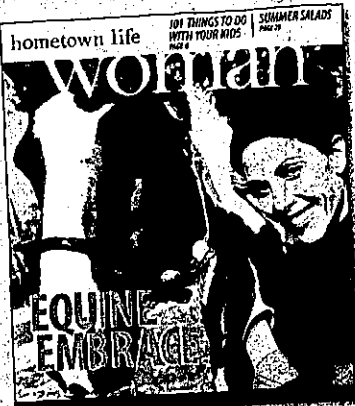


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July 7, 2011

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
Volume 56
Number 7

NOVI NEWS

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Christmas in July
Look inside this month's edition of Hometown Life. Inspire for a chance to win a holiday shopping spree. Three lucky winners will win \$250, \$125 or \$75 to celebrate Christmas in July. Find this holiday beach ball on the pages of INSPIRE and enter to win. See more details in the July INSPIRE in print and online at hometownlife.com.

Face of a Father

Congratulations to Dave McKee and Dave Nelson, winners in the Novi News "Face of a Father" photo contest. Each dad received two Emagine Theatre passes (each pass admits two people) and the Real Shave Ultimate Shaving Kit (includes barbershop quality grooming products from the Real Shaving Company). They are among the 25 lucky dads from throughout the area who were named winners. Congratulations to all dads. The photos of dads were so good that all received an Emagine Theatre pass for two. Enjoy the photos of all dads - view the Face of a Father gallery at hometownlife.com.

Pianists return for recital July 10

Award-winning pianists Valentin Bogdan and Julia Morzyakova will perform a free classical recital at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 10 at Faith Community Presbyterian Church (44-400 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi). The concert will feature romantic duo piano music by Cecile Chaminade, Amy Beach, Franz Schubert, and Argentinean tangos arranged for piano four hands.

A graduate of Farmington High School, Bogdan is a prize winner in national and international piano competitions and an award-winning composer who has performed in North America, Europe and Asia. His compositions were premiered by members of Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony and the Bela Collide Ensemble performed his compositions. He is a graduate of Wayne State University, Michigan State University and University of Miami, Fla. He currently serves as piano professor at Arizona Western College.

School district OKs contracts; budget concerns loom

Two board members upset administrators didn't make concessions

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

All of the Novi Community School District's bargaining groups, plus its non-union administrators, will be under new contracts when the school year starts in the fall. The board of education approved the Novi Educational Association's contract on June 23. The Novi Educational Support Personnel Association (secretaries and para-professionals), Novi Food Service Employees Association, International

Union of Operating Engineers (maintenance) and administrative contracts were approved last Thursday.

Every group is under a two-year contract, and employees are required to pay 15 percent toward health care costs.

Bob Schram, assistant superintendent of human resources, said everyone is happy to have this process completed.

"People really did want to have a contract and come back to work with enthusiasm in August," he said. That enthusiasm showed at least 90

percent of the respective union members supported the contracts.

A couple board members, however, were not supportive of the administrative contract because it did not include a wage concession that was at least equal to the 1-percent cut the teachers took.

Jason Manar and Dennis O'Connor agreed that leadership starts at the top and expected the administrators to offer up some money.

"The concept to me is very simple," O'Connor said. "Our teachers took a pay cut so I think our administrators

should, especially given the fact we are facing a \$6.5 million deficit next year."

"I have trouble supporting this because our administrators should be setting the example and leadership given the financial stakes we are (facing) in the state of Michigan."

Schram noted the district saved money by hiring the seven new administrators in at 3 percent less than their predecessors, and the group gave a 1.5-percent wage concession last year.

Please see **CONTRACTS, A14**



Janice Short swings her daughter Chloe, 2, during the Village Oaks subdivision's Fourth of July picnic. The organization holds a Fourth celebration every year at its clubhouse and pool.

Having a blast!



Matt Aoun shoots hoops at an inflatable target during the Village Oaks subdivision's Fourth of July picnic.



Village Oaks subdivision Vice President Dave Slaut gets busy grilling some hotdogs during his community's annual Fourth of July picnic on Monday.

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NOVI'S RESULTS BY SUBJECT LEVEL
In math, 79 percent passed, down from 80.
In reading, 79 percent passed, down from 83.
In science, 77 percent passed, down from 79.
In social studies, 87 percent passed, down from 90.
In writing, 71 percent passed, up from 69.

Novi High School ranks 10th in state on ACT

Merit exam scores dip, Matthews sees ways to improve

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School continues to make its case for being one of the best in the state as it ranked 10th in 2011 with a composite ACT score of 23.3. Seven of the schools in the top 10

were located in Oakland County, with the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills leading the way, neighboring Northville High School ranked seventh. The Michigan Department of Education released the Michigan

Please see **SCORES, A14**



INDEX

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Students put imaginations to work

Camp Invention allows kids to explore creativity

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Gracie Sigouin had never been part of something where she could go wherever her imagination took her. But that is exactly the idea behind Camp Invention — which took place at Novi Middle School last week — and why the 10-year-old South Lyon resident wants to keep coming back.

She said the camp — which focuses on the STEM principals (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) — helped her make new friends and find new interests. She also appreciated not having to listen to someone lec-

ture all day. "It's great because the teacher doesn't just stand in front of the room and talk," she said. "I like getting to create stuff, and that is the whole thing here."

Camp Invention is sponsored by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and focuses on improving students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Seth Furlow has been the director of the camp in Novi the last four years, growing the program beyond maximum capacity with 121 students this summer.

The structure of Camp Invention is real, but what the students take out of it is strictly up to their imagination.

"It takes those kids who don't necessarily fit into the regular structure of school and gives them a place where their creativity can shine," Furlow said. "And to see that creativity in action and see what they can create is pretty

cool."

The students participate in various classes including:

- WILD: Wondrous Innovations and Living Designs, where they explore unique animals.
- The Curious Cypher Club, which challenges them to solve a coded message and build a clubhouse to uncover the culprit.
- Bounce! An Atomic Journey, where they explore how atoms make molecules by using bouncy balls.
- Game On: Power Play, which challenges the students to use nontraditional equipment to play classic games; and
- I Can Invent: Edison's Workshop, where they use pieces of broken electronics and other recycled materials to create their own inventions.

More than 50 percent of the students at the camp had been before, and those that have gotten too old have returned as counselors.

Josh Brucker, 10, has been coming to the camp since it started because "I love to build things and the teachers are nice."

He plans on being a junior counselor next year.

Dana Gray, 10, said she enjoys the camp because it allows her to focus on what she likes.

"I love how I get to invent anything I want, because science is my favorite subject," she said.

Ryan Reiz, 10, also is a long-time camper, coming back every year because "the interactive stuff we do is fun."

The week concludes with the Inventor's Showcase where students show off their inventions to the parents.

"It may look like a garbage pile to someone, but give them 30 seconds to describe it and you will be blown away by the imagination they have," Furlow said.



Aditya Sriram, 8, begins to tear down a structure put together by he and some of the other Camp Invention students.



Lauren Ulrich, 6, left, and Ella Janz, 6, team up to see what interesting things they can find by tearing apart an old VCR during the Camp Invention at Novi Middle School.

nsmueller@gannett.com
(248) 437-2001, Ext. 255

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Look for this holiday icon on the pages of the Thursday, July 21 edition of Hometown Life INSPIRE either in print or online and, follow the entry directions. Then you could win \$250, \$125 or \$75 to celebrate Christmas in July. Just fill out the form and tell us on what pages you spotted the holiday logo.

Email the entry form (go to hometownlife.com starting Friday, July 22) or cut out the entry form in the July 21 edition of Inspire and mail to: Christmas in July, ATTN: Hometown Life INSPIRE, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Three lucky winners will be drawn from all entries that correctly identify the pages on which the holiday icon appears.

All entries must be received by midnight, July 31.

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Art show showcases talents of people with disabilities

Works to be displayed at civic center, library

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The artistic talents of disabled people across Michigan are displayed in Novi as part of the "Creative Minds, Changing Minds" traveling art show.

Two of the 36 artists are Oakland County residents, and all of them are living with a mental illness or developmental disability.

The purpose of the juried exhibit, which is on display at the Novi Civic Center and Novi Public Library until July 18, is to help change the public's perception of people with disabilities and showcase the

creative energy they have to offer their communities.

"Our goal is to provide a higher quality of life and equity for people with disabilities, and we want people with disabilities to be less stigmatized and more included in the community and appreciated for the things they have to offer," said Jacqueline Castine, community education specialist at the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. "It's a wonderful show with a huge variety of different kinds of creative works."

According to the organization, it is estimated there are 206,000 people in Oakland County living with disabilities. That is one of the reasons why Margi Karp-Opperer, assistant director at the library, wanted to bring the exhibit to the city.

"I just think there are so many resources and so many

of us are faced with unusual situations. And if there is some way we can inform our residents of what is available to them, we want to do that," she said. "It's also an awareness too that even though people might have mental health issues, they can be artistically accomplished and maybe it will open someone's eyes to see that there is more to someone with a mental illness than just that."

Castine also encourages people who view the art to use the response cards to pick their favorite piece, and said at the end of the year the art will be available for purchase at an auction.

For more information about the art show, visit www.occc-mha.org, and to learn about the auction, e-mail ginapp@macmh.org.

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(248) 437-2001, Ext. 255



Jon Gura and his kids, William, 2, and Gideon, 3, take a look at the traveling art show at the Novi Civic Center. "Creative Minds, Changing Minds" is the artwork of Michigan residents who use the state's Community Mental Health service.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Novi basketball coach to take over as Hardy principal

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
STAFF WRITER

Cory Heitsch, a Walled Lake Consolidated Schools teacher and head coach of the Novi boys varsity basketball team, has been named principal of Hardy Elementary School. The South Lyon Board of Education approved his contract at a special meeting Wednesday morning.

Heitsch taught all subjects in a second grade classroom for five years and two years in a third grade classroom at Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.

"Mr. Heitsch is an engaging and well-liked teacher," according to Beth Timlin, principal at Walled Lake's Glegary Elementary.

"I know our students will be disappointed that he will not return to Glegary in the fall," Timlin said. "Mr. Heitsch's educational background and professional experiences will enable him to collaboratively work with students, parents and staff to ensure student success at Hardy Elementary."

As Novi's varsity head basketball coach, Heitsch helped develop a student mentoring program between the varsity basketball players and fourth grade students from Novi Woods. Since July 2007 Heitsch had an overall record of 73 wins against 20 losses.

He will transition to Hardy, which has 650 students in kindergarten through fifth grades, as well as five self-contained special education classrooms. The school opened in 2004.

Heitsch, who graduated with a master of science degree in educational leadership from Concordia University in 2008 and a bachelor of arts in elementary education from Alma College in 2004, replaces Kim Warren who resigned as Hardy principal earlier this month to take a position as principal at Deerfield Elementary School in Novi.

"Cory Heitsch will be an outstanding addition to the administrative team within the South Lyon Community Schools," according to Curt Ellis, Novi director of athletic director.

"He is a tremendous role model, a great teacher and a great communicator — qualities which made him an effective coach and will no doubt enable him to become a very effective administrator," Ellis said. "Cory's tenure as the head boys basketball coach in Novi was highlighted not only by the fact that his teams won approximately 80 percent of the games they played but more importantly by the relationships he established with his players and their families."

Heitsch comes from a family of educators — his father is a superintendent, his mother is a para-educator and his wife is a teacher.

"Cory possesses the skill set and perspective necessary to be an effective educational leader today and well into the future," Ellis said.

Timlin added: "On behalf of the Glegary school community, we send our best wishes to Mr. Heitsch as he begins his new position as principal."

dgale@hometownlife.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 262



As coach of the Novi boys basketball team, Cory Heitsch compiled a 73-20 record.

EDUCATION

Thursday, July 7, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Novi administrators leave district in good shape

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A new era in the Novi Community School District will begin this summer as three of the top four administrators are retiring.

Superintendent Pete Dion was the shortest tenured of the bunch, leading the district for the last six years, while Gail Credit, assistant superintendent of business and finance, worked for Novi for 19 years and Bob Schram, assistant superintendent of human resources, for 16 years.

The three carried the district through some of the toughest economic times in recent history, keeping the fund balance healthy while adding programs and making Novi one of the marquee districts in the state.

Steve Matthews has replaced Dion and he is joined by Steven Barr, Credit's replacement, and Bonnie Lobert, replacing Schram. RJ Webber, assistant superintendent of curriculum, is the lone returning cabinet member with one year of experience.

"I don't have any concerns about the future of Novi schools because we are bringing in top notch people," said Credit.

It has never been about leaving a legacy for Pete Dion.

Novi was his third stop as a superintendent, which included stints in Birch Run and Grosse Ile, and he already has started in his new role as the superintendent



Superintendent Pete Dion, left, and assistant superintendents Gail Credit and Bob Schram are all retiring this summer with a combined 41 years of experience in the district.

of Bay Shore Schools in New York.

He doesn't expect to be remembered for his accomplishments, but they speak for themselves.

During his time in Novi, Chinese was added to the curriculum; an International Baccalaureate program was created; the Japanese School of Detroit chose to relocate to the city; and the 2007 bond issue that helped equalize the schools passed along with many other accolades.

"I always felt my job was to facilitate what the community wanted," he said. "I always thought how can we be better.

It was never about me."

Dion said when he came to the district in 2005 he didn't expect to endure the many hardships he and his staff had to overcome, but is pleased that he is leaving Novi in better shape.

He noted the fund equity during his time never dipped below 12 percent, and "we didn't run the district into the ground, and we didn't cut programs, and in fact, we made programs better," he said.

The challenge for the future, he said, is to hold on to the programs the district has and find a way to educate

students for a world economy in the 21st century.

And if that is going to happen anywhere, it would be in Novi.

"My wish is that every kid in Michigan could have the same education they have here in Novi," he said.

The last five years of Gail Credit's tenure in Novi were the worst ever for school budgets in the state of Michigan.

And yet Credit calls that time one of the "highlights" of her career.

"I can walk out of here knowing we are going to be at

least 10 percent fund equity for the 2011-12 school year," she said, noting that the fund balance never dipped into the single digits and was as high as 18 percent.

Credit had various titles in her 19 years, starting in purchasing before being promoted to controller, director of finance and finally assistant superintendent of business and finance.

She said the loss of local control as a result of Proposal A was not in the best interest of Novi, and predicted another year or two of major struggles remain.

Credit was often under the microscope at budget time as she had to find a way to produce a balanced budget when the money wasn't there.

Changes had to be made to keep Novi afloat, and she said her anchor during those tough times was "keeping the focus on the kids."

"It's not the students' and the desks' fault the economy is in difficult times," she said.

Credit took the retirement incentive from the state two years ago, renewing it to finish the 2010-11 school year.

She said she might take a break for a little while but has plans to move out of state and continue working.

"I'm not ready to quit," she said. "I believe in education very strongly because it's the great equalizer."

Bob Schram's impact on the school district extends far beyond his 16 years as an employee.

Two years after Schram and his wife moved to the city in 1976 he was elected to the

school board, serving in various roles for four terms.

That unique perspective of being a board member, as well as working in the private sector managing residential real estate, was what made the current superintendent at the time Emmett Lippe hire him.

"Emmett had faith in my abilities that I'm not sure I had at that point," Schram said.

During his time on the board, Schram was embroiled in the longest teacher strike in the state. Schram said two teachers tried to burn down the administrative building, and eventually the matter went to court.

"I divided the community and it took us a couple years to recover," he said.

But what he learned from that experience helped him successfully negotiate contracts for the district without major issues for his entire career.

Schram, like Credit and Dion, took the retirement incentive from the state, but he will be staying on until Aug. 1. But unlike those two, he plans on staying retired and spending more time with his 95-year-old dad, his 91-year-old mom and his grandchildren.

His advice for Lobert was something Lippe told him when he was first hired -- "Listen, listen, listen."

"It's important to be a good listener, be a caring person and be a problem-solver and not a problem-creator," he said.

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Novi 2, Grosse Pointe South 1	Novi 8, South Lyon 0
Regionals	Novi 0, Plymouth 0
Novi 2, Utica Eisenhower 0	Novi 4, Livonia Stevenson 0
Novi 5, Fraser 0	Novi 4, Plymouth Salem 0
Districts	Novi 2, Saline 0
Novi 7, Farmington Hills Mercy 0	Novi 3, Northville 2
Novi 8, Walled Lake Western 0	Novi 5, South Lyon East 0
Novi 7, North Farmington 0	Novi 2, Detroit Country Day 0
Novi 2, Brighton 1	Novi 7, South Lyon 0
Novi 6, Canton 2	Novi 4, Livonia Stevenson 0
Novi 2, Brighton 1	Novi 2, Plymouth Salem 1
Novi 6, Canton 2	Novi 1, Northville 1
	Novi 3, Canton 2



2011 Novi Wildcats Soccer

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3	Kiura	Naomi	SR	D	2	Russ	Rachel	FR	D
4	Yusko	Shelly	JR	F	3	Grandstaff	Karl	FR	D
5	Hoomaian	Kaylin	SO	D	4	Rush	Rebecca	SO	F
6	Krick	Holly	SR	M	7	Muebing	Sarah	FR	D/M
7	Rydzicki	Andrea	JR	M	8	Notarantonio	Haley	FR	N/F
8	Pollard	Lauren	JR	D	10	Parvana	Jessie	FR	F
9	Rudzinski	Katie	JR	D	11	Koornen	Karissa	FR	D
10	Sutton	Casey	JR	F	12	Fan	Hannah	SO	D/M
11	Seelenbinder	Katie	JR	D	13	Swope	Lindsey	SO	F
13	Timar	Kelli	JR	M	14	Schaefer	Christa	FR	D/M
14	Dicks	Erin	SO	F	18	Nussio	Caterina	SO	M
15	DeLeon	Gabby	FR	M	20	Bruce	Meg	FR	D/M
16	Kramer	Kendall	FR	M	21	Greenhalgh	Natalie	FR	D/F
17	Caruso	Nicki	SR	F	22	O'Leary	Abby	FR	G
18	Krygier	Natalie	SO	M	23	Dusenbury	Kate	SO	D
19	Shaw	Taylor	JR	D	24	Kobakof	Kacy	SO	M
20	Jarvis	Jessica	JR	F	25	Swope	Autrey	SO	F
21	Greenhalgh	Nikki	SR	F	30	Cauchi	Kelly	JR	F
22	Haustein	Maddie	JR	G					
23	Nussio	Marissa	SR	D					
24	Kozlowski	Jacqui	FR	D					

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Todd Pfeiffer
Jade Amlicc
Student Manager: Jade Amlicc
Superintendent: Peter Dion
Principal: Carol Diglio
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Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: HTWobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

COLONE, TERRY
Age 76, passed away June 24, 2011. Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, July 7th at 10:00am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI. Please call PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME for further details: 248-437-1616.

HOOVER, HERBERT D.
Age 88 of Milford died in the care of his family June 30, 2011. Preceded in death by his brother William S. Hoover & grandson Michael Tomasic. Survived by Margaret his beloved wife of 63 years; daughters Dr. Katy (John Tomasic) Hoover, Jane (Walter J.) Swenson, Mary Hoover, Dr. Emily (Dr. James Luby) Hoover, & Sara (Kess Bruke) Hoover; 6 grandchildren, also extended family & dear friends. Memorial Service was held at Lynch & Sons, Milford on July 5, Rev. Sherry Foster officiated. Interment Oak Grove Cemetery. Memorials encouraged to Michigan State University. For further info, please phone 248.684.6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

KOHLMAN, RAYMOND
80, of Sebring, Florida, passed away Wednesday, June 29, 2011, in Sebring. He was born October 18, 1930, to Theodore Joseph and Louise Grace (Egan) Kohlman in Redford, Michigan, and had been a resident of Sebring since 2006, coming from Northport, Florida. He was a drywall finisher in the construction industry and was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Moose Lodge and Father's Union. He enjoyed woodworking and CB radios and also enjoyed fishing and spending time with family and friends. Raymond was preceded in death by his first wife, Jacqueline Marie Kohlman and is survived by his beloved wife of 22 years, Marilyn Kohlman of Sebring; children, Timothy Kohlman, Michigan; Kathy Kohlman, Michigan; Karen (Tom) Shaw, Michigan; Kristine (David) Saldívar, Bradenton, FL and Theodore (Kim) Kohlman, Michigan; step-children John Huff, Tennessee and Samantha Deater, Texas; brother, Theodore (Mari) Kohlman, Michigan and 15 grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will take place on July 16, 2011 from 2:00 - 5:00 PM at the American Legion Hall in Milford, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Hospice, 1110 Hammock Road, Sebring, FL 33870 or Sons of American Legion Post 216 in Milford, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to: Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home - Sebring, Florida 33870 865-385-0125 www.stephensonnelson.com

KUGLER, CHARLIE J.
Age 79, died 6/29/2011. Visitation July 7, Thurs., 10:00-11:00am followed by service at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of South Lyon. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

LAWRENCE, IRENE
Longtime resident of Milford died in the care of her family July 2, 2011. She was 84 years old. Preceded in death by Calvin her beloved husband of 48 years and her sister Fran (DeWayne) Clark. Survived by her children Kenneth (Brenda) Lawrence, Keith (Cindy) Lawrence, Karen (Dr. Michael) Hritz, grandchildren Margaret Lawrence, Kelly (Sue) Lawrence, Melissa (Eric) Christie, Crystal (Stephen) Huter (Michael & Addison), Alyson (Michael) Sife, David Hritz, niece & nephew Lois (Tom) Armstrong; great-nieces & nephews Mark (Anne) Armstrong (Owen, Eli & Grady) Lawrence, (Rustin) Phillips (Kellen & Grayson); also extended family & dear friends. Funeral from Milford United Methodist Church, 1200 Hickory Haven, Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 11 AM. The Rev. Doug McMunn and Rev. James Braid to officiate. Burial Milford Memorial Cemetery. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 S. Liberty St., Milford Sunday 3-8:30 PM and Monday 1-8:30 PM. Memorials to Milford United Methodist Church, Cain's Family YMCA, or leader Dops for the Blind. For further information, please phone 248.684.6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

MARTIN, JANE A.
Age 70, of Northville, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2011. She was born in Detroit on May 30, 1941 daughter of Samuel and Velma (Graves) Higdon. Jane was united in marriage to John "Jack" Martin on November 25, 1964. They spent 46 loving years together until his death on August 28, 2010. She has been a resident of Northville for 33 years and an active member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. Jane was very devoted to her family and was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved being up north relaxing with the family at their cottage in Lake Ann, MI. She was a very talented artist. Jane is best known for her pen and ink drawings she created for a number of Northville residents and businesses. Jane exhibited her drawings in the Ann Arbor Art Fair for over 20 years. She is survived by her loving children Kristen (Larry) Schiack, Lisa (Chad) Wiltrakis, Erin (Scott) Krueger, and J.P. (Amy) Martin; her sister Suzanne Price; and her grandchildren Will, Emma, Grace, Evelyn, Sophie, Charlie, Ava, Anne, Jake, and Shane. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and two grandsons, Jack and Martin. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 7 from 5-8pm with a Rosary at 7pm at Casterline Funeral Home 122 West Dunlap, Northville. A funeral mass will be held Friday, July 8 at 10 am, instate at 9:30am at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church 133 Orchard, Northville. She will be laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to Angela Hospice 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

MARTIN, JANE A.
Age 70, of Northville, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2011. She was born in Detroit on May 30, 1941 daughter of Samuel and Velma (Graves) Higdon. Jane was united in marriage to John "Jack" Martin on November 25, 1964. They spent 46 loving years together until his death on August 28, 2010. She has been a resident of Northville for 33 years and an active member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church. Jane was very devoted to her family and was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved being up north relaxing with the family at their cottage in Lake Ann, MI. She was a very talented artist. Jane is best known for her pen and ink drawings she created for a number of Northville residents and businesses. Jane exhibited her drawings in the Ann Arbor Art Fair for over 20 years. She is survived by her loving children Kristen (Larry) Schiack, Lisa (Chad) Wiltrakis, Erin (Scott) Krueger, and J.P. (Amy) Martin; her sister Suzanne Price; and her grandchildren Will, Emma, Grace, Evelyn, Sophie, Charlie, Ava, Anne, Jake, and Shane. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and two grandsons, Jack and Martin. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 7 from 5-8pm with a Rosary at 7pm at Casterline Funeral Home 122 West Dunlap, Northville. A funeral mass will be held Friday, July 8 at 10 am, instate at 9:30am at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church 133 Orchard, Northville. She will be laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to Angela Hospice 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154.

NEWBURY, ALAN
Age 60, passed away June 30, 2011. He was born on December 3, 1950, to Stanley and Freda (McDonald) Newbury, in Bedford, United Kingdom. Alan is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Lee Newbury; his father Stanley Newbury; siblings: David (Shelagh) Newbury, Trish (Pat) Cartwright, John (Lisa) Newbury; step-daughters: Audra (Brett) Millican, Jill (Jeff) Craty; 5 grandchildren: Amanda, Adriana, Aidan, Michael and Scott; his nieces and nephews: Megan, Ben, Amy, and Alfie. He was preceded in death by his mother Freda Newbury. A memorial gathering will be held on August 5, Friday, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon, MI. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

NEWBURY, ALAN
Age 60, passed away June 30, 2011. He was born on December 3, 1950, to Stanley and Freda (McDonald) Newbury, in Bedford, United Kingdom. Alan is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Lee Newbury; his father Stanley Newbury; siblings: David (Shelagh) Newbury, Trish (Pat) Cartwright, John (Lisa) Newbury; step-daughters: Audra (Brett) Millican, Jill (Jeff) Craty; 5 grandchildren: Amanda, Adriana, Aidan, Michael and Scott; his nieces and nephews: Megan, Ben, Amy, and Alfie. He was preceded in death by his mother Freda Newbury. A memorial gathering will be held on August 5, Friday, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon, MI. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

NORTH, JUANITA MIKESSEL
Age 91 of Zeeland, MI formerly of Northville, MI passed away Sunday, June 19, 2011. Arrangements for a memorial service will be announced at a later date by Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State St., Zeeland, MI 49684. www.yntemafun.com

PIECZULEWSKI, JANET
Age 85, of Salem Township, passed away June 28, 2011. A private family service was held. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

RHODES, EDYTHE BEAL
Age 90 of Milford died peacefully at West Hickory Haven, Wednesday, June 29, 2011. She is survived by her son, Lyman "Dusty" (Donna) Rhodes; daughter, Cheryl (Juan) Seguir-Rhodes; ten grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren & one great-great-grandchild. Edythe was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Lyman, and daughters Diane & Judith Rhodes. Family is holding services privately. For further information, please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

SCHULTZ, MABLE L. (LUCILLE)
Age 79, July 3, 2011 Beloved wife of Theodore Schultz of 60 years. Dear mother of Karen L. Brown (Schultz) & Martin D. (Janet) Schultz. Loving grandmother of Andrew P. Schultz & Ailee Anderson. Sister of Louise Olzak, Nellie Fry, Richard Markham, and the late Calvin Markham, Virginia McGuire & George Markham. She was the youngest of the 7 children. She was a perfect mother, a wonderful cook, a seamstress and quilt maker. She taught Sunday school and church activities and was active in the Girl Scouts. She had many friends with the Novi Sixth Grade Cloggers. She will be dearly missed. Funeral service Thursday, 11 AM at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800. Memorial donations may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 Elm St., Northville, MI 48167. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

SCHULTZ, MABLE L. (LUCILLE)
Age 79, July 3, 2011 Beloved wife of Theodore Schultz of 60 years. Dear mother of Karen L. Brown (Schultz) & Martin D. (Janet) Schultz. Loving grandmother of Andrew P. Schultz & Ailee Anderson. Sister of Louise Olzak, Nellie Fry, Richard Markham, and the late Calvin Markham, Virginia McGuire & George Markham. She was the youngest of the 7 children. She was a perfect mother, a wonderful cook, a seamstress and quilt maker. She taught Sunday school and church activities and was active in the Girl Scouts. She had many friends with the Novi Sixth Grade Cloggers. She will be dearly missed. Funeral service Thursday, 11 AM at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800. Memorial donations may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 Elm St., Northville, MI 48167. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

STREMICH, KATHLEEN M.
Age 71, passed away June 29, 2011. She was born on March 8, 1940, to the late John & Agnes Rossman. Kathleen is survived by her loving husband Thomas Stremich; her children: Paul (Linda) Lee, Kathleen (Dan) Williams, Douy (Daphne) Lee, Dianne (Cobbie) Lee, Rob (Anne) Lee, her brothers: Chuck Rossman, John Rossman, & Denny Rossman. Visitation was held on July 1, Friday, from 3-8pm at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. A funeral mass was held on July 2, Saturday, at 10am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

TYMENSKY, JOHN
88, Former Novi MI and Indantown, FL resident John Tymensky, 88, died April 29, 2011 in Dallas, TX. He was born December 10, 1922 in Anshbury, PA. He served in the United States Army, during World War II in the South Pacific, as an operating engineer. On December 27, 1945 he married his childhood sweetheart, Ann Louise Williams. He is survived by his wife, Louise; son John (Darin) Tymensky; 2 daughters Donna Harsh and Brenda (Ron) Cain; and 7 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his grandson J. Michael Tymensky and son-in-law Daniel Harsh. A graveside memorial service will be held on July 9, 2011 at 11 AM at Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi, MI.

WILEY, WILLIAM B.
Age 72, of Howell, previously of Northville, passed away June 29, 2011. A funeral service was held Sat. 7/2/2011 at Casterline Funeral Home of Northville. He was laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

ZACHOS, WILLIAM "BILLIE"
Passed away March 5, 2011. Born June 22, 1961, son of Louis L. Zachos (deceased) and Margaret (Cecil) Zachos (deceased). Grandson of Aristotle "Harry" Zachos (deceased) and Victoria (Mager) Zachos (deceased). Grandson of Andrew Zachos (deceased) and Justine (Carmelock) Cecil (deceased). Dear brother of Susan (Zachos) Adams, Louis E. Zachos (deceased), and Christine Zachos. Brother-in-law of Dennis Adams and Alesia (Warren) Zachos (deceased). Uncle of Jeremy Adams, Amanda (Zachos) Watson, Katie (Zachos) Brown, Justine Zachos and Michelle Zachos. Husband (separated) of Debra (Lambert) Zachos and stepfather of John and Heather (children of Debra). Memorial to be held July 9, 2011 at a private residence. Please call (313) 532-6539 for further details.

District hires final assistant superintendent

By NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER
Bonnie Lobert is well aware of the challenges facing school districts in today's economic times. And she isn't about to shy away from them in her new role as the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Novi Community Schools district.

Lobert was hired on June 23, leaving Troy Public Schools to replace Bob Schram, and she is focused on making the district better. "What I want to do is be able to maintain those traditions in place, excel and maintain our positivity within our group," she said. "There are challenges in all districts in Michigan, but Novi is in a fortunate position because they have a great community and staff there supporting the mission."

Lobert has been working in the human resources aspect of education for more than 20 years, spending time in Farmington, Warren, Utica and Troy. "I cannot imagine doing anything else," she said. When the Novi position opened, she said it was "an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

Building relationships is a key aspect of Lobert's job and she will have time to do that before working on union contracts as all groups recently signed new deals prior to Schram's departure. Still, she said labor relations is an everyday thing, not something that happens three days out of every two years.

"We need to constantly be talking to each other and understand where each person is coming from so we can work to solve the problems together," she said. Superintendent Steve Matthews said Lobert is well respected by her peers and understands the importance of her job. "She listens well, solves problems and works to create a better work environment," he said. "More importantly, she brings a commitment to building relationships with the people who work for and with the district. She will bring value to what we do."

Lobert is expected to start on Aug. 1.



Orchard Hills students recently gathered over 1,000 books for kids in Joplin, Mo., affected by the recent tornadoes. From left: John Naguchi, 10, Kathy Steck, Cecile Steck, 9, and Claire, 12, and Grace Lapinski, 10.

Orchard Hills families collect books for Joplin schools

By NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

Kathy Steck knew the Orchard Hills families were a giving group as evidenced by their raising of \$1,700 for the tsunami victims in Japan. So when Steck read on a website that the schools destroyed by the recent rash of tornadoes in Joplin, Mo., were in need of books for students and teachers, she sought out her fellow parents for help. "She was optimistic she would get a couple bags worth of books to donate — seeing as there was only a week left in the school year when information about the book drive was sent out — but what piled up at her house far exceeded expectations."

The collection has ended, and Steck is now in the process — thanks to the help of an author in Illinois — of shipping the 1,160 books to the tornado-ravaged area. "I'm still kind of baffled by it," she said of the response. "I thought we would get a few books because I know at the end of the year people are pre-occupied with other things,

Corvettes at the Market

Corvette owners from the Michigan Chapter of the National Corvette Restorers Society will display their cars at the Novi Farmers' Market on Saturday at the Suburban Collection Showplace in the parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Free parking for the Farmers Market). For more information, visit novifarmersmarket.com.

Gospel Music & Story Festival
A new event celebrating faith-based music, story telling and fellowship is coming to southeast Michigan. The Gospel Music & Story Festival will be celebrating faith-based music, story-telling and fellowship in Novi from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at Providence Park Hospital (Grand River Avenue and Beck Road).

Admittance is free and open to the public. Families are invited to bring lawn chairs, picnic baskets and a spirit of fellowship. Food and beverage vendors and more will be available. Those wishing to perform are required to fill out a no-fee application at gospelmusicand-storyfestival.com. The festival is seeking representatives from local congregations to sign up to share a compelling personal story of God's love.

If you have any questions, or would like to sign up to perform, contact Elisa Balon, the festival's music and artistic director, at gospelmusicand-storyfestival@gmail.com or (248) 465-4522.

Gospel Music & Story Festival
Gospel Music & Story Festival is produced by "Studio B" and sponsored by Providence Park Hospital. Wanted: vacation photos! Take a copy of your Northville Record 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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

to include the newspaper in your photo. Send your photo in a jpg format to estone@northville.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!

Novi News online
Have you checked out our newly redesigned website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at www.hometownlife.com that allow you to browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too, chime in with your opinion on our stories, editorials and letters to the editor, check out our amazing photo galleries and videos that are captured daily by our reporters and photographers. Readers can also find garage sale listings — with a map! — each week from Wednesday-Sunday. So, bookmark www.hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "HometownLife."

See our online images. You can see staff photographer John Heider's photos in print in the Novi News and Northville Record, but don't miss his videos of the Super Gardeners, a young mother and the Novi girls state soccer match. His photo galleries feature the Farmers' Market, Big Michigan Nov Festival, the Michigan Art Institute's open house, Novi High's Band Camp and much, much more. Visit hometownlife.com every day and see what's new!

Brighton
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3561 Pleasant Street • Brighton, MI 48114
930-227-3113
9:30 a.m. Communion Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. Dale Hedblad, Pastor
www.lordoflifechurch.com

Milford
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
133 General Motors Rd., Milford
Pastor Steve Gwyn
650 General Motors Rd., Milford
Church office: (248) 684-0885
Regular Sunday Service: 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
June 26 - Sunday Service: 8:00 p.m.
Monday Evening: 7:00 p.m.
The Rev. Richard E. Pines, Pastor

Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church & School
at the corner of Wilcox & Musch Rd.
3116-211-9199
Fr. John Pocus, Pastor
Weekend Masses: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: John Pocus

Highland
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
2550 Harvey Lake Rd. (248) 587-4596
Contemporary Service
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sundays
Morning Bible Study & Breakfast
2nd & 4th Saturdays @ 8:15 a.m.
3rd-6th Grade Youth Sundays 7-9 p.m.
Pastor: Nick Ruff

New Life Christian Fellowship
120 Bishop Rd., 2-778 miles N of M-59
Home, South Lyon, MI 48186
• Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
• Bible Study: Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Larry Mauer

Highland United Methodist Church
684 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48357
248.687.1311 • www.highlandumc.com
Sunday Worship: 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Kids Church: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.
Youth Night - Wed. 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.
Pastor: Larry Mauer

Livonia
FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Services held at:
Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
16500 Highland Road - Livonia, MI 48152
South of Six Mile Road
248.487.1311 • www.fellowshipumc.com
Sunday Worship: 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Kids Church: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.
Youth Night - Wed. 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.
Pastor: Larry Mauer

New Hudson
NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
5783 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48156
Phone: 248-414-1100
Sunday Celebration of Life Services 10:30 a.m.
Rfr. Suzanne Piaz, Minister
Website: http://www.newhopeuuc.org

Northville
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Services held at:
777 West Main Street • Northville and Ten Road
Northville News September - May 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
Worship - Last Sunday of the Month
Nov. 10 - 11:00 a.m. Pastor
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire • Nursery Provided

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
4000 S. W. Road
Livonia, MI 48150
248.343.7420
www.ourladyofvictory.org
Suffolk University • St. 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 5:30 & 11 a.m.
Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
The Sacramental Service is held each at the table each week at 11 a.m. on 560 All

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church
54899 E. Miller Rd. at Currie Rd., Northville, MI 48167
Pastor: Andy Whitner
phone: 248-374-2268
Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service and Children's Church at 11:00
Bible Study Thursday at 7:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
A church that offers the spiritual care of Christ
574 S. State St., South Lyon, MI 48178
734-453-0170
www.stjohnslyon.org
Services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m. • Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. • Eucharist • Contemporary Music
11:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music

Plymouth
St. John's Episcopal Church
28500 Wagon Rd., Wixom, MI 48393
930 a.m. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m. • Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. • Eucharist • Contemporary Music
11:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music

Wixom
CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
28500 Wagon Rd., Wixom, MI 48393
930 a.m. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m. • Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. • Eucharist • Contemporary Music
11:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music

Novi

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Reverend George Chanley, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7778

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1971 W. Main St. • Novi, MI 48375
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor
248-345-2652
www.umcnovi.com
Sunday Day Care 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
2450 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Weekend Hours
Saturday 8:00 p.m., English & 8:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor
Fr. Michael Zurech, Associate
Parish Office: 349-8831 • www.familyofholys.com

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
112 miles west of Novi Rd.
www.faithcommunity-novi.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY: 10 AM
"Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21325 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 3 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mccgoc.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Rietz, Senior Minister

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
4700 W. Ten Mile Rd. • 248-427-1175
Sunday Worship 7:45 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Holding Service Wednesday 11:45 am
Rev. Ann Webber, Pastor
holycrosswp@sigmail.com

OAK POINTE CHURCH
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Saturday Worship 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone: (248) 912-0043

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
11166 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48301
248-687-1218
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
Bible Ministries 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages 7:00 p.m.

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2885
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School ages 3 thru 5th grade @ 10:00 a.m.
Nursery care available @ 10:00 a.m.
A heritage of area worship since 1858
www.milfordpresb.org

South Lyon
CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8810 • 488-4335
Grove Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church
22200 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon down at New Road
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Revelation Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m.
Youth @ 6:30 p.m.
Fr. Rick Paster
248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippecc.org

The Church of Christ
21660 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-5885 • www.southlyoncc.org
8:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Rob Callicott, Pastor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
6402 Mayhew Ave. S.L., South Lyon 48176
Phone: 248-437-1100
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. • Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Senior Pastor: Rob Paster / Assoc. Pastor: Andy Walsh
Worship: www.southlyonbaptist.org
Email: RobPaster@southlyonbaptist.org

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
10774 Nine Mile Road
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 445-2582
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.
CEBAPTIST.COM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) OF SOUTH LYON
Sunday School 11:30 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care Provided
Check us out on www.fellowshippecc.org
248-437-2875 • 205 E. Lake (1/2 Mile)
Rev. Dr. Annmarie Miller, Pastor

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Peaky, at Liberty St.
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651

BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH
Gathering in Jesus Name
52929 13 Mile Rd. • South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday 10:30 and 1:30
Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Mike Ripan, Pastor
734-347-1951 pastor@biblebelievers.org
Old fashioned preaching

Plymouth
St. John's Episcopal Church
28500 Wagon Rd., Wixom, MI 48393
930 a.m. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m. • Contemporary Worship 5:00 p.m. • Eucharist • Contemporary Music
11:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music

South Lyon

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8810 • 488-4335
Grove Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church
22200 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon down at New Road
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Revelation Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m.
Youth @ 6:30 p.m.
Fr. Rick Paster
248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippecc.org

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, July 7, 2011

hometownlife.com



Northville American Legion Post 147 Commander Dennis Strikulis (right) and Legion Auxiliary's Cris Doering (left) greet Stuart's ice cream shop namesake and owner Paul Gabriel. The business donated nearly \$600 to the Legion's Poppy Campaign.

Stuart's helps American Legion Post

BY LONNIE HUHMAN
CORRESPONDENT

Stuart's of Novi worked hard on Memorial Day, knowing it was going to help the veterans for which the day is rightfully about.

Stuart's recently gave the Northville American Legion Post a generous donation to help veterans and their families.

Cris Doering, a member of the Legion Auxiliary, said the donation "really came out of the blue" and everyone at Post 147 is very grateful for it. According to Paul Gabriel, owner of Stuart's, the ice cream, frozen yogurt and custard shop in Novi gave exactly 25 percent of their sales they made on the busy holiday. This added up to nearly \$600.

"This is going into our poppy

fund," Doering said. "One-hundred percent of it will go back to the veterans who have served their country and the families that support them."

This fund was established in 1921 by the American Legion Auxiliary. According to Auxiliary history, the organization adopted the poppy as its memorial flower and pledged its vote to benefit America's servicemen and their families.

Gabriel's own rescue dog, is a family-owned business at Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads. Doering says the legion usually has to go out and generate some help themselves, but this time a business came to them. This help will go a long way.

Helping the community is what Stuart's prides itself on. They are raising money and giving to various organizations each year, including local

rescue dog shelters. Last year they gave to the Novi Fire Department a donation meant for the purchase of new life-saving equipment.

"We are very pleased to be able to give back and help out with some great causes," Gabriel said. "It's about making sure the assistance gets to the right place for the right reason."

Stuart's, named after Gabriel's own rescue dog, is a family-owned business at Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads. Doering says the legion usually has to go out and generate some help themselves, but this time a business came to them. This help will go a long way.

The American Legion post is located at 100 W. Dunlap and can be reached at (248) 949-1060. It recently merged with the neighboring Novi Post.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Cal Stone
Voice Mail: (248) 437-2011, ext. 237
E-mail: cstone@gannett.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com

Measuring your online presence

BY JON GUNNELLS
GUEST COLUMNIST

It used to be that if you had a problem about a product or service you would call and complain, write a nasty letter, or if you were really annoyed — contact a government representative.

Not anymore. Consumers now use social media to communicate directly with businesses and if a customer has a bad experience,

they can air the dirty laundry online for the entire world to see.

Negative feedback is bad for business, so as you could imagine, companies react quicker than they used to.

There are a handful of web sites that track activities and rate your reputation on the Internet, but the site that has its biggest share of fans (and detractors) is Klout.com.

Users who link their Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn accounts with Klout will receive a ranking based on how well they interact on the internet. Think of it as a digital score about how well you play with others within social space.

Scores are on a 100 point

scale with the higher numbers being better. On Klout, users won't necessarily increase their score by having as many friends and followers as Justin Bieber, but they can increase their numbers by starting conversations, sharing information, and responding to others.

Some say the algorithm used to determine Klout scores is arbitrary, because there is no perfect way to do social media. Tweetering for example isn't like throwing a baseball or growing a vegetable garden. There's no completely right or wrong way.

Still, Klout makes a compelling argument about why you should try and interact on your social networks — because businesses are watching.

It's nothing new for businesses to offer freebies or discounts to online influencers. Klout just makes scores easier to understand and makes the online influencers easier to identify. Online influencers are essential to service providers because they are key to cheap online advertising.

Take The Palms hotel in Las Vegas for instance. In the fall, The Palms began creating the Klout Club that would allow certain perks for hotel guests with higher Klout scores.

The way it works is, a high profile celebrity, or say, a social media guru with a high Klout score could get an upgrade for having a strong online presence. It's the hotel's hope that the aforementioned power user would share their great experiences with their highly engaged fan base and create some buzz for much cheaper than a commercial or billboard.

In the past year, other companies have reached out Klout

users who are influential in certain areas to help promote their cause. A snack manufacturer, for instance, may send free samples to users who are influential about junk food in the hopes that they will rally their fans to go buy a new product.

But it's a two-way street and while companies can use people with high online rankings to improve their web visibility and sentiment, users can also use their high online rankings to improve the way they are treated by companies.

If you have a high Klout score, or are simply having an engaged readership that will allow you to broadcast a message, companies that are serious about customer service will take notice.

Whether they are a Las Vegas hotel, a potato chip manufacturer, or any other service provider — companies cannot afford negative feedback — especially in social media where comments could spread like a virus.

Next time you're online, think about quickly registering for Klout.com or another online measurement site to see how strong your presence is and what you are influential about. Who knows, the next time you have car trouble, or get a fly in your soup at a national restaurant chain — your online presence may help you get solutions.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media, driving and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @Gunn55.

online at hometownlife.com

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 349-9532; 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

Summer Sidewalk Series

Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk, roundabout
Dates: every Thursday from 5-8 p.m. through August
Details: Live music and artists July 7 - Stray Saints; July 14 Angela Pridmore; July 21 - Don Swindell Quartet; July 28 - Randy Brock; Aug. 4 - Robin Moore; Aug. 11 - Gia Warner; Aug. 18 - The Reasons Y'; and Aug. 25 - Lili Kiki
Contact: (586) 484-8797

Sizzling Summer Art Series

Location: Furst Park (southeast corner of Ten Mile and Tall roads)
Contact: (248) 347-0473 or cityof-novi.org

Terrific Tuesdays

Time: 10:30 a.m.
July 12: Mr. Seley - Songs for Kids; July 19: The Magic Carpet Theatre; July 26: The Amazing Clark Magic Show

Friday Family Fun

Time: 8 p.m.
July 8: Movie - Despicable Me; July 15: Toppermost Beatles Tribute Band; July 22: Movie - How to Train Your Dragon; July 29: Jill Jack Band; Aug 5: Movie - Toy Story 3; Aug 12: The Candy Band; Aug 19: Movie - Viewer's Choice, vote at cityofnovi.org; Aug 26: The Grove Circuit - Motown Band

Grand Court Novi Garage Sale

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, July 6
Details: A garage / rummage sale with proceeds benefit Alzheimer's Association; rain or shine.
Contact: (248) 659-5330 or jzarbo@rockdaleliving.com

NAMI Metro

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. July 12
Location: Providence Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room B47601, Grand River, Novi
Details: Family support group meeting, held second Tuesdays. Follow the sign to the Heart Institute, park in that lot, enter the southeast entrance near the heart institute and follow the signs to the support group.
Contact: (248) 348-7197

GOLF OUTINGS

18th Annual Novi Lions Charity Golf Outing
Time/Date: 8 a.m. July 14
Location: Links of Novi, 50395 Ten Mile Road, Novi
Details: This outing is a four-person scramble format. Cost is \$90 per person or \$360 per foursome for 18 holes of championship golf with a cart, continental breakfast, driving range before breakfast, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course and steak dinner in the clubhouse. Proceeds donated to The Penrickton Center for Blind Children

Contact: Jerry Coonce (248) 348-0531; Fred Young (248) 305-9557 or Manny Barbosa (248) 380-8325
24th Annual Novi Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing
Date: Aug. 17
Details: Registration deadline is July 11. New this year, teams of 12 will compete for a Challenge Cup. Register with your own team of 12 golfers or register individually, in twosomes or foursomes. Electronic scoreboards throughout the course will display team progress. Team format allows even inexperienced golfers to win the Challenge Cup. Individual golfer fee is \$145; includes 18 holes, a golf shirt, lunch by Carraba's at the turn, longest drive and closest to the pin contests, dinner and awards following the outing. Foursome fee is \$560. Call for team of 12 golfers fee. Title Sponsor: Varsity Automotive Group
Contact: www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743.

Huddleston Hole-In-One Charity Celebrity Golf Outing

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday, June 25
Location: The Links of Novi, 50395 Ten Mile Road, Novi
Details: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit (BBBSMD) golf outing will help to raise awareness and funds for young people who want and need a positive role model in their lives.
Contact: (313) 309-9227

BUSINESS

Northville-Novi Business Networking Breakfast

Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays (except Nov. 10 and Dec., which are just the first Tuesdays)
Location: Kerby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road
Details: Business networking focused on building relationships. The Sunrise Networking Group, LLC (www.sunrisenetworking.com), or SMG for short, is a group of about 250 business leaders who help each other to build more business by referring people to each other. Cost of breakfast is \$10.

Contact: Fonda Milano 586-232-3009 or Imilana@sunrisefinancialgroup.com

American Business Women's Association Novi Oaks Chapter

Metro Novi BNI
Time/Date: 7-8 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of Eight Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.
Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at 248-797-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com. www.metrobninovi.com.
Novi Toastmasters Club
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. every first

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

Novi Rotary Club

Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information: novirota.org

Novi Chamber of Commerce

Contact: www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743.
Combined Chamber Lunch with Livonia and Greater Farmington Chambers
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 13
Location: Embassy Suites of Livonia, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia
Details: Featured speaker will be Patrick Schwedtfeger — "Online Branding & Social Media Revolution"; \$25 pre-registration required

Business to Business Breakfast

Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, July 20
Location: Novi Public Library, 45245 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
Details: Join for networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at door.
Business to Business Breakfast
Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, July 26
Location: James D. Compo, Inc.'s The Pheasant Hills Development, 901 McDonald Drive, Northville
Details: Join for networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at door.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

Location: 45255 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10-5 Friday-Saturday; closed Sundays through Labor Day
Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library. Register for programs at the library or on the library website. Contact: (248) 349-0720
Website: www.novipubliclibrary.org
Summer Reading Programs
Run through Aug. 6 for young, teens, tweens, and adults. Sign up now on the library website or at the library.
Story Times: Please see the library website or story time brochure for details.
Monday Evening Book Discussion
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Monday, July 11
Details: Join your neighbors for a lively discussion of Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen.
Music with Mr. Seley
Time/Date: 10:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, July 12
Details: Music that kids really like will be featured by Mr. Seley

CALENDAR

Hometown Weeklies | Thursday, July 7, 2011

(NN) A9

in a sing along fashion. His guitar playing will inspire you to sing and dance. The library is partnering with Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services in the Sizzling Summer Arts Series. The program will be held at Furst Park unless the weather is inclement and it will be moved to the library's Meeting Room. Fun for all ages.
Helping Your Toddler Talk
Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12 and Tuesday, July 19
Details: If you have a toddler with speech delays, this 3-part workshop will teach you strategies to do with your child at home. Presented by Early On Oakland. Registration required.

Music and Movement for Young Children

Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 13
Details: This workshop is open to all children birth to age 3 and is sponsored by Early On Oakland. Registration required.
Booked for Lunch
Time/Date: 12:1 p.m. Wednesday, July 13
Details: Join your neighbors and bring a lunch for this afternoon book discussion of "Room" by Emma Donoghue.
Finger Paint Fun for Preschoolers
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, July 13
Details: Come ready to paint a masterpiece. Wear your messiest clothes or a good smock for an all out painting party.

Friends' Monthly Board Meeting

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 13
Details: Board meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the library. Everyone is welcome at the meetings and we cordially invite you to attend.
Tween/Teen Book Club
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 13
Details: Beat the summer heat chill at the library as we discuss the finer points (and maybe not-so-fine points) of two hot reads. Our July club will discuss all that is wonderful, and not-so-wonderful, about the Harry Potter series; just two days before the last installment

"The Deathly Hallows" movie is released. For grades 5-12.

Harry Potterpooza
Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Thursday, July 14
Details: Join us as we gear up for the final Harry Potter film. We will have crafts, trivia, and all things Harry. Grab your robes and wands and join us for the fun! For grades 5-12.
Transfer from VHS to DVD
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 19
Details: Learn how to transfer the contents of your VHS tapes onto a DVD using the library's "Creation Station." This presentation will walk you through the process, step-by-step so you can transfer those home videos from tape to disc. If you have a graduation, anniversary or family reunion and want to use some of those forgotten videos but don't want the hassle of setting up additional equipment, this class is for you. You will not be transferring VHS to DVD during class. THIS IS NOT A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP. Participants should have basic keyboarding and mouse skills. Registration required.
Minute to Win It - NPL Edition
Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, July 20
Details: Come to the library for your chance to win! You will have one minute to win it as we try out games from the popular television show. For grades K and up.
Library Board Regular Meeting
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 20
Details: The duties of the Library Board include planning for the future, making policy decisions, developing and approving the annual budget and broad operational oversight.

Walled Lake Library

Location: 1459 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772
HUD Counseling
Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.

Walled Lake Library

Location: 1459 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772
HUD Counseling
Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in July offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, in Waterford. For pre-registration and local addresses, visit oakcountymichigan.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 Market Research division and a business reference librarian. Attendees will receive an orientation to the FastTrac NewVenture program, making them eligible to receive a scholarship to the next 10-week program, reducing the cost \$700 to just \$140.

Thursday, July 7, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

Social Media Marketing Part 1

Millions of people use social media for fun, but these technologies are also powerful business tools that encourage communication and collaboration. Before you start using social-media tools, learn how they work and what they offer, particularly for small businesses. They can enable internal collaboration, allow information-sharing with external partners, exchange information with your customers, and harness the collective ingenuity of the public to build brand advocates.

Tuesday, July 12, 9 a.m. to noon. Fee: \$40. No refunds.

CEED MicroLoan Orientation

Many small business owners face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for financing capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases, and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the MicroLoan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan. Program presented by the Center for Empowerment & Economic Development.

Wednesday, July 13, 9-11 a.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

Fundamentals of Starting a Business

This seminar is for anyone thinking about going into business. This course helps aspiring entrepreneurs assess their abilities to lead and manage a company as well as evaluate market and sales potential for their products. The basics of business ownership are introduced, along with resources available to help launch new ventures in Michigan.

Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center.

Thursday, July 14, 9 a.m. to noon. Fee: \$30. No refunds.

Legal & Financial Basics for Small Business

This workshop covers many of the key legal and financial issues faced by both new and existing small businesses in Michigan. The program initially focuses on the many management and liability concerns faced by entrepreneurs, as well as today's tax consequences. The program also provides solutions and techniques for business concession and individual investment and retirement planning. Presented by Carter & Affiliates, P.C.

Tuesday, July 19, 9 a.m. to noon. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

FastTrac® NewVenture

This intensive, 10-week program helps you evaluate business opportunities and develop an action plan for owning your own business. Written by entrepreneurs for aspiring entrepreneurs, FastTrac® NewVenture offers essential business information to help you develop your entrepreneurial skills and build your business on a strong foundation. FastTrac® NewVenture provides the opportunity to objectively evaluate your concept and plans for moving forward, begin building an infrastructure for your business operations and processes, understand how to access the human, financial and business resources, and build an actionable business plan.

Tuesday, July 19, Sept. 27 (10 consecutive sessions - no class on Sept. 6), 6-9 p.m. Fee: \$140. No refunds.

Social Media Marketing Part 2

Establish your footprint and get your customers talking. Studies show people trust recommendations from friends more than they trust marketing messages from companies. In part 2 of this series you'll learn the core strategies and tactics businesses are using to get customers talking through social media. You'll also learn how to respond ethically and effectively to brand supporters and detractors. And you'll gain the knowledge needed to gauge where your social presence is the most effective. You will learn to create your social media strategy, integrate word-of-mouth (WOM) marketing and social media into your overall marketing campaign, engage with customers using social media tools and best practices, use existing applications to implement and manage tactics and apply effective measurements for WOM and social media. Pre-requisite for this workshop is Social Media Marketing Part 1. This is part two of three sessions.

Wednesday, July 20, 9 a.m. to noon. Fee: \$40. No refunds.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, in addition to practicing only Social Security disability law,

an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

www.ssdfighter.com

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

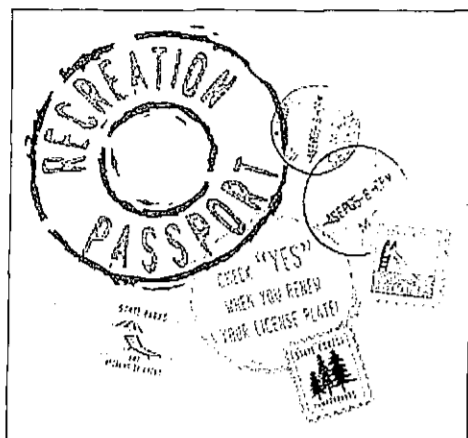
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CHURCH EVENTS

Hometown Weeklies Thursday, July 7, 2011 (NN) A11

OUR VIEWS



Recreational passports
Lawmakers' license plate gamble pays off for parks

State lawmakers took a gamble last year that looks like it might be paying off for Michigan's struggling state parks. Beginning in October, the state offered residents the opportunity to pay an additional \$10 with their annual vehicle registration that would allow them free entry into Michigan's 98 state parks, recreation areas and boat-launch sites. The so-called "recreation passports" represent a substantial savings for regular park patrons who had been paying \$24 for an annual park pass. More importantly, however, the extra fee provided Michiganans with an easy opportunity to help raise money to properly maintain the state park system. Recently, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and Department of Natural Resources Director Rodney Stokes announced that more than one million recreation passports have been sold in the first eight months they were available. That puts the program well on pace to surpass the \$12 million that was generated each year by the former permit system. DNR officials had estimated that 17 percent of vehicle registrations would have to include a recreation passport in order for the system to sustain funding. As of now, that rate is 20.5 percent and appears to be climbing, according to DNR officials. As we said in endorsing the new program, we think enough Michigan residents recognize the importance of maintaining a strong state park system that they will be willing to pay an extra \$10 a year for free access to those attractions. The funds definitely are needed. The park system stopped receiving money from the state's general fund in 2004 and since then has been largely dependent on revenue from entry and camping fees for operations, leaving little money for maintenance and updates. The DNR estimates the parks need about \$36 million for proper maintenance and replacement of facilities, yet in recent years the department could devote only about \$2 million a year to such purposes. Michigan's state parks are a treasure worth protecting and maintaining. We hope that the initial success of the recreation passport program continues and grows so that the parks get the care and attention that they need.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your favorite part of summer vacation?



"My favorite part of summer is swimming and sitting by bonfires." Emily Pringle, 9 Novi



"I like spending time with my friends and hanging out and swimming." Ally Pringle, 11 Novi



"I like taking vacations with my family." Kady Simsick, 11 Novi



"I like relaxing outside and reading books." Morgan Lemieux, 10 Novi

LETTERS

On corporate taxes, debt

If Ed Lee's claim (letter 6/23) that the corporate tax rate is the major cause for job losses and businesses moving to foreign countries were not so egregiously wrong and the truth so unforgettably distorted, the claim would be laughable.

If you want the truth about corporate taxes, simply Yahoo or Google "Corporate Taxes Paid." You will quickly learn that the 35-percent tax rate on corporations is a myth that Republicans persistently perpetuate.

Mr. Lee, your Republican underwear is showing.

Most corporations pay no corporate taxes, and those that do pay seldom pay little more than half of the 35-percent statutory rates.

Meanwhile, corporate profits are soaring. The reluctance to hire more workers, I suspect, is not a fear of the economic future; the greater fear is Obama's re-election if unemployment diminishes.

Who really controls the employment market? Do you seriously think the president does? He wishes!

Another distortion of reality Republicans insist through implication and innuendo is that Obama is somehow responsible for our \$14.3 trillion debt. Hogwash!

Check out "National debt by U.S. Presidential terms" at Wikipedia and see a graphic account of which party doesn't mind spending money; the Republicans just don't want to pay for their spending with tax money.

Any attempt to summarize all of the factual causes of the national debt is as ridiculous as blaming Obama for the debt.

You might consider a few of the facts (Pew Center Report, April 2011) regarding the many causes of the recent national debt increases:

- Revenue declining due to recession: 28 percent
- Defense spending increase: 15 percent
- Bush tax cuts 2001 and 2003: 13 percent
- Increase in net interest: 11 percent
- Other non defense spending: 10 percent
- Other tax cuts: 8 percent
- Obama stimulus: 6 percent
- Medicare Part D: 2 percent
- Other reasons: 7 percent

The fiscal year of Obama's first budget began in September 2009, less than two years ago. If blame is to be bandied about, one should at least seek the history of the national debt that recently has become the battle cry of the conservatives.

Patrick Downey
Novi

Rotary golf outing kudos

The members of the Rotary Club of Novi and Lyon Area Rotary Club would like to thank the following generous sponsors who helped make our June 16 golf outing very successful: Fidelity Investments, PNC Bank (Novi), Welis Fargo Advisors (The Emrick Group), Hoffmann Filtrix, Cooper-Standard, Kelford Collision, State Farm Insurance (Mike Gabriel), Steve Minns, D.D.S., Serv-Pro (Novi), Suburban Collection Showplace, MTL (Suzuki - Myers), Alexander & Angles Law Firm, Marty Feldman Chevrolet, Varsity Lincoln (Novi), M.J. White and Golf Tech (Novi).

And thanks to the many friends and members of Rotary who purchased tee and green signs that also support our causes. Our appreciation also goes out to our volunteers and the entire staff of Mystic Creek golf

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats:

E-mail: cstone@gannett.com.

Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

course.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Novi and Lyon Area student scholarships, international clean water projects, Polio Plus/End Polio Now programs and many other local and international charities.

Gary Kelber
Novi Rotary Club

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ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

Letters to the Editor: Student's plea

Connor, I'm glad you like doing fun stuff at school, but you're not there to have fun. You are there to learn. The fun stuff is part of the reason our kids are so much dumber than those of other nations despite us outspending every nation in the world on Education.

DTpringo

Gerard N. Wiggins
South Lyon

Bleak future

A state's budget is both a moral statement and a vision for the future. The proposed budget for next year reveals a failure to accept moral responsibility on the part of our governor and his cohorts in the Legislature. Their budget offers a bleak vision for the future of Michigan. It demonstrates that corporations are valued over human beings, the rich are more worthy than the needy, and education will leave more children "behind." If Michigan fails to provide the resources to enable children to become gainfully employed and be productive citizens, our state fails our nation.

Denise "Chip" Black
Milford

Book sale success

The just concluded four-day Friends Used Book Sale brought in \$1,632.21. These funds will be used to support library programs and projects.

I would like to thank the community for supporting this annual event. I would also like to thank the volunteers who helped to make this event possible. I think few people understand and appreciate the number of people it takes to run a sale like this.

The following volunteers staffed the sale or played some role: John Alexander, Laurie Blundy, Anne Borque, Ron Breuhan, Marilyn Breuhan, Jay Cardinal, Grace Cotter, Marcie Colling, Joanne Dayton, Bill Drapinski, Nick Driver, Sue Ferrario, Roz Fink, Ellison Franklin, Marcia Hershorn, Susanne Isaacs, Phil Jerome, Joyce Liddle, Christine Litka, Cherie Lovett, Jeannine Meade, Erin McDermott, Regina Mingola, Claudia Moore, Gail Mroz, Chuck Murdoch, Andrea Murdoch, Doris Oltersdorf, Jane Patterson, Marian Rowlette, Paul Snyder, Joan Sellen, Sue Sendelbach, Denise Stacer, Joanne Storm, Joe Thomas, Linda Van Dusen, Sue Verbie, Sandy Waits, Christa Williams, Lynne Witt and Geri Wright.

The following Northville High School honor students were instrumental in moving and setting up books for this sale: Mitchell Alameddine, Maria Benjamin, Zeinab Beydoun, Sarah Blackhurst, Rachel Brown, Steven Bryndza, Megh Dholakia, Matthew Ciric, Luke Dodge, Cameron Freisen, Kelsey Duvall, Katherine Gatz, Jung Woo Ha, Aaron Havilich, John Hubbard, Emily Kallil, David Kettlehut, Gina Kim, Jakob Kippola, Alec Latta, Christopher Leja, Jiayue Liu, Manpreet Manau, Mallory Mezuchowski, Melanie Mullett, Natasha Jovanovski, Reena Pullukat, Molly Reitman, Charles Reitz, Kayla Rhodes, Stephanie Rinaldi, Courtney Ring, Kaitlyn Sabourin, Gary Sandhu, Andrew Shanne, Trevor Smith, Lauren Spahschu, Brady Tyburski, Brianna Vandervoort, Diyaa Andrew Kowalski Varghese, Jennifer Woodward, Eric Zwierzechowski, Scott Zwierzechowski. Special thanks go to Nicole Cornelius and Meghan McGillis for coordinating the scheduling at the high school.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the support of Kroeger's, Hiller's Markets and Busch's Markets whose contributions make the bag sales possible this and every year.

Dr. James Morche, coordinator
Friends of the Northville District Library
Used Book Sale



Novi/Northville

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ENGAGEMENT

Bahra & Kau

Paul and Kristin Bahra, of Northville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Anne Bahra, of Minneapolis, Minn., to Eric Robert Kau, of Minneapolis, son of Rick and Debbie Kau, of Waukesha, Minn.

The bride-to-be attended Indiana University and is an overseas sourcing manager for apparel for Target Corporation.

The groom-elect earned an MBA from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, and he is a manager of strategic alliances for Best Buy Corporation. A Sept. 10 wedding in Minneapolis is planned.



Eric Kau and Elizabeth Bahra

NORTHVILLE ENGAGEMENT

Rhodaback and Hamilton

Sara Rhodaback and Richard Hamilton, both of South Lyon, were to be married Saturday, June 25 at Meadowbrook Country Club. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Kim and Molly Rhodaback, of Northville. She is a graduate of Northville High School and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Penn State University.

The groom-elect is the son of Matthew and Kathleen Hamilton, of Novi. He graduated from Novi High School and earned a bachelor's degree in emergency management from Grand Canyon University. He is a firefighter at the City of Allen Park and a former City of Northville firefighter.



PHOTO BY JUDY YOLLS

Sunset at the Zoo

Nearly 2,000 party animals, including Gail Johnson of Novi, mingled with Detroit Zoo animals at the annual Sunset at the Zoo, raising \$345,000. Next up at the Zoo is Summer Zoonance from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, July 14 for zoo lovers ages 21 and up. The after-hours event (trail or stiletto) includes a twilight stroll, live entertainment from the Sun Messengers and nostalgic foods and adult beverages. Tickets are \$8; \$9 for parking. Go to www.detroitzoo.org or call (248) 541-5717.

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CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONSIDERATION OF
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
UNDER ACT P.A. 198 OF 1974, AS AMENDED

Notice is hereby given that Tognum America, Inc. has submitted a request to the City of Novi for the establishment of an Industrial Development District under the "Plant Rehabilitation and Industrial Development Act P.A. 198 of 1974."

The proposed project is located on the west side of Haggerty Road, between Thirteen Mile Road and Fourteen Mile Road, described as follows:

Part of the southeast 1/4 of Section 1, T1N, R8E, City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being more particularly described as commencing at the S.E. Corner of said Section 1; thence along the east line of said Section 1, N09 30'06"W, 2924.29'; thence S87 29'54"W, 60.00' to the point of beginning also being the south line of Mackenzie Drive (60.0 feet r/w); thence along said south line thence S87 29'39"W, 146.57'; thence N83 17'09"W, 87.38'; thence S87 29'39"W, 430.82'; thence continuing along said south line, 86.46 feet along a curve to the right having a radius 480.00 feet and a chord bearing N87 20'46"W, 86.84 feet; thence S02 30'19"E, 508.82'; thence N87 29'07"E, 355.89'; thence N01 16'44"W, 106.60'; thence N43 04'21"E, 97.24'; thence N87 29'39"W, 320.91'; thence N02 30'06"W, 310.17' to the point of beginning.

Containing 305,802.46 sq. ft. and/or 7.02 acres.
Subject to easements and restrictions of record.

Pursuant to Section 4 (4) of said Act, a public hearing shall be held on July 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Novi City Council Chambers, located at 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, during which any property owner within the proposed Industrial Development District, and any resident or taxpayer of the City of Novi may appear and be heard in relation to the consideration of the aforementioned Industrial Development District.

If you have any comments regarding this proposal, they may be presented in writing or at the public hearing.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Publish: July 7, 2011

CITY OF NOVI
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL PRACTICE FIELD EXPANSION, SITE PLAN NUMBER 1126 FOR SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 18, ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TWELVE MILE ROAD BETWEEN WIXOM ROAD AND NAPIER ROAD. THE APPLICANT HAS REQUESTED A REZONING TO THE R-1 ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. The applicant is proposing to construct grass athletic practice fields as an accessory use to the existing high school.

TWELVE MILE ROAD

SECTION 18

NAPIER ROAD

WIXOM ROAD

ELEVEN MILE ROAD

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 27, 2011.

Novi Planning Commission
David Groco, Secretary

Publish: July 7, 2011

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Golf clubs stolen from car

1 A Novi resident had more than \$1,000 worth of golf equipment stolen from his car while it was parked in his driveway on Dunnabeck Court overnight on June 27.

The victim told police he didn't notice the clubs and range finder were taken until he got to his golf league later that evening. He said he believes he locked his car and does not know who might have taken the items.

Police have no suspects.

DVD player taken off vehicle seat

2 A portable DVD player was stolen from inside a 2011

Ford Explorer overnight on June 28 while the car was parked in the driveway of a home on Hillside Drive.

The owner of the SUV said he left the vehicle unlocked overnight and there was no damage to the vehicle as a result of the theft.

The DVD player is valued at \$400 and police have no suspects.

Police reportedly catch drunk driver speeding

3 Novi police arrested a woman at 2:30 a.m. June 30 for allegedly drunk driving after she was reportedly caught speeding on Novi Road near Twelve Mile Road.

According to the report, the officer observed the vehicle traveling 50 mph in a 40 mph zone prior to the traffic stop. When he approached the car, the woman smelled strongly of intoxicants and admitted to having one drink, police said.

She failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .11 percent, police said. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

The woman was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where she was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released when sober and after posting bond, police said.

Woman allegedly caught stealing perfume

4 An Ohio woman was arrested at 3:29 p.m. June 30 for retail fraud after she allegedly caught stealing perfume from Seshora inside Twelve Oaks Mall.

According to the report, the manager at the store saw the suspect lift the skirt of her dress and place perfume underneath it before leaving the store. Security then reportedly observed the woman park in a different location at the mall and enter another store wearing a different dress.

She was then apprehended by mall security and held until police arrived. During a search of the car she was riding in, police reportedly found more than \$2,000 worth of

merchandise from six other stores. The woman admitted to stealing one bottle of perfume but said the other items in the car were not stolen by her but she knew someone stole them, police said.

She reportedly told police she bought those items off another person and intended to return them for cash.

Police believe the woman may be part of a shoplifting ring but were only able to tie the perfume thefts to her.

She was arrested and issued a citation for retail fraud, third degree, and released.

Woman accused of prescription fraud

A 30-year-old Novi woman is in Michigan State Police custody after allegedly committing prescription fraud.

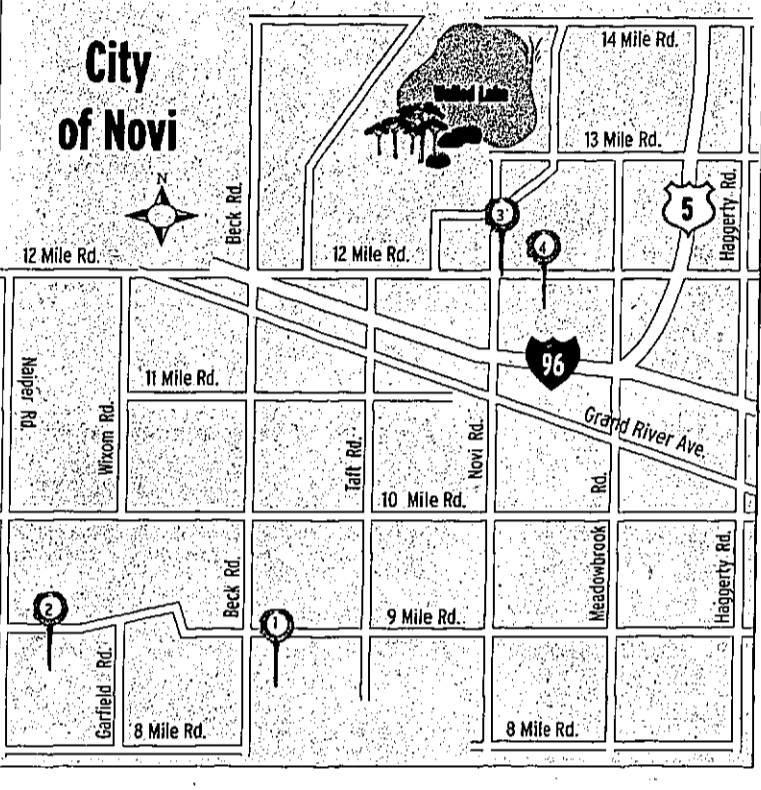
Police said the woman was held in the state police lock-up, pending arraignment.

Police said the woman allegedly presented a fraudulent prescription write-up at the CVS at 3757 Whitmore Lake Road in Brighton Township about 10:55 a.m. Friday.

Police reportedly caught the woman on Interstate 96 after the store's loss-prevention officer gave them her license plate number. She was illegally in possession of a controlled substance, police said.

The woman is also accused of identity theft and obtaining a controlled substance illegally, police said.

Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller and from Gannett News Service



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Local collector Don Lademann will be displaying his complete original collection of The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World by Mario Larrinaga.

Live music, appetizers and beverages will be served throughout the evening. Guests will also have the opportunity to tour the Maritime Museum.

For further information, to register, purchase tickets, and more visit
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CONTRACTS

FROM PAGE A1

He also said while the teachers agreed to a 1-percent wage concession, many still saw an increase because of their change in steps.

Despite the lack of concession from the administrators, the district was still able to save nearly \$1.5 million with the new contracts.

The NESPA, NFSEA and administrative contracts included 1.5 furlough days, and NESPA also included a second tier pay scale where everyone hired after July 1, 2011, will be paid at a rate 5 percent less than the current rate.

The contracts also included various other savings and language changes.

The (UOE) contract did not include furlough days, because they work to clear snow and that is when the furlough days will be used, and also the board is looking into possibly privatizing their jobs. Schram said that discussion will not likely happen until August, but the seven employees that would be affected want to keep their jobs.

"They are very much in favor of reopening the contract and doing whatever they can to maintain their jobs," he said.

The board also approved the 2011-2012 budget on

Thursday, and for the sixth time in the last seven years will be dipping into fund equity to balance it. The budget calls for \$66,691,333 in revenue and \$70,588,308 in expenses for 2011-12, with the district using nearly \$3.9 million in fund equity to balance. Next year officials are projecting a negative fund equity and larger budget deficit.

"It is indeed an issue we need to look at seriously," said secretary George Kortlandt.

"The second year with the wage re-opener is going to be a critical year for the financial stability of this district."

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Golf fundraiser

Eric Hettel tees off at Salem Hills on June 22 during the Novi Educational Foundation's golf outing. The day on the links raised funds for the NEF which helps to get Novi teacher's equipment and services for their pupils.

SCORES

FROM PAGE A1

Merit Exam and ACT scores for the graduating class of 2012 last week, and in Novi, the ACT score went up two-tenths of a point from 23.1 in 2010, while the percentage deemed college-ready remained at 41 percent. MME scores for the district were well above the state average, but still dipped slightly in math, reading, science and social studies. Writing improved by 2 percent.

"My first thought is that Novi does very well and has very high scores on the MME, but once you dig in and analyze it there are clearly ways we can improve," said Supt. Steve Matthews.

"We were certainly strong in some areas but in others we were not as strong as you would expect us to be, so it gives me some things to talk about with our administrative team."

Statewide the average composite ACT score went up slightly from nearly 19.3 (out of a possible 36) in 2010 to 19.33 for 2011. The percentage of students deemed college-ready is up from 16 percent in 2010 to 17 percent in 2011.

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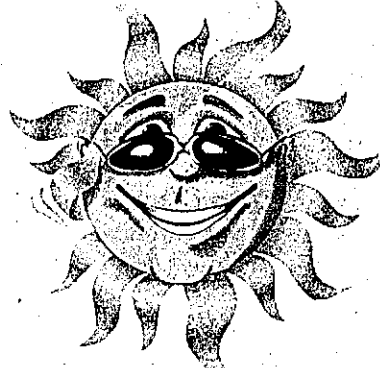
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ALL-AREA TENNIS TEAM HONORED, B2
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Novi's Ward races to POY award

BY JEFF THEISEN
 SPORTS WRITER
 Novi's Jasmine Ward is simply crazy fast.
 The Wildcat junior cemented a state title for the Novi 4x100 relay by coming from behind to crack the tape in 48.35, just .06 ahead of the Jackson relay.
 "She performed one of the best anchor legs that I have ever seen at the state meet to come from behind and win the championship," said coach Marsha Reed. "First state championship for girls track in school history."
 The day didn't end there for Ward. She went on to capture third place in the 200 dash (24.53). Ward was also part of the All-State 4x400 team which finished seventh.
 Ward was also part of all three relays (4x100, 4x200, 4x400) which won regional titles for Novi as the Wildcats also captured a team regional title.



FIRST TEAM
 D'Mya Davis, Novi
 The Novi junior was another key part of the 4x100 state title winner. The 4x100 relay also captured titles at regional, Oakland County and at the K.L.A.A. Conference meet. She also captured a regional title in the 100 dash to qualify for state.
 Kelly McCloskey, Novi
 The Novi junior produced a pair of All-State performances at the State Finals. She finished fourth in the 300 hurdles (44.65) and was part of the 4x400 relay to place seventh. She qualified in four events for the State Finals - 300 hurdles, 100 hurdles, 4x200 and 4x400.
 Abby Downs, Novi
 The Novi freshman has a bright future ahead of her after qualifying for the state finals in the 100 hurdles.
 Janee Hood, Novi
 The Novi sophomore was part of the 4x100 State Champion team.
 Mariah Smith, Novi

Novi High's 4x100 relay women won the state title: (l to r, front) D'Mya Davis, Janee Hood; (top) Jasmine Ward and Mariah Smith.

All-AREA LACROSSE
Gelven best of All-American-filled region

BY CHRIS JACKETT
 CORRESPONDENT
 Senior attacker Dylan Gelven started every game in his four years with a strong Northville program, racking up 68 goals and 52 assists for a state-high 120 points this spring to earn the All-Area Player of the Year honor on top of being tagged as the Mustangs' first-ever All-American.
 "I remember watching him as a sophomore playing in a scrimmage against Ann Arbor Huron, dodging to the cage and ripping a shot top right corner, and saying to my assistant coach, that kid is a 'lacrosse' player, and he will be our first All-American by the time he is a senior," Northville coach Greg Durham said. "Well, for once it was right, because Dylan became our first All-American, deserving every bit of it, averaging seven points a game."
 Despite a talent-rich region of opponents, the All-State attacker managed eight goals and five assists during two games against No. 5 Novi and four goals and two assists in one game against No. 3 Detroit Catholic Central.
 "Dylan was by far the best player I have ever coached in my 10-year career," Durham said. "Not one of the other three All-Americans in our area scored nearly as many points as Dylan and, against us, none of them compared to what Dylan did against them. All three are great players, but Dylan was definitely the standout of the area."
 Gelven will take his lacrosse skills to Seton Hill University, where he plans to study engineering.

FIRST TEAM
 Mitch Burgin (CC Sr. A)
 After earning All-American status as a junior attacker, Mitch Burgin returned and led the Shamrocks with 47 goals and 21 assists this year to earn another All-American honor. He'll be playing lacrosse at Adrian College next year.
 "Mitch has the best hands I've seen come through CC. He is an exceptionally hard worker and has a great nose for the net," CC coach Dave Wilson said. "His mom would toss

Please see LACROSSE, B2

NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP

BY CHRIS JACKETT
 CORRESPONDENT

Pom-pom
 The Novi varsity and junior varsity pom-pom squads both won the grand champion awards at the Mid-American Pom summer camp session June 22-26 at Davenport University in Grand Rapids.
 Senior Captains Mary Favorite and Nicole Rigdon led the varsity squad to first place mings in the original routine, speed learning and high kick categories over 17 other squads as the girls performed an original routine to the tune of Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train."
 Coached by Erin Bartos, the 27 members of varsity pom-poms also entertained the crowd on the third evening with an enthusiastic routine to a medley of music from the television show "Glee." Of the varsity squad, 21 members of the team made the Mid-American Pom All-Star team for Michigan. Plans are in the making for the All-Stars to perform at London's Summer Olympics in 2012.
 Captain's Annie Segal and Laura Baumgarten led the 18-member JV pom squad to their grand championship while earning a second-straight Peppy Pom award for the team with the most spirit and enthusiasm. Elise Bartos and new assistant Alecia Tsermmerga coach the JV squad.
Soccer
 Several Michigan youth soccer teams advanced to regional championship games June 29 in the Fox Cities area in Wisconsin.
 The Grand Rapids Crew Juniors won the under-17 boys title with a 2-1 win over Lou Fisz Gold Popovic (Mo.) with goals from Nate Rose (Grand Haven) and Jason Slacy (Grand Rapids) in the second and 38th minutes.
 The Michigan Hawks 25 won the girls under-16 title with a 2-0 victory over Ohio Premier with goals from Michele Manning (Novi) and Summer Green (Milford) in the sixth and 34th minutes.
 Not all the Michigan teams who made title games came out on top. Eclipse Select 95-96 (Il.) got the best of the Michigan Hawks 1-0 in the under-15 girls championship, while Eclipse Select North Black 97-98 (Il.) took a 2-1 decision over Michigan Hawks 98 in the girls under-13 girls championship.
 For full results, see http://townsports.usualsoccer.org/events/2011-Region-11-Championships.

Athletic Camps
 Visit http://www.novihl2.musingshobbies.com for a list of the various sports camps being run by Novi High School coaches and student-athletes. All the camps take place at the high school, middle school or Novi Woods.
 Camps include girls swimming July 11-15, cheerleading July 11-14, lacrosse July 11-14, football both July 11-14 and July 18-21, volleyball both July 11-15 and Aug. 16-19, field hockey July 25-30 and pom-pom Aug. 27.
 Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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 on all name-brand tires for a list of the various sports camps being run by Novi High School coaches and student-athletes. All the camps take place at the high school, middle school or Novi Woods.
 Camps include girls swimming July 11-15, cheerleading July 11-14, lacrosse July 11-14, football both July 11-14 and July 18-21, volleyball both July 11-15 and Aug. 16-19, field hockey July 25-30 and pom-pom Aug. 27.
 Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

Wang aces field for POY honors

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Novi's Abby Wang swings into the top spot of the 2011 All-Area Tennis team. The Novi No. 1 singles player capped off the year at the State Finals, where the Wildcatters finished in 11th place. The Novi junior gave the team a win before her season came to a close in the second round. Wang finished the year 19-6, with five of her losses coming to the top four seeds in Division 1.

First team

Erin Doud, Northville
The Mustangs' No. 2 singles player finished the year 25-2 with KLAAs Conference and regional titles. After receiving a bye at the State Finals, she earned a win before her season came to an end in the quarterfinals. The Mustangs finished tied for sixth at state.

Joanne Weber, Northville
Northville's Weber finished Conference and regional runner-up to Player of the Year Wang from Novi.

Mackenzie Powers, Northville
The Northville junior finished 21-5 at No. 3 singles for the KLAAs Conference champion Mustangs. Powers won the KLAAs Conference and regional titles as well as recording a win at the State Finals.

Nina Haase, Milford
The Milford foreign exchange student proved to be quite a catch for the Mavs. She went 13-5 at No. 2 and even filled in for No. 1 singles for a week. She reached the semifinals of the KLAAs Conference tournament and the quarterfinals of the regionals before losing to the eventual State Champion.

Meggie Riegel and Jenna Snyder, Novi
The two Novi seniors combined to go 17-8 on the year at No. 1 doubles. They collected a regional title as well as wins against A.A. Huron (2), Northville (2), Rochester, and Rochester Stony Creek during the season.

Meng Meng Jie and Amy Zhou, Novi
Novi senior Jie and freshman Zhou made a run all the way to finish runner-up at State Finals for No. 4 doubles. The duo collected KLAAs Conference and regional titles along the way to a 20-3 record on the year.

"They were a solid and consistent doubles duo throughout the season," said Hanson. Ally Weaver and Jackie Kjolhede, Northville
The Mustang senior No. 2 doubles team rolled all the way into the state semifinals. Weaver and Kjolhede finished the year 26-2 with KLAAs Conference and regional titles along the way.

Christy Snyder and Elizabeth Sakorafis, Northville
The No. 3 team of freshman Snyder and sophomore Sakorafis also finished the season in the state semifinals. The duo also collected KLAAs Conference and regional titles en route to a 23-3 record.

Meghan Ewald and Erin Dougherty, Milford
The Milford seniors combined to go 16-3 at No. 1 doubles. Their highlights included wins against Brighton and Salem.

ALL-AREA TENNIS

Player of the Year
Abby Wang, Novi
First Team
Joanne Weber, Northville
Erin Doud, Northville
Mackenzie Powers, Northville
Nina Haase, Milford
Meggie Riegel and Jenna Snyder, Novi
Meng Meng Jie and Amy Zhou, Novi
Ally Weaver and Jackie Kjolhede, Northville
Christy Snyder and Elizabeth Sakorafis, Northville
Meghan Ewald and Erin Dougherty, Milford

Second team
Asawari Kanikar, Novi
Caitlin O'Brien, Novi
Alex Jeannotte, Northville
Lindsay Dehnhostel, Lakeland
Christy Murphy and Danielle Romano, Northville
Emily Toupin and Lauren Starr, Northville
Emily Kwederis and Ori Nagasaka, Novi
Ashley Aljadah and Emily Sheeran, Novi
Taylor Staffileno and Sydney Sinclair, Lakeland

Honorable mention
Novi: Rebecca Chen
Milford: Kelsey Price, Autumn Giles
Lakeland: Marissa Herbert

Second team

Asawari Kanikar, Novi
The Novi freshman played No. 4 singles for the Wildcatters, finishing 14-10. She finished conference and regional runner-up.

Caitlin O'Brien, Novi
The Wildcat sophomore split time at doubles before shoring up the Novi lineup at No. 2 singles. Head coach Hanson said she had big wins at both the conference and regional tournaments.

Alex Jeannotte, Northville
She finished the year 25-2 at No. 4 singles. She earned a win at the State Finals and captured conference and regional titles.

Lindsay Dehnhostel, Lakeland
She finished 12-7 at No. 2 singles for the Eagles. Her highlights included a win against Novi and a second-place finish at the Brighton quad.

Christy Murphy and Danielle Romano, Northville
The senior Murphy and freshman Romano manded the top spot for Northville's doubles teams.

Emily Toupin and Lauren Starr, Northville
Other than losses to Novi, the duo managed wins against every other team in the KLAAs Kensington Conference.

Emily Kwederis and Ori Nagasaka, Novi
The Novi juniors finished conference and regional runner-up to Northville at No. 2 doubles.

Ashley Aljadah and Emily Sheeran, Novi
Senior Aljadah and junior Sheeran got paired together midway through the season and still managed to go 11-6, finishing runner-up at both conference and regional tournaments.

Taylor Staffileno and Sydney Sinclair, Lakeland
The No. 4 doubles team went 15-5 for the Eagles. They were seeded at both the district and regional meet and claimed first place at the Brighton quad and second place at the Lakeland tournament.

ltheisen@pennnet.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 228



First in Okemos

The U1 Mustangs won all four of their games and took first place in the Okemos Baseball Classic Tournament on June 26. Pictured (l to r, front) are Mitchell Smith, Ryan Perkins, Jackson Stegmyer, Jonathan Michalak, Ben Brady and Benj Eckerle; (back) Coach Glenn Perkins, Head Coach Eric Stegmyer, Lucas Buccellato, Ben Schmidt, Drew Atkinson, Shane Rankin, Ethan Hoffman, Liam Fleming and Coach Rob Hoffman.

LACROSSE

FROM PAGE B1

him errant passes in the backyard and Mitch would have to catch them and shoot.

Wildcat senior midfielder Joe Mikkelsen played through injury, winning 80 percent of his faceoffs and helping to the Division 1 semifinals. His effort earned him All-American and All-State honors.

"Great on man up," Novi coach Tom Stephano said. Mike Birney (CC Sr. D)

An All-American defender bound for University of Detroit-Mercy's lacrosse team, Shamrock senior Mike Birney filled many roles for CC this spring while notching 19 goals and 10 assists.

"Mister do it all for us; clears, rides, plays defense, offense and extra man offense," CC coach Dave Wilson said.

Taylor Howell (Novi Sr. A) An offensive dynamo who scored the winning overtime goal against Detroit Catholic Central during the regional final, Novi senior Taylor Howell was named the Wildcatters' Offensive MVP.

Tommy Orr (CC Sr. M) Racking up 34 goals and 14 assists helped CC senior midfielder Tommy Orr earn All-State honors this spring.

An Academic All-American, he is headed to the University of Michigan.

Junior Mustang attacker Nick Melucci had a solid season, earning an All-State honorable mention behind 37 goals and 27 assists.

"Nick had a great season, leading the team in ground balls, and being our left-handed attackman, scoring numerous goals back side on either Gelven or Kippola's) dodges," Northville coach Greg Durham said. "He has really become a great attackman."

Eric Tammi (Lakeland Sr. A) As the senior MVP, Lakeland senior attacker and captain Eric Tammi rung up 46 goals and 11 assists for a struggling Huron Valley United squad. He earned All-Conference and Academic All-KLAAs honors.

"(He) led the team in goals and total points, and was a three-year letter winner while carrying a GPA over 4.0," Lakeland coach Greg Ristau said.

ALL-AREA LACROSSE

FIRST TEAM
Mitch Burgin, CC
Joe Mikkelsen, Novi
Mike Birney, CC
Taylor Howell, Novi
Tommy Orr, CC
Zach Mohr, Novi
Greg Kofis, Novi
Jacob Kippola, Northville
Nick Melucci, Northville
Eric Tammi, Lakeland

SECOND TEAM
Pat McKay, South Lyon
Neil Nypaver, CC
Spencer Hilden, South Lyon
Michael Comben, Northville
Ian O'Brien, CC
Curtis Herzog, Novi
Kent Burnett, Novi
Scott Byrne, CC
Corey Roberto, Milford
Connor Kehoe, South Lyon

HONORABLE MENTION
Doyle Williams, Milford
Evan Ronayne, Lakeland
Sam Brooks, Lakeland
Chris Ross, Milford
Max Klepack, Lakeland
Gary Schell, Lakeland
Chris Reid, Lakeland
David Kettel, Northville
Tom Kreitzer, South Lyon
Eric West, South Lyon
Riley McKenzie, South Lyon
Nathan Dikado, South Lyon
Seth Malarik, South Lyon
Cameron Dillon, South Lyon
Alec Mayhew, South Lyon

Shamrock, senior midfielder Neil Nypaver stepped it up on ground balls, trail checks and clears this spring to earn All-State honors.

Spencer Hilden (South Lyon Sr. M) From the midfield, sophomore Spencer Hilden had two goals, 10 assists and 50 groundballs while setting a school record by winning 82 percent of his faceoffs (137 for 160) and earning All-State honorable mention.

Michael Comben (Northville Sr. D) A top defender in the Mustangs' lineup, senior Michael Comben earned All-Region and All-Conference honors with 65 groundballs and one assist this spring.

Jan O'Brien (CC Sr.) Taking second-team All-State honors, senior Ian O'Brien won more than 120 faceoffs during the regular season before ending on a bitter note with a knee injury in the fourth quarter of a regional final loss.

Curtis Herzog (Novi Jr. A) One of the Wildcatters' top scorers, Novi coach Tom Stephano said junior attacker Curtis Herzog was a great rider and his hardest working player on the field.

Kent Burnett (Novi Jr. A) Novi junior attacker Kent Burnett kept things interesting for opponents with his quality left-handed attack skills.

Scott Byrne (CC Sr. D) Starting every game for the Shamrocks this spring, senior defender Scott Byrne used his 6-foot-2 frame to keep opponents away from CC's goal. He's headed to Ave Maria University (Fla.) to play football.

Corey Roberto (Milford Jr. A) Behind 11 goals and a team-high 17 assists, junior attacker Corey Roberto earned All-Conference honors while also filling in on defense after his teammates were sidelined with injuries.

Connor Kehoe (South Lyon Sr. D) Senior Connor Kehoe led the South Lyon Unified defense, grabbing 35 ground balls and making 25 take-away checks.

HONORABLE MENTION

Northville - Doyle Williams (Milford Jr. A), Evan Ronayne (Lakeland Sr. D), Sam Brooks (Lakeland Sr. M), Max Klepack (Lakeland Sr. D), Gary Schell (Sr. GK), Chris Reid (Sr. GK)

Northville - David Kettel (Sr. GK), South Lyon - Tom Kreitzer (Sr. GK), Eric West (Fr. A), Riley McKenzie (Sr. M), Nathan Dikado (D), Seth Malarik (Sr. D), Cameron Dillon (M), Alec Mayhew (Sr. GK)

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

Lakeland's Johnson catches top spot

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Coaches have to have a lot of trust in catchers. Lakeland coach Joe Alsup has had the luxury of pensup in Kelsey Johnson for the past few years, and he never had to worry.

Johnson finished up her career with a stellar .436 average with nine triples to go with a .991 fielding percentage behind the plate during her senior campaign.

"One of the best players I have ever coached in my 32 years of coaching," said coach Joe Alsup. The two-time captain earned All-League, All-District, All-Region and Division 1 All-State First Team honors for the second year in a row.

The Eagles won district and regional titles three times and finished State Runner-up last year during her tenure.

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She also threw three batters out at first from right field. "She's a feared hitter who plays great defense with a rock-a-arm," said Alsup.

Selena Hicks, Lakeland
The Eagle sophomore worked out of the circle the most for Lakeland this year. She finished 22-4 with a 1.61 ERA. She also hit .396 while batting fifth in the lineup. She earned All-Conference, All-District and All-Region honors.

Jessica Mehr, South Lyon
The Lion freshman proved to be anything but a rookie. Mehr hit a remarkable .582 (57-98) at the plate with plenty of power. She had 19 doubles, six triples and five home runs. She led the team with 41 RBIs and was second with 27 runs scored. Mehr also spent some time in the circle, starting seven games.

"She has an opportunity to be a Division 1 player if she keeps working hard," said coach Steve Hankins. "She's got great hands and sees the ball very well. She's a great two-strike hitter."

Danielle Godair, South Lyon
The senior pitcher finished her career with her best offensive stats for the Lions. She started 15 games, striking out 91 batters in 106 innings and finished the year with a 1.92 ERA.

At the plate, she hit .490 (50-102) with 12 doubles and seven triples. She scored a team-high 33 runs.

Sierra Burke, Lakeland
The Eagle junior hit for average and power. Burke batted .432 with team-high in home runs with six and RBIs with 32.

Gabby Williams, South Lyon
The junior proved to be a solid force at short for the Lions. She batted .434 (43-99) but it was her stellar defense that stood out for Hankins.

"She's got great hands. Probably the best defensive shortstop in the KLAAs," he said. "She's a great fourth hitter, a great leader, and I look forward to seeing her for her senior year."

Olivia Richivsky, South Lyon East
The junior center fielder earned Division 2 All-State Honorable Mention after batting .383, swiping 20 of 21 attempts and playing flawless in the outfield. She earned the team Best Defensive Player award, All-District and All-Region honors.

"Olivia Richivsky played an outstanding center field this year," said coach Steve Hankins. "She made a number of running and diving catches to either save a game or prevent a big inning by our opponents."

Katie Fenech, Northville
The senior first baseman earned All-Conference and All-District honors while batting .447 with a .557 on base percentage with 31 runs batted in.

"Katie was our No. 4 hitter and lead the team in RBIs and was second in batting average," said coach Kary Couchman. "She is a three-year varsity player who will be playing next year at Concordia University. Katie's work ethic helped her to

raise her batting average nearly .075 this year."

Jennifer Buckingham, Northville
The junior Mustang center fielder led the team with a .479 batting average. She knocked out 57 hits as well as swiped 18 bases to earn All-Conference and All-District honors.

"Jen is the leader in the outfield and manages to make plays that seem impossible," said Couchman. "Her speed makes her a danger on the basepaths. She raised her batting average almost .150 points from last year to this year and will continue to lead the team next year."

Colleen Kolis, Novi
The Wildcat senior held down the hot corner while also hitting a scorching .413 at the plate.

Second team
Jess Brandon, South Lyon
The freshman scored the ball for a .415 average (39-93) with 22 RBIs and 11 runs scored.

Morgan Craft, Lakeland
The junior first baseman earned All-League and All-District honors while hitting .427 with 28 runs batted in. She will be a captain next year.

Becky Morrin, Milford
The Milford sophomore catcher proved to be durable as well as a quality hitter. She caught 34 of 36 games on the year while producing a .344 average with 28 runs scored. She threw out nine of 18 attempted steals.

Karli Pawlowski, Milford
The senior pitcher/infielder put up strong numbers no matter where she played. Despite a 6-13 record in the circle, she had a stellar 1.43 ERA. She also led the team with a .422 batting average which included eight doubles a triple and two home runs. She knocked in 17 runs and scored 14 of her own.

Allie Chapekis, Northville
The freshman catcher batted .422 and carried a .483 on base percentage to help earn All-Conference and All-District honors.

ALL-AREA SOFTBALL
Player of the Year
Kelsey Johnson, Lakeland
First Team
Jessica Cleary, Lakeland
Sierra Burke, Lakeland
Selena Hicks, Lakeland
Jessica Mehr, South Lyon
Danielle Godair, South Lyon
Gabby Williams, South Lyon
Olivia Richivsky, South Lyon
East
Katie Fenech, Northville
Jennifer Buckingham, Northville
Colleen Kolis, Novi

Second team
Morgan Craft, South Lyon
Kelli Merkle, Lakeland
Kristin Miloch, East
Taylor Jones, East
Laura Oakley, Novi
Becky Morrin, Milford
Karli Pawlowski, Milford
Allie Chapekis, Northville
Honorable mention
South Lyon: Shannon Miller
Lakeland: Jessica McNabb
Milford: Lauren Smith
East: Olivia Melson, Sydney Jones, Willow Cohn
Novi: Laura Oakley, Abby Robinson, Katie Marra, Maddy Sinkovich, Meaghan Robinson, Kimberly Powers, Rebecca Richter, Taylor Scott
Northville: Karli Fisher, Laura Pond, Suzanne Hines

ALL-AREA GIRLS TRACK
Athlete of the Year
Jasmine Ward, Novi

First Team
D'Mya Davis, Novi
Kelli McCloskey, Novi
Abby Downs, Novi
Janae Hood, Novi
Marian Smith, Novi
Kerri McMahan, Novi
Lina Davis, Novi
Jackie Mullins, Novi
Margaux Canup, Milford
Lauren Kettle, Milford
Alex Moynes, Northville
Stephanie Lock, Lakeland

Second Team
Lyndsay Tyler, South Lyon
Brady Covert, South Lyon
Tori Remstad, South Lyon
Meg Stando, Milford
Hannah Wikaryasz, Milford
Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland
Reighan Fisher, Lakeland
Kim Yanka, South Lyon East
Rhianon Pavlinac, South Lyon
East
Mary Kay Brzezinski, Northville

Honorable Mention
South Lyon: Tori Remstad, Taylor Remstad, Abby Sigler, Miranda Spencer, Jessica Fredericks, Melanie Sprinkle, Christina Swain, Katie Beaber and Kirsten Bronson.
Milford: Rachel Barrett, Lina Erving, Danielle Allen, Yasmine Hassan, Claire Slaughter
Northville: Gina McNamara, Erin Zimmer, Talaen Shahrigan

Brady Covert, South Lyon
The South Lyon freshman set new school standards in the high jump with a leap of 5-3. She finished runner-up in the Freshman Oakland County meet, first at the Sunset Fresh/soph invite, sixth at regionals and sixth in the KLAAs Conference meet.

Tori Remstad, South Lyon
The senior captain competed in sprints, several relays and even hurdles for the Lions. She was a consistent point scorer throughout the year for the short-handed Lions.

Meg Stando, Milford
She was the KLAAs Conference champion in the high jump and finished fourth at regionals (5-1).

Hannah Wikaryasz, Milford
She finished fifth at a regional in the shot put with a season-best throw of 32-11.75. Her best discus launch of the year was 106-11.5.

Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland
The Lakeland sophomore also qualified for state in the 800 meters. She finished 15th (2:19.18).

Reighan Fisher, Lakeland
The Lakeland sophomore also qualified for state in the 800 meters. She finished 20th (2:20.97). Both Bridgewater and Fisher broke the previous school record this season.

Kim Yanka, South Lyon East
The East sophomore qualified for state by finishing second at regionals by clearing 5-0.

Rhianon Pavlinac, South Lyon East
The Cougar sophomore finished third in the KLAAs in the discus and fourth at regionals. She had a season-best throw of 106-0.

Mary Kay Brzezinski, Northville
The Mustang senior launched herself 17-3 in the long jump at the EMU Invite and ran 48.2 at the regional meet in the 300 hurdles.

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ltheisen@pennnet.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 228

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FORD ADDS TO LEADERSHIP IN INFOTAINMENT, SAFETY

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

Ford is attempting to build on its early lead in on-board connectivity and also add to its safety chops as it continues to navigate the increasingly strategic and high-profile world of automotive infotainment. Innovations such as Sync have gained Ford some leadership in this area in the eyes of American consumers, and recently Ford announced incremental advances, such as expansion of its Sync voice-control software to more vehicles.

"Being green and smart are Ford's most important differentiators in the marketplace," Mark Fields, Ford's president of the Americas, told journalists assembled at the company's design center in Dearborn, Mich., for a safety and technology show-and-tell last month. Consumer appreciation of the "smart pillar" of Ford's long-term positioning - which also includes "safe" and "quality" values as well as "green" - rose 62 percent by the end of the first quarter compared with 2008 when the concepts were embodied formally, Fields said.

Doug VanDagens, director of Ford Connected Services Solutions, asserted that when it comes to infotainment, the company is "thinking like and innovating at the pace of a consumer-electronics company."

Specifically, Ford said that it plans to make Sync Applink available on an

additional nine vehicles for 2012 beyond the previously announced 2012 Ford Mustang, expanding customer access to Applink's "intuitive" voice control and to smart-phone apps on the go. Ford plans to add more than 100 jobs over the next four years in this expanding area and announced that 2,600 independent developers have signaled their interest in creating more apps for Ford by signing onto a web site. The company also disclosed a new partnership with Nuance Communications, based in Burlington, Mass., which develops voice-control technologies.

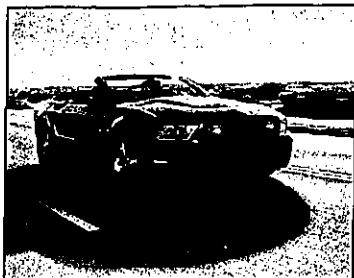
As competitors scurry to catch up to Ford in infotainment, executives want to keep their feet on the gas. More than 84 percent of Ford Fusions now are sold equipped with Sync as well as more than 76 percent of F-150s. A total of three million Ford-built vehicles now include Sync, and Fields said that more than 50 percent of customers say that the system was a key factor in their purchase considerations.

About 55 percent of smart-phone users prefer voice commands over other types of interfaces in the car, VanDagens said, and more than 25 percent admit to using apps in the vehicle. Small wonder: Smart-phone owners spend an average of 7.4 hours a week in their vehicles, he said.



The 2012 Ford Mustang GT.

Sync Applink will be available on the 2012 Mustang



Ford's reputation in the infotainment area slipped a bit recently after Consumer Reports identified difficulties in operating both Sync and MyFord Touch, a complementary infotainment platform. But Fields said that Ford is "fixing issues" with MyFord Touch, not only with the software per se but also in helping customers understand the systems.

"Early this year, dealers began offering personalized sessions just like at the Apple store, and even going to customers' homes" to conduct the training, Fields said. Ford also has added an owner-supported web site for Sync. Partly as a result, 73 percent of customers surveyed by Ford indicated satisfaction with the first generation of MyFord Touch versus 65 percent who had given the thumbs up to the first generation of Sync a few years ago, he said.

Because vehicles now have become so digitally integrated internally as well as with the outside world, safety improvements - as well as entertainment and communication functions in the vehicle - increasingly run through computer interfaces. The

most crucial frontier in that regard is how to help drivers safely use smart-phone apps in the car that they're simply insisting they want to use.

Sue Cischke, Ford's vice president of environmental and safety engineering, said that the most important determinant of safety is for drivers to keep their eyes on the road and both hands on the steering wheel. This remains the case, she insisted, even in the wake of conflicting research that suggests distracting cell-phone conversations, for example, can significantly promote the possibility of an accident even if the driver is watching the road and has both hands in place.

Ford is researching more ways for the vehicle to automatically suggest accident-avoidance action-avoidance actions by the driver and maybe even curb them. "We're looking at disrupting communications, for instance, when you're coming around a curve," Cischke said. And Sync already offers a "Do Not Disturb" feature that drivers can activate if they don't want incoming cell-phone calls to interrupt their driving.

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