

An inside look at the life of a firefighter, A8

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# NOVI NEWS

online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



Wildcats register first victory of the season, B1

## NOVI NUTSHELL

### Mom 2 Mom Sale

Novi Community Education's Lily Pad Lane Infant Care will host a Mom 2 Mom Sale, Saturday, April 17 from 8 a.m.-noon at Novi High School. Admission is \$1 per person. Admission is free to children ages infant to 15 years. Seller space is available; five-foot round tables are available for \$20 each; rack space is \$10.

All baby and toddler items will be accepted, including large items such as cribs, high chairs, swings and large toys. Extra space will be provided for large items. Funds raised will go toward equipment for the Lily Pad Lane playground.

For more information or to register for table/rack space, call Child Care Services at (248) 449-1715 or e-mail [mgilmore@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:mgilmore@novi.k12.mi.us).

### Memory lecture

Providence Hospital will be hosting a lecture -- Memory Concerns: Is it Normal Aging or Alzheimers? -- from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13 in the Novi hospital's Conference Room A, Outpatient Building.

This is a lecture presented by CareLink of St. John Providence Health System. Learn about diagnosis and treatment for memory issues. There will be an optional tour of the Neurology unit following the lecture. The scheduled presenter is Norman Burns, MD, neurologist on staff at Providence and Providence Park Hospitals.

To reserve your seat or for more information, please contact St. John SeniorLink at (888) 751-5465.

### Send us your photos moms, daughters

Hometown Life Woman a monthly special section inside your Novi News will celebrate "Mothers and Daughters" in the May edition.

E-mail a favorite photo of you and your mom, you and your daughter or the aunt, grandmom, step-mom or woman who was/is that special mom-like person in your life. Remember -- favorite means old or new! E-mail your photo (jpg format please) to [woman@hometownlife.com](mailto:woman@hometownlife.com) and make sure you identify everyone in the photo. Tell us about the photo in a sentence or two and be sure to include a phone number or e-mail address where we can contact you for more information. Then look for your photo in the Thursday, May 6 edition of Hometown Life Woman.

## City manager delivers balanced budget

Council will discuss document for first time Saturday

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
 STAFF WRITER

Novi City Manager Clay Pearson does not expect this year's budget process to be as straightforward as it has been in the past.

Decreasing property tax revenues and state share revenue is forcing municipalities across the state to look at how they are doing business, and Novi is no different.

However, Pearson said the city is in better shape than most, and was able to present a balanced budget to city council this week.

He credits their success to always

looking ahead.

"That has been the hallmark here, and it has held up well for us," he said. "That is why we are in the position we are in and not having to make -- at budget time -- draconian cuts and changes."

The city council will have its first budget discussion session at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Novi Civic Center, and Pearson expects the members to have a lot of questions, not just about the 2010-11 budget, but future budgets as well.

Steps are already being taken to manage the 2011-12 budget in this year's budget as \$850,000 is being



Pearson

designated to "moderate what is going to come down the pike," Pearson said.

In this year's budget, general fund expenditures are \$28.5 million, down 7 percent compared to last year. The city also will continue to maintain a strong fund balance of 17.75 percent of the 2010-11 expenditures, or \$5,058,485.

Pearson said there is not as much "flexibility" as there has been in year's past, but the city still will be making sizeable investments in

Please see **BUDGET, A3**

### BUDGET CALENDAR

- April 10 - City council budget discussion
- May 1 - City council budget session (if necessary)
- May 3 - Public hearing on budget
- May 5 - City council budget session (if necessary)
- May 17 - City council adopts operating budget and approves tax levy
- June 21 - Staff proposes and city council reviews and approves fiscal 2009-10 year-end 4th quarter budget amendments/revisions, if needed
- June 30 - Staff publishes final adopted budget document and CIP program
- July 1 - Fiscal year 2010-11 begins



A pair of students in the musical 'Fame' fine-tune their parts for tonight's performance.

## Novi students set to perform 'Fame'

Former student returns to direct first musical

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
 STAFF WRITER

Fine arts programs often are the ones that suffer when districts look at cutting programs to save money.

But Christina Hagen has seen that scenario play out far too often, and she was not going to let that happen in Novi.

The high school alum, and University of Michigan graduate, stepped up to direct her first ever musical this year, calling the experience "extremely rewarding."

"I just wanted to come back and give back to the program

that got me my start," she said. The students will be performing the musical "Fame," which is about students at New York City's High School of Performing Arts. The show is set in the 1980s and touches on issues that many students continue to face today, such as prejudice, sexuality, substance abuse, achieving their goals and more.

It opens tonight at 7 p.m. and also will be performed Friday and Saturday at the same time in the Novi High School auditorium.

Hagen said the musical's

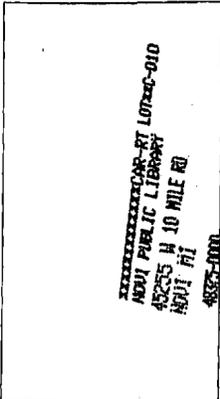
Please see **'FAME', A3**



Novi High School students Joey Leppke (Schlomo) rehearses a scene from 'Fame' with Tanaya Srini (Carmen).

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## Fire damages Novi business

Crews keep flames from spreading

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
 STAFF WRITER

The Novi Fire Department had its hands full for a second consecutive weekend as it battled a Sunday night fire at Di-Coat Corporation at 42900 Nine Mile Road.

Firefighters were called out to the business around 9:20 p.m. after being notified by a passerby. When they arrived they saw smoke and fire coming from the rear of the building and were able to locate its origin through one of the garage doors.

Jeff Johnson, director of EMS and fire operations, said they had to be careful when battling the blaze because of a concern about

chemicals that were inside. The company manufactures tools for the surgical industry and other consumers. The fire started in the nickel-plating area of the building.

The 22 firefighters on scene were able to contain the fire and keep it from spreading to the rest of the building, but still an estimated \$45,000 worth of damage was done.

Johnson said the firefighter's knowledge of what was inside and how to attack the fire was "very important."

"We are always a little more cautious when we know chemicals are involved," he said.

Please see **FIRE, B3**

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# Scout Pack 54 off to races at annual Pinewood Derby



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Scouting felines

Novi Girl Scout Abigail Rye (above) tries out a lollipop during Thurs., March 4th's Scout banquet at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace. Hundreds of scouts and their moms and dads gathered there with a theme of "Lions and Tigers and Girl Scouts." Novi Girl Scouts (below) line up for supper at their banquet at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace on March 4.



Novi Woods Cub Scout Pack 54 had their annual Pinewood Derby races March 27. With the primary focus of "Doing Their Best," fun was had by all that participated. The scouts were provided with blocks of wood, wheels, axles and a set of rules. They and their adult sponsor participated in weeks of planning the design and strategy of the perfect car. They learned tricks of the trade which included sawing, sanding, decorating, polishing and enhancing their car to go down hill as fast as it could.

The racers first matched up against their peers within their Den. The two fastest cars from each Den advanced to the Pack 54 Grand Finals. After the dust settled, Noah Mikkelson's "Spiderman" car ended in first place with the fastest time of 215.0 mph. In a very close second was Connor Blaszkiewicz's "Speed Stripe" car with a time of 214.7 mph. Shortly behind him in third place was Jason Aurilla's "Green Machine" car with a time of 214.3 mph.

This event is not only about being fast it's about having fun, so Honorable mentions goes out to the following Racers:

- Trey Mullin's "Wrestle Mania" car won "Scouters Choice" award,
- Mathew Harding's "Bowling Bonzai" car won "Judges Choice" award,
- Paul Biberstein's "Hershey's Special" car won "Parents Choice" award, and
- Ethan Tunney's "The Puma" won the "Turtle" award for being able to get his car to go the slowest.

A big thanks goes out to the Meadowbrook Congregational Church of Novi, Ryan Parthasarathy (event organizer), Willy Mena (electronics specialist), and



Pinewood Derby winners (l to r) Noah Mikkelson's "Spiderman", first place; Connor Blaszkiewicz's "Speed Stripe", second place; and Jason Aurilla's "Green Machine", third place.



Mathew Harding, Judges Choice.



Trey and J.B. Mullins, Parents Choice.

all of the Scout Parents that participated to make this year's event a success.

—Submitted by Mike Paparella, committee chair, Cub Scouts Pack 54

Paul and Willy Biberstein's, Parents Choice.

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Novi High School students will perform the musical 'Fame' this weekend at the Novi High School auditorium.

## 'FAME'

FROM PAGE A1

there is about how important the fine arts are to students, so the cast has had an easy time relating to the characters.

It also has been a great opportunity for her and fun for the kids to work with someone who has worked professionally, she said.

The cast is made up of 44 members, a dozen students in the orchestra pit and about 10-20 students on the production side. Leads are spread out among 14 main characters.

Tanaya Srin, a junior at the high school, is performing in her first ever musical and will be playing Carmen. She said she is excited and a bit nervous to step on stage tonight, but expects the audience to really enjoy the show.

"I think this musical, more than any other, is so entertaining because it's about kids that want to be famous," she said. "There is a lot of dancing, jokes and music, and it has a great story."

This is the high school's only musical of the year. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors of 65 and children under 12.



The cast of the musical 'Fame' opens its show tonight at 7 p.m.

## BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

into the department of public safety, eliminating overtime on Sunday for library employees and more. Some recommended changes by Pearson are restructuring cell phone plans, eliminating free salt for

the Novi Community School district and transitioning on-demand senior cab service to senior van service among others.

The budget process will continue throughout May and June with the fiscal year starting on July 1.

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## FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

No one was inside the building during the fire, and no firefighters were hurt. The Western Wayne County Hazmat Team was called to contain any runoff from getting into the water system, and the fire investigation unit of the Oakland County Sheriff's

Office is still investigating the cause of the fire.

Last weekend, Novi firefighters put out a pair of fires that occurred within a few hours of each other.

"It's putting us to the challenge that is for sure," Johnson said. "But we have met everyone of them, and this one had a start on us, but we were able to get in there and knock it down."

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# Awesome Flowers headlines Spring Home and Garden Show

Novi salesman to talk about what is new in 2010

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

To say Bryan Mitnick is passionate about flowers would be an understatement. In fact, the Michigan Certified Nurseryman at Glenda's Garden Center in Novi has gotten so involved with his work that he has created an alter ego — Awesome Flowers — to market his products and services. Awesome Flowers, created in the likeness of movie character Austin Powers, will be the headline speaker at the annual Spring Home and Garden Show April 9-11 at the Rock Financial Showplace, telling people about what is new in 2010 and answering questions from the audience.

Joining Mitnick at the show is his 5-year-old niece Cimbery Kish, who plays the role of Mini-Bud, a character similar to Austin Powers' sidekick Mini-Me. "I love what I do and I am a creative guy," Mitnick said. "I think outside the flower box, and we want to make it fun and exciting for customers."

The Spring Home and Garden show is the chance for people to get tips and tricks that will fulfill their home, lawn and garden needs. Green materials will be an important part of the show, and experts from various fields will be on hand to answer questions.

Mitnick will be promoting the Proven Winners brand and Glenda's Garden

Center, which also features Panoramic Landscaping. Panoramic Landscaping does complete design and installation for both residential and commercial projects.

We do seminars, free consultations and designs at the store, he said.

The show will feature the Invincible Spirit Hydrangea, and every plant sold \$1 will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Doors open at noon on Friday and the show ends at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and kids 12 and under are free.

For more information, visit [www.novihomeshow.com](http://www.novihomeshow.com).

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Bryan Mitnick, joined by niece Cimbery Kish, 5, at Glenda's Garden Center, will be talking about the newest garden products, including Proven Winners potted plants and flowers, at Rock Financial Showplace's Spring Home and Garden Show this weekend.

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# EDUCATION

## Giving the gift of reading Novi students donate 12,000 books to Detroit schools

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Jamison has seen firsthand what it would be like to attend school in Detroit. And after his two visits to Neinas Elementary, the sixth-grader at Novi Meadows saw how lucky he was to be in Novi and vowed to give back.

"We are very fortunate here in Novi and we should care for others who are not as fortunate as we are," he said. "It was very interesting going there and seeing a school that was so different."

To give back, Jamison and the leadership group at the school spearheaded a book collection campaign during March. Several other schools throughout the district also participated in the event, organized by the nonprofit organization Bridgepointe, and more than 12,000 books will be given to eight schools in southwest Detroit on April 12.

This is the sixth year the district has collected books to donate to Detroit schools, and it continues to grow, said volunteer Kelle Vela.

Vela said she was especially inspired by the students because nearly every school was involved, and many took part in sorting and boxing the books last week for delivery.

Maria Elkin, a classmate of Jamison's and member of the leadership club, said giving books they no longer need to others "gives them a chance."

"Many of the Detroit schools have libraries with very few books, and some students don't even have books in their own homes."

"It feels good because we know we are giving them something they want and may not have," Elkin said.

Students at Meadows and Novi Middle also made visits to Neinas and Maybury Elementary during March



Novi Meadows students Isabel Vaishampayas and Jacob Dougherty, from fifth-grade teacher Gary Hearst's class, sort through a pile of books that they and their classmates will donate to several Detroit elementary schools. Students throughout the district gathered more than 12,000 books from their own homes and they'll soon be delivered to the schools in Detroit.



This is the sixth year Novi schools have donated books to Detroit students.

## Novi resident advances to finals of biotechnology research competition

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Sherwin Wu has aspirations to become a doctor and successful researcher. But right now, the Novi resident and Detroit Country Day School senior has his sights set on a first-place showing in the nanofabrication International BioGENEus Challenge in early May. The competition is for high school students who demonstrate a strong understanding of biotechnology through science research projects, and features more than a dozen finalists from all over the world.

While Wu said it would take "almost flawless performance" to win, he is still happy with winning the regional competition in early March making it to the finals in Chicago.

"It has been extremely beneficial and provided a network of communication between me and others who are interested in research for their career," he said. "It was interesting and broadened my perspectives."

Wu's project is titled "Glucosaminyl (N-acetyl) Transferase 2 (G2NAT2) Gene Expression Highly Influences Breast Cancer Metastasis and Promotes an Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)," and looked at a unique gene in breast cancer cells, which could be a target for creating new therapies for breast cancer patients.

The majority of his research was done in vitro, but this summer he hopes to introduce his results to



and other members of the biotechnology industry on May 3, an opportunity he is looking forward to.

"I feel it is very helpful, especially if I want to pursue a career in research in the future," he said.

The future looks bright for Wu as he has already been accepted to the University of Michigan and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He plans on attending MIT and majoring in biophysics or double-majoring in biology and physics.

Winners of the challenge will be announced May 4 at the Biotechnology Industry Organization International Convention, with the top prize being \$7,500.

"For more than 15 years, the International BioGENEus Challenge has encouraged and rewarded students who have a strong interest in science and biotechnology," said Paul A. Hanle, president of the Biotechnology Institute in a press release. "This competition challenges youth to seek out innovation in biotechnology and consider a career in the field. The research that these outstanding students pursue will excite other students about biotechnology and its immense potential to heal the sick, feed the hungry, restore the environment and fuel the economy."

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### Math awards

Each year, thousands of high school students across the state participate in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematics Association of America. This was the 53rd year, and the event was held Feb. 27 at Saginaw Valley State University. Scholarships from \$250 to \$2,600 were awarded.

The following local students were awarded an honorable mention: Northville High School's Chanakya Malla; Novi's Sherwin Wu, attending Detroit Country Day; Novi High School's Chaitanya Kanitkar, Spencer Kim, Akhil Nistala, Sachin Padmanabhan, Gavin Patient, Apurva Shrivastava, Eshwar Sundararaju and Raj Raina.

Novi choral members compete in state fest

The Novi High School choral department continued its successful competition season on March 26, with several individuals and groups earning top honors at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Solo and Ensemble Festival at Walled Lake Central High School.

The Women's Ensemble, consisting of the soprano and alto members of the Novi Singers elite choir, performed "Come Ye Makers of Song" by Ruth Watson Henderson and a Renaissance Motet, "Domine Fili Unigenite," by Palestrina. The Men's Ensemble, made up of the tenor and bass members from the Novi

### NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Singers, followed in the competition, performing "Blow Ye The Trumpet" by Kirke Mechem and the rousing "Vive L'Amour," arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw. Both ensembles received top overall rankings of 1's for their performances and sight-reading evaluations.

Novi students receiving 1's in solo competition were juniors Makena Baus and Joseph Lepek and senior

Laura Bayley. A trio of Makena Baus, Brianna Blossfeld and Chelsea Radgens also received a 1 in ensemble competition. Additionally, Lepek was selected as an alternate soloist for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Soloist Recital.

The choral department will round out its competition season with all three choirs participating in the MSVMA state choir competition at Rochester High School in April.

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(From left) Girls on the Run team members Lauren Wilk, Alexis Malecki, Krista Malecki, coach Julie Warren and J.J. Wright are anxious to kick off their season. The program is intended to teach girls about self-respect and healthy living.

# Running for their lives

## Girls on the Run teaches skills that last a lifetime

By NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Alexis Malecki wasn't sure she would like running when she signed up for the Girls on the Run program three years ago. But several races later and with many friendships formed and lessons learned, the 11-year-old doesn't want to stop. "I like the challenge and it makes me feel like I accomplished something when I reach my goals," she said. "It makes me think I can do anything I set my mind to."

And it's that mind set that Susan Stevens, recreation coordinator for the city of Novi, hopes to instill in every girl that participates. "It teaches them to set personal goals through athletics," she said.

And while the program is titled Girls on the Run, running is not the only focus. The goal of the 23CA-sponsored program is to empower girls at an early age and prepare them for a healthy lifestyle.

The teams meet twice a week for 10 weeks, and have lessons each time. The lessons range from talks about substance and alcohol use, eating disorders and sedentary lifestyles to depression and providing them with tools to make positive decisions.

Julie Warren, a Novi police officer and one of four coaches, got hooked after seeing the impact the program has on the girls. She is in her third year as a coach, and calls the change in the girls' experience from the beginning to the end of the program "remarkable."

"I feel it's important that every girl has a role model at an early age," she said. "And when I see these girls cross the finish line (at the season-ending race) there is nothing that can compare to it."

Stevens credits coaches like Warren for the program's success. "She represents an excellent role model and represents what we are trying to instill in young girls today," she said.

The program, which is for girls in second through sixth grades, also allows the older girls to be mentors to the younger ones. And the teamwork aspect is never more evident than at the last run when the girls who finish the race go back and find their friends and help them across the finish line too.

Says J.J. Wright: "I like it because I'm with my friends and it encourages me to run."

Krista Malecki, 7, is excited about this year because she gets to be with her older sister, and Lauren Wilk said she likes the feeling running gives her. The program also has had an effect in the classroom.

"I have done a lot better on my tests because I feel better and was more focused on my work," Alexis said.

In three years, Girls on the Run in Novi has grown from about six girls to more than 40 participants. Stevens hopes to continue adding girls every year and encourages people to sign up for the fall program in September.

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

## Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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### GERALD "JERRY" ALLEN ATKINSON

Age 28, passed away unexpectedly on April 1, 2010. He was born on June 26, 1981, in New Orleans, LA, to Larry and Denise (Fennelly) Atkinson. Jerry graduated from South Lyon High School in 1999, and enjoyed playing baseball for nine years. He played the guitar for over 18 years, during which he played professionally all across the country. He also worked as a plumber. Friends and family were Jerry's life and he always put others before himself. Jerry was loved by many and will be greatly missed. Jerry is survived by his father, Larry Atkinson, grandmother, Thelma Atkinson; half brother, Justin Green; his aunt Karen Water; uncle's Tom Fennelly and Don Tipton; three cousins: Robert, Faith, and Brian; his goddaughter, Marilee Cottingham; his dog, Wayne, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Denise Atkinson and uncle, Kenneth Atkinson. Visitation was held on April 5, Monday, from 4 to 9 p.m. A funeral service was held on April 6, Tuesday, at Phillips Funeral Home, Memorial contributions may be made to the family of Gerald Atkinson, c/o Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, MI 48178. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

### VIRGINIA RUTH AUDESSE

Age 86, passed away March 30, 2010. A private funeral service will be held. Arrangements by Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon, Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

### DOROTHY J. DOTSON

Age 89 and a long time resident of Milford, died on March 30, 2010. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marion "Dale" in 1979. She is survived by her children, Deloy Dotson of Milford, Diane (Larry) West of South Carolina, Donna (Tom) Chesnell of Fenton, Debbie (Tom) Richards of Cadillac, Denise (Bub) Nails of Highland, Damon (Yvonne) Dotson of Whitmore Lake. She is survived by his wife of 26 years, Kathleen, daughter, Carol Lutze (Matthew), step-children, John O'Rourke (Kathy), Chris O'Rourke (Glenda), Steve O'Rourke (Julie) & Maureen Rowles (Tom); grandchildren Mateo, Julia, Logan, Marly, Jenny, Aly, Kevin, Ryan, Nicky, Shawn, Ashley, Chad and Bridget; great-grandchildren Nikolita, Jacob, Harley Jr. and Nevada; sister-in-law, Judi (George) and Canan and several nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on January 27, 2010 at Florida Mortuary 4501 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, followed by a service at the Florida National VA Cemetery in Bushnell. "Uncle Bill" as he was affectionately known throughout Northville was always involved with youth, whether coaching, cheering, or timekeeping at games. Words of comfort may be expressed at floridamortuary.net or sent directly to the family at 4501 N. Nebraska Avenue Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Memories may also be added to the facebook page in memory of William H. Braund.

### WILLIAM HENRY BRAUND

Age 89, of Sun City Center, FL. Passed away January 16, 2010. Formerly of Northville, Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Kathleen, daughter, Carol Lutze (Matthew), step-children, John O'Rourke (Kathy), Chris O'Rourke (Glenda), Steve O'Rourke (Julie) & Maureen Rowles (Tom); grandchildren Mateo, Julia, Logan, Marly, Jenny, Aly, Kevin, Ryan, Nicky, Shawn, Ashley, Chad and Bridget; great-grandchildren Nikolita, Jacob, Harley Jr. and Nevada; sister-in-law, Judi (George) and Canan and several nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on January 27, 2010 at Florida Mortuary 4501 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, followed by a service at the Florida National VA Cemetery in Bushnell. "Uncle Bill" as he was affectionately known throughout Northville was always involved with youth, whether coaching, cheering, or timekeeping at games. Words of comfort may be expressed at floridamortuary.net or sent directly to the family at 4501 N. Nebraska Avenue Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Memories may also be added to the facebook page in memory of William H. Braund.

### JEROME A. ESPER

Age 86, April 4, 2010. Funeral is April 8 at Our Lady of Victory. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Relief Services, 16 Archdiocese of Detroit, 1234 Washington Blvd. O, Detroit, MI, 48226. Condolences: www.obrienfuneralhome.com

### CATHERINE MARY MOGABINO

March 31, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Joseph, Mother of Lori (Drew) Burke, grandmother of 5. Funeral was Sat., April 3, 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory, Novi, Online condolences: www.obrienfuneralhome.com

### SHANE MICHAEL POWELL

Age 40, passed away April 1, 2010. He was born on August 17, 1969 in Ann Arbor, to Earl and Lynda (Morrell) Powell. Shane is survived by his father, Earl "Buster" Powell, son, Tony Powell; brother, Justin Powell and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Preceded in death by his mother, Lynda Powell. Visitation was held on April 6, at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon, Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com



### Race to the Finish

Cub Scout Pack 375, sponsored in part by Providence Park Hospital and in proud tradition held their annual Pinewood Derby on March 20. Derby cars were handcrafted out of a block of wood and designed by each cub scout, painting their vehicles to match their powerful creations: Fear Ripper, Freedom Runner, Purple People Eater, Mystery 1 and Super Straker to name just a few. First place overall went to Bear, Cub Alexander Deneweth. Second place and third place overall were won by Webelos I Scout Christopher Deneweth and Wolf Cub Noah Davis, respectively. First place for each Den went to Tiger Den, Ben Prisky; Wolf Den, Noah Davis; Bear Den, Alexander Deneweth; Webelos Den, Matthew Rogers; and Webelos I Den, Christopher Deneweth. Even parents got in on the fun with an adult race to see Robbie Deneweth finishing in first place with his sleek red car. Scout siblings and friends were invited to race in the Open Class which was won by Anna Rogers with her banana-shaped monkey car. Pack 375, which meets at Parkview Elementary is led by Scoutmaster Dave Davis. The Pinewood Derby was chaired by Assistant Bear Den Leader Mary Lynn Mazur.



### Page Writers

Alex and the Vashaynayan brothers attending Novi High School, took a week off school to participate in the State Capitol Page Program at the State Capitol in Olympia, Wash., joining about 20 other students during the sixth week of the 2010 legislative session. The brothers were sponsored by Mrs. J. Vashaynayan (R-Sunnyside).

# 'Late Night Catechism' keeps audience on toes in interactive comedy

BY PAM FLEMING  
STAFF WRITER

Those who attended Catholic school will always remember how the nuns literally put the fear of God into them as youngsters. Andiamo Novi Theatre's current production, "Late Night Catechism," takes them right back there. "Word to the wise: You'd better be on your best behavior."

Due to a scheduling change, "Late Night Catechism" is playing in place of "Put the Nuns in Charge." Performances run through April 18.

**LAUGH YOUR SINS OFF**

"Late Nite Catechism" is designed, supposedly, to make people laugh their sins off. This is part catechism class, part stand-up routine. The one-woman show, with nuns on stage, is a somewhat interactive comedy. If you're not Catholic, you might want to bring a Catholic friend or two along to explain. If nothing else, those who weren't raised Catholic will learn a lot about the religion.

It has been called "hilarious, well-written and inspired" by the New York Times. Jeffrey Lyons from TV's "Sneak Previews" calls "Late Nite Catechism" "something to savor and enjoy...one of the most intimate, rewarding shows in town."

Written by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, actresses share the role of the "Sister" on stage — Mary Beth Burns, Karen Sheridan, Mary Zentmyer and Kim Richards — during the run as the audience becomes part of the Sister's class.

Each nun will take you back to the days of the Latin Mass, meatless Fridays and remind you about that good old ruler across the knuckles!

Those of us who were Protestant or Jewish in the audience were almost thankful we weren't Catholic by the end of Richards' performance! Wow, we had it easy!

pfleming@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 250

# Your Invitation to Worship

<b>Brighton</b> <b>LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 505 Pleasant Valley Road • Brighton, MI 48114 910-227-3113 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Rev. Dale Headbad, Pastor www.lordoflifec.com	<b>Milford</b> <b>CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> PRESBYTERIAN • MILFORD 132 Detroit St. • Milford, MI 48064 Church Office: (248) 594-0999 Pastor Steve Swartz Regular Sunday Services: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Rev. James M. Smith, Pastor Monday Evening: 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor	<b>Novi</b> <b>GOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Wilcoxon St. • Novi, MI 48240 Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m. Rev. James M. Smith, Pastor 248-346-2662 www.godshepherd.com Young Disc. only open one night per core class!	<b>NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1417 W. Ten Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48375 Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m. Rev. James M. Smith, Pastor 248-346-2662 www.umcnovi.com				
<b>Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church &amp; School</b> 132 Detroit St. • Milford, MI 48064 at the corner of Wilcoxon & Much Rd. 810-231-5199 Fr. John Riccio, Pastor Weekend Liturgies: Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 & 10:00 a.m. Pastor Emeritus: Fr. Joseph J. Bork, S.O.S.	<b>FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD</b> 132 Detroit St. • Milford, MI 48064 Pastor Steve Swartz Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Youth: 4:15-5:30 p.m. (Sundays) Wednesday 6:45-8:15 p.m. Adult 7:45-9:15 p.m. (Sundays) Widow's Guild: 10:00 a.m. (Sundays) Widow's Guild: 10:00 a.m. (Sundays)	<b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> NOVI 46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374 Sunday 8:00 p.m. Sunday 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor Parish Office: 347-7776	<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 24505 Meadowbrook Rd. • Novi, MI 48375 Worship Services: Sunday: 5 p.m. (English) 8 a.m. (Spanish) Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. Rev. Peter Mendes Parish Office: 348-6641 • www.holyfamily.org				
<b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Farmington Hills • 2225 Gill Rd. • 248-474-6564 Between Grand River & Franklin Saturday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Traditional/Choral 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Sunday School - all ages 10:15 a.m.	<b>WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 11166 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48360 248-887-1219 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Bible Ministries: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday: All Ages: 7:00 p.m.	<b>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-249-2345 12 mile west of Novi Rd. www.faithcommunity-novi.org WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM "Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"	<b>† HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL</b> 40700 W. Ten Mile Rd. • 248-427-1175 Sunday Worship: 7:45 am & 10 am Healing Service: Wednesday 11:45 am Rev. Ann Webber, Rector tel:248-427-1175				
<b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Farmington Hills • 2225 Gill Rd. • 248-474-6564 Between Grand River & Franklin Saturday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Traditional/Choral 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Sunday School - all ages 10:15 a.m.	<b>MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 228 N. Main Street • Milford, MI 48064 248-249-5846 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Nursery care available. 10:30 a.m. Fr. John Harris, Pastor A heritage of love and worship since 1856	<b>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 21265 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 5.7 Mile 248-465-7157 • www.meadowbrook.org Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister	<b>† OAK POINTE CHURCH</b> 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi Sunday Worship: 8:15 am Sunday 9:15 am, & 11:15 am Casual, contemporary service Phone: (248) 913-0343 www.oakpointe.org				
<b>HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 2350 Harvey Lake Rd. (248) 897-4566 Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Services Sunday Night Service 8:00 p.m. Bible Study & Breakfast: 2nd & 4th Saturdays 8:15 a.m. 2nd-8th Grade Youth: Tuesday 7-9 p.m. Pastor: Mary Lynn	<b>NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 120 Bishop St., Highland • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Tues. 7:00 p.m. Pastor: Danny Wilson 888-725-9141 • 881-4566	<b>CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod) Pastor Terry Nelson</b> 437-8810 • 486-4336 • Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON</b> 8080 Michigan Ave. St., South Lyon, MI 48178 Phone: 248-437-2929 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service: 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.) Senior Pastor: Rev. Andrew Assoc. Pastor: Andy Miller www.firstbaptist.org				
<b>HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 630 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48337 248-897-1311 • www.ymumc.com Sunday Worship: 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Male Chorus: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m. Youth Night - Wed. 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Pastor: Tony Harris, Director, Gloria & Kay, Orl & Ross	<b>NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation</b> 5755 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48165 Phone: 248-474-2100 Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m. Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister Website: http://www.newhopeuuc.org	<b>FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 22200 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday School: 11:00 a.m. Retail: Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Youth at 8:30 p.m. Rev. David Brown, Pastor 248-437-2222 • www.fellowship.org	<b>CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 28900 Pontiac Trail (just south of Silver Lake Rd.) Contemporary Worship, Bible-Based Message Saturday Service 6:00 PM Sunday Services 9:00 & 11 AM 11 AM Family Service • Live every week 248-466-0400 • www.crossroadscc.org				
<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland (248) 897-5534 New Leo 17 Ladies Pastor Mass Celebrations: Saturday 9 a.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Holy Day 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Confession - Saturday 11 a.m. & 8:15 a.m. by appointment	<b>NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN</b> Experiencing Life Each Week Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 10:15 am Sunday School and Children's Programs www.northville.org 41555 Six Mile Road 248-348-9030	<b>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 21880 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178 248-437-5565 • www.churchofchrist.org 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m. Rob Callcott, Pastor	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 20000 St. Clair (248) 340-1144 8 Mile & Fair Roads Worship: 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Rev. David Brown, Pastor www.furcnorthville.org	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON</b> 8080 Michigan Ave. St., South Lyon, MI 48178 Phone: 248-437-2929 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service: 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.) Senior Pastor: Rev. Andrew Assoc. Pastor: Andy Miller www.firstbaptist.org	<b>WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 248-374-7400 Sunday Worship: Traditional: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Contemporary: 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Rev. & Nancy Williams, Pastors www.ward.org 10000 St. Clair WILKINSON @ THE WILKINSON BURTON	<b>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 10774 Nine Mile Road Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.	<b>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> 21283 Pontiac Trail (west of Silver Lake Rd.) 10 a.m. Sunday Celebration Pontiac Trail & 5 Mile (between Stearns Center (Nursery & Children's programs) Office 248-688-4400 www.solidrockbiblechurch.org
<b>WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 4800 Highway 82 (between Rogers & Cass Rd.) (248) 487-4534 • Deborah Y. Kent, Pastor Worship Services: 10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Children's Church: 10:00 a.m. Child Care Provided "The Friendly Church" Established 1855 Rev. James F. Russell, Associate Pastor www.white-lake.org	<b>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 133 Orchard St., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES: Sunday 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Church: 348-2921, Retired: 348-2910 Religious Education: 348-2359 Rev. Dana Thross, Pastor	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) OF SOUTH LYON</b> Sunday School: 11:30 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. Nursery Care Provided Check us out on the web: www.fpcsouthlyon.org 248-437-2875 • 205 E. Lake (10 Mile) Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kiddle, Pastor	<b>BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH</b> Gathering in Jesus Name 601 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760 Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:40 a.m. Rev. Nancy Priddy Reverend Sandra Willbore southlyonbiblechurch.org	<b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN</b> Wickson Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy. at Liberty St. Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. All Classes: 9:00 Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-2289	<b>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 133 Orchard St., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES: Sunday 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Church: 348-2921, Retired: 348-2910 Religious Education: 348-2359 Rev. Dana Thross, Pastor	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 200 E. Main St. • Northville, MI 48166 Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Children's Church: 10:00 a.m. Child Care Provided "The Friendly Church" Established 1855 Rev. James F. Russell, Associate Pastor www.white-lake.org	<b>COMMUNITY CHURCH A/G</b> 4245 W. 9 Mile Road 427-1472 • www.communitychurch.org St. Pastor Joseph R. Tobel Sunday Christian Education 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Christian Education and Family Nite 7:00 p.m.
<b>LIVING WATER</b> North Campus of St. Luke Lutheran Church Ann Arbor Worship Celebration Sunday 10:15 a.m. Milford 7430 Willow Lake Rd. • Willow Lake, MI 48188 Dan Flynn, Minister 734-428-4000 • www.livingwater.org	<b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> A small but vibrant Episcopal Church 514 S. Sheldon Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-0190 Services on Sunday mornings at: 7:00 AM - Eucharist (meditative without music) 8:00 AM - Eucharist with Contemporary Music 10:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music 10:30 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music	<b>CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 28200 Wixom Rd. Wixom, MI 48392 8:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Rev. Kenneth Barnes • 500-331-2921 www.cpcwixom.com					

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# A unique gift

## Novi's firefighters do much more than wait for fires

Novi News staff writer Nathan Mueller spent March 24 on the day shift with the Novi Fire Department to get an inside look at the life of a firefighter.

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

My excitement level was at an all-time high when I arrived at Fire Station No. 4 to start my one day as a member of the Novi Fire Department.

I had no idea what I was going to be doing, who I was going to meet or if I would survive, but that is why I was so intrigued.

And no offense to the residents of Novi, but I was hoping for something epic. I wanted to be sitting in the truck as it roared down the street to a blazing fire of an abandoned building, of course, on the scene of a major accident (that everyone escaped from unharmed) or back at the station celebrating a life-saving rescue.

I wanted action, lots of it. The action was why Fire Protection Officer Andy Copeland joined the department, so I was glad to be paired with him and his partner, Ryan Byrne, on the squad truck.

"Every time a call comes in it is different, something changes," he said. "We are all trained on every apparatus and for every job. We aren't just here for fires, we respond to different situations all the time."

The day starts at 6 a.m. with a thorough check of the vehicles, equipment and gear. This inspection is the most important one of the day because when a call comes in, they need to see everything is in working order.

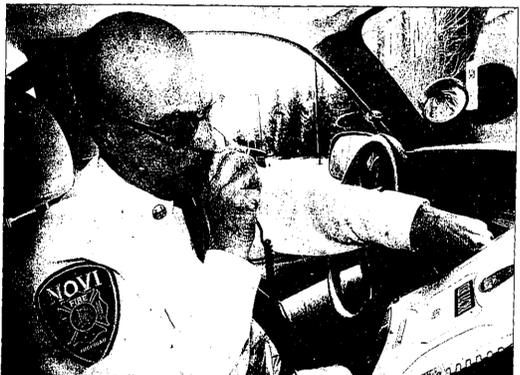
Following the inspection, they headed to the conference room for their morning briefing. In the past, the officers would have had to leave the station for this, but thanks to a new video conferencing system, Capt. Brad McFaul is able to speak to officers at all four stations remotely.

After the briefing, Copeland and Byrne headed out to conduct building inspections, while Gordon Poyhonen and Joe Aninos, who were maintaining the fire engine that day, sat in on training, also done remotely. I observed training for a while, which was about confined space rescues, before joining back up with the squad crew to finish inspections.

We were now about four hours into the day and still no calls.

The inspections were very routine follow-ups, but the drives to the businesses gave me a lot of perspective as I sat in the back of the squad truck.

A stretcher sat at my feet and medical equipment surrounded me. There was no



Novi Fire Department Capt. Brad McFaul radios to dispatch that he's on the scene of a medical emergency.



Novi fire protection officer Blake Ashley, left, and others help transport a woman at Fox Run Village to the hospital.



A patch on the uniform of Novi Fire Department Capt. Brad McFaul.

window to the cab and the only communication I had was via headphones.

Copeland said they are always required to be buckled in, even when transporting and working on a patient, and judging by how bumpy the ride was I understand why.

He also has to be very good at knowing the city out of the back windows because it is his job to tell the hospital how close they are and stay in constant communication with dispatch and the driver.

Back at the station, lunchtime was approaching and I was still antsy for that first call. Aninos told me that when they sit down for lunch usually a call comes in so I was ready.

An hour later — nothing. Capt. McFaul told me it was eerie that the radios were silent and offered to take me on tours of the other three fire stations. Fire Stations No. 1 and No. 2 are the busiest in the city, both taking over 100 calls in February, while Nos. 3 and 4 had just over 100 calls combined.

The calls were not what I was hoping for, but still gave me an interesting perspective of the job. The way the officers interacted with the patients and their families was one of compassion and care. They wanted them to know everything was going



The firefighter's gear sits in the lockers at Novi's Fire Station No. 4.

to be all right, and their demeanor never changed.

Back at the station, the four officers were performing building maintenance and finishing reports. Despite a slow day in terms of calls, they had little idle time to sit and relax.

"The days of the guys sitting around playing cards is long gone," said Copeland, a 16-year veteran of the department. "I think the citizens of Novi would be surprised at how much we do."

My final call of the day came in as I sat in the station. It was for a possible carbon monoxide leak, and Copeland and Byrne were set to respond. We hopped in the squad truck and I got on the headphones in back to listen



Novi Fire Department Capt. Brad McFaul walks into an apartment in Northville Township on March 24 as emergency medical personnel respond to a report of a man having difficulty breathing.



A Novi Fire Department engine leaves fire station No. 4 on Wednesday.

in. Seamlessly, Copeland gave directions to Byrne and the two discussed their strategy for when they arrived.

The family was outside when we got there but no one was in immediate danger. The officers checked the home for a leak but were unable to find anything. It was a false alarm, but one of the two men said they gladly will take.

Since I knew my day was winding down and my chances of finding "the big one" were dwindling I sat down with Byrne and Copeland to talk about the ups and downs of the job.

Death always is the worse case scenario and as Byrne said "there is no better feeling than saving a life." But hearing the emotion in their voices as they talked about certain moments in their careers, made me realize how much of a roller coaster ride their jobs are on an every day basis. Their training must be top notch because when they arrive at the scene they know very little, and trust in each other is of utmost importance.

McFaul said safety regulations and inspections have helped a great deal, but he also credits his "guys" for knowing what to do and the best way to do it.

My final call of the day was over. For paid on call firefighters Maria Reissner and Michelle Koons, theirs was just beginning. Before I took off for the day, I sat down with the two women, who are part of a group of 67

others who respond to calls that happen overnight and on weekends.

The paid on call firefighters have the same training as the fire protection officers except they cannot do inspections. Many of them work regular jobs during the day and volunteer when needed for the department at night.

Reissner said she sees it as a nice way to give back to the community and was looking for a challenge, while Koons hopes to one day turn it into a career.

"I feel like it's a gift I have," she said. "It's something I can handle and not everyone can do it."

That is for sure. Not everyone does have what it takes to do what the men and women of the Novi Fire Department do on an every day basis. I was drained at the end of the day, and that was supposed to be a slow day.

Sure, I was disappointed there were no explosions or panic-ridden situations, but I'm sure those days are rare. If anything, I should be thanked for my day of service because Novi was safe on my watch.

On consecutive weekends, the fire department battled a total of three fires. The first two occurred on March 27 at CZ Cartage on Grand River Avenue destroying six semi-trucks, and a second burned a garage at a home on Forest Park Drive. The third took place April 4 at an industrial business on Nine Mile Road. I was not with the department either of those days, go figure.

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).  
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [ctstone@annett.com](mailto:ctstone@annett.com), by fax to (248) 349-9832, or by 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

**"So You Want to be a Star..."**  
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday April 10  
Location: Sheryl's School of Dance, 40500 Grand River Avenue, Suite 6H, Novi

Details: A free lecture for aspiring dancers, singers, actors and their parents, presented by New York talent scout Peter Sclar.  
Contact: (248) 473-1160

**Gardeners Of Northville & Novi Club Meeting**  
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Monday April 12

Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, Northville  
Details: Social time and garden lecture on growing herbs; guest will be Karen Bovio. The public is welcome.  
Contact: [gardenersnorthville-novi.org](http://gardenersnorthville-novi.org) or Renee (248) 231-2334

**Lecture Memory Concerns: Is it Normal Aging or Alzheimer's?**  
Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 13

Location: Providence Park Hospital, Novi, Conference Room A, Outpatient Building  
Details: This is a lecture presented by CareLink of St. John Providence Health System. Learn about diagnosis and treatment for memory issues. There will be an optional tour of the Neurology unit following the lecture. The scheduled presenter is Norman Burns, MD, neurologist on staff at Providence and Providence Park Hospitals.  
Contact: To reserve your seat or for more information, please contact St. John SeniorLink at 888-751-5465.

**Spring Fling**  
Location: at estate home of Fred and Marilyn Ciampa, 20889 Cambridge Drive, Novi (west of 275 on the north side of Eight Mile Rd.)  
Time/Date: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, April 18  
Details: Fun, food and fundraising.



### Seder

Mina Dilick, Edith Sealk, Madeline Kaplan and Helen Sealk were among the more than 200 residents at Fox Run, their family members, guests and staff attended the fifth annual Seder on March 31 at the continuing care retirement community in Novi. Seder, hosted throughout the world during Passover, provide an opportunity for family and friends to honor the Jewish tradition and remember and keep the past in their minds. During the Seder, Hilda Edwards, Fran Finsilver, Steve Fox, Sam Ray, Dave Stofor and Helen Weingarden read the Hagadah, the traditional text of the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. "We appreciate the Shalom Group at Fox Run for sharing and teaching the significance of Seder," said Fred Moschetta, director of marketing. "This has become an important tradition on our campus for the people who live and work at Fox Run sharing their gifts to celebrate life."

including a silent auction and a live string band, Picks and Sticks. Sponsors State Rep Alma Wheeler Smith, candidate for governor; State Rep Lisa Brown; Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner; Pamela Jackson, candidate for State Senate; and Andrew Mulch, Novi City Council. Suggested donation of \$25 per person; \$40 per couple. Pay at the door or online at [mydems.info](http://mydems.info), or send your donation to: Cynthia Churches, CPA, 32969 Hamilton Court, Suite 138, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Make checks payable to DWDC. Write Spring Fling on the memo/for line of your check.  
Contact: [www.novifarmersmarket.com](http://www.novifarmersmarket.com)

**Novi Chamber of Commerce**  
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Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or [www.novichamber.com](http://www.novichamber.com).

### BUSINESS

**Metro Novi BNI**  
Time/Date: 7-8:30 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.

**American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting**  
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays

Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck roads  
Details: Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post.  
Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or [dstrikulis@vmlr.com](mailto:dstrikulis@vmlr.com) or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or [perickr@aol.com](mailto:perickr@aol.com).

**Novi Farmers' Market & International Street Fair**  
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 9-Oct. 31  
Location: Main Street, between Grand River Avenue and Novi Road  
Details: An open-air market featuring fresh and tasty produce, gorgeous plants and flowers, yummy baked goods, honey and jam, seasonal crafts and works of art. Presented by the Novi Chamber of Commerce, Bright House Networks and the Toasted Oak Grill.  
Contact: [www.novifarmersmarket.com](http://www.novifarmersmarket.com)

**Novi Rotary Club**  
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday  
Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road  
Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information, notary.org, org.  
Contact: Julie Paquette at 248-797-1665 or [juliepaquette67@gmail.com](mailto:juliepaquette67@gmail.com); [www.metronovi.com](http://www.metronovi.com) or (248) 756-0907.

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**Networking Luncheon**  
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 14  
Location: Carrabba's Italian Grill, 43455 West Oaks Dr., Novi  
Details: Featured speaker will be Daniel J. Cherrin, president of North Coast Strategies discussing reputation management. \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 13

**2nd Annual Business & Taste Expo**  
Time/Date: 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
Location: The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Novi.

## YOUR COMEBACK STARTS HERE.

Maybe you're not where you think you should be. Maybe you're ready for something different. Maybe you're ready to do something about it.

There's no better place to begin than Oakland Community College this spring. Programs in 160 high-demand fields, including Health Care, Computer Science, and Robotics, and short-term programs geared toward immediate employment, such as Heating & Cooling or Dental Assisting, OCC is here for you.

If you're planning to go on for a four-year degree, you can do your first two years at OCC for 1/2 of the cost of a state university — just \$60.10 per credit hour for Oakland County residents. And there's a full range of financial aid opportunities available, including scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs.

With campuses in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield, and Waterford, there's sure to be an OCC campus near you. We also offer many of our classes at night and on weekends, for students who work during the day.

Enroll now for spring classes. Touch 'n' Tone and Web registration now through May 9. Classes begin Monday, May 10.

Everybody loves a good comeback story. Start creating yours. Call 248.341.2350. [www.oaklandcc.edu](http://www.oaklandcc.edu)

**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Get anywhere from here.

27790 Novi Rd., Novi  
Details: Presenting Sponsor - Lotus Bank, keynote speaker - Lisa Barry, WNCI Radio, networking, complimentary appetizers and cash bar. Public welcome. \$5 payable at the door.

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

Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375  
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring towards professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome - and bring a friend. Visit [www.novi.treetoast.com](http://www.novi.treetoast.com).  
Contact: Paulette Alton, V.P. of Public Relations at [greenspace@mi.rr.com](mailto:greenspace@mi.rr.com) or (248) 756-0907.

**Novi Rotary Club**  
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday  
Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road  
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Time/Date: 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21  
Location: The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Detroit-Novi.

**Breakfast & Learn Charity Event**  
Time/Date: 7:45-9 a.m. April 20  
Location: DirectBuy Club of Farmington Hills, 33800 W. 5 Mile Road (just west of Farmington Road), Farmington  
Details: What would you discover if you became your own "Undercover Boss"? Simple steps to increasing employee/volunteer participation and your bottom line. Can your organization run smoother in a challenging economy? Author, columnist and noted speaker Dr. Lee Meadows will answer these questions and more. Cost is \$20; \$10 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation to Rotary Foundation. All proceeds will benefit the \$200 million Polio Challenge campaign.  
Contact: Seating is limited; please make your reservations by calling

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Ginger Barrons at (248) 148-0551 or email [reliable@com.net](mailto:reliable@com.net).

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

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

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

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

First Baptist Church of Northville Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: (248) 342-1020

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

First Baptist Church of Northville Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: (248) 342-1020

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

Project Fundway - A Fashion Show to benefit Village Banking Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6

Northville Christian Assembly Location: 41355 Six Mile Road Contact: (248) 348-9030

Meadowbrook Congregational Church Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads

Novi - Northville Center for Jewish Life Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year

Paralyzed vets open house

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans Association will be holding an open house at the chapter headquarters, 40650 Grand River Avenue in Novi, at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 15.

Color contest winner

Third grader Erin Shi, of Novi, second prize, won a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and a gift bag in the 17th annual Michigan Dental Association coloring contest.

The goal of the contest is to help raise awareness of oral health and encourage children to develop good habits to prevent dental problems as they grow up.

Robes of the trade

Chuck Puhl takes a look at some of the buffalo robes he's selling at the April 2 Gun and Knife Show at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace.



JOHN REIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The group is starting up the ArtsNovi Round Table again. Anyone interested in talking about upcoming events, supporting bringing more art, dance, theater and music to Novi, or just chatting about art in general - please join on the fourth Monday of every month (March 22 this month) 5:30-7 p.m. at Bonefish Grill in Novi.

Support the Choralaires

The Novi Choralaires are having their annual Patron Drive now through April 10. It is their most important fundraiser of the year and will allow them to continue to provide quality musical entertainment to residents of the greater Novi area.

The non-profit group is asking business and individuals to consider supporting the Novi Choralaires during their annual Patron Drive with a financial donation in one of the following categories:

Major Contributor: \$500 and up Gold Patron: \$250 to \$499 Silver Patron: \$100 to \$249

Bronze Patron: \$50 to \$99 Patron: \$25 to \$49

As a contributor, you will be listed in the concert programs as well as on their Web site (www.novichoralaires.org), and you will receive a deal with their logo.

Contributors and Gold Patrons are entitled to a full-page or half-page advertisement, respectively, in the concert programs. If you contribute at Bronze level or above, you will also receive two complimentary tickets to the Spring Concert.

If you wish to make a contribution, please contact Patron Drive Chairperson Maigie Shaul at (248) 349-1841.

Young adults with a solution Wonder if your children are taking drugs or abusing alcohol? Want to learn what signs to look for? Want to know what to do if you suspect signs of drug or alcohol abuse. Get advice of where to turn for help if you suspect your child has a problem.

Novi Police Chief David Andrews born at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital 8 weeks

Throughout the presentation, more than 70 trendy drug and alcohol indicators will be unveiled to show how some adolescents hide drug and alcohol use.

Signs, symptoms and current trends of alcohol, pre-

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Bid Proposal VoIP & WLAN Upgrades and Services

Novi Community School District is accepting sealed bids from qualified vendors to perform upgrades (equipment and services) to existing Voice over IP (VoIP) and Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) systems.

One (1) original and two (2) printed copies, each with Electronic Copies on a CD should be submitted to Gail Greco, Novi Community School District, located at Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374 by 11:00 a.m., Local Time, Friday, April 30, 2010, when the bids will be publicly opened and read.

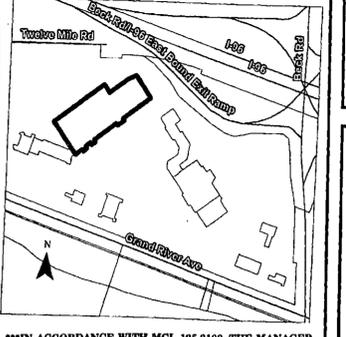
Your bid proposal form shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Superintendent of the school district.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding and to accept bid alternates. The Owner also reserves the right to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Owner, in the Owner's sole discretion, to be in the Owner's best interests.

Deadline for submittals of questions related to this RFP is April 22, 2010, by 5:00 p.m. Requests for clarification shall be submitted in writing to Sri Chalasani at Plants & Moran, PLLC, 27400 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, Michigan 48037, Fax (248) 233-8945 or Email: sr.chalasani@plantsandmoran.com.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider HOME DEPOT SEASONAL OUTDOOR SALES, ZONING, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT APPEAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 17, WEST OF BECK ROAD, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE IN THE B-2 COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT.



\*\*\*IN ACCORDANCE WITH MCL 125.3103, THE MANAGER OR OWNER OF A SINGLE STRUCTURE CONTAINING MORE THAN 4 DWELLING UNITS OR OTHER DISTRICT SPATIAL AREAS OWNED OR LEASED BY DIFFERENT PERSONS, IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO POST THE NOTICE AT A PRIMARY ENTRANCE TO THE STRUCTURE(S).\*\*\*

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

Run, it's an emergency!

The City of Novi and the Novi Police and Fire Departments, in partnership with Providence Park Hospital and Running Fit, announce the fifth annual Emergency Run.

This 5K (3.1 mile) run/1-mile walk event will take place Saturday, May 8 on the Providence Park Hospital Campus (Grand River and Beck roads). In addition to the race, a health, wellness and recreation fair will be open to all community members and offer informational booths, displays, interactive offerings, a children's section, and refreshments.

Registration and the fair begin at 8 a.m. with the start of the run/walk beginning at 9 a.m. The pre-registration fee for the run is \$25 and the walk is \$10. Registration at the event is \$30. Those who pre-register are guaranteed an event T-shirt. Awards and opportunities to win door-prizes are included.

Registration forms are available for download at cityofnovi.org and at the Novi Civic Center, Novi Police Department, Providence Park Hospital and Running Fit-Nov. Proceeds from the event will benefit health and safety initiatives for the Novi community.

For more information regarding the Emergency Run, contact Robin Working at (248) 735-5628 or visit cityofnovi.org.

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 Eldander will receive the prestigious Order of Charity award and physicians Bruce H. Kole, M.D.; Daniel R. Piper, M.D.; and Teck-Mun Soo, M.D., will be the recipients of the Cadmus 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 HPB 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 Andrija Bjorh, Lauri Boloschneider, MCNP-C; Ann Conrad, Susan Glasford, 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 Carol Shaya, Jennifer Stewart, Courtney Teple, Betsy Thompson, Sandy Tohar 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.

Crawford fights higher property taxes Legislation designed to let homeowners see the true cost of raising taxes was recently introduced by state Rep. Crawford.

Crawford introduced House Bill 5967 to require ballots with millage proposals to show not only the cost of an individual millage increase, but what the increase would do to a home's total tax burden.

"Homeowners deserve all the facts when making the decision of whether or not they want to pay higher taxes," said Crawford, R-Novi. "This legislation is about transparency for families making tough decisions. Homeowners deserve to have full information available to them and decide whether they want their taxes raised."

Crawford's legislation is part of a larger package of legislation introduced by his House Republican caucus aimed at lowering the cost of owning a home and stimulating the housing market. Included in the package is a proposal to require voter approval of any special tax assessments. Crawford noted that many municipalities are attempting to sidestep voter approval requirements by designating an entire municipality as a "special district" that is exempt under current law.

Other highlights of the package include legislation creating the Homeowner Savings Plan, which would create a home savings plan similar to a 401(k) that would allow families to save for homes tax-free.

"The homeowner savings plan gives a state tax credit for mortgage fees and was carefully designed to help support our communities and get the economy moving again," Crawford said.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE, ZONING AMENDMENT, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT APPEAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 17, WEST OF BECK ROAD, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE IN THE B-2 COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT.

\*\*\*IN ACCORDANCE WITH MCL 125.3103, THE MANAGER OR OWNER OF A SINGLE STRUCTURE CONTAINING MORE THAN 4 DWELLING UNITS OR OTHER DISTRICT SPATIAL AREAS OWNED OR LEASED BY DIFFERENT PERSONS, IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO POST THE NOTICE AT A PRIMARY ENTRANCE TO THE STRUCTURE(S).\*\*\*

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

Novi Planning Commission David Greco, Secretary

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

Page A12 (NN)  
Cal Stone, editor  
(248) 437-2011  
cstone@gannett.com

online at hometownlife.com

### OUR VIEWS

## Our libraries are more than books to read

Sure, the old one is closed right now, but around June 1, the Novi community will get to see (and use) an incredible new library on the southeast corner of Taft and 10 Mile roads.

A library plays a unique role in our society. It is a reflection of our civic pride — a center for learning, a hub for social interaction and a safety net for those in need.

A library also is the cornerstone of the community. In person and online, it connects people to a whole world of ideas and information.

The Novi Public Library reflects the diversity and character and the needs and expectations of the Novi community. Those needs and expectations are extensive, and the services the library provides are invaluable.

Society is changing and the Novi Public Library is keeping pace. It is no longer a place for people to find a book to read and students to find information for term papers. Sure, it has computers and even Internet access available for visitors, but there's much more. For example, last year's "Engage!" publication, produced by the City of Novi, contained 13 pages of programs at the library for adults and youth alike.

Storytimes and the summer reading program for youngsters and foreclosure information, displaced worker assistance and training opportunities guidebooks, recession resources and State of Michigan job opportunities for adults.

The Novi Public Library has become the heart of the community.

Next week, April 11-17, is National Library Week. Sponsored by the American Library Association, it's a celebration of the contributions of librarians and library workers. The theme this year is "Communities thrive @ your library," and we believe that describes your local library to a "T."

We offer our heartfelt thanks to library Director Julie Farkas and the rest of the library staff for all they have done to make the library an integral part of the community.

And while we're at it, we'd like to give a shoutout to the librarians and library workers in the Novi Community Schools district. April also is School Library Month. They, too, do an awesome job encouraging kindergartners through high schoolers to use the books and services available in the school media centers.

Whether it's the school library or the public library, take some time to stop by and experience what they have to offer. Who knows, you may find a good book, a video or CD and make a few new friends along the way.

### 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.

■ Commentary by Tom Watkins: For a change, Michigan needs to 'Switch'

How about we stop looking to change everything. We all can see what Obama did with his mantra of change. We'll be paying for that the next 100 years. Let's hope Michigan doesn't follow suit with the 'change' mentality. How about we get back to basics? How about all legislative and congressional positions become voluntary — no pay — except maybe for expenses (i.e. cost of gas to travel from home to Lansing twice a month, and a food allowance while said legislator is away from home one week each month). That savings in annual pay for each politician would be a great way to help the state save a bundle of money. Also, maybe the state shouldn't be so generous with prisons. Just for starters, how about striking a deal with businesses who outsource work overseas. Our prisoners could learn a skill set by helping manufacture whatever is being outsourced overseas. That could help the prisons pay for its own expenses and lower the cost to consumers.

natharr

NOVI NEWS

GANNETT

Cal Stone  
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor

Grace Perry  
Director of Advertising

### COMMUNITY VOICE

#### Why are you a firefighter?

(Asked of Novi firefighters.)



"I love that every call we go on is different and each day is never the same. Each run can also be a lesson in how to solve a problem."

Andy Copeland  
Howell



"I followed my brother into the business. I was an interest in it as I was surrounded by members of my family who were in it."

Gordon Poyhonen  
Hamburg Township



"We like to help people. We enjoy the challenge. We're always willing to take whatever challenge comes up."

John Martin  
Macomb Township



"I like seeing something different at work everyday. I also like helping people."

Josh Bunge  
Dearborn

## Primary system needs reform

Want to reduce the hyper-partisanship gripping our politics? Interested in getting rid of as many of the shrill, toxic ads as possible? Want less blatant pandering to party extremists?

Sure. Who doesn't? So how is this for a remedy: Abolish partisan primary elections.

This year, Michigan will hold primaries on Tuesday, Aug. 3. They will narrow down the field to one candidate from each major party for the Nov. 2 general election.

That's the way we've been choosing nominees for governor, senator, Congress and the state Legislature since 1912, when the Legislature passed an election law calling for primary elections.

We've also had an off-again, on-again presidential primary, the first of which was held in April, 1916, when Henry Ford, who wasn't even a candidate, finished first on the Republican side with 83,057 votes. (The GOP sensibly nominated someone else instead.)

This was at the height of the Bull Moose/Progressive era, and primaries then were regarded as a part of political reform, a remedy designed to end the practice of the political bosses gathering in smoke-filled backrooms to pick their chums to run for office.

But now, nearly a century later, this reform has outgrown its usefulness. In fact, the results of primary elections are nearly all bad.

• Most districts, both congressional and legislative, are gerrymandered to assure one party wins the general election in November. U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-  
Dearborn, the longest-serving member of the House in history, estimates there are no more 40 truly competitive congressional districts out of 435 total. Most experts think about the same ratio holds for the Michigan Legislature.

## Fill out Census form, be sure you're counted

Once every 10 years, each one of us living in the United States has a unique opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on our neighborhoods and communities. How?

Well, in 2010, it's as easy as answering and mailing back our Census forms. Doing so is simple, fast and safe. Doing so makes it far more likely that our neighborhoods achieve the fullest count possible; and, in the process, greatly increases our community's fair share of the \$400 billion annually distributed to local programs and services for the next 10 years. That's a lot of money that improves our quality of life and that of our children.

Returning your Census form is one of the best ways to get the most significant return of your tax dollars through programs which enhance local education and pre-school programs, health care clinics, job training classes, road and bridge construction, among many others that are often easy to take for granted, especially

as we rush back and forth taking care of our personal priorities. When speaking to neighborhood and community organizations, folks often share their concerns about our hectic lives, concerns about privacy and questions about just what the government should know, or not know.

Our mission at the United States Census Bureau is to meet our constitutional requirements every 10 years in ways which ultimately meet the needs of the American people. That's why we conduct the Census, to simply count people and note information that helps us better understand a community's expectations and wishes. So, let's review why and how the 2010 Census form is simple, fast, and safe.

### IT'S THE SHORTEST CENSUS FORM IN HISTORY

Your household has received the shortest and simplest Census form in history. It consists of only 10 questions, and, on average, takes no more than 10 minutes to complete.

That would help weed out the extremists and reward candidates who appeal to the broadest group of voters.

In Conyers' district, for example, the two top candidates are almost certain to be Democrats. But to be nominated, candidates in the qualifying election would have to appeal to (those few) Republicans in the district, to independents, and to ranges of opinion among Democratic voters. The net effect would be to drive candidates to the center of the political spectrum.

Additionally, it would give both independent and minority party voters a chance to make their votes count in the qualifying election.

Making this change would require no federal legislation or changes to our state Constitution. A simple legislative majority could make the change, as voters did in Washington state in 2006.

All this sounds too good to be true. Would such a system completely cure our dysfunctional politics? Probably not, if only because lobbies and rich people have seized control of so much of the system, leaving special interest-driven candidates the likely winners, regardless of whatever election system we have.

Still, it might be an improvement. Call me anti-democratic, but I preferred the old fashioned "smoke-filled room." There, bosses who actually knew the candidates and their weaknesses and their strengths did the picking. Most of them knew that their continued influence depended on picking candidates who were electable, effective and reasonably honest.

Instead, we now have a dysfunctional system. Why should we be surprised that we get dysfunctional government as a result?

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is the founder and president of the Center for Michigan, a bipartisan center think-and-do tank. He welcomes your comments at [ppower@thecenterformichigan.net](mailto:ppower@thecenterformichigan.net).

Dwight Dean



as we rush back and forth taking care of our personal priorities. When speaking to neighborhood and community organizations, folks often share their concerns about our hectic lives, concerns about privacy and questions about just what the government should know, or not know.

IT'S EASY  
The questions are direct, basic and ask only about your general living situation, how many live at your address, their race and whether they are male or female.

IT'S CONFIDENTIAL  
Protecting the safety and security of your Census data is more than a goal — it is our prized duty and it's the law. Census data cannot be shared by the Census Bureau with anyone at the local, state or federal government levels. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of non-disclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data and face strict penalties if there would be a violation.

So, now as we find ourselves in the midst of the Census 2010 campaign, let's pull together, complete our Census forms, mail them back, and do what's right for ourselves, our families and our communities. Let's stand up and be counted... it matters for now and for the next 10 years!

Dwight Dean is director of the Detroit Regional Census Office.

### BIRTHS

Mackenzie Ellen Burns  
Duane and Ellen Burns, of Farmington, announce the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Ellen, born March 5, 2010, at Beaumont Hospital in Troy.



Anna Rose Gronowski  
Todd and Amy Gronowski, of Lansing, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Rose, born Feb. 15, 2010, at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.  
Grandparents are Paul and Karen Sucheck of St. Johns; Scott and Kelly Herrick of Lake Odessa; Ed and Nancy Rogers of Nokomis, Fla.; and the late Tuffy Gronowski of Novi.

### IN THE SERVICE



Andrew J. MacFarlane  
Air Force Airman Andrew J. MacFarlane graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.  
The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.  
Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.  
He is the son of Craig MacFarlane of Novi.  
MacFarlane graduated in 2003 from Catholic Central High School and received a bachelor's degree in 2009 from Eastern Michigan University.

### WEDDING

Church & Kalinowsky  
Amanda Church and Peter Kalinowsky were married Nov. 14, 2009, at Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi with Rev. Catharine McCloskey Turner and Rev. Richard J. Henderson officiating.  
She is the daughter of Michael and Janice Church of Novi. A 2008 graduate of Eastern Michigan University, she is employed with Heritage Academy in Taylor as a reading teacher. Her attendants were Kim Koch, Sarah

Tykoski, Olyesa Stadnik and Sara Kalinowsky.  
He is the son of Roger and Sandy Kalinowsky of South Lyon. He is a 2008 mechanical engineering graduate of University of Michigan and is employed by Meiden Co. in Northville. His attendants were Ben Schweitzer, Mike Romanelli, Dan Church and Jeremy Church.  
A reception was held at The Meeting House in Plymouth and was followed by a Caribbean cruise. The couple reside in South Lyon.

### ENGAGEMENT



Kozak & McGuckin

Patrick and Lisa McGuckin, of Novi, and Tom and Joni Kozak, of Belleville, announce the engagement of their children, Emilia Kozak and Sean McGuckin.  
The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Belleville High School and a 2009 graduate of Madonna University. She is employed by

Westwood Cyber High School.  
The groom-elect is a 2000 graduate of Novi High School; a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University; and a 2010 graduate of Madonna University's College of Education. He is employed by Play It Again Sports in Livonia.  
A June 25 wedding in Belleville is being planned.

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### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A9

#### The Post Bar

Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi  
Contact: (248) 465-9600

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Thursdays: DJ Tommy Holiday  
Fridays: Famous Friday with DJ Mix & Mc Jevon Hollywood

#### Mix Lounge

Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi

Contact: (248) 347-6499 or mix-novi.com  
Thursday-Saturday: DJ

#### LIBRARY LINES

##### Novi Public Library

##### Library Hours

Location: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 a.m.-5 p.m. (September-May)

Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the Library.

Contact: (248) 349-0720

Website: www.novilibrary.org  
The Novi Public Library will be closed for the months of April and May in preparation for our move to the new library building in June. The library website ([www.novilibrary.org](http://www.novilibrary.org)) will continue to be available, library programs will be conducted at alternative sites, and library services will be available at neighboring libraries. Please see the "Survival Guide" on the library website for more details.

#### Story Times

Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.

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**SECTION B**  
 (NN)

**LOCAL SPORTS**

Call Stone editor: (248) 477-2011  
 cstone@hometownlife.com

online at hometownlife.com



**'Cats hurdle over Vikings for first win of season**

Distance, relays, jumpers dominate for Novi

**ON TAP**

The Wildcats will warm up the track rubber over spring break before visiting South Lyon East 4 p.m. Tuesday to start Central Division play. After the April 17 Oxford relays, Novi will host Plymouth Salem in their next home meet on April 20.

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
 CORRESPONDENT

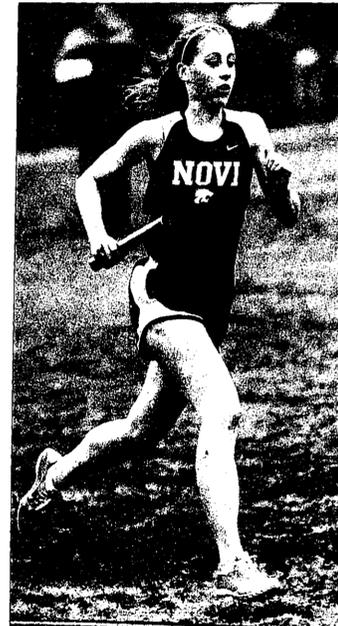
The girls track and field team started off their season strong March 25 with an impressive 96-41 triumph over the Walled Lake Central Vikings.

Novi won 13 of 17 events while sweeping the top three finishes in each the 100-meter hurdles, 300-meter hurdles, 3,200-meter run, high jump and long jump.

"I think the team did a very good job at our first meet. It was cold, so I do not think our times are necessarily indicative of how we are capable of running. It should be interesting to see this team improve upon this first performance," said coach Marsha Reid. "I think that there are still some 'diamonds in the rough' with this team. While the win was a nice win, I do not think we have even scratched the surface of what this team is capable of if we stay healthy."

Although senior Annie Irvin won the 100 hurdles in 17.1 seconds and sophomore Kelly McCloskey won the 300 hurdles in 49.9 seconds, senior Regina Barbosa had impressive runs to take second place in both events. She ran the 100 hurdles in 17.3 seconds and the 300 hurdles in 52.8 seconds.

Central was able to win both the 100- and 200-meter dashes,



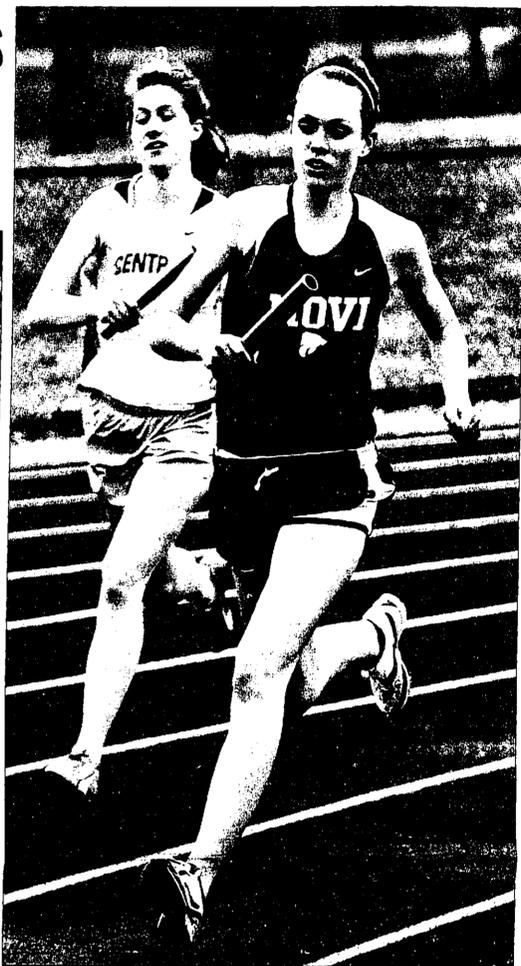
A Novi Wildcats girls track team member competes in the 800 meter relay race during their March 25 home meet against Walled Lake Central.

but the Wildcats earned points by taking second and third place in both events. Novi senior Amanda Pastorov won the 400-meter run in 1:07.1.

"We have a lot of state qualifying returners in this area. With the weather the way it

was, we were fortunate not to have any real injuries," Reid said. "Jasmine Ward proved that she has the potential to do just as well in the 200 meter as she did for us in the 100 meter."

Please see **TRACK, B2**



Novi Wildcats girls track team competes in the 800 meter relay race during their March 25 home meet against Walled Lake Central.

PHOTOS BY JOHN NEDESI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Lunn's freestyle swims generate Player of the Year honor**

All-Area Boys Swim and Dive

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
 CORRESPONDENT

The Northville Mustangs had a successful season, finishing third at the Division I state meet in Holland. One of their most dangerous swimmers was freestyle specialist, senior Nate Lunn. Earning All-State (top eight) honors in all four events he swam at the state meet, Lunn was also part of the All-American 400-yard free relay team that finished fourth in 3:10.97.

"Nate was a joy to coach. He worked at making himself and his teammates better every day," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said.

Lunn also earned fourth in the 200 free (1:43.29), sixth in 100 free (47.88 seconds) and fourth in the 200 free relay (1:27.50).

**FIRST TEAM**

Adam Oxner (South Lyon Sr.)  
 Taking first place in a strong pool of Division I contestants in the 100-yard breaststroke (58.12 seconds), Oxner also claimed 22nd in the 200 individual medley in 2:01.67. He also helped the South Lyon unified squad take eighth in the 200-yard medley relay (1:38.65) and 15th in the 200 free relay (1:29.87).

"Adam had one goal all season and that was to win the state championship. Adam did not just make that his goal, he did everything he could to achieve that goal. He was focused on this goal throughout the entire offseason and this season," South Lyon coach John Burch said. "I would encourage anyone who wants to win a state title to follow his example."

Joon Chung (Novi Jr.)  
 The heart of a young Wildcats squad for the second straight year, Chung earned third in the 100-yard breaststroke (58.55 seconds) and ninth in the 200 IM (1:56.50) at the Division I state meet. He also helped Novi to a 20th-place finish in the 400 free relay (3:19.68) and 21st-place finish in the 200 medley relay (1:41.37).

"Joon is one of the hardest workers I have ever met. He is a team leader in both leadership and setting a positive example, which is why he is one of the co-captains for next year's season," Novi coach Eric Lynn said. "He really understands the benefit of trying your hardest every day."

Andy Stone (South Lyon Sr.)  
 Taking sixth in the 100 breast at the Division I state meet in 59.45 seconds, Stone teamed with Oxner to create a dual threat in the event all season long. He also finished 11th in the 100 fly (53.19 seconds), eighth in the 200 medley relay (1:38.65) and 15th in the 200 free relay (1:29.87). "Andy is one of the most versatile swimmers I have ever coached. His ability to swim all four strokes well

really helped our team this season," South Lyon coach John Burch said. "He not only was a good swimmer, but he was a great leader of the team this season. Andy is a natural leader."

Evan Bisehoff (South Lyon Jr.)  
 A key member of the unified squad, Bisehoff tied for 12th in the 100 free (48.35 seconds) and took 15th in the 200 free (1:46.53) while also playing an integral role in eighth-place 200 medley relay (1:38.65) and 15th-place 200 free relay (1:29.87) finishes. "Evan is one of the hardest workers that I have ever coached. He saw all that hard work pay off tremendously this season," South Lyon coach John Burch said. "To switch from the 500 and learn to swim the 100 freestyle is

very tough to do. Evan did it with ease."

John Lubisco (Northville Sr.)  
 Taking sixth in the 50 free (21.87 seconds) and 16th in the 100 back (55.27 seconds), Lubisco was a two-time All-State honoree. He also helped the Mustangs take 14th in the 200 medley relay (1:40.13) and fourth in an All-American 400 free relay (3:10.97). "John was a lot of fun to coach. He bugged me to swim the 50 free for three years and I told him if he went 22-flat I would put him in it at states. So, sure enough, he goes 22-flat at conference meet and then winds up All-State in that event," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said.

Please see **ALL-AREA, B3**

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# Netters open dual matches with victory

## Wildcats defeat Rochester 7-1

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

The top singles player in the state wasn't enough to get Rochester past Novi in the girls' first dual tennis meet of the season.

The Wildcats started slow in doubles matches against the Falcons, but pushed through for a 7-1 team victory.

"Rochester is a good team. They're young, mostly 11th graders. It was a good dual match," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "It was a good team win. I was pleased with how the doubles came back in their matches and won their second match."

Junior Jenna Snyder and senior Julia Thomas won their one doubles match 6-3, 6-5. The rest of the doubles squads were pushed to extra games in their first sets, but came out victorious.

Senior Andrea Lollo and junior Meggie Riegel won two doubles 7-5, 6-3 and junior Ashley Aljadah and sophomore Ori Nagasaka won three doubles 7-5, 6-2. Junior Meng Meng Jie and sophomore Emily Kwederis won their first set 7-6(5) before breezing through their second set 6-0.

"We were tested in doubles. All the doubles, we were down in the first set," Hanson said. "We played much better in the second (sets)."

The Wildcats' singles matches weren't nearly as close on the score sheet.

One singles senior Amanda Border faced one of the biggest tests she may face this season, taking on defending Div. I



Novi Wildcat Jenna Snyder.

state champion, junior Kelsey Dieters. Despite Border's efforts, Dieters won 6-3, 6-1 to give Rochester their only win of the day.

"Amanda played last year's state champion. She made Kelsey work for every point she won," Hanson said.

Sophomore Abby Wang, senior Sara Carlson and senior Lauren Felcher didn't have as much trouble with their respective matches at two through four singles. Wang won 6-0, 6-1; Carlson won 6-1, 6-1 and Felcher won 6-0, 6-3.

"They were missing their No. 2 player, so they moved everybody up," Hanson said. "Abby and Sara played

strong matches. Our singles is definitely the strength of our team, but how our season goes will depend on how our doubles do."

The team will work on improving what they can over spring break as they settle into their lineup for the season, which resumes April 13.

"It's not the number of winning shots. The factor is cutting down on your mistakes. Make them earn every point out there," Hanson said. "Our key is to work on our things we're making mistakes on and improve."

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



Novi Wildcat Andrea Lollo.

Novi's tennis squad jumps back into the season with three matches in three days next Tuesday through Thursday. The Wildcats host South Lyon April 12 and visit South Lyon April 15. All three meets start at 4 p.m.

"That'll be an excellent test because they have a strong (team)," Novi coach Jim Hanson said of the non-conference contest against West Bloomfield. "It doesn't really matter if you're Division I, II, III or IV. The top 10 teams in the state are a good test."

Novi Wildcat Lauren Felcher in action on March 30.

Novi Wildcat Lauren Felcher in action on March 30.

# Lights out for Knights

## Novi lacrosse steady in 9-6 victory

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

Conference crossovers have been great for Novi's lacrosse team early in the season. After opening with a win against Grand Blanc, the Wildcats defeated Walled Lake Northern last week.

Taking to the road on March 31, Novi (2-2-0) got a furious performance out of junior Greg Kolis, who had four goals in the 9-6 victory over the Knights (2-2-0).

"He kind of came out of the framework. He played real well and his shots improved a lot," Novi coach Tom Stephanoff said.

The Wildcats got on the board first and never fell behind, taking a 5-2 lead into halftime.

"We were winning the whole game. We ran the system pretty

ON TAP

Novi has an extra week off after spring break before facing South Lyon unified (1-2) at South Lyon East on April 19 and then hosting Canton April 21. Both games are at 6:30 p.m.

The Wildcats have typically had solid results against the Joe Laird-coached South Lyon squad, but Novi's 12-5 victory in the first matchup last season was followed by a 12-11 double-overtime loss they now

good," Stephanoff said. "I got to play everyone, so I was happy. It was a good cross-conference win."

The Knights couldn't get a lead last week, but they posed a much larger challenge for Novi than in last season's regional semifinal matchup, which the Wildcats won 19-9.

Strong goaltending by junior Dan Burris helped keep Novi ahead in this season's contest.

"He played real well,"

look to avenge. "That South Lyon game is a big game for us. They beat us last year for the first time ever," Novi coach Tom Stephanoff said.

"I played with their coach at Eastern (Michigan University)." The Wildcats defeated Canton 13-4 and 16-4 last season, but the Chiefs are 3-0-0 this season, including a 12-0 victory of their own over Walled Lake Northern in the season opener.

Stephanoff said. "It was a steady game the whole way. The only thing that stood out was Kolis' goals."

The Wildcats kept the gears rolling in the second half, as senior Alec Lemieux and junior Taylor Howell each had two goals on the night and senior Tyler Burnett had one goal.

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

## NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Collegiate Cross Country/Track Signing

Novi senior Mike Blaszczyk signed his national letter of intent on March 31 to attend the University of Saint Francis (Joliet, Ill.) and run for their cross country and track programs next year. Blaszczyk's running resume includes All-State in cross country, Regional champion in the 3,200-meter (two-mile) track event, numerous league championships, All-Conference, All-County, All-Region and an All-American for the USATF and AAU National Cross Country meets.

He will take his career to the next level at USF, which is in its fourth season with a team. Blaszczyk will help USF's team in their attempt to break the two-year streak of second place finishes in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference. With Blaszczyk and other recruits joining the roster, head coach Drew Ludtke hopes to earn the program's first conference title and secure an automatic birth to the NAIA National meet for cross country.

Novi alum Caleb Dean has verbally committed to play basketball at Western Michigan University next year. At 6-9 and 230-pounds, the 2008 grad has spent the last two years as a center on Midland College's top-ranked NJCAA Division I squad in Texas.



Novi senior Mike Blaszczyk (pictured with boys cross country coach Robert Smith) signed his national letter of intent last week to attend the University of Saint Francis (Joliet, Ill.) this fall and run for their cross country and track programs.

number one team academically in Michigan Division I football this past year with a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.93.

### Collegiate Hoops Verbal Commitment

Novi alum Caleb Dean has verbally committed to play basketball at Western Michigan University next year. At 6-9 and 230-pounds, the 2008 grad has spent the last two years as a center on Midland College's top-ranked NJCAA Division I squad in Texas.

In his last season with the Chaparrals, Dean averaged 5.2 points and 2.5 rebounds per game while shooting 63 percent from the field and 76.6 percent from the free throw line.

According to the Kalamazoo Gazette, Duquesne, Murray State, Northern Illinois and Middle Tennessee State all showed interest in Dean, who is expected to sign his official letter of intent to move from the junior college to NCAA level on April 15.

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

## ALL-AREA

FROM PAGE B1

### Ben Schoenek (Northville Sr.)

On of the Mustangs' most versatile swimmers, Schoenek took 12th in 100 fly (53.24 seconds) and 25th in the 200 IM (2:01.91).

While helping Northville to an All-American fourth-place finish in the 400 free relay (3:10.97) and 14th-place finish in the 200 medley relay (1:40.13).

"Ben has been about as steady as they come for the four years he has been here," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "I could put Ben anywhere in a meet line-up and know that he would get the job done. His split on our 400 free relay was awesome."

William Greenlee (Northville Jr.)

Yet another piece to the strong puzzle of Mustang tankers, Greenlee took ninth in the 100 fly (53.03 seconds) and 34th in the 50 free (22.59 seconds) while working with his teammates to earn an All-American fourth-place finish in the 200 free relay (1:27.50) and 14th-place finish in the 200 medley relay (1:40.13).

"I'll really worked at making himself a better swimmer this season. He listens to the coaching staff and bought into what we were trying to accomplish as a team," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said.

John Blicke (Northville Sr.)

The final piece of the Mustangs' All-American 400 free relay team (fourth in 3:10.97), Blicke also tried for 12th in the 100 free (48.35 seconds), got 17th in the 200 free (1:49.53) and fourth in the 200 free relay (1:27.50).

"John was a great captain and really held our guys accountable each and every practice," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "We gambled and waited until state meet this year to rest him and it paid off."

Kevin Bain (Northville Jr.)

Filling a variety of roles with South Lyon's squad, Bain took fourth in 1-meter dive with 415.20 points at the Division I state meet.

The area's next best diver, Price teamed with Bain to form a tough tandem for opposing dive teams. Price finished sixth in 1-meter dive with 371.75 points.

"These guys are so steady on the boards and they keep improving every year thanks to Dayna Azzopardi, our diving coach," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "These two are two of the best in the state and I am glad they will both be coming back."

Scott Jessup (Milford Sr.)

Setting a school record in 11 dives (364.65 points) and six dives (232.65 points),

## MISSISSIPPI

Jessup was a force in a portion of meets that several teams lacked in. He was 12th at the Division I state meet with a 1-meter dive score of 327.25 points.

"Scott finished his sophomore season with his best performance of the year at state meet. All 11 dives were very consistent and he was able to finish ahead of many of the divers he had competed with head-to-head all season," Milford coach Eric Koppin said. "As Scott matures as an athlete, we look forward to him leading our team to future success."

Dan Girozna (South Lyon Sr.)

One of the few area divers with consistently dominant scores, Girozna took 15th in the 1-meter dive at the Division I state meet with 320.60 points.

"Dan is the leader of our diving team even though he is only a sophomore. This season we had a new diving coach and the transition did not phase him at all. Dan is a very good diver who will only get better in the upcoming seasons," South Lyon coach John Burch said.

BoFang Zhang (Northville Jr.)

Taking 14th as part of the Mustangs' 200 medley relay squad in 1:40.33, Zhang also earned 26th in the 100 breast (1:02.83) and 29th in the 200 IM (2:02.26).

Leighton Christie (Lakeland Jr.)

Christie was the Eagles' go-to guy for all three relay events at the Division I state meet, helping Lakeland to earn 15th in the 400 free relay (3:21.90), 20th in the 200 free relay (1:32.38) and 27th in the 200 medley relay (1:46.41).

Chris LaFayette (Northville Sr.)

In the most grueling of high school swims, LaFayette earned All-State honors with an eighth-place finish in the 500 free in 4:51.27 seconds.

Todd Truran (Northville Sr.)

Truran went out on a high note, taking 16th in a very competitive 100 free in 49.58 seconds.

Brandon Hartley (Lakeland Sr.)

Another key member of the Eagles' relay squads, Hartley helped Lakeland take 15th in the 400 free relay (3:21.90) and 20th in the 200 free relay (1:32.38) at the Division I state meet. He also took 34th in the 200 free in 1:51.88.

## HOUSTON

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## NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

### 19 gymnasts qualify

Michigan Elite Gymnastics Academy, located in Novi, qualified 19 gymnasts to the Junior Olympic Regional Championships. Gymnasts advanced to the Regional competition through the State meet, which was held March 20 in Lansing. Level 9 & 10 Regionals are being held there April 9-11. The Level 8 Regionals are being held in Kalamazoo April 16-18.

At the State competition, the level 10 team placed 2nd. Level 10 Kelsey Thurquist was

crowned the state champion on balance beam and took third in the all-around in the senior age division. Lindsay Bridges placed third on bars in the senior age division. In the Junior division, Level 10 Anna Gerlich placed third on balance beam, vault and all-around. Rachel Dickson was fifth on bars.

In the level 9 competition, Kelsey Thomas (senior age division) placed third on vault and fifth on beam. Allison Kunz (junior division) placed fifth in the all-around.

Amanda Pace was crowned

the state champion on floor in the Level 8 Senior division. In the junior division, Daisy Ference captured the bar championship, along with claiming third on balance beam and second in the all-around.

"We are very proud of all of our gymnasts. The competition is very tough and one mistake can keep you from qualifying to the Regional competition. We had some great performances, and the level 10's really worked well together for the second place team award," comments Head Coach Kim Tanskanen.

Junior Rachel Staudt won the shot put with a 31-foot, 5-inch toss, while sophomore Nicole Hill and junior Alyssa Armiak got over the high jump bar at a height of 4 feet, 7 inches. Senior Katlyn Shelar won the long jump by throwing herself 14 feet and 3 inches.

"I thought we performed surprisingly well in the high jump and the shot put. There is a lot of potential there," Reid said. "We know that we can perform better in the pole vault area and are looking forward to the next meet to show that. Our long jump is consistent and strong with Lauren Forche and Katlyn Shelar."

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

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULES

### NOVI HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

All games 4 p.m. unless noted  
4/10 TBA Country Day (DH 1)  
4/10 TBA Country Day (DH 2)  
4/12 Wayne Memorial  
4/14 South Lyon (DH 1)  
4/14 6 p.m. South Lyon (DH 2)  
4/16 Milford (DH 1)  
4/16 6 p.m. Milford (DH 2)

### SOFTBALL

All games 4 p.m. unless noted  
4/12 Wayne Memorial  
4/14 South Lyon (DH 1)  
4/14 6 p.m. South Lyon (DH 2)

### GIRLS SOCCER

All games 7 p.m. unless noted  
4/14 Walled Lake Western

### GIRLS TENNIS

All meets 4 p.m. unless noted  
4/13 South Lyon East  
4/14 West Bloomfield  
4/15 @ South Lyon  
4/17 9 a.m. @ Saline Invite

### BOYS/GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

All meets 4 p.m. unless noted  
4/13 @ South Lyon East  
4/17 9:30 a.m. @ Oxford Relays

### BOYS GOLF

All meets 3:30 p.m. unless noted

### SOFTBALL

All games 4 p.m. unless noted  
4/12 John Glenn  
4/14 @ Stevenson (DH)  
4/17 TBA @ Farmington Hills  
4/17 TBA @ Mercy (Invite)

### DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL BASEBALL

All Times 4 p.m. unless noted  
4/9 11 a.m. @ U of D (DH)  
4/10 1 p.m. @ Ann Arbor Gabriel  
4/16 @ Brother Rice (DH)  
4/16 @ Walled Lake Northern  
4/17 11 a.m. DeLaSalle (DH)

### LACROSSE

All times are p.m.  
4/10 4 Culver  
4/11

# Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Mathnasium classes add up to a smarter child

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

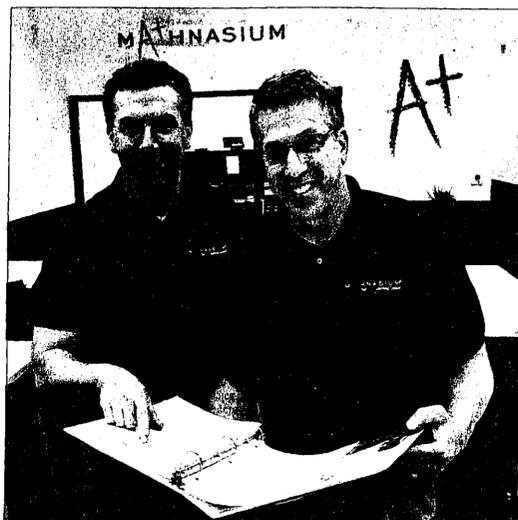
We are a math learning center. We work with kids from kindergarten through 12th grade. Our students range from those that are having difficulty with their current math classes to those that are above grade level and looking for a challenge.

We tailor each child's learning plan to his or her unique needs. We do this using the thousands of pages of Mathnasium curriculum, which has been developed from over 30 years of experience with teaching and tutoring math. In addition to meeting the needs of each child, we also instill number sense through our "Workout Book," allowing students to apply math to the real world in a simple and meaningful way. How did you first decide to open your business?

We had worked together on various projects at Ford Motor Company over the past 10 years. In January 2009 we found ourselves, within a week of each other, with early retirement. We made the most of the situation and starting looking for something to do together. We wanted to utilize our skills and at the same time give something back to the community (Patrick is an engineer who loved working with math and Joe had a background in education). Both of us tutored and coached over the years and thought helping kids understand math in a fun way would be the perfect fit for us. After a lot of research, we found Mathnasium to have the best methods for helping kids learn, understand, and apply math - ultimately, making kids successful.

We looked at a number of communities in the Detroit metro area but decided on Novi because it is a community that values education. Mathnasium is a great compliment to the formal schooling that the residents hold as a priority.

Mathnasium focuses on math only. Our students are from a wide variety of backgrounds and skill levels. This ranges from students struggling with certain areas of math to those excelling above grade level. We met the unique needs of all of our students by using our own curriculum to present math in a way that makes sense to them (and in a fun way). After being assessed, students are provided with an individualized textbook having curriculum targeted at their needs. Students progress at a pace that is suitable to the way they learn best. As students complete each learning plan, we continually assess their progress and update their textbooks as appropriate. If a student progresses to, or is already at, their grade



Joe DeFlorio and Patrick Figurski, right, of Novi's Grand River Ave. Mathnasium. They're both owners and tutors and the mathematics instruction center.

**DETAILS**  
**Business Name:** Mathnasium of Novi  
**Address:** 4796 Grand River Avenue (next to Olga's in the Westmarket Plaza)  
**Your Name:** Patrick Figurski and Joe DeFlorio  
**Your Hometown:** Novi and Wyandotte  
**Business Opened When:** Oct. 19, 2009  
**Number of Employees:** five  
**Hours of Operation:** 3-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
**Your Business Specialty:** Math Learning Center  
**Phone:** (248) 679-4448  
**Website:** www.mathnasium.com/novi

**business owner to share with our readers?**

During our initial investigation of Mathnasium, we decided we needed to see a center up close and personal. There was a center in Raleigh, North Carolina that was earning all kinds of accolades for growing so quickly. We drove 13 hours to Raleigh and, unfortunately, the director was only able to meet with us for about two hours. Even though the time was short, the wealth of information she shared with us has been very beneficial. As a side benefit, we also realized after surviving over 24 hour in a car together, we were going to do well as business partners!

How has the recent economy affected your business?  
The economy has had two effects. The first is the emphasis on the importance of education. Families realize how important education is during difficult times like these. On the other hand, with those not working, extra expenses cannot easily be absorbed into a family budget. We have assisted a few families whose children attend here and have had an unexpected job change.

Any advice for business owners?  
Make sure that, whatever you decide to pursue, it is something you are passionate about. If it's something you enjoy you won't have difficulty putting in the long hours required to make it a success. What's in store for the future of your business?  
With summer fast approaching we're gearing up our summer programs. These programs enable students to

catch up and/or get a head-start for the upcoming school year.

In addition, we will continue working to grow our "community" of Mathnasium students in Novi as well as look at the possibility of opening additional centers in other communities.

### Business writing for the web

So, you know about social media, but how do you apply business writing for the web?  
Join in an evening of learning practical ideas and insights as Jennifer Oddo, author, will share her no-nonsense, sensible tips and ideas with the American Business Women's Association from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on April 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel (42100 Crescent Boulevard, Novi).

All women are welcome; pre-registration is required; the cost is \$16 pre-paid.  
ABWA is an organization for all women: working, retired, returning to work, or just starting a career. The Novi chapter meets on the second Wednesday of every month.

Visit [www.abwa-novi.org](http://www.abwa-novi.org) to download a mail-in registration form, to register using PayPal (\$17), or to contact ABWA.

### 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](http://www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar) or call (248) 858-0783.

- Future Workshops**  
(AM) Morning Class 9 a.m.-12/12:30 p.m.  
(PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. 9/9-30 p.m.  
April 2010  
8: Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business  
9: FastTrac® Listening To Your Business  
15: Pre-Business Research Workshop (PM)  
16: FastTrac® Growth Venture (Venture Forward)  
20: FastTrac® New Venture™  
20: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (PM)  
23: Oakland County CRA Small Business Money Smart Forum  
27: Legal & Financial Basics for Small Business  
28: Sales II: Is Following Up Your Best Sales Strategy?  
29: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (PM)  
May 2010  
5: WBE Certification Orientation  
11: Pre-Business Research Workshop (AM)  
12: Team SBA Financing Roundtable  
13: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (AM)  
20: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (AM)  
27: Small Business Loan Workshop  
June 2010  
1: Pre-Business Research Workshop (PM)  
9: Fiscal Fitness for the Growing Business  
16: Sales I: Effective Networking  
17: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (PM)  
23: QuickBooks Essentials Part I  
23: QuickBooks Essentials Part II  
24: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (PM)

## THURSDAY SECTION C

# career builder

## 55 Jobs with High Growth in 2010

Rachel Zupak, CareerBuilder.com writer  
Although 2009 saw some of the most desolate unemployment numbers in history, there is reason to believe that things are starting to look up.

Both the unemployment rate and the number of jobless persons decreased in November to 10 percent and 15.4 million, respectively, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That was down from October, when the unemployment was at an all-time-high of 10.2 percent and there were 15.7 million unemployed persons.

In addition, although employment fell in several industries, several groups saw little change or added jobs in November.

Employment in professional and business services rose by 86,000, with temporary help services adding 52,000 jobs, the majority of the increase. Since July, temporary help services employment has risen by 117,000. Health-care employment rose to 21,000 in November, with gains in home health-care services (7,000) and hospitals (7,000). The health-care industry has added 613,000 jobs since the recession began in December 2007.

While there was little change in wholesale and retail trade, department stores added 8,000 jobs over the month. Finally, the number of jobs in transportation and warehousing, financial activities, and leisure and hospitality showed little change over the month.

As these numbers continue to trend upward, there should be hope for the millions of people still looking for a job in 2010. The labor force is projected to increase by 12.6 million people during the 2008-18 period, according to the BLS. Total employment is expected to increase by 10.1 percent, adding about 15.3 million workers over the decade - including in 2010.

It should be noted, however, that the jobs that will be added won't be evenly distributed across industries and occupational groups. It goes without saying that changes in consumer demand, technology and the like will continue to affect the economic structure.

If you're looking for a job this year, here are 55 (of many) jobs to look for in 2010, defined as jobs that saw growth in the second half of 2009 in every industry.\*  
**Industry: Management, business and financial operations**

**Jobs that saw growth in management:**  
1. Marketing and sales managers  
2. Purchasing managers  
3. Property, real estate and community association managers  
**Jobs that saw growth in business and financial operations:**  
4. Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products  
5. Cost estimators  
6. Meeting and convention planners  
**Industry: Professional and related occupations**  
**Jobs that saw growth in computer and mathematics:**  
7. Computer programmers  
8. Network systems and data communications analysts  
9. Statisticians  
**Jobs that saw growth in architecture and engineering:**  
10. Electrical and electronics engineers  
11. Materials engineers  
12. Engineering technicians, except drafters  
**Jobs that saw growth in life, physical and social sciences:**  
13. Market and survey researchers  
14. Psychologists  
15. Urban and regional planners  
**Jobs that saw growth in community and social services:**  
16. Counselors  
17. Social workers  
18. Religious activities and education director

**Jobs that saw growth in legal:**  
19. Judges, magistrates and other judicial workers  
20. Paralegals and legal assistants  
**Jobs that saw growth in education, training and library:**  
21. Archivists, curators and museum technicians  
22. Librarians  
**Jobs that saw growth in arts, design, entertainment, sports and media:**  
23. Designers  
24. Athletes, coaches, umpires and related workers  
25. Editors  
**Jobs that saw growth in health-care practitioner and technical:**  
26. Chiropractors  
27. Occupational therapists  
28. Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians  
**Industry: Service occupations**  
**Jobs that saw growth in health-care support:**  
29. Nursing, psychiatric and home-health aides  
30. Massage therapists  
31. Dental assistants  
**Jobs that saw growth in protective services:**  
32. Firefighters  
33. Bailiffs, correctional officers and jailers  
**Jobs that saw growth in food preparation and serving related occupations:**  
34. Chefs and head cooks  
35. Bartenders  
**Jobs that saw growth in building and**



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grounds cleaning and maintenance:  
36. Pest control workers  
37. Grounds maintenance workers  
**Jobs that saw growth in personal care and service:**  
38. Tour and travel guides  
39. Child-care workers  
40. Recreation and fitness workers  
**Industry: Sales and office occupations**  
**Jobs that saw growth in sales and related:**  
41. Cashiers  
42. Advertising sales agents  
43. Travel agents  
**Jobs that saw growth in office and administrative support:**  
44. Customer service representatives  
45. Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping  
46. Office machine operators, except computer  
**Industry: Natural resources, construction and maintenance**  
**Jobs that saw growth in construction and extraction:**  
47. Carpenters  
48. Cement masons, concrete finishers and terrazzo workers  
49. Electricians  
**Industry: Installation, maintenance and repair**  
**Jobs that saw growth:**  
50. Automotive body and related repairers  
51. Electrical and electronics installers and repairers, transportation  
**Industry: Production, transportation and material moving**  
**Jobs that saw growth in production:**  
52. Bakers  
53. Inspector, testers, sorters, sampler and weighers  
**Jobs that saw growth in transportation and material moving:**  
54. Refuse and recyclable material collectors  
55. Industrial truck and tractor operators  
\*Data reflects figures based on the second- and third-quarter employment numbers according to the Current Population Survey released by the BLS.  
Get the latest job search advice and news on The Work Buzz, CareerBuilder's job seeker blog. Follow CareerBuilder on Twitter.

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# SPRING SURGE LIFTS AUTO DEALS, SALES ACROSS THE BOARD

Advertising Feature

## CAReport



By Dale Buss

American consumers returned to showrooms in force during March, driving overall sales to their best levels since last summer's peak around Cash for Clunkers. Automakers sold a total of 1.07 million vehicles in the United States last month, the highest absolute number of sales since the federal government's massive buyback of late-model used cars sent sales skyrocketing last August. Last month's number also was 25 percent ahead of March, 2009.

Even Toyota sales recovered strongly with an attractive incentive program after two long months during which the brand's reputation was badly battered. Sales for General Motors and Ford brands also increased smartly in March compared with a year ago, and so did results for most foreign-owned brands.

Of course, Toyota greased the skids tremendously as March began by offering the most extensive program of sales incentives ever promoted to American consumers by the company. Publicity surrounding its safety recalls in January and February had robbed Toyota's brands of tens of thousands of sales, and company executives launched the aggressive incentive program to attempt to precipitate an immediate

reversal of that trend.

It worked. Toyota's US sales increased by 41 percent compared with a year earlier and by 87 percent over sales in February. "Consumers responded to the industry offers in March and came out in droves," said Don Esmond, senior vice president of Toyota Motor Sales USA. "Our incentives clearly had an impact."

Jessica Caldwell, senior industry analyst for Edmunds.com, agreed. "People were lured by the money thrown out on the hood," she said. "It shows that [incentives] remain a big driver and also that people were waiting for a reason to buy Toyota. They saw the opportunity and thought they might be once-in-a-lifetime kinds of deals, and jumped on them."

And overall, Caldwell said, March results "showed that people were not as unwilling to buy a Toyota now as we'd heard in the media. Some people thought it might be years before Toyota could recover" from the recall mess, "but these sales numbers are encouraging, so maybe it won't be years. Recovery for Toyota may be faster than we had thought."

Yet while Toyota executives clearly were relieved that their big gambit had worked to bring



The RAV4 compact SUV has become a hot seller again for Toyota.

Camry is Toyota's stalwart sedan model, and the new incentive program has helped bring buyers back to it.



customers back into their showrooms in March, the company's s ambitious program did little to change the industry's overall level of incentive spending.

"The industry didn't spike wildly" in incentive spending "as many people had thought it would," Caldwell said. The main reason was that, while General Motors, Ford and other automakers did more marketing and advertising around incentives in March in order to keep up with Toyota, the actual levels of incentive spending by Toyota's rivals didn't markedly increase.

"The major incentive programs by GM and Ford already had been in place for months prior" to March, Caldwell explained. "It was interesting what was happening in marketing communications versus what was happening in reality."

In fact, GM discounted any impact that Toyota's incentives

may have had on increasing showroom traffic across the industry. And its executives boasted that GM's average incentive spending dipped below the industry average for the first time on record. Other databases on incentive spending called that conclusion into question, but it was clear that the company has kept as much of a lid as possible on incentive spending.

That in itself was remarkable for the industry leader that more than once over the last several years had managed to jump-start America's automotive market with major new, and expensive, incentive programs.

"We did not give in to market pressure to pile on incentives" that tend to degrade brands, said Susan Docherty, GM's vice president of North American marketing. "It's important to manage our supply-and-demand and to keep improving the overall value for customers."

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