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# NOVI NEWS

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SPECIAL SECTION**

## Holiday Road Rally

Start a new holiday tradition as you team up with friends and/or family for the Holiday Road Rally on Friday, Dec. 16. Teams will gather at the Novi Civic Center at 6 p.m., receive instructions, and take off in their vehicle to search for wild and crazy predetermined items to photograph. Immediately following the photo scavenger hunt, participants will report to a local restaurant for heavy appetizers (which are included). Your team must bring one digital camera. Extra points are given to teams in festive attire. Awards will be given and the winning team receives bragging rights for the entire year.

"This is a great event for adults to get out and enjoy themselves while celebrating the holiday season. The best part is no kitchen clean-up," said Emily Stevens, recreation supervisor and Holiday Road Rally coordinator.

The event begins at the Novi Civic Center at 6 p.m. and wraps up at 10 p.m. Pre-registration is required and the cost \$100 per team of four to six people. Register online to receive a \$5 discount at [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org).

## 'Christmas miracle'



Logan Elementary student Brianna tells Santa her wish during the holiday party at the Detroit school last Thursday. The party, organized by the nonprofit organization Bridgepointe, featured games, crafts, gifts and more, all run by students in Novi.

## Students from Novi bring joy, gifts to Detroit students at annual party

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

First-grader Timothy LaPalm couldn't wait to get back to his classroom at Logan Elementary to open the gifts Santa had just delivered to him. Once he got to his desk, he ripped open the bag and pulled out the gifts one by one, tearing the wrapping paper off each and holding them high above his head to show off his prize.

LaPalm, and the rest of the students at the school on Detroit's southwest side, were paid a visit last Thursday by the nonprofit organization Bridgepointe, which hosts a holiday party every year for a school in Detroit. This year they brought two Santas, the Novi Middle School choir and more than 100 other students and parents from the Novi community to throw the giant celebration.

Each student at the school was given a bag of gifts including a blanket, hat, gloves, soap, shampoo, toys and more. Lauren Koenigsberg, LaPalm's teacher at Logan, said her students truly believed they met Santa.

"This is the most wonderful thing that these people are so giving of themselves," she said. "For most of our students this is all they will have for Christ-



Novi student Maria Hertrich helps Logan Elementary student Timothy LaPalm work his way through a maze in the new coloring book he got at the holiday party at the Detroit school last Thursday.

mas, so this is giving them a day of joy and puts smiles on their faces."

It was impossible to find a student from either school not smiling as they participated in carnival games, played bingo, ate pizza and made new friends.

Lucas Gibbs, a fifth-grader at Novi Meadows who attended the holiday party at Neinas Elementary in Detroit last

Please see PARTY, A2

## District hires director to hold staff accountable

Data collected expected to improve student growth

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

The Novi Community Schools district talks a lot about its goals for students — and now they have a person in place to guide administrators and teachers as they work to achieve those goals.

Nick Kalakailo, formerly an instructional coach in the district, was hired last Thursday to become the district's director of student growth and accountability. Some of the goals he will focus on are ensuring that each student will make no less than one year's growth in one year's time and that they will all achieve at a high level. He also will use the data gather from students to evaluate teachers and administrators.

"We created a position that will help us get the data we need so we can



Kalakailo

measure ourselves on progress toward those goals," said superintendent Steve Matthews. "Currently we don't have the capacity to get the data we need, and this position will help us create the plan and gather the data and hold us accountable."

Matthews noted that the budget in the office of accountability was restructured to accommodate Kalakailo's hiring.

"There is no increase in the budget," he said. Kalakailo has been an instructional coach for the last 10 years, working with teachers at all levels. The district received 76 applications before

Please see DIRECTOR, A2

## Use common sense for safe holiday season

Police offer extra patrols for residents out of town

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

The holiday season is supposed to be a time of happiness and celebrations.

But if Novi residents don't take the right precautions to protect themselves and their possessions, it could turn into a season of frustration and anger. The Novi police and

fire departments want to help residents avoid that, and are encouraging them — despite their busy schedules — to take the necessary precautions.

"An extra five minutes of vigilance can save lives and property," said fire protection officer Andy Copeland.

"The last thing we want

Please see SAFETY, A2

## Flu shots

Oakland County Health Division will offer \$11 flu shots at Health Division offices located at the following addresses:

• North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac

• South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield

Hours are noon-8 p.m. on Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

Registration is preferred. To register for a flu shot, go to [www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health).

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## SAFETY

Continued from page A1

to do is ruin someone's Christmas by having to come into their homes," Copeland said. The most common fire starters are holiday lights and decorations. He said people should inspect the holiday lights before putting them up and be sure to turn them off before leaving the home. It's also important to not overload electrical outlets.

Other issues arise from not watering a real tree properly and leaving things in the oven or on the stove unattended. It's estimated that fire departments respond to an average of 210 struc-

ture fires caused by Christmas trees.

Copeland also said it's never a bad time to check smoke detectors.

On the police side, theft is a big fear of any resident. Novi Police Det. Randy Mince said they do see an increase in what he calls "crimes of opportunity."

Those crimes tend to be auto thefts with people leaving gifts, GPS devices and purses visible in their vehicles.

"If you are shopping make sure you hide everything in the trunk," Mince said.

Residents also tend to take trips during the holidays and Mince encourages them to coordinate extra patrol through a

vacation request with the Novi Police Department, while also enlisting the help of neighbor to watch the house, shovel snow and take in the mail.

With holiday parties, consumption of alcoholic beverages tends to occur. Mince said the message is simple — be safe.

"If you know you are going to be at a party where you are consuming alcohol, have a designated driver or make plans for other transportation," he said.

If you have any questions about holiday safety, call the Novi Police Department at (248) 348-7100.

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



The Novi Middle School choir entertained the Logan Elementary students with holiday songs throughout the day.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN MUELLER

## PARTY

Continued from page A1

year, said while he understands many of the students at Logan don't have the same opportunities he has in Novi it doesn't mean they are that much different than him.

His favorite part of the party is interacting with the students and getting to make new friends.

"I really like helping and bringing smiles to their faces," he said.

Mauro Cruz, principal at Logan Elementary, said he was eager to welcome Bridgepointe to his 87-year-old school that is 87 percent Hispanic because he wanted to give them

different experiences outside of their community. "It's very uplifting for the kids," he said. "The kids love it and enjoy it and they will never forget this experience."

Mauro said his hope is that his students will learn how to share and give, and this experience opens their eyes to "see there is another world out there."

Yusuf Qadeer, a junior at Novi High School, made a lot of new friends on Thursday as he sat with students at their desks and played games with them at the carnival. He said



A pair of Logan Elementary students look through their bag of gifts that included soap, shampoo, a blanket, hat, gloves and more during the holiday party at the Detroit school last Thursday.

he noticed how the students were so appreciative of what they have, and he took happiness from seeing them open up to him.

"This just makes me so thankful for what I have and makes me want to improve the lives of others," he said.

Kelle Vela, an organizer from Bridgepointe, said there were two things that stood out to her from the day. One was about a girl who never talked in class and barely talked to her parents who opened up to Santa while sitting on his lap. She said the

scene brought Santa and the other volunteers in the room to tears.

She also heard a boy pull his blue winter hat out of the bag and exclaim "How did Santa know my favorite color was blue?"

"It was incredible," she said. "These kids deserved a day of sheer fun." Koenigsberg called the whole day a "Christmas miracle."

"This is what Christmas is all about," she said.

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## DIRECTOR

Continued from page A1

narrowing the field down to two. Kalakilo stood out because of passion and knowledge of the data already being used in Novi.

"Nick has a real passion for using data in meaningful ways with teachers and administrators," Matthews said. "He not only has the skill set we need intellectually to understand how data can be used, but also a real

desire to use that data to help improve the lives of students in this district."

Legislative mandates coming down from the state are requiring districts to have a way to evaluate teachers and administrators, and by 2013-14, 25 percent of the teacher evaluation is dependent upon student achievement data, said Superintendent of Human Resources Bonnie Lobert.

"It's really two parts: helping students achieve and helping teachers

improve on their craft," she said.

School board member Jason Manar said because of the "unfunded mandate" from the state, the position is needed to make the evaluation piece work.

Kalakilo is expected to start in his new position after the first of the year, and the district also will be looking to hire a new instructional coach.

"I think teachers have a real sense that they need a good data stream," Matthews said. "Is it a position that everyone would clamor for that we need? I'd probably suggest they may not, but I believe it's really important for this district because of the needs we have."

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Halle Jordan, 5, perched atop her dad Jason's head, applauds some dancers.



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## Buying power



Cindy Paparella assists Novi Woods student Angela Waytowich in her selections during the school's Nov. 30 Holiday Shop. The shop, sponsored by the school's PTO, lets kids shop for their parents and siblings for Christmas presents — with set budgets.

## Clinics, concert offer 'All That Jazz' for young musicians

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Riccardo Selva has been director of jazz studies at Schoolcraft College since January 2009. He's looking forward to bringing in his former professor and mentor, Don Owens, to Northwestern University, to work with local high school and college students.

"He is just a wonderful teacher and musician," Selva said of Owens, who was on his dissertation committee at Northwestern.

Donald Babcock of Eastern Michigan University's also involved in the upcoming events. Selva met Babcock through students. "We got in contact and I met with him and went over to Eastern. We became good friends," said the Schoolcraft educator, who had a student who passed along his compositions to Babcock, who also knows Owens. This past May, Schoolcraft's jazz program went to Northwestern as part of a Chicago tour. "All of the students really liked him. We're bringing him back in," Southgate resident Selva said of Owens, Sunday, Dec. 18, will feature an Open Rehearsal.



Owens

"We're really trying to spread the arts to the younger generation," Selva said.

"There's nothing like participating in a musical group. We're trying to turn them on to that. That should be really fun," he said of that Sunday.

Selva has contacted Livonia schools as well, and found interest among local educators in working with Owens. He sent out a large number of mailings.

"It's kind of a busy time with finals and the holidays," he said.

"Experiencing some great music-making is unlike recorded music. It's an aesthetic experience unlike anything else." Europeans appreciate jazz more than we do, he's found.

"The popular music doesn't really do justice to musicians. That's been one of my frustrations."

There's a lack of sophistication in current music, Selva said. "They don't sing," he said of rap artists.

"It's just kind of breaks off into its own subculture."

It's great for students to hear the trumpet or saxophone. "It's interesting, but they don't get exposed to that."

Arts are often an afterthought in the educational system, said Selva, who was valedictorian at his high school. "Most of the kids are going to be the top students in the graduating class. We just don't really support that as we should in our culture. And it's just fun. There's nothing like making music with your friends."

Owens has written original work for selected group, named for one of his grandkids, "The Chicken Borman Shuffle." It will be performed Monday, Dec. 19, as a premiere.

Selva plays in a jazz ensemble with men in their 70s and 80s. "The music is something very near and dear to them," he said. Many have been involved all their lives.

"They pass it on to their children. They love music and they sometimes play in groups together. It brings us all together, all ages, and it's something that enriches everybody's life."

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## Giving back



Former Detroit Lions tight end Pete Chrylewicz visits Novi 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.



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



NFL alum Keith Smith brings in a box of Pillow Pets to Providence Park Hospital in Novi on Dec. 6 to donate to young patients.



Former Detroit Lions safety Ron Rice drops off a bumble bee Pillow Pet to Novi Providence Park Hospital patient Ajya Miller, 2, during a visit by NFL alumni on Dec. 6.



Former NFL player Tom Nowatzke hands off a Pillow Pet to Providence Park Hospital patient Laurent Verfallie, 2, during a Dec. 6 visit to the Novi facility.

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# Hey, Santa!



Amelia Gardner (left), 20 months, makes it clear that she wants her mother Jaime to join her for a photo with Santa at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall on Dec. 8. Santa seems to take the emotion in stride. Mom joined her daughter (right) after Amelia made it clear that she was going to have a problem if mom couldn't be in the shot, too.



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- Community Garden
- Walking Paths
- Emergency Call System

## NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

**Cantate!**  
The 13-voice chamber chorale Cantate! will present its annual holiday concert, "Holiday Treasures," directed by Gerald Custer, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, corner of 11 Mile Road. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.  
For further information, contact Shari Clason at (248) 249-8175 or visit the Cantate web site at www.cantate-detroit.org.

**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 Kniseley (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.

**Donate your car**  
This year has been tough on almost everyone because of the economy and the high unemployment. Americans are a very resilient people. Even during troubling times, they are always ready to lend a hand to someone who needs help and is struggling.  
A great way to help a person or an animal in need is to donate a car you do not use anymore to charity. The process is very simple, the pickup is free and the rewards are great.  
In return for your generous donation, you will get the gift of a tax deduction when you itemize on your federal tax return. You will find hundreds of worthy charities to support with your car donation at Cars4Charities.  
For complete details, please call toll free 1.866.448.3487 or log onto <http://www.cars4charities.org/>.

**Holiday happenings at Twelve Oaks**  
Twelve Oaks Mall invites you to join in the festivities for the holidays in a series of special programs.  
Visit the Ice Palace and Santa: Shoppers can experience an Arctic wonderland and the majesty of winter in the enchanted Ice Palace. A joy for all to experience, the free, multi-sensory exhibit features falling snow, interactive elements, breathtaking footage of Arctic animals and landscapes, fun facts and a beautiful Ice Princess.  
The last stop on the magical adventure is a visit with Santa, who offers a small gift for each child who visits and the option for guests to have a commemorative photo taken to remember their Ice Palace adventure.  
Those who purchase a photo package when visiting Santa or the Ice Throne will receive a free 20-page photo book from Snapfish.  
Santa will receive guests during all mall hours throughout the holiday season (with special hours on Black Friday and Christmas Eve). Santa's breaks are from 12:30-1 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-1:30 p.m. Sunday. For complete hours and pricing, please visit [www.shop12oak.com/holidays](http://www.shop12oak.com/holidays).

Don't leave Fido or Fifi out of the fun. The ever-popular Santa Paws photo program will be hosted from 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. Space is limited, and reservations are a must. Call (248) 398-9438 to reserve a spot for your pet's special moment with Santa. Cats and dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier and up-to-date on shots.

**Salvation Army seeks bell-ringers**  
As a chill starts to come over Metro Detroit, many of us will begin to hear those familiar bells ringing every time we walk in and out of our favorite grocery and department stores. The Salvation Army will soon put out its famous red kettles to raise funds to support our unemployed, homeless and hungry neighbors—and it's calling out to the community to volunteer as bell ringers. Sign up at [www.ringbell.org](http://www.ringbell.org).  
Bell ringers can make a big difference right in their own community during Red Kettle season. The cold, wind and snow become small in comparison. Bell ringers are often stationed outdoors, so dress warm. The weather often reminds supporters that our neighbors may not have a warm place to go home to like they do.

Please see BRIEFS, A 10

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# EDUCATION

## District to continue offering breakfast to all students Pilot program being extended through school year

**By Nathan Mueller**  
Staff Writer

Breakfast will continue to be served at all nine Novi schools after the three-month pilot program at Deerfield, Novi Woods and Parkview produced positive results.  
The Board of Education decided in August it would add the

three schools for a trial period before deciding to extend the program through the rest of the school year or end it.  
And while the numbers were not overwhelming, the board saw no reason to stop serving the students.  
"There is no reason not to keep it," said JoAnn Clements, director of Nutrition and Food Services for the school district. "By and large it has been well received."  
During the three months (55 school days), the district has served 9,560 breakfasts, with nearly 2,000 at the three pilot schools. Deerfield served 425 meals (average of eight daily), Novi Woods 206 (average of four) and Parkview 1,340 (average of 24).

A school district is mandated by the state to provide breakfast if 20 percent or more of a building's enrollment receives free and reduced meals. Novi doesn't have any schools that meet the criteria, but two are close — Village Oaks at 18.55 percent and Orchard Hills at 18.85 percent.  
Those two account for the most meals served with 2,084 (1,066 free) at Village Oaks and 1,630 (968 free) at Orchard Hills. Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Steve Barr said it has been a "profitable program" for the district raising nearly \$9,000.  
"I anticipate next year we implement a district-wide program," he said. "In my opinion, it's good financially and it's good for the kids, so there really isn't a reason not to."

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

## Superintendent understands responsibility to student achievement

**By Steve Matthews**  
Guest Columnist



Steve Matthews

**Love Big Macs and chocolate shakes?** Why? It probably has to do with my formative years. I worked at McDonald's in high school, four nights a week, closing twice.  
I remember a lot about working there. We didn't have computer cash registers back then, instead taking orders on paper and adding them up. Every day when you went to clock in, the manager would post the math mistakes from the previous day.  
My manager was very focused on customer service. I was taking orders once when a customer approached and said her table was dirty. I handed her a rag to clean it off. It seemed like the logical thing to do, and my manager had a fit. He let me know, in very clear and powerful language, that cleaning tables was our job — not the customers.  
I remember working the fry station one year during the State Fair parade. People were everywhere and my manager had warned me not to run out of fries. You can rush many things at McDonald's, but you cannot rush the french fries. Four hours later, we had made it through the day and I had not run out of fries one time.  
Why did I work there? My parents were very clear that if I wanted money to do things I would have to find a job. They would provide me

with the necessities in life, but the extras were my responsibility. So I found a job, and worked three different ones while in high school. Each one was different but they all provided me with an understanding that each job has certain responsibilities. If I wasn't willing or ready to accept what I had to do then I needed to find another job.  
I carry that lesson with me today as I work as the superintendent in our district. As the superintendent, I have certain responsibilities. Some of my responsibilities are a lot of fun. I get to participate in events like the Senior Lunch the Novi Rotary Club sponsors every year at our middle school where I get to watch our middle school students sing, perform and interact with and for Novi senior citizens.  
Other things are not as much fun. Talking with parents whose sons or daughters have been recommended for expulsion from the district is not that much fun. Yet I understand I need to do it because my responsibility is to make sure we have a safe learning environment for all students.  
The most important thing I do is work with the board of education to make sure we have a budget that will help us achieve our district goals. We understand we have to provide a school system that supports students learning, and in our current economic climate that is difficult. But we understand it is our job.  
Our district exists to help prepare the students in our district for life beyond high school. Every decision we make has to focus on making sure our students will have the skills, abilities and attitude needed to succeed when they leave our district and enter the broader world. It is a responsibility we take seriously in our district.  
As our district continues to move forward, and to make the decisions that we need to make, I am ever mindful that what I do will have an impact on the lives of those who attend our schools and who work for our district. That is the responsibility I took when I agreed to be superintendent.  
The lessons I learned so many years ago at McDonald's still are with me today — understanding that each job has certain responsibilities is a lesson I cannot forget.

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/docmatthews](http://www.twitter.com/docmatthews); or [www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com](http://www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com).

## Japanese students to benefit from grants Ringo Kai Japanese School donates its grant to Novi

**By Nathan Mueller**  
Staff Writer

It was double the good fortune for the Novi Community Schools district on Friday at the 20th annual Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation award ceremony at the Sheraton Novi Hotel.  
Not only did the district receive a \$6,000 grant from the foundation, but it also will be getting a grant from another organization as the Detroit Ringo Kai Japanese School announced it will be donating its money to the district.  
Superintendent Steve Matthews was both surprised and excited by the announcement.  
"It will definitely help because we hire liaisons and translators to work with Japanese families during registration and parent-teacher conferences," he said.  
The district, which has nearly 300 Japanese students, also provides select support materials and manuals for the Japanese students and their families.  
President of Ringo Kai Yasuhiko Amari said his school, which relocated to Novi from Birmingham in September after 30 years in Birmingham, would donate its money to the district that welcomed them with open arms.  
The school houses students from kindergarten to high school and is one of the largest of its kind in the nation. They will be leasing Novi Meadows for at least 10 years.  
Ringo Kai and the school district were just two of the 40 organizations given grant mon-

ey by the JBSD Foundation. The nonprofit split \$70,900 among the 40 organizations, continuing a tradition that dates back 20 years. Since its inception, the group has donated \$1.5 million to organizations throughout southeast Michigan.  
"We are proud of our continued support of community organizations that promote community enhancement, education and research as well as unity between the Japanese and American cultures for 20 consecutive years," said foundation President Eiji Kato.  
Kato said they are happy to be able to grant so many requests.  
"We hope our contribution will help each of you reach your goals," he said.

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

## Junior Rep

State Rep. Hugh Crawford (R, Novi) held a reading contest over the summer, and students who were selected were given the opportunity to be Junior Representatives for the Day. Twelve students from across his district were selected, including Kylie Maxton, a fifth-grader at Novi Meadows.  
During her day as a representative, Kylie and the others were sworn in as Junior Representatives, and given a certificate. They were introduced in the Gallery of the House, had lunch as Crawford's guest in the Speaker's Library, and were involved in a mock committee meeting where real lobbyists testified before the Junior Representatives (lobbyists testified for and against having soda/snack vending machines in schools). At the end of the committee hearing, the Junior Representatives voted to allow the vending machines. The day culminated with a guided tour of the Capital.



## Food drive



The Novi High School Student Council for the class of 2013 organized a food drive competition for all junior World History classes. In addition, the National Honor Society also participated. After contacting the secretary of Faith Community Presbyterian Church, where the Novi Community Food Bank is housed, the students wanted to help. A total of 449 cans/items of food were delivered to the church on Nov. 7. "Our shelves are really down at this time," said Kelly Williams, office administrator. "This food is very much needed." The food bank feeds families from Novi, Wixom and New Hudson. Shown are Student Council officers and National Honor Society members (from left) Delaney Ullie, Wes Guenther, Valerie Fraser, Renee Weil and Cheyenne Abrego.

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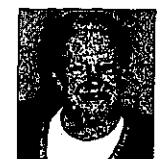


Passages

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BOOMS, FLORENCE ARLENE (CONNARN)

November 18, 2011. Predeceased by loving husband Richard A. Booms 2007, loving mother of Ray (Pam), Rich (Amy), Tom (Judith), Ruth Ann (Mike) Jirasek, Tim (Lorraine), Mary (Euan) Saffers...



GALE, NANCY J.

Age 86, passed away December 8, 2011. She was born on April 20, 1945, in Ionia, daughter of the late Harry and Helen Martin. Nancy grew up on her parents' dairy farm...

MCLAUGHLIN, WILLIAM F.

"Bill," age 79, went to his eternal rest on December 11, 2011. Bill was born in and raised in Syracuse, NY on October 10, 1932 to Edward T. and Rosalind (nee Couch) McLaughlin...

Worship service offers holiday relief Dec. 20

Smith says it's an opportunity to heal

By Nathan Mueller Staff Writer

The picture is often painted that the holiday season is full of joy and happiness. But that is not the case for everyone, as it also can be an overwhelming time with job losses, financial difficulties, health issues and family struggles.

It's an opportunity to heal, she said. The service at NUMC takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Smith said last year it ended no one rose from their seats for 20 minutes.

Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities.

CHURCH

Continued from page A9

1015 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210) a.m.: (c)afe)

Wednesday Family Night 7 p.m.: Adult education classes; Junior and senior high student ministries; children's programs...

NOVI-NORTHVILLE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities.

Friday morning at various locations for both Women's and Men's Life Groups Ministries, please contact the church office.

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Location: 23455 Novi Road Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665

Saturday Worship Time: 5 p.m.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Location: 45000 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Location: 45000 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Scouting for Food



Over 5,000 food items were collected by more than 100 Novi Cub Scouts during the annual Scouting for Food canned food drive on Nov. 12. The Novi effort is part of the Boy Scouts of America's nationwide Good Turn for America service project to help feed the needy...

BRIEFS

Continued from page A6

Interested in becoming a bell ringer? Contact Rochelle Holman at (248) 443-5500 or log on to www.ringbell.org.

Interested in becoming a bell ringer? Contact Rochelle Holman at (248) 443-5500 or log on to www.ringbell.org.

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

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES - hometownlife.com



BRIGGS, JACK C.

Age 85, of South Lyon, went home to be with his Lord and Savior December 5, 2011. He was born on November 22, 1926 in Detroit, Michigan to Ralph and Margaret (nee Brinkwood) Briggs.

GORDY, CHARLES "CHARLIE"

Age 15, passed away, December 8, 2011. He was born on February 5, 1996 in Royal Oak. Son of William Gordy and Michelle Gordy.

MORAN, CATHERINE

Age 98, of South Lyon, passed away December 12, 2011. She was born on October 15, 1913 in South Lyon, Michigan.

Novi News online

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often.

Wanted: vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Northville Record along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here.

See pics online

You can see staff photographer John Heider's photos in print in the Novi News and Northville Record, but don't miss his videos and photo galleries online.

Your Invitation to Worship - A grid of church listings for Brighton, Milford, Novi, Highland, Livonia, New Hudson, Plymouth, Northville, and Wixom.

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Observer & Eccentric Hometown Weeklies

## OUR VIEWS



# Priceless gift

## Generosity of spirit is holiday lesson to learn

Before heading out to the malls and down city main streets to get those last-minute items for Christmas, parents ought to pause a moment to think about a particular gift their children can really use.

It's so small, it often gets overlooked. But it's also so big, that it won't fit under the tree.

For your children, however, it's so important that they will keep it for life. The gift is the generosity of spirit, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.

The visions of sugar plums children have these days are often expensive and numerous. But there is another side to giving, one that starts with caring and a clear-sighted understanding that, for some people, it takes more than sitting on Santa's lap to get basic necessities.

The impact of the generosity of spirit it has more outcomes than the best-stocked toy store. With a sensitive nature, our children are gifted as quick learners, hugging tightly that lesson for a lifetime of use.

That truth is borne out by people who live and work in our communities. Their generous spirit can also be seen daily as volunteers ring the bell at Salvation Army red kettles at businesses around the community. It can be seen in the donations made to both the Novi and Northville Goodfellows, who between them are going to be able to help hundreds of needy families have a better Christmas this year. Rotarians, Lions and numerous other church and civic organizations are also doing their part.

For those gifted with a generous spirit, their gift of volunteering is priceless. They are ready, willing and able to step up and help. And the example they set is a gift that can last a lifetime when children are involved.

We urge people to take a moment out of their busy schedule to make a donation. But when you do, let your child do it. It's the questions that follow after a little one puts money in the red kettle that opens the door a lifelong lesson in giving.

It isn't shiny and bright, but the generosity of spirit is one gift continually found anew through compassion, but it must be acquired first.

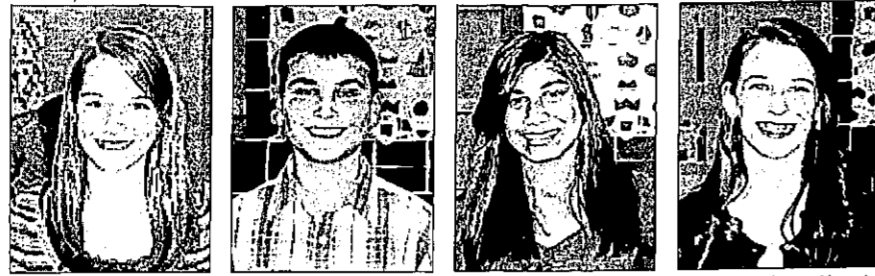
Parents don't have to pay for it at the checkout, but our children are sure to treasure it always.

# Novi News

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Garnett Perry, Director of Advertising

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What is your favorite holiday movie?



"'Polar Express' because I have watched it every year and it's a classic now."  
Celine Roest, Novi

"'Home Alone Lost in New York' because at the end it is more Christmasy and he wants his family back. Plus it's funny."  
Tommy Warner, Novi

"'Annie' because it's a classic story, has a good lesson and the music is great."  
Neha Baddam, Novi

"The first 'Home Alone' movie because it is really funny."  
Rachel Daly, Novi

## LETTERS

### Mapped by Republicans

For the first time in decades, the committee established by Michigan law to draw the Oakland County Commission districts has a Democratic majority membership (3-2). That's because one of the members, Oakland County Treasurer Andrew Mesner, a Democrat, was elected in 2008 to a seat that had been held by a Republican for many years.

The committee created a new map that met all of the requirements of the state apportionment laws, and was upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals when challenged by the Republican Party earlier this year. So what's the problem? Turns out that the new map creates several districts that might be more competitive, meaning either a Democrat or Republican would have a chance at winning a seat, thus giving voters a real choice.

Now the Republicans have decided that rather than abide by the will of the people, and Michigan law, they want to change the rules retroactively.

The Michigan House just passed H.R. 5187 that, if it becomes law, would nullify the new map and let the current board of commissioners draw their own map. Only Oakland County would be affected by this new law.

This is nothing more than a blatant power grab by Republican Party leaders. I thought elections had consequences.

Gwen Markham  
Novi

### Get Kowall out of office

As a resident of South Lyon and a constituent of state Sen. Mike Kowall, I have a message for my fellow constituents: we need get him out of office. Sen. Kowall's recent decision to stop a vote on the new international bridge is simply reprehensible and could kill the bridge proposal.

That proposed bridge would not only provide a direct jobs boost for Michiganans, but would provide \$2.2 billion in additional federal infrastructure funding for Michigan. The bridge would provide a much improved corridor for transporting goods to and from our biggest international trading partner, Canada. GM, Ford and Chrysler want the bridge. Oakland County and Wayne County want the bridge. Gov. Snyder wants the bridge, the federal government wants the bridge for improved homeland security and the people of Michigan need the bridge. The only person who really does not want the bridge is Matty Moroun, the owner of the Ambassador Bridge. Mr. Moroun and his minions have lied about the bridge and continue to obstruct the better good. So why did Sen. Kowall prevent a vote on the bridge? This can only be explained in two ways:

Sen. Kowall has his hands in Matty Moroun's pockets, and/or Sen. Kowall has so bought into the Republican tactic of obstructionism that he would choose to harm his constituents rather than do what

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats:  
Web: www.hometownlife.com  
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178  
Fax: (248) 437-3386  
E-mail: cstone@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.  
Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.  
Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

### Teachers' perspective

We are both retired teachers, each having nearly 40 years of experience teaching at all different levels. We are writing to comment on the article by Tom Watkins in the Dec. 8 edition of the Northville Record.

Speaking from our experiences in the classroom, we believe that many politicians and educational entrepreneurs simply do not understand the challenges that classroom teachers face every day. Jamie Vollmer's "The Blueberry Story" illustrates this perfectly.

We, as teachers, must educate every child, regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, learning style, social status, family situations, physical condition, relationships with peers, medical needs and the list goes on and on. Not everyone in the business world would understand the detailed process involved in creating a lesson plan, breaking it down for all students to understand, modeling and checking for understanding, which a teacher must do multiple times per class. The same applies to teaching a foreign language; a native speaker of any language would not necessarily know the best way to teach it.

Obtaining a master's degree allows teachers not only to become more proficient in their field, but also to take graduate classes in education that teach them in greater depth how students learn, how the human brain works, how to help students with special needs, how to assess student progress, and how to keep curriculum current. Research is not needed to understand that. These classes are

often at great personal expense to the teacher, and now teachers are required to take graduate classes to keep their certification valid. A raise in pay is justified for teachers who study to be the best in their field.

At least once a year, districts will provide in-service time for teachers. We can count on one hand the number of in-service opportunities that we attended that were relevant to our situations. Most districts will not pay for attendance at state, regional or national conferences; even if teachers pay their own expenses, the districts will not pay for substitute teachers. This would be a minimal investment for maximum opportunities. Almost all doctors are members of the AMA. Can you imagine a doctor who did not know the latest developments in the field of medicine? Remember that interns and residents in the medical field are paid for their work and learning experiences; student teacher interns receive no pay and must pay tuition for a semester or, in some cases, a year experience in the classroom, which is required for certification. Doctors can attend seminars at their hospitals and tailor their practice hours to accommodate new learning experiences; teachers cannot do the same.

Teachers despised No Child Left Behind and were disillusioned with Race to the Top. Fewer and fewer young people are considering the profession because of the complete disrespect from the president on down and the constant cry to lower salaries and benefits and to raise class sizes. They know what's going on — they see the writing on the wall — at least for the time being. Fortunately, we see students and new teachers, including our own son, who are not only inspired to teach, but they're smart, articulate, idealistic and recognize the value of good teaching in their own development and growth. Outstanding teachers are usually conceived in the classrooms of other outstanding teachers.

Many times, students maintain contact with teachers that influenced them, and we are thrilled that some of our former students are now Facebook friends and keep in touch with us. Teachers are delighted with the success of their current and former students and are proud to have played even a small part in their lives.

So, one more thing — who won the Academy Awards last year? Who won the Stanley Cup? The Super Bowl? The World Series? You may have to think hard to remember, or you could Google the answer. Now, who were the teachers that influenced you the most? We bet you don't have to think for more than five seconds to answer that question.

Peter J. Manschot art teacher, Birmingham Public Schools (retired)  
Emily Serafa Manschot Spanish teacher, Northville High School (retired)  
Student Teacher supervisor, University of Michigan-DeARBorn

## NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

### Corvette stolen from gym

A 50-year-old Southfield man had his Chevrolet Corvette convertible stolen from the parking lot at Bailey Total Fitness sometime between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Dec. 9.

According to the police report, the victim parked his new car on the north end of the east lot to the gym, and when he returned after working out it was gone. He still had the key to the car, and he told police no one else drives it or has keys to it.

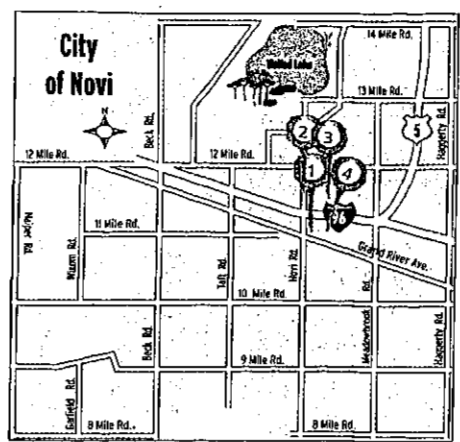
Police found no signs of forced entry or glass on the ground where the car was parked. Footprints were found in the snow near where the car was parked. OnStar was contacted by police, but they were not able to find it that night.

### Man caught stealing hats

A 32-year-old man was arrested for retail fraud after he was caught stealing hats from JC Penney on Dec. 10.

According to the police report, the loss prevention agents at the store saw the man take hats off the shelves and put them into his pants before exiting the store.

He was stopped exiting the store and told police he had no money to purchase gifts for his kids. The man was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department



where he was issued a citation and released after posting bond.

### Woman has debit card number stolen

A Novi woman had her credit card number stolen and the card was used to make purchases at Twelve Oaks Mall on Dec. 7.

According to the police report, the woman said she never lost her card and it was in her possession when she found the fraudulent purchases. The suspect made a \$396.54 purchase at Nordstrom and occurred overnight charges of \$120.

She said Nordstrom found video surveillance of a man making a purchase with a card that contained her MasterCard number.

Police do not have a suspect, but the woman said she wishes to prosecute if

## Community members invited to participate in CERT training

Novi community members are invited to become trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. The CERT program is designed to support the local response capability with training to organize themselves and other volunteers at a disaster site, to provide immediate assistance to victims and to collect information to support responders' efforts when they arrive. CERT members may search for lost children, staff emergency centers, secure emergency operations centers, provide minor first aid, assist in light search and rescue, and aid the Red Cross and other relief organizations.

"The Community Emergency Response Team is an invaluable, free program for our community that enhances the cooperation between the Novi Fire and Police Departments and citizens through education and training," said Novi Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police David Molloy. "Since inception, we have trained and graduated more than 200 CERT members. These men and women are a valuable addition to our emergency support capabilities."

The City of Novi will begin a new eight-week training session on Monday, Jan. 9. Novi residents 18 years of age and over with a valid driver's license may apply. The training session consists of 24 hours of instruction on topics that include disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster psychology. For more information, please visit cityofnovi.org or contact Richard Kos, Emergency Management coordinator, at (248) 347-0556 or rkoss@cityofnovi.org. Registration ends Jan. 5.

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### Hob Nobble Gobble

Novi residents Shelley and Chris Hulgrave and their son, Grant, hung out with the Compware Elves at the 22nd Annual Hob Nobble Gobble at Ford Field. The Compware Elves invited everyone to Celebrate Detroit at iWish4Detroit.com which is part of Compware's first interactive float at the 85th Annual America's Thanksgiving Parade.



JULIE YOLLES

### NEWSMAKERS

#### Gross to join ITC

ITC Holdings Corp. (ITC) announced that Randall (Randy) G. Gross, Jr. will join the company on Dec. 19 as manager of State Governmental Affairs for Michigan. Gross will be the company's primary interface with state government officials and will be responsible for corporate advocacy and legislative lobbying in Michigan for International Transmission Company d/b/a ITC Transmission, and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC (METC) (collectively ITC Michigan).

Gross currently serves as the director of the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. From 2008 to 2011, he was director of Environmental and Regulatory Policy for the Michigan Manufacturers Association with the primary responsibility of advocating for the asso-



Gross

ciation's positions on energy and environmental issues before the Michigan Legislature and the Executive branch of state government. Prior to his service at the Michigan Manufacturers Association, Gross was a regulatory analyst at ITC. He also served as deputy House Republican Legal Counsel/Policy advisor where he provided legal advice to Speakers of the House and the Republican Caucus. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the American Bar Association. Gross is a native of Dowagiac, Mich., and holds a bachelor of arts degree in International and Comparative Politics from Western Michigan University and a juris doctorate from Michigan State University - the Detroit College of Law, specializing in Environmental and Natural Resource Law.

#### Dr. Miller earns entrepreneur honor

Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D., founder and owner of Miller Vein (with locations in Novi, Troy and Dearborn), was named one of Corp! Magazine's "Entrepreneurs of Distinction" for 2011 this week at the publication's fourth annual ceremony honoring award recipients. Each year, Corp! Magazine applauds select Michigan entrepreneurs for their efforts in forwarding the new Michigan economy through leadership, innovation, vision and other qualities of success.

"I am truly honored to be recognized by Corp! Magazine as one of their 'Entrepreneurs of Distinction,'" said Dr. Miller, who has been named one of the Detroit area's top physicians. "Despite these challenging economic times, we have kept the faith by opening three new locations (in Troy, Novi and Dearborn), hence continuing our vision to have 10 sites in Michigan within five years."

A board-certified interventional radiologist and phlebologist, Miller was one of Michigan's first physicians to perform a highly technical, innovative venous treatment procedure that was life-changing and pain-free for patients. Miller's vision for a new type of vein treatment program began while performing non-invasive vein procedures at a well-known Michigan hospital. Deciding there was too much "red-tape" and recovery time involved with performing this innovative procedure within a hospital setting, Miller began brainstorming what he could do about it.

### Local events

#### ART INSTITUTE OF MICHIGAN INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15

Location: The Art Institute of Michigan, 28125 Cabot Drive, Suite 120, Novi

Details: While the campus works through the building of the audio labs, students will begin their foundations courses. Course topics in the Audio Production degree program include music theory, electronics, and recording techniques, and students can learn that audio is involved in many mediums — video, web, film, music. Instructors show students how to record, edit, mix, and master audio in a hands-on environment, using industry-standard equipment and technology. Graduates of the Audio Production program are prepared to seek entry-level jobs like audio engineer, radio producer, and promoter.

Contact: (800) 479-0087

#### WEST OAKLAND DEMOCRATS MEETING

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 20

Location: Bayside Sports Bar & Grill, 142 East Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake

Details: Annual holiday candlelight dinner in private dining room of Bayside Sports Bar & Grill, on the shores of Walled Lake. Social hour at 6; dinner served at 7. Price is \$20, paid in advance. Open to the public. See <http://www.mydems.info/> for menu and payment options.

#### NOVI STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19

Location: Baronette Renaissance Hotel, 27790 Novi Road

Details: The City of Novi in partnership with the Novi Chamber of Commerce invites you to join Mayor Bob Gatt and City Council members. Cost for luncheon is \$30 per person;

### GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [ctone@annett.com](mailto:ctone@annett.com); by fax to (248) 685-2892; 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.

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Northville Calendar online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

seating is limited to the first 230 attendees. Send checks, payable to City of Novi, to: City of Novi, attention Robin Working, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

#### 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.

#### NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Contact: (248) 347-0414; [thejin@cityofnovi.org](mailto:thejin@cityofnovi.org)

#### Balance Training

Time/Date: 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11

Details: Class focusing on stability and balance. Is designed to build bone, strengthen core, pelvic and leg muscles while improving posture and balance.

#### Stretch & Strength

Time/Date: 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9

Details: This class focuses on cardio, strength, and flexibility within a very individualized program.

#### 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 Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road

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](mailto:juliepaquette67@gmail.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

Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at (248) 797-1665 or [juliepaquette67@gmail.com](mailto:juliepaquette67@gmail.com).

### Open house



The St. Catherine of Siena Academy hosted a ribbon-cutting and open house ceremony Nov. 6 to mark the official opening of its permanent facility at 28200 Napier Road, Wixom. St. Catherine of Siena Academy moved to its state-of-the-art, 137,000 square-foot facility in September 2011. Principal Kathy Tarnacki says she is eager to show off SCA's full-fledged facility to students, families, and community supporters. "We were blessed with a beautiful day and the privilege of joining together with our community to celebrate the official opening of St. Catherine of Siena Academy! Our students were a joy to behold as they cheered for their school and with pride gave tours of their new all-girls Catholic high school to over 500 guests that day." Pictured (from left) are Chad Bouck (construction company Ledor Group representative); Patrick O'Meara (chairman, St. Catherine of Siena Foundation Board); Michael Dewan (president and founder, St. Catherine of Siena Foundation Board); Kathy Tarnacki (principal) and Msgr. Charles Kosanke (St. Catherine of Siena Foundation Board member).

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Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
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Be successful at keeping your exercise and nutrition goals.  
Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, MSA, WCC  
Thursday, January 19, 7 p.m.  
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.  
Location: Bailey Center in Westland
- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**  
Guest speaker David Mendelson, MD  
Thursday, January 26, 6 p.m.  
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**  
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD  
Thursday, February 2, 6 p.m.  
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **"Stay Awake" Series: Insomnia and Sleep Hygiene**  
Guest speaker Punitha Vijayakumar, MD  
Neurologist and Board Certified Sleep Specialist  
Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.  
Call 734-655-4640 to register or for more information.
- **Let's Talk: Heart Health**  
Guest speaker, an expert in Cardiology  
Wednesday, February 15, 6 p.m.  
Call 734-655-8940 to register or for more information.

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**CALENDAR**

Continued from page A15  
**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.freetoasthost.us](http://www.novi.freetoasthost.us).  
**Contact:** Linda Kreuter at [PR@novi.freetoasthost.us](mailto:PR@novi.freetoasthost.us)  
**NOVI ROTARY CLUB**  
**Time/Date:** Noon every Thursday  
**Location:** Novi Methodist Church 41671 W. 10 Mile Road  
**Details:** Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check website for speaker

**NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Information:** [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org)  
**NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Contact:** [novi-chamber.com](http://novi-chamber.com) or call (248) 349-3743

**Library Lines**

**WALLED LAKE 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

**Tech showcase**



State Representative Hugh Crawford (R- Novi) greets students from Novi's Deerfield Elementary School who participated in the 11th annual AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase held Nov. 2 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. Students are (from left) Jackson Peurach, Katie Song, Noah Bean, Nick Sweeney and Bailey Kwastniewitz. The school was one of nearly 35 elementary, middle and high schools statewide that participated in the event, whose purpose is to show elected members of the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement. AT&T and the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) sponsor the event.

**CALENDAR**

Continued from page A16

**Knit Zgether Knitting Circle**

**Time/Date:** 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22

**Details:** If you have a leaning towards knitting or any of the related handicrafts, Knit Zgether Knitting Circle just might be your cup of tea. No instructor; no registration, and of course, attendance is free.

**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.



**Rockin' readers**

Students at Deerfield read over 17 million words this summer! Deerfield's Parent Group (Deerfield Community Council) rewarded a book from the School Bookfair for any student who participated in the summer reading program. Pictured are some of the participating readers (back) Nicholas Sweeney, Jessica Shaw, Benjamin Wang, Ann Stone, and Grace Price; (front) Emilia Breuning, Carol Dai, Nahush Keshav, and Rashil Narang. Deerfield first- and second-graders sang Turkey Tunes led by the music teacher, Ainsley Sonntag.



JOHN HEDER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**One block at a time**

Ethan Prater, 8, works on assembling a Lego building during the Nov. 28 Lego Club meeting at the Novi Public Library. The library provides thousands of pieces of Legos for kids to enjoy during the once-a-month meeting. The club meets on the last Monday of each month at the library at 6 p.m.

**Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency**

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20 and Dec. 27

**Details:** Need help with transportation, food, health, support services, child care education, finances or housing? Through Dec. 27, residents can drop in and meet with an OLHSA staff member at the library.

**Clean Out the Cupboards Craft**

**Time/Date:** 3-4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20

**Details:** Help us keep our New Year's resolution to clean out our cupboards by using our left-over craft materials to create a one-of-a-kind artistic masterpiece! For grades K-3.

**Winter Holiday Movie**

**Time/Date:** 1-3 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 22

**Details:** Come and get ready for the holiday season with a fun movie. You'll laugh at the antics in "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and won't even notice how cold it is outside! (Note: this movie is PG.)

**Baby Gym**

**Time/Date:** 10:15-10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28

**Details:** Fun for you and your littlest one (birth to 24 months)! Join us in lapit rhymes, puppets and music. One infant per grown-up recommended.

**Get Your Wiggles Out**

**Time/Date:** 11:15 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Dec. 28

**Details:** An active mind needs an active body. Get up and get physical with Mega Fun and Fitness Club at the NFL. Geared for children ages 2-4.

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'Sister,' portrayed by actress Mary Zentmyer, keeps class in order at 'Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold,' running through Dec. 31 at the Gem Theatre.

## Blessed with laughter (and nun the wiser)

By Aileen Wingblad  
Staff Writer

It was the most fun I've ever had with a nun — without getting in trouble for it. No apologies to Sisters Conrad, Emma, Marie Ann, Geraldine and the other "brides of Christ" responsible for the bulk of my Catholic School education. They'd be the first to remind us that the classroom wasn't for fun — it was for learning the rules of punctuation and grammar and times tables, hearing tales of Father Damien and the lepers, purgatory and the pagan babies

and the souls in Limbo. And to always say "no" to temptation. Especially if you're a boy.

It might have taken a swat or two — or more — by Sister for a particular lesson to be learned in those days, or perhaps a hefty dose of humiliation while your 35 fellow students kept their eyes forward, wondering if they would be the next to stand with their faces plastered against the chalkboard or made to sit in the trash can in the middle of the room.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, that seemingly lost art of "discipline," most of us Catholic school kids probably turned out OK. And we can laugh about it now, right?

If you find yourself nodding in agreement, chuckling at a memory or two, or maybe wondering what the heck I'm talking about, I'd suggest you get acquainted with Mary Zentmyer — or rather, "Sister" of Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. Running through Dec. 31 at the Gem Theatre in Detroit, Sister's Christmas Catechism is the holiday version of the Late Nite Catechism series.

It's OK to laugh in this classroom, and you will. And generally speaking, there's no penance to be paid. In fact, you might even walk away with a trinket or two.

I won't reveal details that could spoil the show, but I will offer a few hints and tips. Come prepared — prepared to crack up from start through finish. If it's your "thing" to be singled out and challenged to recall a lesson or two taught by a wimple-clad, pointer-holder teacher from yesteryear, you can have a chance at being part of the show. There are plenty of opportunities to be "called on" by Sister — but if you raise your hand, be ready for her keen eye, never-miss-a-beat wit and, if you deserve it, sharp tongue. She berates for inappropriate dress, tattling or talking out of turn, she pities the non-Catholics or those who have admittedly fallen away from the Faith. And encourages everyone else to do so, as well.

Rounding out the show, Sister enlists help from the audience to conduct an on-stage investigation into a missing gift of gold, presented by the Magi at the Nativity. If you're lucky enough — or brave enough — Sister will pick you as a cast member.

And then make you dress the part. Though a couple bits of Sister's shtick might border on the sacrilegious for some, overall the show is dang funny. Really. Lots of laughs with a nun. What could be better, especially during the Christmas season?

Aileen Wingblad is the Milford Times staff writer.

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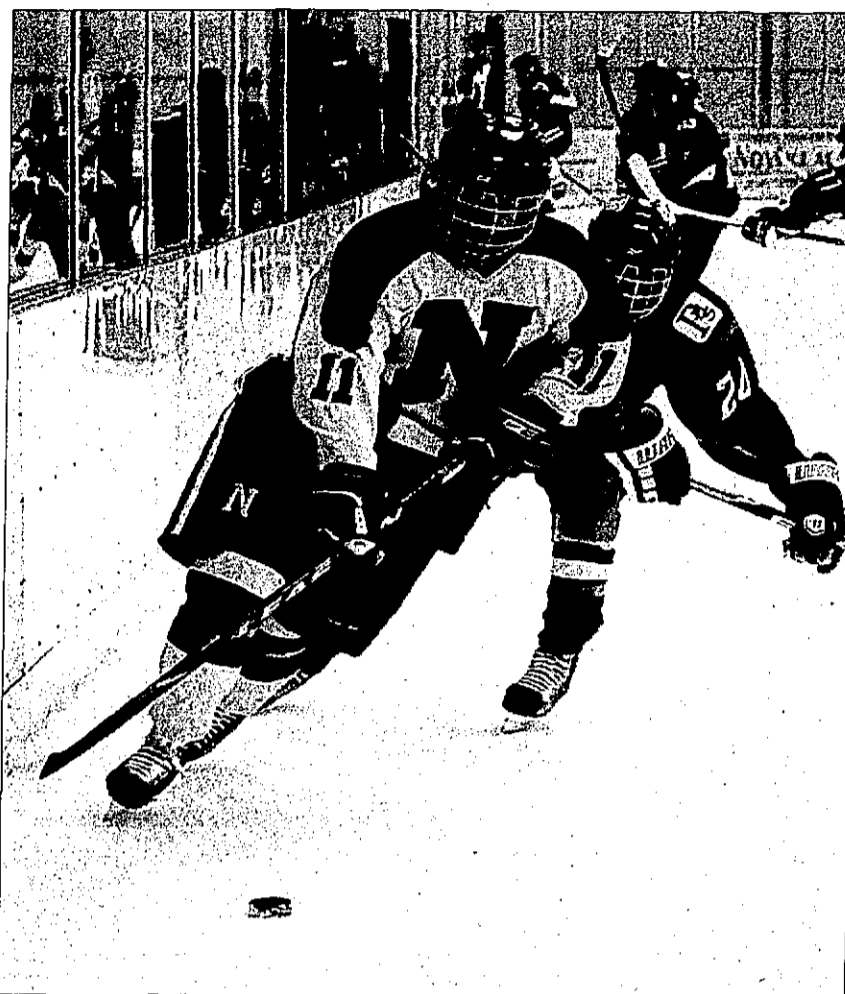
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# SPORTS

CAL STONE, EDITOR  
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Novi senior Curtis Herzog (left) gets past Plymouth sophomore Kyle Bauer during Novi's 6-2 victory Dec. 7 at Novi Ice Arena.

## Flurry of goals puts Novi past Plymouth

Battle of Wildcat icers ends in 6-2 decision

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

In a somewhat lackadaisical performance by both squads, a close hockey game burst wide open in a four-minute span as Novi defeated Plymouth 6-2.

Novi (3-4-1, 2-3-1 KLA A Kensington) scored three goals in a span of 3:46 late in the second period Dec. 7 to turn a 2-2 tie into a decisive victory over Plymouth (3-4-0, 2-2-0 Kensington).

"I think we had a slow start. We weren't working very hard and then we started working better with the puck," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "It was kind of an uninspired game by both teams I thought. There wasn't a lot of intensity, but fortunately we got through it and got the win."

**ON TAP**

Novi's icers (3-4-1, 2-3-1 KLA A Kensington) were scheduled to visit Livonia Franklin (1-3-1, 0-3-0 Kensington) last night before heading to the Detroit Skating Club to face Davison (4-1-1) 7 p.m. Friday. A win would pit them against either Clarkston (3-4-1) or Hartland (2-1-1, 1-1-1 Lakes) noon or 2:30 p.m. Saturday. Novi defeated Clarkston 4-3 Nov. 19.

The game-winning goal came with 6:47 remaining in the second period when a play from behind the net led to a goal by Novi junior Luke Bageris, with sophomore Chris Kennedy and junior Wes Guenther assisting. After a give-and-go with senior Kent Burnett, Novi senior

Curtis Herzog curved inward toward the goal from the right side and notched a goal just 1:36 later. Herzog scored again 2:10 later when he found the puck in the left circle and buried it in the net.

"They're extremely hard working," Krygier said. "Herzog and (senior) Travis Trainor are probably two of the hardest working guys on the team. They forecheck hard, they skate hard. Today (senior) Ryan Kobylarek played well with them and skated hard, which was no surprise. We got some production out of the other lines, too. Bageris' line and Colin Pew's (line) got one today, too. So I thought today was an overall team effort."

The three-goal burst was too much for Plymouth, who was

Please see NOVI, B2

## Wildcats drop first three games of hoops season

Novi struggles with new lineup lacking varsity experience

**ON TAP**

Novi's boys basketball team (0-3) was scheduled to host Lincoln Park (0-0) two nights ago before visiting Westland John Glenn (0-1) 7 p.m. tomorrow night to finish out the calendar year.

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

It was a long week to kick off Novi's boys basketball season last week, as the Wildcats dropped their first three contests. The closest of the three games came Dec. 8 when the Wildcats (0-3) host-

Please see BOYS, B4



Wildcat Charles McKinney drives to the basket.

JOHN HEIDER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Catholic Central skaters notch two more wins

Squad defeats Wyandotte, Grosse Pointe North

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

Put two more wins in the top-ranked Detroit Catholic Central's record—something that is becoming a bit of a habit for the Shamrocks these days.

The squad, coached by Todd Johnson, notched victories over Wyandotte, 4-1, and Grosse Pointe North, 6-1, last week. The team is currently undefeated with a 7-0 record and is ranked first in the state.

Against Wyandotte, the Shamrocks collected the first goal of the game off a Pete Halash shot with just 4:37 off the clock to take a 1-0 lead. Tyler VanNorman was given the assist on the play.

Wyandotte didn't stay down long, however, and proved to be resourceful, capitalizing on a power play just two minutes later to knot the game up off a shot by Kyle King that was assisted by Joshua Hinderliter and John Calhoun.

That would prove to be the last time the Wyandotte offense would find the back of the net and just the beginning of Catholic Central's onslaught. In the second period, the Shamrocks put on a scoring clinic as

**ON TAP**

The Shamrocks hockey team will be back on the ice when they skate at home at 7 p.m. against University of Detroit Jesuit High School Saturday before visiting Brother Rice Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. The team will then be on hiatus for the holidays until Jan. 4 when they visit University of Detroit.

They notched the eventual game-winning goal off the stick of Lucas Linville at 8:46 with Max Wanko getting the assist. Less than 30 seconds later, Tyler VanAcker put in a goal of his own, giving the Shamrocks a 3-1 lead, with assistance from Matt Sorisho and Ryan Wandzel.

The final goal of the game came with 11:05 off the clock in the second stanza as VanNorman took assistance from Halash and Steven Jarzynski to fire the puck home. Catholic Central had six penalties on the day while Wyandotte was hit for just three. All of the penalties were two-minute minors. Earning the win between

Please see CC, B4

## McMahan powers Novi past Saline, WLC

Turnovers, fouls plague Wildcats despite pair of victories

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Undefeated three games into the season, Novi's girls basketball squad has found scoring contributions from several sources, but the heart of the offense has been sophomore Kerri McMahan.

The Wildcats (3-0) picked up wins last week over Walled Lake Central (1-2) and Saline (0-1), with McMahan racking up 43 of Novi's 93 points over the course of the two games.

"Her shot has really improved but we will need scoring from others, too," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. McMahan opened the week Dec. 6 with a game-high 17 points on 6-for-11 shooting as Novi quadrupled-up Central 48-12 on the road. Along with six assists, four rebounds and two steals, McMahan led the charge as 10 of 11 Wildcats scored.

Novi allowed four or fewer points each quarter while simultaneously scoring 10 or more points. The 26-5 first half and 22-7 second half allowed several players to get some playing time.

Senior Ally D'Annibale had six points and five rebounds, while senior Abby Robinson added five points and three rebounds. Also chipping in with

**ON TAP**

Novi's girls basketball squad (3-0) was scheduled to visit Wayne Memorial (1-2) Tuesday hosting Westland John Glenn (1-0) 7 p.m. tomorrow.

four points apiece were Junior Jade Antolec (seven rebounds), senior Anna Lausch (four rebounds) and sophomore Kristen Schubring (five rebounds), while seniors Abby Chandler (two steals), Katie Seelenbinder, sophomore Rachel Whitens and Junior Kasey Lowmey had two points each.

Three nights later on Friday, things were much closer early on before the Wildcats pulled out a 45-30 victory. Visiting Saline, Novi took a 9-5 lead in the first quarter before falling behind 21-19 at the half.

The Cats struggled with fouls and turnovers in both victories, amassing 34 turnovers and 35 fouls combined over the two games despite making 22 steals and forcing 39 fouls. "Way too many turnovers, big area of concern," Kelp said. "(We) have to do a better job of keeping people in front of us. (The) girls have to learn to adjust to the way

Please see GIRLS, B4

NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP

NOVI

Continued from page B1

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Wildcat wrestlers led by seniors

The senior leadership of Novi's wrestling team showed through at the Salem "10" Invitational Dec. 10 in Plymouth. Six seniors finished in the top three among their weight class. Alejandro "Zip" Albuera led the core of seniors, pinning three of four opponents to finish first in the 130-pound weight class. Seniors Gidiami "Zap" Albuera (4-1 at 135 pounds), Jake Dobras (4-1 at 189), Justin Michael (3-1 at 215) and Jimi Keller (3-1 at heavyweight) each showed strong potential for the season by finishing second in their weight classes.



Novi senior Alejandro Albuera (top) holds an opponent down Dec. 10 at the Salem "10" Invitational en route to winning the 130-pound weight class. Six Wildcats finished in the top three within their weight class.

Wrapping up the podium-placers was senior Mike Gurney, who took third at 152 pounds with a 2-2 day before winning a crossover match by pinfall.

Juniors Dan Denova (2-3 at 103) and Ben Landry (2-2 at 160) both lost close matches in the medal round, barely missing out on a trip to the podium while several other Wildcats made their varsity debuts among the 10 other weight classes.

The Wildcats were scheduled to host their first dual meet of the season last night in Farmington and North Farmington coming to town before the team heads to the Oakland County Championships 4 p.m. Friday at Southfield. The second day of the tournament is Saturday at Oxford.

Bowlers split

Novi's bowling program split their first two matches before competing at the Early Bird Tournament last weekend.

The boys dropped a 2-1-9 match to Walled Lake

Northern Dec. 5 before beating Hartland 21-9 the next day.

Chad Smith led the way with games of 200 and 192 against Northern, while Mat Kotowicz had a 198 and 189.

Andrew Thorwall had a high game at 214. The guys took all the baker points against Hartland 225-211 before winning the first game and four single points to take an 1-1 lead.

Kotowicz (194, 237) led the way, while Thorwall again had a high game with 223. The girls team had an opposite showing from the boys, beating Northern 22-8 and then losing 17-13 to Hartland.

Sara Schulz had a high game of 246 against Northern while Shelby Limpert (121, 145), Abby O'Leary (140, 122) and Callie Wright (180, 165) each pulled in key points for the victory.

The 'Cats couldn't recover from a 13-6 deficit against Hartland. Novi won the second game and three singles points, but lost the two-game totals by 13 pins.

Schulz scored two points with games of 256 and 191.

With both teams' dual meet records at 1-1, Novi headed to Drakeshire Lanes Dec. 10 to face off among 19 teams.

Novi's boys team finished 13th, led by a Kotowicz high game of 238, while Thorwall landed in 16th individually of 95 bowlers with a three-game series score of 607. Kotowicz was 24th.

The Novi girls placed higher at eighth, led by Wright's 11th place individual series of 539 among 95 bowlers. Schulz was 24th with 510.

Soccer girls continue success

The success Novi residents have had on the soccer field in high school has crossed over well to the college level as Novi 2008 graduate Jenna Carosio and Northville 2010 graduate Kelsey Fiscus both helped their college teams into championship games.

Carosio, a civil engineering senior at the University of Illinois, was named Big Ten Defender of the Year while helping the No. 18 Illinois win the Big Ten Tournament title with a 2-1 decision over No. 11 Penn State while playing every second of each contest throughout the season. Her season ended with a 1-0 loss to No. 4 Oklahoma State Nov. 18 in the second round of the NCAA Division I tournament.

Fiscus, a sophomore at Grand Valley State University, returned from a long-term injury to come off the bench and help the No. 1 Lakers advance to a third-straight NCAA Division II national championship game following two-straight shootout victories in the playoffs. Her season ended with a 2-1 loss to No. 10 Saint Rose College Dec. 3, snapping a 42-game GVSU unbeaten streak.

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

unable to counter. The black and silver Wildcats had brief momentum just before the burst when senior Zach Gambrell stole the puck from two Novi defenders behind the goal and came around the right side and to the top of the crease for a shot into the roof of the net to tie it 2-2 at the 9:21 mark.

"Early in the game we were working hard," Plymouth coach Gerry Vento said. "We were creating our opportunities and things were going well. Then for whatever reason, I don't know if we got too complacent after we scored two goals. We stopped moving our feet and good things aren't going to happen if you do that."

The game had started off as a close contest. Despite being outshot 10-4, Novi took a lead on a wristshot by senior Ryan Kobylarek 7:05 into the game before Plymouth senior Jeremy Cigle tied it up during a scramble in front of the net with 3:04 remaining in the first period. Both netminders, Novi senior Spencer Peterson and Plymouth senior Richard Guglielmi, came up with a few point-blank saves. Each team had 23 shots on the night, with Peterson making 21 saves and Guglielmi making 17 saves.

"He kept us in there," Vento said of Guglielmi. "He's been a warrior for us all year and goaltending wasn't the reason we lost this game. We weren't nearly as physical and against a team like Novi you just can't do that. You've got to take away their time and space and we didn't do that. We either were taking penalties or we're giving up goals. They've got a great power play, they're skilled and well coached and they capitalized."

Junior Mark Baker gave Novi a 2-1 lead off a rebound 2:14 into the second period before the Wildcats' string of goals.

Kobylarek put the icing on the cake with 7:15 left in the game, netting his second of the night with a power play tap in from the right post after Guglielmi attempted to make a save on the far side.

"I thought both teams were just not playing as hard as I would've expected," Krygier said. "And that happens some nights, but if that happens again a Canton or a Brighton, we're in trouble."

Novi followed the victory with a 2-0 loss Friday at Canton (5-1-0, 4-0-0 Kensington) and 5-3 loss Saturday at Brighton (6-1-0, 4-1-0 Kensington). All three teams are now ranked between fifth and ninth in Division 1.

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

Shamrocks wrestling stays busy with victories  
Squad's top wrestlers currently undefeated as a team

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

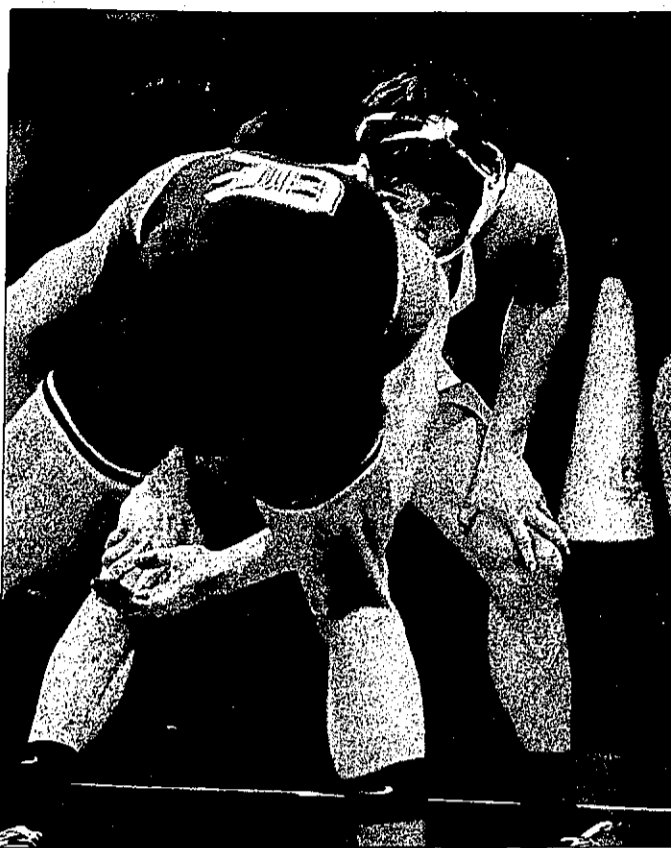
It's hard to talk about the top-ranked Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team without words like "greatness," "tradition" and "champions" popping up throughout the conversation. There's a reason for that—the Shamrocks, you see, train champions each and every year. In fact, the season goal each and every season is a simple one—win the team state championship. In addition to that, the squad always hopes to have a number of state champion individuals as well.

This year, the Shamrocks are off to a good start. The Blue Team, which is comprised of the Shamrocks' top performers, is currently 6-0 on the year. They are coached by Mitch Hancock in his fifth season at the helm of the program. Helping him lead the team, both verbally and by example, are senior captains Alex Mooradian, Kevin Beazley and TJ Fagan—all of whom are outstanding wrestlers who have been impact members of the program for several seasons.

The Shamrocks started their season off with a huge opening day as the Blue squad opened up with a 54-9 victory over second-ranked Davison in front of their entire student body.

Several grapplers showcased their ability and drive this year, earning pins in the match. Taking wins by fall were Malik Amine, Logan Marcicki, Beazley and Jay Peterson.

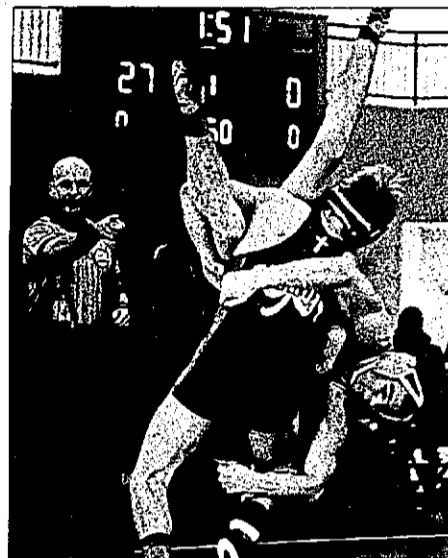
If that weren't enough, the Shamrocks' White Team traveled to Avondale to wrestle both Warren Woods' Tower and Birmingham Seaholm. They earned victories against both, defeating Warren Woods Tower, 49-22, and



Catholic Central Shamrock Alex Mooradian sizes up his opponent on Dec. 7 during an afternoon wrestling assembly.



Shamrock Riley Hanson has his Davison opponent in a near-pin situation.



CC's Nick Mason picks up and slams his Davison opponent to the mat.

ON TAP

The Shamrocks wrestling team will be back in action when they compete in the Oakland County Tournament at 8 a.m. Saturday in Oxford. The team will then compete at 5 p.m. Dec. 21 against Rockford, Grand Haven and Hesperia at Rockford High School.

Seaholm, 61-6

Earning pins in both contests were Parker O'Brien, Andrew Thompson, Joey Vollmer, Jimmy Russell and Christian Miner. The Shamrocks then went on to have their blue team earn wins over Wyandotte Roosevelt, 80-

pound division.

The biggest individual win of the day came from freshman Trevor Zdebski, who picked up a 4-0 victory over returning third-place state finisher and current No. 1-ranked Kyle Gilles of John Glenn.

The White team also had some success wrestling in the Dorothy Mc Classic. Five Shamrocks placed in the tournament with Miner taking fourth, Zack Colone and Thompson finishing in fifth and O'Brien and David Lilley taking sixth.

The team's third-string squad also competed last week, traveling to the Port Huron Northern Husky Duals to finish with a 2-3 record. The squad defeated Royal Oak, 54-25, and Anchor Bay, 56-21. They took losses to Cross-Lex, Port Huron Northern and St. Clair.

Greg Johnson defeated a returning state qualifier from Cross-Lex in the tournament. Even with a 6-0 record

for the Blue Team, the season is just truly beginning for the Shamrocks. The squad will be looking to compete against Michigan's best—and the best from outside of Michigan as well. On the schedule this season are nationally-ranked Toledo St. John's, Cincinnati Moeller and St. Edward's of Ohio.

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

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**BOYS**

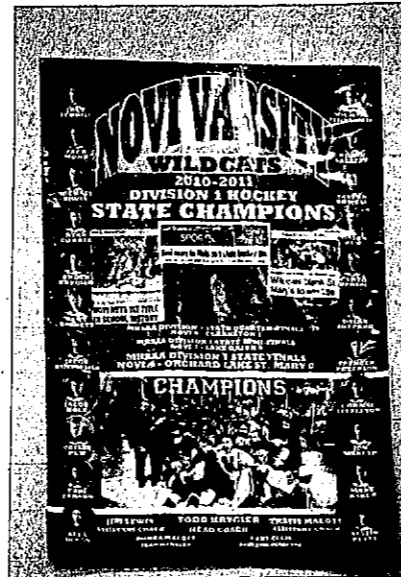
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ed Saline (1-0). After a very solid start by both squads where Saline took 3-03 to score, Novi took 6-19 to score and the first-quarter score was 6-2 Hornets, things picked up. Despite some solid defense by Novi senior Michael Jocz (eight rebounds, two steals), Saline led 18-8 at halftime and took a 28-13 lead in the third quarter before a Novi timeout with 3:16 left in the quarter turned things around. "Mike's had a great week, as far as practice-wise goes," Novi coach Brian Tass said. "He's one of our fighters and he did a great job on a guy that's going to play some college basketball, so I'm pretty proud of his performance today." Junior Jonni Ivy (three points) hit a free throw, which junior Tre Cadwell (10 points, four steals) followed with steal and layup before sophomore Nelson Cagle (five points) nailed a three-point shot before the end of the quarter to pull Novi within nine at 28-19. "I think we made a couple shots and our guys got some energy out of it and they also made a couple stops defensively," Tass said. "When you get a rally and get some energy, guys start believing in themselves a little bit." Cagle started the fourth quarter with a deep two-pointer from nearly the same spot as his prior three, drawing a Saline timeout with the score at 28-21 just 13 seconds into the fourth quarter.

The Hornets' Michael Hendrickson (nine points) hit a layup after the timeout, but Cagle and senior Scott Kempa (13 points) hit a pair of tres to cut the deficit to 30-27 and force another Saline timeout with 5:48 remaining. "Those kids can shoot it. I know that. Our job is to figure out how to get them better shots right now," Tass said of Kempa and Cagle. "The Cats made it 30-29 when a Cadwell steal set up a jumper by junior Charles McKinney (four points). Another layup by Hendrickson drew a Novi timeout that the Wildcats came out of with a Cadwell three-pointer to tie it at 32 with 2:25 to go. "I thought Tre was a good spark for us energy-wise and he's a pretty tough kid, and got us some loose balls and stuff like that," Tass said. "He struggled offensively early tonight, but stuck with it." However, Saline would hit five of seven free throws to take a 37-32 lead with 1:4 seconds left. A Kempa three-pointer off an inbound play made it 37-35 with two seconds as the final buzzer ran out. "It was a lot better tonight, but still really a long way to go as far as where we need to be, but we're making some progress, which is what I'd like to see out of these guys right now," Tass said. "I'd just like to see on either side of the ball a little bit more competitiveness, some more aggressiveness. When we get that way, we

play well. When we don't get that way, we don't play well. We just need to fight more." Novi senior Alex King added five rebounds, while Michael Smutny led Saline with 11 points. The loss to Saline was an improvement on Novi's 50-29 season-opening loss Dec. 6 at Walled Lake Central (1-0). Cadwell had 13 points and Kempa had 11 points to lead the Wildcats, but Jocz was the only other Novi player to score with five points and a team-high five rebounds. King had four rebounds. "We just didn't have the fight and didn't really play hard that game and got physically pushed around," Tass said of the Central contest. The Cats put up a solid showing in a 53-47 loss Friday at Walled Lake Northern (2-0) with point contributions from seven different players. Cadwell again led the way with 16 points, as King dropped in nine and Kempa had seven. Other scoring came from Jocz (six points, 17 rebounds), McKinney (five points, four rebounds, two steals) and two points apiece from Ivy (two steals) and senior Ignace Bernotas. "I think one of our goals is daily improvement," Tass said. "If we can focus on that and the little things we'll get better and, come February, we'll be a pretty darn good team."

**Championship banner**



CHRIS JACKETT  
The Division I state championship banner signifying Novi's accomplishment last season was unveiled during the first intermission of the Wildcats' Nov. 30 game against Livonia Churchill at Novi Ice Arena. The banner features individual photos of each player and headlines from local newspapers such as the Novi News (center headline).

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

**GIRLS**

Continued from page B1

the game is being called." The Hornets restricted most of the Wildcats' offense, but couldn't contain McMahon, who had a game-high 26 points on 8-for-15 shooting. Along with her five rebounds and five steals, the young point guard helped Novi regain the lead with a 12-1 third-quarter run. "We switched from man to zone because of the foul trouble," Kelp said. Antolec pulled down

nine rebounds to go with three points while Lausch had six points and two rebounds. Also adding to the comeback, which included a 14-8 fourth-quarter finish, were Robinson (four points), Seelenbinder (three points, two rebounds, four steals), Schirring (two points), D'Annibale (one point, three rebounds). "Ally is playing through an injury and Jade is coming off an injury so hopefully they continue to get better," Kelp said.

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

**CC**

Continued from page B1

the posts was goalie Ryan Muika, who stopped 13 of Wyandotte's 14 shots on goal. Dylan Bulchak took the loss, playing 28 minutes and stopping 18 of 21 from the Shamrocks offense before being relieved by Justin Green, who played 23 minutes and stopped 12 out of 13 shots on goal. Against Grosse Pointe North, the Shamrocks once again was the first team to strike, going up 1-0 in the first period off a shot from Halash, who added a second goal for a 2-0 advantage in the opening minutes of

the second period. Earning assists were VanNorman, Carson Gatt and two from Nolan Gluchowski. Grosse Pointe cut the lead in half at the 11:46 mark of the second period, scoring on a shot by Anthony Saleh that made its way past the posts and into the back of the net to make it a 2-1 contest. The Shamrocks hardly noticed, scoring one more in the second and three in the third period to dominate the game. Steven Hayden took assistance from Charlie Green and Brady Jones on a power play to make it a 3-1 game in the second before Michael Babcock, Green and VanNorman all found the back of the net in the final stanza for the

6-1 final. Earnings assists on the final three goals were Hayden (2), Babcock, Green and Wanko. The game was a bit more intense than many of Catholic Central's contests with the Shamrocks getting hit with six penalties and Grosse Pointe North earning seven trips to the penalty box. All were two-minute penalties. Earning the victory was Derek Moore, who stopped 18 shots on the night while Kyle Cosens took the loss as he was peppered with 35 shots on goal and stopped 29.

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

**CC ski team hopes to return to state finals**  
Shamrocks return plenty of talent for 2011-12 campaign

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

When it comes to setting goals for a team, no one aims higher than the squads over at Detroit Catholic Central High School.

Quite typically, each team indicates they want to do well in the league they play in and then make a run at the state finals. The ski team, coached by Tom Gable in his 20th season as a head coach, is no different.

Last year, the Shamrocks finished seventh in the state, took second in their regional, won the Catholic High School League and finished second in the Mount Brighton League.

This year, they are looking to once again do their best at each of those levels, all while finding ways to improve.

"Our goals are to race as a team, using every opportunity to learn what it takes to win at each level," said Gable.

Gable noted that the team goals are the easiest to accomplish—not that they are any year. The Mt. Brighton League is once again full of talent with Catholic Central, Okemos and Birmingham as the teams to watch out for. In the Catholic League, Brother Rice will be looking to challenge for the title.

Gable is happy with the fact that his team came into the season already showing improvement in their slalom events, though he admits that they are looking to improve even more for the giant slalom. Having a vast amount of experience isn't going to hurt, however—Catholic Central returns Damon Rottermond, Ian Pierce, Erik Kurcz, John Dooley, Joe Talbot, Alex Tokarz and

Evans Hicks. Kurcz, Dooley, Talbot, Tokarz and Hicks were all members of the seventh-place state finals team last year while Pierce was second-team All-State Slalom last season, finishing 12th in the state final, seventh at the regional and fifth at the CHSL championship. Rottermond is the skier all eyes will be on from the very start of this year, and one that the Shamrocks will be expecting to lead by example. He is the returning giant slalom state champion and fourth-place slalom finisher. He was first-team All-State in both events and the regional champion in the slalom and the CHSL title winner in the event.

"The team was young last season, skiing only one senior," Gable noted. "Last year, learning to handle the pressure for a run at the states was difficult. Each racer now understands the value of learning how to cope with that pressure to succeed."

Seniors on this year's team include Rottermond, Pierce, Kurcz and Dooley while juniors are Hicks, Tokarz, Talbot, Derek Schira and Sean Kageff.

Rottermond, Pierce and Kurcz are this year's team captains. The Shamrocks will be able to get in some practice time now that some of the local slopes opened up thanks to the cooler weather. Their first event will be Jan. 10 at the Mount Brighton Tournament, which will feature 10 teams in competition.

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

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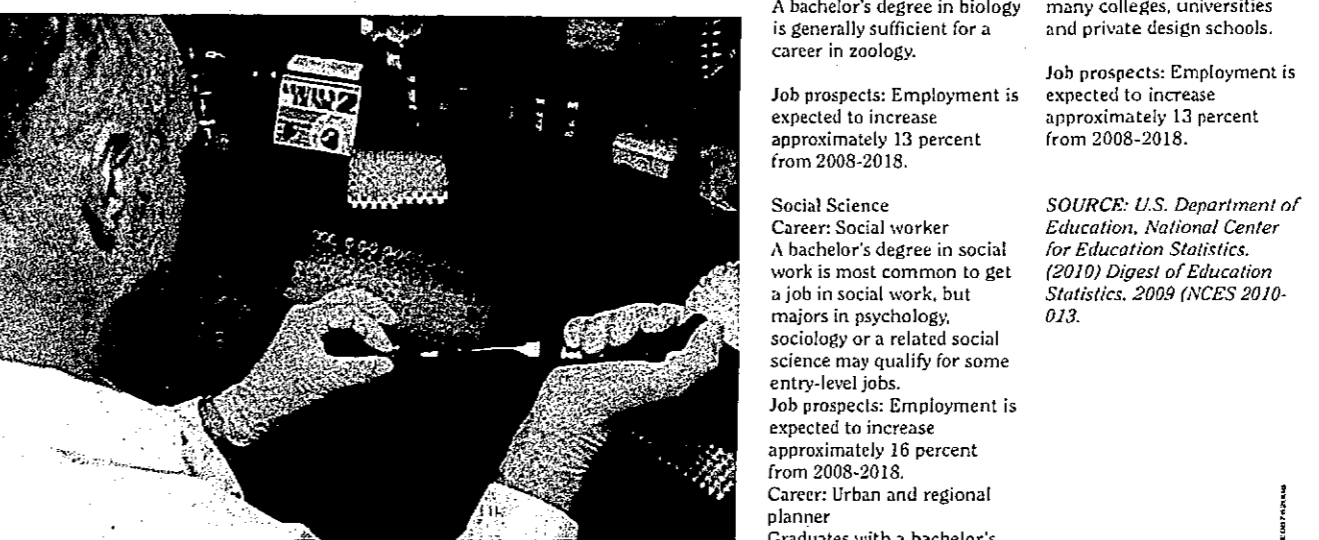
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