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NOVI COMPANY RAISES MONEY TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES, A4

THURSDAY December 9, 2010

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Volume 55 Number 29

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NOVI NEWS

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NOVI NOW County Clerk appointed

Bill Bullard, Jr. has been appointed by the Circuit Court to be County Clerk/ Register of Deeds for Oakland County.

"Bill Bullard is well known and has a good reputation for working with all areas of government to improve services to the public. The judges gave due diligence to this decision," said Oakland County Circuit Chief Judge Nanci Grant of Oakland County Circuit Court.

Holiday photos win! Send us your favorite holiday photos for a chance to win a prize.

Go to hometownlife.com (Get Published) and post your favorite holiday photo (or photos) with a short caption, then encourage friends and family to vote by clicking recommend under the photo. The top vote-getter will receive tickets for two to Emagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second and third place winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's pizza.

Contest ends midnight Dec. 31. Share your holiday spirit with others! Go to hometownlife.com.

Athletic boosters plan fund-raiser at Bagger Dave's

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club is inviting sports fans to take time out from the holiday rush and to enjoy a relaxing dinner with friends while supporting Novi athletic teams at the same time.

Dec. 15 is Novi Athletic Boosters night at Bagger Dave's, 26062 Novi Road. For all patrons who present the required certificate to their servers and dine between 5-9 p.m., Bagger Dave's will donate 15 percent of the total purchases to the Boosters. Proceeds from the fund-raiser will benefit all Novi high school and middle school athletic teams.

For additional information and to download the certificate, please visit the Athletics Page on the www.novi.k12.mi.us web site or Fund-raisers Page on the www.noviathleticboosters.com web site.

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Council delays emergency ordinance decision

Committee to review scope before bringing items back

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The Novi City Council is going to take its time to decide how it wants to proceed with updating a series of ordinances that are designed to help the city recover costs from extraordinary public safety expenses.

A second reading came before council last Monday, but the members chose to table the items and send them to the ordinance review committee

before possibly bringing them back to the council table.

The committee is made up of Mayor David Landry and council members Terry Margolis and Andrew Mutch.

The amendments are being requested to update the ordinances and make them consistent with state law and mutual aid agreements.

Several council members expressed concern over the language used and who would be charged, and also felt that if businesses were charged that

cost would eventually be passed down to the residents in some way.

Mayor Pro-tem Bob has opposed the amendments from the beginning, and agreed with council member Justin Fischer by calling the changes a slippery slope.

"Many times, we're going to charge for an act of God," he said. "It just doesn't seem reasonable or fair that the city of Novi would go down that avenue."

Terry Margolis shared her support for the changes, saying the intent is to help recover costs for "extraordinary" events.

"I think the concern I expressed last time about the broad nature of them

have been narrowed down and I think we have something here that really protects our residents against paying taxes toward things that someone should have protected against," she said.

City Manager Clay Pearson said he does not expect the ordinance review committee to come back with changes until after the start of 2011.

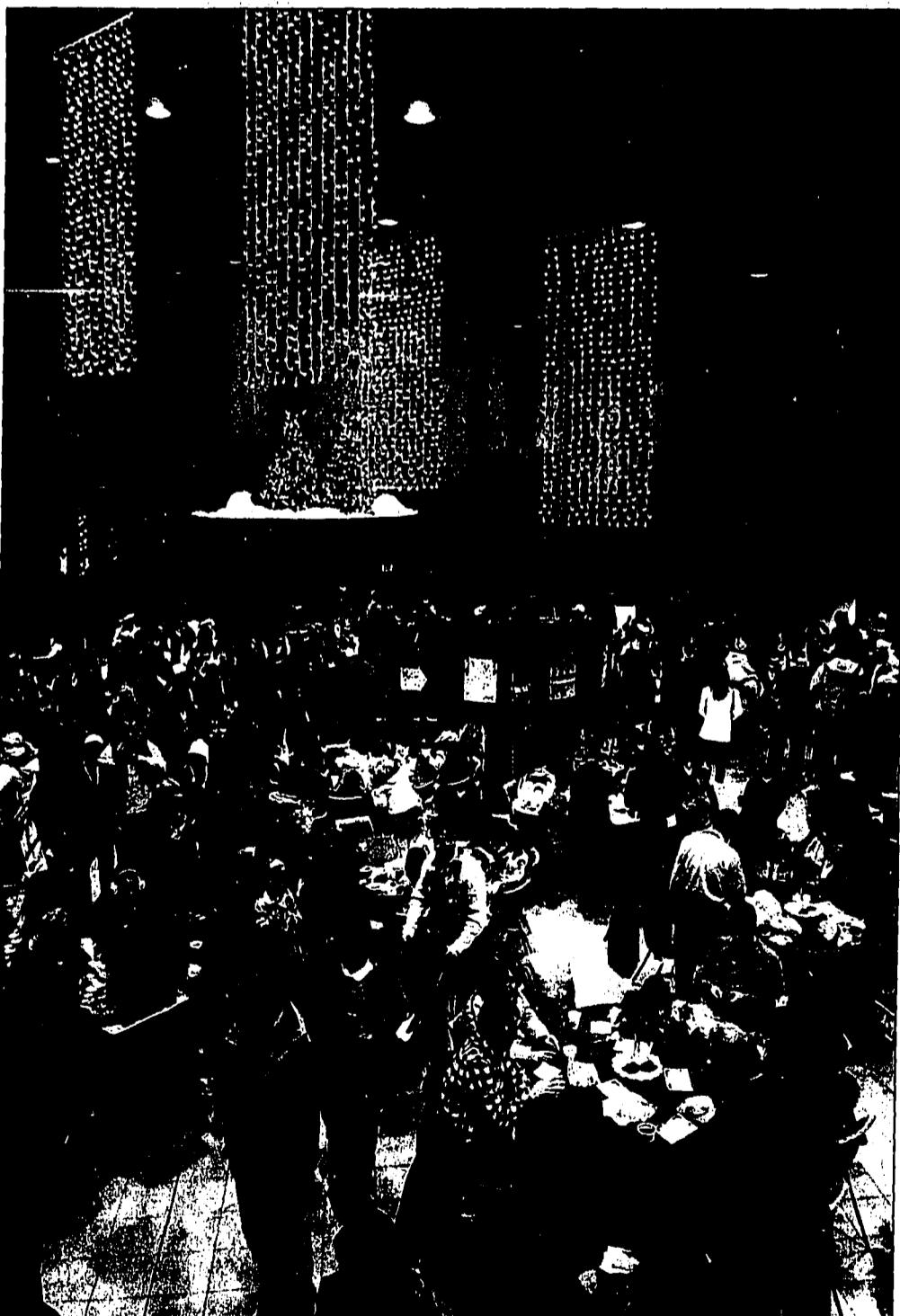
Gatt hopes what comes back tells him why the ordinance has to be changed, what laws have been passed that dictate the change and what the intention is with the change.

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

Ring in the holidays



Members of the Metropolitan DanCentre (from the Sports Club of Novi) perform ballet at the Dec. 3 "Light up the Night in Novi!" event at the Novi Civic Center.



Hundreds turned out for the Dec. 3. Light up the Night in Novi event at the civic center.

Wrobel appointed to seat on City Council

Longtime resident earned five of six votes

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

When the Novi City Council meeting ended Monday night, Wayne Wrobel rose from his seat in the audience and looked around the room as if he had to make sure it was real.

It started to sink in when fellow candidates and city staff members approached him with words of congratulation about his recent appointment to city council.

But for the 26-year Novi resident, who unsuccessfully ran for council in 2009, the realization of his accomplishment will not fully hit



Wrobel

him until he takes his seat for the first time Dec. 20. "Everything happens for a purpose," he said minutes after the

meeting ended. "It's kind of surreal right now."

Wrobel, who chairs the zoning board of appeals and served on the planning commission for five years, was selected over four other candidates — Laura Casey, Ed Kramer, Anamaria Kazanis

Please see WROBEL, A2

City hosting Nine Mile Road pathway meeting

Federal grant to fund majority of project

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi is holding a public meeting Monday night to discuss a proposal for a 10-foot wide pathway along the north side of Nine Mile Road from Haggerty to Meadowbrook Road.

Novi was awarded a \$146,200 federal grant through the Michigan Department

of Transportation for the project, which was identified by the Walkable Novi Committee as its top priority.

The grant also calls for the city to match \$97,480, and that money will come from the municipal street fund in the 2010-2011 budget.

"We just want to get people familiar with what we are doing, let them know the

Please see PATHWAY, A2

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Go Figure

The ArtsNovi inaugural Go Figure event was held Dec. 2. Fourteen artists created fun and funky pieces of art (check them out on ArtsNovi's Facebook page) that were auctioned to raise funds for the organization. Gjeeto's Salon was the gracious host and Carrabba's supplied food. Pictured is Dritan Vushaj bidding on one of the mannikins.

WROBEL
FROM PAGE A1

year early after being elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Wrobel said he is a very "analytical" person who looks at both sides of an issue, and is looking forward to establishing himself on what he calls a "really good team." "The best part is being able to contribute to my city," he said. "This is my home and I want to be proud to be from Novi." Wrobel will serve in the appointed position until the next election in November 2011. He also said Monday night that he plans on running for election at that time.

PATHWAY
FROM PAGE A1

plans and see what we can do to minimize the impact," said Brian Coburn, engineering manager for the city. The committee marked this project number one because of its future connection to the I-275 regional pathway, proximity to a dense population, public interest, connection of existing gaps and the access it will provide to other destinations in the city. Coburn said most pathways in the city are only eight feet wide, but because the project is federally funded they had to expand it to 10. He also said some trees might have to be moved, and the city will have to acquire between three and six permanent easements and approximately 10 temporary construction easements. The Monday meeting is from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Police Training Center connected to the police department. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2011 and completed in the fall. For more information, visit the project website at www.cityofnovi.org/9milepath.



The city of Novi was awarded a \$437,500 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the initial development of the Landings Park on Walled Lake.

Landings Property on its way to becoming a park
\$437,500 grant gets project off the ground

By Nathan Mueller, Staff Writer
The transition of the Landings Property into a public park took a giant leap forward last week after the city of Novi received a \$437,500 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to help fund the project. City council member Dave Staudt has been working on this plan for nearly eight years, finally getting support from his fellow council members last year. Approval of the grant application was done in March 2010. Staudt said the value of the property made it difficult for some people to support it as a park, but in the end "people started to see this as something the community needed to maintain." "This means we can take a truly historic property and properly make it available to residents of Novi," he said. "All the residents will have access to it, and not just limited access, but full access to the lake and everything around it." The grant was awarded to the city by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and required a minimum 25 percent local match. Novi officials chose to match 30 percent as part of the application, which will amount to \$187,500. The money will come from several areas including the 2009-10 parks, recreation and cultural services budget, the tree fund, a future city budget and a \$50,000 from the Park Foundation Naming Rights Fund. The preliminary project cost, which includes park infrastructure, promenade walkway, small fishing pier, landscaping, historical marker and park sign, is \$625,000. Staudt said the grant is important because it "lays the foundation," but bigger plans for the park will be proposed in the future. "When (residents) see it and see what we are ultimately going to do with it they are going to be in awe," he said. This is the sixth MNRTF grant the city has received, with the most recent being used to obtain the park property at Village Wood Lake near Malott Drive and Meadowbrook Road. Council member Andrew Mutch, who was in Lansing when the grant was approved, said it is "critical" the city continues to pursue funding opportunities like this to "leverage our local resources and stretch them further than we could do by ourselves." "This is a significant investment of state dollars into our community and continues our track record of successfully capturing trust fund dollars for the benefit of Novi residents," he said. The project agreement from MNRTF is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Board OKs bids to attack weeds in Walled Lake

Residents expected to see assessment on winter tax bill

By Nathan Mueller, Staff Writer
The weeds in Walled Lake are going to be treated after all. Despite opposition from a small group of residents and several meetings discussing the best way to solve the problem over the last year, the Walled Lake Improvement Board moved forward in late November with plans to address a weed problem in the lake. The board approved a bid of \$66,400 for mechanical harvesting of 120 acres of the lake and a bid of \$13,615 for herbicide treatment of 30 acres of the lake. Brian Coburn, secretary/treasurer of the board and city of Novi engineering manager, said the treatments will start in April and the board will review the results to see how successful it was. "You are not going to cure the problem," he said. "But at the end of the year we will meet and evaluate how the program worked and potentially make some changes to find the right mix of treatments that will work." The \$519,615 project is being funded by a five-year Special Assessment Roll that includes roughly 1,367 parcels in Novi and Walled Lake. The city of Novi also contributed \$30,000 to the project. Coburn said the decision to move forward with the mechanical harvesting and herbicide treatment came from an engineering study done in November 2009. Residents are expected to see the assessment on their winter tax bill. "The mission was to come up with a program to address the weeds in the lake and we are at the point now where we can collect funds," he said.

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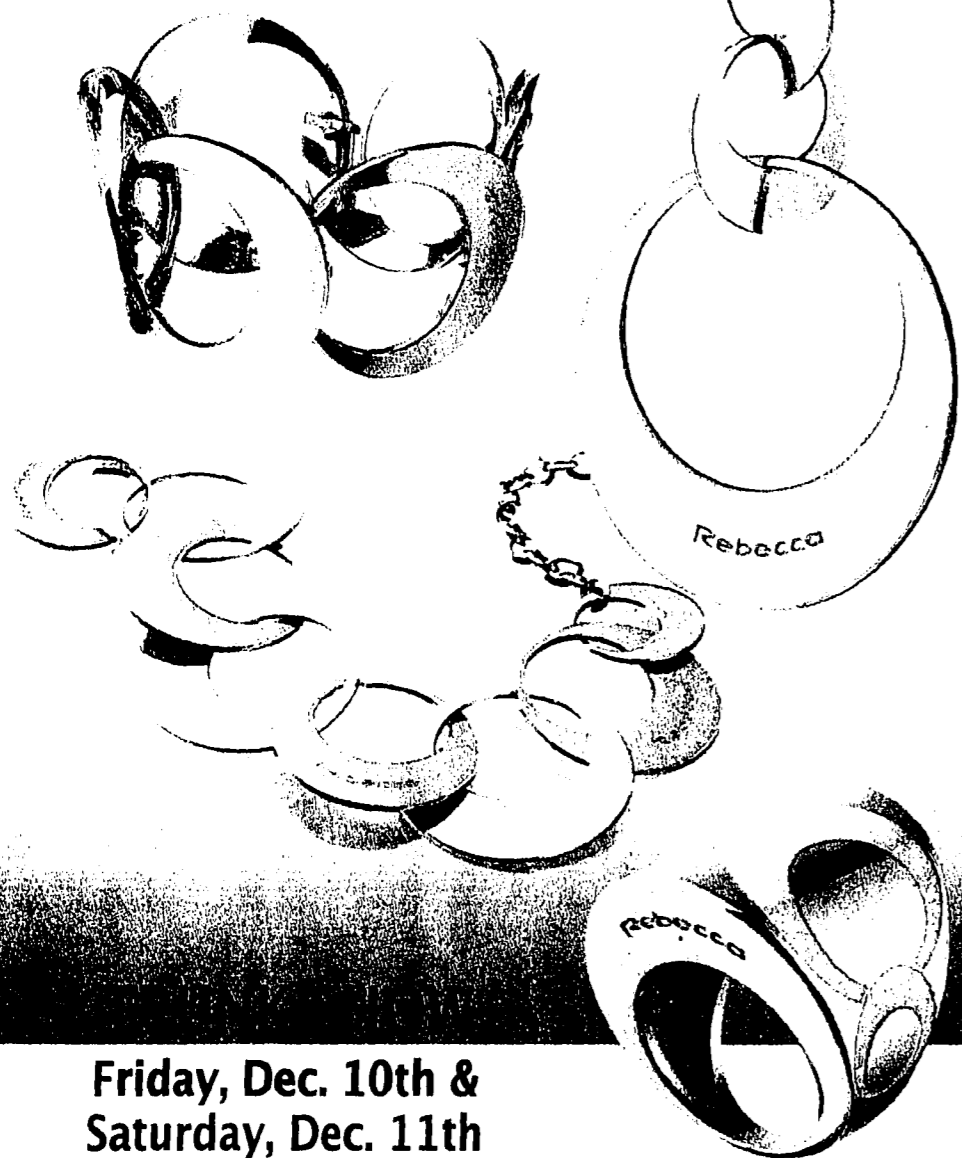
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Make sure professional communication is precise

Many clients criticize their attorneys' documents because they are not easy to decipher or are written in legalese. Although there is a movement in the legal community to write in plain English, this does not mean that legal documents will become watered down. Essentially, this just means replacing the larger multi-syllabic words with simpler words that are (supposed to be) synonymous.

Every legal document must be written precisely. Precise writing is exact, it is clear and it eliminates any alternative interpretation of the document. If there is a secondary meaning to a single phrase or an instruction is vague, this will lead to litigation; in other words a court will decide the actual (i.e. the court's) meaning of the document.

A good attorney recognizes the exactness of his or her writing and will spend a lot of effort being certain that the meaning a client intended is conveyed in the particular document. When clients complain that the "lawyers are nit-picking their documents" or "wordsmithing", the attorneys are actually trying to preserve the precision or meaning of their writing. Poorly drafted documents can have a dire consequence on clients.

For example, if an individual wanted to deed his property to his two sons and daughter-in-law, the deed could say: 1) in equal shares to son A, son B and son B's wife, 2) to son A and son B and son B's wife, 3) in three separate shares, one each to A, B and B's wife,



Takin' Care of Business
Dan Hoops

or 4) in separate shares, with one each to A, B and B's wife. On their face, the examples seem to accomplish the goal, but a closer analysis of each shows the possibility of an error. Are (or is) B and B's wife considered one share or are they separate shares? Should the ownership be "equally" between the three (or two) parties? The problem with this example is two-fold, the instructions from the client may have been vague, but the writing is equally as vague.

While courts are called upon to determine the true meaning of legal documents, this can be a difficult and expensive process that should be avoided. Here are a few tips that may be helpful if you are considering any transaction with a legal document: a) read the document before you sign it, b) do not prepare your own legal documents or purchase "do-it-yourself" kits, c) be sure your attorney does not gloss over anything in a document with the old "that's standard boilerplate language", d) save e-mails, draft documents, notes from meetings, and anything that could be used to "evidence" your true intent, and e) ask a lot of questions. This column may seem to be another "obvious" piece of advice from just another lawyer justifying his keep, but I can tell you in my experience in drafting and reviewing thousands of documents, precise writing is a problem. Part of this problem is with the scrivener being sloppy or not asking the correct questions; part of this problem is with the client not being completely forthright in their answers or not reviewing the documents as prepared. Both of these problems should be resolved long before someone signs a single document.

There is a phrase that I have become very familiar with in the past few years: "lost in transition". You can think that you understand the true meaning of a statement when you read it; however, much can be lost if the statement is not clearly communicated. Any dispute or argument resulting from a misunderstanding or miscommunication is the fault of the communicating party. Somewhere along the road the meaning of their communication to the other party became lost, vague, misinterpreted, misunderstood... it was not precise.

Daniel S. Hoops is an Assistant Professor at Walsh Business College teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Business Law and Taxation Department. Professor Hoops holds a Master of Laws in Estate Planning from the University of Miami School of Law, a Juris Doctor from the Michigan State University Detroit College of Law and a Bachelor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan. Professor Hoops is also a 1987 graduate of Novi High School. He can be reached at Walsh College at 248.923.1334 or dhoops@walshcol-lege.edu.

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Check back weekly for new puzzles!

Memory Care

SINUI

Suspects steal phones from restaurant

A pair of unknown suspects stole two iPhones from two different tables while the victims were dining at Toasted Oak around 10:15 p.m. on Dec. 1.

According to the first victim, he was sitting at his table when a black male in his late teens grabbed his phone off the table and ran outside into a car that was waiting for him.

The second victim told police he left his phone on the table when he went to check out the wine selection, and while doing so saw another black man in his early 20s wearing a red plaid vest grab his cell phone and run out the door.

A waitress at the restaurant said the two suspects told her they were waiting for a friend and would order later. She went into the kitchen a short while later and when she returned she saw the suspects run out the door.

Another witness chased the subjects outside and was able to get the license plate number off the car.

The hotel and restaurant video cameras were able to capture the subjects taking the phones.

The case has been forwarded to the detective's bureau for further investigation.

Items stolen from unlocked car

Two Novi residents had their Ford Escape broken into overnight on Dec. 1 while it was parked outside of their apartment on Fountain Park Drive.

According to the report, the woman went to get her wallet from the car in the morning and could not find it. Her boyfriend also checked the car and his broken iPod also was stolen.

The vehicle had been unlocked overnight and there was no evidence of forced entry.

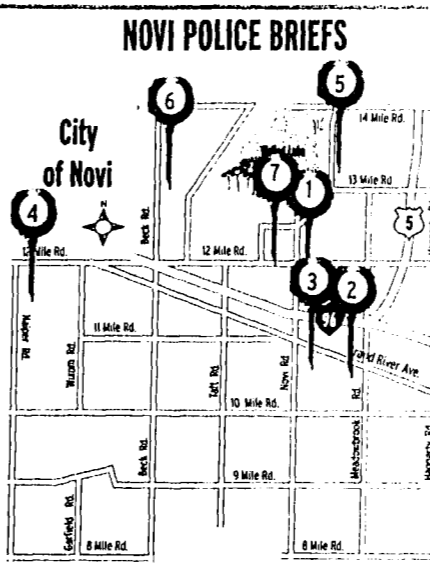
The wallet contained four credit cards and her driver's license.

Police have no suspects.

Drunk breaks glass door at Post Bar

A 24-year-old man was arrested for malicious destruction of property at 2:15 a.m. on Nov. 27 after he refused to leave the Post Bar and broke a glass entrance door.

According to police, the man tried to get back inside the bar several times but bouncers would not let him. When he was moved away from the door he grabbed it with both hands and slammed it closed,



NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

stopping. According to the report, when the officer approached the car he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants and the man admitted to drinking at his father's house in Detroit and said his license was suspended.

He failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .15 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

A computer check showed that he had several suspensions, including seven prior suspensions for plate confiscation. He also had a traffic warrant out of Detroit.

Police transported him to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and driving while license suspended.

Welder found in drunk driver stop

A 61-year-old man was arrested at 9:58 p.m. on Dec. 4 for drunk driving, driving on a suspended license, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia after being stopped by police at Pontiac Trail and Beck Road.

The man did not have his license on him and police could smell the odor of intoxicants coming from inside his car.

He failed field sobriety tests and preliminary breath test registered a BAC of .15 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

During a search of his vehicle, an officer found a marijuana pipe, and when the suspect exited the patrol car at the station, a small bag of marijuana was found on the seat.

The man was issued citations and later released.

Garmin stolen from car in theater parking lot

A woman had her Garmin GPS stolen from her car during the afternoon of Nov. 22 while it was parked in the parking lot of the Imagine Theater.

She told police that she locked her car when she went inside and when she returned the driver's side window was broken and the GPS that was hanging on the windshield was gone.

Change was stolen from the center console and the glove box was open, but the woman thinks the GPS was the only thing stolen.

Police have no suspects.

Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

Wellinger didn't seem drunk before Weinstein deaths, co-worker testifies

BY DAVID ASHENFELTER
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

One of the last co-workers to see Thomas Wellinger before he plowed his SUV into a car, killing a mother and her two young children, said he seemed normal 45 minutes before the crash.

Christ Tayan told a federal court jury in Detroit on Dec. 1 that he had previously confronted Wellinger, 54, of Farmington Hills about his drinking problem, but believed Wellinger had gone to rehab and overcome it.

He said he was shocked to learn that his friend and co-worker caused the 2005 Oakland County jeweler Gary Weinstein, who is suing UGS Corp. -- now Siemens -- saying it is liable.

"I didn't think he was drinking," Tayan testified on the first day of trial. He was one of several co-workers who are expected to say that they knew Wellinger had a drinking problem, but saw no evidence of it on the day of the accident.

Weinstein's lawyer, Frank Guerra IV of San Antonio, told jurors Wellinger was "a ticking time bomb."

"Had UGS acted responsibly on the day of this accident, Mr. Weinstein would not have lost his family," Guerra said.

He said Wellinger's boss had ordered him to see a doctor about his alcoholism the day of the accident and should not have let him drive.

Wellinger is serving 19-30 years in state prison for second-degree murder.

Police said he hit Judith Weinstein's car at 70 m.p.h. and had a blood-alcohol level of 0.435 -- more than five times the legal limit of 0.08 -- when tested afterward.

UGS lawyer James Feeney of Bloomfield Hills told jurors that Wellinger is to blame, not UGS.

"This accident was a horrendous tragic event," Feeney said. "But this happened because Thomas Wellinger chose to drive recklessly."

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Wellinger is serving 19-30 years in state prison for second-degree murder.

Police said he hit Judith Weinstein's car at 70 m.p.h. and had a blood-alcohol level of 0.435 -- more than five times the legal limit of 0.08 -- when tested afterward.

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Novi/Northville

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NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

Priests: Father Timothy Hogan, pastor and Father Michael Zuelch, associate pastor Crosspointe Meadows Church...

worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service...

Vespers Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Details: This traditional-contemporary service is led by Reverend Ritter...

St. John Lutheran Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills Contact: (248) 474-0584...

public and currently enrolling new students. The UUCF Interfaith Journey curriculum encompasses the Unitarian Universalist philosophy...

Details: Family members of all ages can gather for drumming, chanting, and meditation followed by a brief pastoral worship service...

Sunday Worship Time: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Traditional: 9:30 and 11 a.m. Contemporary: Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services...

Passages Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968

DOROTHY E. DOMANSKI Age 82, passed away November 29, 2010. A memorial service was held on December 4...

ALLAN L. PRESSLER Age 68, passed away December 3, 2010 surrounded by his loving family...

MARCIA J. DREFFS Age 72, passed away Dec. 6, 2010. Visitation Dec. 9, Thurs. 3-7 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME...

ILA MARIE OAKS Age 97, of the Springs at Whitefish, died Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, Montana...

KENNETH WAYNE EVERSOLE Age 61, of Canton, MI passed November 29 after a long battle with Leukemia and Lymphoma...

VERONICA FRANCES ROSE Age 102, of New Boston, formerly of Northville, passed away 11/25/2010. Donations would be appreciated to the American Cancer Society...

ELSI ZAPOLI Crossed over on December 6, 2010 at the age of 98 in South Lyon. Elsie was born in White Pine, Ontonagon County of Michigan on January 20, 1912...

ARTHUR GERISH Age 92 of Northville, December 4, 2010. Beloved husband of the late Loving Father of Bruce (Bridget), Susan, David and Amy (Steve) Katz...

AMY M. POWERS Age 32, passed away Dec. 1, 2010. Visitation was held on Friday, December 3, from 4-8 p.m. with a funeral service at 8 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME...

GERALDINE A. LEHR Age 74, died Nov. 29, 2010. Visitation was held on Dec. 2 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral was held on Dec. 3 at Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church...

OBITUARY POLICY e-mail your obit to: HTWobits@hometownlife.com

For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7822 Liz Keiser 586-977-7338

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

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

Faith Community Presbyterian Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunitynovi.org

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

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org

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

Highland Community Church Location: 2350 Harvey Lake Rd. Contact: (248) 887-4556

New Life Christian Fellowship Location: 120 Bishop St., Highland off Millwood Rd. Contact: (248) 887-1311

Highland United Methodist Church Location: 680 W. Livingston Rd. Contact: (248) 887-1311

Church of the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church Location: 3700 Newby Road, Northville Contact: (248) 349-1133

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Novi United Methodist Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit unmcov.com

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Your Invitation to Worship

Brighton LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH Location: 5051 Pleasant Valley Road - Brighton, MI 48114

Milford CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Location: 620 General Motors Rd., Milford Church office: (248) 348-5205

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375

HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: (248) 348-1020

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD Location: 133 Detroit St., Milford, MI 48065

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Location: 45325 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375

Farmington Hills ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Location: 23225 Gill Rd., Farmington Hills Contact: (248) 474-0584

SOUTH HILL CHURCH, S.B.C. Location: 1205 South Hill Rd., Farmington Hills Contact: (248) 885-3500

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi Contact: 248-349-2345

OAK POINTE CHURCH Location: 50500 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi Contact: (248) 912-0043

Highland HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH Location: 2350 Harvey Lake Rd. Contact: (248) 887-4556

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH Location: 11166 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48360

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi Contact: (248) 349-2652

South Lyon CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod) Location: 407-8811 • 486-4335

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Location: 120 Bishop St., Highland off Millwood Rd. Contact: (248) 887-1311

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation Location: 5755 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48163

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church Location: 22200 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon Contact: (248) 887-1311

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON Location: 60303 South Lyon Rd., South Lyon Contact: (248) 349-2652

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Location: 680 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48367

NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Location: 9725 Grand River Ave., New Hudson Contact: (248) 437-2222

The Church of Christ Location: 21850 Pontiac Trail - South Lyon, MI 48178

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH Location: 28900 Pontiac Trail (just south of Silver Lk Rd.)

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SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH Location: 21833 Pontiac Trail (near Jewett and Over) 2010 S. Lafayette St. - South Lyon, MI 48178

White Lake WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Location: 480 Highland Rd., White Lake Contact: (248) 887-4556

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE Location: 777 West 4 Mile Road - 19 Mile and Tall Road

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) OF SOUTH LYON Location: 10774 Nine Mile Road, Novi Contact: (248) 349-2652

BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH Location: 601 S. Lafayette St. - South Lyon, MI 48178

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Location: 4000 Six Mile Rd., Northville Contact: (248) 349-1133

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Location: 4000 Six Mile Rd., Northville Contact: (248) 349-1133

FAMILY LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH A/G Location: 62415 S. 10 Mile Rd. 427-1472 • www.familylife.org

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COMMUNITY BRIEF

Middle school productions

A group of almost 60 students from Novi Middle School, along with help from some high school students, will be putting on a pair of one-act plays at 7:30 p.m. Friday night at the middle school.

The middle school students are the actors and production crew, while the high school students are handling director duties and technical support.

The two plays are titled "Christmas in July" by Evelyn Merritt and "New Socks for the Barefoot Family" by Linda Kelly and Darby Willis Chism.

Tickets for the show are \$7, and \$5 for seniors and children under 12.

The students also are asking for a donation of socks from each audience member. The socks will be given to the local clothes closet.

Novi Middle School is located at 49000 Eleven Mile Road.

Meadowbrook hosts Christmas Cookie Walk

Homemade holiday cookies in dozens of varieties will take center stage Saturday, Dec. 11, at the second annual Christmas Cookie Walk held at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. Candy, breads, fudge, cookie mixes and pre-boxed wrapped cookie assortments will also be for sale.

The cookie walk offers busy holiday shoppers the opportunity to enjoy homemade cookies, candies and baked goods without taking time from their busy schedules to make their own. Cookies are \$8 per pound with other items priced individually.

Each participant will receive a box (or as many boxes as needed) and gloves to walk among tables laden with trays of holiday cookies and other delights.

Doors open at 9 a.m., but entry numbers will be distributed starting at 8:30 a.m. Free coffee and "broken cookies" will be served to those waiting in line. Admission is free.

New this year will be an opportunity for visitors to tour Meadowbrook's Meeting House (sanctuary) decorated for Advent. Guides will share information about the history and architecture of the church. Tours will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run throughout the cookie walk. Proceeds from the event go to the church and its missions.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road between 8 and 9 Mile roads in Novi. For further information, contact the church office at 248.348.7757 or www.mbccc.org.

Swearing-in ceremony

Several local elected officials will be sworn in to office during a ceremony at the Novi Civic Center on Monday, Dec. 20.

Wendy Potts, Oakland County Circuit Court judge, will conduct the proceedings for 39th District Michigan State Representative Hugh Crawford; his wife, 9th District Oakland County Commissioner Kathy Crawford; Mike Kowall, 15th District State Senator Mike Kowall; and his wife, 44th District State Representative Eileen Kowall.

"Hugh and I feel that our swearing-in should be in the heart of the City we represent rather than Lansing or Pontiac," said Kathy Crawford, "and we gladly welcome everyone to attend."

A reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center atrium followed by the swearing-in at 6:30 in the council chamber.

Intern for Kowall

State Senator-elect Mike Kowall (R-White Lake) is offering several internship

positions effective Jan. 1. The positions are for his Senate office in Lansing.

Interns will provide assistance to Senator-Elect Kowall and the people of the 15th State Senate district. Responsibilities will include but are not limited to: answering phones, drafting written correspondence to groups and individuals, monitoring legislation, attending meetings, and conducting research. Additional responsibilities may be assigned, as warranted.

Candidates for these positions should possess excellent communications skills, specifically writing and telephone skills. Legislative experience and a basic understanding of computer office programs, such as Microsoft Word and Excel, are helpful.

This is an unpaid position, and school credit can be arranged.

"This is an excellent opportunity for a young person to get an 'insider's' understanding of the Legislature and the legislative process," Kowall said.

Interested individuals are encouraged to send a resume and writing sample to: State Senator-elect Mike Kowall, Attn: Mike Murray, Chief of Staff, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, or e-mail to contact@murrcom.net

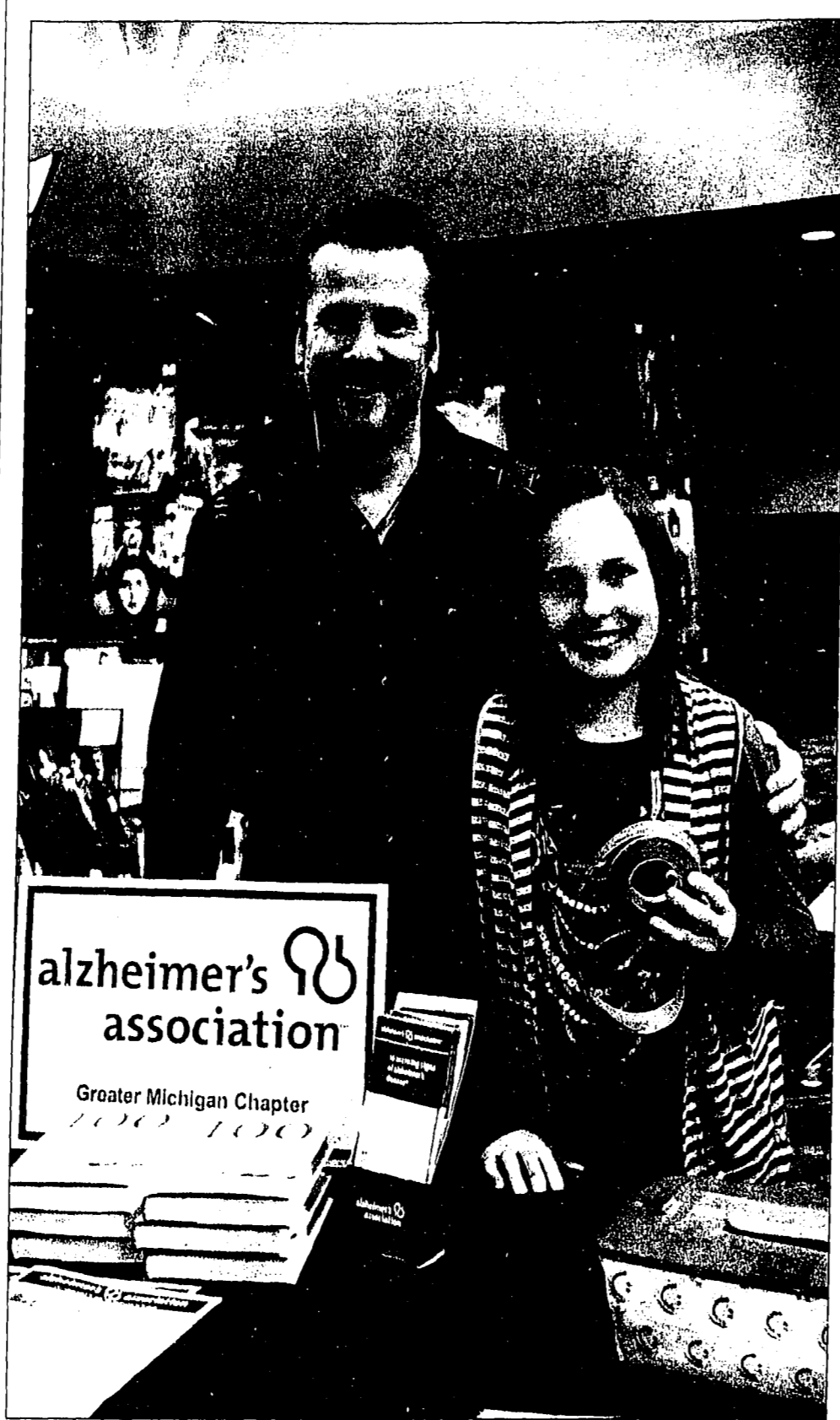
Exercise at The Manor

The Manor of Novi, one of Ciena Healthcare's 33 nursing and rehabilitation communities in Michigan, is the new host of Ernie Clark's POWERSIT, a free exercise program specifically designed for seniors. The program is open to its residents and seniors in the community.

With the help of Ernie Clark, a former Detroit Lions football player and founder of Life Long Fitness, participants can "sit and get fit" and learn about improving their health and fitness.

"This free program is an opportunity for our residents and area seniors to socialize and get involved in physical activities to heal and maintain

Please see BRIEFS, A11



Fighting Alzheimer's

There was a little more than just movies showing at the Emagine Theatre in Novi on Dec. 4. Also showing were plenty of movie items from signed movie posters to signed DVDs, and even some sports memorabilia also and plenty more including a mystery tent where movie fanatics could purchase items for as little as one dollar from hats to T-shirts. The event, the Ninth Annual Magazine Charity Event, would benefit the Alzheimer's Association, and was once again put on by Russell Truck, director of Operations for ExclusiveMagazine.com. On hand helping Trunk was 11-year-old Hope Drogmiller.

HOPE DROGMILLER

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE A1

a healthy mind and body," said Lisa Bertold, administrator.

The exercise program will take place on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month starting on Dec. 8 at 11 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the Activities Department at (248) 477-2000, or novi_admissions@cienafacilities.com.

The Manor of Novi is located at 24500 Meadowbrook Road.

Michigan Film Gala

Global Pictures and Michigan Movie Magazine and Specs Howard present the first-ever Michigan Film Gala on Dec. 31 at Sheraton Novi Hotel. The Michigan Film Gala will include a showcase of Michigan films starting with "CornerStore," a Red Carpet, meet and greet, a dinner, special guest speakers and countdown to New Year's.

Brandon T. Jackson (Tropic Thunder, Roll Bounce and Big Momma's House 3) will be hosting the event. Special guest speakers include Tanya Ryan (producer of SNL), Rod Harrell (CEO of RLH Talent), and Susan Frishman (entertainment attorney).

The event is open to actors, directors, producers aspiring film-makers and fans.

The showcase begins at 9 a.m.; there will be a Red Carpet event beginning at 7 p.m., followed by a meet-and-greet. The evening will conclude with a dinner, special guest speakers and the ringing in of the New Year with a champagne toast at midnight Jan. 1.

For more information, visit <http://www.mmdnewsire.com/michigan-film-gala-0988.html>.

Wanted: Vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Novi News along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here. Just be sure to include the newspaper in your photo.

Send your photo in a jpg format to estone@gannett.com. Identify everyone in the photo (first and last names) and tell us where they live. Tell us when the photo was taken and where. Tell us what was special about your trip, if you wish. Include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if necessary.

Then look for your photo in the newspaper and on our Facebook site under WISH YOU WERE HERE!



A group of women are gathered at the Novi Senior Center to listen to Loretta Underwood's presentation and tea-time chat about historical ladies' fashions on Dec. 6. Underwood's presentation addresses a tea-time gathering at the Novi Senior Center. Underwood is a long variety of turn-of-the-century ladies' shoes, hats, handbags, a hat box, pin tube and a very small, non-ironing iron.



PHOTO BY JOHN HOOPER'S STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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In Loving Memory...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00** for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 19th
...in the Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 23rd
...in the Observer Newspapers and Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 13th

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Blue Care Network has just been recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), which named BCN Advantage the highest-ranked Medicare plan in the state.

This is important news to anyone eligible for Medicare and we are honored by this ranking.

Have questions? Call us. The Medicare Advantage plans offered by Blue Care Network are comprehensive and complete, and we can help you select a plan that best suits your needs.

To learn more, call us anytime from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week at 1-888-483-0354. TTY users, call 1-800-481-8704.

Or visit us online at MIBCNC.com/medicare.

NCQA's Health Insurance Plan Rankings 2010-11 - Medicare BCN Advantage HMO-POS™ is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and a licensed licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BCN Advantage HMO-POS™

Blue Care Network of Michigan

OUR VIEWS

Tie One On Heed MADD's message this holiday season

Whether it's intentional or not, there's a good chance that many of us have taken the risk once or twice, maybe even more of driving after drinking.

We're not talking about falling down drunk amounts, but maybe one or two drinks. Doesn't sound like much, but according to Michigan State Police Capt. Monica Yesil, commander of Traffic Safety, having one or two drinks "does impair judgment."

Each year, during this holiday season, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) conducts the Tie One On for Safety public awareness initiative, to encourage us all to "Drive Safe, Sober and Buckled Up." Tie One On for Safety, originally named the Project Red Ribbon Campaign, was created in 1986 to help heighten public attention to drinking and driving during the holiday season.

The program was designed to encourage the public to become actively involved in the fight against drunk driving by tying a red ribbon to a visible place on their vehicle such as the antenna or side mirror. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving, and promotes always wearing your seat belt, which remains the best defense against a drunken driver.

It is a campaign we urge our readers to join.

According to MADD, in 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in alcohol-impaired traffic crashes across the U.S. The organization also reports that three of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lives and on average, someone is killed by an intoxicated driver every 45 minutes. Not a startling statistic, considering that more than 1.46 million impaired drivers were arrested in 2006 - an arrest rate of one for every 139 licensed drivers in the nation.

According to MADD, in 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in alcohol-impaired traffic crashes across the U.S. The organization also reports that three of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lives and on average, someone is killed by an intoxicated driver every 45 minutes. Not a startling statistic, considering that more than 1.46 million impaired drivers were arrested in 2006 - an arrest rate of one for every 139 licensed drivers in the nation.

This is the season when we gather with family and friends to celebrate. It's a time when we ring in the New Year with a toast or two. We are not saying the drinking can't be a part of the revelry. What we are saying is that if you plan to share a bottle of wine over dinner or have a few drinks with a friend at the neighborhood bar, be responsible - not just for yourself, but for others on the road.

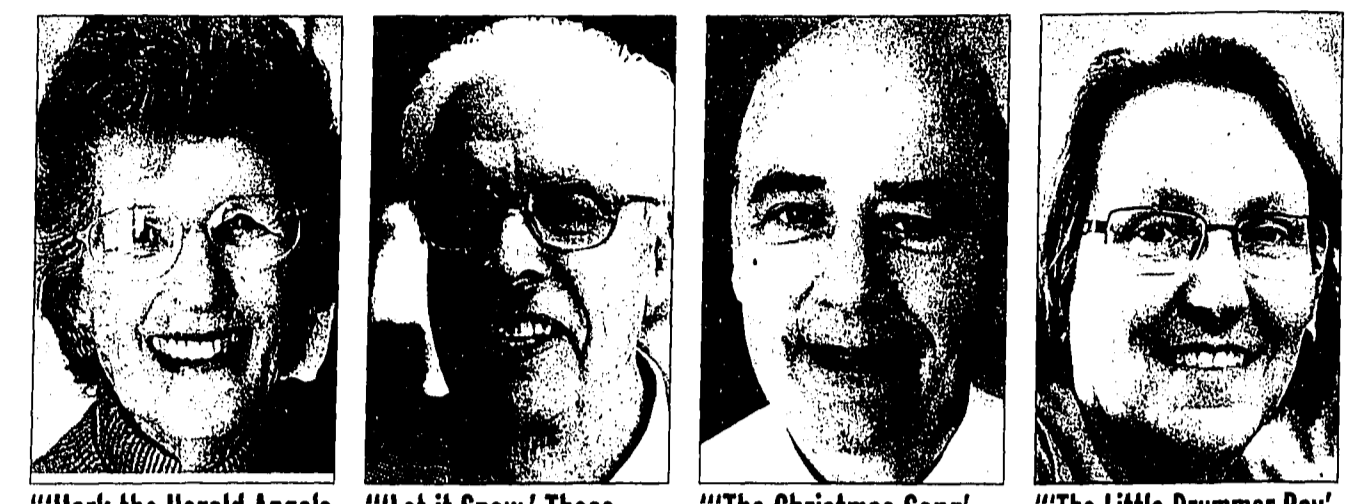
If you're holding the car keys after drinking, you're also holding a life in your hand. You may not reach the state's BAC level of .08 or above for driving while intoxicated, but you can be considered driving under the influence of alcohol-impaired driving - if your BAC is .07 and below. Either way, you shouldn't get in a vehicle and drive.

During this holiday season, one split-second decision can be fatal. Don't become a statistic. Put don't drink and drive at the top of your holiday wish list, not only for you but for your family and friends.

Go ahead: Tie One on for Safety this holiday season.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your favorite Christmas song?



"Hark the Herald Angels Sing." It just sounds so good when the church choirs sing it.
 Faye Sinclair, Novi

"Let it Snow." Those winter-season songs I can listen to all year-round. It puts you in the mood of the winter season."
 Harold Stevens, Livonia

"The Christmas Song" (sung) by Nat King Cole. It just gives you the feeling of Christmas."
 Tommy James, Livonia

"The Little Drummer Boy" (sung) by Bing Crosby and David Bowie. I just thought it was a very unique combination of two different singers."
 Carol Miller, Walled Lake

LETTERS

International Baccalaureate - another viewpoint

The recent story titled "High school's IB program drawing rave reviews" was nothing more than a puff piece for a costly school program. While I concede that many of the International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates are excited with the program, this hardly reaches a level of district-wide "rave."

The story states that this program has "excitement throughout the district." How exactly is that measured and how truly significant are those numbers? I'd certainly like to see some metrics, as I've always suspected the demand level has been exaggerated.

Quotes about IB students tending to have "better college acceptance rates" or "better ACT/SAT scores" are simply nonsense. There are no studies to show that. Students who enroll into the IB diploma program are already highly achieving and would excel no matter what classes they took.

The value of the IB diploma program has (and always will be) the diploma itself. Novi HS has only 18 students who are "Diploma Candidates." If you consider the total cost of the program (estimated by other districts to be around \$200,000), you can clearly see that the return on investment is questionable. Consequently, 19 other U.S. IB Diploma schools have dropped the program since 2009.

This program has already been a distraction. When our district was first considering going from a four-block to a six-period day, many good suggested schedules were scrapped because it did not fit the needs of the IB program. This year, all sophomore students (class of 2013) who previously completed Spanish III were required to take a "Transitional Spanish" class before moving on to an upper level Spanish class in their junior year. Since IB classes can only be taken by juniors or seniors, this

move ensures larger IB enrollment numbers.

It's also worth mentioning that Novi High School is current holding an IB Drama class with only six students. How is that fair to others who are now required to be educated in larger class sizes due to recent budget cuts?

Whether this program "stands the test of time" remains to be seen. It should be evaluated during future budget cuts along with all other programs. It is more important than band for middle school students, full-day kindergarten, or any other program that was up on the chopping block last year? That decision will be left for future boards and a future superintendent to decide.

There just are not that many really bad people out there in the world, and 99 percent of us are not hijackers. Only 7.5 million out of 300 million, according to FBI statistics, are bad enough to be locked up in prison or jail or on parole. In 1980 to 2005 there have only been 318 total terrorist events, or one every 29 days. Murder is down 8 percent and crime overall down 5 percent in 2009 compared to 2008.

Travel is meant to be an adventure. Yet anyone I hate to fly, because the way the TSA acts as if everyone is a criminal without any cause or suspicion. They have also forced much business travel to drive much more because of the ridiculously early check-in.

We should ask our newly elected lawmakers to start differentiating between protecting our freedom and stop thinking we want safety. Just Remember Flight 93, and how the 40 passengers did stand up against the terrorist.

The likelihood of another aircraft bombing a building is virtually impossible since the military would know to scramble jets and shoot the plane down. So we should spend or invest money in better terrorist intelligence through the CIA and FBI and completely eliminate the TSA to help cut the federal deficit.

Doug Klingensmith
 Milford

Searches unreasonable

We need to remember most ancestors came to America to be free, not safe. If they wanted safety, along with possible prosecution, they stayed in Europe or Asia. The voyage they took on ships in the 1500s-1800s was far from safe. They came in exchange of freedom and the adventure of striking it rich or fall trying.

I seem more and more laws are written or agencies created like the TSA in the name of safety that require us to give up our freedoms. Life is not safe. One can get hit by a car just walking across the street. Yet when I fly these days, I am told to give up my First and Second Amendment rights. I am not suggesting I would ever say I have bomb on airplane. Yet we asked to basically be strip-searched and physically groped by the dreaded TSA, now molesting every 10th person in the name of passenger safety. Not even Europe, Israel or Japan does this to their passengers.

I once carried a pocket knife on planes and felt safer than I do now. If a terrorist did want to hijack a plane, I had my right to bear arms and defend myself and fellow passengers. Yet

GUEST COLUMN

The bubbles pop - Snyder bringing change to Michigan

POP, POP, POP!
 Get ready for that familiar sound.

I suspect we are all going to be hearing it here in Michigan and all over America as the final decade of the 21st century comes to an end.

Earlier we experienced the Daddow technology bubble bust. More recently, the pop of the financial and housing bubble was followed by the domestic auto industry bubble. And now, perhaps, the biggest pop of all is about to occur with the implosion of governments on the international, national, state and local levels.

Governments made promises to their workers and citizens that they can no longer afford to keep.

Now we are being forced to let the air out of the bubble - slashing services, cutting pay and benefits or pumping more oxygen into the bubble in the form of tax increases.

Government is the Fourth Bubble. Consider the U.S., Japan, Greece, Ireland and France with their severe fiscal crisis. Spain and Portugal are barely hanging on.

We here in the U.S., once the economic envy of the world, are now borrowing 40 cents of every dollar that our government spends. The American Dream has been curtailed and now there is talk, for the first time in recent history, of our children's generation not being as well off as we once were.

Michigan state government - using duct tape, baling wire, and bubble gum to hold together a state budget - is now nearly \$2 billion in the red. Our previously elected leaders neglected necessary structural reforms.

Local units of government - from school districts, townships to the cities - are headed for an economic cliff without an infusion of tax revenue, severe reductions in services, debt restructuring and reform.

If you are ready for change in Michigan, here are four reasons to believe it is near:

- 1 - Change and tough choices are often put off until they can be avoided no longer. That day has arrived.
- 2 - A crisis is a terrible thing to waste. Because reform has been ignored for so long, state and local government, and our schools are, or soon will be, in a fiscal crisis without action.
- 3 - We have elected a new governor. Gov.-elect Rick Snyder, who ran promising to "reinvent" Michigan, self-financed his campaign, took no money from the special interest lobbies.
- 4 - The GOP tidal wave that swept

the nation has given all levels of power in state government to the new governor's party and they can force change.

With the election of Rick "Reinvention" Snyder, it is anticipated that change will be aggressively pursued through an austerity budget program as well as substantial restructuring and painful reforms.

For those who benefit from the status quo, it is going to feel more like "pop goes the weasel."

Come New Year's Eve, with a changing of the guard in Lansing, the pop, pop, pop we hear will not be fireworks, but rather a change coming to government at all levels.

Tom Watkins is a U.S./China business and educational consultant. He was Michigan's state superintendent of schools, 2001-05. He can be reached at: twatkins@aol.com.



Tom Watkins

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

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to clstone@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

Sun, Water & Seeds 4-H Club
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Wednesdays
Location: Tollgate Education Center, 2815 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Details: A 4-H youth garden and farm stand where kids learn about plant science, nutrition and entrepreneurship by raising produce for sale. The Club is seeking new members to join in the planting, planning and more.
Contact: sunwaterseeds@gmail.com or (248) 956-0029

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Time/Date: 11 a.m.-noon every Wednesday
Location: The group has moved from the Senior Center to the Belmont Clubhouse at Fox Run on 13 Mile between M-5 and Meadowbrook.
Contact: Deloris Roman at (248) 668-8600 for additional information.

Family Support Group Meeting
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14
Location: Providence Hospital Outpatient Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi, Conference Room E
Contact: www.namimetro.org or (248) 348-7197

Borders Events
Location: Borders Books & Music, 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi (Novi Town Center)
Contact: (248) 347-0780

Wine Tasting
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9
Details: With Leaf Barley & Vine; sample three delectable wines.

Children's Holiday Party
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
Details: Stories and crafts

Book Signing
Time/Date: 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
Details: Diane Dignan will sign "Bartholomew's Gift."

Book Signing
Date: Sunday, Dec. 12
Details: Author Richelle Meade will discuss and sign "Last Sacrifice."

American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting
Time/Date: 7 p.m. 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@wmr.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or pnerick@aol.com

MSU Extension
Location: MSU Extension Tollgate Education Center, 2815 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi
Contact: (248) 858-0887; smithn@oakgov.com; [www.msu.edu/](http://www.msu.edu)

Rock Financial Showplace
Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 348-5600

Great Train Expo
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 11-12
Details: The Great Train Expo is a national, traveling show that caters to the model railroad enthusiast. The show offers a variety of operating model railroad and toy layouts for the entire family to enjoy in many different scales and gauges. Check them out and get some great ideas for your own layout! If you're interested in joining a local model railroading club, the Great Train Expo is a great place to visit some of the different clubs in your area and learn more about them. If you're looking to sell an old toy train, this is the perfect place. \$7 for adults; free for children under 12, admission to the show is cash or check only. However, many exhibitors will gladly accept credit/debit cards for items purchased.
Contact: www.GreatTrainExpo.com

NIGHTLIFE

Andiamo Novi / Dirty Martini Lounge / Andiamo Theater
Location: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 348-9838

Liquor Store
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 305.8135

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

Bar Louie
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 4437 12 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 662-1100

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

Live music Fridays and Saturdays
Dec. 10: The Pleasuretones
Dec. 11: Gino Fanelli's Red Hot Sugar Daddies

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

Wednesdays WYLD Wednesday with DJ Joey "A" & mc Jevon Hollywood

Thursdays: DJ Tommy Holiday
Fridays: Friday with DJ J Mix & mc Jevon Hollywood

Mixx Lounge
Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-6499 or mixx-novi.com

Thursday-Saturday: DJ



Lego Club
 Surrounded by a sea of Lego bits, Eashton Kreiger, 5, works on constructing a vehicle of some sorts during the monthly Lego Club meeting at the Novi Library on Nov. 27. The club meets on the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

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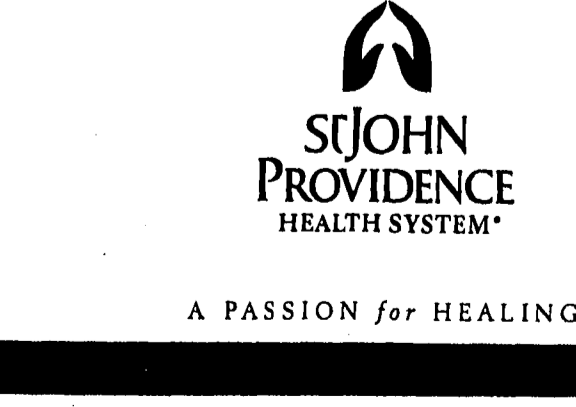
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 Comprehensive and preventive care for adults and children with a special interest in women's health.
 Novi 248-374-9592

Raid Al-Khensan, MD
 Internal Medicine
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 Novi 248-465-4163

Neeran Bajouka, MD
 Internal Medicine
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 Lathrop Village 248-443-7140
 Novi 248-465-3790

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To find a doctor, call 866-501-DOCS or visit stjohnprovidence.org



A PASSION for HEALING

CALENDAR
FROM PAGE A13

Library website or story time brochure for details.

Holiday Craft Session for Grades 5-12
Time/Date: 3-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10
Details: Come and create a cool craft to give as a gift or keep for yourself. All the supplies will be provided. Registration is required.
Excel Basics for Adults
Time/Date: 1:3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11

Details: Learn the basics of creating, modifying and saving a document using Microsoft Excel 2007 in this hands-on workshop. Participants must be confident using a computer and proficient with the keyboard and mouse. Please register.
Saturday Winter Story Time
Time/Date: 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
Details: Brrr... It's cold out! Stay cozy inside reading some stories, singing some songs, and perhaps even seeing a short DVD about the cold and snow.

Snack Tales
Time/Date: 7-7:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13
Details: Each time we meet you will get a chance to listen to some great stories and cook up a tasty snack. Grades K-4. Registration required.
Movie and Munchies
Time/Date: 3-5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14

Details: We plan to show "Date Night." All movies shown will be rated G, PG or PG-13 and a snack will be provided! For 5th grade and up.
Create a Holiday Card
Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15
Details: Don't give your friends and family the usual Christmas/Kwanzaa/holiday cards; create them

from your own imagination. We'll provide the supplies and you provide the inspiration and hard work! Drop in to make as many cards as you wish. For grades K and up.
Library Board Meeting
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15
Details: The Library Board meets the third Wednesday at the Novi Civic Center: Council Chambers. Everyone is welcome at the meetings.

Novi Historical Commission Meeting
Time/Date: 7-8:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15
Details: Public is always welcome. Meetings discuss ongoing and future projects of the Novi Historical Commission.

Walled Lake City Library
Location: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Phone: (248) 624-3722
Details: Public is always welcome. Meetings discuss ongoing and future projects of the Novi Historical Commission.

Novi Community Education
Contact: (248) 449-1206
Web: www.novicomunityed.org

Seniors
Novi Senior Center
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-0414
Blood Pressure Checks
Time/Date: 11-11:45 a.m. Wednesdays
Details: Every Wednesday blood pressure checks are offered. Check yourself regularly and stay healthy. Your blood pressure record will be on file at the Senior Center so you can track your health. No charge.

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is Panera Bread Day. Enjoy bagels, rolls, bread, sweets, coffee and conversation. No charge.
Bingo
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays
Details: Try your luck and get those cards filled up. A great way to socialize and meet new people. Price: \$50 per card at the door.

Regional
Sunrise Networking group
Time/Date: 7-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
Location: Kerby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road, Northville
Details: The SNG builds relationships through warm introductions, and encourages its members to attend twice monthly breakfasts along with evening social events. The more familiar the members become with each other, the more the referrals naturally present themselves. The SNG uses their Website to tie all of the members together, creating a complete group of people who are interested in helping each other succeed.
Contact: www.sunrisenetworkinggroup.com

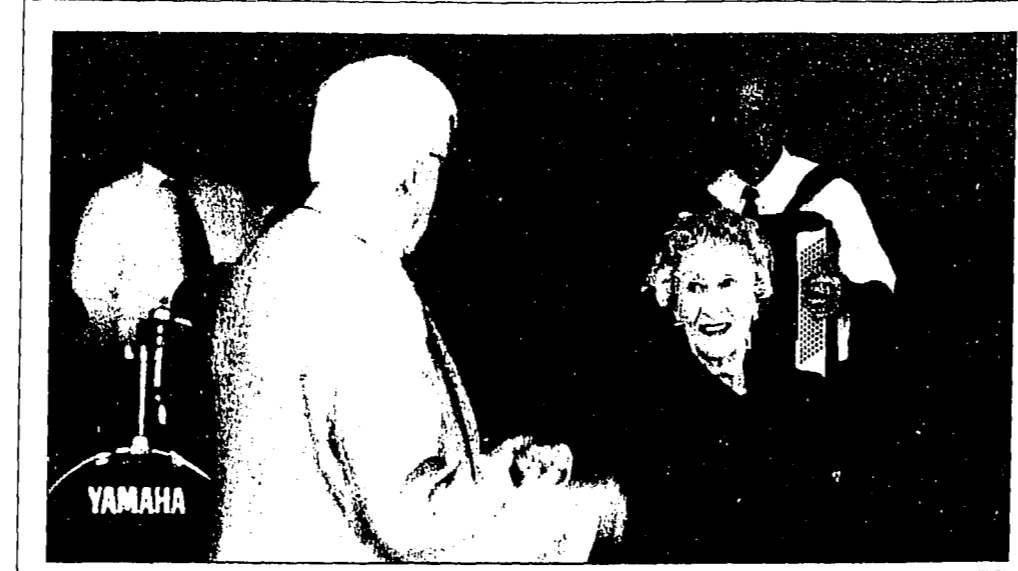
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Senior Center dance
Harold Stevens and his wife Mavis dance to a live band on Tues., Nov. 30 at the Novi Senior Center. The Center hosts a dance on the final Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Musicians Mike Zelenak, left, and Tommy James provide the tunes.

Rotary clubs invite public to toy drive

Salvation Army says need exceeding expected gifts

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Ginger Barrons was already planning a toy drive for needy children when she contacted someone from the Salvation Army, who said its need was exceeding what it was expecting to receive in gifts.

Immediately, Barrons knew she had to ramp up her efforts. She was already in contact with members from her Farmington Rotary Club, but to make the event bigger, she contacted Randy D'Amore, who not only is in the Novi Rotary Club, but also owns a business in Farmington Hills that he offered up as a meeting point for the toy drive.

It was then that the inaugural Rotary Wrap Up became a reality. "We want to help them meet

Reflection on leadership during difficult times

As the end of the year approaches, so does my time as a state legislator - a role I never dreamed would be my destiny. Reflecting on what we've accomplished by working together, I must start by recalling the events that propelled a girl born on Long Island, N.Y., to the Michigan State Senate.

After graduating from Ohio University and the University of Michigan, I poured my heart and soul into educating and guiding our youth for 19 years. My political career began when some incredible Novi women urged me to run to Novi City Council. I was elected in 1985 and served my hometown at the local level for nine years.

Following a series of events - tragic and dramatic - I found myself running for state representative when Rep. Billard decided to run for an open senate seat. Ever since winning that election and beginning my 14 years of service in the Legislature, my priorities have been clear: reduce taxes, improve transportation and support education.

I entered the Michigan House in the minority, but through building friendships and working relationships with both sides of the aisle, I was successful in getting my amendment adopted to reconstruct two antiquated I-96 interchanges at Beck and Wixom roads.

As the first woman chair of the House Tax Policy Committee and later the Senate Finance Committee, we accomplished much. Most significant were eliminating the Single Business Tax, authoring the Michigan Entrepreneurial Credit and the alternative business tax, and bringing transparency and reform to the Michigan Economic Growth Authority credit program.

While serving on the Senate Education Committee, I was able to enact the SAVE the Children legislation to provide early intervention as a means to help struggling students succeed. We also were successful in requiring schools to create and implement a parental involvement plan and criminalize hazing in our schools and universities.

No story would be complete without honoring those who journeyed with me and made that journey possible. My enduring gratitude and love to my husband, Victor, who first encouraged me to run for state representative and has been ever present at my side. To my children and grandchildren, my love surrounds you.

I also want to give a special thanks to my hardworking, talented staff - both in the Senate and the House - and to all the central staff who have given me assistance and advice over the years.

Most importantly, to the people of Novi and the entire 15th district, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your state senator. It has been one of the greatest honors in my life.

Although Michigan has faced unprecedented challenges over the last eight years, we've made strides to revitalize our economy, protect our communities, educate our children and make state government more accountable and efficient.

More work lies ahead, but seeing what we have done in the most difficult of times, I am optimistic for Michigan's future.

Best Wishes and God Bless. For information on state issues, visit my website at www.SenatorNancyCassis.com. Or contact me toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

State Senator Nancy Cassis, R-15th, represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake, as well as the villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake and the cities of Novi, Northville (the Oakland County portion), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.



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Christmas wish list
Ian Walsh, 7, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Dec. 3 "Light up the Night in Novi!" event at Novi Civic Center.

Survey finds Novi residents extremely satisfied

Ninety-three percent of survey respondents rated Novi's quality of life as "Excellent" or "Good"; none rated it "Poor" when polled by the National Research Center (NRC), a research firm known for its comprehensive studies of citizen perceptions and views.

Novi residents also rated their community much above the national average in overall appearance, quality of new development, public safety, shopping opportunities, access to affordable quality health care, education, as a place to raise a family, as a place to retire, and openness and acceptance of people of diverse backgrounds.

These positive opinions expressed by Novi residents are among the many findings contained in the report of a formal citizen mail survey conducted by NRC for the City of Novi. This is the third such survey conducted by the City of Novi, with previous surveys completed in 2008 and 2006. The results are a statistically valid representation of Novi residents' perspectives. In addition to having comparison Novi data over time, Novi leaders are able to compare results to the same questions posed of residents around the country.

The survey found citizen satisfaction with the community, its amenities, safety and the performance of municipal staff extremely high, exceeding or similar to national norms in almost all areas where comparisons were possible.

Surveys were completed by 348 randomly selected Novi residents contacted through the mail in October 2010 for results that have a five percent margin of error and a 95 percent confidence level. Participants answered questions on items such as quality of community life, public safety, government services, City employees, traffic, parks and recreation, and diversity.

Highlights of the survey, which are posted in its entirety at cityofnovi.org, include:

- Key Drivers identified by respondents include police services, traffic enforcement, street cleaning, and public library services.
- In 2006, the key drivers were identified as parks, code enforcement and police services.
- Ninety-three percent of respondents rated the overall quality of life in Novi as "excellent" or "good"; a one-percent increase from 2008 and five-percent increase from 2006.
- Of the 29 characteristics for which benchmark comparisons were available, Novi ranked above the benchmark comparison in 25, similar to the benchmark comparison in four, and below the benchmark comparison in none.
- Ease of travel (car, bicycle, and walking) in Novi all increased from comparisons in 2008 and 2006.
- Among citizens who had contact with a City staff member, 87 percent responded that the overall impression of customer service was "excellent" or "good."
- Several areas saw an increase of 10 percent or more, including:
 - 1 - Availability of affordable health care
 - 2 - Emergency preparedness
 - 3 - Public library services
 - 4 - Novi as a place to retire
 - 5 - Value of services for the taxes paid
 - 6 - Opportunities to participate in social events and activities

A detailed overview of survey findings was presented by Dr. Thomas Miller at the Novi City Council Meeting on Monday.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Boran twins
Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran were born Aug. 31, 2010 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital-Prentice Women's Hospital, in Chicago, Ill.
Proud parents are Heather and Christopher Boran of Chicago. Grandparents are Steve and Carol Bruce of Farmington Hills and Jerry and Colleen Boran of Forest City, Iowa.
Great-grandparents are Paul and Genevieve Kramarz of Hartland, Doris Davis of Orange, Calif. and Ronald Bruce of Fullerton, Calif.

Burkhardt & Bowdell
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Burkhardt, of Novi, announce the wedding of their daughter, Amelia Marie Burkhardt, to Jeffrey Dixon Bowdell Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Bowdell, also of Novi, in July 2010.
The bride-to-be received her master's degree from Madonna University in 2009 and works as an adjunct professor at Quinsigamond Community College and also as an American sign language interpreter in Worcester, Mass.
The groom-elect is a 2008 graduate of Eastern Michigan University and works as teacher in Massachusetts and is also an assistant varsity football coach for Worcester's South High School.



IN THE SERVICE
Ryan J. Stec
Air Force 2nd Lt. Ryan J. Stec has received silver pilot's wings after graduating from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) at Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas.
The SUPT is a 52-week training program consisting of a three-week preflight phase I, which includes academics and physiology training for flight preparation. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37 Tweet aircraft to learn flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobics, and formation flying.
After the T-37 training, students select advanced training in the fighter-bomber track, turboprop aircraft track or helicopter track. Each track is designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.
The fighter-bomber track trains in the T-38 Talon supersonic trainer, the tanker-transport track trains in the T-1A Jayhawk, the military small version of a passenger business jet. The turboprop aircraft track trains in the C-130 Hercules aircraft, and the helicopter track trains in utility helicopters.
Lieutenant Stec will be assigned as an F-15 aircraft pilot at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, N.C.
He is the son of Dave F. and Elizabeth A. Stec of Novi.
His wife, Elaine, is the daughter of Dennis and Diane Kowalski of Novi.
In 2004, the lieutenant graduated from Novi High School and received a bachelor's degree in 2009 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla.

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SECTION B (NRN)

SPORTS

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SABRECATS WIN TOURNAY, B3



Novi's wrestling team won the Adrian Duals Tournament Dec. 4 by defeating Adrian, Jackson Northwest, Flat Rock, Monroe Jefferson and Linden in consecutive dual meets.

Novi grapplers win Adrian tournament

Sparling, Aoun lead way with undefeated performances

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

The Wildcat wrestling team opened its season 0-2 at the Rochester Adams quad meet Dec. 1, but you wouldn't know it based on their five-straight victories at last Saturday's Adrian Duals Tournament. Novi defeated Adrian 36-33, Jackson Northwest 48-32, Flat Rock 43-30, Monroe Jefferson 45-21 and Linden 36-36 by criteria.

Seniors David Sparling (215 pounds) and Matt Aoun (130) led by example with 5-0 and 4-0 records on the day. In the final match against

ON TAP

The wrestling team is back in action 10 a.m. Saturday at the Hartland Tournament for individuals before Wednesday's 5:30 p.m. Northville Quad, where Farmington and North Farmington will join the Wildcats and Mustangs. The Oakland County Championships are already up, on Dec. 17-18.

Adrian, Bielski pinned his opponent in 1:07 to overcome a three-point deficit give the Wildcats a victory. Novi had an uphill battle throughout much of the day, as they didn't have any 112- or 119-pound wrestlers and started each contest down

12-0.

"Starting every match down 12 points makes for a heck of a challenge to overcome," Jilg said. In the final match against Linden, senior Derick Becker (3-2 on the day at 145 pounds) won a 7-0 decision to tie the dual at 36 points per team. Novi won the team match on judge's criteria. "The Linden match went into the eighth level of tie-breaker criteria," Jilg said. "I have never been involved with a match so close." Other key performances for the Wildcats included junior Jake Dobras (3-1 at 185) and senior Shahbaig Siduh (2-0 at 135).

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

Wildcats open season with win

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

ON TAP

The roster may be more inexperienced than last year, but the result was the same last Friday in Novi's girls basketball opener. The 'Cats (1-0) used a strong first quarter to open their season with a 46-37 victory over Saline (0-1). Novi opened the game on a 15-5 run, but the Hornets had a 32-31 edge through the other three quarters combined.

"Overall thought is I think it's a new beginning...big adjustment losing all the experience from last year," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "Starting and freshman point guard and a sophomore playing in both of their first varsity games, as well as the rest of the team, I thought we were a little too amped up and excited and therefore made some mistakes. I think it's going to take a while before we get used to playing together."

Novi's starters combined for 19 points on 8-of-35 shooting (22.9 percent), as freshman point guard Kerri McMahan led all Wildcat scorers with eight points while adding four assists, three rebounds, six steals and one block in a well-rounded debut. However, she also made a game-high six turnovers and shot 4-for-13 from the field.

"Kerri I think showed tremendous skill and ability and you can see her potential to be a very good player," Kelp said. "Star senior Alyssa Armiak came off the bench for seven points, five rebounds and three steals in half a game worth of action."

Novi's bench shot 10-of-20 from the field (50 percent) for 27 points to raise the Wildcats' team shooting

percentage to 32.7 percent. Sophomore Jade Antolew (0-1) last Tuesday before visiting Walled Lake Northern (0-1) tomorrow, Walled Lake Central (1-0) Tuesday and Livonia Churchill (0-1) next Thursday. All games tip off at 7 p.m., while the boys team plays the same opponents at the same time on the same dates, just on the opposite court (ie. girls away, boys home).

Aside from McMahan, starters included sophomore Brittany Berehulka (five points), junior Abby Chandler and seniors Maddy Sinkovich and Joanna Beaton, all three of which netted two points apiece.

On the other end of the ball, Saline was playing without both of their seniors, Jessica Brown and 2009-10 leading scorer Emily Everett. Junior center Jill Borowski led the way for the Hornets with a game-high 21 points, followed by Caitlin Ellis with seven points. Ellis is the daughter of Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis.

Only Britten Clark (five points), Alli Cope (three points) and Cera Smart (one point) added to Saline's point total, as the Hornets had no answer for Novi's defense, which made 20 steals compared to Saline's three.

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

NOVI ROUNDUP



Novi senior Laura Subject (center) signed her national letter of intent Dec. 3 to play volleyball at Clarion University in Pennsylvania. Also pictured are her mother, Sue; father, Dave; and sister, Carrie.

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Volleyball

Novi Senior Laura Subject signs her national letter of intent Dec. 3 to play volleyball next season at Clarion University in Pennsylvania. Subject led the team in assists (94) and serving aces (69) during the fall season, while also amassing 320 digs. She was also named second-team All-State alongside third-team All-State senior Erica Robb.

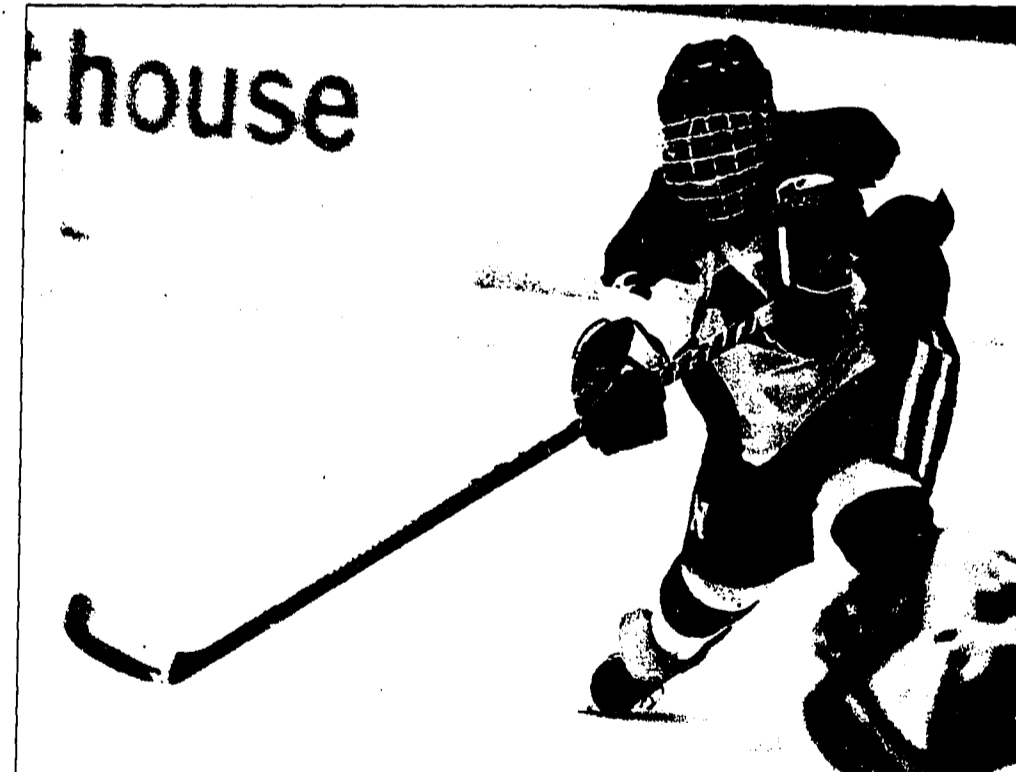
Girls Swimming

Novi senior Becca Berman recently signed on to swim at Michigan State University next season. She earned All-State honors in the 500-yard freestyle at last month's Division I state meet. Sophomore Andrea VanderMeer repeated as an All-American swimmer at the state meet by earning another national time standard. The 200-yard freestyle relay team of senior Madalyn Buba, junior Abby Hall and sophomores Kara Berg and Maranda Buba also earned All-State honors at the meet.

Boys Cross Country

The Albion College men's cross country team finished third in the NCAA Division III Great Lakes regional meet and

Please see ROUNDUP, B2



Wildcat Taylor Howell makes a pass near the Spartans net.

Stevenson skates to 6-3 win over Novi

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

ON TAP

The top two hockey teams from last season's KLAAC Central Division came together Dec. 2 for what transformed from strong defensive showing into a streak-filled, fierce nine-goal contest. When all was said and done, Livonia Stevenson (3-1-0, 2-0-0 Kensington) skated off the ice at Novi Ice Arena with a 6-3 victory over the host Wildcats (2-2-0, 0-2-0 Kensington).

"I thought it was a good hockey game. We didn't give up," Novi coach Todd Krygier said afterward. "Overall, I was more upset with our two wins than I am right now. I think

we're on the right path." Each team failed to capitalize on their single power play opportunity in the first period.

Please see NOVI HOCKEY, B2

ROUNDUP
FROM PAGE B1

earned a berth in the NCAA Division III Championships. There are several local faces on the team, including Novi's Aaron Croad, who was a captain and third-year runner recently recognized the team's most inspirational runner.

Northville resident Kevin Whinnery (Farmington High) and Canton resident Patrick Stevens (Plymouth High) were also recognized for their efforts.

Football

Novi's football team will open the 2011 season against Chelsea. The team will also spend week nine of the 2011-14 seasons playing against Saline, which the Wildcats haven't since 1981.

Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis is a Saline resident and said all 1981 football players and cheerleaders will be invited to the 2011 game for a reunion and special halftime celebration.

The Voice of Novi

The Oakland County Athletic Directors Association recognized Jerry Litman Dec. 2 with a lifetime achievement award for his 30 years of announcing football and basketball games in Novi.

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

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

CC skaters split week
Squad beats Grosse Pointe North, falls to DeLaSalle

BY SAM EGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

ON TAP

You win some, you lose some. No one embodied that age-old statement better than the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team last week.

The squad, coached by Todd Johnson, picked up a 5-2 victory over the Grosse Pointe North Norsemens before falling to DeLaSalle, 5-4.

"DeLaSalle is very good," said Johnson. "We made some costly mistakes and dug too deep of a hole to get out of."

The Pilots jumped out to an impressive lead, scoring two in the first half and two in the second for a 4-0 lead before the Shamrocks were even able to retaliate.

Catholic Central's first tally came off the stick of Tyler VanNorman, who scored with 8:13 left in the second period to cut DeLaSalle's lead to 4-1. The Pilots responded quickly, scoring less than a minute later for a 5-1 edge.

Catholic Central put up a fight in the third period, scrapping out three goals from Sean Gaffney, Pete Halash and Ryan Keller to end the game.

Earning assists were Halash, Michael Downing, Keller, Nolan Gluchowski, Carson Gatt and two from Mitchell Gatt.

Alex Nork took the loss in the net, dropping his second game of the season as he faced 27 shots. DeLaSalle's Jake Theut stopped 41 shots on the night for the win.

Against Grosse Pointe North, the Shamrocks

NOVI HOCKEY
FROM PAGE B1

as both also missed the net with shots on key scoring chances.

Novi nearly got on the board with 4:20 remaining in the opening period when a low blast from the blue line by senior Mason Pew was tipped by a Stevenson defender and bounced up, off sophomore netminder Connor Humitz's mask and bobbed him into the crease for Novi sophomore Jon Mencer to poke into the open net. However, the net was knocked out of place before the puck crossed the line, meriting an automatic stoppage in play.

Both teams went into the first intermission deadlocked at 0-0, but the Spartans wasted no time getting on the board early in the second period.

Forty seconds after the opening whistle, senior captain Justin Shureb streaked up the right side and cut in toward the goal while shielding the puck from a defender. Wildcat senior netminder Michael Pesendorfer (20 saves) dove forward to poke the puck away before Shureb could make a move, but the puck bounced up over an outstretched Pesendorfer, hit the ice and rolled into the goal behind Shureb, who got there as he prevented his momentum from knocking the net out of place. Spartan seniors John Mandryk and Christian Wood were credited with assists out of the defensive zone.

Down one, the Wildcats applied offensive pressure, but Humitz (19 saves) turned shut after shot aside, while Novi's defense had trouble keeping the puck out of their zone because the net kept coming out of place.

With 8:44 left in the period, Pesendorfer was penalized for delay of game after his net came out of place for a fifth time in the past eight minutes.

Wildcat senior Zach Mohr, who let his frustration be known to Pesendorfer and those nearby, had a spirited shorthanded scoring opportunity 1:14 later when he took the puck from his own blue line and beat two Stevenson defenders, but the second defender tripped him up and sent him to the ground before he could get

a shot off. In a quick transition, Mandryk sent a long pass from his own right circle to senior Cam Humitz, who was alone at Novi's blue line. Two strides toward the left circle and Humitz fired a slap shot into the top right corner for a 2-0 lead.

"I thought we hung him out to dry on a few of those. Its hard when you're giving up break-aways every game," Krygier said. "We had some turnovers that they capitalized on. We got a little bit impatient."

That's where things began to fall apart for the Wildcats, as Stevenson junior Thomas Ross sent a pass from behind the net to senior Tim Pruchnik at the top of the crease for a tip-in goal 1:06 later. Shureb was also credited with an assist as the Spartans took a 3-0 lead.

But they weren't done there, as senior J.J. Peterson took the puck into Novi's zone from his own blue line and cut in before dropping a pass back to Cam Humitz, who was 10 feet straight out from the crease from a low shot that beat Pesendorfer and hit the left post. The rebound only came off the post a foot or so and sophomore Max Humitz stuffed it into the net for a 4-0 Stevenson lead as the Spartans netted three goals in a 4:02 span.

"We picked it up in the second," Stevenson coach Gerry Vento said. "We changed the lines up. Mandryk played his first game on defense for us. He did exceptional for us."

The Wildcats began their comeback effort on the power play with 10:9 seconds left in the period, when senior Joey Ferriss sent a pass from the middle of the left circle to senior Nolan Valleau at the top of the right circle, who ripped a wrist shot high into the right corner over Connor Humitz's shoulder.

Senior Taylor Howell started his big stat night with an assist, as well.

"Their late goal in the second, we knew it was going to inspire them," Vento said. "The offense did a good enough job. We still have to work on a few things; gap coverage."

Twenty-five seconds into a

power play, 1:40 into the third period, Howell came out of the left corner with the puck and cut across the goalmouth for a wrist shot into the right side. Valleau and senior Michael Kruse picked up assists on the special teams goal.

Just 1:43 later, Connor Humitz made a save on a Novi slapshot from the right circle and Howell came in from the left side to stuff the puck into the net as it was sitting in the center of the crease behind Humitz, who had come out to make the initial save.

The goal, Novi's third in a 3:34 span that bridged to the prior period, cut the Wildcats' deficit to 4-3 with 13:37 left in the game. "That was big and we wanted to come out. We got two quick goals," Krygier said.

The narrow margin would last less than a minute, however. Following a pair of offsetting penalties 12 seconds later and another penalty to Novi 25 seconds after that, Kruse laid out to block a shot by Mandryk up top and the rebound went to Spartan senior Andrew Palushaj at the top of the right circle for a power play score with 12:48 to go.

Things nearly got ugly 65 seconds later when Palushaj hit Ferriss hard in front of the Stevenson bench while Ferriss was hunched over trying to keep the puck in Stevenson's zone at the blue line. Ferriss hobbled off and Mencer retaliated on his behalf by hitting Stevenson senior Ryan Urso with a high stick down the blue line in front of the Spartan student section.

Urso took exception and both teams came together along the boards before Mencer and Urso went to the penalty box.

Novi had several solid opportunities in the final nine minutes, but Connor Humitz and the Stevenson defense came up big time after time before Urso knocked in an empty net goal with 28:1 seconds left to secure the 6-3 Spartan victory.

"He did well. They're a talented team up front," Vento said of his netminder holding off the Wildcats' offense.

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

CC wrestling earns early-season wins
Shamrocks ranked first in polls

BY SAM EGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

It's been a great start to the season thus far for the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team.

The squad, coached by Mitch Hancock, is working hard to secure the experience to help them defend their Division 1 state title.

Last Saturday, the team split up into three squads and wrestled in the John Glenn Duals, the Berkley Invitational and the Warren Mott Toys for Tots tournament. They won both the John Glenn and the Berkley tournaments while taking third in the Mott competition.

In the John Glenn Duals, the Shamrocks defeated a tough Livonia Franklin squad in the finals, 50-15, to earn

the title. One standout performance from the tournament came from Logan Marwick, a freshman who led the way as he pinned all five opponents in the first period.

As a team, Catholic Central pinned 41 opponents in five matches. The biggest victory of the day wasn't in the form of a pin, however, as sophomore Riley Hanson defeated returning state semi-finalist Steve Tuvo from Livonia Franklin, 4-3. Tuvo was ranked fifth in the state heading into the match.

In the Berkley Invitational, Catholic Central's "B-Squad" earned the team victory by outpacing their opponents by more than 90 points to take home the trophy. Individual title winners were senior Tim Naubert and freshman

Malik Amine, whose final-ists included Alex Goings and Alex KasMarogi.

Winning titles in the Mott tournament were Steve Schmitt and Tim McCotter, while Parker O'Brien, Greg Johnson and Josh Carolin took second place in their weight classes.

The Shamrocks varsity team started the season off earlier with a win over a light Lowell squad, 66-12. Lowell was missing three of their ranked wrestlers due to their late football run.

The Shamrocks had seven pins and were led by freshman Logan Marwick, who earned a pin over Lowell's Zach Jefferies in the first period.

Currently, the Shamrocks are undefeated and are ranked first in Division I.

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



Sabrecats win

The Novi Youth Hockey Association (NYHA) Squirt Sabrecats participated in and finished first place in the Big Rapids Area Junior Hockey Association (BRAJHA) tournament at Ferris State University this past weekend. There were 10 teams competing in this category. The Sabrecats won their first three games 5-2, 7-6 and 5-1. They made it to the finals and finished with a shutout win, 4-0. The Sabrecats are coached by Erik Stone, CJ Estes, Chris Jones and Chris Frescura. The team's roster includes Alexander Bezik, Griffin Choe, Ian Danaher, Brendan Estes, Dallas Foley, Mitchell Grishpun, Carlos Gutierrez, Hayden Harrigan, Jake Heffernan, Ashton Jones, Carson Kellen, Jason Loo, Larry Rife, Matthew Stone and Evan Williams. The Sabrecat players are from all over this area: Commerce, Novi, Northville, Plymouth, South Lyon, West Bloomfield and Wixom.

Shamrocks boast strong returning core
Shamrocks have top three scorers back and are bigger, stronger

BY SAM EGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Detroit Catholic Central boys basketball team is looking to turn in a much better performance than their .500 finish last year.

The squad, coached by Bill Dyer in his fifth year at the helm, returns four starters from last year, including their top three point scorers.

Leading the way this year will be three-year starter Matt Doneth, a 6-foot-5 junior that has the size to hold his own down low. Also back this year is the 6-foot-7 junior Kyle Cooper, as well as 6-4 senior

Brandon Tammaro and the strong shooting Shea Kettner, who stands at 6-1. The team, led by Dyer, is better than last year, and they have set some lofty goals for themselves.

Despite being experienced, the team is still rather young and seniors Charlie Horka (forward, 6-foot-5-inches) and Mike Tibbits (forward, 6-0) will bring some maturity to the team while the team looks to get growth on the court from juniors Mike Kovanda (forward, 6-foot-3-inches), Chase Janer (guard, 6-0), David Racey (guard, 6-0), and David Katkic (guard, 5-10),

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

High hopes abound for defending state champs
Catholic Central bowling team returns all five starters

BY SAM EGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

Detroit Catholic Central bowling coach AJ Bridges doesn't pull any punches when it comes to announcing his team goals for the seasons.

Bridges, who is in his sixth year at the helm of the program and was named the Division I coach of the year last season, has five returning starters from last year's state championship team. The overall team scoring average is right around 195.

"Our goals this season are to win our Catholic League conference, win the overall Catholic League title, be competitive in all of our tournaments, place in the top three teams at the district in order

to qualify for the state tournament and to repeat as state champions," said Bridges. "The goals are high due to the talented team that we field."

The team had a good start to their season with a win in their first tournament, the Farmington Early Bird that was hosted at Novi lanes.

"We came in first by over 200 pins," Bridges said. "What a great start to the season."

The Shamrock's roster consists of captains Scott Kujawa and Tom Zahari as well as Josh Moran, Kenny O'Conner, Matt Nugent, Eric Pavlov and Jeffrey Conflitti.

The team knows pressure, said Bridges, and is able to perform and throw strikes

ON TAP

Coach: AJ Bridges
Last Year: State champions, third in regional

Key Returning Players: Josh Moran, Kenny O'Conner, Scott Kujawa, Tom Zahari, Matt Nugent, Eric Pavlov and Jeffrey Conflitti

Biggest Challenge: Repeating as state champions

Quote: "The goals are high due to the talented team that we field."

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

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acorn farm

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HOMETOWN .com

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011
Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011
Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to limited schools of choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester. This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience. Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132.

A MOTOWN TRADITION SINCE 1997

Little Caesars PIZZA BOWL

Sunday
December 26
8:30 PM Kickoff
Ford Field

littlecaesarspizzabowl.com

Florida International University Golden Panthers 6-6 Sun Belt Conf. Co-Champs

University of Toledo Rockets 8-4 Mid-Am Conf.

TICKETS: CLUB LEVEL \$60, LOWER LEVEL \$45, END ZONE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT \$45, END ZONE \$30
Purchase tickets in person by visiting the Ford Field ticket office
To order tickets by phone call Ticketmaster 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com or visit littlecaesarspizzabowl.com/tickets

TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

The HoneyBaked Express Store Is NOW OPEN IN NOVI.

COMPLETE HOLIDAY DINNERS STARTING AT \$39
Every Honey Baked Ham is individually handcrafted by a master glazer to make your holidays unforgettable.

Holiday Store Hours
Tuesday, December 14th - Saturday, December 18th - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday, December 20th and Tuesday, December 21st - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday, December 22nd and Thursday, December 23rd - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24th - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25th - CLOSED
Sunday, December 26th - CLOSED
Monday, December 27th - CLOSED
Tuesday, December 28th - Thursday, December 30th - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31st - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1st - CLOSED

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**Welcome
Boys and Girls!**

This month's contest features celebrations.
Share with us how you celebrate
the holidays!

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NEWSPAPERS**

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**HOMETOWN
WEEKLIES**

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight!

Send us a picture or a story of
how you celebrate the holidays.



Hey kids!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a
photo or story of how you celebrate the
holidays. Scoop will pick two winners in
each age category:

Ages: 7 - 8

Ages: 9 - 10

Ages: 11 - 13

Winners will receive a
voucher for a Free Buddy's
4 Square Cheese Pizza
with One Topping!

Deadline for submissions: 12/31/10

Everyone who enters will
receive a letter from Scoop
and a small gift!

Send your entries for the
Holiday Celebration Contest to:

**Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170**

Scoop, the newshound, will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!

**Share your
Holiday Celebrations
with Scoop!**

Youth Name: _____
Youth Age: _____
Youth Community: _____
Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address) _____

Entries sent in will be published in the newspaper including your name, age and hometown.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, December 9, 2010

hometownlife.com

**Auto dealers partner
to feed the hungry**

Test drive a Chrysler product and win

Chrysler Group LLC and the Metro Detroit Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Truck Superstores are teaming up with Forgotten Harvest and the Detroit Red Wings in an effort to fight hunger. The "Fight Against Hunger" Sweepstakes runs through Monday, Dec. 13.

During this period, Chrysler Group and the local dealers will donate \$10 to Forgotten Harvest for every test drive logged at a participating Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram Truck dealer. Funds raised will benefit Forgotten Harvest's mission to provide meals for hungry Metro Detroiters.

Local dealers include:
• SUBURBAN CJD, NOVI (248) 476-7900
• SHUMAN MOTOR SALES INC, WALLED LAKE (248) 669-2010

"The Chrysler Group and our Detroit Metro dealers are proud to partner with Forgotten Harvest and the Detroit Red Wings in the fight against hunger," said Greg Martin, Great Lakes Business Center. "We hope this campaign will inspire consumers to join us in our efforts to raise funds for Forgotten Harvest so they can continue to provide food to those in need."

The "Fight Against Hunger" Sweepstakes is

ABOUT FORGOTTEN HARVEST

Forgotten Harvest was formed in 1990 to fight two problems: hunger and waste. Forgotten Harvest "rescued" 19.4 million pounds of food last year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from 455 sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other health department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to 158 emergency food providers in the Metro Detroit area. Learn more about forgotten harvest and how to help drive hunger from our community at www.forgottenharvest.org.

open to Michigan residents who are at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license at the time of entry. A drawing will be held on Dec. 15, with 10 winners each getting two suite tickets to Joe Louis Arena to see the Red Wings take on the Dallas Stars on Dec. 19, as well as food and beverage during the game.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

City's economic development
director earns appointment

The City of Novi is proud to announce the appointment of Ara Topouzian to the 2011 Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Board of Directors. Topouzian, Economic Development Director for the City of Novi, focuses on the retention, attraction and expansion efforts of business and development within the City of Novi.



Topouzian

Topouzian's three-year term will begin Jan. 1. A member of MEDA since 2007, he has served on the education committee, 50th Anniversary committee, and as a speaker and moderator for MEDA training seminars. "I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with MEDA, and enhancing the fine services and programming MEDA offers to its members," said Topouzian. The Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) was founded in 1960, and continues to advance economic development throughout Michigan and increase the individual member's effectiveness in the economic development profession statewide. MEDA's mission is to support its members, partners and stakeholders through education, networking and advocacy on economic development.

BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in December 2010 offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months. Unless otherwise noted, seminars are held at Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, West of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

Pre-Business Research - Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to understand which research sources to use for your business plan and where

to find the information you need? Presented by The Oakland County Business Center, The Entrepreneur's Source, Oakland County Business Center, Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months. Unless otherwise noted, seminars are held at Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, West of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783. Pre-Business Research - Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to understand which research sources to use for your business plan and where

Cassisi' film credit bills sent to governor

Sen. Nancy Cassisi's legislation to increase transparency and reporting requirements within the state's film credits was finalized Dec. 2 by the Legislature and sent to the governor's desk.

"Enacting this critical reform is a victory for transparency and accountability in Michigan. More importantly, it is a victory for taxpayers and lawmakers," said Cassisi (R- Novi). "The public has the right to know how tax dollars are being used, and legislators need accurate and detailed information when making decisions and evaluating the effectiveness of programs. Considering the state's ongoing budget struggles and the cost of these credits, the importance of full disclosure has never been clearer."

Senate Bill 796 requires the Michigan Film Office to place on its website, twice a year, a detailed report that includes the number of people employed in Michigan by eligible productions, how many were state residents, and the total number of hours worked.

SB 889 amends the revenue act to give the Michigan Film Office the authority to release information related to the film production credit, the film infrastructure credit and the film

jobs training tax credit. Without amending the revenue act, the film office will be legally unable to share the tax credit information.

"Numerous reports from reliable sources have raised questions about the credit program's financial sustainability and effectiveness to create jobs," said Cassisi, chair of the Senate Finance Committee. "Bringing transparency to all three movie credits is the only way to give the public and policymakers the data they need to answer those questions."

Michigan's film subsidies are the largest, and most visible of the state's tax credits, said Cassisi, adding that it is imperative that the public have trust that this is a wise use of its money.

"I appreciate the support of my colleagues who helped make this landmark reform possible and urge the governor to stand up for transparency and sign this vital legislation."

SB 796 would also require the state film office to send a copy of each post-production certificate of completion to the governor, president of the Michigan Strategic Fund, the House and Senate fiscal agencies and the chairpersons of the Senate Finance and House Tax Policy committees.

The measures build upon Public Acts 124-126 of 2009, the Michigan Economic Growth Authority transparency measures enacted last year.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bright House customers can access
two more sports channels

Bright House Networks customers who receive ESPN as part of their video service now have access to ESPN3.com and ESPN live online at no additional cost. ESPN3.com is a 24/7 broadband sports network delivering live events to fans through a rich, interactive, and easy-to-use experience. Both services are available to Bright House Networks video customers who have a My Services account.

To pre-register for a My Services account, Bright House Networks customers can go to www.brighthouse.com/myservices. The My Services account login gives customers free authenticated access to ESPN3.com and ESPN live online wherever the Internet is available.

Novi businesses authorized to place
additional signage

In an effort to assist the Novi business community and promote holiday season sales, the City of Novi is providing a one-time, additional business sign allowance through Dec. 26. The Novi City Council passed a resolution giving businesses the opportunity to take advantage of "temporary promotional event" signage.

Rules for the sign allowance
To provide fairness and to maintain safe and attractive business areas, the following rules apply:

- No City permit or fees are required for the additional sign, but interested businesses must complete the registration form inside this newsletter and return it to the Community Development Department prior to sign placement to participate in the one-time offering.
- Each sign meeting the criteria below will be permitted from Friday, Nov. 26-Sunday, Dec. 26. Each sign shall be removed immediately upon the expiration of this approval.
- One additional sign per business registered with the City of Novi is permitted.

- The sign must be a portable sign meaning a freestanding sign not permanently anchored or secured to either a building or the ground, such as A-frame poles temporarily driven into the ground and T-shaped signs in the nature of a traditional "for sale" sign.
- The sign can be up to 24 square feet in area and not in excess of six feet in height.
- The sign must not be placed on public property or in the public road right-of-way or any road easement. To determine public property, behind the sidewalk is generally a good indicator of right-of-way lines. Tenants will need to coordinate and receive permission from property owners.
- The City will not become involved in any lease-lesor discussions. The signs must be placed on the same private property as the business being promoted. Be aware to not block sight lines for drivers entering and exiting the business area. The City reserves the right to direct changes to sign placement as required to maintain safety.

Before any sign is placed, a registration form must be completed and returned to the City of Novi, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

For more information or to download the registration form, visit InvestNovi.org. The registration may also be faxed to (248) 735-5600 to the attention of Jeannie Niland, jniland@cityofnovi.org, in Community Development.

Business Avenue: Small Business
television program

If you are a small business located in Novi, you qualify to be part of the cable television line-up on Business Avenue. This 15-minute program airs on Novi Television and highlights your business. There is no charge to be included in this program. If you are interested in being featured on this show, please e-mail smarchioni@cityofnovi.org.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Rio Grande family unites against cancer

Mexican restaurant owner back on her feet after beating cancer with the help of family and friends

By KATE PHILLIPS
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Dawn Salvati had always helped raise money for those fighting cancer, but the owner of La Casa del Rio Grande never imagined that cancer would come knocking on her door.

Working through cancer

Last February Dawn Salvati received the shock of her life when she discovered breast cancer. It was a very rough year of grueling treatments.

"I was so sick, all I could do was lay there on the floor," said the Lyon Township mother. "It put us all through the wringer."

"It was a terrible time," recalled Dawn's daughter, Carmen Salvati, 12. She and her sister, Samantha, 15, did everything they could to help their mom through the illness.

Spring and summer were rough for the Lyon Township restaurant. Dawn was out of commission and had to rely on staff to run the place. It wasn't the same traditional Mexican restaurant that Dawn had lovingly cared for through the years.

Labor of love

The restaurant is like a part of Dawn's family. In fact, the site started out as Dawn's childhood home. After she successfully operated the renowned Don Pedros Mexican Restaurant in Redford, Dawn decided to bring the same taste back to Lyon Township where she grew up. Dawn



La Casa del Rio Grande welcomes guests to join their family. Owners Dawn Salvati and Jeff Clark run the restaurant with help from daughters, Carmen, 12, and Samantha, 15.

PHOTOS BY KATE PHILLIPS

- Follow us on Facebook!
- Carry-out and catering
- Call ahead seating and reservations for large parties

Customers drive from all over to eat the authentic Mexican food at Rio Grande. Those looking for a healthy alternative love the home-cooked meals at Rio Grande that are made with fresh, wholesome ingredients.

bought the Grand River Avenue home from her father 12 years ago and opened La Casa del Rio Grande, which translates to, "the house on Grand River."

Customers drive from all over to eat the authentic Mexican food at Rio Grande. Those looking for a healthy alternative love the home-cooked meals at Rio Grande that are made with fresh, wholesome ingredients. Each meal is made to order, not frozen, so customers can choose the meats, cheeses, vegetables and toppings they like. Those with special diets can tailor the meal to their needs, adding ingredients they like and subtracting things they can't eat. It works well for those with food allergies or those on low-carb or vegetarian diets.

Dawn can bring Mexican or American food to your home or business. The catering business offers a huge variety of food for any size party.

Coming home

Now Rio Grande is a place where Dawn Salvati's family can come home again, to be together as a family and share that love with their adopted

restaurant family. After nearly losing each other to cancer, the family is closer than before.

Dawn's husband, Jeff Clark, has retired from his job in law enforcement and now spends each day by Dawn's side, running the restaurant. Samantha and Carmen want to work up there even more than before. Dawn is thrilled to be in the kitchen, carefully making each meal by hand.

"This is truly a family restaurant," said Dawn. "We treat each customer like they are a part of our family."

February is now cancer awareness month at Rio Grande to commemorate when Dawn found her own cancer. The whole month the restaurant will be working on fundraisers to help local people that are dealing with cancer.

For a family budget

Dawn tries to make it easier for families to sit down to a hearty meal together by offering

a free meal for kids every Tuesday, 4 to 9 p.m. with each dinner that mom or dad buy.

There are also affordable Monday night specials like corn tacos for 75 cents and soft or fried flour tacos for \$1.25, with a beverage purchase. Daily lunch specials and Wednesday dinner and margarita specials make Rio Grande a fun, reasonably priced place for families on a budget.

"You can get a healthy home-made meal for the same price as you would pay at a fast food place," said Dawn. "This is the place to bring your family."



La Casa del Rio Grande offers an authentic Mexican flavor as well as festive décor.

La Casa del Rio Grande
(248) 446-7700
57721 Grand River,
Just west of Millford Road
and I-96 in New Hudson
www.riogrande-restaurant.com

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Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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Saturday noon to 10 p.m.
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