

City approves rezoning of Landings property - A3

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February 25,
2010

Hometown Weeklies

Volume 54
Number 40

75 CENTS

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

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NOVI NUTSHELL

Novi band invitational

The Novi High School Band Boosters will host the Novi Invitational at Novi High School on Saturday, Feb. 27 beginning at 11:45 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Inc. sanctioned event will feature over 57 drumline and winterguard units plus 15 individual performers for a full day of percussion, music, movement and color.

The Novi Flagline will perform in exhibition at 4:20 p.m., and Novi Green will perform in AAA Class competition at 6:30 p.m. Novi White will perform in Scholastic A Class competition at 8:30 p.m.

Health expo

Vicky Savas, M.D. cardiovascular disease, will host a free health expo from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26 at Novi's Providence Park Hospital, Old Medical Office Building in conference rooms A, B and C.

There will be two lectures: "Women and Heart Disease" and "Sudden Cardiac Death."

Complementary light lunch catered by George's Senate Coney Island in Northville will be served. This is a free event but seating is limited. Call (248)356-5033 for reservations.

Oscar® contest

Choose the winners of several major Academy Awards® categories for the chance to win some great prizes, courtesy of Emagine Theatres of Canton and Novi and the *Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers*. First prize is a 12-month pass for two to Emagine, second prize is four movie passes and a \$25 concession gift card and third prize is two movie passes and a \$15 concession gift card.

It's easy to enter - just predict how the academy will vote in seven major categories: best film, director, actor, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress and animated film. Tiebreaker categories include winner for best musical score and best documentary feature. In the event that there is a tie, a name will be randomly selected.

Select your choices by 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 5, to be eligible for this year's contest. Go to www.hometownlife.com and click on Oscar Contest.

Novi merges police, fire administration

Change will save city money, streamline operations

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi has a new look when it comes to the administrative functions of the police and fire departments.

City officials chose to not replace the fire chief position vacated by Frank Smith on Feb. 19, and instead moved David Molloy into a dual role as the director of public safety/chief of police and created the department of public safety.

Former Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Johnson also was promoted to director of emergency medical services and fire operations.

'Everyone in our organization understands we are not going to be raising property tax rates in Novi. But the expectation is we are going to get better with less resources, and the only way you can do that is by changing and trying new things.'

CLAY PEARSON, Novi city manager

City Manager Clay Pearson said the restructuring is going to provide considerable cost savings for the city and improve service.

"Everyone in our organization understands we are not going to be raising property tax rates in Novi," he said. "But the expectation is we are going to get better with

less resources, and the only way you can do that is by changing and trying new things."

By combining services, it will allow for more flexibility in the delivery of emergency and routine public safety services; a closer connection between planning, service deliv-

Please see MERGE, A2

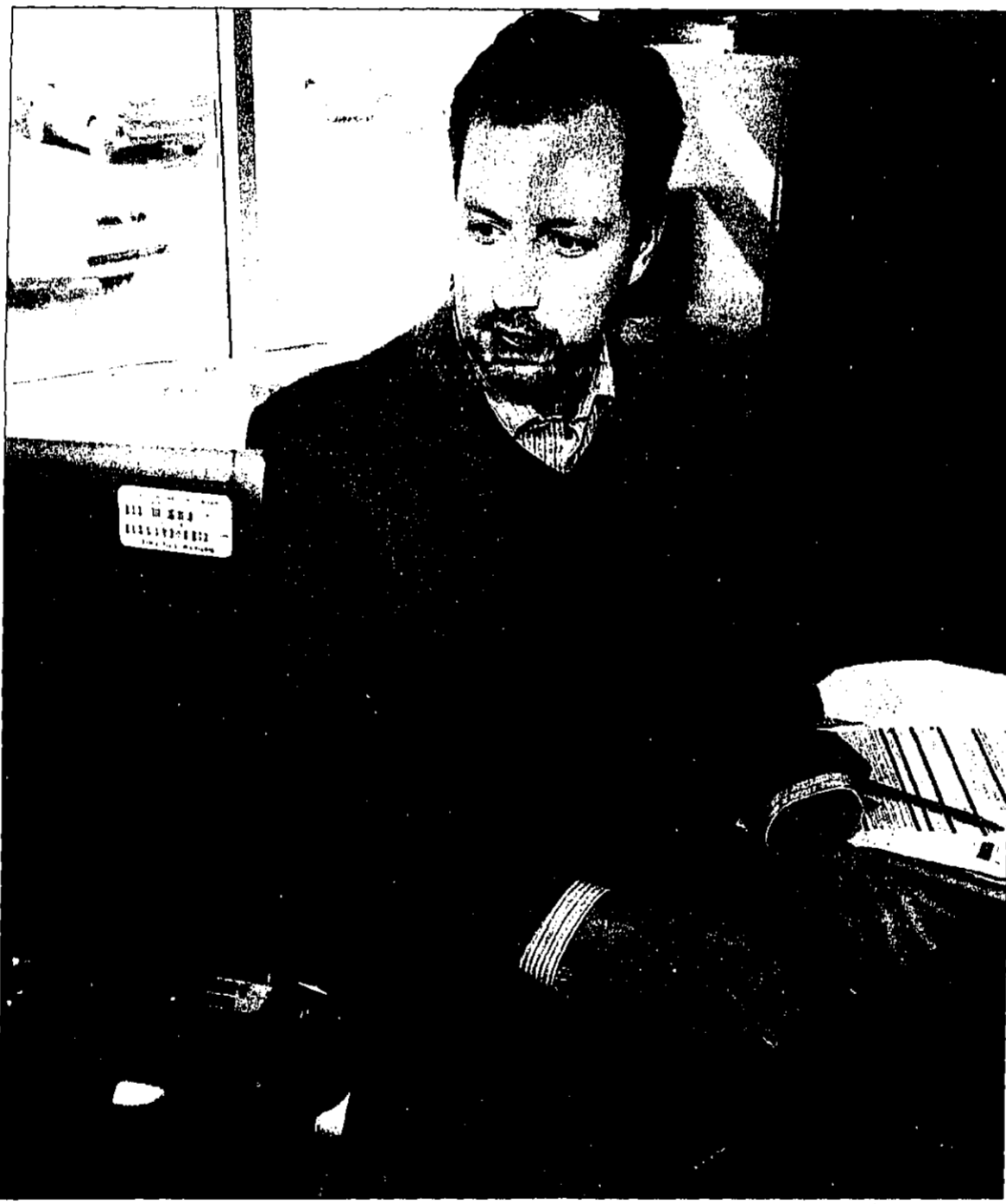


Molloy



Johnson

Helping small businesses succeed



Branch Vice President Patrick Mondro works on his computer at his office in the National City Bank in Novi. Mondro is one of several people involved with the Novi Business Assistance Team which provides advice for small business owners.

Business Assistance Team is offering up its services

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A depressed economy has made tough times even harder for small business owners in Novi.

The goal is to continue to search for new ways to reach a consumer that is more conservative with their money, and also do so in a way that keeps their business afloat.

And that is where the Novi Business Assistance Team can help.

B.A.T. is a group made up of people from the city, chamber, National City Bank, Oakland County, SCORE and more who talk to business owners about what keeps them up at night, what issues they may be having and where they need assistance.

"Especially in these times we are in, everyone needs some form of help," said Ara Topouzian, economic development director for the city of Novi. "I think it's an excellent way for businesses to be able to learn more about what resources are out there to help them. It's not a sales job at all, we aren't trying to sell anyone anything, we just want to give them the tools and resources to succeed in their business."

The team has been around since 2007, but is switching things up a bit to try to reach more business owners. In the past, B.A.T. would just send out fliers to businesses, but failed to connect because people didn't know much about how it worked.

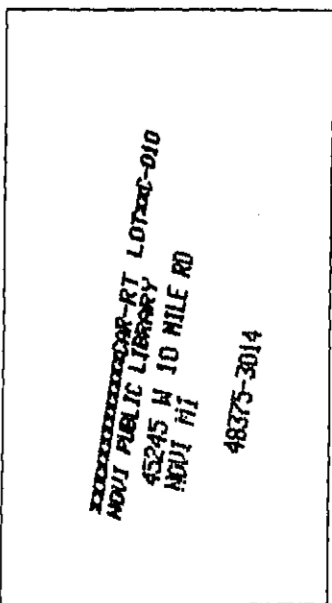
This time it will be hosting a town hall meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday, March 2, at Walsh College for business owners to see

B.A.T. MEETING
When: 7-9:30 a.m. March 2
Where: Walsh College, Novi campus, 41500 Gardenbrook Road
Other: Event is free. Register by calling (248) 347-0580.

Please see B.A.T., A2

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County road commission predicting a scary future

Lack of funding will cause dips in level of service

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Road Commission for Oakland County released its three-year financial plan on Feb. 12, and the outlook isn't good.

Future projections have the RCOC cutting jobs, not being able to replace equipment and decreasing in several areas of road maintenance.

In Novi, this means some projects will continue to stay on hold and the future of any others is uncertain.

"Overall I think they are doing

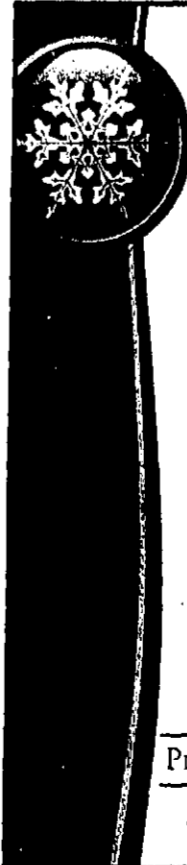


Pearson

an admirable job of communicating the predicament in terms of additional costs and responsibilities and expectations in the face of shrinking revenue," said City

Manager Clay Pearson. "They way we fund roads in this state is not up to modern standards, and the road commission is caught in the middle of that."

Please see ROADS, A2



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MERGE

ery and staff utilization; and the ability to provide more focused management of all staff members.
The elimination of the fire chief position is expected to save the city \$15,000 this year, and an additional estimated \$175,500 savings also is expected because of recent retirements, resignations and layoffs in multiple departments.
The city expects to save \$100,000 the next year by not replacing the fire chief, and also estimates an additional \$425,000 savings due to another round of retirements, resignations and layoffs.

Molloy is receiving a \$12,000 pay increase in his new role to \$125,736, and Johnson also will see a salary increase to \$90,000.
"This is just a way for us to keep and improve services and be more efficient with our money," Pearson said, citing that property tax revenues could be as much as \$8.5 million lower in three years.
Molloy said he is excited about his new role and sees several opportunities where the police and fire can combine services. He said he is going to make a concerted effort to spend time with the firefighters, but does not want to step on any toes.
"I don't need to tell them how to improve," he said. "My goal is to provide them with

strategic leadership and direction and make a great department even better."
No other staff changes have been recommended at this time, but some could happen in the coming months as the city continues to analyze the ICMA study.
Johnson said he feels this move is a positive one and assures residents that they will not see a change in the quality of service being provided.
"Both departments know their core services the citizens expect and they will not see a change in that," he said. "What they may actually see is an improvement. It's a way for us to build on it and make the service even better."



Sections of Grand River Ave. Novi between Meadowbrook and Novi roads are a patchwork of potholes and asphalt repairs. The city is considering repairing these bouncy stretches of road.

ROADS

Brent Bair, ROCOC managing director, said in a press release that Michigan's struggles stem from the fact that Michigan has been in the bottom 10 states in the nation in per capita state and local road funding for more than 45 years.
"Michigan road agencies have never had 'good times' in which to catch up with their needs," he said.
Novi is currently partnering with the ROCOC on the Novi Road project between 10 Mile

and Grand River Avenue that would widen the road to five lanes and put a bridge over the railroad track. An issue with federal funding for the project has slowed it, but Pearson said the latest update he received was that it is expected to be worked on this year.
Grand River Avenue also is another project the city is trying to partner with the ROCOC and Oakland County on, but a lack of funding has stalled any progress. Pearson said the city is looking at doing some resurfacing improvements in the meantime.
"The fact that Oakland County pulled their participa-

tion in Tri-Party funding is an example of another agency making cuts and hurting the pool of dollars for roads," he said.
Bair said if there is not an increase to road funding, the service level is going to take a hit and residents will not get "the level of service they deserve."
The plan of turning the Landings property into a city-owned park continues to move forward as the Novi City Council approved a rezoning recommendation Monday night.
The property (located north of Old Novi Road and Thirteen Mile Road, east of South Lake Drive and on both the west and east sides of East Lake Drive) has been rezoned from B-3, general business

Fires damage Novi residences

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A Novi police officer and a pair of Novi residents were released from the hospital on Saturday following a pair of fires that occurred earlier in the day.
Officer Steve Balog was treated for smoke inhalation after he entered a condominium at 1100 Block of South Lake Drive to help an elderly lady in a wheelchair out of her unit. He was one of the first responders to the fire that started around 1:04 p.m., and also after making sure the woman got out, went back inside to let the other residents know.

Director of Emergency Medical Services & Fire Operations Jeff Johnson said there was quite a bit of smoke at the time, but the fire was small and contained to the unit. It is believed to have started in the dryer, and smoke detectors had gone off to alert the residents to evacuate.
The woman, who was in her 60s, was taken to Huron Valley Hospital where she also was treated for smoke inhalation.
Prior to this incident, firefighters were called at 5:28 a.m. to the 41600 block of Juniper Circle in the Maples of Novi on the report of smoke

and odor in the building.
When fire personnel arrived at 5:36 a.m., the kitchen was fully involved and crews entered through the front door to start containing the blaze. They then made it into the kitchen and were able to maintain it there.
Johnson said about \$80,000 worth of damage was done as a result of the fire, which destroyed the kitchen, and no one was seriously injured. The attached condominium had two occupants at the time, one in his 70s and the other in his 50s. The man in his 50s was taken to Royal Oak Beaumont to be treated for smoke inhalation.
Johnson said his crew had the fire under control at 6 a.m., and was glad the fire didn't spread much beyond the kitchen.
The cause of the fire in still under investigation by Oakland County but is not believed to be of suspicious origin. Johnson also said the situation could have been worse because smoke detectors in the residence were not working.
"We just want to emphasize to everyone in the community that they need to maintain working smoke detectors," he said.

Johnson said his crew had the fire under control at 6 a.m., and was glad the fire didn't spread much beyond the kitchen.
The cause of the fire in still under investigation by Oakland County but is not believed to be of suspicious origin. Johnson also said the situation could have been worse because smoke detectors in the residence were not working.
"We just want to emphasize to everyone in the community that they need to maintain working smoke detectors," he said.



For a good cause

Kimberly and Darrell Behmer hang out at Novi's Bar Louie on Feb. 10 for its Haiti Relief Fundraiser. The Novi Fountain Walk bar donated 50% of its profits that evening to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund to aid those in Haiti affected by the recent earthquake. Bar Louie reported that they raised \$2,500 that night for the people of Haiti.

City approves rezoning of Landings property

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The plan of turning the Landings property into a city-owned park continues to move forward as the Novi City Council approved a rezoning recommendation Monday night.

The property (located north of Old Novi Road and Thirteen Mile Road, east of South Lake Drive and on both the west and east sides of East Lake Drive) has been rezoned from B-3, general business

district, to R-4, one-family residential district.
City Manager Clay Pearson said the change is in compliance with the master plan and will "be a better fit for what council identified as the long-term use of the property, which is passive recreation space."

The city is currently in the process of securing grant funds to start developing the park infrastructure, the promenade walkway, tree-lined airwalkway, a small fishing pier, install some landscaping and

signage and other infrastructure items such as grading, utilities and the waterfront sea wall stabilization.

Council member David Staudt said residents should not worry that the rezoning means anything other than creating a park on the property. Most public parks in the city are residentially zoned and there is no zoning designation for a public park.

"This takes a very desirable designation for that property and makes it much less desirable," he said. "B-3 means a lot

of things; R-4 means houses. We have no intentions as far as I'm concerned of putting houses on the lake front part of the property...This is just some house cleaning that is necessary to get us to the end game which is ultimately designating this valuable property as park land and committing it to the long-term use of our citizens."

Mayor David Landry echoed Staudt's comments.
"The property is open park land now, and we intend to have it as open park land," he said.

"We are mostly looking ahead to next year and the year after because of what is going to be facing us," he said. "After having a lot of difficult discussions we decided we could reduce or

City lays off three employees

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Manager Clay Pearson confirmed Thursday that the city laid off three employees because of decreasing revenue projections for not only this year but the next year as well.

"The employees had between five-to-10 years of experience among them, and their positions have been permanently eliminated."

"We are mostly looking ahead to next year and the year after because of what is going to be facing us," he said. "After having a lot of difficult discussions we decided we could reduce or

cut those three positions."
The three employees laid off came from the clerk's office, building and community development and police records. They were notified of the decision about two weeks ago.

"Those were positions that were primarily support, administrative type of things," he said, "but still important."

At least one of the positions will be backfilled from another area, and the duties of the others will be handled internally.
Pearson said the city is always looking at ways to be more efficient and save money, and tough decisions are going to continue to have to be made.

B.A.T.

networking within the community. It is all done for free.
"These days everybody is very crunched in terms of money and they don't have funding for outside consultants," said Patrick Mondro, representative with National City Bank. "Business owners are working longer days, longer hours and don't have time to see what resources are available to them. That is where we can help."
A B.A.T. visit is available to all business owners in the city, and if the group tries to match them up with someone who best meets the owner's needs.

Topouzian said there also is a tracking mechanism, which was missing in the past, that will allow the group to follow up with the owner after a couple months to see how effective the meeting was.
"There is nothing in it for us, but if businesses stay afloat and we have more businesses in the community we all benefit indirectly," Mondro said.

There is a soft deadline on Feb. 28 to sign up for the town hall meeting, but anyone who wants more information about B.A.T. can do so by calling (248) 437-0580.

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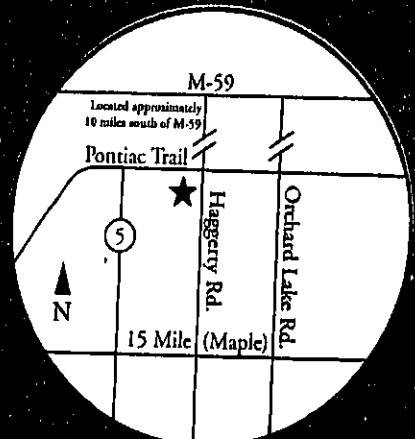
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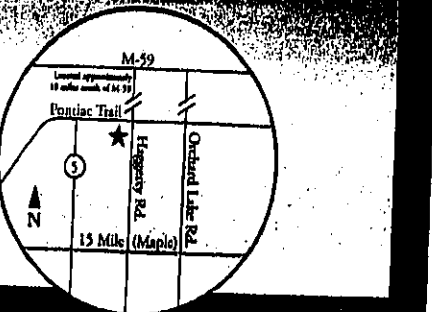
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EDUCATION



NOVI ON CAMPUS

Saint Mary's College

Megan Flaherty, of Novi, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester. A student must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.3 on a 4.0 scale to earn academic honors at Saint Mary's.

Michigan State University

The following Novi students were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester: Abdul-Wahab, Anes Majeed; Adams, Ryan; Nicholas, Arrington; Casey Turner; Arthur, Alec Weston; Barnes, Lukas; Emerson, Bission, Craig; Michael, Burchard; Melanie Lee; Burdette, Cameron; James, Buscarino, Eric; Michael, Bush, Connor; Joseph, Cooke, Kelsey; Marie, Cook, Stephen; John, Crawford, Matthew; Joseph, Czekaj, Dana; Christine, Danks, Thomas; Bains, Direks, Thomas; Bains, Donohue, Christopher; Daniel, Dye, Matthew; Thomas, Englert, Rachel; Elizabeth, Eom, Younae; Eroyan, Steven; Ryan; Esbrook, Eric; John; Evasic, Alexandra; Jordan; Farhad, Abaries; Ariana, Figurski, Stefan; Joseph, Frischen, Paul; Matthew, Gardner, Nicholas; Adam, Gasparotto, Michelle; Ann, Gerbick, Ryan; Andrew; Gessert, Ellen; Marie; Gomula, Kathleen; Louise; Hafley, Patrick; Charles; Harold, Jillian; Marie; Harrison, Kevin; Daniel; Hawthorne, Kate; Christine; Haynes, Nathaniel; John; Heqimi, Gentjan; Herbol, Dalton; Richard; Here, Adam; Patrick; Hinman, Kaitlyn; Jean; Howard, Eric; Ann, Janer, Paige; Elizabeth; Jingoziar, Katie; Beth; Johnson, Amy; Fortunata; Justice, Ashley; Christine; Kadykowski, Zachary; James; Kaminski, Daniel; Ward; Kelmus, Kyle; Jonathan; Kobalick, Alexander; John; Kochyan, Alyssa; Adriane; Kohls, Michelle; Lyman; Kostrzewa, Emily; Nicole; Kovacinski, Rachel; Eugenia; Kovuru, Karthik; Chandra; Kozma, Gregory; Steven; Kroll, Nicholas; Edward; Larabee, Kelly; Ann; Larabell, Patrick; James; Larabell, Sean; Michael; Ledesma,

Nathan Alexander; Lewis, Robert; William; Lichorobiec, Nicholas; Richard; Lloyd, Brian; Christopher; Louffler, Kelsey; Melissa; Lovett, Brian; Richard; Lozon, Jennifer; Rachel; Lynch, Kaitlyn; Sullivan, Marderosian, Ashley; Lynn; Mason, Shannon; Nicole; Mastropalo, Anthony; Marc; Maurer, Rachel; Helen; McAree, Daniel; Patrick; McCloskey, Lauren; Elizabeth; McClure, Brian; Patrick; McCoy, Ashley; Marie; McPherson, Matthew; Brian; Mehl, Michael; Charles; Michaluk, Kevin; David; Mitchell, Robert; George; Monjanel, Valerie; Gisele; Morris, Thomas; Peter; Murphy, Breanne; Marie; Naber, Benjamin; Gerard; Nakashima, Ami; Nalezyty, Brandon; Joseph; Nemes, Patrick; Charles; O'Connor, Erin; Kathleen; O'nder, Kelsey; Elizabeth; Ornes, Bryant; William; Palmer, Alexandra; Beth; Patel, Nipsa; Pratulchandra; Pham, Amanda; Thuy-Diem; Pierce, Jennifer; Maureen; Piotrowski, Megan; Elizabeth; Polanski, Rebecca; Anne; Potesky, Ryan; Matthew; Prentice, Samuel; Hanson; Prieis, Quinn; Ashley; Pylar, Sarah; Elizabeth; Randall, Kristin; Erin; Ransdell, Kelsey; Lauren; Reichel, Sarah; Joyce; Reizian, Paulina; Marie; Reynolds, Chelsea; Ann; Rigdon, Jason; Joseph; Rigdon, Matthew; Devere, Roiger; Annabella; Yun; Roper, Julie; Marie; Salley; Jessica; M; Schipper, Casey; Leigh; Schabass, Nicholas; James; Shaik, Astra; Natusheen; Shaya; Deanna; M; Sherry; Daniel; Rohan; Smith; Brian; Thompson; Snavely, Meagan; Marie; Spears, Kylie; Ann; Stekler, Amanda; Jean; Szczypka, Caitlin; Elizabeth; Thines, Jill; Marie; Tollis, Alexander; Daniel; Tollis, Laura; Bethany; Tonkovich, Kristin; Marie; Trumbore, Sarah; Elizabeth; Vasilopoulos, Jason; Paul; Venigalis, Vasilios; Vitiak, Nicholas; James; Wallen, Kellie; Emma; Webber, Michael; James; Wetter, Carla; White, Jennifer; Arice; Winkler, Paul; Lewis; Womack, Brent; Tyson; Woudruff, John; Powell; Zerio, Kimberly; Ann.



Special guest

Orchard Hills Elementary students (above) listen to a drumming group "Sunkwa" from Ghana on Feb. 12. The group was brought to the school for Black History month by music teacher Annie Bailey. Ibrahim Aminou (left), a member of the Ghanaian 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.



Small world

Parkview Elementary School students sing "It's a Small World After All" during their first grade Disney-themed concert on Feb. 16. They performed nine songs late in the afternoon to an audience of their families and friends.

Notice to Bright House Networks Cable Customers
Bright House Networks has launched a new digital video delivery technology known as **Switched Digital Video (SDV)**. SDV is a robust bandwidth-management system that makes it possible to offer more digital video programming services than before including new HD channels. Customers will be able to offer more new video services to the SDV system. Beginning March 31, 2010, the following services will be delivered on the SDV system:
Movie Pack on channel 570-577
Sports Pak on channels 550-559, 653-655, 657 & 659
SABC on channels 541-546, and 641
VH-1 HD on channel 254
TMC on channels 535-538 & 635
Fix on channel 539
MTV HD on channel 252
CMT HD on channel 253
BET HD on channel 251
These services will not be available on uni-directional retail devices as of the date(s) noted above. If you want to subscribe to these services, you will need House Networks' customers may continue to use their uni-directional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers will be notified in advance of any other programming changes.
In addition, on March 29, 2010, National Geographic Wild will replace Fox Reality on channel 121.
For more information on Bright House Networks programming, please call 1-866-898-9101 or visit our website at www.brighthouse.com.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN DAY SCHOOL
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Sunday, February 28th, 2010
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Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Daddy-daughter teams to star in Oak Pointe Church's 'Annie!' Church musical family affair for three local duos

BY PAM FLEMING STAFF WRITER

Three fathers and their daughters from the area will take the stage March 5-6 when they perform in the play "Annie!" at Oak Pointe Church in Novi.

The daddy-daughter duos have been rehearsing for weeks and say they have enjoyed getting to rehearse lines together and appear together in the production. The Oak Pointe Players will present the musical, "Annie!" All net proceeds will go to benefit a Living Hope International orphanage in Zambia, Africa. Proceeds specifically go toward digging community water wells in Zambia.

Slow times are Friday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 6, at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and \$30 for families. Tickets are available at the church office the day of the show.

TIM AND SAMANTHA ANN RUTOWSKI

Tim Rutowski and his daughter, Samantha Ann, of Northville, are one of the father-daughter teams. He will play two characters in the musical Mr. Bundles, the laundry man, and a servant, Harold Ickes. Samantha, 10, a fifth-grader at Moraine Elementary, will play Duffy, one of the orphans.

"We've been rehearsing about six weeks," she said. "We do our lines at home; we are singing together at

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CHURCH

Show times for Oak Pointe Church's "Annie!" are Friday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 6, at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and \$30 for families. Tickets are available at the church office the day of the show. The church is located on the north side of Ten Mile Road west of Wixom Road.

home. She helps me, and I help her."

"This is the first time the two have performed in a production together. Annie thinks her parents are still alive. She's adopted by a rich man, Daddy Warbucks, over the Christmas season. They fall in love with each other, and he helps her find her biological parents, who have died. So, he ends up adopting her."

Rutowski said this has been a rewarding experience to be in a production with his daughter.

"I feel very blessed to be able to do this with her," he said. "This will be a memory for a lifetime."

Amanda said she has been in three school plays, but this is her first performance with the Oak Pointe Players.

"Duffy is kind of mean, and I like playing her a lot," she said.

Ernie and Amanda Minissale

Ernie Minissale and his daughter Amanda, 12, of Novi, are another father-daughter duo in the musical. Amanda is a seventh-grader at Novi Middle School.

He said he got involved in the production at the urging of

Samantha.

"It was definitely my daughter's idea," Minissale said. "She loves to sing, dance and act, and she wanted to be in it together."

He will play three parts — a servant; Officer Ward, a policeman; and a New York City dancer. Samantha will play one of the orphans, Pepper.

"It's been quite interesting," Minissale said. "It's been good for us to be together and do this. We're in a couple of scenes together."

Minissale said he's played in a couple of dramas at the church, but this is the largest production he's starred in so far.

He mentioned that he has been to the church's orphanage four times.

"That's another special thing for me, personally," he said. "I've been there to see the people that have been helped."

Samantha said, "She gets really grumpy, but other times she gets happy and joins the

group. But people annoy her a lot. She starts a lot of fights."

CHUCK AND RILEY GAIDICA WDIV Channel 4 weathercaster Chuck Gaidica is performing in the musical with his 13-year-old daughter, Riley, an eighth-grader at Meads Mill Middle School.

"I wasn't intending to be in this, and an actor's father got very ill," Gaidica said. "He backed out about three weeks ago. They asked me if I could step in and do the radio announcer's part, which was, obviously, a natural request. Gaidica will play Bert Healy, an announcer for an old New York radio station who interviews Daddy Warbucks about Annie and putting out the word that \$50,000 will be rewarded to any couple who steps forward and says they're her parents."

He said he and wife, Susan, have a talented family.

"They get it all from mommy," he said, with modesty. Susan is the musical's costume designer, and their oldest daughter, Tiffany Zielke, 27, of Northville, who works in a salon in Grosse Pointe, is doing makeup for the cast.

Although not involved in the Oak Pointe musical, the Gaidica's son, Charlie, is a scenic designer in New York, and their daughter, Kelsey, is a dancer.

"We've just always encouraged our kids to do things," Gaidica said.

"And more importantly, it's our parents from the musical. Annie can be tough and she can be the sweet little girl who can convince people to do things."



Father-daughter duos that will perform in the March 5-6 musical 'Annie!' at Oak Pointe Church in Novi include: top left, Tim and Samantha Ann Rutowski of Northville Township; top right, Ernie and Amanda Minissale of Novi; and front, Chuck and Riley Gaidica of Northville Township.

not only helping with digging a community water well but also buying property and building an orphanage.

"We're really happy to help them," he said. Riley said the character Annie can be tough and she can be the sweet little girl who can convince people to do things.

"She's fun and an upbeat person," Riley said. The Oak Pointe Players are rehearsing three days a week from 6-9 p.m. and more as show time grows closer. "I'm in only one scene with my dad, but he sometimes rehearse our lines together at home," she said. "It's fun doing this with dad."

Novi Theatres presents 'Anything Goes'

Get your tickets now to see the Novi Theatres bring the classic musical 'Anything Goes' to Novi. This show is an amusing story wrapped around one of Cole Porter's magical scores. Terrific songs include "It's De-Lovely," "Friendship," "I Get A Kick Out of You," "All Through the Night," "Anything Goes," "You're The Top" and "Blow, Gabriel, Blow." It's a wonder that all the romances are sorted out and disaster is averted about the magical ship where anything goes!



Julie Landry stars in 'Anything Goes' with Dave Margolis (right).

Lauren Sorrentino, performing arts coordinator and producer of 'Anything Goes,' is thrilled to bring this delightful production to Novi Theatres.

"I've wanted to bring this show to Novi Theatres for a long time and because of the talented design and directing staff, audiences will have a great time. Seasoned performers Julie Landry and David Margolis return to the Novi Theatres stage for this production to delight audiences as they have in past productions such as 'My Fair Lady' and 'Guys and Dolls,'" said Sorrentino.

DETAILS The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, between Taft and Novi roads. Tickets are available online at cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Parks office in the Novi Civic Center. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$15/child and seniors and all seats are reserved. For more information, please call the Novi Parks office at (248) 347-0400 or visit cityofnovi.org.

Performance Dates and Time: Friday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 14, 2 p.m.

Rotary searching for leaders to become peace fellows

BY WYATHR MUELLER STAFF WRITER

As far as Mav Sanghi knows, the city of Novi has never had someone chosen for the Rotary Peace Fellowship program.

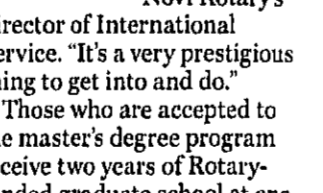
But he hopes that changes soon. "The program is open to anyone seeking to increase their knowledge in international relations, public administration, sustainable development, peace studies and conflict resolution or other related areas. It is extremely exclusive as only up to 100 fellowships are given out worldwide."

"This is a yearly thing the Rotary district does, and I thought it was time to get people in Novi involved," said Sanghi, who is Novi Rotary's director of International Service. "It's a very prestigious thing to get into and do."

Those who are accepted to the master's degree program receive two years of Rotary-funded graduate school at one of six Rotary Centers; training in the causes of conflict, theories of international relations,

and effective models of cooperation, conflict resolution and negotiation; and a network of people from all over the world. Being a Rotarian is not a requirement for the program, but a bachelor's degree and at least three years of relevant work experience is needed. Sanghi said a couple people in the United Nations went through the program, and the benefits are endless.

For more information, contact rotarypeacecenters@rotary.org or visit www.rotary.org/rotarycenters. Applications must be sent in by July 1.



Sanghi

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

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH EVENTS

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Novi-Northville, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

Church of the Holy Family Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org Mass Schedule TIME/DAY: 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 7 p.m. Tuesday; 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m., Saturdays or by appointment Crosspointe Meadows Church Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road

Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org. Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m. Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience. Detroit First Church of the Nazarene Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit ofcnazarene.org Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service. Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service Tuesday Schedule: Tuesday 9:30-11:15 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study with childcare available through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study

Wednesday Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tai Kwon Do Women of the Word Time/Date: 9:25-11:15 a.m. Details: The W.O.W. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study welcomes you to their study of the Book of Exodus. There is a \$15 registration fee, which includes interdenominational study materials. Childcare will be available in the morning for children through age 5. Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchoftheholycross.com Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service Alzheimer's Support Group Time/Date: 10 a.m., second Saturday of month Faith Community Presbyterian Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road

Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunitynovi.org Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. First Baptist Church of Northville Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: (248) 348-1020 Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. First Saturday of every month First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-3641 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m. Family Worship: 11 a.m. Bible Study: 6 p.m. Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month Please see CHURCH, A13

Your Invitation to Worship. A large grid of church listings for various areas including Brighton, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, White Lake, Plymouth, and Wixom. Each listing includes church name, address, phone number, and service times.



Open for business

Ariel McKissick, a waitress at the Novi Burger Dave's, brings out a tray of burgers and chips at the Novi Town Center restaurant's grand opening on Feb. 19. The burger joint is located in the center's southwestern corner near Novi and Grand River Ave.

Wadsworth wants Corriveau's state House seat

Bringing with her 36 years of experience as a community activist and volunteer, Joan Wadsworth announced Tuesday that she will seek to represent the 29th District in the Michigan House of Representatives in the upcoming Nov. 2 election.



Wadsworth

Northville south of Eight Mile/Baseline Road, a portion of Canton Township and the City of Wayne. Representative Marc Corriveau, who announced recently that he will run for the State Senate, currently holds the seat. "I was thrilled when I learned that Joan has decided to run for the House of Representatives," Corriveau said. "Her willingness to share her talent and public service experience in Lansing during these very troubling times says volumes. Our schools, our families and our state would be well served."

NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NYA Bowl-a-thon

Novi Youth Assistance's 28th Annual Bowl-A-Thon will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 13 at Novi Bowl (Novi Road between Eight and Nine Mile roads). Novi Youth Assistance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all funds raised stay in the Novi community, and donations are tax deductible. The NYA Jeanne Clarke Summer Teen Center opens June 21.

Rasa Yoga opening

Rasa Yoga is holding its grand opening with complementary first yoga class and special introductory class series. The founder is Todd Tesen, a Certified Anusara Yoga instructor who will be accompanied by a teaching staff of certified yoga in the Anusara yoga tradition.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities.

Novi Rotary Club

Novi Rotary Club is sponsoring a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills.

Novi Community Education

Novi Community Education to register, call (248) 449-1206 or visit us online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/district/community-education.

hardships and problems faced by the homeless.

Two Men and a Truck will be on hand to collect clothing donated by thesteerorg attending Unheard Voices on Feb. 26-28 in the Fountain Lounge on McNichols Campus. Those attending Feb. 27 and 28 performances will receive free admission with the donation of gently worn clothing on a hanger.

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Novi Toastmasters Club

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Novi Community Education

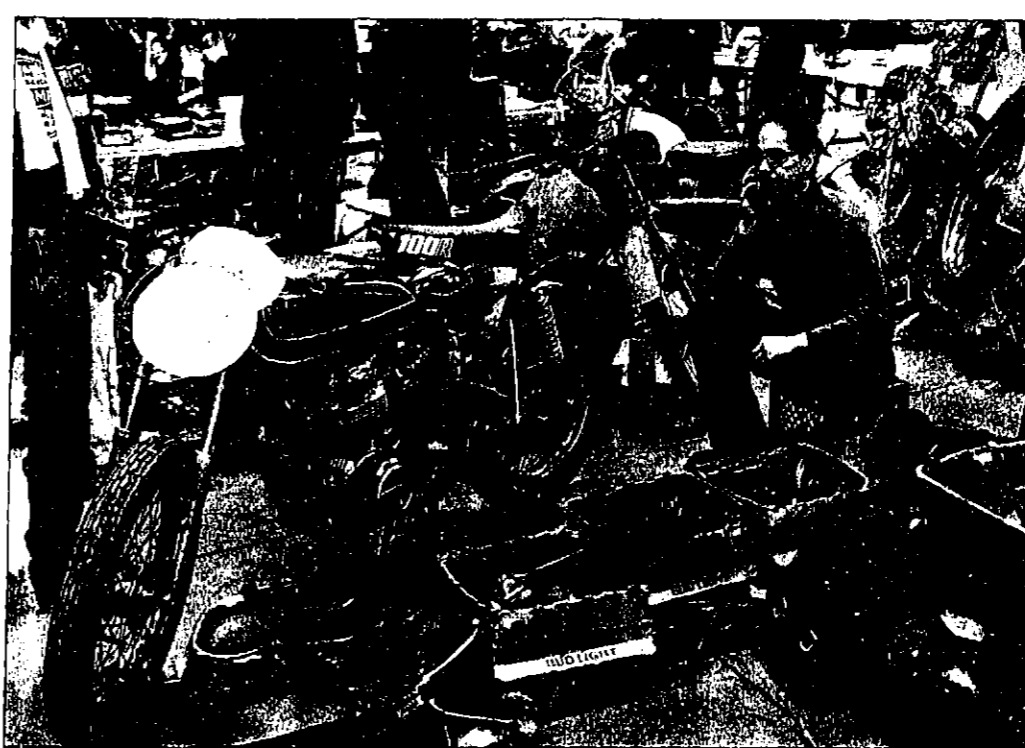
Novi Community Education to register, call (248) 449-1206 or visit us online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/district/community-education.

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novl Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstnec@gmail.com, by fax to (248) 349-9832, or mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Fundraiser
Time/Date: 5:7 p.m. Saturday, March 6
Location: Bar Louie in Fountain Walk, 44375 Twelve Mile Road, Novi
Details: All proceeds will be donated to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Advance tickets are \$15; \$20 at the door; includes light appetizers and one raffle ticket for a pair of roundtrip tickets on AirTran.



Biker's heaven

Don Halas, of Macomb Township, makes a call while selling motorcycle parts and most of a Honda 350, at left, during last weekend's Motorcycle Swap Meet at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace. Thousands of bike enthusiasts turned up for the one-day event on Sun., Feb. 21 to buy parts, riding gear, insurance and even a new or used bike or two.

Mbargo

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

Bar Louie

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

The Grapevine of Novi

Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 344-4044, www.thegrapevineofnovi.com

Live music Fridays and Saturdays

Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International.

The Post Bar

Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 465-9600
Wednesdays: WYLD! Wednesdays with DJ Joey "A" & mc Jevon Hollywood
Thursdays: DJ Tommy Holiday

Mixx Lounge

Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-6499 or mixx-novi.com
Thursday-Saturday: DJ

Novi Rotary Club

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Novi Community Education

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BUSINESS

Metro Novi BNI

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of 8 Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.

LEAP! event March 16

The 19 members of the Novi Please see BRIEFS, A11

LOTUS BANK CORP. INC. TO DEREGISTER WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

NOVI, MI - Lotus Bankcorp, Inc. ("Company"), the Michigan based holding company of Lotus Bank, Novi, MI ("Lotus Bank"), announced that it intends to file a Form 15 with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("the Commission") to deregister its common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which will terminate the Company's obligation to file periodic reports with the Commission. The Company's board of directors has determined that the Company would benefit from this action by eliminating significant costs, including fees and expenses relating to the preparation and filing of periodic costs with the Commission, and by permitting management to spend less time on report preparation, which will allow them to devote full attention and resources to the Company's operations. The Company intends to continue to hold annual meetings and to provide its shareholders with financial information.

Lotus Bank is a community bank owned and operated by people living and working in Southeast Michigan. One of the most well-capitalized banks in Michigan, Lotus Bank offers a full range of financial products and services to businesses and consumers. Lotus Bank is headquartered at 44950 West Twelve Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48377 and its phone number is (248) 796-1000. Additional information about the Company and Lotus Bank is available at www.lotusbank.net.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Monday, March 22, 2010 in the Novi Assessing Department at 43175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center, 43175 W. Ten Mile Road to consider:

LOTUS BANK CORP. INC. TO DEREGISTER WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
NOVI, MI - Lotus Bankcorp, Inc. ("Company"), the Michigan based holding company of Lotus Bank, Novi, MI ("Lotus Bank"), announced that it intends to file a Form 15 with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("the Commission") to deregister its common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which will terminate the Company's obligation to file periodic reports with the Commission.

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Eggplant Parmesan
\$5.99 a lb.

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Prices good through February 28, 2010

THURSDAY
February 25,
2010

SECTION B
(NN)

LOCAL SPORTS

Call Stone, editor, (248) 477-2011
clstone@hometownlife.com



Catholic Central wins CHSL title Page, B4

Novi defeats Plymouth in KLAAs Tournament

Wildcats and Zebras to battle
BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Having defeated Plymouth 43-48 at home Jan. 26, Novi's boys cagers had to hope their Wildcat counterparts didn't have much of a home court advantage last Friday when Plymouth hosted the opening round matchup of the KLAAs Tournament.

Novi jumped out to a 12-9 lead in the first quarter behind the strong play of seniors Justin Hopton (11 points) and Brandon Ryzdzewski (four points, five assists). Junior Samer Ozeir led Novi with 12 points on the night despite tying his season low of four rebounds while his team built a 27-18 half-time lead.

"I thought we got back to focusing on what we do well, which is guard the ball, rebound and play with passion. We got contributions from a lot of guys and we really seemed to just wear Plymouth down, which was nice to see," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "In the first quarter, Justin and Brandon made some really nice offensive plays, hit a couple big shots early, which has been huge for us. Then Samer followed up with two great threes in transition; that seemed to deflate Plymouth a little bit."

The Central Division No. 2 seed refused to let the South Division No. 3 claw back into it, as Novi went on to win 54-40. "We again maximized our offensive pos-

ON TAP
The win over Plymouth put Central Division No. 2 Novi (14-3) into a second-round match after press deadline last Tuesday with South Division No. 1-seed Wayne Memorial (14-3) in the KLAAs Tournament.

"Wayne is a very athletic group and has one of the area's top post players, who happens only to be 6-foot-3, Daniel Hill," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "They surround him with shooters and they can be very explosive on offense."

If the Wildcats can take down the Zebras, Novi would face the winner of Plymouth Salem (9-8) and 9-7 Livonia Churchill at 7 p.m. tomorrow for the Kensington Conference championship. The game will take place at Churchill or, if facing Salem, at Novi. The two KLAAs conference champions will then face off at the Lakes Conference champion 7 p.m. next Thursday.

"It would be a perfect world if we were able to somehow host the championship game on Friday evening, which had about a one-percent chance of happening when the tourney started," Heitsch said. "But we can't get a head of ourselves, because Wayne may be the most explosive team we have seen in a while."

Please see BOYS, B2



Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates skated at the World Championships in Los Angeles last March. The pair placed 11th in what was a prelude to this month's Olympic competition.

Girls basketball conference title match is postponed
Lady cagers rip through Rockets, Lions

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Novi's girls basketball team continued their winning ways, improving to 17-1 with two KLAAs tournament victories last week. Poised for their toughest game of the season Monday at Canton (17-1), Novi had to wait until Tuesday evening to determine the Kensington Conference champion after a snowstorm closed schools and postponed the game.

Riding an 11-game winning streak into the Canton contest, the girls opened the KLAAs tournament as the Central Division's No. 1 seed, defeating South Division No. 4 Westland John Glenn 70-42 on the road Feb. 16. Glenn is now 5-12.

Leading 17-13 after the first quarter, the Cats busted the game open in the second quarter to take a 30-19 half-time lead. Capitalizing on the Rockets' 20 turnovers and their own 13-0 assist and 33-10 rebound advantages, Novi's cagers cruised to the win with strong performances by seniors Caroline Johnson and Kelsey Masserant, who each finished with a game-high 19 points. Johnson added seven rebounds.

Please see GIRLS, B2

Novi ice dancer 11th at Olympics
Samuelson and Bates show promise for 2014

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen-year-old Novi resident Emily Samuelson and ice dancing partner Evan Bates of Ann Arbor skated the first of what they hope to be many Olympic performances last Friday.

With Samuelson draped in purple sequins and Bates in a red dress shirt and black pinstriped vest and pants, the pair made their Olympic debut, flowing through the smooth arcs and quick turns of the tango romantic-themed compulsory dance to score 31.67 points in Vancouver early in the competition.

"Where this team stands apart for me is their use of leg lines. Emily has the most beautiful feet in the business," NBC analyst and 1998 Olympic ice dancing bronze medalist Tracy Wilson told the television audience Friday during the Michigan duo's compulsory dance performance. "This is a strong dance technically. Good skating, they still can develop the subtleties of expression through the upper bodies."

The United States' Meryl Davis (West Bloomfield) and Charlie White (Dearborn) scored 41.47 shortly after to take the lead over France's Isabelle Delobel and Olivier Schoenfelder's 37.99 score, but Russia's Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin followed with a 43.76 to take the lead that would stand for the rest of the night. USA's Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto - who won the silver medal in 2006 - scored 40.83 to briefly take third before Canadians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir - who share coaches and train

Please see OLYMPICS, B2

Novi swimmers finish last at Central Division meet



Wildcat John Lu keeps his head underwater as he plows ahead in the 50 meter freestyle event at Walled Lake Northern. Lu came in second in this heat.

Mustangs dominate as 'Cats struggle

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

With 292 points at the end of the day, last Saturday's Central Division meet at South Lyon East didn't go very well for Novi's swimmers.

The group finished fifth of five teams, more than 50 points behind fourth-place Plymouth Salem (345.5). Northville won with 683.5 points, followed by Livonia Stevenson (493.5) and South Lyon unified (370.5).

There were some bright spots for the Wildcats, as several managed top-10 finishes among tough division competition, including some

impressive swims by the 'Cats' underclassmen.

The meet started with Novi juniors Travis Vincent, Joon

Please see SWIM, B3

Please see SWIM, B3

GIRLS

FROM PAGE B1

and Masserant had five steals. They were both leaders that stepped up their senior year. Novi coach Bill Kelly said, "(We) got off to a slow start, but played a lot better in the second half." The Wildcats also had strong performances from senior Katie Barry (30 points) and junior Alyssa Armiak (seven points, seven rebounds). Senior Jessica Cingel brought in eight rebounds and a pair of blocks to go with her six points, while sophomore Ally D'Annunzio had four points. Freshman Brittany Berehulka and junior Madly Sinkovitch added two points apiece, while sophomore Katie Seelenbinder chipped in with one point. The win pushed Novi into the second round last Thursday, where they hosted Central Division No. 3 South Lyon, who was riding a four-game winning streak that included a pair of upsets over Plymouth Salem and Livonia Franklin. The Wildcats had defeated the Lions twice by a combined 28 points in the regular season and looked destined for a third straight big win after taking a 19-9 first-quarter lead. But South Lyon battled back, outscoring Novi 22-19 in the second half, but a strong first half by the Wildcats was enough to hold on and win 47-37.

"(We) got off to a fast start and played even rest of way. The first quarter was one of our all-around best of year," Kelly said.

The third win of the season over South Lyon (11-7) was Novi's closest not only by score, but in several other categories as well. The Wildcats only out-rebounded the Lions 25-24, with both teams getting 10 offensive boards. Novi had more turnovers, 19-16, but made up for it with 11-6 steal and 11-2 assist advantages. Novi struggled at the free throw line, shooting 46-49, but South Lyon shot just 32.6 percent from the field, compared to the Wildcats' 43.6 percent.

Leading the way for Novi was Masserant, who had game highs in points (16) and steals (five). Johnson had an impressive 15-point, seven-rebound, five-assist performance in the win. Sinkovitch added six points, which Cingel and Barry chipped in with three

points apiece and Armiak (four assists, three steals) and junior Meghan Robinson had two points apiece.

JUNIOR VARSITY

Novi's junior varsity squad improved to 14-1 with wins over South Lyon and Westland John Glenn. The girls defeated the Lions 46-15 last Thursday, following the varsity squad's lead with a three-game season sweep of South Lyon. Novi raced out to an early 15-2 lead in the first quarter behind strong team play. Sophomore Natalie Kozma led the way with a game-high 12 points and six steals, while sophomores Shannon Sherwood (six points, 12 rebounds) and Anna Lausch (six points, eight rebounds) also had strong performances. The victory followed a 43-31 win over Glenn two days prior. Sherwood was dominant with 18 points and 17 rebounds. Sophomore Abby Robinson hit a couple of clutch three-pointers to finish with eight points, while sophomore Kelli Timar ran the offense and finished with six points.

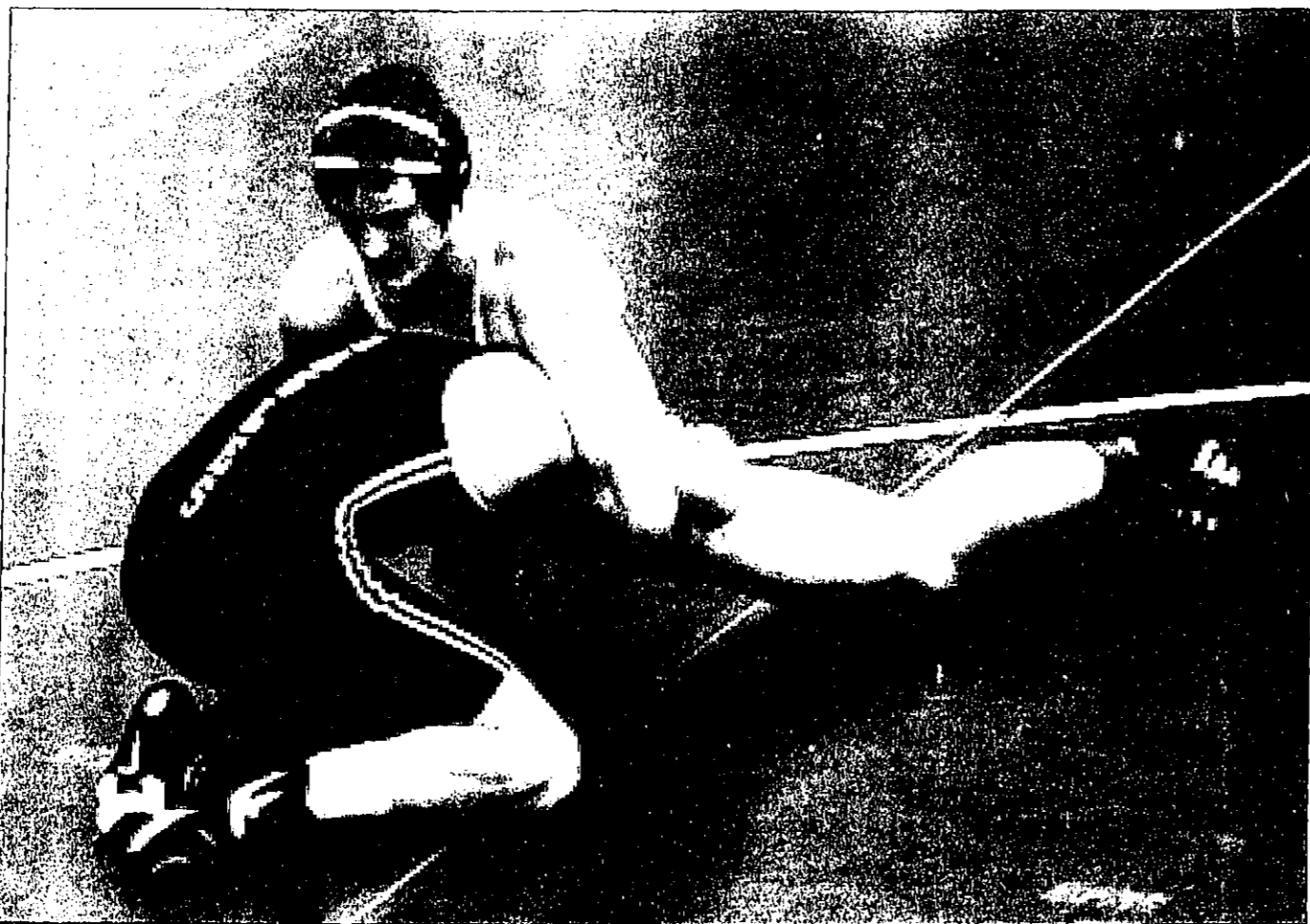
The team defeated South Lyon 40-17 last Thursday after embarrassing host Westland John Glenn's squad 60-8, including a 47-4 halftime lead, two days prior.

FRESHMEN

Matching the varsity squad game for game, the youngest team in the 'Cats program improved to 15-1 with a pair of victories that had a combined score of 100-25 despite no Novi player scoring more than eight points in either game. The team defeated South Lyon 40-17 last Thursday after embarrassing host Westland John Glenn's squad 60-8, including a 47-4 halftime lead, two days prior.

Over the course of the two games, Kelly Lewis had 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Erin Dreks had 14 points, four assists, four rebounds and five steals, and Anna Grculich had 12 points, six assists and five steals. Kasey Lowmyer added 11 points and four steals, while Rebecca Rush had 10 points and four rebounds. Also helping out the 'Cats were Serene Ozeir (nine points, six rebounds), Kelly Cauchi (seven points, four rebounds), Lena Burgess (six points), Hannah Fan (six points), Jessie Stüder (five points), Melanie Murphy (four points), Kaye Dusenbury (two points, three steals) and Sarah Elhage (two points).

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



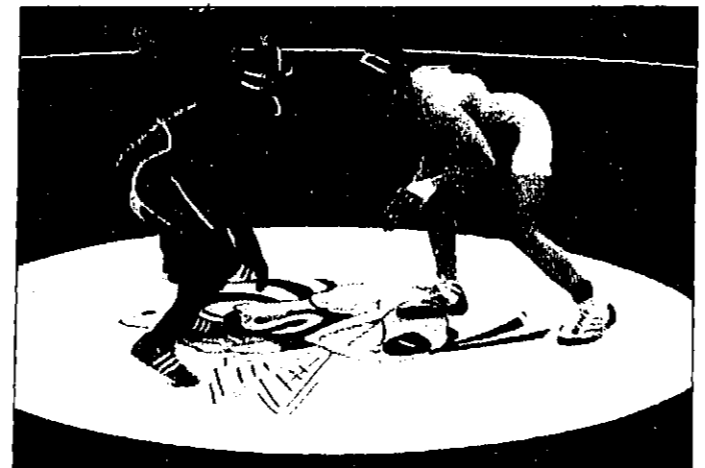
Senior captain Alex Engebretson grapples with Romulus' Mike Statham in 160-pound regional competition at Saline. Engebretson won 3-1, but lost a 5-3 decision to Detroit Catholic Central's Andrew Erickson to finish his senior season with a 36-15 record.

Wildcat wrestlers fall short at Regionals

Engebretson, Bunney close out careers at Novi

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Novi's wrestling team had four student athletes advance to last Saturday's regional meet at Saline, but none of the Wildcats could advance to the state meet, abruptly ending the season for Novi's grapplers. Senior captains Alex Engebretson (160 pounds), Martin Bunney (145), junior Al Mencer (215) and sophomore Shabaig Sidhu (125) each put in solid efforts, but the strong regional competition kept any of the four from advancing. Engebretson and Mencer each went 1-2 in matches, while Bunney and Sidhu were both 0-2. Engebretson beat Romulus' Mike Statham 3-1 and lost 3-2 to Keith Zech of Canton before running into Detroit Catholic Central's Andrew Erickson. Down 3-0 heading into the final period, Engebretson executed an escape and quick takedown to tie the match at 3-3. With two seconds left, Erickson was awarded a controversial two-point reversal to win the match and end Engebretson's career with the Wildcats. He was 36-15 in his senior campaign. "Alex is a very tough wrestler and it was hard to see his season end the way it did," assistant coach Dan Jilg said. Mencer (215) opened with a similar close decision against Belleville's Forrest Sampson. With the match tied 1-1, Mencer was called for fleeing the mat late in the third period, giving Sampson the 2-1 lead. Mencer rebounded with a 5-3 victory over Lucas Luchonok (Dearborn Edsel Ford) to set up a rematch with Canton's Ben Poirier, who Mencer beat in overtime at Districts a week earlier. A repeat wasn't in the making, as Poirier scored a 5-3 victory over Mencer to end his season. "Mencer had a great season. We are excited to have another year with him," Jilg said of the junior who compiled a 32-15 record this season. Bunney wrestled a pair of tough, physical matches in the 145-pound weight class, but suffered a 9-8 loss by decision to Mike Johnson (Westland John Glenn) and then a 3-1 defeat to Josh Wright of Northville to finish his final season as a Wildcat with a 30-18 record. "The two guys that Bunney wrestled on Saturday are still at home icing. He wrestled two of the most physical matches that I have seen in a long time," Jilg said Monday. "He wrestled two incredible matches against two tough opponents. Throughout the whole year he wrestled with a lot of heart and passion. His leadership will be missed."



Senior captain Martin Bunney prepares to take down Mike Johnson (Westland John Glenn) in 145-pound regional action. Bunney lost a 9-8 decision to finish with a 30-18 record on the year.

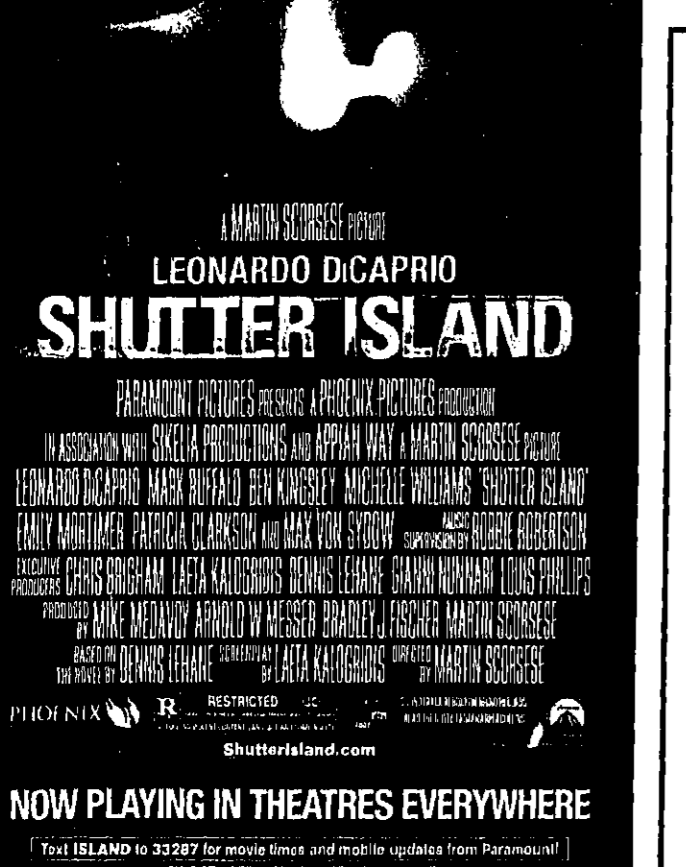
Sidhu finished his season with a 15-20 record after a pair of lopsided losses at Regionals. He was defeated 17-2 by Leon Shannon and 13-1 by Tim Deja. Both wrestlers were from Wyandotte. "Shabaig had a tough day. Being a regional qualifier as a junior is a great accomplishment and should give him more confidence next year," Jilg said. "What a rollercoaster of a year with an incredible group of guys."

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

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OLYMPICS

curves they make across the ice." Their combined score earned them an 11th-place finish in Olympic ice dancing, same as their finish at last year's World Championships. Current U.S. champs Davis and White, skating their free dance to "Phantom of the Opera," went on to win the silver medal with a 107.19-point performance and total score of 215.74, just 5.83 points behind Virtue and Moir. Fellow Americans Belbin and Agosto scored 99.74 in the free dance to finish fourth with 203.07 points after Russians Domnina and Shabalin - who train with

Advertisement for Dish Network and Thera-Gesic Pain Cream. Includes text: '\$500 GAS CARD', 'Cost-Effective Statewide Coverage', 'For Real Pain Therapy... Thera-Gesic Pain Cream', 'It Really Works... Compare and SAVE.'



Travis Vincent swims an individual medley at Walled Lake Northern.

SWIM

FROM PAGE B1

Chung, Tiger Bourque and senior John Lu taking fourth in the 200-yard medley relay in 1:44.16, behind South Lyon's 1:41.55 first-place time. The Wildcats had moderate success in the relay events, as two teams placed well in the 200-yard freestyle relay and another in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Senior David Groechel, sophomores Jong Min Kim, Eugene Song and freshman Andrew Ao finished sixth in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:34.99, behind Northville's first-place time of 1:31.05. Senior Thomas Goers teamed with juniors Gabriel Glenn, Tiger Bourque and Vivek Iyer to take ninth in 1:40.80. Three events later, Ao teamed with Lu, Vincent and Chung in the final event of the day, the 400-yard freestyle relay, and finished fourth in 3:24.06. Northville won in 3:18.22. Several of the Wildcats' relay swimmers also saw individual success earlier in the meet. Ao, who was impressive in two relay events, finished fifth in the 100-yard freestyle in 51.25 seconds, close behind Stevenson senior Aaren Marecki's 49.53 seconds. Ao was also 10th in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:52.22, just more than five seconds behind Salem's first place Adam Seroka (1:47.09). Chung, who had been Novi's leader most of the season, took first place in the 200-yard individual medley in 1:57.57, ahead of Stevenson junior Kellen Schoff's 2:00.84. Chung also took second in the 100-yard backstroke in 56.31 seconds, behind Schoff's 55.19 seconds. Although Chung won the 200-yard individual medley event, two other Wildcats also did well, as Kim placed sixth in 2:07.63 and Iyer was ninth in 2:08.08. Kim was also fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:04.32, not far behind South Lyon's Adam Oxner, who set a division meet record in 1:00.27. Novi sophomore Austin Reed was ninth in 1:07.75. A pair of Wildcats scored well in the highly competitive 50-yard freestyle, as Lu took fourth in 22.95 seconds, just fractions of a second behind Marecki's 22.43 seconds, which set a Central Division meet record. Song finished sixth in 23.43 seconds for Novi. The 100-yard butterfly saw Vincent finish ninth in 58.75 seconds, behind Northville senior Nate Lunn's 55.11. Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.



Novi's Kenta Onimura swimming against Walled Lake Northern High.



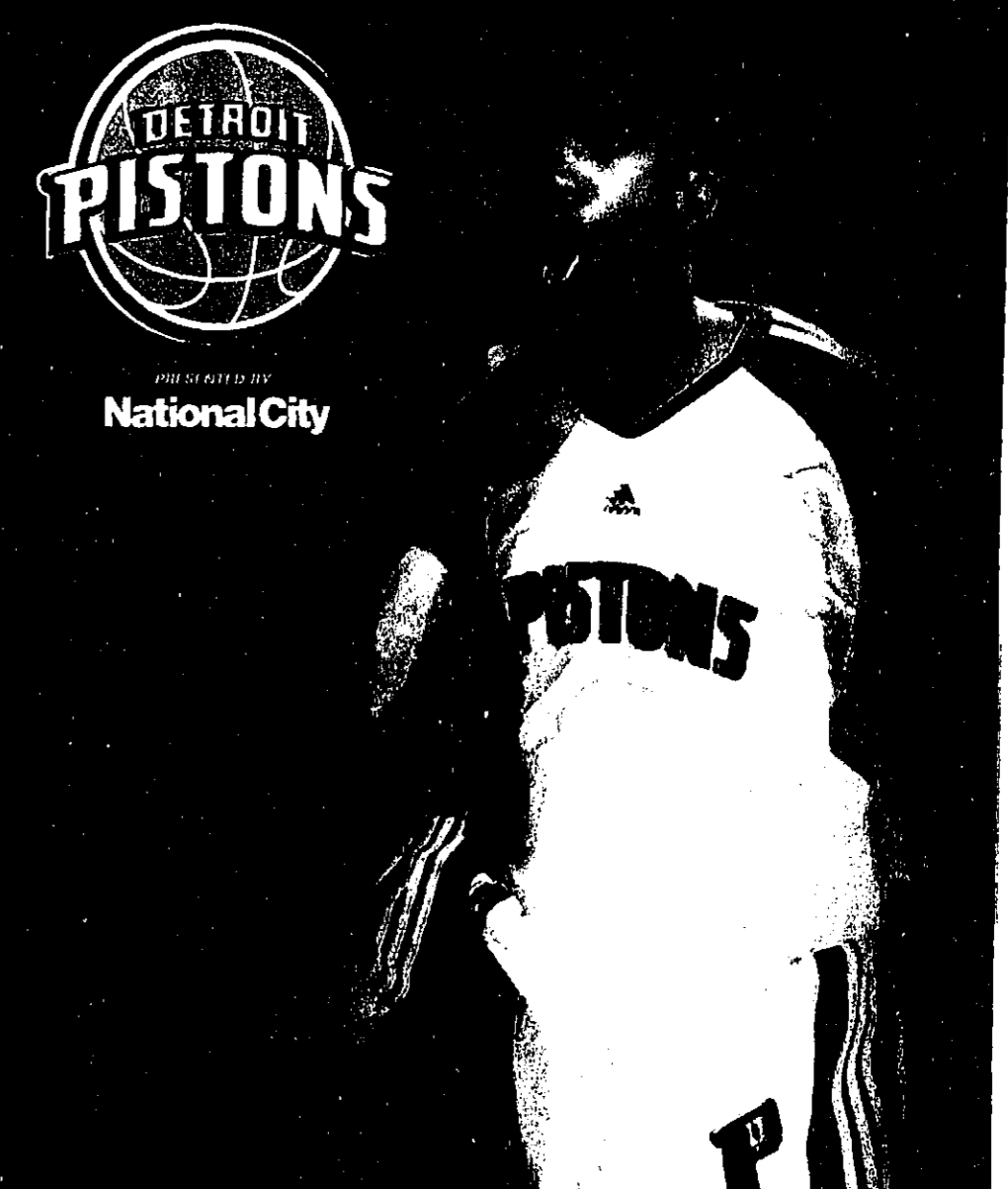
Novi's William Li.



Wildcat William Li.



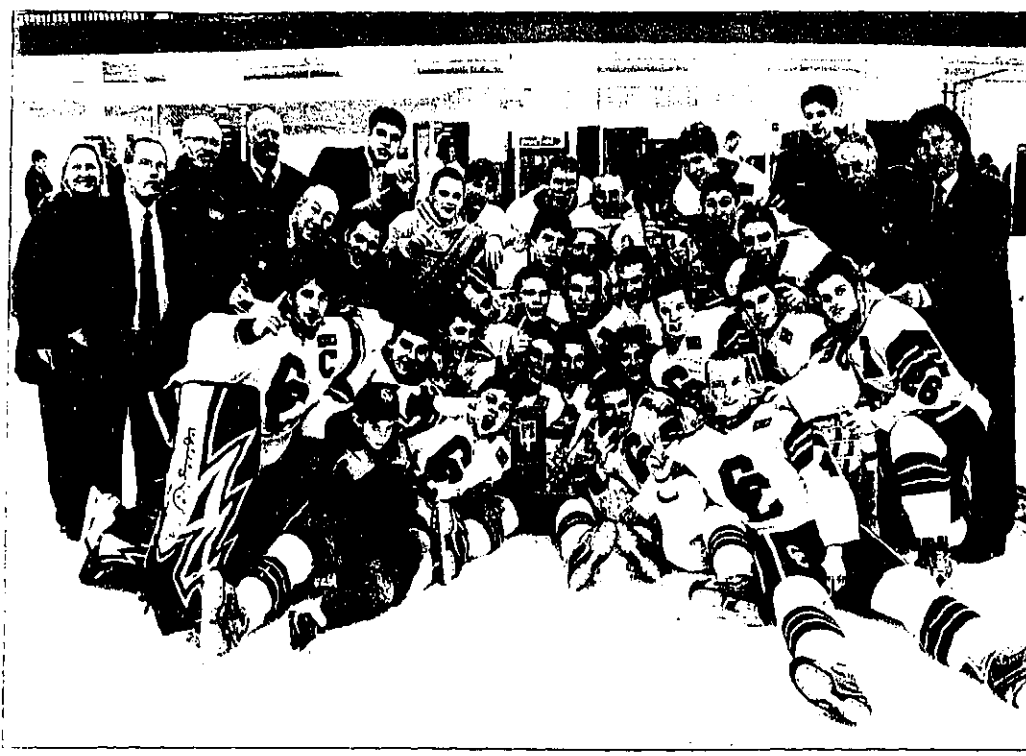
Wildcat David Groechel swims at Walled Lake Northern on Feb. 11.



Pistons CARE TELETHON advertisement. Text: 'TUE, 3/2 7:30 PM', 'Rip Hamilton Home Youth Jersey to first 5,000 fans courtesy of DMC', 'PISTONS CARE TELETHON', 'Benefiting Food Bank Council of Michigan', 'Buy a 200-level ticket for \$20 = 50 meals for Michigan families OR buy a 100-level ticket for \$50 = 125 meals for Michigan families.'

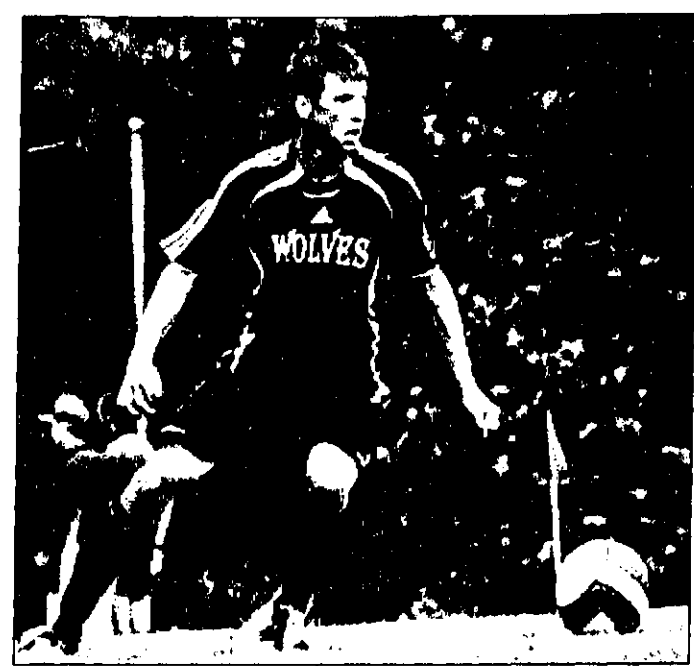
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Shamrock standout to play professional soccer

Gatt signs three-year deal with SCRA Altach in Austria



Player of the Year Josh Gatt, Catholic Central, also played for the Michigan Wolves and the U.S. Football Club SuperElite Discover Europe International Showcase.

The Catholic League hockey champions, Catholic Central.

Catholic Central wins hockey title

Shamrocks head into post-season with yet another victory

When Detroit Catholic Central senior Josh Gatt was just 12 years old, he looked to his parents and made one thing crystal clear: His intentions were to play soccer professionally in Europe. At the time, like any parents, Jeff and Elizabeth applauded their son's decision. They supported his goal and helped him in every way that they could to be the best he could be. Now, on the cusp of graduating from high school and heading off to Indiana to go to college, Gatt's pre-teen dreams have become a reality. Gatt recently signed a three-year guaranteed contract, with undisclosed details, with SCRA Altach, a professional soccer team based in Austria. "On the easy side, Joshua has always told us he was going to play pro soccer in Europe," said Jeff Gatt. "He has been saying that since he was 12 years old. When dreams materialize into reality, it is not too difficult to support that 100 percent." Gatt said talks with the team began after he had been selected to tour Europe as a member of the USFC Super Elite six months ago. "I was asked to stay and tryout with two clubs and I guess I did pretty well, as both clubs wanted me to either stay permanently, or come back in December," Gatt said. "After the tryout, my new club, SCRA Altach, started working on an offer. That offer was consummated last week." It was an unexpected surprise for Gatt's parents, who had put him in soccer at the YMCA when he was just a five-year-old boy with too much energy. Gatt stood out among the other boys at that level and, eventually, his parents were pushed to seek out a "select" team for Gatt to play on. They talked to other parents and chose the Plymouth Kicks. "His coach, Dead Krutz, saw something in Joshua early on and really pushed him to carry the ball, dribble and run at people," said Jeff Gatt. "Had it not been for Dead, Joshua may not have developed the attacking skills that put him on the radar of colleges in the U.S. and clubs in Europe." Gatt's career carried him then to the Michigan Wolves, an elite club team in southeastern Michigan. There, Gatt met coach Lars Richters, who taught Gatt the importance of tactical and technical play. Richters pushed Gatt to watch the field develop before him and strategize as he moved the ball. And then, after two years of

effort and execution in the comeback, but, as in the contest. The first time was a 2-0 lead by DeLaSalle at the end of the first period with goals being scored by Austin Hibner and Brad Wernet. Catholic Central answered back in the second and early in the third periods as Brad Wilhelm and Eric Fragoas each found the back of the net to knot the game up, 2-2. As any hockey fan would expect in the CHSL championship game, the scoring was far from over. The DeLaSalle iceers put the Shamrocks behind again, 3-2, when Bobby Penrod added a tally at the 11:04 mark in the third. The Shamrocks, skating with just a few minutes left in the contest and trailing, took advantage of a DeLaSalle tripping penalty and tied the game up on a power play goal by Sean Gaffney. In the overtime period, the Shamrocks scored the game-winning goal off the stick of Fragoas to seal the game. "We are happy with the

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

talks with the United States Football Club, Gatt was invited to be a part of the Super Elite team and play the best young talent in Europe on a tour that spanned the continent. "We were thrilled that Joshua was going to have the opportunity to be a part of a team that had some of the best talent in the U.S. and get to play against some elite talent in Europe," said Elizabeth Gatt. "We were told there was a possibility of clubs being interested, but honestly, the best we were hoping for was to play with these guys and get a little exposure. Then, down the road, if he improved, Joshua could try to make it on the pro circuit. Obviously, he did a little more than just get some exposure." There was no guarantee that a professional club would make an offer, and Gatt moved forward with his collegiate plans. He narrowed his interest in college programs to Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, Wake Forest, New Mexico and Louisville before verbally committing to Indiana. Talks continued with SCRA Altach and another club, Mainz 05 in Germany. Altach made the offer and Gatt accepted. "This life from this point forward is going to be a potential whirlwind. He graduates in May and reports for a month-long training camp in Austria in June. The first matches begin in July and go until November before a month-long holiday break in December gives the team time to rest. The second half of the season begins in March and ends in May. Oh, and Gatt is planning on learning conversational German before boarding the plane to Austria, where he will be given a language coach as part of his contractual agreement. "My parents and I will be studying together over the next four months so I can arrive

with a basic understanding of key words and phrases," he said. "The only way to truly learn a language is to immerse oneself into the culture. Starting in June, I will definitely be immersed." Anyone who has seen Gatt play knows that he's cool under pressure, but even he admits that he ran the gamut of emotions when the deal was signed. "When I finally signed with the club, I suppose that I was like any other player signing their first deal—very excited, relieved, nervous and a little scared. But at the same time, I was really looking forward to the opportunity of taking my career to the next level." Gatt wasn't only running through levels of emotions. His parents weren't just going to be packing up their son to go to Indiana—they were packing up their 18-year-old to go to Europe to live, work and play. "This is a whole new world for an 18 year old," said Jeff Gatt. "But, with the right support system in place, the whole family feels that this is the best decision for Joshua. It has been one heck of a ride." Gatt, who said that his family, friends and those at Catholic Central have been nothing but supportive, has a slew of goals for himself as an attacking left wing in the professional ranks. First, he wants to make a mark with his new club and get playing time as soon as possible before eventually earning a starting spot and keeping it. Then, he hopes to earn enough recognition to be transferred to a first-division club in Italy, Spain, Germany or England. But high hopes and lofty goals? They're nothing new for Gatt, who has made a career out of making his dreams a reality. Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL ROUNDUP

BY SAM EGGLESTON CORRESPONDENT

Wrestlers continue toward team, individual finals

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team is continuing its two-pronged attack toward state finals greatness. The team, coached by Mitch Hancock, earned a team regional title to advance to the team state finals this weekend, and the Shamrocks earned a berth to the individual state finals for all 14 of their weight classes. In the team regional, the Shamrocks defeated Livonia Franklin and Plymouth Canton to advance to the finals. Against Franklin, Catholic Central had no troubles, pounding out a 78-0 domination. Against Canton, the score was closer but the domination continued as the Shamrocks earned a 42-21 victory. "I'm very happy and proud of these guys," said Hancock on the team's website. "We continue to stay focused on the goal and make sacrifices for team. That's what it's all about this time of year." In the individual regional tournament, the Shamrocks qualified their entire team for individual state finals competition. The Shamrocks earned five regional champions, five runner-ups, one third place finish and three fourth-place finishes. Winners were: Mike Kinville (215), Ken Bade (103), Todd Melick (112), Alec Mooradian (119)

and Doug Eldridge (145); Runner ups included: Miles Trelout (169), T.J. Fagan (103), Charlie Joseph (125) and Justin Melick (135); Taking third was Andrew Erickson (160); and in fourth place were: Matt Thompson (119), Nick Mason (130) and Gerid Gee (152).

Bowling team takes third in CHSL

The Shamrocks bowling team made plenty of noise last week, earning a third-place finish in a highly-competitive Catholic High School League championship tournament. The Shamrocks began the day with a 3077 in the preliminary round to earn a second seed in the remainder of the tournament. High scores were earned by Nick Carvalho (214, 243 and 204), Matt Nugent (203, 218 and 237), Eric Pavlov (237, 207 and 192) and Scott Kujawa (206, 211 and 208). In the seeded tournament, the Shamrocks bowled Riverview Gabriel Richard and won the final two games, 190-187 and 212-191 and lost the first game, 180-159. In the second round, the Catholic Central strikers couldn't find a way to get past Bishop Foley and fell, 181-151 and 191-180. Bishop Foley went on to defeat DeLaSalle to claim the CHSL title. Carvalho earned first-team All-Catholic honors while Nugent was named to the second team. Tom Zahari was named to the All-Academic team thanks to a 4.5 grade-point average. Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.



Novi's competitive cheer squad performs at the district meet in Hartland last Saturday, where the team finished third with 717.3812 points to qualify for Regionals. The Wildcats pulled ahead of Brighton by nearly four points after scoring 11.6 points higher than the Bulldogs in the final round.

NOVI HIGH ROUNDUP

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

FIGURE SKATING

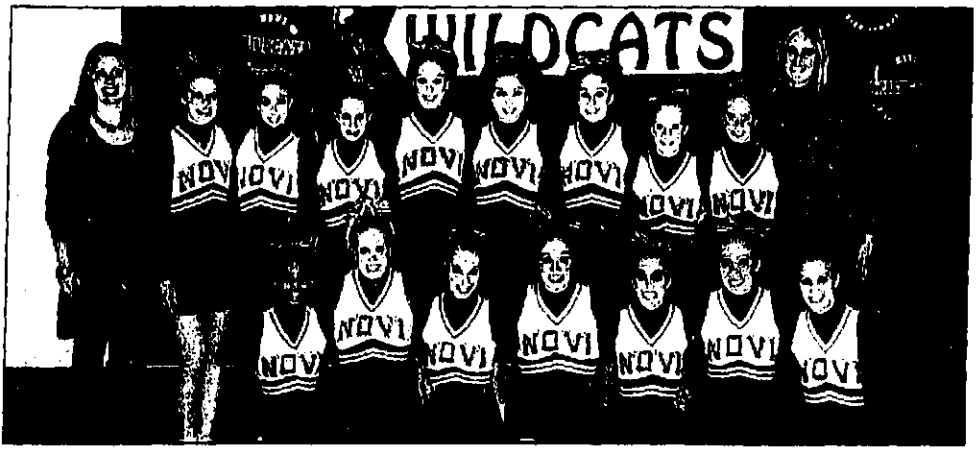
The Wildcat figure skating squad's Team B won their third competition of the season to qualify for States March 28 in Midland. Novi's skaters took first in moves and second place in both jumps and spins to finish first the Feb. 17 meet with 26 points, seven ahead of United Farmington and Howell.

The victory brings Novi's point total to 70 over three meets, second place of 10 District 3 teams, behind United Farmington's 76, but ahead of Plymouth Canton's 60 and Howell's 45.

Novi's already strained Team A had a skater missing, so they only competed in the moves category, taking ninth of 10 teams.

HOCKEY

Livonia Churchill upset Novi for the second time this season in a 6-4 contest last Thursday in Livonia. Tied 2-2 after the first period, Churchill pulled ahead with three second-period goals before the Wildcats battled back in the third period to narrow the final score to 6-4. The loss dropped Novi, ranked fourth in the state, to 17-4-2 on the season, while No. 23 Churchill improved to 15-7-1 in the battle of KLLA Kensington Conference teams who finished second place in their divisions. The Wildcats now face Lakes Conference's fourth-place Brighton 6:50 p.m. tonight at the 13-10-1 Bulldogs' Kensington Valley Ice House



Tie for first

Assistant coach Kathleen Ader (left) and head coach Emily Parker Pohloski stand with the competitive cheer squad, who tied for first in the KLLA Central Division and finished third in the Kensington Conference Tournament.

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WL Western adding varsity lacrosse this spring

For the first time since opening its doors in 1969, Walled Lake Western will be adding a lacrosse team to its list of varsity spring sports this year. Lacrosse was first introduced to the Walled Lake Consolidated School District as a combined team. Athletes from all three of the district's schools made up the first team called "The Gladiators". In 2007, the district team broke into two, with half of Western's students going to Central and the other half going to Northern. This marks the year that Western will offer their athletes the opportunity to play for their own lacrosse team.



Walled Lake Western's lacrosse coaches: Brandon Trivar, Mark White, Rob Schmansky, Mike Prokic and (kneeling) Kyle Kroswek.

The idea for Western to have its own lacrosse team came to fruition when Kyle Kroswek, a senior and captain of Western's lacrosse team, decided it was time for change. A former lacrosse player at Central, Kyle said, "I love lacrosse and enjoyed playing on Walled Lake Central's team, but it was time that Walled Lake Western had their own lacrosse team. We had a great group of guys and I learned a lot from my coaches, but there's nothing like playing for your home school. It's just not the same thrill."

To get a team started at Western, Kyle called everyone he knew and spread the word that he was trying to form a lacrosse team. It didn't take long for him to have a sizable list of interested players. In the fall of 2008, he took his list of athletes to the WLCSA Athletic Director Steve Ernst. He was given the approval to go ahead with a team for the upcoming 2009 season, but only as a JV exhibition team. As a late-comer, Western began its first season as an exhibition team playing mostly JV teams. With only five of the 25 players ever having played the sport, Western

had only two wins during the season. Returning for the 2010 season as varsity head coach is Mark White. He learned the game of lacrosse playing in a recreation league in his hometown of Virginia Beach, Va. Returning as varsity assistant head coach is Brandon Trivar. A Western High School graduate, Trivar played lacrosse as an attackman for U of M Dearborn and was a captain of his team. Joining this year to take on head coaching duties for the JV team is Rob Schmansky. He played for Ohio State as a defenseman and has coached lacrosse for Cranbrook, Orchard Lake, St. Marys, and Bloomfield Hills. Mike Prokic, will fill the role of assistant head coach for the JV team. He was a starter on defense all four years during his undergrad at U of M Dearborn, was named Rookie of the year, was captain for two years, received the coveted "workhorse" award in 2007, and was named All Conference in 2008.

Thanks to the support of parents, players and our Walled Lake Western lacrosse team is part of the KLLA (Kensington Lakes Athletic Association). Kensington Conference and follows the MHSAA (Michigan High School Athletic Association) guidelines. This club sport is supported solely by its players, parents and the Walled Lake consolidated booster club. The season begins its season with a home game on March 24 with a JV game at 5:30 p.m. and varsity game at 7 p.m. against Walled Lake Central. For more information about the team, visit www.wlwlacrosse.com.

Huron Valley Taste & Expo

NEW: Community Sports Swap Meet SUNDAY, MARCH 14 12 ~ 5 p.m. Milford High School Field House 2380 S. Milford Road, Highland

SHOW INCLUDES: Local Businesses & Community Organizations Tantalizing Tastes from Great Restaurants & Fun Activities for Kids

ADMISSION: \$5 per person \$3 kids ~ 12 and under Admission price includes taste tickets

Bring a non-perishable food donation for Community Sharing and get \$1 OFF admission price

www.huronvalleyexpo.com



Think you know who will win an OSCAR this year? Choose correctly and YOU could win! Go to www.hometownlife.com to enter. Correctly identify the top 7 Oscar categories and you could win one of the following prizes: 1st Place: 12 month movie pass for two to Emagine Theatre; 2nd Place: 4 movie passes and \$25 Emagine gift card; 3rd Place: 2 movie passes and \$15 Emagine gift card. Correctly Identify the Top 7 Categories. The person with the most correct answers wins!

Novi Strictly Business

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Final Destinations offers clear path to solid results

1. Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature.

I write very hands on strategic business plans and in depth marketing plans for all sizes of businesses.

2. How did you first decide to open your business?

I had built my career doing a variety of business functions including sales, marketing, purchasing, project management and business automation, negotiations, operations, process improvement and executive leadership. I realized that entrepreneurs could use help in some of these areas.

3. Why did you choose this area?

After receiving my MBA in entrepreneurial management, I realized I could utilize my experience in the different areas of business to help entrepreneurs improve their strategic planning and marketing. By helping them develop a plan and then coaching them through the execution, the business planning and strategy portion of their time management is streamlined, leaving them more time and energy to focus on their core business.

4. What makes your business unique?

I have a process I utilize that is tried and true via working with 200 clients. My company name and tag line (Final Destinations - The clear path to solid results) explains what I do -- give businesses a roadmap with a clear path to achieving success.

5. How has it changed since you opened?

The business needs are always changing. I would say that I have become more focused on business plans that emphasize marketing as their platform.

6. Do you have a funny tidbit or story about

DETAILS

Business Name: Final Destinations LLC
Address: 44609 Dunbarton Drive, Novi, MI 48375
Your Name/Title: Boni Trush/owner
Your Hometown: Novi
Business Opened When: Election Day, 2000
Number of Employees: sole proprietor
Hours of Operation: by appointment
Your Business Specialty: business plans, marketing plans
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your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

One person asked me if my business was a funeral home (i.e., a person's final destination)

7. How has the recent economy affected your business?

People are looking to focus and use their dollars wisely and I provide great value and a product that allows honed in focus. Business has steadily rose year after year since I opened.

8. Any advice for business owners?

Get a plan and stay focused. Remember, we go into business doing what we love and everything else follows and demands our attention. We take our strengths for granted. Be aware of your strengths and remain mindful of them so they can work on your behalf.

9. What's in store for the future of your business?

Branching into yet more industry segments based on the shifts in our economy. Providing a lot of business start up planning as well. I am celebrating 10 years this year and have some very exciting things planned.



Bonnie Trush runs a business coaching entity, Final Destinations, for clients in Novi and the surrounding area.

JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NOVI 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.novi-chamber.com and click on the Events button; or call (248) 974-1537.

Schoolcraft College offers seminars for small business owners, entrepreneurs

Schoolcraft College's Small Business and Technology Development Center is offering several seminars in March that cater to the unique needs of entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Reservations are required. To reserve a seat for these or any other SBTDC seminars, call (734) 462-4438 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/bdc/

sbtdc_seminars.asp for registration instructions.

All of the seminars are held at the VisiTech Center on Schoolcraft College's main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads. The Entrepreneur Series includes:

- Starting a Business: Wed., March 10, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., or Wed., March 24, 6-9 p.m., \$30
 - Business Legal Issues: Tues., March 16, 9:30 a.m.-noon, \$40
 - Writing a Business Plan: Wed., March 17, 9:30 a.m.-noon, \$40
 - Marketing Your Business: Thurs., March 18, 6-9 p.m., \$40
 - Finance: Wed., Feb. 24, 6-9 p.m., or Wed., March 31, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$40
- In addition, the SBTDC will offer "Working for Yourself: The Ins and Outs of Becoming a Consultant, a Contractor, or other Service Provider," Wednesday, February 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and again on Wednesday, March 24, from 6-9 p.m. The cost is \$40.

A brand new course, "Whale Hunting: Landing Big Sales and Transform Your Company," will be held Friday, March 12, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. This course provides a nine-step, team-sales approach to closing deals using existing resources to better serve large accounts. The cost of this course is \$299.


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 \$55 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 downingddd@aol.com.



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Alma R. Nava D.D.S.

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