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SPORTS, B1

Andiamo presents Christmas classic

"It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" is presented at Andiamo Novi through Jan. 15.

Inspired by the classic American film, "It's a Wonderful Life" is being performed as a 1040's live radio play in front of a studio audience. Five actors perform the dozens of characters in the play as well as produce all the sound effects from the studio Foley table. Produced and directed by Aaron Moore, the production stars Katie Galazka, Joel Mitchell, Kirsten Knisely (Beehive), Patrick O'Reilly (Five Course Love) and Kevin Young.

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursdays; 9 p.m. Fridays; 7 p.m. Saturdays; and 6 p.m. Sundays. For reservations, call (248) 348-4448 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Lions tickets

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the Minnesota Vikings on Dec. 11. At Ford Field. Our website, HometownLife.com, is giving away two prime tickets to the game but you must act fast as the deadline for entries is midnight Dec. 8. To enter, visit us on Facebook and click on the sweepstakes tab, or go to HometownLife.com, and click on Detroit Lion helmet in our Don't Miss module. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra chance to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random Dec. 9.

Santa at Twelve Oaks

This holiday season, take an enchanted journey into a magical world at the Ice Palace at Twelve Oaks Mall (east side of Novi Road just north of I-96). Kids can visit Santa and have their photo taken or have your family's photo taken on the Ice Throne.

NOVI NEWS
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City seeks resident input on Landings Park tonight

State grant to help fund first phase of improvements

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The city of Novi is seeking resident input as officials move forward with plans of developing the Landings Park on Walled Lake.

The city received a \$437,500 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant last year to help fund the first phase of the project, but the meeting today at 6 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center

will be discussing the project as a whole. Jason Mangum, director of parks, recreation and cultural services, said citizen involvement has already been used in designing the project thus far, but the concept is still a work in progress.

"It will allow (residents) to give feedback and find out what our expectations are," he said of the meeting. "We want them to know what we are doing now and where we were going."

The park, located on the northeast corner of South Lake Drive and Old Novi Road, will be done in three phases. The first phase is expected to start next year and will feature improvements to the park infrastructure, fishing pier, shoreline stabilization and more.

Novi officials chose to match 30 percent of the grant as part of the application, which will amount to \$187,500. Mangum said the goal of the

park is to blend it with the neighborhood, connecting people with the water, while also keeping some of the site's history.

"It's not going to be anything really active in terms of sporting facilities and fields," he said. "It's going to be a place where people can gather."

For more information about Landings Park, visit www.cityof-novi.org or call 248-347-0400.

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



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Sylvan Learning Centers will be collecting non-perishable food for Gleaners until Dec. 17. Here students Abbie Patenaude, 15, Meghan Kwederis, 12, and Rachel DiSebastian, 12, right, help in the effort at Sylvan's 22034 Novi Road location.

Students learn about giving back

Drive to benefit Gleaners Food Bank

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Students mainly come to Sylvan Learning of Novi for supplemental education. Some are there for extra help or remediation if they are struggling in school, while others are looking to get ahead.

But director Kathy Michel sees another way the business can help students in the future — by teaching them to give back and help others.

"It's critical because a lot of the students around here don't see the need so it's hard

for them to envision that (people are struggling)," she said. "The younger you expose them to it, the more charitable they become as adults and I don't think we need to mandate goodness."

This year the learning center, which has been in the community for 24 years, is hosting a holiday food drive called "Nourishing Brains and Bodies" from Dec. 5-17 for Gleaners Food Bank. The drive not just open to students, but everyone in the community is encouraged to participate.

Students who donate will be given Sylvan rewards called tokens that can be used in the school store. Community members who drop off food will receive 50 percent off a

test for one of their students. Michel said the business is heavily involved with Novi Youth Assistance, but this is the first time they have done an outside activity.

"I think if you can inspire children to do what you would want to be done for you it starts at an early age," she said.

The goal is to collect 300 pounds of food for the organization to help families during the holidays.

"The kids are really excited about this," Michel said. "They like giving back."

Food can be dropped off at the learning center located at 22034 Novi Road from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Canton woman awaiting lung transplant

Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell only has one thing on her Christmas list, but it's a big one: a new lung.

Bracewell, a Canton resident, needs a lung transplant, but the costs are overwhelming. So volunteers are planning a Dec. 11 bowling fundraiser to benefit Canton resident Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell with medical expenses relating to the lung transplant she needs.

In 1998, Bracewell came down with a bad cold that eventually worsened to pneumonia. She was



Please see TRANSPLANT, A2

A CHANCE TO HELP

What: Bowling fundraiser for Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell

When: 4-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11

Where: Novi Bowling, 21700 Novi Road in Novi.

Why: To help Canton resident Darlene (LaRue) Bracewell with medical expenses relating to the lung transplant she needs.

Highlights: The event will include side jackpots and brackets, 50/50 raffles, a bake sale and a silent auction for items such as Carhartt clothing and snowmobile vacation packages.

Cost: \$20 (includes two games, two slices of pizza and soft drinks)

More help: To make a donation in Bracewell's honor, visit www.transplants.org, or mail a contribution to the NHT Michigan Transplant Fund, 5350 Poplar Avenue, Suite 430, Memphis, TN 38119. Be sure to write "in honor of Darlene Bracewell" in the subject line.



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Hansel and Gretel



Tickets are now on sale for Hansel and Gretel presented by the Novi Civic Theatre this Friday (7:30 p.m.), Saturday (2 and 7:30 p.m.) and Sunday (2 p.m.). Tickets may be purchased online via cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Civic Theatre (45175 W. 10 Mile) today and tomorrow between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. In this story of Hansel and Gretel the birds and the little gnomes, under the spell of the wicked witch, are forced to coax children away so that the wicked witch can eat them. When the children's father returns home without food or money the whole family goes berry picking. The children become lost in the woods, and the birds and gnomes put them to sleep until the witch comes. Twenty actors will grace the stage throughout the production from Novi and the neighboring towns of Northville, Walled Lake, Commerce Township, Livonia, and Wixom. Lauren Nowakowski, Performing Arts coordinator for the City of Novi: "I made my acting debut in Hansel and Gretel, so the production is really dear to my heart. It is exciting to bring this classic to new audiences." Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children and seniors. All seats are reserved. For more information, please call the Novi Parks office at (248) 347-0400.

TRANSPLANT

Continued from page A1

referred to a pulmonologist, who diagnosed her with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, which has severely damaged her lungs. She knows firsthand how devastating COPD can be, as both her mother and aunt suffered from the disease. She has had frequent episodes of pneumonia since 2006, and her COPD continues to worsen. Doctors say a lung transplant is critical to her survival. She has undergone evaluations and was recently added to the transplant waiting list.

Despite her health battles, Bracewell, 63, is extremely positive and treasures every single day. She is determined to overcome her illness so she can return to the many favors people have done for her.

Bracewell said she feels "blessed and thankful" for the love and support from her husband, Charles, and their two children and seven grandchildren. She "looks forward to the lifesaving transplant" that will give her the energy to get out of bed each day without a struggle. Because she

fighters for every breath, she is unable to enjoy activities such as bowling, taking walks and exercising, but she stays busy by reading and playing cards.

According to officials at the National Foundation for Transplants, a lung transplant costs approximately \$450,000. Even with health coverage, Bracewell faces considerable medical expenses related to her transplant, NFT officials said. For the rest of her life, she will need follow-up care and daily anti-rejection medications. The cost of post-transplant medications can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month, and they are as critical to her survival as the transplant itself, the NFT said.

Although she "enjoyed" her job as a cost analyst, Bracewell has been unable to work since 2008, adding to the financial strain.

To overcome these financial challenges, Bracewell turned to the NFT for assistance. NFT is a nonprofit organization that helps transplant patients raise funds to pay for medical expenses.

"Can you imagine fighting for every single breath you take?" said Laura Hughes, NFT fundraising consultant. "That's the reality for Darlene. Most of us take the simple act of breathing for granted, but Darlene is painfully aware of each breath. At NFT, we're dedicated to helping Darlene raise the necessary funds so she can focus on her health without constantly worrying about the costs."

NFT currently assists more than 1,200 transplant candidates and recipients nationwide. For more information about NFT, please call (800) 489-3863 or visit www.transplants.org.

Ring in the new year with 'Months On End'

Northville's Tipping Point Theatre will present "Months On End," a comedy of the interwoven lives of 10 people throughout the course of one year, in three fundraising performances Dec. 29-31.

Beginning on New Year's Eve, the story follows baptisms and heartbreak as it shifts among the group. Join the TPT actors as they bring each scene to life, while binding all 12 months into a wonderful performance.

The story centers around Phoebe (Angela Kay Miller) and Ben (James R. Kuhl), who are engaged to be married. But Phoebe worries that her Beatles-obsessed fiancé may not be the right man for her. Ben is no help planning the wedding because he's distracted by a friend's illness. Phoebe's friend, Elaine (Sonja Marquis), is jealous of Phoebe's relationship, especially since none of hers last more than five dates. She's ready to give up on love until she meets the eternally optimistic Walter (Taras Los), whose only flaw may be that he's married.

Walter's gruff brother, Nick (Rob Pantano), is single, but when he proposes to Paige (Julia Garlotte) on a beach, her answer is to scream and drop the engagement ring in the sand. Heidi (Katie Terpstra), Phoebe's sister, delivers a comic gem of a commencement address in May that starts as a tribute to the graduates' parents, but degenerates into a hysterical tirade against them.

Come June, Phoebe's wedding day meltdown

DETAILS

Months On End: All performances are at 8 p.m. at the Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady Street, Northville. Tickets are \$25 for Dec. 29 and 30 and \$75 for the Dec. 31, New Year's Eve performance (followed by an afterglow party which includes appetizers provided by Rocky's of Northville, wine and a toast close to midnight; \$50 of the \$75 ticket is tax-deductible donation).

For more information or to order tickets, call (248) 347-0003; e-mail tix@tippingpointtheatre.com; or visit www.tippingpointtheatre.com.

Tipping Point Theatre is located at 361 E. Cady Street, Northville. **Upcoming production:** "The Love List" by Norm Foster, Jan. 19-Feb. 19, starring Dave Davies, Tina Gloss and Wayne David Parker.

isn't helped by her mother Gwen's (Julia Glander) complaints, or her father, Chris (Thomas D. Mahard), who (while trying to calm her fears) tells Phoebe to "pretend you're in an airplane that's crashing..." Walter and Nick and their friend Tony (Peter Prouty) battle hilariously in July over what they find sexy about women (but it's not what you think). The diverse scenes and characters in this winning play come together to create a delightful theatrical experience, encompassing a range of emotions from happiness to sorrow and everything in between.

Knitting for a cause



Knitting Yarns group members Kathy McGuffin, left, and Mary Moots look over some of their knitted creations during the group's Nov. 30 meeting at the Assarian Cancer Center at Novi Providence Park Hospital. The knitting group, which meets twice a month, was getting ready for its Dec. 8 and 9 sale at the main (new) hospital's cafeteria — where it will offer up its hats and scarves and other creations. Proceeds from the sale, running from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will benefit programs at the cancer center.

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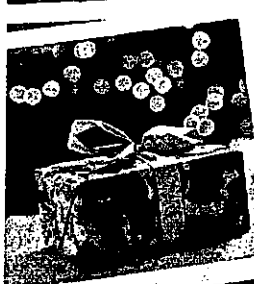
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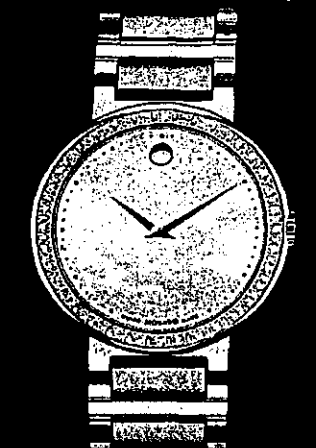
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New comment system requires real names of users

By Larry Ruehlen
Observer Staff Writer

It's the end of the anonymous era. Hometownlife.com, the website for the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weekly Newspapers, now requires posters to sign on by using their real names. Company officials believe the move will result in a "higher-quality discussion" on story chats.

"We ask those submitting letters to the editor to sign their name to printed material and this is no different. I believe this new policy is a start in raising the level of quality discussion and engagement on our website," said Susan Rostek, executive editor and publisher of the O&E and Hometown Weeklies and Hometownlife.com.

Readers are required to log into a registered Facebook account to comment on Novi News stories at Hometownlife.com. Gannett Co. Inc. announced in October it will make that change for all of its U.S. community publishing and broadcast sites.

Other Gannett-owned sites affected in Michigan are the Lansing State Journal, Digital Free Press, The Livingston Daily Press & Argus, Battle Creek Enquirer and WZZM-TV. The official Gannett-wide Facebook comments deployment began last week and is scheduled to finish in January.

News organizations that implement Facebook commenting abilities on their sites say they are seeing "higher-quality" dis-

ussion and a "significant increase in referral traffic," according to a report by Jeff Sonderman, a digital media fellow at The Poynter Institute. Poynter is a school in St. Petersburg, Fla., that advocates for journalistic excellence.

The Gannett changes to the new commenting system weren't reckless, said Long. Gannett's Digital Project coordinator.

"We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment," the Gannett e-mail announcement sent by Long reads. "However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages

high-quality and relevant contributions. "By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us."

Pilot study

Gannett selected five sites of varying audience sizes to pilot the changes over the course of a few months, Long said. The pilot sites were ksdk.com, 13wmaz.com, travel.usa.com and desmoinesregister.com.

The changes were prompted in an effort to keep up with digital media trends, Long said. Gannett will continue using Pluck, the company's current application programming interface for commenting, to power other website components, such as reader blogs. Alternatives to the Pluck API system, however, will be "explored in the coming months," according to Gannett's announcement.

The new system prohibits pornography, hate speech, threatening language, graphic violence, bullying, and spam, aligning with current Gannett moderation guidelines. Current Gannett moderation policies ban abuse, harassment, threats, vulgarity and spam.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Why the switch?
A: The decision to change our commenting tool was not made lightly. We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment. However, our aim is not to shut

out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions. By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us."

Q: What are the benefits of using my Facebook account on www.hometownlife.com?
A: Once you log into your Facebook account and start commenting, there will be no need to maintain a separate login on the site. Plus, you will be able to use the Facebook grammar filter, "Like" and follow other readers' posts; include your friends in the conversation; get instant notifications when someone responds to your comment; view the most relevant comments from friends, friends of friends and the most active threads; and hide spam.

Q: I'm logged into my Facebook account, but unable to comment.
A: If you are signing up for Facebook just to post a comment keep in mind that new accounts will have to make a few friends and upload an avatar before becoming "active" and participating on the site. This helps to establish your identity as well as the identities of others using Facebook. For issues concerning Facebook we encourage you to check with their Help Center, http://www.facebook.com/help/

Q: Can I leave a comment if I don't have a Facebook account?
A: After the switch is made to the entire site, anyone wishing to post a comment will need an active Facebook account. If you don't have one, don't

worry. It's easy to sign up at Facebook.com http://www.facebook.com.

Q: Why does my Facebook photo and user name appear on the page when I haven't posted a comment?
A: If you're signed into Facebook, you will be able to see your information, but it will not be visible to anyone else until the comment publishes.

Q: If I post a comment will other people be able to see my information or photos?
A: What others see when they click on your information is determined by your Facebook privacy settings. For assistance in updating your settings please visit the Facebook Help Center http://www.facebook.com/help/privacy.

Q: Do the site's Conversation Guidelines still apply?
A: Yes, you make a difference in the community when you add civil and respectful contributions to the conversation and report abusive comments and identities. If you suspect someone is using a fake or abusive account, report them directly to Facebook by clicking on the user's profile, then clicking "Report/Block this person" at the bottom left of the page. For abusive or inappropriate comments, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment and report it as spam or abuse.

Q: Why can't I see the comments?
A: Comments on www.hometownlife.com are public, which means anyone logged in or out of Facebook should be able to view them. If you cannot see the comments, check with your IT department. It is common practice for government agencies and certain employers to block the Facebook application from their servers.

Achieve academics

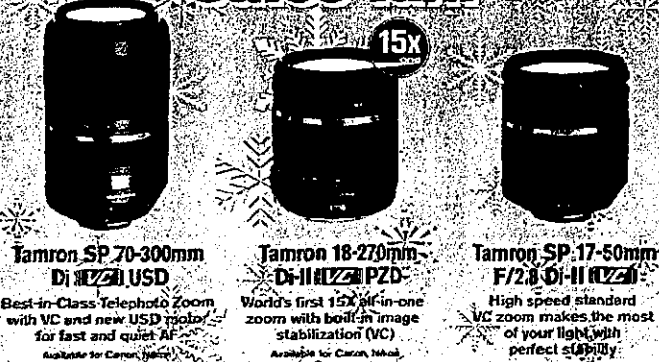
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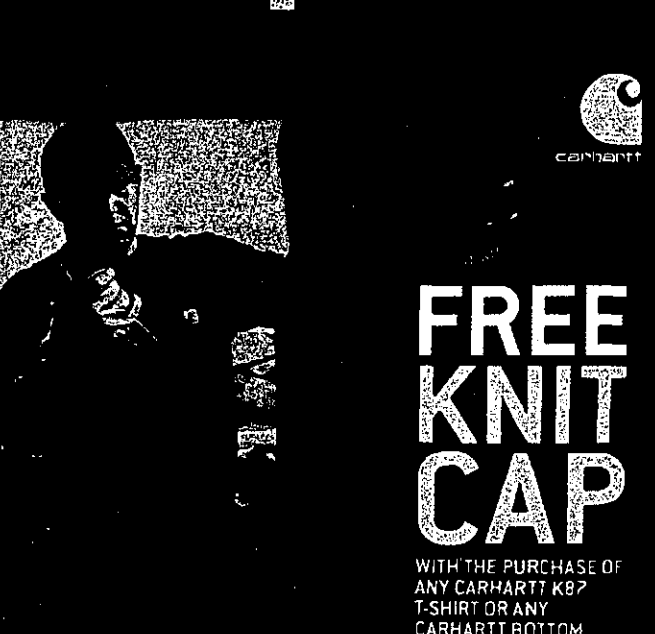
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Taj announces U.S. House bid for 11th District

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer



Taj

Vowing to help create jobs and protect Medicare and Social Security, Canton Township Trustee Dr. Syed Taj has announced he will campaign as a Democratic candidate in 2012 in hopes of unseating U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, in the new 11th District. Taj, chief of medicine for Dearborn-based Oakwood Hospital and a third-year Canton trustee, said his longtime career as a doctor and his elected position have prepared him to serve in Washington, D.C.

"I don't want to see our country going down the path it is going right now," Taj said. "It has been really frustrating to see people suffering and losing their houses and jobs — and nobody is doing anything in Congress." Taj criticized Congress as "dysfunctional" and said he wants to help change it. "Nobody wants to lose their Medicare, and Congress is trying to change it," he said.

"Irrespective of political party, nobody wants to give up Medicare. It's something people have paid into from a very young age, and they expect to have it once they reach retirement age." Taj, 65, plans to retire from Oakwood Hospital in late March, though he pledged to finish the fourth year of his township board term in 2012 even as he campaigns for Congress. "People have given me a job to do, and I need to complete my job," he said. Taj has named as his campaign manager Natalie Mosher, who lost her challenge against

McCotter in the last 11th District election. McCotter's district includes 28 communities such as Novi, Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Milford, Northville, and South Lyon. McCotter also is facing a challenge within his own party from candidates such as state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake and Kerry Bentivolio of Milford. Taj, in his sixth year as Oakwood's chief of medicine, has said he has shown he can work in a bipartisan approach as the only Democrat on the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees. He also

serves on the Canton Community Foundation's board of directors and has been involved in Wayne County Senior Alliance. Taj made his announcement in the same week McCotter issued a statement bemoaning the national and state unemployment rate and criticizing President Barack Obama's handling of the economy. Taj has rolled out his campaign website, www.tajforcongress.com. He was born and raised in India and moved to Michigan in 1982 with wife Sofia. They have a son, Asad. dcm.hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Gobble Gala



Sandy Fisher (left) serves a turkey luncheon at the Nov. 17 "Gobble, Gobble Gala" at the Novi Senior Center. The luncheon featured the typical Thanksgiving fare, door prizes and part of the recent Novi Senior Center's musical review "From Vaudeville to Video" for entertainment. Novi Senior Center volunteer Gloria Baske (right) and others work to get the turkey luncheon on its way.

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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. Bleske 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 Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske 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 1-800-331-3630 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

www.ssd4lighter.com

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

EDUCATION

Legobots compete



The Novi Legobots were one of the few teams that made it to state competition on Nov. 19 in the FL Regionals competition. The team consists of five sixth-graders, four seventh-graders and two coaches and two high school mentors. The team learned about basic programming skills, how to work with other people, and about this year's topic — food contamination. The Novi Legobots built their robot, visited different universities, and had lots of fun. The problem they had to solve: Find a solution that will prevent the norovirus contamination through lettuce. Their solution, according to member Sasha Tretyakova: "We plan to coat the inside of all lettuce bags with special gold nanomaterials in the shape of nanobeads. These nanomaterials will be capable of detecting the capsid of the norovirus on the lettuce. Once the capsid has been detected, the coating will change to a bright orange (a property of the gold nanosensors) warning the store or consumer that the product has been contaminated."

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Snyder signs bills to standardize school elections, save districts money

Gov. Rick Snyder last week signed legislation that will save school districts millions of dollars by standardizing school board election dates. Senate Bill 427, sponsored by State Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R, Canton), and House Bill 4005, sponsored by State Rep. Kurt Heise (R, Plymouth), require school districts to hold elections during the general elections in November of even-numbered years beginning Jan. 1. Estimates show this move could save some school districts upward of \$9 mil-

lion over a two-year election cycle. "Utilizing a standard election cycle will cut administrative costs and help schools maintain focus on educating students," Snyder said. "This change also allows for more consolidated elections so voters have the best opportunity to make their voices heard." Since 2004, districts have had the option of conducting school board elections during the odd-year general election, the odd-year May regular election, the November regular election in even and odd years, or the May regular election in even and odd years. The bills now are Public Acts 232 and 233 of 2011.

Team Novi Run Club



Thirteen Village Oaks Elementary staff members cross the finish line at the Ann Arbor Turkey Trot. For many of them, this was their first 5K run (some had never even run before). "It was such a joy having the opportunity to share my passion for running with these wonderful and dedicated women," said Jenn Smith, second grade teacher. "It was a great way to bring our staff closer together while promoting healthy and active lifestyles for our students." The Ann Arbor Turkey Trot supports Project Healthy Schools, Team Red White and Blue and Soldier's Angels. These organizations help teach students about heart-healthy lifestyles, help assist wounded veterans and comfort men and women serving for our country.

Healthy foods



Parkview Elementary School student Neha Natarajan (left) works on a coloring of some squash products during a Nov. 16 assembly by the school's Student Nutrition Action Committee. The group is hoping to introduce more kids to a wider and healthier variety of foods that they can consume. That day, squash took center stage and the kids got to learn their various types, how they can be prepared, a got to taste a few preparations. Parkview first-grader Noug Aldukheil (right) holds a large squash.

Regular checkups are important to district success

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist



Super Talk
Steve Matthews

I went in for my annual physical a couple of weeks ago and I received the results last week. The report was generally positive, except for one short sentence. It said, "You're fat!"

Actually that is not what it really said. What it actually said is that I needed to pay attention to my weight and that I would have more energy and generally be healthier if I lost about 10 pounds.

While I have made progress on my weight in the last couple of years, I have discovered that it is much easier to gain weight than it is to lose weight. I have slipped back into some bad habits and have seen my weight creep back up over the past year.

As I have grown older I have noticed that something I didn't ever think about I now have to think about a lot. When I graduated from high school I weighed 160 pounds. I could eat whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted, and never gain weight.

As I grew older I stuck with that philosophy. While that approach worked when I was in my 20s, it was not as successful when I was in my 40s. Now that I am in my 50s, it is not a good approach

at all. I love sweets — candy bars, ice cream and cookies. When my wife and I were first married, we would buy a Boston Cream Pie at the grocery store, divide it in half, and I would eat my half before the night was through. That approach only leads to trouble now.

What I have learned is that if I am to be healthy I need to focus on a few core principles. Eat appropriately, watch my calories and exercise. I think that approach works pretty well with our schools as well. If we are to be successful, we need to focus on a set of core principles. What might those principles be?

All students can learn. Every student can achieve at a high level. Schools should provide students with a set of skills and knowledge that will help them be successful once they leave our district. These core principles can and should guide us as we make decisions about the education that the students in our district will receive.

Sometimes we can get distracted in schools. We turn our focus away from

our core principles and focus on ideas and activities that do not really provide the substance that our students need. Our students look busy and seem to be enjoying themselves, but if we looked closely we would see that they are not really learning what they need to be successful in the next grade or in their lives beyond our school district.

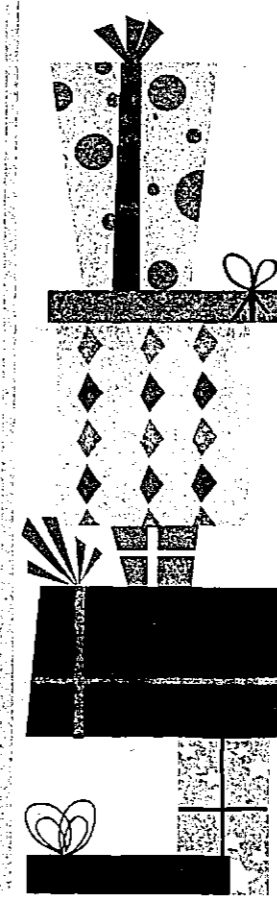
Our school district is focused on making sure that we are healthy. We collect and analyze data to see if we are making progress. We make sure we are healthy, and if we are not, we refocus our efforts. We understand the responsibility we have to ensure that every student learns.

Annual checkups are important. As I received the report back from my doctor it helped refocus my efforts to remain healthy.

Here in our district we take stock in an effort to ensure that we remain true to our core values and that we provide the education that our students need to be successful.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community Schools District. He can be reached at smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us; (248) 437-1204; www.twitter.com/socsmatthews; or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

Discover Enchantment in Northville this Holiday Season



Tinsel & Treasures
December 9 — 11th

Northville Family
Nite New
Year's Eve Party
December 31st

Movies at
the Marquis
January — March 2012



Free Parking!

For more information on what's happening in Northville go to www.downtownnorthville.com or our Facebook page!

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

Local events

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Dec. 13
Location: Providence Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room 847601, Grand River, Novi (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.)
Details: Family support group meetings (free) for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) metro chapter are held the second Tuesday of every month.
Contact: (248) 348-7197

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesdays
Location: Novi Civic Center (10 Mile between Taft and Novi roads)
Details: Led by Michael M. Meyer, D. Min. - goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story, handouts describing the phases of grief and the tasks of grief are available.

Business

NORTHVILLE-NOVI BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays (except Nov. and Dec., which are just the first Tuesdays)
Location: Kerby's Convey Island, 21200 Haggerty Road
Details: Business networking focused on building relationships. The Sunrise Networking Group, LLC (www.sunrisenetworkinggroup.com) or SNS 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 Milana 586-232-3009 or fmlana@sunrisefinancialgroup.com
METRO NOVI BNI
Time/Date: 7-8 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; 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.
Notes: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Northville Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

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.metronovibni.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
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.novi.toastmasters.org

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Contact: www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743



Christmas Cookie Walk

Thousands of homemade Christmas cookies in dozens of varieties will be offered Saturday, Dec. 10 at the third annual Christmas Cookie Walk held at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. Also featured will be beautifully packaged candy, breads, fudge, nuts and pre-boxed wrapped cookie assortments. Cookies are \$8 per pound with other items priced individually. Each participant will receive a box (or as many boxes as needed) and gloves to walk among tables laden with trays of holiday cookies and other delights. Holiday-themed packaged items make wonderful hostess/teacher/office gifts as well as stocking stuffers. Doors open at 9 a.m., but entry numbers will be distributed starting at 8:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to arrive early as last year's event sold out. Free coffee and "broken cookies" will be served to those waiting in line. Admission is free. Participants also will have an opportunity to tour Meadowbrook's Meeting House (sanctuary) decorated for Advent. Guides will share information about the history and architecture of the church. Tours will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run throughout the cookie walk. Proceeds from the event go to the church and its missions. Meadowbrook Congregational Church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road between 8 and 9 Mile roads in Novi. For further information, contact the church office at (248) 348-7757 or www.mbcc.org.

LIBRARY

Location: 1499 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.
Book Discussion Group
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group. The next meeting is Dec. 1, and

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Location: 45255 W. Ten Mile Road
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
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
Web: www.novilibrary.org
Story Times: Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.
RefUSA Level 2 Training
Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 8
Details: Database training

for experienced RefUSA users (or people who have already attended the Level 1 training session).

Advanced search strategies and tips will be presented. Users will also learn how to use the mapping capability. NOTE: This is an online webinar presented by RefUSA staff with NPL staff hosting in the computer lab. Please register.
Knit Zgether Knitting Circle
Time/Date: 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15
Details: If you have a learning towards knitting or any of the related handcrafts Knit Zgether Knitting Circle just might be your cup of tea. No instructor; no registration; and of course,

Healing Service: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month

Leah Youth Club: 5 p.m. Wednesdays for fourth-12th grades (Sept.-April)
Men's Club: 8 a.m. second Saturdays
Contact: Heather J. Wallas, communications director, (248) 349-1144, Ext. 26, or e-mail hwallas@furncrnorthville.org
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10

am. Worship

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchofholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month
Blue Christmas Service
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10
Details: For those who experience loss and sadness at the holidays.
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Sunday Worship: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
Merry Widows Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month/Pilgrim Fellowship
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sundays
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN SIX MILE ROAD
Location: 41355 Six Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-9030
Sundays 9-10 a.m.; Sunday School For Adults / Youth / Children

CHURCH

Continued from page A9

exchange at this fun evening event with snacks, soft drinks, and flavored coffees; \$5 donation appreciated.
Contact: For a detailed schedule of all events (dining out, weekend activities, etc.) call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
A Stephen Ministry Church
Location: 777 W. 8 Mile Road at Taft Rd.
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday worship: Times: 8, 8:15 and 11 a.m. (Sept.-May); 8:30 and 10 a.m. (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend)
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck, senior pastor and Rev. Jeff Sturgeon, associate pastor
Coffee Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sunday (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend; 10:15 a.m. Sundays (Sept.-May)
Healing Service: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month

am. Worship

9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium
10:15 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210)
Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: 8:45-10:30 a.m. (call)
Wednesday Family Night
7 p.m.: Adult elective classes; Junior and senior high student ministries; children's programs (M-Pact Girls Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery and Pre-school Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade) - contact (248) 348-9031
NOVI-NORTHVILLE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Suskind at (248) 790-6075 or rabb@novijewishcenter.com; www.novijewishcenter.com
NOVI UNITED METHODIST
Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com
Sunday Worship
Time: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first

LOCAL NEWS

Hometown Weeklies | Thursday, December 8, 2011 (NN) A11

ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Preschool/Kids Choir
Time/Date: 7:8-15 p.m. every Wednesday
Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 770 Taylor, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olvnorthville.org
Saturday Worship
Time: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship
Time: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
OUR SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Contact: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

PENTECOSTALS OF NOVI
Location: Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375
Contact: 248-697-8158 or visit www.thepentecostalsofnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 2 p.m.
Friday Night Men's Basketball: 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Novi Woods Elementary School gymnasium. All Novi residents ages 13 and over are welcome, and admission is free. For more information, contact Pastor Dave Gardner at (248) 697-8158. Please download and bring a permission slip if under the age of 18 at www.thepentecostalsofnovi.org
PLYMOUTH-ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth
Contact: 734-453-0190, ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
Time/Date: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday

Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its Personal Plus product:

PERSONAL PLUS
 Open enrollment dates are January 1 - January 31, 2012 for a March 1, 2012 effective date.
 Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-4667 for additional information.
 Blue Care Network of Michigan
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Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its Personal Plus product:
PERSONAL PLUS
 Open enrollment dates are January 1 - January 31, 2012 for a March 1, 2012 effective date.
 Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-4667 for additional information.
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 Lewis Medical Office Centre, 39475 Lewis Drive, Suite 150, Novi, Michigan 48377
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\$7 OFF Half Ham (Bone-in, 8 lbs. or larger)
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 Novi West Oaks Shopping Center 27793 West Oaks Dr. Novi, MI 48377 (313) 274-1574
 Across from Toys 'R' Us
Holiday Store Hours
 Wednesday, December 14th - Saturday, December 17th: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Sunday, December 18th: CLOSED
 Monday, December 19th - Friday, December 23rd: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 CHRISTMAS EVE, Saturday, December 24th: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 CHRISTMAS DAY, Sunday, December 25th - Tuesday, December 27th: CLOSED
 NEW YEAR'S EVE, Saturday, December 31st: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 NEW YEAR'S DAY, Sunday, January 1st: CLOSED

Novi/Northville MEDICAL SERVICE directory

Optometry
TOWN & COUNTRY EYECARE
 Focusing on Your Family's Total Eye Health
 High-tech eye care • unique eyewear • specialty contact lenses
248-347-7800
 www.tceyecare.com • Novi Road at Nine Mile Road

Physical Therapy
 Are you unable to drive? No problem... we'll pick you up
northville physical rehabilitation
 215 E. Main & 300 E. Gady
 Downtown Northville
 248.349.9339
 www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

Family Practice
Medical Clinic of Northville
 308 South Main Street 248-349-1900
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 26750 Providence Pkwy. Ste. 220, Novi, MI 48375 248.596.0412
 Dr. Paul Gubbins, M.D. Dr. Jeffrey Paces, M.D. Dr. Michael Paces, M.D.

Psychiatry
NOVI PSYCHIATRY and PSYCHOLOGY
 Child, Adolescent, and Adult
 40715 Grand River Ave., Suite 100 North, Michigan 48375
 Call for an appointment (248) 472-8560
 Dr. David Green, M.D. Dr. Robert K. Brinkman, M.D. Dr. Jeffrey Paces, M.D. Dr. Michael Paces, M.D.

Doctors That Care... Are Closer Than You Think.
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 Call for an appointment (248) 472-8560
 Dr. David Green, M.D. Dr. Robert K. Brinkman, M.D. Dr. Jeffrey Paces, M.D. Dr. Michael Paces, M.D.

Doctors, Your Ad Could Be Here! Call Amy Norton @ 248-437-2011, Ext. 241

OUR VIEWS



Shop local trend matters Supporting local businesses provides boost to community

Congratulations! You made it through Thanksgiving dinner and the hoopla over Black Friday, with the crowds and the come-ons. You wove your way through mega parking lots and then hauled bulky packages back to your car.

You deserve a pat on the back, but what you more than likely have are sore feet from tromping through mega stores, and maybe a queasy stomach from eating that second piece of pie after all the guests left on Thanksgiving.

So sit down, put your feet up and plan your next foray into the marketplace. After all, you still have to find that elusive gift for your picky sister and something for your mother-in-law who has everything and knows it. That's not to mention a little something for the classroom teacher, piano teacher, swim coach and your local clergyman. The list goes on.

This time, plan to shop at local Novi. When you do, 68 percent of what you spend is reinvested in the community, according to Small Business Saturday. Patronizing small local businesses helps to keep unemployment and property taxes low and property values high. A number of local businesses have also supported kids and local organizations with their charitable good works. Now you can reward them for that effort with your business.

Small Business Saturday is a new initiative established last year between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, it was held on Nov. 26. But you can shop locally any day of the year, including the remaining days leading up to Christmas.

According to the Small Business Saturday website, there are four reasons to shop at small businesses.

- The taxes local businesses pay help support the local community's infrastructure and services, maintaining a safe and high-quality lifestyle for residents.
- Small businesses employ half of all private sector employees.
- Small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms.
- During every year of the last decade, 60-80 percent of new jobs were generated by small businesses.

If that isn't reason enough, consider that you're likely to receive more attentive, personal service. Successful small business owners get to know their customers by name and often stock merchandise according to their customers' preferences. They're also more likely to special order items for their customers.

In addition, you'll save time and money on gas shopping close to home.

So why not support local merchants, and help to create jobs for your friends and neighbors this year? They'll thank you and the season will be that much brighter for all concerned.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your favorite holiday activity or must-have gift?



"I want to be able to spend time with friends and family. That is my No. 1 thing."
Sydney Carlson
Novi



"I want to go to church with my grandpa on Christmas Eve."
Stephanie Davis
Novi



"I want a new flute."
Dana Kilponen
Novi



"Being able to spend time with my grandparents."
Jakiyah Bradley

LETTERS

Jobs bill support

We have heard a lot lately about our president waging class warfare on the rich. There's class warfare, all right; it's on the middle class and the poor.

We have billionaire Warren Buffett saying he thinks he shouldn't pay the same percentage as his secretary. He feels he can afford it. Our president states that 89 percent of the cost of the Jobs Bill could be paid by the millionaires and billionaires paying their fair share. They got a \$70 billion a year gift from the previous president, 73 percent of the people favor they need to give it back. We could stop giving the oil companies \$90 billion a year in subsidies. Is there anyone out there who feels the oil companies aren't making enough money?

A Republican candidate from Texas says he's against government handouts. He does seem to enjoy the oil subsidies. We could use the \$90 billion toward jobs. We should also take a look at loopholes for corporations who continue to send many jobs overseas and put their assets in foreign banks.

Since 2009, U.S. corporate profits rose 42 percent to a record \$1.68 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2010. How is that for the trickle-down

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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Fax: (248) 437-3366

Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

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

theory?

The unemployment rate spiked at 10.1 percent before ending the year at 9.4 percent. I have yet to hear of a good jobs plan from the side opposing our president.

However, by bailing out the auto industry, our president added 133,000 jobs since its low point in 2009. Where would the Milford Proving Ground be without saving GM?

My guess is the other side does not want the president to succeed, to the detriment of people out there who need jobs. What has the opposite side done? Our governor claims to be for jobs. How

has that worked for us? He has cut \$1 billion in public education funding, laying off teachers and closing schools. He has raised taxes on middle class families by \$1.4 billion, reduced unemployment benefits by 25 percent and eliminated tax credits for donations to food banks and other vital nonprofits.

He has given corporations a \$1.6 billion special interest tax break that doesn't promise to raise one job.

Our president promised a tax break to the corporations that keep jobs in the U.S. What else should we expect from a corporate CEO who sent his Gateway jobs to China? He is following the policy of his party. We shouldn't be surprised that people by the thousands, all over the U.S., including Detroit, are taking to the streets over corporate greed and class warfare on the poor and middle class.

Let's not overlook the 50 million senior citizens who may not vote for a party that would cut their Social Security and Medicare. The corporations are already taking away their pensions. If you are not making a seven-figure salary, you should support the Jobs Bill. Isn't jobs what we all want?

Doris Appleton
Milford

GUEST COLUMN

Train your teachers well

By Tom Watkins
Guest Columnist

Are our colleges doing an adequate job of preparing teachers to help our students thrive in a hyper-competitive, disruptive, transformational, technology-driven, knowledge-based, global economy where ideas and jobs can and do move around the world effortlessly?



U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan does not think so. Governor Rick Snyder has called for reforms in teacher preparation as well.

Yet, the exclusive franchise protecting the existing system continues. Do we want to innovate to educate or continue the battle to contain the change?

Some argue that far too many of our teacher preparation institutions are the weakest link in the pre-K-12 school reform movement. Research makes clear that quality teachers matter. Yet, many teachers enter and remain in the classroom who are unprepared for the rigors of preparing our children for the world they are about to inherit.

The Legislature has wisely addressed teacher tenure—providing a streamlined process of "getting rid of ineffective teachers." Yet, while important isn't this like standing downstream and pulling down-

stream victims out of the river? Would it not be wiser to also head upstream and see what's throwing the ineffective teachers into the system?

What if our colleges of education did not have an exclusive franchise on preparing future teachers? What if we opened the teacher preparation business up to educational entrepreneurs who could demonstrate through scientific research that their methods actually produce more effective teachers?

We currently have far too many schools where the majority of teachers have master's degrees, and all are certified and "highly qualified," yet where only a small percentage of students is reading or doing math or science at grade level.

There is no research to demonstrate that obtaining a master's degree in education adds value in the classroom. Yet, K-12 compensation systems make it lucrative for the teacher to obtain a master's degree. Why?

Is the current teacher prep curriculum the right one for preparing future teachers? Is the teacher prep system being maintained "as is" because colleges of education are cash cows for universities? Is it maintained because the existing university faculty expertise and tenure, or because it is world-class, proven methodology to prepare educators? In the mid-1990s, concern arose that our public schools were failing to meet the educational needs of far too many students. As a result, governors and legislatures, across the country crafted charter school legislation to break the exclusive fran-

chise or monopoly over public education and offered students and their families greater choice. Why not do the same for teacher preparation programs?

Could existing teachers in the classroom form a private practice teachers preparation program to better prepare future teachers? What if the teachers unions (Michigan Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Michigan) formed a Charter Teachers Prep Program that was superior and produced better results than the existing system? How about the U.S. military who do an excellent job educating recruits or business entering the game, or entrepreneurs willing to prove they have a better mouse trap?

The Legislature and state Board of Education should immediately consider allowing districts to waive teacher certification requirements in their schools for individuals who are highly competent in a specific subject matter, but don't have a formal teaching degree. Cap the non-certified teachers at 10 percent to 20 percent of the local districts' teaching force as an experiment; provide the individual with no tenure and judge them solely on performance. We need to re-imagine education at all levels, with a great sense of urgency. We need to continually ask, "What if the impossible isn't?"

Tom Watkins is a business and educational consultant in the United States and China. He was Michigan's state superintendent of schools, 2001-05. He can be reached at: tdw@tdw88@gmail.com.

Rotary holiday



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Delores Schimmel gets a greeting hug from Santa during the Dec. 1 Novi Rotary and Novi Middle School annual senior holiday party. The event is hosted at Novi Middle School and staffed by volunteers from its students and student council members.



The Novi Middle School concert band plays some festive numbers during the school's annual senior holiday luncheon.



Novi Rotary and Middle School hosted 207 area seniors at their Dec. 1 luncheon.



Novi Middle School student Madison Brandenstein shares a smile with Shirley Tong.



The Novi Middle School choir performs some Christmas carols for their visitors.



Novi Middle School Student Council President Celine Roest serves lunch to visiting seniors during the annual holiday luncheon and concert at the school on Dec. 1.

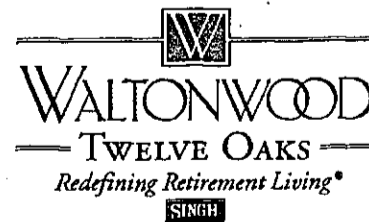
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A good read

Alicia Baum reads with Bella Atwell, 4, at the Novi Public Library on Nov. 22. Baum is Atwell's babysitter and both are from Novi.

CALENDAR

Continued from page A10

attendance is free.
Intermediate Word Time
 Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 10
 Details: Take your basic Word skills to the next level in this hands-on workshop. Please register.
Special Thomas Story Time
 Time/Date: 11-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10
 Details: Attention all preschool aged Thomas fans: Join us for some special Thomas fun! We'll read a story, see a short movie, and even do a craft.
Power Point Basics
 Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10
 Details: Learn how to use Power Point 2007 to create dynamic, visual presentations by selecting suitable design layouts, inserting text and images, and using animation to enhance your slideshows. Participants need to be confident using

a computer and proficient with the keyboard and mouse. Please register.
Empower Me 4 Life
 Time/Date: 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18
 Details: Two sessions of fun and practical healthy living equips kids ages 8-12 with new attitudes, skills, and knowledge about eating better and moving more - for life. Registration is required and we need a minimum number of participants is required for the program to proceed.
Snack Tales
 Time/Date: 7-7:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12
 Details: Each time we meet you will get a chance to listen to some great stories and cook up a tasty snack. Registration required.
Internet Instruction for Seniors
 Time/Date: 10:30-11 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13
 Details: This session provides personal instruction by a librarian on internet basics such as navigating the task bar, searching with known addresses, and keyword searching.

Library!
 Time/Date: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14
 Details: The Mobile Office is setting up shop here with laptop computers and printers so that our patrons can receive on-the-spot copies of birth certificates, death certificates or other public records. Normal copy fees will apply. Anyone who lives in the area or surrounding communities is welcome.
Booked for Lunch
 Time/Date: 12-1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14
 Details: Join your neighbors and bring a lunch for this afternoon book discussion of The Christmas Cookie Club by Ann Pearlman.
Battle of the Books Coaches' Kick-Off Meeting
 Time/Date: 7-7:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14
 Details: Team registration forms for Battle of the Books will be available at the Library's information desk beginning Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Registration is limited to the first twelve teams to return their registration form. All teams must register by this meeting or a place for their team is not guaranteed. At this meeting titles for this year's Battle will be announced, a set of books for each team will be distributed, and a discussion of coaches' responsibilities will be conducted. Coaches will also have the opportunity to see a DVD of a previous year's Battle. Bring your questions and, if you've been a coach before, your suggestions for "newbies!"
Entrepreneurship Database Training - WEBINAR
 Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15
 Details: This is a webinar presented by a live ProQuest trainer - it is interactive with time for Q&A. Participants will be e-mailed log-on instructions 2 days prior to the webinar. Training session will introduce users to content on this ProQuest database including annual reports, articles, blogs, business cases, company profiles and market research collections. No previous experience required - but registration is required.

Help for Families From Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency
 Time/Date: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20
 Details: Need help with transportation, food, health, support services, child care education, finances or housing? Tuesdays Through Dec. 27, residents can drop in and meet with an OLHSA staff member at the Library.
English Conversation Group
 Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13
 Details: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills. No need to register.
Starlight Story Time
 Time/Date: 7-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13
 Details: One of your favorite NPL Youth Librarians will combine stories, music, and fun for a special bedtime treat at this preschool story time.
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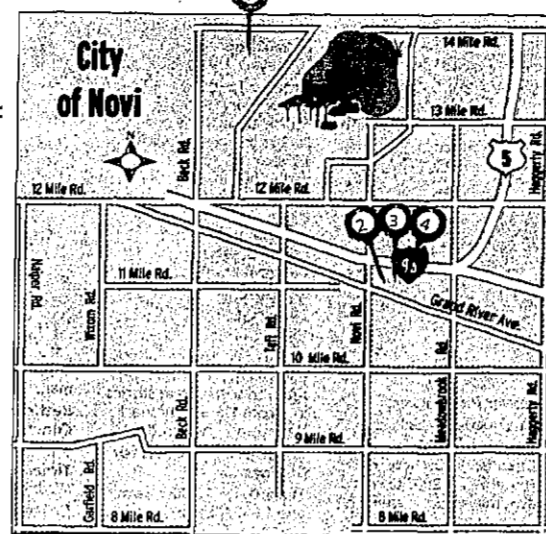
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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Unknown suspect breaks into apartment

1 An apartment on Shorecrest Drive was broken in the early morning of Dec. 2 while people were sleeping in other rooms.



According to the police report, the two residents were asleep when a third came home around 4 a.m. That person noticed the eventual stolen items sitting on the table prior to going to bed.

When one of the women woke up, the door was open and two purses, a laptop and iPod were missing. Police observed that a plastic table may have been used to climb onto the second-story patio and go inside through the doorway. The door was not locked because it was broken.

Police had no evidence to process and have no suspects at this time.

Purse stolen from car
 2 A woman had her purse containing her driver's license, bank card, cell phone and \$300 cash stolen from her boyfriend's car on Dec. 3 while they were eating at TGI Friday's on Crescent Boulevard.

According to the report, the woman left her purse on the passenger side floor boards, but her boyfriend forgot to lock the vehicle.

There was no sign of forced entry, and nothing else was taken from the car. Police have no suspects.

Woman has purse stolen from Hollister
 3 A woman had her purse taken from the Hollister store inside Twelve Oaks Mall on Dec. 2 after she left it in

the store by accident. According to the police report, the woman continued shopping for a little while before she noticed her purse was missing. When she returned to the store, she could not find it.

The purse and wallet was worth \$800 and contained a cell phone, several credit cards, \$150 in cash and at least \$00 in gift cards. The victim later found out the suspect used the cards at Briarwood Mall, charging over \$800.

Police are still await security camera results, but have no suspects at this time.

Purse jacked from minivan
 4 A woman had her purse stolen from her locked minivan during the night on Dec. 2 after an unknown suspect smashed the window to gain access to it while the van was parked at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

According to the police report, the car was still locked when the woman returned to her vehicle but the purse was missing. The purse contained her wallet with \$20 cash, two credit cards, numerous gift cards and her driver's license.

Police have no suspects at this time.

—Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

NOVI IN THE SERVICE

Dominic Young

Army Reserve Pvt. Dominic R. Young has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military

weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. He is a 2001 graduate of Novi Christian School.

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Famous visitors



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Detroit Lions tight end Pete Chryplewicz visits Nov. Providence Park Hospital on Dec. 6 with a Pillow Pet for patient Leah Spaulding, 3. A group of NFL alumni visited the hospital that day to give out the stuffed animals and a few DVDs to kids to brighten their Christmas season. Spaulding is held by her mom Sarah.



Former Detroit Lions safety Ron Rice drops off a bumble bee Pillow Pet to Nov. Providence Park Hospital patient Ayla Miller, 2.



NFL alum Keith Smith brings in a box of Pillow Pets to Providence Park Hospital.



NFL alumni visit Nov. Providence Park Hospital on Dec. 6 to bring a bit of holiday cheer to some of its young patients.



Former NFL player Tom Nowatzke hands off a Pillow Pet to Providence Park Hospital patient Laurent Verfallie, 2.

Excellent



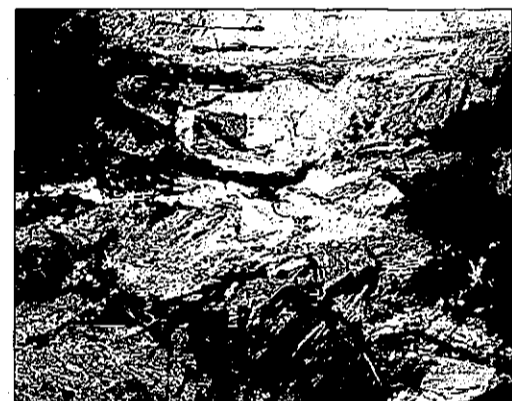
Great Lakes Caring announced the 2011 Award for Excellence honorees — including Whitehall of Novi nursing facility — for providing quality care to their residents and patients. From over 2,200 candidates, 76 skilled and assisted living facilities, doctors, and hospitals in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana were selected for this annual award in recognition of their collaborative efforts to help determine in a timely manner home health- and hospice-appropriate patients in order to provide meaningful and helpful quality care. These honorees were chosen based on three specific criteria: 1) believing in the importance of good communications amongst the Great Lakes Caring and partner staffs; 2) keeping in mind the needs of residents/patients and the importance of making timely referrals; and 3) for supporting and understanding of the importance of collaborative care. Shown is the Whitehall of Novi staff, including Administrator Zahid Masood.

Excellent

Hsiao's art



The Oakland County Board of Commissioners recognized the Novi Library for receiving the 2011 State Librarian's Excellence Award. Pictured are (from left) Oakland County Board Chairman Michael J. Gingell; Novi Library Director Julie Farkas; Commissioner Kathy Crawford; and Commissioner Philip J. Weipert. The commissioners presented Farkas with a proclamation honoring the library's success.



The city of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is sharing the work of Lilian Hsiao, a renowned artist from Taiwan. The exhibit will be showcased in the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery from Dec. 9-Jan. 2. Previously, her work resembled detailed traditional oil paintings, but since 2000, she began to incorporate various Chinese traditional techniques.

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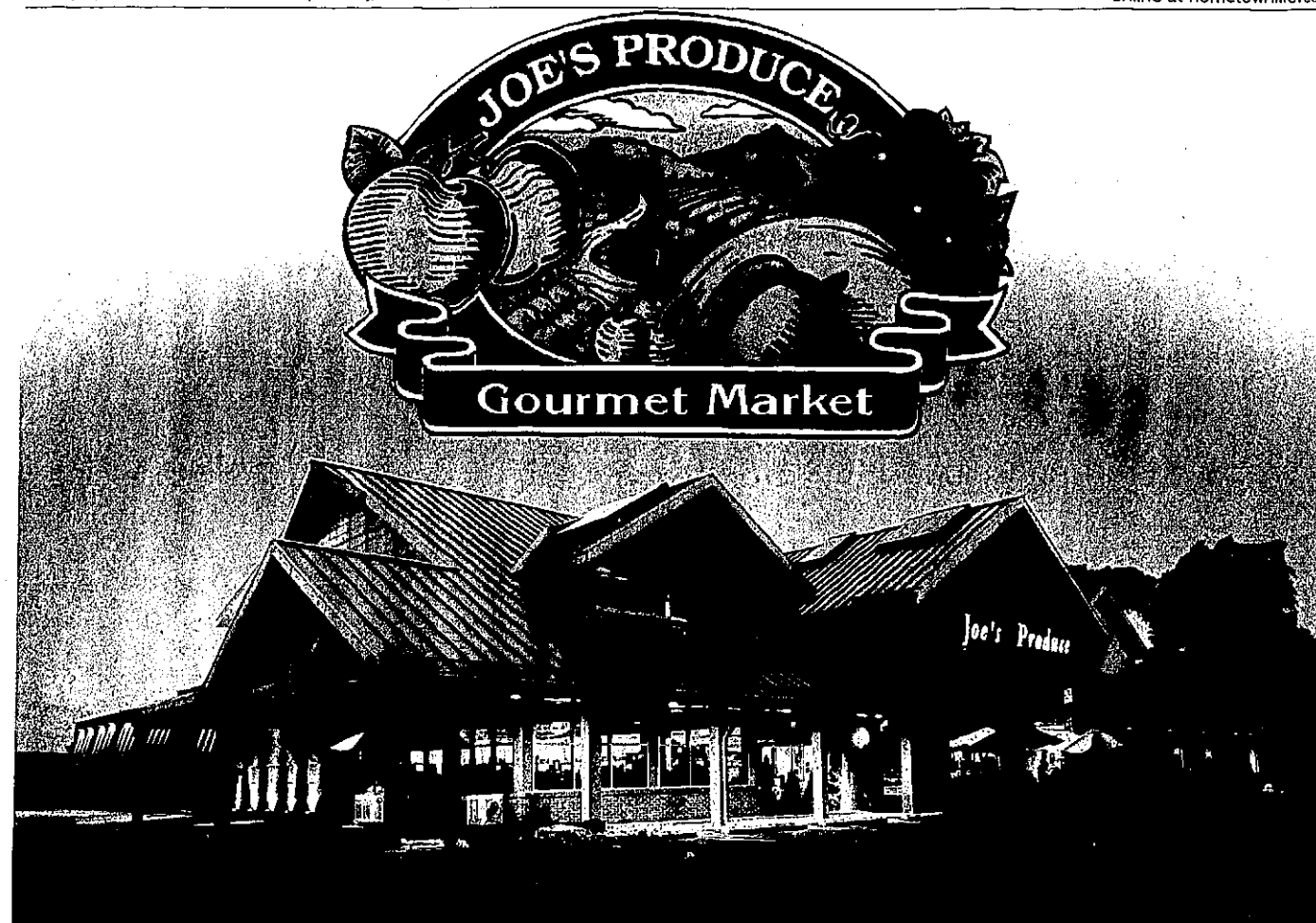
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SECTION B (NN)
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SPORTS

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Chargers spoil Wildcats' celebration

Novi drops 3-2 decision to Churchill

By Chris Jaccett
Correspondent

The KLAAs Kensington Conference may be as evenly matched as it has been in years, at least when teams hit the ice against Novi.

The Wildcats (2-2-1, 1-1-1 Kensington) had a tough week, losing a come-from-behind contest against visiting Livonia Churchill (4-0-0, 2-0-0 Kensington) and then tying rival Northville (4-1-1, 0-0-1 Kensington) three nights later.

Novi got on the board

ON TAP

Novi's ice hockey team (2-2-1, 1-1-1 Kensington) was scheduled to host Plymouth (2-1-0, 2-1-0 Kensington) last night before visiting Canton (3-1-0, 2-0-0 Kensington) 8:30 p.m. Friday.

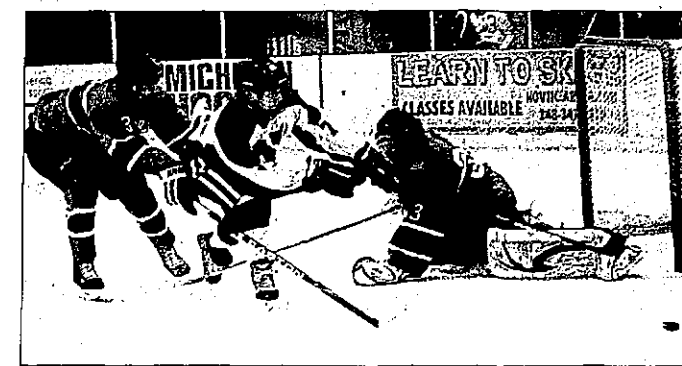
early during the Nov. 30 contest against Churchill. Just 1:14 into the game, senior Kent Burnett took the puck up the boards on the right side from the Chargers' bench deep

into their zone before cutting across the middle and coolly sliding the puck through Churchill netminder Alex Estes' five hold.

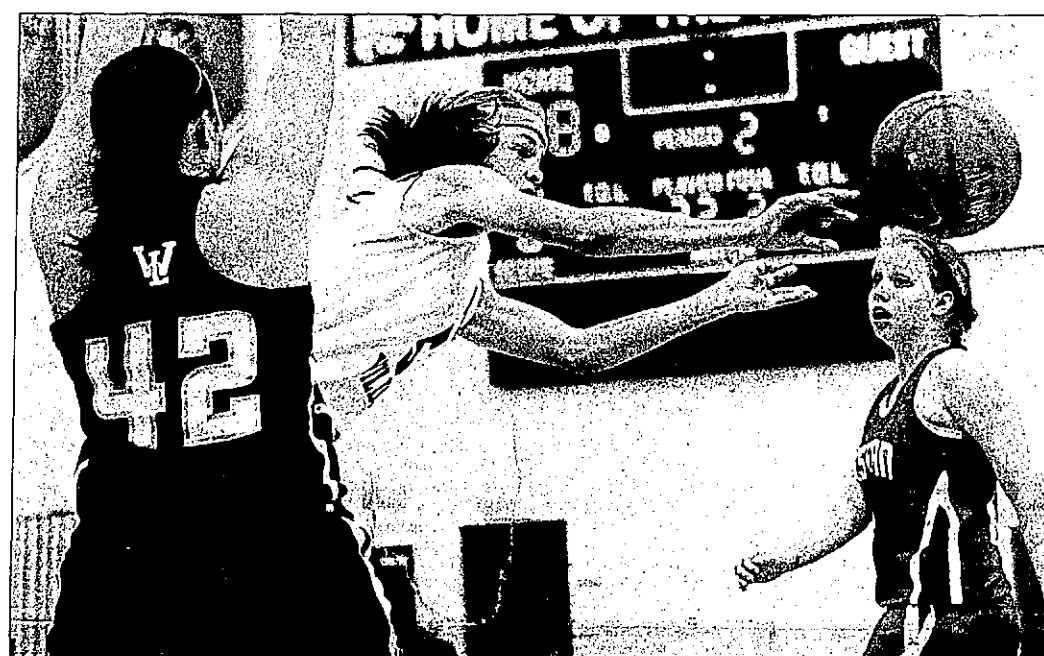
With 4:44 left in the first period Churchill senior Devin Smythe tied the game with a power play goal in front of the net after receiving a pass from behind the net, with Ben Proben and Jake Otto assisting.

The Wildcats regained the lead 2-1 when junior Mark Baker took the

Please see HOCKEY, B4



Livonia Churchill sophomore defender Charlie Yost (left) breaks up a scoring opportunity by Novi senior Ryan Kobylarsk as Chargers' senior netminder Alex Estes covers the goal. After falling behind 2-1 at the first intermission, Estes shut out the Wildcats during the final two periods as Churchill won 3-2.



Novi Wildcat Kerri McMahan makes a pass in front of Warrior Brooke Schwandt during the teams' Nov. 29 game at Novi High.

McMahan, Antolec steamroll Warriors

Wildcats too much speed for WLW

By Chris Jaccett
Correspondent

It was a slow start in Novi's season opener Nov. 29, but the girls basketball team never looked back once they got going.

The Wildcats (1-0) were hosting Walled Lake Western (0-1) and the Warriors led 3-2 at the midway point of the first quarter when Novi burst out with a 12-0 run over the next three minutes. The 'Cats

ON TAP

Novi's girls basketball squad (1-0) was scheduled to host Walled Lake Central (1-0) Tuesday and visit Saline (0-0) tonight. On deck are visits Tuesday to Wayne Memorial (1-0) before Westland John Glenn (1-0) comes to town. All games tip off at 7 p.m.

led 14-7 after the first quarter. "For our first game, you can't complain when you win, but we've got a lot of things to work on, especially defense to work on, especially defense

defensively," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "I think they were jacked up and nervous and decided to settle down. We still don't have a set lineup. We're in search of continuity and better defense."



Ally D'Annibale blocks a shot by Western's Shelby Turnquist during the teams' Nov. 29 game.

Novi sophomore Kerri McMahan opened the second quarter with six more unanswered points in the first 1:18 to build a 20-7 lead before the

Please see WILDCATS, B4

CC skaters get two more wins

Hockey team defeats DeLaSalle, Orchard Lake St. Mary's

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It's always nice to get wins over division foes, especially when those foes happen to be two rivals.

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team

notched two big wins last week, ousting Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 4-2, and DeLaSalle, 3-0.

Against Orchard Lake, the Shamrocks, who are 3-0 on the season, found themselves in a tight back-and-forth affair over the majority of the contest. They

took an early lead with just 11 seconds off the clock in the first period as Charlie Green took assistance from Steven Haydon and Michael Babcock and found the back of the net for the 1-0 advantage. But just over a minute and a half later, Orchard Lake, currently 3-2 on the year, came back to tie it, 1-1, on a shot by David Muth.

The Shamrocks' next goal came in the opening seconds of the second period as Haydon fired home a shot for a 2-1 lead. Assists were credited to Babcock and Green.

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Hockey team will be back in action when they host Grosse Pointe North at 7 p.m. Saturday before hosting University of Detroit Jesuit High School a week later at 7 p.m.

Please see CC, B5

NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Chris Jaccett
Correspondent

Seniors lead Wildcat wrestlers

Novi's wrestlers look to defend their KLAAs Central Division title this season with five weight classes led by seniors.

Seniors Alejandro and Giddiani Abuerna will provide strength in the middleweights, while Jake Dobras and Justin Michael return to the upperweights, anchored by heavyweight Jimi Keller. Juniors Dan Denova, Ben Landry and Zack Roush also return to the lineup. Seniors Kaveh Sohizad, Justin Brooks, Heiko Sijan, Mike Gurney and Farahman Kian

will also look to find consistent spots in the lineup. The 'Cats kick off the season 9 a.m. Saturday at the Salem Invitational before hosting Farmington and North Farmington for a dual meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Oakland County Championships are then quick on the horizon for Dec. 16-17.

Six Seniors to Lead Wildcat Girls Hoop

After graduating defensive specialist Alyssa Armiak and post scorer Joanna Beaton last spring, the KLAAs Central Division champion Wildcats (17-5 in 2010-11)

will look to sophomore point guard Kerri McMahan, junior forward Jade Antolec and senior forward Ally D'Annibale to take the reins this winter.

Ninth-year head coach Bill Kelp will deal with a mix of experience. Although he'll have six seniors, there will also be seven underclassmen on varsity between three juniors and four sophomores.

Kelp said Northville (10-11 last year) and Livonia Stevenson (14-9) should be Novi's biggest competition in attempting to repeat as the Central Division champions.

Association champion Wildcats (17-5 in 2010-11)

Please see ROUNDUP, B3



Novi's senior wrestlers are ready for what they hope to be a successful season kicking off Dec. 10. From left are (front row) Kaveh Sohizad, Alejandro Abuerna, Jake Dobras, Justin Brooks, Giddiani Abuerna, (back row) Heiko Sijan, Mike Gurney, Jimi Keller, Justin Michael and Farahman Kian.

Jabbori speeds way to front among local talent

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Few players in the state posed as big of an offensive threat as Novi senior forward Chase Jabbori did. Despite facing off with defenders who usually had at least a six-inch advantage, Jabbori burned through the competition for 20 goals and 11 assists in 20 games while leading the Wildcats to a 16-4 record and No. 4 Division I ranking.

Along with his first-team All-State honor within Division I, Jabbori was one of 11 players across all state divisions to be named to the coach-selected Dream Team. "Chase is one of the most dangerous scorers in Michigan, he has extreme speed in the open field, he is very fast when dribbling the ball and has an explosive first step," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "Even though the teams we played this season knew he was our best offensive player, he still managed to get points in 17 of our 20 games and average a point and a half per game. He was the main reason we were never shut out this season."

A four-year varsity starter, Jabbori had 55 goals and 30 assists during his career at Novi while maintaining a 3.4 grade point average. He'll play soccer at University of Michigan, Western Michigan University or Oakland University next fall.

FIRST TEAM

Sean Hazen (Novi Sr. D)
As the lone returning defender from last year's starting lineup, Novi senior Sean Hazen backstopped the Wildcats to a No. 4 ranking in Division I and earned a spot on the All-State third team. As one of Novi's captains, he also earned All-Region, All-District and



CHRIS JACKETT
Novi senior Chase Jabbori shields the ball from Northville junior Troy Dolmetsch. Novi defeated Northville 2-1 Sept. 22.

All-Conference honors while earning a 3.85 GPA. He'll be playing at Western Michigan University next year.

"Sean is one of the most dangerous attacking defenders ever to attend Novi High School," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "Not only is he a great defender, but he brings a forward's mentality to the outside defensive position, attacking along the touch line with great skill and relentlessness."

Matt Wilson (Novi Jr. M)
Behind 19 goals and 17 assists, junior Matt Wilson was one of the toughest players to guard in the state. The third-team All-State midfielder earned All-Region, All-District and All-Conference honors while earning a 3.5 GPA. He is being recruited by University of Michigan and Akron University.

"Matt is the most gifted player with the ball I have come across in a long time," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "He has the ability to beat defenders one-versus-one or possess the ball and set up his teammates for scoring chances. He shoots the ball with great accuracy with both feet and has great field vision. It got to the point, in our practices this season where Matt had to be double teamed to be

most valuable player and helped his squad stay in the Division I top 10 most of the season.

Chris Park (Novi Sr. M)
Novi senior captain Chris Park was known throughout the state for his ability to set up his teammates. With 15 assists for a second-consecutive year, Park also had one goal in earning All-District and All-Conference honors. He had four goals and 40 assists in his career at Novi. "Chris is the most gifted passer on our team," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "He has the ability to find open players from distance, with both feet, or he can work his way out of tight space with his great short passing skills."

Aaron Quinley (Novi Sr. M)
The Wildcats' third leading scorer, Novi senior midfielder Aaron Quinley had 11 goals and six assists while earning All-Conference honors.

"Aaron brought a physical presence to our team. He used his size to win many 50/50 balls and was our best player in the air," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "We played all of our punts, goal kicks and free kicks to Aaron and he got his head on just about every one of them. For a player of his size, he had great finesse with the ball at his feet and scored some huge goals for us this season."

Timmy Ficus (Northville Sr. D)
A sophomore captain, Northville defender Timmy Ficus earned All-District and All-Conference honorable mention who also earned All-Region, All-District and All-Conference honors en route to a co-most valuable

ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Chase Jabbori (Novi, Sr. F)

FIRST TEAM

Sean Hazen (Novi Sr. D)
Matt Wilson (Novi Jr. M)
Jake Bedi (Catholic Central Sr. M)
Brian Alumbaugh (Northville Sr. M)
Chris Park (Novi Sr. M)
Aaron Quinley (Novi Sr. M)
Timmy Ficus (Northville Sr. D)
Brian Alumbaugh (Northville Sr. M)
Scott Michael (South Lyon Sr. GK)
Grant Scovel (South Lyon Jr. D)

SECOND TEAM

Austin Smarsh (Catholic Central Sr. D)
Chris Palauzzi (Northville Sr. F)
Spencer Olson (Catholic Central Sr. F)
Nick Smith (Northville Sr. GK)
Cory Odell (Novi Sr. D)
Stephen Galindo (Catholic Central Sr. GK)
Connor Carrigan (Lakeland Sr. M)
Tom Kemennu (Lakeland Sr. M)
Jeff Sims (Northville Sr. M)
Troy Baertson (Lakeland Sr. F)
Robert Costanza (South Lyon East Jr. M)

HONORABLE MENTION

Detroit Catholic Central - Matt Kleinknecht (Jr.)
Lakeland - Dan Foote (Sr. GK), Andrew Benner (Sr. M), Nolan Maseraman (Sr. D), Jacob Alexander (Sr. D), Scott Demorez (Sr. D), Brandon Dennis (Sr. F), Nick Kemennu (So. F), Taylor Janssen (Jr. M), John Victor (Jr. M), Kevin Carlton (Sr. D), Mitch O'Brien (Sr. F), Dan Smalagan (Sr. M)
Northville - Ben Holbrook (Jr.), Troy Dolmetsch (Jr.), Joey Van Houten (So.)
Milford - Dylan Polcyn (Sr. D), Gabe Catenacci (Jr. M), Kevin Veeder (So. M)
Novi - Phil Soong (Sr.), Don Nakashima (So. F)
South Lyon East - Travis Hammers (Jr. M)

player honor:

Scott Michael (South Lyon So. GK)

Sophomore goalkeeper Scott Michael was a vital part of South Lyon's biggest performances this fall. The All-State honorable mention and captain also earned All-Region and All-District honors.

"Two big shoutouts that gave us a tie against Northville and a win over Stevenson," South Lyon coach John LeBlanc said. **Grant Scovel (South Lyon Jr. D)**
Also an All-State honorable mention, junior defender Grant Scovel

was the wall opponents had to get past before taking a shot at goalkeeper Scott Michael. Scovel also earned All-Region and All-District honors.

"Our center back held the anchor for our team," South Lyon coach John LeBlanc said.

Senior captain Austin Smarsh was the anchor for Detroit Catholic Central's defense this fall.

Please see ALL-AREA, B4

Wildcats have clean slate with no returning starters, new coach

Transfers to mold with seniors and shape Novi's basketball season

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

This season will look a lot different than last season for the Novi boys basketball team.

After graduating eight student-athletes, including their top five scorers, the Wildcats (18-4 in 2010-11) will look to the current roster to step in and fill some large shoes.

First-year head coach Brian Tass said seniors Alex King, Scott Kempa and Mike Jocz, each who saw some time as reserves last season, are likely to land in his start-

ing lineup tonight for the home opener against Saline (8-12). "I'd like to say I'm still tweaking with it," Tass said of his lineup. "Alex King is solid at both ends for us. I'd put Scott Kempa in the starting lineup, who played a minute or two last year."

A 6-foot-1 guard, Kempa is the top returning scorer, having averaged 5.5 points per game last season. Jocz, a 6-foot-4 center, averaged 3.0 points and King, a 6-foot-1 guard/forward, had 1.9 points. Only three other players were on the var-

ON TAP

Novi boys basketball team (18-4 in 2010-11) was scheduled to start the season Tuesday at Walled Lake Central (14-7) before hosting Saline (8-12) in the home opener tonight and visiting Walled Lake Northern (11-10) tomorrow. The Cats then host Lincoln Park (19-5) Tuesday, with all four contests tipping off at 7 p.m.

city roster last season, all only taking the floor late in games when the starters had either built up a large lead or found themselves in foul trouble.

"We're still battling in practice," Tass said. "I think there's a decent familiarity and chemistry. I'm waiting for more of that energy to come out

and that enthusiasm."

Tass said two transfers could see significant playing time. Senior Ignace Bernotas, a 6-foot-6 center who moved from Milford and sat out last season per MHSAA rule, is the tallest player on Novi's roster, which is without three graduated players who were between 6-foot-5 and 6-foot-8 last season. Sophomore Nelson Cagle is younger, as a 6-foot-1 guard, but has shown potential in practice, according to Tass.

"My immediate goal is to get guys to play hard," Tass said. "If we can do that, we can do things well. I see it as an opportunity to help guys learn the game of basketball." Getting the team to run in transition, defend and rebound are the coach's immediate goals. Although there is a decent offensive

showing, the defense is still taking shape.

Among Novi's roster of six seniors, six juniors and one sophomore, three are transfer students. The other returning players from last season are senior guards Brandon Macklin, Kyle Clemmons and junior guard Tre Cadwell. All three averaged between 1.3 and 2.4 points per game last year. Macklin was the peak scorer of the three and is also the tallest of the trio at 6-feet. However, all three continue to battle for roster spots.

"Kyle Clemmons is looking good as possibly as our point guard. I think he does some nice things for us," Tass said, noting that the position was still up for grabs because of defensive concerns. As of last week, Tass had yet to select team

captains, as he was still looking for team members to step up as leaders.

He said the seniors were doing the best, but the absence of so many familiar faces on the court, and also on the sideline, has been an adjustment for everyone.

"I can send anyone out there to do the coin toss. It's more about what they do to be special. It's an action, not a position," Tass said of selecting a captain. "It's been kind of a culture change. (Eight) guys graduated from the team. Coach (Cory) Heisch and I have similar philosophies, but the practice intensities may be different. We've got a long way to go. You can't replace experience."

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

ROUNDUP

Continued from page B1
Canton (22-2), who ended Novi's season 37-20 in district, followed by Jennifer Tosto with seven and Samantha Anarsu with three.

Anarsu won the team's most improved award and Tosto was named hardest working. Walker won the leadership award and senior Calla Spillane won the student athlete award.

Novi equestrians finish eighth

The girls of Novi's equestrian team put forth a solid effort despite a small roster this fall, finishing eighth of 11 teams in the B Division.

Senior co-captain Alyssa Ninkovich and freshman Alicia Kevelin tied for the team lead by earn-

ing 16 points throughout the season. Senior captain Mallory Walker chipped in with eight, followed by Jennifer Tosto with seven and Samantha Anarsu with three.

Anarsu won the team's most improved award and Tosto was named hardest working. Walker won the leadership award and senior Calla Spillane won the student athlete award.

Football Alumni

Seven Oberlin College football players were selected for the All-North Coast Athletic Conference team, led by first team selection Dan Enright.

Enright, a 2008 Novi graduate, was a 6-foot-7 tight end for the Yeomen this fall.

Despite battling backeted coverage after a strong 2010 season, Enright was third on the team in receptions with 33, amassing 313 yards and one touchdown.

During Oberlin's single-game record passing yardage performance against Washington University Oct. 22, Enright had six catches for 54 yards. He also helped out on defense that game and made three solo tackles.

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



USA POLLOCK
Novi equestrian riders (left to right) Alicia Kevelin, Calla Spillane, Mallory Walker and Alyssa Ninkovich walk their horses around the course in Milford during a meet in September.

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ALL-AREA

Continued from page B2

His ability to win the ball in the air and coordinate his teammates on the field during the game are just a few of the reasons he earned both All-District and All-Catholic League honors.

Chris Palasija (Northville Sr. F)

As the Mustangs' leading scorer, senior forward Chris Palasija earned All-District and All-Conference honors.

Spencer Dunn (Catholic Central Sr. F)

Senior Spencer Dunn became the Shamrocks' leading goal scorer after a strong second half of the season. Along the way, he picked up All-District honors.

Nick Smith (Northville Sr. GK)

Eight shutouts backstopped by senior netminder Nick Smith helped propel Northville to a top-10 ranking in Division I throughout much of the season.

Cory Odell (Novi Sr. D)

The core to the Wildcats' defense, senior Cory Odell centered the back line and matched up with opponents' top forwards, all while earning a 4.0 grade point average.

Stephen Galindo (Catholic Central Sr. GK)

Behind five shutouts and a goals against average of just 0.86, senior netminder backstopped the Detroit Catholic Central defense in goal during his first year as the starter between the pipes.

Connor Carrigan (Lakeland Sr. M)

Although he started and ended the season on the injured list, White Lake Lakeland senior Connor Carrigan led the Eagles to a 10-game undefeated streak in between while he was in the lineup.

Despite the missed games, the three-year varsity team member still earned All-Conference honors.

Tom Kemenu (Lakeland Sr. M)

Voted as the Eagles' most valuable player, senior center midfielder Tom Kemenu sparked White Lake Lake-

land's play while earning both All-District and All-Conference honors for each of the past two seasons.

Jeff Sims (Northville Sr. M)

While leading his team in both assists and game-winning goals, Northville senior Jeff Sims earned All-Conference honors among a very competitive field that included Canton, Novi, Plymouth Salem, Livonia Stevenson, South Lyon and Plymouth.

Troy Baertson (Lakeland Sr. F)

Behind a team-leading eight goals, White Lake Lakeland senior forward Troy Baertson notched all of his tallies during the second half of the season. He used his speed to get behind opposing defenses, earning All-District and All-Conference honors in the process.

Robert Costanza (South Lyon East Jr. M)

With the ability to play on both sides of the ball, junior midfielder Robert Costanza had one goal and three assists against a field of state-ranked division opponents. Despite the challenge, the midfielder earned All-District and All-Conference honors.

HONORABLE MENTION

Detroit Catholic Central - Matt Kleinnecht (Sr. GK), Andrew Benner (Sr. M), Nolan Masserman (Sr. D), Jacob Alexander (Sr. D), Scott Demorest (Sr. D), Brandon Dennis (Sr. F), Nick Kemenu (Sr. F), Taylor Janssen (Sr. M), John Victor (Sr. M), Kevin Carlton (Sr. D), Mitch O'Brien (Sr. F), Dan Smallagan (Sr. M)

Northville - Ben Holbrook (Sr. M), Troy Dolmetsch (Sr. D), Joey Van Houten (Sr. F), Milford - Dylan Polcyn (Sr. D), Gabe Catenacci (Sr. M), Kevin Veeder (Sr. M)

Novi - Phil Soong (Sr.), Don Nakashima (Sr. F)

South Lyon East - Travis Hammers (Sr. M)

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

Tourney champs



The St. James sixth grade JV girls basketball team won the 46th Annual Our Lady of Sorrows Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament, which took place over the last two weekends, with wins against Our Lady of Sorrows (29-9), St. Patrick's of White Lake (27-13), and Our Lady of Sorrows (29-9). The girls gained leads in each game and never looked back. The tournament MVP, awarded by Our Lady of Sorrows, was given to Julia Lalain for her overall performance. These three wins showcased the great team chemistry among the players: Kendall Dillon, Ella Duckworth, Meghan Giroux, Amanda Hawkins, Danielle Karr, Mackenzie Kwaniewicz, Julia Lalain, Mikayla Lynch, Erin McDonough, and Ireland Whalen. The girls now start regular season play with hopes of repeating as division champions. Go Thunder!

WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

Warriors called a timeout. The young point guard had a game-high 19 points on 8-for-14 shooting to go with four assists and five steals.

"Kerri has a chance to be a very special player," Kelp said. "Sometimes she tries to do a little too much, but she's getting better and she runs our team on the court."

The two teams battled to a 30-19 halftime lead as McMahan and junior Jade Antolec led the way with 22 of the team's 30 points. Antolec finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

"Jade plays 100 percent of every game and she's coming off the injury from last year, so she's still trying to get back in shape,

but she plays hard," Kelp said. The Cats continued to widen the margin in the third quarter, building the lead to 42-25 before the final eight minute period.

The Warriors came out firing in the final quarter with an 8-0 run to cut the deficit to 44-35 midway through the quarter before the Wildcats finished on an 8-0 run behind a pair of layups from Antolec before Western would score the final basket of the night to make the final score a 52-35 Novi victory.

Chipping in for the Wildcats' offense were seniors Ally D'Amabile (six points, four rebounds), Anna Lausch (six points), Abby Chandler (four points, four assists) and Katie Seelenbinder (two points).

Chandler and senior Abby Robinson's defensive efforts around the arch were a big reason the

Warriors had difficulty getting clean looks at the basket and needed double-digit scoring. "I thought Abby Chandler was probably the key with the pressure on the basketball," Kelp said. "She did a good job pressuring the basketball and that was good to see."

Junior Maddie Schram (nine points, three steals), freshman Jayla Nichols (nine points, four rebounds) and junior Erick Woods (seven points, three rebounds) led Western's offense.

Junior Brooke Schwandt (four points, three rebounds), senior Julia Venegas (three points), junior Alexis Vercellino (two points) and junior Shelby Turquist (one point) also chipped in.

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

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

puck up the left side and crossed it to senior Ryan Kobylarek for a two-on-one tap in at the back post. Senior Jacob Mastropolo set up the

play. After a first-intermission ceremony to celebrate last season's Division I state championship, the Wildcats couldn't score again.

Churchill senior Kevin Louwers slid a shot past Novi netminder Spencer Peterson from the left baseline to find

the back corner of the goal to make it 2-2 heading into the final period. Junior Matt Sinclair assisted.

The Chargers got the eventual game winner in the third period while short-handed at the 9:20 mark. From the left circle in Novi's end, Churchill won a faceoff

and senior Nick Proben fired a shot from the blue line into the top right corner of the goal.

Novi followed the performance with a 4-4 tie Saturday at Northville.

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

First place



The Novi Youth Hockey Association (NYHA) Squirt Sabrecats participated in and finished first place in the Big Rapids Area Junior Hockey Association (BRAJHA) tournament at Ferris State University on Nov. 20. This is the second year in a row that the Sabrecats have won this tournament. They made it to the championship game along with the Novi Polar Cats. After a 2-2 tie, a no-score overtime and 13 rounds of shoot-outs, Jack Kamsickas scored for the Sabrecats, clinching the championship. The Sabrecats are coached by Erik Stone, CJ Estes, Jeff Diegel, Jeff Sweeney, and Dave Wilson. The team's roster includes Jacob Diegel, Brendan Estes, Gage Farrow, Matthew Frederic, Luke Hellweg, Austin Hu, Jack Kamsickas, Jason Loo, Zane Rakotz, Andrew Stocke, Matthew Stone, Nick Sweeney, Jack Wilson, Jacob Wixon, and Spencer Ziparo.

CC

Continued from page B1

Once again, however, the lead was only in place for a short span as St. Mary's Daniel Coley scored an unassisted goal at the 3:10 mark on a power play to knot the game up once again.

The Shamrocks proved to be too much in the long run for Orchard Lake, however, as they scored on a power play at the 12:01 mark in the second period off the stick of Danny Middleton, who scored what proved to be the game winner off assists from Hayden and Babcock. Carson Gatt added an insurance goal at 12:27 in the final period on an unassisted play for the 4-2 final.

The game was intense, with 16 penalties being called, including 11 in the

third period. Both teams were whistled eight times throughout the game.

Earning the win in goal was Derek Moore, who stopped 22 shots, while Austin Julvezan took the loss, stopping 41 out of 45 shots on goal.

Against DeLaSalle, the Shamrocks had a bit of an easier time as they blanked their foes, 3-0.

After a scoreless first period of play, the Shamrocks put on a second-period clinic, tallying all three of their goals over the course of 10 minutes.

Starting the frenzy was Tyler VanAcker, who scored at the 6:51 mark off assists by Middleton and Luke Turner before Pete Hahash added a second goal three minutes later with assistance from Joe Steele and Steven Jarzynski. Middleton and Jarzynski then assisted Matt Sor-

isho at the 16:48 mark on the third and final goal of the game.

There were just eight penalties in the contest with both teams getting called for four each.

Ryan Mulka earned the win in goal for the Shamrocks, stopping just 13 shots on goal. Joe Lopez took the loss, facing 38 shots from the Catholic Central offense and stopping 35.

Currently, the Shamrocks are at the top of the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League standings with a 5-0 record with Cranbrook standing at 3-0 in league play to sit in second. So far this season, the Shamrocks have scored 21 goals while allowing just seven.

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

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Guest speaker Talal Zani, MD
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Neurologist and Board Certified Sleep Specialist
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Welcome



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Nov. 11 at Novi's new Indo Fusion, an authentic restaurant offering world class Indian and Goan cuisine with a laid back attitude that caters to one's specific needs. Visit www.indofusionmi.com. Shown are Samuel Mora Perez, Jason Noronha, Janice Noronha, Novi City Council Member Teri Margolis and J. Refugio Mora Perez. (Missing from the photo is Jesus Reyes Mora.)

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Novi recognized as a top performing community

The City of Novi has been identified as one of seven top performing communities in the state of Michigan for fostering entrepreneurial growth and economic development in a study by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research.

Novi was also recognized as a four-star community. In addition to performing well in the numerical portions of eCities 2010, the seven top performing communities are recognized for programs that aid entrepreneurial growth. These communities demonstrate that small businesses need to be successful by communicating with them and providing connections to broader resources and insight on trends.

The eCities research surveyed more than 100 communities in the State of Michigan which are home to 36 percent of Michigan residents and 44 percent of its college graduates. These communities also had more than \$1 billion in commercial construction last year and more than half of them share services with other communities.

For more information on doing business in Novi, visit InvestNovi.org.

"We are pleased to have participation from so many communities throughout the state in eCities 2011," said iLabs Director, Timothy Davis. "The focus of this project is assisting local communities by identifying best practices and methods that they can implement which will aid with job growth strategies, economic diversification, and development of entrepreneurs."

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, uses data supplied by the participants as well as other public records to assemble a six-factor, 32-item index of entrepreneurial activity, looking at such factors as clustering, incentives, growth, policies, community and education. The study focuses on entrepreneurship because of its importance to expansion and diversification of Michigan's regional economies and the impact small businesses have on job creation. To date, 138 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.

"The City of Novi has partnered with the

eCities research project since its inception in 2007," said Ara Topouzian, City of Novi Economic Development Director. "Being honored as one of the seven top performing communities in the state of Michigan for fostering entrepreneurial growth and economic development is a reflection of the total commitment the City of Novi has to encouraging small-business growth within our city."

Wixom earns entrepreneurial recognition

The City of Wixom has been identified as one of seven top performing communities in the State of Michigan at fostering entrepreneurial growth and economic development. In a study by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research, Wixom was also recognized as a Five-Star Community.

This is Wixom's fourth receipt of this recognition (2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011) from a statewide study of 138 communities by researchers at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's School of Management Center for Innovation Research (iLabs).

"Wixom is particularly proud to again be recognized as being exemplary in using a combination of the best governmental practices and business approaches to retain and attract business. This translates into jobs," said City Mayor Kevin W. Hinkley.

In addition to performing well in the numerical portions of the research, researchers concluded that Wixom deserved praise and serve as an example to other communities for innovative collaborations and programs that aid entrepreneurial business growth. Furthermore, the researchers said that Wixom demonstrates that they understand what small businesses need to be successful by communicating with them and providing resources through their insight on quickly identifying business and economic trends.

According to City Manager Mike Dorman, Wixom has developed an operational culture that is flexible, and conducive to encouraging entrepreneurship and business development. "Wixom's long-standing reputation as a community that moves quickly to service existing and new business needs, tremen-

dously aids us in retaining existing business and recruiting new business. This cycle tends to feed on itself. We are a small organization that has thoughtfully evolved into one with the ability to react instantaneously to changing economic and social conditions, to satisfy the needs of our residents and businesses."

More signs for Novi businesses through Dec. 26

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

For more information or to download the required registration form, visit InvestNovi.org.

Japan's Automotive Industry: Achieving Recovery and Growth Through Monozukuri

The Japan External Trade Organization (JET-RO) will present a luncheon and seminar entitled, "Japan's Automotive Industry: Achieving Recovery and Growth Through Monozukuri" from 11:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi.

The Great East Japan Earthquake spurred an unprecedented recovery effort from the Japanese automotive and manufacturing communities. Through intensive collaboration and the shared mindset of Monozukuri - the spirit and quest for manufacturing excellence - Japanese automotive suppliers and OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) managed to quickly recover production in the face of crisis and are working to enable future growth.

In this seminar, Japanese OEMs and parts suppliers will relate how they were affected by the March disaster. This is the first time in North America that automotive industry leaders, both manufacturers and suppliers, have come from around the world to examine this great disaster and recovery. The luncheon address will be presented by Neil De Koker, president &

CEO, Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA), who will offer details of his Nov. visit to supplier companies in the Tohoku region of eastern Japan, who were adversely affected by the earthquake and tsunami, and his perspective on how they've managed to regain full production.

The cost of the luncheon and seminar is \$50. Advance registration is required through OESA, at <http://www.oesa.org/Events/OE-MTG120811.html>. For additional registration information, contact Felice Hickman at (248) 952-6401, ext. 237 or fhickman@oesa.org.

Cooper-Standard's third quarter revenue at \$708.5 million

Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc. (OTCBB: COSH), the parent company of Novi-based Cooper Standard Automotive and a global supplier of automotive sealing, fluid and anti-vibration systems, announced financial results for the third quarter ended Sept. 30. "In a quarter that was marked by volatility in consumer confidence and economic turbulence in Europe, we are pleased to have significantly grown our revenues and to have, once again, achieved double-digit adjusted EBITDA margins," said Jim McElyea, chairman and chief executive officer, Cooper Standard. "Although the outlook for light vehicle production is uncertain in Europe and South America, the footprint that we have established in these regions has enhanced our position to compete for global platforms. We also continue to benefit from volume growth in North America, fueled by the strong performance of our North American OEM customers."

The company reported revenue of \$708.5 million for the third quarter of 2011, up 21 percent when compared with revenue of \$585.7 million in the third quarter of 2010. Revenue for the nine months ended Sept. 30 was \$2.16 billion, compared to \$1.81 billion in the same period of 2010. The revenue increase reflects higher industry volumes, favorable foreign currency exchange movement and revenue from operations acquired in 2011 (\$51.1 million for the quarter and \$100.2 million for the nine month period).

Cooper Standard reported net income of \$13.7 million in the third quarter of 2011 compared to \$20.8 million in 2010's third quarter. Third quarter 2011 results were favorably impacted year-over-year by higher production volumes, foreign exchange movement on sales and normalized compensation rates, but these factors were more than offset by unrealized foreign exchange fluctuations, raw material price increases, operating costs and restructuring charges. Net income for the nine months ended Sept. 30 was \$79.6 million. The company's financial statements for the 2010 comparable period included fresh start and other accounting adjustments related to the company's reorganization and therefore do not offer a reasonable basis for comparison.

Gross profit for the third quarter increased to \$108.6 million, or 15.3 percent of sales, from \$102.1 million, or 17.4 percent of sales, in the third quarter of 2010. For the nine month period ended Sept. 30 gross profit was \$353 million, or 16.4 percent of sales, compared to \$312.8 million, or 17.3 percent of sales, in last year's comparable period. The decline in gross profit as a percentage of sales primarily reflects lower margins at acquired businesses and increased raw material prices.

Cooper Standard also reported third quarter 2011 adjusted EBITDA of \$73.4 million, or 10.4 percent of sales, compared with \$67.2 million, or 11.5 percent of sales, in the third quarter of 2010.

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Celebrate the Holidays Contest

YOUTH NAME: _____

YOUTH AGE: _____

YOUTH COMMUNITY: _____

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

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

How about creating a new tradition with your family?

Mail to:
Scoop the Newshound
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions: 12/28/2011

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on Dec. 28th. Winners to be announced in the January Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Scoop's Craft Corner

Want to make a special ornament for your Christmas tree? It is super easy and lots of fun. All you need is salt, flour, water, vegetable oil, a rolling pin, a cookie sheet, decorations, some help from your parents and lots of imagination.

Materials Needed:
-2 Cups Flour
-1 Cup Salt
-2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
-3/4 - to -1 Cup Water

Instructions:
Mix together flour and salt. Add the oil and then slowly add the water and stir until you get a nice clay consistency. Once completely mixed, make into the desired shapes. Bake in a 250 degree oven for approximately 1 hour. This will vary depending on how thick your creations are. One hint, do not make shapes too thick or they will crack with baking.

Before star is placed in the oven, make a hole for the ribbon using the end of a straw. Once the star is out of the oven and cooled, use your creativity. Use colorful ribbon to hang your new ornament. Have FUN!

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Mail to: Scoop the Newshound - 41304 Concept Dr. Plymouth, MI 48170

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

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Looking good: Curb appeal matters whether selling, staying

Realtors tell those selling a home that curb appeal always matters. Those considering buying a property will notice piles of trash or unpleasant odors right away.

Curb appeal is important for sellers. It also contributes to the quality of life for those not planning a move. Whether you're in the market or not, a well-maintained home is appreciated by neighbors and the homeowner alike.

Visit www.houselogic.com/buyandsell for tips on preparing a home for sale. Some tips include:

• Stay in synch with your neighborhood. Avoid being the proverbial sore thumb of the neighborhood. Regular maintenance and energy-efficient upgrades will provide a return on your investment.

• Stash your trash. Have mercy on your neighbors by renting a Dumpster and removing trash. A 20-yard Dumpster is about \$400 to \$500.

• Choose exterior colors wisely. Shock value is highly overrated when it comes to curb appeal. Your exterior color choices should be in harmony with other neighborhood homes.

Scout around first before you paint or stain — your neighbors will thank you.

• Hire a landscape designer. A modest investment in a pro landscape plan will pay off bit time when it comes time to sell your house. If you're averse to



regular lawn maintenance, consider a condo or apartment.

• A place for everything. You may be proud of your diligent recycling and trash maintenance routine, but that doesn't mean it should be on display for the world to see. Keep trash bins off to the side, and built a low-cost privacy screen to hide them from view.

• Chained to a bad fence option. Chain link fence is sturdy, reliable and relatively inexpensive. It's great for bordering back and side yards, but

out front, it's flat-out ugly. With so many great fencing options available at a fairly modest cost, you owe it to yourself to

• When high-tech is low-cost. Technology has brought many wonderful things into our lives, but good-looking exteriors aren't necessarily included. If you're a techno-geek, keep your antennae and solar collectors hidden from view behind shrubbery or privacy screens.

• Ease up on the lawn ornaments. Front yards are great

for well-trimmed shrubs and fetching flowers, but they really aren't the place to display an overabundant collection of lawn ornaments. Moderation is a virtue, and helps preserve the value of your property.

• Don't stain your reputation. A little routine maintenance keeps little problems from becoming big eyesores. An annual cleaning keeps brick staining looking fresh. Scrub stairs and seal with a top-quality primer before painting over exterior stains.

Check facts on structure

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: Our subdivision documents preclude a mobile home from being parked temporarily on land unconnected to utilities because it is not a building (structure). Before closing on a lot purchase, one of our owners parked his mobile home on the lot. The mobile home sat on a trailer and remained unconnected to any plumbing or utilities. Moreover, no site work had been done in preparation for placing the mobile home on a foundation. Do we have a basis to pursue the mobile home owner?

A: As in most of these bylaw enforcement matters, it depends on the facts of the case.

To the extent that the association has the right to approve any building on the lot, it is likely that buildings would include the

structures and mobile homes could reasonably be defined as structures. The fact that the mobile home was not connected to utilities did not mean that it was not a structure and, of course, it depends upon the language of your deed restrictions and whether the deed restriction expressly covered structures that were intended, designed or arranged to be used or occupied, and not just those actually in use.

Q: Can you tell me which states post the top state foreclosure rates, and how does Michigan stand?

A: As of August 2011, Nevada, California and Arizona posted the top state foreclosure rates. However five other states account for more than half of the U.S. total. Michigan documented 13,016 properties with foreclosure filings in August, the third highest state in the country. It doesn't look like things are slowing up in the foreclosure business. I can tell from my experience in representing community and condominium associations that unfortunately the need to pursue collections continues to increase.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

Address	Price	Address	Price	Address	Price
2160 Liberty St S	\$290,000	28528 N Clements Cir	\$59,000	REDFORD	
45471 Michael Ct	\$138,000	30878 Orangelawn St	\$127,000	11324 Garfield	\$32,000
637 N Corrine Blvd	\$145,000	16783 Penn Dr	\$43,000	18841 Glenmore	\$43,000
7129 Pindrop Ct	\$204,000	5004 Pure Ave	\$115,000	18763 Macarthur	\$52,000
41824 Pines Dr	\$186,000	43679 Foxwood Cir	\$33,000	33110 Meadow Park	\$35,000
GARDEN CITY		35132 Stone St	\$120,000	18671 Norborne	\$10,000
32523 Cambridge St	\$82,000	17341 Stamwich St	\$120,000	12130 San Jose	\$26,000
30944 Fairwood St	\$172,000	18241 University Park Dr	\$70,000	15500 Woodenden	\$40,000
1525 Lathers St	\$100,000	NORTHVILLE		37542 Barkridge Cir	\$54,000
6456 Whitby St	\$70,000	245 Elm St	\$80,000	1555 Barkshire St	\$54,000
CANTON		30959 Six Mile Rd	\$355,000	7241 Floral St	\$53,000
4955 Cherokee Cr	\$268,000	16290 Dover Dr	\$106,000	34102 Majestic St	\$81,000
568 Cherry Orchard Rd	\$119,000	27636 Barkley St	\$92,000	5700 N Crown St	\$23,000
15494 Coolidge St	\$272,000	49697 S Glacier	\$330,000	855 S Merrin Ave	\$90,000
5202 Emerald Pines Dr	\$186,000	789 Thayer Blvd	\$326,000	32118 Sandra Ln	\$83,000
358 Filmore St	\$240,000	17330 Fairfield St	\$185,000	WESTLAND	
47413 Fox Run Dr	\$236,000	15055 Hubbard St	\$172,000	37542 Barkridge Cir	\$54,000
41543 Glade Rd	\$128,000	4151 Briarwood Dr	\$90,000	1555 Barkshire St	\$54,000
2205 Halloway St	\$189,000	4291 Joy Rd	\$74,000	7241 Floral St	\$53,000
4675 Hunters Cr E	\$60,000	3282 N Evergreen St	\$230,000	34102 Majestic St	\$81,000
43135 Ironides Ct	\$135,000	37077 Munger St	\$107,000	5700 N Crown St	\$23,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

Address	Price	Address	Price	Address	Price
3370 Burning Bush Rd	\$650,000	28334 Bayberry Rd	\$105,000	41294 Carriage Hill Dr	\$395,000
6895 Castle Ct	\$280,000	36622 Brandmill	\$102,000	50767 Drake Bay Dr	\$46,000
4851 Cimarron Dr	\$115,000	31168 Sunnyside Cir	\$115,000	21168 Sunnyside Cir	\$115,000
1820 Colonial Way	\$185,000	21784 Cambridge Ln	\$40,000	24576 Le Stok Ct	\$29,000
1100 E Glenary Cir	\$1,400,000	25528 Castlereigh Dr	\$174,000	40538 Lenox Park Dr	\$229,000
815 E Long Lake Rd	\$240,000	32380 Chatterbrook St	\$128,000	22121 Shadybrook Dr	\$292,000
1601 Quarton Rd	\$483,000	29948 Thorny Ridge Cir	\$197,000	41500 Woodenden	\$40,000
1473 S Eton St	\$90,000	20910 Deerfield	\$381,000	21208 Wheaton Ln	\$417,000
315 S Glenhurst Dr	\$339,000	34239 Glouster Cir	\$238,000	SOUTH LYON	
411 S Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$555,000	28645 Hemlockwood Dr	\$96,000	58753 Clearwater Ln	\$40,000
1589 Sheffield Rd	\$154,000	45731 Kensington	\$126,000	61116 Greenwood Dr	\$41,000
650 W Lincoln St	\$325,000	29892 Olympia	\$50,000	25875 Prescott Ln	\$245,000
BIRMINGHAM		28314 Pepperidge Rd	\$450,000	24839 Martindale Rd	\$172,000
1998 Bowers St	\$355,000	30938 Regents Pointe	\$107,000	23906 Hunters Ct	\$61,000
1632 Henrietta St	\$720,000	30703 Shawwassee Rd	\$28,000	23563 Prescott Ln W	\$61,000
450 Larchlea Dr	\$400,000	29200 Springs Br	\$260,000	SOUTHFIELD	
2205 Pembroke Rd	\$163,000	28943 Thorny Ridge Cir	\$240,000	27301 Apple Blossom Ln	\$60,000
1601 Quarton Rd	\$483,000	60272 Cooley Lake Rd # 303	\$219,000	19421 Cherry Hill St	\$75,000
1473 S Eton St	\$90,000	2100 Glen Iris Ct	\$129,000	36633 Lyman Rd	\$93,000
315 S Glenhurst Dr	\$339,000	37063 Oakwood Dr	\$123,000	29248 Wyndham Ct	\$155,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$555,000	3291 Melmore St	\$35,000	FRANKLIN	
1589 Sheffield Rd	\$154,000	1300 Penarth St	\$118,000	24447 Bloomington Ct	\$136,000
650 W Lincoln St	\$325,000	3866 Pickbourne St	\$75,000	Lathrup Village	
BLOOMFIELD HILLS		3100 Pikewood Ct	\$487,000	28520 Meadowood Ct N	\$116,000
1998 Bowers St	\$355,000	3144 Pikewood Ct	\$425,000	MILFORD	
1632 Henrietta St	\$720,000	4504 Rakewood Dr	\$195,000	1781 Bristol Dr	\$480,000
450 Larchlea Dr	\$400,000	29178 Rawwood Ave	\$428,000	832 Duke	\$85,000
2205 Pembroke Rd	\$163,000	5502 Adams Way	\$110,000	625 S Commerce St	\$118,000
1601 Quarton Rd	\$483,000	2058 Fawmwood Way	\$250,000	483 Rowe Rd	\$120,000
1473 S Eton St	\$90,000	2451 Hunters Pond	\$570,000	2772 Stone Meadow Dr	\$506,000
315 S Glenhurst Dr	\$339,000	7371 Lindenmere Dr	\$490,000	2351 Trinity Ln	\$395,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave Unit	\$555,000	4438 Story River Dr	\$345,000	NOVI	
1589 Sheffield Rd	\$154,000	586 Stratford Ln	\$135,000	25225 Arcadia Dr	\$375,000
650 W Lincoln St	\$325,000	2906 Whittier Dr	\$250,000	24482 Bashian Dr	\$58,000
BIRMINGHAM		2307 Farmington Rd	\$140,000	27491 Belgrave Pl	\$45,000
1998 Bowers St	\$355,000	23450 Hillview Ct	\$220,000	23288 Bannock St	\$79,000
1632 Henrietta St	\$720,000	21027 Meadowlark St	\$140,000	FRANKLIN	
450 Larchlea Dr	\$400,000	33315 Shawwassee Rd	\$277,000	24447 Bloomington Ct	\$136,000
2205 Pembroke Rd	\$163,000	26347 Valhalla Dr	\$277,000	Lathrup Village	
1601					

JOBS

Help Wanted-General

dfcu FINANCIAL
Michigan's largest credit union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.
FT Mortgage Servicing Rep
Minimum 1 yr mortgage servicing exp. and strong understanding of basic real estate functions.
Complete job description and locations available at dfcufinancial.com
See Mortgage Servicing Rep

Help Wanted-General

Billboard Sign Installer
Key tasks and responsibilities: measuring, reviewing and installing billboards and signs. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
Required Skills and Experience:
-Should have some billboards or sign erection work experience.
-Must be able to lift 50 lbs. CDL, C, clean driving record.
-Must have electrical repair work experience.
-Core operation helpful.
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

Help Wanted-General

Dispatcher
City of Birmingham Seeking energetic, organized & dependable applicants for FT Dispatcher position to handle dispatching of police, fire, EMS operations & related functions. Ideal candidates will be able to deal with a variety of stressful situations. All times of application must post-employment drug test. (or equivalent) & min. of 2 yrs. exp. in dispatching or related customer service skills. Must be able to work under pressure, exercise good judgment & make sound decisions in emergency situations. Previous related experience, including 10 years of dispatching, is preferred. Job duties include: dispatching police, fire, EMS, and other emergency services. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment.
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

Help Wanted-General

TECHNICIAN
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan seeks a Senior Technician in New Hudson, MI. Responsibilities include: install, maintain, repair, and troubleshoot all types of medical equipment. Must have 3+ years of experience in a hospital setting. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter who is experienced with all types of medical equipment. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to travel. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment.
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

Help Wanted-General

ACCOUNTANT/ OFFICE COORDINATOR
Go to www.hometownlife.com or call: www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-General

dfcu FINANCIAL
Michigan's largest credit union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.
Assistant Branch Manager
Minimum 2 yrs. supervision experience in a customer service environment. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
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Help Wanted-General

MANUFACTURING ENGINEER/ CAD DESIGNER
We are looking for a self-starter who is well versed in CAD design with a minimum of 5 years of experience in a manufacturing environment. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
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Kathy Solan, Manager
Real Estate One
248-348-6430
kathy.solan@realty.com

Help Wanted-General

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/SUPERVISOR
Property management supervisor for an expanding Michigan-based company. Must have 5+ years of experience in a similar position. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
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-Must have electrical repair work experience.
-Core operation helpful.
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Activities Aide

West Hickory Haven Nursing Center is looking for an energetic team player to fill a position as an activities aide. Position duties include: planning and conducting programs for residents, as well as assisting with special events. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment.
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

Help Wanted-General

dfcu FINANCIAL
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Assistant Branch Manager
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-Core operation helpful.
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

Help Wanted-General

GENERAL CLEANERS
Exp. & Part-Time. Primary job is to clean and maintain all types of commercial buildings. Must have 2+ years of experience in a similar position. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
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Help Wanted-General

OFFICE HELP - Part-Time
Good phone & computer skills. Apply online only at: www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-General

OFFICE HELP - Part-Time
Good phone & computer skills. Apply online only at: www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-General

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can get out to work, from home. FT, part-time, flex hours. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment.
Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

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Help Wanted-General

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marynicole@realty.com

Help Wanted-General

MANUFACTURING ENGINEER/ CAD DESIGNER
We are looking for a self-starter who is well versed in CAD design with a minimum of 5 years of experience in a manufacturing environment. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
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Help Wanted-General

SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR
Must have 2+ years of experience in a similar position. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to lift 50 lbs. Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Must be able to work with the use of conventional tools, equipment and machinery. Must possess all safety equipment as required and follow all safety regulations.
Required Skills and Experience:
-Should have some billboards or sign erection work experience.
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Apply in person: **Employer Advertising** 645 W. McWayne St. #14855 Lodi, WI 53546

10 Things to Leave Off Your Résumé

Writing wisdom from *Strunk and White* and *Both Braccio Hering, Special to CareerBuilder*

Everybody knows that in most situations, less is more -- your accessories, eating habits and especially your résumé.

Job seekers do themselves a disservice when they send out résumés with too much information. Employers don't have the time or the patience to sift through irrelevant information like your hobbies, interests or how many grandchildren you have. Just stick to the basics and you're good to go.

Here are 10 things to leave off your résumé and why:

1. Your picture
Why to leave it off: Unless a job posting specifically asks for your picture (and very few jobs will), don't include it just for fun. Not only are your looks irrelevant to your potential as an employee, but you're putting employers in a bad spot. If they have a picture of you and choose not to hire you, it's possible that they could come back with a discrimination lawsuit. In most cases, they'll throw your résumé away without looking at it, to avoid the issue altogether.
2. Interest and hobbies
Why to leave them off: Unless your interests and hobbies have something to do with the job you're applying for, there's no reason to include them. If you want to show how your passion for art would be an asset to a graphic design position, that's one thing. But telling employers that you love to skydive on an actuarial application is another. In general, make any applicable connections between your hobbies and the job in your cover letter. Better yet, save them for the interview when you're asked what you like to do outside of work.
3. Spelling mistakes and grammatical errors
Why to leave them off: Most employers assume that if you're OK with sending out a résumé littered with typos and mistakes, you'll have the same lack of concern for the work you do as an employee at their company. While spell check picks up most errors, it can miss something major -- did you write the late night shift? Or did you forget to include the "I" between "I" and "I"? -- so have several eyes look over your résumé before sending it out to employers.
4. Personal attributes
Why to leave them off: Similar to sending a picture with your résumé, your height, weight, age, race or religion are all unimportant to an employer. Though it's illegal for employers to discriminate against applicants because of any of these factors, some will do so, regardless. Keep everything on your résumé pertinent to the job, and you'll be fine.
5. References
Why to leave them off: Many job seekers still include references on their résumé or they include a line that says, "References available upon request." This tactic is not as effective as it used to be. Jack Harsh, adjunct professor at the University of Richmond Robins School of Business, says that when he receives a résumé with references attached, he gives them virtually no weight. "They seldom are specific to the role my company seeks and are not meaningful in considering qualifications or traits of successful candidates," he says. Wait to broadcast the topic of references until you're asked for them.
6. Minute details
Why to leave them off: Hiring managers don't need to know the details of every task you've ever done in every job you've ever had. It's just too much information, and usually half of that information isn't relevant. Employers want to be able to see at first glance that you're a great candidate, so pick out those details that are most relevant to the job for which you're applying and omit the rest.
7. False information
Why to leave it off: Plain and simple, no one wants to hire a liar. Don't say that you have a master's degree if you've only earned your bachelor's; don't say you're presently employed at a company if you've recently been fired; don't list your salary history as 20 percent higher than it was. Everything you tell an employer can be verified, so play it safe and be honest.
8. Flair
Why to leave it off: No one wants to look at a résumé on fluorescent paper, covered in crazy fonts and symbols. Similarly, links to personal Web sites, your photo-sharing site, or strange e-mail addresses can also be left off. Employers are less likely to respond to likes2party@gmail.com than just DHillier@gmail.com.
9. Negativity
Why to leave it off: Never put anything negative on your résumé. Don't include your reasons for leaving. If you left the position due to a layoff or you were fired, for example, bring it up only if asked. Never write anything bad about a previous employer. Don't explain gaps on your résumé by stating that you were in prison for 10 years for killing your husband. Keep your résumé all positive, all the time.
10. A selfish objective
Why to leave it off: Employers are trying to determine whether you're a good fit for their organization, so everything on your résumé should point to your experience. Employers would rather see a summary of qualifications that displays your accomplishments and background than a generic objective statement like "To gain experience in..."

dfcu FINANCIAL

Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.

FT MORTGAGE SERVICING REP

Minimum 1 year mortgage servicing experience and demonstrated understanding of basic real estate functions.

Complete job description and locations available at: dfcufinancial.com see Mortgage Servicing Rep

Applications accepted at all DFCU branches through December 31, 2011

Credit record in good standing required
Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.

Now hiring Assistant Branch Manager for the Metro Detroit Area.

Minimum qualifications include: 2 yrs. supervision experience in a sales/financial environment. Coaching and customer service experience. Demonstrated professionalism with motivation to attain new skills in a dynamic environment.

Complete job description and locations available at dfcufinancial.com
See description for Asst. Member Relations Mgr

Accepting applications through Friday, December 30, 2011

Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office
Credit record in good standing required
Equal Opportunity Employer

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Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office
Credit record in good standing required
Equal Opportunity Employer

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