come March.

"They cannot worry about what today's value is, but make their point to the board of review what their value was on Dec. 31," Lemmon said.

Boron said the best advice he can give to residents who want to appeal before the board is to be prepared.

"Make a presentation that makes sense to us," he said. "You cannot just come say 'I want my taxes lowered.'"

BOARD OF REVIEW

Monday, March 8 - 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 9 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 - 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. *Appearances before the Board of Review are by appointment only

ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

Residents looking to learn more about assessments can participate in a tax appeal town hall meeting for property owners led by State Rep. Hugh D. Crawford, R- Novi.

The free "How to Appeal your Property Tax Assessment" seminar takes place on Feb. 22 at the Rock Financial Showplace.

"It's your right to appeal your assessment, and this will be a great forum to learn the process of how to appeal your property taxes," said Crawford, R- Novi. "Over the last several years, property values keep falling, but not property taxes. I'll keep working diligently in Lansing to address this issue, but while it works its way through the legislative process, this free seminar will help residents interested in the appeals process."

Crawford will also have on hand copies of his manual, "How to Appeal Your Property Assessment."

Staff writer Victoria Mitchell contributed to this story

nmuel@gnnet.com | (248) 437-2011 ext. 255

After 30 years with city, deputy clerk Blashfield retires

Lifelong Novi resident Brennan to fill her position

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

As Debra Blashfield worked her final day for the city of Novi last Friday, city clerk Maryanne Cornelius still did not want to believe it was true.

The two worked closely together for several years, including the last five years when Blashfield served as deputy clerk, and Cornelius was sad to not just be losing a colleague but a good friend.

"I know she's not moving anywhere, but it was good to have someone in that position who you can trust," Cornelius said. "She was very detail-oriented and that was extremely helpful, and she always made certain that everything that needed to be followed up on got the right kind of attention."

She started as a police dispatcher, hired by former police chief Lee BeCote in 1980, and after 30 years of working for the city in several different capacities, Blashfield is excited about the next step in her life.

She started as a police dispatcher, hired by former police chief Lee BeCote in 1980, and after 30 years of working for the city in several different capacities, Blashfield is excited about the next step in her life.

"Novi is a great place to work and live," she said. "The citizens are very nice and my co-workers were very hard-working and dedicated. I've made some of my best friends working here."

Since she started working for the city, she has watched it grow from a small town, worked under three city managers and seen several people come and go.

Cornelius said her knowledge of the city and the history will be missed, and she admired Blashfield because she was always looking for different ways to accomplish goals.

"She always questioned if we were doing things because it was the way we always did it or could we do it in a different way," she said. "For me that was a valuable trait."

Up next for Blashfield is "not setting an alarm clock and probably after a little time to myself, doing some volunteer work in the area."

Cornelius said it should be a seamless transition for the city in the department so she has experience with everything," she said. "And also being born and raised in and Novi, she will be a very good asset."

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JOHN HEIDER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pigeon Party

Novi Public Library staff member Suzanne Carpenter reads "Pigeon Party" by Mo Willems on Tues., Feb. 16 to an assembly of youngsters.



JOHN HEIDER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Camper and RV show comes to town

Visitors to this past weekend's Camper and RV show at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace check out one of the many pop-up campers available for personal use at the four-day event.

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KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in today's SPORTS SECTION



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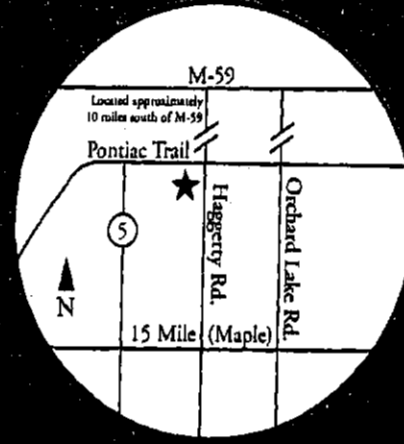


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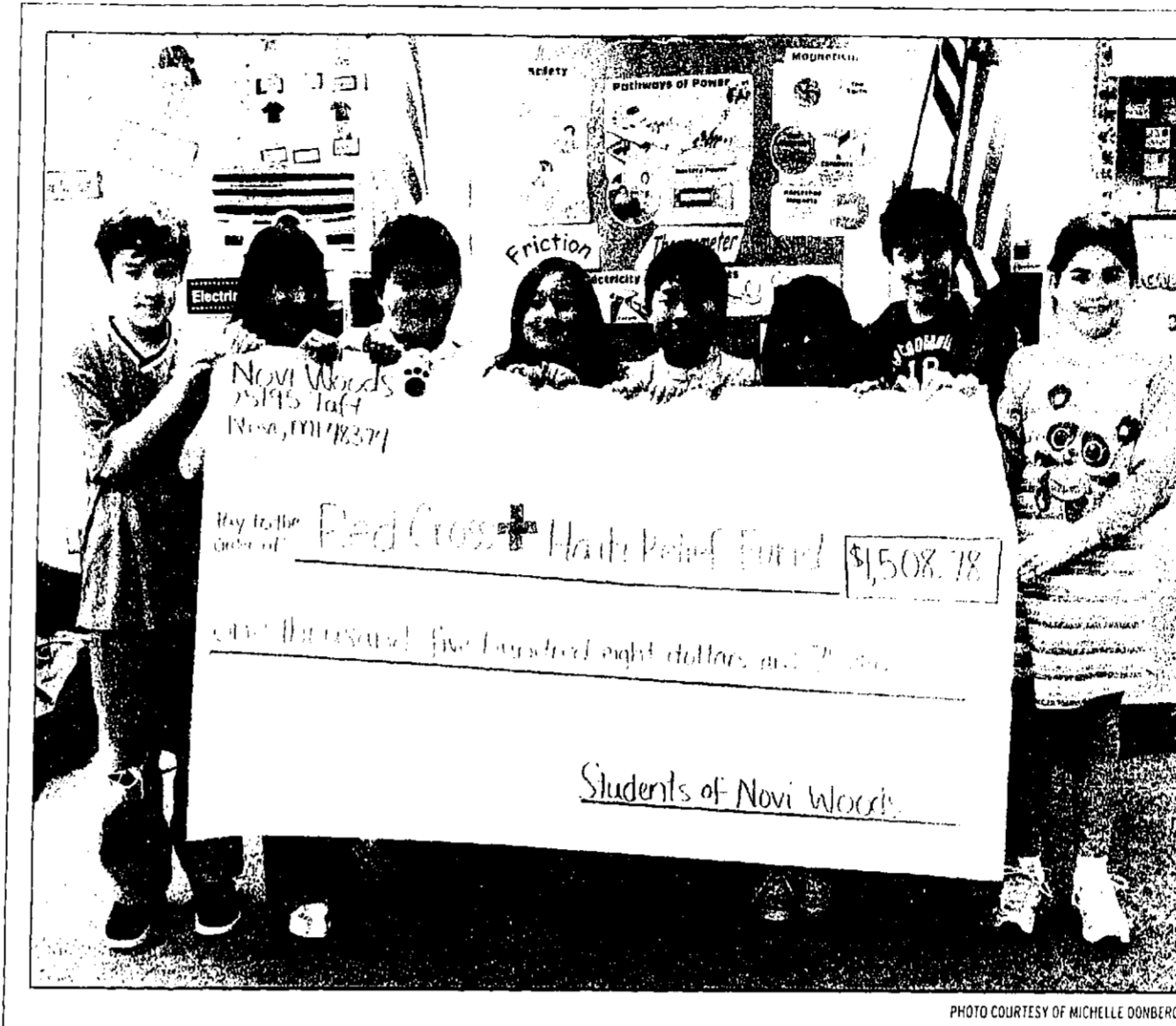
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EDUCATION



Help for Haiti

Novi Woods Elementary helped raise money to send to the Red Cross for the Haiti Relief Fund. Students have been doing chores around the house the past two weeks to earn money to donate. They ended their collection for the Red Cross with a special incentive Feb. 5. For the donation of \$1 per student, the students were able to wear their pajamas to school. The grand total of what Novi Woods donated last week and today for pajama day was \$15,081.12! Pictured (l to r) are fourth graders Paulo Burgess, Kesia George, Donny Zhang, Joanne Kwon, Christian Jung, Andrea Thomas, Derick Broche and Molly Anderson. In the second photo, first graders Jenya Patel and Toko Kozawa collect donations for Haiti in their first grade classroom.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE DOMBERGER

NOVI ON CAMPUS

Lawrence Technological University

The following students from Novi graduated May 17, 2009: Saad Syoutly, master's in electrical and computer engineering; Arundhati Umesh, master's in information systems; Saad Alazemi, master's of mechanical engineering; Matthew Wehrly, bachelor's in architecture; John Ardoulos, master's of architecture; Charlene Ramos, master's of business administration; and Rebecca Myers, master's of business administration.

Central Michigan University

The following Novi students graduated in summer 2009: Diane Bivins; Jay Edillo; Brittany Phillips; Jillian Foraker; Sandra Kalinowsky; Julie Longo; Alice Mieth; Stephen Modic; Ashley O'Connor; Evan Plumley; Matthew Simich; Alexander St. Clair; and Amy Weston.

Hope College

The following Novi students were named to the Dean's List for the first semester of

the 2009-2010 school year (to be named, students must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average): Anthony Gasparotto; Sarah Carr; Amanda Sutton; Nicole Nordstrom; and Andrew Haggerty.

Virginia Tech

Derek Richard, of Novi, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester. To qualify, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

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NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Nutrition program unveiled

Fitness Together, 24276 Novi Road, Novi, is launching a proprietary nutrition program. Modeled after the same one-on-one approach used for Fitness Together's personal training, Nutrition Together provides clients with nutrition guidance in tandem with fitness training to help achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

With the motto "Eat healthy. Eat light. Eat often," Nutrition Together is designed to offer sensible solutions and a common-sense approach to nutrition. The program is administered by the Fitness Together personal trainers in a series of one-on-one sessions that go hand-in-hand with the client's personal training regimen.

"Because fitness and nutrition are inseparable components of an overall wellness plan, this program brings our approach full circle to helping clients achieve their goals and live healthier lives," said Boo Sadtirk, owner of Fitness Together in Novi. "We have always encouraged and provided guidance for eating well, but with Nutrition Together we now have a solid, sensible program that completely complements our personal training services and will help promote stronger results."

"Annie" to aid Zambians

The musical "Annie" will be performed March 5-6 by the Oak Pointe Players of Oak Pointe Church, including Chuck Galicia of WDVY whose daughter Riley plays Annie. The net proceeds will go to Living Hope International, a non-profit organization that runs an orphanage in Zambia, Africa. LHI has recently received land to expand the orphanage to include a school and more housing for up to 100 orphans. Using the funds raised from the show, LHI will be drilling two water wells on the new property so the children will have clean water to drink.

Show times are Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per child; \$10 per adult and a limit of \$30 per family. Call Oak Pointe Church at (248) 912-0043 or visit www.Oakpointe.org for more information. Oak Pointe Church is a non-denominational community located at 50200 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi.

LEAP! event March 16

The 19 members of the Novi Youth Council (NYC) will be heard at work planning their second teen convention, LEAP!, Living Extraordinarily and Positively. This year's event will focus on wise choices and will take place on Tuesday, March 16 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Pointe Church in Novi.

In 2009, the City of Novi Youth Council presented its first annual teen convention with over 300 local high school students participating in the educational day focusing on raising awareness for a major issue facing students today: teen depression. For 2010, LEAP! will take the convention to new heights, by offering more group break-out sessions, hands-on activities, presentations, performances, and interactive booths by a variety of area organizations. Additionally, nationally acclaimed speaker, Sarah Panzani will share her experience and the consequences of over indulging with alcohol. As a two-time member of the National Junior College Athletic Association women's volleyball All-America team, Sarah knew what it is like to be on top of her game - and on top of the world, before some bad choices made her nearly lose it all.

The cost to attend LEAP! is \$5 per person and includes lunch. Please note this does not include transportation to the event, as that will need to be provided by those attending.

Camp Invention 2010

Creativity and brainstorming are the building blocks to your child's future. Camp Invention's emphasizes those skills and more, and Novi Novi Theatre's weekly entertainment line-up on Friday (10 p.m.) and Saturday (11 p.m.) evenings. Comedians scheduled to perform during "Late Night Comedy Series" at the Andiamo Novi Theatre for February and March 2010 include:

- Feb. 19-20 - Sid Davis
Feb. 26-27 - Shaun Jones and Ross Duncliffe
March 5-6 - Mark Klein and Chad Miller
March 12-13 - Mark Knope and Roy Haber
March 19-20 - Dan Swartout and Nicholas Anthony

Children will create exciting new games and transform ordinary household items into extraordinary inventions during this weeklong summer adventure for those currently in grades K-5. Children will participate daily in five activity-oriented, hands-on modules focused on science literacy, math, history and the arts. There is also a heavy emphasis on the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Whole food vs. synthetic

Which is better and why is the subject of a seminar being hosted at select Better Health locations featuring natural health expert, Chris Herbert from North American Herb and Spice, who will speak at the Novi Better Health (42875 Grand River Avenue) at 2 p.m. on Feb. 20.

"There has been a myth that all supplements have been created equally," says Herbert. "This myth is not true and this lecture is here to expose it. People will learn what vitamins and minerals are made from and why choosing food sources is the best option. I will show why whole food supplements give you the best nutrition and how to use them properly. People will also learn about wild spices, berries, herbs, mushrooms and other nutritious plants from around the world."

Spring craft show

Looking for some unique crafts for the home or some interesting ideas for crafts of your own? Check out the craft show on March 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hometown Novi Manufactured Home Community Clubhouse off Thirteen Mile Road between M-5 and Novi Road. On hand will be homemade household decorations, clay hermit crabs, jelly bean bunnies, ornaments, cross stitch, crocheted dishcloths, concession stand, ceramics, sugar scrub and much more! Free admission.

Andiamo brings late-night laughs

Friday and Saturday nights just got a whole lot funnier. The Andiamo Novi Theatre has announced "Late Night Comedy Series" as part of their on-going entertainment line-up with tickets at \$15. "Late Night Comedy Series" will be part of the Andiamo Novi Theatre's weekly entertainment line-up on Friday (10 p.m.) and Saturday (11 p.m.) evenings.

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 Center 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 Soo, M.D., will be the recipients of the Caduceus Society Physician of the Year award.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary program. The program is designed to offer a comprehensive approach to the surgical and medical management of patients with malignancies, neoplasms and diseases involving the liver, gallbladder, bile ducts, pancreas and the duodenum. The multidisciplinary team for the HBP program is dedicated to the consistent evaluation and improvement of patient care outcomes across the continuum of inpatient and outpatient care.

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 Vitale Band. The co-chairs for the event are Julie Curry and Charlotte Walker. Committee members include Andria Bojrab, Lauri Boloschneider, MCN, NP-C, Ann Conrad, Susan Glassford, Lou Grieshaber, 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 Shaya, Jennifer Stewart, Courtney Teple, Betsy Thompson, Sandy Tobar and Marilyn Wick.

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

Seating for each of these seminars is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information, please call (248) 735-8100 or visit www.thebetterhealthstore.com.

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Videos: Newspaper isn't just printed word any more

Hello there, you reader of words. Say, did you know that the Northville Record offers news stories, features and sports - in moving pictures? Moving pictures with sound? Well, we do. They're called videos and they're found online at http://www.hometownlife.com/section/NEWS12.



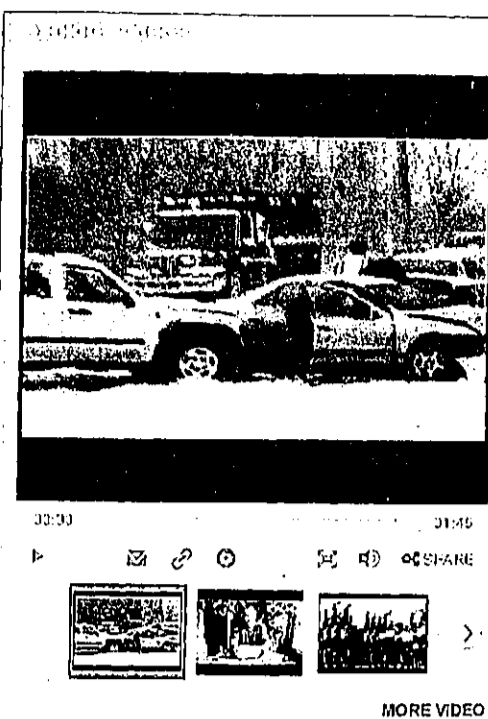
Heider about the ice-rescue training visit to Novi schools, the Novi High School pom team performing their routine, and the Cat's Eye TV broadcast by Novi students.

We're also doing a series of high school sports preview videos that feature our sports staff as they chat about local teams and their opponents. They're proving a very popular way for sports lovers to check out their cross-town rivals and what's upcoming as the seasons progress.

So, if you have a minute, check out the Northville Record/Novi News online video offerings at www.hometownlife.com/section/NEWS12.

We'll do our best to keep you informed and entertained with what's going on in our dynamic and energetic community. And I'd like to hear from you - our loyal print and online readers. Send me your suggestions for upcoming video features. And, if you're interested in email, then let me know by phone. I can be reached at Heider @ gannett.com or call me at (248) 437-2011, ext. 225.

John Heider Northville Record photographer/video producer



Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church listings for various locations including Brighton, Milford, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, White Lake, Plymouth, and Wixom. Each listing includes church name, address, phone, and service times.

Passages Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances. 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968. email: oebits@hometownlife.com

EDWIN DWIGHT ARMSTRONG JR. Age 82, passed away February 10, 2010. He was born on July 19, 1927, in Detroit, to the late Edwin Sr. and Helen (Novoty) Armstrong. Edwin enjoyed many hobbies including: gardening, hunting and woodworking. Edwin is survived by his beloved wife Marjorie, children: David (Jackie) Armstrong, Gary (Barlene) Armstrong, Patricia (Bill) Anderson, and daughter in law Judy Armstrong, grandchildren: Kristen, Pamela, Bryan, Cory, Elise, Jennifer, and Kevin, great grandchildren: Matthew and Kody, and siblings: Marilyn Folsy and Robert G. Armstrong. Services were held on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at Church of the Holy Cross in Novi. Arrangements by Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to: Church of the Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 40700 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374 or Alzheimer's Association, 107 April Dr., Suite 1, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

LOUIS JAMES KATZBECK Dec. 13, 1952 - Feb. 11, 2010. Of New Hudson, passed away February 12, 2010. He was an educator with the Detroit Public Schools for over 30 years, prior to his retirement. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanne, his loving daughters, Erica and Tiffany, one brother, one sister, his step-mother, Lee Morris and his mother-in-law, Beverly Laurina. He was preceded in death by his parents Beverly & Dale Morris. Visitation will be held on Monday from 2:00pm-9:00pm at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, Livony of the Word funeral service will be conducted on Tuesday at 11:00am at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to his daughter's education fund. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon www.phillipsfuneral.com

BRENDIA SUE COOPER Age 58, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2010. Brenda was born on June 19, 1951, in Harlan, Kentucky, to Sherman and Agnes (Kinder) Strunk. Brenda is survived by her loving mother Agnes Strunk, beloved siblings: Georgia, Saylor, Roger Strunk, Angela Johnson, and David Strunk, and many nieces and nephews. Brenda was preceded in death by her father Sherman Strunk and her brother Clarence Strunk. A funeral service was held at 11:00am on Monday, February 15, 2010 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

Clearing a path Cathy Kuzdzia uses a snowblower to clear the walk of a Buckminster Street neighbor in Novi on Feb. 9. Novi saw eight inches of total snowfall on that day, for the most accumulation so far of the winter.

KIM DALE MORRIS 57, of New Hudson, passed away February 12, 2010. He was an educator with the Detroit Public Schools for over 30 years, prior to his retirement. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanne, his loving daughters, Erica and Tiffany, one brother, one sister, his step-mother, Lee Morris and his mother-in-law, Beverly Laurina. He was preceded in death by his parents Beverly & Dale Morris. Visitation will be held on Monday from 2:00pm-9:00pm at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, Livony of the Word funeral service will be conducted on Tuesday at 11:00am at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to his daughter's education fund. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon www.phillipsfuneral.com

BEULAH M. OXFORD Age 81, of Highland, MI passed January 28, 2010. Surviving are two sisters.

FERN MARIE RACE Age 87, passed away Feb. 15, 2010. Memorial gathering Feb. 19, Friday, 9 - 9 p.m. Memorial service Feb. 20, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street (Ten Mile), South Lyon.

CATHERINE "KITTY" ZIMMERMAN 83, longtime resident of Northville, passed away Feb. 11, 2010. Funeral Mass Feb. 15 at OLV and burial at Hazel Hill Cemetery. Contributions to OLV Building Fund. Arrangements by Casterline Funeral Home.

OBITUARY POLICY e-mail your obit to: HTO@hometownlife.com. Our fax to 313-496-4968. Attn: HTO@hometownlife.com. For more information visit: Char Wilson 888-886-7088. Liz Kolesar 888-877-7038.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One. Living Water North Campus of St. Luke Lutheran Church Ann Arbor. Worship Celebration Sunday 10:15 a.m. White Lake High School. 7400 Whitlock Lane Rd., White Lake, MI 48189. Dan Flynn, Minister. 734-422-4206 • www.livingwater.org

NEIGHBORS

Longtime Novi dentist hangs up his drill

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It sure hasn't felt like 38 years to Dr. Terry Nielsen. But when the dentist walks out of his office at President Dentistry for the final time March 11, he will do so proud of what he has accomplished and glad he had the chance to do what he loved for so long. "I never saw myself looking back at 38 years and never thought it could go by so fast," he said Monday. "When I first announced my retirement, I was about 75 percent into it, now I'm about 105 percent. I'm ready."

Nielsen came to Novi in 1972, opening his dental practice at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads. He was one of only two or three dentists in the area at the time and even referred to the city as "Novi-tucky" because there wasn't much around. The practice moved three more times before settling in its current location on Grand River Avenue in 1999.

Now the population of the city is more than 50,000 and more than 30 dentists serve the community. Still, he withstood the test of time and President Dentistry will

its nearly 6,000 patients will continue on without him, led by partners Mark Angolecci and Alan Kessler. "I was in the right place at the right time," Nielsen said of settling in Novi. "And if you didn't evolve, you were lost."

He said two of the biggest keys were keeping up with technology and staying on top of marketing efforts. He and his partners have been active in the Novi community throughout the years as they have collected hats, mittens and scarves for children in the Novi Community Schools District, participated as sponsors in the Live Like Andi Cancer Run and gone into elementary schools in Novi to teach dental hygiene. They also have donated money to the parks and recreation department in Novi, sponsored teams and donated dental products to people in India and Africa through missionaries.

Nielsen said he is blessed to have the success he has had. "Being a dentist is what I do and it makes it easy when you have a good staff, great partners and patients who trust you," he said. Angolecci said he is going



Dr. Terry Nielsen laughs in his Grand River Avenue office as he shares some stories about his 38 years in dentistry in Novi.

to miss being able to bounce ideas off him and values Nielsen's professionalism. "I learned that you treat people as people and not for their pocket book," he said. Since Nielsen announced his retirement, most office visits now end with story sharing and a hug. And even in retirement, Nielsen plans to help a friend who lives near Boyne City with his practice which helps low-income people.

"I'll miss my friends and the people I've met over the years, but I won't miss giving another shot," he said.

nmuel@annett.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255



Retiring Novi dentist Dr. Terry Nielsen looks into the mouth of employee Helena Klosinski at President Dentistry.

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Chris Grindrod, a Novi High School graduate, received the Golden Mic Award for southern gospel music as program director of WEEC in Springfield, Ohio.

Grindrod, a DJ at Novi's WOVI in high school, worked at the campus radio station, WORB, at Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus, where he earned an associate's degree in liberal arts. He later worked at campus radio stations WCHP and WMTH at Central Michigan University, where he earned a degree in broadcast and cinematic arts. Grindrod became music director and DJ at WBNO in Bryan, Ohio in 1989 and was later promoted to program director. He worked at WLZZ in Montpelier, Ohio from 1992-99, eventually becoming that station's manager after being hired as an advertising salesperson. His next two years were at Trans World Radio on Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, where he and his wife, Ketra, performed missions work. He eventually became the sales and marketing director of the Caribbean Gospel Network. Grindrod is in his sixth year in southern gospel radio and at WEEC, where he began as a production director and DJ before being promoted to program director in 2006. The station broadcasts a strictly Christian format at 100.7FM.

Author teaches children, adults not to be defined by skin color

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
GAMWELL NEWS SERVICE

When area author Tara Michener wrote her first book she never imagined the breadth of opportunity to come her way. "Who I Am, Not What I Am!" was an instant hit, captivating young readers around Metro Detroit.

The book stars Janelle, a biracial 6-year-old, who learns she is not defined by the color of her skin. The book and intelligently delivered message has captivated Michener into a world of book signings and public speaking opportunities she feels honored to embrace.

Since the book's 2008 release, Michener has hosted diversity training at universities and corporations, traveled the east coast on a book-signing tour and visited elementary schools, including her alma mater school district, Pontiac.

Michener created the Novi Chamber of Commerce Diversity Roundtable, is working with the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America and is chair of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations Committee.

"It's been pretty incredible," she said. "It shows when you believe in something and are passionate, anything can happen."

Michener, who lives in



Author Tara Michener with her first book, "Who I Am, Not What I Am!"

Novi, credits her success to hard work and her past career experiences in sales, media buying and human

resources. She also credits having a supportive husband and her faith. "I feel I'm doing what I'm

supposed to be doing," she said. Among the current projects Michener is working on

includes a Feb. 26-28 virtual children's book fair, partnering with Operation: Kid Equip to provide low-income

children with new books and promoting the much-anticipated sequel in the Who I Am series, "100% Real." "100% Real" follows Janelle back to school a few years later where she meets Zoey, a child adopted at an older age.

Michener once again takes her uncanny ability to relate to children through Zoey's journey into realizing that she is real and does belong, despite her classmates' questioning leading the young girl to initially think she isn't really a part of her family.

Michener hopes "100% Real" will touch as many with its important, affirming message as her first book did.

"It's a great way to talk to your kids about different families," she said. Michener feels it is important to let children know there is nothing wrong with seeing others as different, as long as you don't judge them by their differences.

"It opens them up to be more well-rounded and accepting," she said. And her follow-up book has additional meaning to Michener as this is the first collaboration with her husband, Jason, who illustrated "100% Real."

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

Application deadline is

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friday, Feb. 12. To apply or receive more information about these positions, to obtain and submit an application online go to www.oakgov.com/boe/news/04pr_applicationrelease. 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.

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 Galleries, 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 resume 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.

Youth baseball

Novi Youth Baseball League's on-line registration for the 2010 season will conclude on March 15. NYBL services players from the age of 7 to 18 years of age and holds most practices and games at ITC Community Sports Park. You can get more information and register on-line at: www.noviouthbaseball.org; no walk-in registrations will be available. Please contact NYBL Secretary Rob Reilly with questions: reilly14@yahoo.com.

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OUR VIEWS

Certain issues can't cloud constitution question in Michigan

This November, Michigan voters will decide — as they do every 16 years — whether it is time to convene a convention to draft a new state constitution.

There are legitimate concerns as to whether an entire rewrite of the constitution is necessary, or whether it is better to surgically make changes one at a time. It is also true that a new constitution isn't a panacea for the problems facing Michigan that must be addressed immediately.

While these are legitimate issues to debate over the next eight or nine months, there are a number of objections to calling a new convention that should be quickly dismissed.

For instance, some would argue that at a projected cost of \$45 million, it is too expensive to call a new convention. Really? This would be an odd time for lawmakers to suddenly worry about unnecessary costs. Lawmakers easily allocate triple that amount annually for taxpayer subsidies for filmmaking, even though they are forbidden to take even a cursory view of how that money is spent.

If the constitution can fix some of what ails state government, then surely the state can finance a one-time \$45 million expenditure from a state spending plan that well exceeds \$40 billion.

Some argue that there is no need to rewrite a constitution when the document can be amended by a public vote. But the two methods for proposed amendments to reach the ballot — two-thirds votes by both chambers of the state Legislature or a citizen petition drive — are unwieldy.

Lawmakers can't always get the majority votes needed for sensible budget reform, much less a two-thirds vote for meaningful constitutional change. Far from grassroots efforts, most petition drives are funded by special interest and out-of-state groups.

Look at it this way. Most lawmakers say they think that term limits should be changed. But they haven't been able to muster an amendment to do so.

Third, there is understandable but misplaced fear that a convention would draw extreme supporters of narrowly focused social issues, such as gay rights and abortion. Maybe so. But if the convention drafts a constitution that is dominated by unacceptable changes, then the public can be trusted to vote it down.

Finally, among the strangest of the objections is the fear that Michigan's next governor will be frozen into inaction by the knowledge that just down the street a convention is meeting that might radically change the state's constitution.

Such a concern presumes that the state government has been aggressively tackling budget and unemployment issues in the absence of such a distraction. If so, we haven't seen the results. If the next governor is going to be sidetracked by a constitutional convention, then he or she shouldn't have run for the job in the first place.

This is not to say that a new constitution is a good idea. The process is hampered by two factors: the partisan nature of the way that convention delegates will be elected and the fact that those elections will be held shortly after the November vote.

Delegates who are elected as Republicans or Democrats representing current state House and Senate districts could produce a convention that is every bit as partisan and nonproductive as the current Legislature. The fact that convention primary candidates must file within weeks of the November vote could limit qualified contenders.

If a convention does come to pass, voters will need to pay close attention to the type of change delegate candidates are proposing. Then they need to get out and vote, so that a small February turnout doesn't determine the architects of the new document.

NOVI NEWS

GANNETT

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COMMUNITY VOICE

"What is the one thing you think the Novi School District should do to save money?"



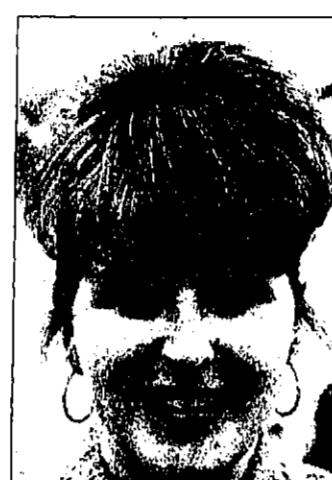
We heard this suggestion in a meeting last night: When there's a drop in the student population, there needs to be corresponding drop in staffing.

Rick Lombardi
Novi



That is a hard one. You know what I'd like to do, but which we can't, is charge for transportation. If keeping my kids in specials like music and art, I'd be all for it.

Jeryl Thibaudeau
Novi



We have a brand new stadium, with new lights and a scoreboard, but we don't spend money on kids' education.

Cathy Farris
Novi



Freeze spending, which we are doing. We have to look at creative ways to purchase goods. Overall, but we have to look at this year and next if Granholm is going to cut funds again.

Maria Mazza
Novi

LETTERS

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats: Web: www.hometownlife.com; Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48176. Fax: (248) 437-3386. E-mail: cstone@gannett.com. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

(again) of not meeting their state budget; it's the participants. As one of Nancy's constituents, I would like to see her put as much effort into balancing the budget as she does bashing a new industry that is trying to take roots in Michigan. After all,

the film industry and incentives have been around less than two years and the budget problem has been here for the last seven years.

It really doesn't matter how many tax incentives you give or who you give them to or who you don't give them to. The bottom line is, if you can't live within your means (budget) and you overspend (Michigan's current government participants), the outcome will always be the same.

By the way, her figures are grossly inaccurate as to how much refunding the state is giving the film industry. If you go online to the Michigan Film Office you will find the state-audited figures for April 2008 to April 2009 to be rounded to \$32 million with approx a 32-percent return out of the possible 42 percent. That's a far cry from Nancy's figures of \$100 million. The April 2010 to April 2011 figures haven't been audited yet. Just a thought — received 100 percent and returned 32 percent. Hmm ... is that really that bad?

Edie Durusha
Walled Lake

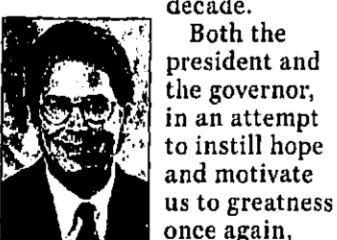
Michigan — a great leap of faith

The 2010 State of the Union and the State of the State addresses have been delivered by the president and now Michigan's governor, respectively. But as a union and a state, we need a whole lot more than mere inspiration and optimism.

How about some honesty? Like the state of our state and the state of our nation is NOT good. Here in Michigan, formerly a bellwether state (one that influenced trends and foretold future events), we have been No. 1 in all the wrong things for nearly a decade.

Both the president and the governor, in an attempt to instill hope and motivate us to greatness once again, invoked an inspirational tone in their messages, telling us that on the outside of the pain and sacrifice, better days lie ahead. Yet here in Michigan, we need that dose of optimism and inspiration along with action plans to get us out of the ditch.

As I listened to both speeches, my mind drifted to children's *The Little Engine that Could*, a story that inspires optimism and hard work. While it might be a metaphor for the American Dream with its "I think I can, I think I can" refrain, it also inspires a belief that if



Tom Watkins

we work hard enough, there "ain't no mountain high enough" that we can't conquer. So, in the spirit of *The Little Engine that Could* here are some other famous quotes to keep you going until "this too shall pass" and "happy days are here again": "Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work" — Peter Drucker "If you're afraid of the future, then get out of the way, stand aside. The people of this country are ready to move again" — Ronald Reagan "I dwell in possibilities" — Emily Dickinson "Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about change" — Malcolm X "Human salvation lies in the hand of the creatively maladjusted" — Martin Luther King Jr. "If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves" — Maria Edgeworth "A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials" — Chinese proverb "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has" — Tom Watkins is the former state superintendent of schools (2001-05) and state mental health director (1986-90). He is currently a business consultant. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

COMMENTARY

— Margaret Mead
"But first you must believe"
— Peter Pan
"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not, but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for" — Epicurus

"A Wise man's day is worth a fool's life" — Arabic proverb
"Hope is a waking dream" — Aristotle
"I pledge to you, I pledge to myself, to a New Deal for the American people" — Franklin D. Roosevelt
"He who doesn't look ahead remains behind" — Mexican proverb
"Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail, without it nothing can succeed" — Abraham Lincoln
"Clearly at this period in our history, we need to come together as a state and nation. Let's end the partisan bickering and work instead to develop a shared vision — a plan of action to get us working and winning again."

Rhetoric without action is nothing more than a verbal pogo stick. We can ill afford to jump up and down — with out going anywhere! We must have hope but also ACT on change. Inspiration without action is pure fantasy.

Tom Watkins is the former state superintendent of schools (2001-05) and state mental health director (1986-90). He is currently a business consultant. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

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.

School administrators agree to pay cut

Did I read that right? Some gave up their jobs? Some took 20% pay cut and ONE guy said no thanks to a 1% raise? telheid

Yes you read that right. Only in Novi can this happen. No one seemed to care about the custodians keeping the toilets clean and respecting our young teens at the high school. So we got a cheaper \$8.50 an hour crew who have asked teen girls out on dates and then have been fired. So I have been told the top of the school district pay is because "you have to pay well to get good people" The school board forgot that theory when they hired the private company to clean for us.

MARY466

Awrey's still fires up ovens after 100 years

"I can make good homemade bread and we will still be our neighbors and perhaps get something started." — Elizabeth Awrey

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Awrey and her husband Fletcher got something started, all right. With the spartan beginnings of fresh breads baked on a coal-fired range in a house in Detroit in 1910 to a 235,000-square-foot plant on Farmington Road in Livonia housing more than 400 employees, Awrey's Bakeries continues to bake Danishes, croissants, cakes and biscuits for everyone from corporate customers to local residents who shop at the thrift store next to the plant.

On Feb. 9, the company celebrated its 100th year in business.

The Awrey family no longer owns the company. The company was sold in 2005 to Hilco Equity of Chicago and Monomoy Capital to help the company emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The company is looking forward and ahead with business beyond its 100th birthday.

"(Hilco and Monomoy) are very pleased with the performance of the company and very proud to build on the Awrey legacy," said Bob Wallace, president and CEO of Awrey Bakeries.

The company has evolved and is expanding its base of national customers, according to Wallace, a Novi resident. At one time the business sold 100 percent of its products in Michigan; today it's only 10 percent, Wallace said.

Wallace is tight-lipped on the identity of some of the company's national clients as the company maintains confidentiality agreements with them. Wallace doesn't hesitate to promote the Michigan companies doing business with Awrey's.

Locally, Awrey's sells to Busch's and Hiller's markets, Sysco Food Service, Gordon Food Service and Lipari. Hiller's and Busch's do a great job promoting Michigan products, Wallace said. "If everybody spent \$10 a week on Michigan products, it would inject \$36 million into the Michigan economy," Wallace said. "People would be buying more groceries, supporting their local communities by spending more money and there would be more money (in the community) for people to buy other items, like cars. We really like that campaign."

Other customers include the military, airlines, hotels, grocery chains and national food service chains, including Sam's Club.

In June 2009, Awrey's purchased Atlanta Elegant Dessert in Noblesville, Ind., which specializes in the company's cheesecake and high-end desserts.



Bob Wallace, president and CEO of Awrey's Bakeries, discusses the company's past and future.

Awrey's employs 400 people. Gross sales total \$90 million. The facility mixes batters and bakes croissants, biscuits, brownies, muffins, cake layers for the high-end cheesecakes made in Indiana and sheet cakes, producing 26 million pounds of food products using 7.5 million pounds of flour and 6.3 million pounds of sugar annually.

"Most of what we produce has a 12-month shelf life because it is frozen," Wallace said. The company also has eliminated trans fats from all of its products, he said.

John Awrey, who is the stepson of former bakery vice president Betty Jean Awrey and is sales and marketing manager, said that the fact that the business bearing the family's name is continuing after 100 years is awesome. "A company that can continue to be doing business

in a time of economic challenges says a lot about the family and the new management," Awrey said. "It's excellent that it's 100 years old."

Kurt Eddy, who is the nephew of Betty Jean Awrey, said Awrey's is much more than just the "Awrey" family. "It is the entire family of people that walk through our doors every day to make our fine baked goods," Eddy said. "Three and even four generations of families have called Awrey's their home away from home."

"This place gets in your blood, and you feel emotionally invested in its success, the success of the company, and for each other. We all look out for each other and the company. Awrey's is family, if it is directly or indirectly."

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Awrey's a sweet production on Farmington Road

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Awrey's, Ltd., has sweetened many a table throughout the Detroit area for generations. Elizabeth Awrey started baking bread for her neighbors in a coal-fired oven eventually moving to 19th Street and installing a larger oven in the kitchen. Her husband, Fletcher Awrey, at first sold the breads from a bicycle and eventually bought a horse and wagon to transport him from house to house and into different neighborhoods.

The couple's sons, Elton, Wilbur and Thomas, used horse-drawn carriages, bicycles and a Ford Model-T truck to make deliveries. The Awrey sons later were key players in the family business which evolved and grew into one of the country's largest privately owned producers of baked goods.

The family found a location for the family business on Tremain Avenue, "a little store in front and room to bake in the back," according to a letter written by Elizabeth Awrey in 1970. At that time, the company had 125 retail bakeries inside supermarkets in Michigan.

In 1967, the family business built a new mass-production factory and headquarters in Livonia on Farmington between Schenck and Plymouth. The new Awrey's facility allowed the company to mass-produce the products they made from scratch. Up until the sale of the company five years ago, it was run by several members of the Awrey family's third and fourth generations, led by chairman of the board Robert Awrey, grandson of Fletcher and Elizabeth, and his wife Betty Jean, who was the company's vice president and actively involved in community service in Livonia.

A DESSERT LINE

The plant production slows in the winter, but there is still activity inside the plant the day of a recent visit by a reporter and photographer. Today the flour is carted to three large silos by railroad car. Flour is blown into the silos, then distributed to dough mixers throughout the plant.

"Cinnamon Danish will be baked in the afternoon. The flour will be mixed with butter or margarine, and then it will be folded, beat down into a sheet, then folded again, into a 28- to 32-layer sheet, which once baked will create a flaky texture in the dough," said Mike Kaldorf, vice president of operations.

The dough goes through a cooling chamber, then the cinnamon filling is poured into it. The dough, now rolled into giant "ropes," is cut by a millimeter-thin dough rolls are placed into racks which resemble muffin tins and "proofed" at 98 degrees for about one hour. Once the Danish dough rises, it is baked. "We can do assorted packs, with separate rows (of dough) for cheddar, apple and cinnamon," Kaldorf said. Danish rolls also are created in sizes ranging from two to five inches.

A second Rotamaker line creates croissants and muffins, but that one is inactive the day of the tour. The Danish will cook in tunnel ovens. The lines can produce 1,500 in one hour, Kaldorf said.

The baked goods enter a spiral cooler, then get shrink wrapped for individual or bulk sales.

The frozen are all baked to freeze. The freezer is slatted like a giant "L," housing 250,000 food products. The company ships out 40,000 to 70,000 cases a week.

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LANSING CONNECTION WITH STATE SEN. NANCY CASSIS

Governor relies on raising taxes in her 2011 budget proposal

The governor recently unveiled her fiscal year 2011 budget proposal to the Legislature. Michigan faces a budget deficit of more than \$1.6 billion next year, and the governor is planning on raising taxes and getting more federal stimulus money to cover most of that hole.



Nancy Cassis

Her budget proposal includes some good ideas, like making \$450 million in government reforms, phasing out the 22 percent Michigan Business Tax surcharge and reducing the MBT's gross receipts tax rate.

However, the governor's plan would expand the state's sales tax on services and reduce the rate from 6 percent to 5.5 percent. The number of services affected would increase from 27 to 150.

The plan is not "revenue neutral." In fact, the service tax expansion would bring in more than \$550 million in tax revenue in 2011. According to the state treasurer, the cost to an average Michigan family would be roughly \$140 per year.

The governor also wants to bring in more than \$100 million in revenue through a 3-percent tax on doctors. Senate Republicans and I have a different vision to solve the budget problem. Our plan to restructure and downsize state government could result in more than \$2 billion in savings. It also makes an important statement that your government should follow your lead and tighten its belt.

Over the upcoming weeks, every member of the Legislature will be seriously engaged in solving our state's budget problems. I know we can do more in way of reform. Major business tax revisions are forthcoming that will help make our state a place where job providers want to locate and grow.

I welcome comments on the governor's budget proposal from my constituents. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts at 1-800-38-NANCY or e-mail me at senncassis@senate.michigan.gov.

SENATE PANEL APPROVES "PURE MICHIGAN" CAMPAIGN FUNDING

Recognizing the importance of tourism to many areas of our state, the Senate Finance Committee approved funding to support the popular "Pure Michigan" advertising campaign.

As chair of the committee, I know that Michigan faces many challenges. Although we are inspired by the tourism campaign, our state still faces a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall and 14.6 percent unemployment. Whenever the state invests taxpayer dollars, I want to make sure we have all the information we need to make a fiscally responsible decision.

Because of a lack of disclosure, the panel approved Senate Bill 619 and House Bill 5018 to create the Pure Michigan campaign, called the Michigan 2009 Tourism Advertising Evaluation and Image Study. According to the report by Longwoods International, Pure Michigan's return on investment to the state was \$2.86 per dollar spent on the regional campaign in 2008 and in 2009 that return increased to \$5.34 per dollar.

My problem with the study is that the methodology and statistics are not included with the report. In fact, I was informed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that the complete 2009 study would not be available for another 60 days. Without this information there is no way to verify or substantiate the findings. This is a serious flaw that casts doubt on the reported findings and the way the MEDC reports this information.

Understanding the importance of tourism in Michigan, the panel approved Senate Bill 619 and House Bill 5018 to create the Michigan Promotional Fund and allocate \$9.5 million for the fund this year. That is in addition to the \$5.4 million already appropriated for the campaign, making the total investment in tourism promotion in 2010 more than \$14.9 million. This represents a significant commitment to the tourism industry that balances supporting Michigan job providers who depend on tourism with prioritizing our limited financial resources.

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 Wixom 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.

DEROCHE

FROM PAGE A1

will decide whether to charge DeRoche. A message seeking comment was left Monday with Grossman.

"I'll cooperate fully with the police and the court," DeRoche said. "No ticket has been issued."

Police didn't see DeRoche driving, but Buntzen said witnesses did. DeRoche appeared to hit a curb, and his car had a flat tire.

"Just because I wasn't driving my car at the time doesn't mean I don't accept responsibility for drinking more than I should have and hope to learn from my mistake and never put myself in that situation again," DeRoche said today.

DeRoche, 39, told police he was in the area for a business meeting and also spent time at a local bar. But Buntzen said DeRoche "didn't know which one or where it was."

DeRoche, of Novi, was House speaker in 2005-06 and left office after six years because of term limits. He owns an insurance quoting service.

AnnArbor.com reported details of DeRoche's arrest on Friday.

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 2010

SECTION B
 (NRN)

Jeff Thelma, editor (248) 637-2001
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LOCAL SPORTS

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 Strictly Business, B5

Quartet of Novi grapplers qualify for Regionals

Engebretson, Bunney, Mencer, Sidhu claw way to top-four district finishes

BY CHRIS JACKETT
 CORRESPONDENT

The Wildcats headed to the 49th annual MHSAA Individual Districts at Plymouth last Saturday and had four grapplers advance to Regionals at Saline this Saturday by placing in the top four within their weight classes.

Senior captains Alex Engebretson (160 pounds), Martin Bunney (145), junior Al Mencer (215) and sophomore Shahbaig Sidhu (125) all earned their seasons for, at least, one more week following strong performances last week.

With the Wildcats' most impressive performance of the day, Engebretson captured third place by defeating Oak Park's Roy Edwards 9-2. Following an opening 5-3 win over Plymouth Salem's Colin Gross, Engebretson lost a 9-8 quadruple overtime thriller to Kevin Lee of Southfield. Lee entered the match with a 38-3 record.

"While the loss to Lee was a tough one, it seemed to really

ON TAP

Four Novi wrestlers advanced to regional competition Saturday at Saline. Qualifying with third- and fourth-place finishes at last weekend's Individual District meet in Plymouth, senior captains Alex Engebretson (160 pounds), Martin Bunney (145), junior Al Mencer (215) and sophomore Shahbaig Sidhu (125) will all hit the mats this weekend in a bid to qualify for the individual state meet March 4-6 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. "The whole team is training this week. They will be there to support their teammates," assistant coach Dan Jilg said.

light a fire under Engebretson as he completely controlled the matches against his next three opponents," assistant coach Dan Jilg said.

Engebretson continued on to demolish Livonia Stevenson's Josh Siebert 9-0 and Curtis

Please see WRESTLING, B4



The Novi wrestling team gathers after their Individual District meet Feb. 13 in Plymouth.

BY CHRIS JACKETT
 CORRESPONDENT

HOCKEY
 Ranked No. 5 in the state, No. 2 in Division II and No. 35 in the nation, Novi's teens went 2-1-0 last week in a series of high-profile games.

The Cats kicked off the week Feb. 8 with a 7-0 win over baseline rival Northville. After winning the KLAAs Kensington Conference last season, the Mustangs are 9-12-0 (6-5-0 Kensington) and ranked No. 48 in the state.

Novi faced another nearby team last Saturday in No. 1 Detroit Catholic Central. As part of the MHSAA Showcase, the game took place in Trenton though, as the Shamrocks defeated the Wildcats 6-2.

Bouncing back the following day, Novi defeated No. 6 Birmingham Brother Rice 6-4 Sunday to improve to 17-3-2 on the season.

With the KLAAs playoffs starting this week, Central No. 2 Novi (7-1-1 Kensington) will face the South Division No. 2 on the road Thursday at 6 p.m. The No. 2 South team? Livonia Churchill, who handed Novi its only conference loss of the season in a 5-4 game Jan. 20 at Novi Ice Arena.

With Novi tying Livonia Stevenson in both contests, the loss cost Novi a share of the Central Division title despite Churchill's position in the South Division.

Coach Todd Kryger's Cats will head to Eddie Edgar Ice Arena in Livonia to avenge the loss against the No. 22 Chargers (10-6-1, 5-3-3) in hopes of advancing to the Jan. 25 road game against either No. 33 Walled Lake Northern

NOVI HIGH WRAP-UP

NOVI IN THE OLYMPICS

Tune into the Winter Olympics on NBC (Channel 4) and see if you can track down Novi residents Emily Samuelsen or Micke Rzepka in Vancouver.

A 2008 Novi High alum, the 19-year-old Samuelsen will compete in the pairs ice dancing competition Feb. 19-22 with her partner, Evan Bates of Ann Arbor. It's the first trip for both skaters.

At 26, Rzepka, a 2001 Novi High alum, will participate at the primary push position (called a brakeman) on the United States' top two-women's bobsled team Feb. 23-24 with Shaun Robcock of Utah. Rzepka won the silver medal in 2006 with Valerie Fleming as her partner.

(12-7-2, 5-5-0 North) or No. 17 Brighton (9-6-1, 8-2-0 West).

CHEER

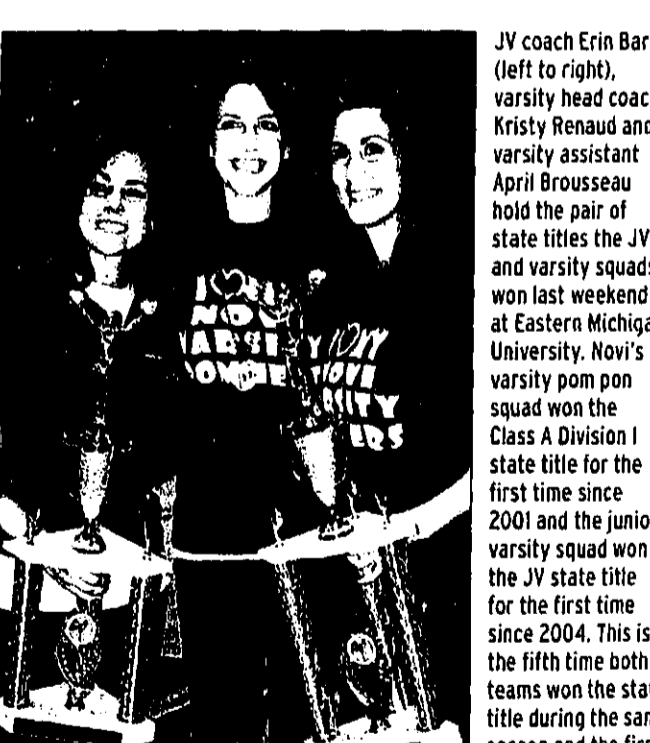
Novi's competitive cheer squad finished ahead of Kensington Conference champion Livonia Franklin at last Saturday's Novi-hosted KLAAs Association Cheer Championships, but so did four other Kensington Conference squads to prevent the Wildcats from a clear path to the Association title.

With 431,436 points after two rounds, Novi was poised for a strong finish, but Northville and Westland John Glenn rode strong performances of their own to edge out the Wildcats and push down Novi to fourth of 23 KLAAs squads.

Please see ROUNDUP, B4



The Novi competitive cheer squad competes at the Kensington Lakes Athletic Association meet last weekend. The Wildcats finished fourth of 23 KLAAs squads.



JV coach Erin Bartos (left to right), varsity head coach Kristy Renaud and varsity assistant April Brousseau hold the pair of state titles the JV and varsity squads won last weekend at Eastern Michigan University. Novi's varsity pom-pom squad won the Class A Division I state title for the first time since 2001 and the junior varsity squad won the JV state title for the first time since 2004. This is the fifth time both teams won the state title during the same season and the first since 2001.

Novi pom-pom takes State Championship

Varsity, JV squads both edge out Plymouth for titles

BY CHRIS JACKETT
 CORRESPONDENT

It's been nearly a decade, but the Novi Wildcats' pom-pom squad can once again call themselves state champions.

Last Saturday's Mid American Pom-Pon Competition at Eastern Michigan University had one-dozen Class A Division I pom-pom squads looking to knock off a Garden City program that has been dominant the past five years and it was Novi's group that did it, edging out Plymouth with a performance to the tune of Burn Halo's "Our House."

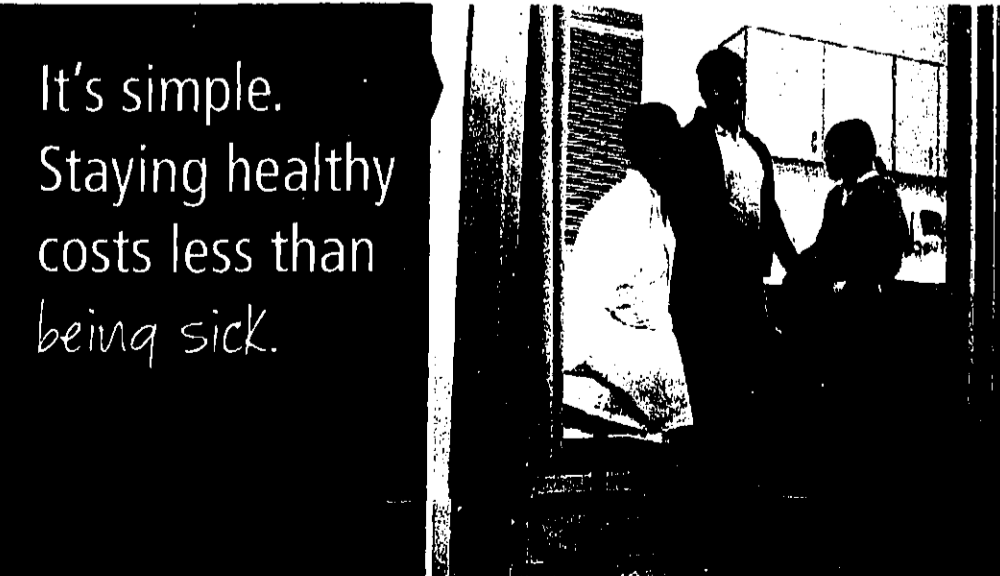
"I have been blessed with a lot of great moments in my life, but this feels extra sweet. This was such a hard fought victory and I wanted so much for my girls to have this feeling," coach Kristy Renaud said. "Seeing their smiling faces and the happy tears in their eyes just made me realize that the hours of work and stress were worth it. Nothing can take this moment away from them and I am just so happy to have played a part in it. I'm as proud as any coach

could be." The squad has been fine tuning their performance for months, regularly practicing and performing at halftime of Novi basketball games, including the evening before the championship competition. Earning their first varsity state title since 2001, Renaud said she knew her group had it in them.

"We knew at the beginning of the season that we had the talent to be very competitive. Heading into the final week of practice, we knew we needed to find that extra level of performance and showmanship if the team wanted to win. As a team, the girls came together and made it work," she said. "In general, the entire team stepped up their level of performance. It was something we were lacking throughout the year, but the girls found the 'wow factor' we needed just in time."

Captains Macaire Schiuff and Nicole Lang led the team to the school's sixth state title and fifth in Class A Division I since 1996. The team's championship

Please see POM, B3



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Lions upset Rocks, drop title in Novi's hands

'Cats wins over Stevenson, SL East clinch division title

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Last week's KLA A Central Division matchups started with a pair of girls basketball teams dejected at 7-1 in the division standings, having beaten each other once each. Both Novi and Plymouth Salem just needed to win out and both would claim a share of the division title with 9-1 records. Novi can thank South Lyon for handing Salem a loss Feb. 9, resulting in the Wildcats earning an outright Central Division championship.

The Lions (10-6, 6-4) defeated Salem 41-39 in South Lyon the same night Novi hosted and demolished Livonia Stevenson 64-47. Salem (11-4, 8-2) then edged out 8-8 (4-6) Northville 44-42 on the road last Friday, but Novi was about to let the title slip through their hands, consequently defeating South Lyon East 72-40 to keep sole possession of the title.

"I don't think there was pressure. We just didn't want any letdowns and (to) keep trying to get better," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "Either way, we would have won the division — either as co-champs or by our-

selves — so it was nice to win outright with some help from South Lyon. Friday, they didn't want to share it with Salem." Although the division title wasn't officially theirs yet, Novi set the tone for the end of their season on Feb. 9 with a dominant senior night performance against Stevenson. The Wildcats were plagued by 16 turnovers, but a 12-2 assist advantage helped Novi get past a tough 7-5 first quarter to outscore the Spartans 22-8 in the second quarter.

"We got some easy buckets either in transition or inside the paint," Kelp said. Senior Caroline Johnson (eight rebounds, five assists, four blocks) and junior Alyssa Armiak each had 12 points led the way as the Wildcats turned their 29-13 halftime lead into a 50-23 lead to start the fourth quarter.

"I thought our seniors came out a little slow but really picked it up in the second and third quarters," Kelp said. With a comfortable lead, Kelp was able to spread out playing time among some of his younger players. Eleven of 12 players scored for Novi as the 'Cats cruised to a 64-47 win over Stevenson. "Thought our bench got

some valuable minutes because they were in and struggled at times," Kelp said. "However, that experience will only help us down the line." Senior starters Kelsey Masseran (nine points) and Jessica Cingel (eight points, five rebounds) both had solid nights for Novi, as juniors Meaghan Robinson (six points), Madly Sinkovitch (five points, five rebounds) and sophomore Abby Chandler (four points) also contributed. Senior Katie Barry, junior Megan Henry and sophomore Katie Seelenbinder all shot 1-4 or 1 from the field to finish with two points apiece. Sophomore Ally D'Annibale was 2-for-2 from the charity stripe to finish with two points.

A 72-40 win over South Lyon East (1-15, 0-10) improved Novi to 15-1 (9-1 Central) last Friday. Despite making 28 turnovers, Kelp's 'Cats shot 48.4 percent on the floor, compared to 26.7 percent for East. Novi also had 16 assists, compared to one for the Cougars. Both teams had 14 steals, as East made 23 turnovers.

Masseran led all scorers with 17 points as Novi scored 48 points in the paint, while Johnson (11 points, seven rebounds, four assists, three blocks, four steals) and Barry (nine points) also had solid

ON TAP

As the Central Division's No. 1 seed in the newly formatted KLA A tournament, Novi (15-1, 9-1 Central) kicked off play Tuesday against No. 4 Westland John Glenn (5-11, 4-6 South). A win at Westland would set up the Wildcats to host a 7 p.m. game tonight against the winner of Central No. 3 (10-6 South Lyon) and South No. 2 (2-4 Livonia Franklin). "Both good teams. It would be tough to beat someone three times (South Lyon) and Franklin has the experience of playing deep into the MHSAA tournament before the new association was formed."

FRESHMAN Since South Lyon East doesn't have a freshmen team, Novi's freshmen wrapped up their regular season Feb. 9 with a 44-35 win over Livonia Stevenson to finish with a 19-1 record.

Three Wildcats finished with double digits. Erin Dirks (13 points, five steals), Kelly Lewis (11 points, seven rebounds) and Kasey Lowney (10 points, five assists) led the team, as Anna Groulx (four points, three assists), Kelly Cauchi (two points, five assists, three steals), Serene Ozeir (two points, zero rebounds) and Hannah Fan (two points) contributed.

ON TAP

With two wins, the junior varsity 'Cats finished the regular season with a 12-1 record. Novi kicked off the week Feb. 9 with a 33-27 win over Livonia Stevenson's JV squad. Starting and finishing strong, the Wildcats stayed ahead to earn the win. Novi was led by sophomore Natalie

Johnson (11 points, seven rebounds, four assists, three blocks, four steals) and Barry (nine points) also had solid

performance is posted on YouTube, along with past performances, by user pomfreak217. "As soon as the girls hit their most complicated stunt in the middle of the routine I knew they could finish strong. They walked onto the floor with confidence and attacked each move," Renaud said. "When the routine was done, I knew the girls had done everything they could to earn the win. It was in the judges' hands at that point. Regardless of the results, the team knew they had a performance to be proud of."

POM

Assistant coach April Brousseau (far left in back) stand with their varsity pom squad last weekend at Eastern Michigan University after winning the Class A Division I state title for the first time since 2001.

Coach Erin Bartos (far right) stands with her junior varsity pom squad last weekend at Eastern Michigan University after winning the JV division's state title for the first time since 2004.

"JV had a 'freak' accident occur during the performance and I really had no idea if the choreography and the rest of the performance would be able to make up for the slip in the routine. It was very down to the wire," Bartos said. "Plymouth JV was the runner up and there was a tiebreaker for first place. Fortunately, choreography is the tiebreaker category that the judges look to and that is why Novi came out on top in the JV Division."

Captains Mary Favorite and Angela Sherman led the JV squad to their second state championship of the school year, as the team had

won their first-ever High Kick State Championship in the fall. Saturday's JV Division state title was the program's sixth since 1998 and first since 2004.

"These girls have been the hardest working team I have ever coached or seen. They definitely paid the price to be champions," Bartos said. The JV state champion squad includes the captains and members Kaylee Oppat, Delaney Ullie, Aditi Chandra, Mackenzie Betts, Renee Weil, Emma Weil, Lauren Collins, Kaley Kennedy, Rachel Murray, Maddie Egner, Drew Thomasson, Meghan Jamroz, Sara Hudgens, Desi Sheppard, Paige Gurizian,

Jackie Mullins and Annie Segal. In addition to the captains, members of the varsity state champion squad are Gi Hong, Alexa Boron, Taylor Boron, Nicole Rigdon, Kimberly Flowers, Kelsie Antterson, Brooke McKnight, Emily Scriba, Paige Juzwick, Katie Groechel, Ashley Wojtylo, Mackenzie Kelley, Jessica Dipaola, Mikaela Falsetti, Juliana Parks, Marisa Giampa, Jillian Kaminski, Ashley Miller, Meghan Stiecker, Morgan Shepard, Christy Lyon and Alex De La Cruz.

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

SCHEDULE

NOVI HIGH SCHOOL

Boys Basketball
All games are at 7 p.m.
Fri 02/19 @ KLA A Playoff
Tue 02/23 KLA A Playoff
Fri 02/26 @ KLA A Playoff

Girls Basketball
All games are at 7 p.m.
Thu 02/16 KLA A Playoff
Mon 02/22 @ KLA A Playoff
Wed 02/24 @ KLA A

Crossover
Home games at Novi Ice Arena
Thu 02/16 @ KLA A
Mon 02/22 @ KLA A
Wed 02/25 @ KLA A

Ice Hockey
Home games at Novi Ice Arena
Thu 02/16 @ KLA A
Mon 02/22 @ KLA A
Wed 02/25 @ KLA A

Boys Swim and Dive
Fri 02/19 5 p.m. @ KLA A
Divisional Meet
Sat 02/20 12 p.m. @ KLA A
Invitational Meet
Fri 02/26 5 p.m. @ KLA A
Conference Meet
Sat 02/27 12 p.m. @ KLA A

Boys and Girls Bowling
All meets are at 3:30 p.m. unless noted.
Tue 02/23 @ KLA A
Conference Tournament (Town & Country)

Competitive Cheer
Sat 02/20 @ MHSAA
Districts
Sat 02/27 @ MHSAA
Regional

Wrestling
Sat 02/20 @ MHSAA
Individual Regional
Fri/Sat 02/26-27 @ MHSAA Team Final

Boys and Girls Skiing
All meets are at 4 p.m.
Thu 02/16 MHS Round-Up
Invitational

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Boys Basketball
All games at 7 p.m.
Fri 02/19 @ KLA A Playoff
Tue 02/23 KLA A Playoff
Fri 02/26 @ KLA A Playoff

Girls Basketball
All games at 7 p.m.
Thu 02/16 KLA A Playoff
Mon 02/22 @ KLA A Playoff
Wed 02/24 @ KLA A Crossover

Boys and Girls Bowling
Tue 02/23 @ Conference Finals TBA
Cheerleading
Sat 02/20 @ MHSAA Districts TBA
Gymnastics
Thu 02/16 @ WL Central 6:30 p.m.
Sat 02/20 @ Conference Meet 9:30 a.m.

Boys Hockey
Tue 02/23 @ KLA A Crossover TBA
Sat 02/25 @ KLA A Crossover TBA

Boys swimming and diving
Fri 02/19 @ Division Meeting TBA
Sat 02/20 @ Division Meet TBA
Fri 02/26 @ Conference Meet TBA
Sat 02/27 @ Conference Meet TBA

Wrestling
Sat 02/20 @ MHSAA Regionals TBA

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Basketball
All games at 7:30 p.m.
Fri 02/19 CHSL
Sat 02/20 CHSL
Tues 02/23 CHSL
Wed 02/24 CHSL
Sun 02/28 CHSL Championships

Hockey
Thu 02/16 @ Port Huron Northern 6 p.m.
Sun 02/21 @ CHSL Championship TBA
Sat 02/27 @ Grosse Pointe North 7 p.m.

Wrestling
Sat 02/20 @ Individual Regional TBA
Fri 02/26 @ Team State Finals TBA
Sat 02/27 @ Team State Finals TBA

Boys basketball team holds off East

'Cats lose division title, prepare for conference title run

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Novi's boys basketball squad wanted to finish the regular season with a bang on senior night last Friday after losing the division title to Livonia Stevenson three days prior. The team got off to a hot start against South Lyon East, but the Cougars came back and made things interesting.

The Wildcats (13-3, 8-2 KLA A Central) roared out to a 14-0 lead before East senior Blake Jones (12 points) scored on a three pointer 6:25 into the game. The 'Cats led 18-7 at the end of the first quarter and scored the first three baskets of the second quarter to go up 25-7 thanks to a hot hand from senior Justin Hopton, who scored all eight of his points in the first 12 minutes.

"They shot the ball well in the first half," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said of this team. "I did not think we were very good. The first 12 minutes we were good. We weren't very smart, weren't very poised."

Leading 25-8 after East drained a free throw with three minutes left in the half, Novi's reserves finished the quarter and gave fans a glimpse of what next year's team may look like.

East (4-11, 3-7 Central) outscored the reserves 10-7, but Novi led 32-18 at the break. "They've wanted their turn. They practice hard and help us. They did some nice things," Heitsch said.

Novi senior Ryan Jok (six assists) came out in the second

half and dominated under the boards for the first six points of the half to put the Wildcats ahead by 20, but the Cougars started battling back.

East junior center Colin Wedesky found himself able to draw fouls underneath the basket, as he went 8-for-14 from the line and scored a game-high 16 points. As Novi's starters tried to cover the big man, Wedesky's fellow Cougar twin tower, senior Drew Mapley, scored all eight of his points on four tip-ins as he rebounded over the Wildcats.

"Our mental focus. Forty (Wedesky) for them started making shots. It tends to tighten up one way or another," Heitsch said of his team's second-half struggles. "Forty's a big body. That was probably the best I've seen him do. Unfortunately, it happened against us. He played more composed in the second half and killed us."

Although Novi outscored East 13-10 in the third quarter to maintain a 45-28 lead, the Wildcats had 10 fouls called on them in the half by the time there was three minutes remaining in the game. East had two called on them. The 10th foul on the Wildcats sent Jones to the line for a pair of baskets that cut Novi's lead to 54-45.

The foul count for the half was tied 12-12 with 3:00 remaining and Novi ahead 37-47, which led to a series of fouls from East in an attempt to regain possession that instead sent the Wildcats to the free throw line to cap a 62-51 victory.

Outscoring Novi 23-17 in the

ON TAP

Failing to win the KLA A Central Division title from Livonia Stevenson last week, the Wildcats (13-3, 8-2 Central) will be a No. 2 seed going into the newly formatted KLA A tournament. Novi will kick off competition 7 p.m. tomorrow at Plymouth (9-7, 6-4 South), who is a No. 3 seed the Wildcats defeated 53-48 Jan. 26.

If Novi wins, they'll advance to the winner of the Central No. 4 (6-10 South Lyon) and South No. 1 (11-5 Canton) game 7 p.m. Tuesday. The winner of that game will play in the Kensington Conference Championship Feb. 26 before the two conference champions square off March 4 at the Lakes Conference championships gym.

Against East, several Wildcats had success in limited floor time. Ozeir led the way with 14 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks, followed by junior Samer Ozeir (12 points, six rebounds) and senior Antwan Batwo (10 points). Senior Brandon Rydzewski (six points), Hopton (four points), Jok (three points, nine rebounds) and senior Nick Regnier (one point) also contributed as Novi had just 13 baskets, but shot 17-for-23 from the charity stripe.

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Following Wedesky, Jones and Mapley, the Cougars had limited contributors. Junior Dominick Silvio (six points), senior Brian Bush (four points), Christian Shortt (three points) and junior Steve Kopeck (two points) chipped in.

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

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RESULTS

PLACE-NAME	CITY	AVERAGE	WINNINGS
1-Richard Planko	Novi	220.30	\$3,000
2-David Silverman	Farmington Hills	223.86	\$1,500
3-Harold Sullins	Cherfield	235.45	\$1,000
4-Rick Capaldi	Canton	234.00	\$750
5-Timothy Maysay	Redford	230.83	\$500
6-Frederick Bausz III	Eastpointe	222.75	\$500
7-Nick Cipiti	Clinton Twp	223.50	\$400
8-Robert Caliguire	Wyandotte	218.38	\$400
9-Mitchell Jabczynski Sr	Novi	223.94	\$300
10-John Milietics	Sandusky	221.00	\$300
28-Marc Halchigian	Novi	215.70	\$200
31-Patrick Ramsey	Northville	209.90	\$200

Novi's Planko wins \$3,000 in senior bowling tourney

Richard Planko of Novi came back after losing his first match in the finals to defeat David Silverman of Farmington Hills 438-390, winning the MDUSBC Senior Masters title at Indian Lanes in Wyandotte and taking home the top prize of \$3,000.

After qualifying 12th with a six-game total of 1,391, Planko beat Mitchell Jabczynski Sr. of Novi 408-363; Steven Hubble of Westland 424-404; John Milietics of Sandusky 508-469; Rick Capaldi of Canton 441-441; and Silverman the first time 437-391 to become the top seed. After Silverman emerged from the loser's bracket, Planko lost to Silverman 403-376

before avenging that loss with the 438-390 triumph. Planko averaged 220.30 for 120 games of competition. "I don't believe it, it's amazing," said Planko. "Every match worked out perfect, except for the next to last one." "This win ranks right behind my second place finish in the Hamtramck Singles tournament in 2000, which was worth \$16,000," he said. Sponsors of the MDUSBC Senior Masters are Turbo 2-N-1 Grips, Red Robin Restaurants of Michigan, Ansara's Big Boy Restaurants and Eastown Printing. The MDUSBC Senior Masters Tournament is an USBC certified event operated by the Metro Detroit USBC Association, the largest local association of the United States Bowling Congress with more than 70,000 members.

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Home Owners Do You Know...

Pillar To Post Information Series
(Part 1)

The Pillar To Post Information Series is a valuable resource to help buyers and sellers to learn about how their home works and how to keep it functioning properly. From safety tips to energy conservation ideas, the series is educational for both real estate professionals and homeowners. Here are a few of the topics covered in the complete series:

- 1. High Humidity in the Home** - High amounts of humidity in a residence can cause and accelerate mold growth, a musty odor, and can potentially cause health problems and property damage. This section in the Pillar To Post Information Series reviews causes, effects, and solutions.
- 2. Central Air Conditioning** - Central air conditioning systems are a luxury in some areas of North America and a basic necessity in others. Whatever the purpose, it is in a homeowner's best interest to understand how to choose the right system for their home, and how to maintain it for optimal use.
- 3. Garage Door Safety** - The garage vehicle door is often the largest moving object in a home and can weigh up to 400 pounds. The Information Series offers tips on how to ensure garage door safety, including checking the weight and pulley system, as well as the operability of the springs and the balance of the door itself.
- 4. Zero-Clearance Fireplaces** - Adding a wood burning fireplace to an existing home is appealing to many homeowners; however, it can be an expensive proposition as it usually involves foundation construction and a masonry chimney. This article details the merits of a zero-clearance wood burning fireplace, which can be installed in almost any home, using existing floor structures and a prefabricated chimney.
- 5. Insulating the Basement** - The basement is usually the last place people think to insulate, yet it can account for up to 1/3 of heat loss in a home. Adding or upgrading basement insulation can significantly cut down on energy use. A finished basement also creates a comfortable space, which is especially appealing to people looking to affordably extend their recreation and living areas.

For a full listing of the Pillar To Post Information Series, or to obtain your copy of one or more articles, please contact our office.

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Randall Patterson is a Certified Home Inspector with over 15 years experience in Home Inspection and Language Courses. We provide professional home inspections and home environmental testing services for Radon, Mold, Lead, Water & Sepsis. We are a Home Quality Insuring



Sophomore Shaibaji Sidu looks to roll over his 125-pound opponent last week.

ROUNDUP FROM PAGE B1

The squad amassed 724-4272 points, very close to second-place Northville's 726-2552 and Glenn's 724-9380. Hartland won the first-ever association title with 764-6824 and will host 12 other squads at this weekend's District Championships.



Novi Wildcat swimmer Travis Vincent in action at Walled Lake Northern.

BOYS SWIM

The Wildcat swimmers came up short against KLAAs North Division champion Walled Lake North last Thursday, falling 94-92 on the road.

Walled Lake Northern was a very close meet. I made the mistake of underestimating them and, in an effort to make the meet close and enjoyable for both teams, I put my guys in off events and in exhibition events. They came up strong in a couple of races and got us by 27. Novi coach Erik Lynn said.

The loss dropped Novi to 1-4 in dual meets, while Northern improved to 7-0. The team prepares for the Central Division meet Friday and Saturday before hosting the Kensington Conference meet Feb. 26-27.

The division meet this weekend should be a lot of fun. We have one of the toughest divisions in the state with top-level state swimmers, as well as plenty of depth, from each team," Lynn said.

The Novis won the first nine matches with pin falls by Jeff Gamm, Alex Caprara, Mark Spears, Matt George, Matt Wingfield, Brett Goubois, Charlie Kanka, Tom McMaster and Carston Cook. Josh Hefner won an exciting 15-13 match, followed by pin fall victories from Dave Gardner, Ethan Roy and Raymond Wen to round out the match.

Qualifying for Individual Regionals is a great accomplishment for these four guys," Jlg said. "Our goal this week is to train hard, stay focused and



Wildcat Jong-min Kim swims on Feb. 11.

BOWLING

Novis bowlers got some points out of their last three meets the past week and a half, but are now looking to make up for it on Tuesday's KLAAs Conference Tournament at Town N Country Lanes in Westland.

The teams took on Livonia Clarenceville Feb. 2 at Super Bowl in Canton. The boys lost a close 16-14 decision as junior Brandon Gillespie and senior Ben VanZoest qualified for doubles finals and lost in the first round in an exciting 417-405 match. The girls got their first points of the season with a 15-15 tie as freshman Callie Wright and junior Kritihika Mahesh each scored two points and senior Brittney Afholter struck out, shooting

196 to secure the tie. The boys squad came out strong at Westland Bowl Feb. 10 against Plymouth and dominated with a 24.5-5.5 victory, the Wildcats' most lopsided win of the season. Sophomore Andrew Thorwall scored two points with a high game of 214.

The girls squad didn't have as much luck, falling 24-6 to their Wildcat counterparts. At Super Bowl the following day, both teams lost to host Canton. Sophomore Chad Smith had the high game of the day with 208 as the boys lost 22-8 to fall to 2-13-1 on the season. The 24-6 loss by the girls dropped them to 0-15-1 on the season.

The teams were scheduled to host Plymouth Salem last Tuesday at Novi Bowl before the association meet Tuesday in Westland.

NOVI ATHLETICS ONLINE

The Wildcats' athletic department has joined the world of social media with Twitter and Facebook accounts. To join in and receive free mid-game updates and news on other Novi athletics happenings, search "NoviSports" on Twitter and "Novi Athletics" on Facebook. A familiar Wildcat icon serves as the thumbnail image for both Web pages.

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

WRESTLING FROM PAGE B1

Cruiser (Plymouth) 10-1 before defeating Edwards in the 160-pound third-place match.

Also finishing in third place was Meneer in the 215-pound weight class. Meneer beat Justin Roe (Farmington) 13-3 and Blake Abbey (Salen) 6-3, but was pinned by eventual district champion Mike Kinville (Detroit Catholic Central). The last put Meneer in the third-place match, where he defeated Canton's Ben Forier 4-3.

Meneer used his defensive wrestling style to frustrate his opponents and eventually used his strength to wear each of them down," Jlg said.

Bunney and Sidlu also advanced to the third-place matches in their weight classes, but neither could come through with the victory, as both finished with fourth-place finishes.

Starting off with a quick pin fall victory over Salen's Joe Williams, Bunney lost a tough 6-5 decision to Josh Wright (Northville) in his second match. He responded by beating Jake Millions (Stevenson) 9-3 and Josh Hatfield (Livonia Franklin) 10-2 before losing 7-5 to Farmington's Nick



Senior captain Alex Engobretson looks to gain position on his 160-pound opponent last week.

Tomski, who entered the match with a 39-6 record. "Bunney was on the verge of pulling off the upset when Tomski secured the final take-down to score the match," Jlg said.

Sidlu faced a familiar opponent to start his district run, pitted against teammate and fellow sophomore Alejandro Albuerno. Sidlu used the familiarity of Albuerno to post a 15-6 victory before losing his next match by pin fall to Salen's Devin Stratton.

Responding with a 13-3 victory over Franklin's Erik Czech, Sidlu has his next match, by injury default over Devin Thomas (Oak Park) before losing the third-place match to Stratton in a rematch ending with a pin fall.

Qualifying for Individual Regionals is a great accomplishment for these four guys," Jlg said. "Our goal this week is to train hard, stay focused and

be ready to rock and roll on Saturday." Junior David Sparling (189) and sophomores Guidiano Albuerno (119) and Jake Dobras (171) were all within one victory of moving onto Regionals.

YOUNG 'CATS

The Novi Middle School wrestling team got off to a fast start Feb. 8 with an 81-36 win over Livonia Frost. The young 'Cats won the first nine matches with pin falls by Jeff Gamm, Alex Caprara, Mark Spears, Matt George, Matt Wingfield, Brett Goubois, Charlie Kanka, Tom McMaster and Carston Cook. Josh Hefner won an exciting 15-13 match, followed by pin fall victories from Dave Gardner, Ethan Roy and Raymond Wen to round out the match.

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

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DETAILS

Business Name: Abir Faraj DDS PC Address: 23985 Novi Road, Suite B103, Novi, MI 48375 Your Name: Dr. Abir Faraj Your Hometown: Northville Business Opened When: 30 years ago by the previous owner; five years ago I acquired the practice while retaining the key staff members. Number of Employees: Dawn, office manager 20+ years; Karen; hygienist 15+ years; Simona; assistant 10+ years; Lindsay; hygienist 6+ years; Wendy; receptionist/assistant 2 years Hours of Operation: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; noon-8 p.m. Wednesday; appointments available by request Friday and Saturday and, in emergencies, the same day. Your Business Specialty: family and cosmetic dentistry Phone: (248) 348-5151 Website: novismilecenter.com

families in the future. How has the recent economy affected your business? We educate our patients on dental health and the different types of tools, materials, lifestyles and procedures available to help maintain healthy teeth and gums for life. As a result, most of our patients recognize and understand the importance of regular dental check-ups and cleanings. Fortunately, we have been able to provide the best possible dental care during this down economy and managed to keep our pricing competitive and affordable. We do offer programs that assist our patients in paying for their dental care.

Any advice for business owners? Maintaining the highest standard for any product or service that you offer. In today's society this is truly something people are yearning for. Having honesty, integrity and pride in your work. Always be professional and knowledgeable. And remember to always love and enjoy what you do.

What's in store for the future of your business? We hope for continued growth and success of our practice! To continue providing our patients with the highest standard of dental care.

How did you first decide to open your business? I purchased the existing practice from a retiring dentist.

Why do you choose this area? The area is filled with history and charm. The people here are friendly, courteous and warm.

What makes your business unique? My staff and I make a wonderful

How has it changed since you opened? My staff and I are

team. We enjoy and love to practice dentistry. Most importantly, we really do care. I was nominated as a top dentist by my peers and was featured in Detroit Hour Magazine for two consecutive years (2008-2009).

How has it changed since you opened? My staff and I are

continually educating ourselves in all aspects of general dentistry including new materials and tools as well as the newest cosmetic procedures including advances in metal-free restorations and whitening procedures. We attend many continuing education seminars. I am also a member of the American Dental

Association, Michigan Dental Association, and the Detroit District Dental Society

Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers? Not only am I a dentist, I am also a mother. I have two daughters, 8 and 6, and a 2-year-old son. My

daughters wish "our mom had a different job." When asked why, they say, "Then we wouldn't have to floss our teeth every night." Otherwise, I really enjoy my daily interactions with my patients and look forward to servicing them and their

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Network, learn about BAT

The Novi Business Assistance Team is presenting a free networking event with information on the Business Administration Team (BAT) on Tuesday, March 2 at Walsh College in Novi.

The mission of the BAT is to identify small and medium size businesses within the Novi community that would benefit from the business and planning experience the team is able to offer.

The goal is to provide knowledge, guidance and useful tools for these businesses to utilize in order to maintain and grow their business in an effective and efficient way. There are no sales involved in this assistance.

- The specific types of assistance the team can offer, include: • Sounding board for potential ideas • Review existing business plans • Marketing, advertising, public relation advice • Networking within the community • SBA financing/loan options To reserve your spot and for more information, please contact Sarah Marchioni at smarchioni@cityofnovi.org or (248) 347-0580 by Feb. 26.

Building customer loyalty

Gerald W. Bricker, managing principal and founder of the Northville-based business consultancy Aadvise Consulting, will conduct a seminar on the importance of building a customer loyalty strategy to grow sales, improve profitability and enhance employee relations. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 3, from 10:11:30 a.m., at the Double Tree Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi.

Bricker is a 30-year professional in general and sales management, having served most recently as vice president and general sales manager of a major global automotive electronics firm. He will present the strategic value of building customer loyalty in helping

grow revenue by more than 10 percent and profitability by more than 25 percent, all with a minimal amount of investment.

To register for the seminar, go to www.novibusiness.com and click on the Events button; or call (248) 974-1537.

Women: Create Your New Economy

Women's Business Network will host "Create Your New Economy" business and networking expo on March 20 at Baker's of Milford, 2025 S. Milford Road, Milford.

The all-day event will include eight dynamic women presenting pertinent information on the legal, financial, marketing and other important aspects of running a business. Pointers for success and how to make an excellent personal impression on prospective clients will also be presented. Several example makeovers will be completed. There will be numerous opportunities for networking with other local women professionals throughout the day. The organization expects 100 attendees.

The cost of attendance is \$45 per person, or \$120 for three tickets, if registered by March 1. Thereafter, tickets will be \$65 per person. Lunch provided by Baker's of Milford is included in the ticket price. Vendor space is available to promote your business to attendees. The cost for an eight-foot table display is \$30, plus the cost of admission. Vendors may choose to share their space and the rental cost among multiple businesses if desired. Each vendor in attendance will be responsible for the cost of admission.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Debra Downing at (248) 252-2952 or downingd@nol.com.

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) 558-0783. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Pre-Business Research

Thursday, March 4, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to understand which research sources to use for your business plan and where to find the information you need? Presented by The Oakland County Business Center, The Entrepreneur's Source, Oakland County Market Research Department, and a Business Reference Librarian. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

Fiscal Fitness for the Growing Business - Fiscal Management Tools for the Non-financial Manager

Wednesday, March 10, 8 a.m.-noon

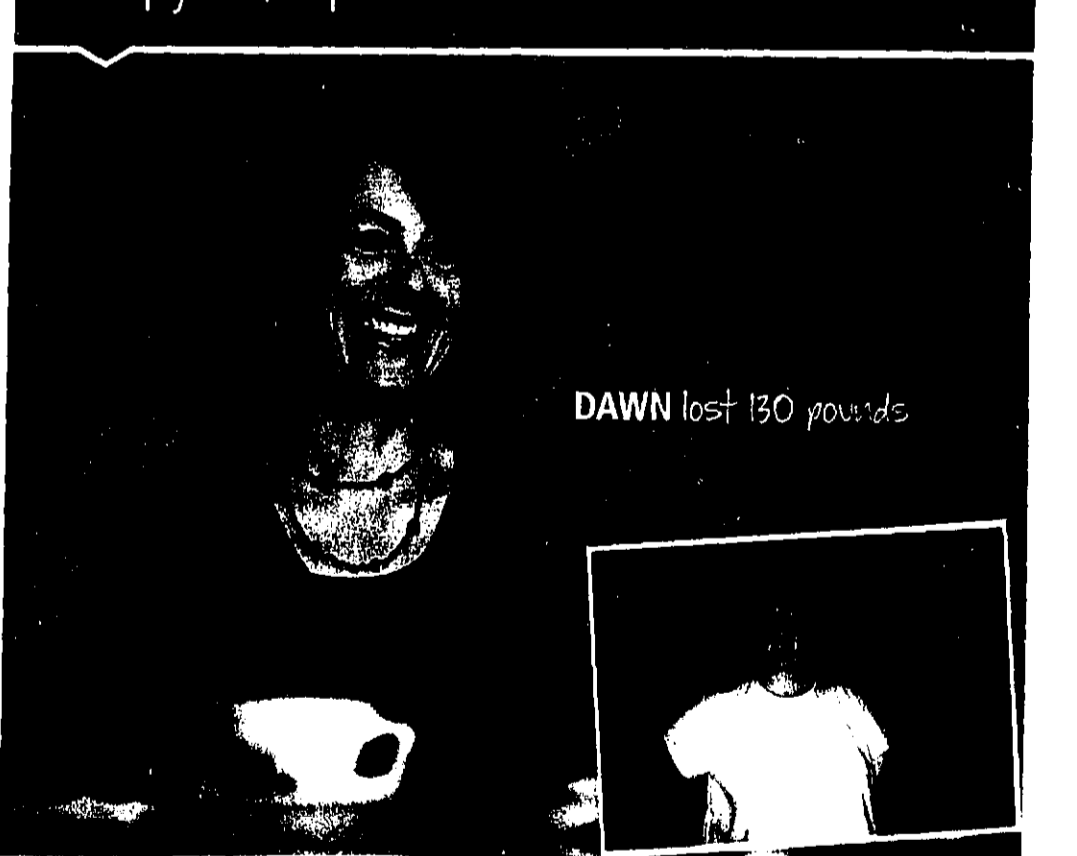
This workshop provides the business owner an in-depth look at the essentials of using financial information to make effective decisions about improving their business performance. Topics include Ways to improve your company's cash flow, How to use the balance sheet and income statement to diagnose business problems and opportunities, how breakeven analysis helps you make better pricing and business decisions and How to insure you have enough working capital to support growth. The fee is \$50. No refunds.

Fundamentals of Starting a Business - Thursday, March 11, 9 a.m.-noon

This is a seminar for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business. The fee is \$30. No refunds.

For seminar information visit www.stjohnweightloss.com

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

A room with a view

**NORTHVILLE SENIOR LIVING OPENS APRIL 1
IN THE HEART OF BUSTLING DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE**

BY ALISON BERGSIKER
ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

There's always something going on in downtown Northville.

Unique restaurants, clothing and art shops, Mill Race Village activities, a seasonal farmers market, parades and more make Main Street a happening location for families and shoppers.

With access peaceful parks and sidewalks of endless shops, Northville is the perfect place West Oakland County's newest senior living community, Northville Senior Living.

"Northville is looking for more people to live downtown," said co-owner Rodger Barton. "Our residents will be part of the real world, not just a nursing home. We are going to have the most affordable housing in the area."

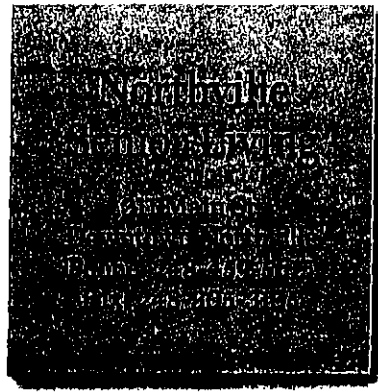
The 7,000-square-foot center is located at 311 Main St. on the second floor above Dr. Phillip Mayer's office and adjacent to Northville Physical Rehabilitation, which will be offering free fitness memberships to all Northville Senior Living residents.

"The residents will have access to free fitness membership with us and will be able to stroll into town for coffee, the nearby Marquis Theatre, other doctors and more," said Dennis Engerer, Director of Rehab at Northville Physical Rehabilitation.

An intimate setting with curb appeal

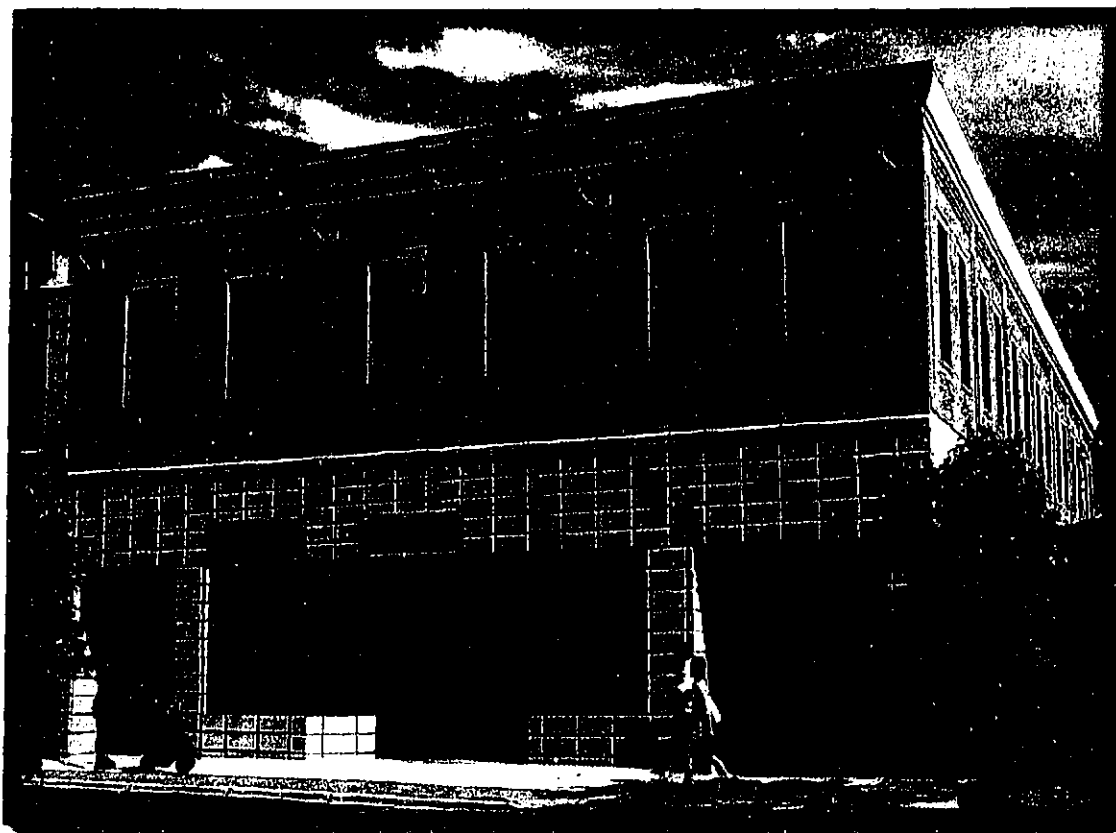
Comfort, convenience and a scenic view of downtown Northville make Northville Senior Living an attractive place to live. The facility will host living arrangements for 17 interactive seniors looking forward to meeting new friends and building lasting relationships.

"Residents can feel at home with their personal belongings in their private bedrooms while



sharing multiple warm family living spaces including a dining area, two sundecks and a private library," Barton said. "Everyone will know everyone in an intimate setting. It's like a big family."

Floor plans include private bedrooms with individual bathrooms, and eight private bedrooms with shared bathrooms.



Northville Senior Living, located on the second floor of 311 Main St., opens January 2010.

Submitted Photo

"The elderly congregate where they can feel the most comfortable, and that is where the sunshine is," Barton said. "All of the outside windows fall into the hallways, and most of the bedrooms have windows. We've maximized wall space to let natural light into the rooms."

Personalized, affordable care

The smaller number of residents at Northville Senior Living allows extremely personal one-on-one care and assistance.

Onsite services include three nutritionally balanced meals, laundry, medication management, shower services and housekeeping — all at a flat rate.

"There are no extra charges for personal service," Barton said. "Everything is included in one

price across the board."

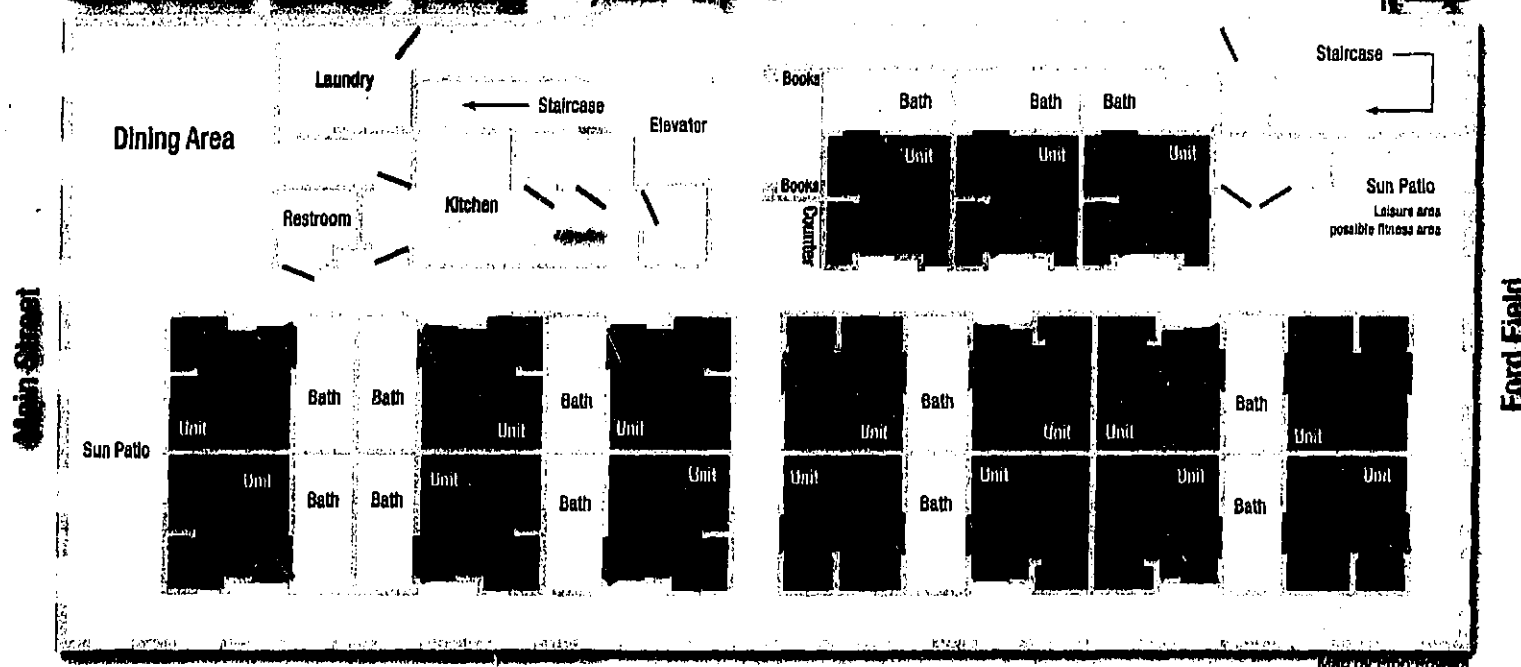
Visiting nutritionists, physical therapists, podiatrists, medical doctors and nurses will visit the facility on a regular schedule.

"We have a full kitchen that can cook anything from scrambled eggs in the morning to a full Thanksgiving dinner," Barton said. "We can meet any special diet needs. It comes down to finding out what the residents want, and we'll get it, as long as it's nutritionally balanced."

Senior transportation will be scheduled on a regular and semi-regular basis, depending on the needs of residents.

"We're already getting applications and a few new residents," Barton said. "We look forward to welcoming our seniors to downtown Northville and offering a family-friendly, scenic place to live."

Northville Senior Living • 7,000 sq. ft.



Northville Senior Living

**A BRAND NEW FACILITY IN HISTORIC
DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE
OPENING APRIL 1, 2010**



Northville Square

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