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**Audition for
'Music Man'**

The Novi Civic Theatre will host auditions for Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" from 7-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9 and Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the Novi Civic Center for actors 7 years and older. Rehearsals will take place from 7-10 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays. If cast, a mandatory registration meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at which time the \$145 registration fee is due.

Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" is an affectionate tribute to Smalltown, U.S.A. of a bygone era. The story follows fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize — despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. The production includes timeless classic numbers and heavy chorus participation.

Performances will take place March 9-18. Audition packets are available online at cityofnovi.org or at the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office located inside the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. 10 Mile Road).

For more information, please call (248) 347-0400 or visit cityofnovi.org.

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One last look back



TOP: As Wildcat teammates Gabby DeLeon (left) and Nicki Caruso help out, Wildcat netminder Gabby Gauruder makes a punch-save in front of leaping Troy player Jennifer Busk — on one of the many corner kicks the Wildcats' defense had to face in the first half. The Novi Wildcats defeated Troy that day to take their fourth state title in five years. MIDDLE: This was Novi's view during a commute up Novi Road most of the summer and fall as work proceeded to widen the road's lanes to five and construct a bridge over the railroad tracks south of Grand River. The project was completed in early November. BOTTOM: Novi Mayor David Landry gives his State of the City address at the Baronette Renaissance hotel on Jan. 20. Landry did not run for re-election in November 2011. For more photos from 2011, turn to p. ge A6.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Six new stores
to open in Novi
Town Center**

**Walmart aims for grand
opening in September**

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The good news keeps coming for the once depressed but now redeveloped and progressing Novi Town Center.

Construction is continuing on the biggest project — a Walmart Supercenter — and early this year six new stores are expected to open: Bath & Body Works, Great Clips, Dress Barn, Plato's Closet, Clothes Mentor and SuiteSweat sauna studio.

Steve Russo, presi-

dent of Russo Communications representing the Novi Town Center, said everything is pointing to a "better and more exciting 2012."

"It couldn't be better right now because redevelopment is just about finished and the center itself, with the advent of those six new stores, is growing," he said.

The redevelopment of the center, which started three years ago and included facade

Please see STORES, A3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A bulldozer busies itself knocking down parts of the southeastern end of the Novi Town Center on May 2 in order to get ready for the construction of a Walmart store. The 150,000-square-foot store is slated to open in August 2012.

**Credit union gives
gifts to nonprofits**

**Community Financial donated over
\$5,000 to three organizations**

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Christmas came early for three Novi nonprofit organizations thanks to donations from Community Financial Credit Union.

As part of its Season of Giving program, the credit union donated \$50,000 to nonprofit organizations in the areas it serves — Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Gaylor, Hillman and Lewiston.

The Novi organizations that received money were the Novi Education-

al Foundation (\$2,500), Love INC (\$2,500) and the Novi Emergency Food Bank (\$750).

"As a credit union we are committed to the communities we serve," said Sarah Cousineau, marketing manager for Community Financial. "We look at it as the stronger our communities are and the more we can help them, the better it makes us as well."

This is the second time this year the credit union has donated money to nonprofits as it ran

Please see GIFTS, A3



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Novi resident rides for a reason

Seven-month bike trip raises money, awareness for World Bicycle Relief

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Kellen Smetana knew his life would be changed after returning from a seven-month bicycle journey across Asia and Europe from Hong Kong, China, to Lisbon, Portugal. But not for the reasons he initially thought. Sure it was going to be "amazing" to see various parts of the world, try new foods, help the World Bicycle Relief organization and overcome the physical challenges of riding a bicycle 10,250 miles. But it was the people he met that truly made his trip unforgettable.

"The biggest thing for me was the incredible welcoming nature of humanity around the world," he said. "A lot of the places I thought we would be the most out of place or were questionable areas, those were the places where I found people to be the most welcoming."



Novi resident and Northville High School graduate Kellen Smetana celebrates reaching the Atlantic Ocean in Lisbon, Portugal, with his friend Bill Conry during his 16,000-kilometer bike trek from Hong Kong to help raise awareness and funds for the World Bicycle Relief.

"They wanted to teach us about their cultures and get to know us as much as we wanted to know them."

Smetana, 26, lives in Novi and graduated from Northville High School

in 2003. He was making his plans to go to business school next year when the idea for the cross-continent trip came to him. His goal was to find a way to give back to the World Bicycle Relief, which builds bikes for poverty-stricken communities across the world with transportation needs, while also challenging himself mentally and physically.

A documentary called "Long Way Around," about two men who made a similar journey on motorcycles, gave Smetana his inspiration, and he was able to find five other people to join him for parts of the trip, including brother Cory (2009

Northville High School graduate). Kellen, however, was the only one to complete the entire trip. "I always thought I was going to be sick of it when I was done, but at the end I found I was really enjoying riding every day," he said.

Smetana said there were only a few times that he questioned what he was doing, first when he got stuck in a blizzard in the mountains in China where he was "the coldest I've ever been," and traveling through the desert in Kazakhstan. "When I look back on it, those are some of my most vivid memories, when times were the toughest," he said. "You



Kellen Smetana and his brother Cory, both Northville High School graduates, pause for a photo in front of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, during Kellen's ride from Hong Kong to Lisbon, Portugal.



Novi resident Kellen Smetana recently returned from a seven-month bicycling trip across Europe and Asia to raise money for the World Bicycle Relief. He is pictured here riding through mountains in Qinghai Province, China.

start to learn how much you can accomplish when you put your mind to something."

Smetana returned home from the trip about a

month ago, and ended up raising about \$9,000 to help build 64 bicycles for the World Bicycle Relief.

"I think one of the biggest things it will do for me is it will help me to think big," he said. "What I mean by that is even in my own mind when I thought this up I thought it would be a ton of fun and a life-changing experience but also knew it was crazy... it really puts everything into perspective and having that start perspective back on life here does change me."

People can read his updated journal and see photos from his trip at www.revolutionsforrelief.org.

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Community Financial Novi branch manager Liz Houston, left, presents the Novi Education Foundation's Jessica Anderson and Geoff Wood with a check for \$2,500 on Dec. 20.

GIFTS

Continued from page A1

a similar program called Summer of Sharing. Novi Youth Assistance received a grant of \$1,060 at the time.

Cousineau said the holiday-themed donations were because Community Financial still wanted to celebrate the successes of the last two years.

Geoff Wood, chair of the Novi Educational Foundation, said the donation was "pretty sig-

nificant" as the organization gives away nearly \$50,000 worth of grants and scholarships each year.

"Having this \$2,500 to help us continue to do what we are doing is phenomenal," he said.

Wood said the NEF, which helps fill some of the gaps that have been occurring as a result of cuts at the state level, is looking to grow to the point of actually funding programs versus just giving grants.

"We want to make

this organization something similar to what all the universities have where they have major fundraising elements to build upon their educational opportunities," he said.

He said it's important not just for the school district, but the community as a whole.

"A strong school district means a lot to businesses and homeowners," Wood said.

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(248) 437-2011, ext. 255



Community Financial Novi branch manager Liz Houston presents Novi Emergency Food Bank's Jim Ernst with a check for \$1,000 on Dec. 20.

STORES

Continued from page A1

upgrades, construction of new buildings and reconfiguration of the center among other changes, is the main reason the Novi Town Center has become more attractive to retailers, Russo said.

And Walmart, which Russo said is expected to open in September, doesn't hurt either.

There are still plenty of vacancies in the center, including large buildings

such as the former Border's site, but Russo said he doesn't expect them to last long.

He said there isn't a replacement for Border's, but the site could be changed to accommodate more than one retailer because "we aren't going to let the space stand empty just because it's a big space."

"What it may involve is taking those larger areas and refining them to take on a couple retailers," he said. "Success likes success, and seeing new businesses come in to the

center might be what is needed to attract a larger retailer."

Russo said current business owners experienced "steady" business during the holiday shopping season, and with most of the construction kept to the Walmart site, shoppers were trying the center again.

"From what I understood, the retailers came away with a satisfied feeling over the holidays," he said.

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Challenges remain for school district in 2012

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist



Super Talk
Steve Matthews

The start of a new year brings an opportunity to reflect. And in a school district, the changing of the calendar from one year to the next does not really signal the start of something new because currently in the approximate middle of our school year.

The first report card has been sent home. The first round of parent-teacher conferences has come and gone. Changing from 2011 to 2012 does not create a clean slate in our schools.

Instead, it signals that we need to take stock, to see if we are making the progress that we need to make. Changing the calendar provides a time for us to pause and think of where we are and where we want to be.

As we reflect back on what happened in the first half of our school year, we now have the opportunity to see if the road we are on will take us to where we want and need to be.

This reflection provides us with an opportunity to stay or change the course. Where we go from here will depend on what our reflection shows us.

I am halfway through

my first year in our school district. As I reflect back on the six months I have been in the district I am encouraged by what I see, but I am also mindful that we still need to make progress.

My six months in the district has shown me much of what I expected to find when I came to this school district. I have found committed staff eager to teach our students everyday. I have met many wonderful parents and students who believe in the promise of a Novi education and work hard to fulfill that promise. I have been in wonderful facilities provided by our community that provide great places to learn, compete and perform.

I have worked with the Novi Board of Education to establish district goals that focus on attending to the needs of every student in the district. These goals state that the effort of our district will be on ensuring that every student makes a year's growth

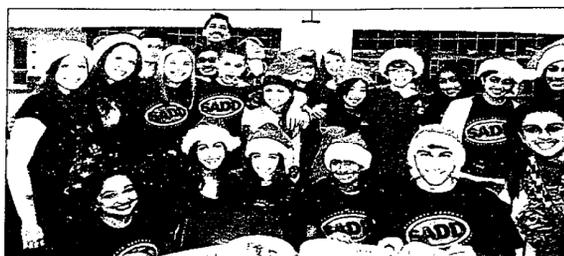
in a year's time and that all students achieve at a high level. The goals also focus on providing opportunities for our students in difficult economic times while working on improving our organizational quality. These are challenging goals. They highlight areas that need our attention if we are truly to become that exemplary district.

The new year finds me with six months under my belt in my new school district, and as I reflect on the changing calendar I see that I am where I want to be. I see that I am surrounded by people committed to lives of the students in our school district. I also see that we have challenges that face us and work to be done before we can say that we have accomplished our goals.

I am glad that I start 2012 in such a good place. I look forward to working with each of you to continue to build on the excellence here in our school district.

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/docsmatthews; or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

SADD Movie Night



Area children got an early taste of some holiday fun at Northville High School on Dec. 16 when Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) hosted its Holiday Movie Night. About 50 children (above) attend this year's event. "We were so happy to be hosting another movie night this year," said Donny Yamin, SADD co-president. "The Halloween movie night was such a success it was great to see the children again in December. I think everyone enjoyed the crafts and treats and of course the movie, Polar Express. The children had loads of fun. It is wonderful for all our SADD volunteers to know that so many kids enjoyed themselves and that the parents had fun too." SADD will hold another free movie event for children in the spring, in the cafeteria of Northville High School. They hope to have an even bigger turn out. Children of all ages are welcome to come. Time and date will be announced. (Below) Demetri Tsilimingras, (left) enjoyed playing Jenja and doing crafts with Northville High School SADD volunteer Charlie Busse and Nico Tsilimingras (right). The 5-year-old twin boys are kindergarten students at Amerman Elementary School.



SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

"Petticoat Patriots" to be discussed at Jan. 20 luncheon

Emily Fijol, assistant director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing, will present Petticoat Patriots: Stories from the Frontline of Michigan's Fight for Women's Suffrage at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20 as part of the Transition Center's luncheon series. Tickets are \$20 per person and include lunch. Reservations must be made in advance by Friday, Jan. 13.

Michigan was only the second state ever to put women's suffrage on the ballot. The Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing, Michigan created the exhibit Petticoat Patriots: How Michigan Women Won the Vote in celebration of the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage. Fijol's presentation will provide guests with an opportunity to get the know some of the extraordinary Michigan women that fought for the vote, find out their stories, and discover some of the dramatic events that occurred during the almost 75-year struggle for women's suffrage.

For more information or to reserve your seat call (734) 462-4443 or visit <http://www.transitioncenter.org/documents/luncheon-petticoat.pdf>. Proceeds from the Transition Center Luncheon Series are used to provide scholarships for Schoolcraft College students and fund the many services provided by the Transition Center.

Audition for "Romeo & Juliet" Jan. 17-18

The Schoolcraft College Theatre Department's winter production is "Romeo and Juliet". Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 17-18 in the Liberal Arts Theatre on the college's main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile roads. No previous theatre experience is required and the auditions are open to all students, faculty, staff, and the general public. The performances of Romeo and Juliet will be on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 23-24 and 30-31, and April 13-14.

This very special production of Shakespeare's famous "Romeo and Juliet" has been edited by James R. Hartman, professor of theatre at Schoolcraft College, for more accessibility and ease of understanding. Love and death are intermingled when two passionate teenagers find their hearts' desires in each other's arms, despite the feuding between their families. To be united with each other, they devise a plan in defiance of the families' bitter tensions. Unforeseen events cause

their desperate scheme to go tragically awry. Hartman's edited version of "Romeo and Juliet" results in an enjoyable, easy-to-follow performance filled with the hope, love, and pain of these two 'star-crossed lovers'.

For more information about the auditions contact the Theatre Department at (734) 462-4400 ext. 5270. Tickets for the performances in October and November can be purchased at the Schoolcraft College Bookstore on the main campus in Livonia or by calling (734) 462-4396.

Pageturners book discussion group explores classic novel, "Fahrenheit 451"

The book "Fahrenheit 451", by Ray Bradbury, is the focus of Pageturners book club's January selection. In addition to three discussions of the book, which is celebrating 50 years in print this year, participants will also have the opportunity to see the movie version of this modern classic.

"Fahrenheit 451" is a masterpiece of 20th-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. One day Montag meets a young girl who demonstrates to him the beauty of books, of knowledge, of conceiving and sharing ideas; she wakes him up, changing his life forever. Written in 1951, "Fahrenheit 451" was made into a movie in 1966 starring Oskar Werner and Julie Christie.

"Fahrenheit 451" will be discussed at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23 and again at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24 in the Bradner Library on the college's main campus in Livonia and at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Radcliff Center in Garden City. The movie will be shown and discussed at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. in the McDowell Center on the main campus in Livonia.

"Fahrenheit 451" is available from the Schoolcraft College Bookstore at a significant discount. The book discussions, and movie screening and discussion are free and open to the public. For more information about Pageturners' future book selections and discussions, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/scpageturners>.

Schoolcraft College is a public, two-year college offering classes at the main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile roads; at the Radcliff Center in Garden City; and online at www.schoolcraft.edu.

Cancer survivor's fundraiser helps students 'pay it forward'

Salon owners, Northville-Novi schools help woman diagnosed with cancer



Tammy Townsend of Belleville (right) hugs Nadine Grivan, owner of the Thomas James Salon in Northville, after receiving a donation from a fundraiser she put on in October.

A Belleville woman will get by with a little help from friends she's never even met — thanks to the efforts of a Northville business owner and the kindness of students in the Northville and Novi school districts.

Nadine and Thomas Girvan, owners of the Thomas James Salon in Northville, presented a check for more than \$1,000 to Tammy Townsend of Belleville — the proceeds of a fundraiser the Girvans put on in October for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

"It's such a blessing," said Townsend, who was diagnosed with cancer in July. "I wasn't expecting this."

Nadine Girvan, who is herself a breast cancer survivor, said she's put on fundraisers since she was diagnosed about six years ago. At first she and her staff donated money to organizations like the American Cancer Society, but eventually decided to give the donations to an individual, instead. In October, she put on the donation drive in the Northville and Novi school districts, offering to dye students' hair pink or put pink beaded extensions in their hair for a donation. She has made it an infor-

mal competition between the schools; the last year, the Novi students earned more in donations. This year, Northville did.

She said the month-long fundraiser was so popular, she didn't even know how many students took part.

"I lost track," she said with a laugh, "but it was a lot."

A bit of serendipitous luck connected the Girvans with Townsend, whom they had never met. Jan Fitzgerald, a regular client at the salon, overheard Nadine talking about the fundraiser. The wife of former Gerald Fitzgerald, the former chief executive officer of Oakwood Healthcare, Inc (OHD), Fitzgerald called Nancy Gray, administrator of Women's Health Programs for Oakwood, and asked if she knew of a patient that could benefit from the donations. At the time of her diagnosis, Townsend was between jobs and uninsured. She had her initial mammogram and biopsy at the Oakwood Breast Care Center-Wayne through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP), which provides free or low-cost screenings to women. Townsend is scheduled for surgery at Oakwood Annapolis.

Hospital at the end of the month.

"I think there God was at work in that room," said Fitzgerald, who is also a cancer survivor. "I think this is so generous," she added of the Girvans' donation. "They didn't have to do this."

Thomas, recalling the chaotic days after Nadine was diagnosed, said he was glad to be able to do something like this.

"I remember just being overwhelmed and we had a lot of friends helping us," he said. "This is our chance to give back."

Townsend, who lost her 6-year-old son Tyler to cancer six years ago, said she appreciates the help and hopes to help others, in return. She said she has since come to terms with her diagnosis and counts each day as a blessing.

"I'm not scared anymore," she said. "I'm ready to go. I'm going to beat this. God is making me stronger."

She said she is planning to make jewelry and donate half of the proceeds to help fight the disease, as well.

"It just makes me want to give back," said Townsend. "I want to give back to everyone." For more information about the BCCCP program, visit www.michiganccancer.org/bcccp.

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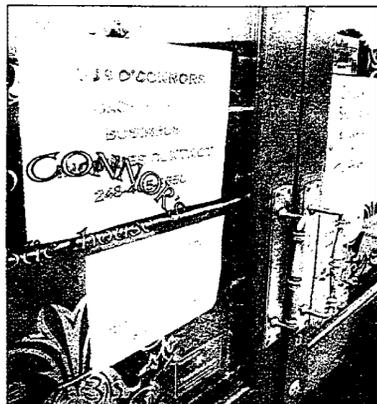
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Year in Review



A sign on Novi's Gus O'Connor's stating that it's closed. Another sign posted on the door by Oakland County, notes that the establishment is more than \$21,000 in arrears in tax payments. The popular Novi Main St. pub closed in the summer with little warning or fanfare.



Retiring Deerfield Elementary School principal Richard Njus gets a hug from second grader Zora Jovicic. When asked what he'd miss the most about being a school principal, Njus simply stated, "the kids."



The Novi Wildcats begin celebrating their Div 1 State hockey title over Orchard Lake St. Marys in March of 2011.



After being unable to secure a buyer for their business, Borders closed its Novi store in the Town Center in the summer of 2011. Here shoppers peruse a dwindling stock of books in July.



Hunter Patterson, 11, enjoys a cooling splash at Novi's Lakeshore Park on July 19. Novi had its hottest July in more than 50 years this past year and keeping cool was the name of the game.



Lule Harwell, the widow of Tigers' legend Ernie Harwell, holds the first pitch baseball given to her at Novi's Fox Run on April 8 during their opening day festivities. The activity that day was called "Ernie Harwell Day" to commemorate the life of the Tigers' legend and longtime Fox Run resident.



Carrie Adams cuts fleece fabric on Nov. 16 at the Novi Congregational Church as volunteers gather to assemble winter hats to be given to needy school kids in Detroit. The church donated hats and scarves to needy Detroit school children in December.



City of Novi Director of Communications Sheryl Walsh pins a flower on the lapel of Mayor-elect Bob Gatt on Nov. 14 before his official swearing-in during that night's city council meeting. Gatt, whose wife Susie is seen in the middle, won the Nov. 8 election, and is replaced retiring Mayor David Landry.



Novi School District Superintendent Peter Dion, seen here reading "Strega Nona" to a group of Orchard Hills kindergarten students on March 14, retired as Novi School District School Superintendent in early summer 2011.



Novi High School senior Meghan Telder donates her first pint of blood during the Feb. 16, 2011 Red Cross drive held at the school. The drive was in memory of Novi High student Nathan Farooq and students wrote out condolence cards to his family as they awaited donation.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VanDam, Winkelman headline fishing show

The big one just got bigger with the announcement that two of the angling world's biggest stars are featured speakers at the annual Ultimate Fishing Show-Detroit, Jan. 12-15 at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi.

The "catch of the year" includes Kevin VanDam, four-time Bassmaster Classic champion from Kalamazoo, and Babe Winkelman, whose popular TV show "Good Fishing" is one of the nation's longest-running programs. Last June, VanDam, whose tournament earnings since turning pro in 1992 have surpassed \$5 million, won an unprecedented seventh "Angler of the Year Award." KVD, as his fans call him, will make an exclusive appearance on Friday, Jan. 13 at Michigan's biggest fishing show in North America's largest freshwater angling market.

Legendary angler, Babe Winkelman will appear on Saturday, January 14, to share tips and tales about his extensive fishing experiences in Canada. Show producers are expecting record crowds both days. There is no extra charge for the seminars, and both stars will be available for free autographs.

More than 100 other free fishing seminars by top experts are scheduled during the four-day show. New speakers include Dan Armitage (ice fishing, kayak fishing, kids fishing) and Howell's Kim Stricker, who brings his multi-media "Hook 'N Look" TV series to

the show. Back by popular demand is "Walleye Woman" Marianne Huskey, along with more than 20 other angling experts.

America's biggest angling supermarket

More than 400,000 licensed anglers live in southeastern Michigan, an hour's drive or less from the venue. Besides "schooling up" at Novi for instruction, they come for the show season's best value on fishing boats and angling gear and to book angling adventures. From the many professional guides, charterboat captains, lodges and outfitters.

Wilson Marine, Wonderland Marine-West, Anderson Boat Sales, Angler's Marine, Freeway Sport Center in Fenton, and Grand Pointe Marine in Lansing are among the biggest downstate dealers bringing more than 200 new fiberglass and aluminum fishing boats to the show. Other major dealers include Bee's Sports in St. Johns and Chapman's Boat Sales in Lapeer. Cabela's in Dundee and Hidesaway Yachts are new dealers who will also remove the wraps from boat/motor/trailer packages designed for catching bass, walleye, steelhead, salmon, panfish and other popular Michigan species.

The fleet of new boats includes pontoons, offshore trolling craft, canoes and kayaks—more than 40 brands in all.

The huge show always occurs early in the new year when major boat



The Ultimate Fishing Show-Detroit at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi, Jan. 12-15.

and motor manufacturers announce their annual rebate programs, special discounts and other buying incentives. Factory experts will be on hand to answer technical questions and to help anglers compare prices and features.

Four acres of fishing stuff

The Ultimate Fishing Show-Detroit offers four acres of boats, tackle, gear, and specialized fishing equipment, a veritable supermarket for buyers looking for new product selection and value. Frank's Great Outdoors, Lakeside Fishing Shop, KD Outdoors and other key Michigan retailers are among the 150 tackle exhibitors.

The dealers include traveling vendors from other markets, like StrikeMasters from Minnesota, along with Frabill, Otter, Vexilar and other manufacturers of ice-fishing tackle and accessories.

Many are one-of-a-kind makers of lures, tackle components and accessories. Anglers can choose from the plethora

of brand names as well as customized, specialized gear that includes cutting-edge electronics, fishing-boat accessories, and the newest offerings in downriggers, rods, reels, nets, lines and other gear.

Because of its sheer size, the show attracts representatives from major manufacturers such as Stren, Berkley, Fenwick, Lowrance, Okuma, Shimano, Offshore Tackle and Bert's Custom Tackle.

Many guides, outfitters, lodges, charter fishing captains and other destination vendors have reserved space. "Outfitters Expo" is a show within the show that offers fishing and family vacations throughout Michigan, the Great Lakes, and Canada and beyond. Patrons can compare costs and services by speaking directly to lodge owners, fishing guides and even bush plane pilots.

Within Outfitters Expo is "Canada's Great Outdoors" section, featuring more than 20 Ontario-only outfitters, lodges and guides.

DETAILS

Event: Ultimate Fishing Show-Detroit
Dates: Jan. 12-15
Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi
Admission: Free on Thursday for patrons who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of non-perishable food items to donate to the annual Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger food drive; \$10 for adults and \$4 for children 6 to 14. There is no charge for children 5 and under.
Hours: 2:30 p.m. Thursday; noon-9:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
Web: www.UltimateFishingShow.com
Contact: 800-328-6550

Angling instruction, free with admission

The nonstop seminars, which are free with admission, cover the latest tips and techniques for catching bass, walleye, salmon, steelhead, muskie, pike and panfish. Joining Kevin VanDam for bass seminars are several experts from the National Bass Anglers Association. Other top speakers include Mark Martin, Mark Romanack, Lance Valentine and Marianne Huskey on walleye; Mike Pittiglio and Don Miller on muskie; Chip Cartwright on salmon; and Bob Brunner on pike.

Among the many specialty seminars are presentations on ice fishing by experts Mark Martin, Dan Armitage and Joe Rayner.

Lake Ultimate, the ultimate in fishing seminars

Lake Ultimate, the nation's largest indoor lake with 110,000 gallons of water, holds big rainbow trout that speakers will try to catch using fly-fishing, vertical jigging, boat control and precision casting from fully rigged

boats. No other venue in North America offers an indoor lake this large for such real-time seminars.

Free-based weekend Super Clinics for walleye and Great Lakes trolling are limited to 100 students each who can register right at the show. Registrants receive a free "goody bag" worth at least twice the typical \$25 instructional fee. New this year is a fee-based Bass Super Clinic. A shore lunch fish fry occurs daily.

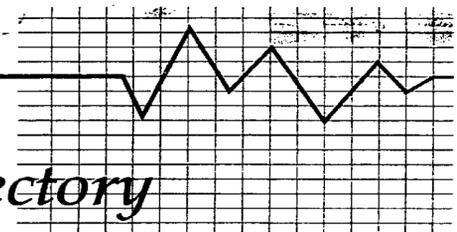
The show attracts anglers of all ages and levels of experience. The Trout Pond will have live rainbows for kids to catch, and they can try their skills on the Virtual Fishing Simulator. A free Casting Kids Contest occurs on the weekend.

The first 500 attendees on Thursday and Friday receive a \$6.95 commemorative Dardville fishing spoon, compliments of Eppinger Manufacturing in Dearborn.

The first 250 patrons on Saturday and Sunday receive a free tackle pack, compliments of K&E Stopper Lure Company. Westland Camping Center will give away a pair of Ocean kayaks to lucky show patrons who sign up at the booth.

Novi/Northville

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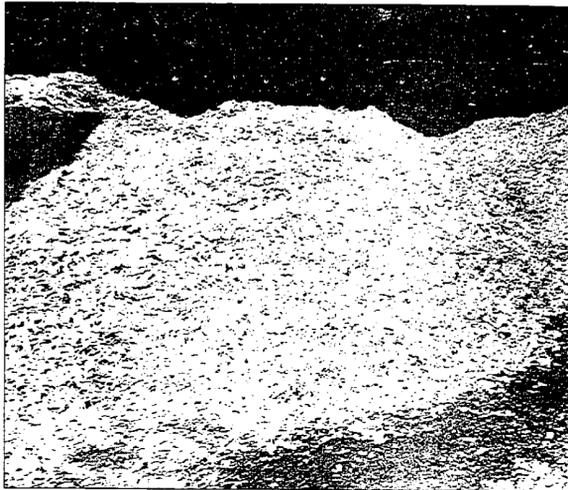
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\$4.5 million retrofit to boost recycling, economy



Shredded office paper is dumped at the facility.

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

When you toss that empty water bottle into the recycle bin, you're not only sparing landfill space and helping the environment, you're also boosting the economy.

And, a recent \$4.5 million private investment upgrade to the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County facility in Southfield is making it even easier to recycle.

That's a good thing, said Michael Csapo, general manager of RRRASOC, which now has the largest capacity of any recycling facility in the State of Michigan.

RRRASOC is a consortium formed by the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake and Wixom. It's been in operation since 1994. The authority partners with a private company called ReCommunity to run the facility and to sell the commodities (the plastics, glass, paper and metal) nationwide.

It was built as a dual stream recycling facility, which was the trend at the time, said Csapo. It was easier than the multi-stream trend before that.

"There was a lot of effort residents had to make, to make sure things were sorted correctly," he said. "The trend now is single stream. If you can put everything into a single spot, you cut down on the time it takes to prepare it, pick it up and dump it."

The upgrade allows for single stream recycling, meaning residents and businesses no longer have to separate their paper, glass, plastic and metals. The new state-of-the-art equipment at the facility can do the separating and sorting.

"Studies show that when you switch to single stream recycling, you increase the total volume by 20 to 60 percent," he said.

The choices people make in their kitchens and curbside really do have a global impact," he said.

Through the process, Csapo said they'll be able to produce an educational program, from the videos, to show to students at area schools.

"Hopefully, a year from now, we'll be talking about virtual tours," he said.

Some changes Residents will notice a few changes.

First, those plastic grocery bags will no longer be accepted. Csapo said there's not a market for them and it takes too long to collect enough. They also get caught and tangled in the machines. He suggests people use reusable cloth shopping bags.

Ceramics and No. 3 plastics (PVC) will no longer be accepted. Newly accepted recyclables include wide-mouthed plastic tubs, like margarine tubs and yogurt cups; and also agricultural containers — the plastic containers for plants and flowers.

Some of the RRRASOC communities, including Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Wixom, are considering switching from curbside bins to 96-gallon carts on wheels. Each city will need to amend their contract with their waste hauler, noted Csapo.

He said the larger carts make recycling even easier for residents. A public education campaign about the single stream recycling program will be an important piece in ramping up recycling in the RRRASOC communities. For more information, visit www.rrrasoc.org.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZANDI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Csapo, general manager of RRRASOC.



Tony Buckner, a dump truck driver, makes sure the load of commercial cardboard emptied.

the paper goes from here, directly to a paper mill," said Csapo.

Many of the commodities are exported to other countries, such as China. Revenue from the sale of the commodities is then put back into the facility and also goes toward keeping recycling rates down for the contracting municipalities.

"We want to think of these as resources we can pay to bury them or we can get paid for them," said Csapo.

"There's value added all the way down the material stream."

Csapo said the economic message is often overshadowed by the environmental message, but both are important.

"The choices people make in their kitchens and curbside really do have a global impact," he said.

State of the art The equipment, which is installed and ready for final calibration, is capable of separating cardboard, for example, from a load of materials. The remainder flows along a conveyor, where sensors are on hand to separate the different kinds of plastics and metals.

An optic scanning device focuses on water bottles. Vacuums are used to grab out the plastic shopping bags before the load enters the machine that does more separating by size and weight.

Csapo said they're expecting to recycle between 70,000 and 100,000 tons of material, compared to last year's 14,000 tons.

The new system even has cameras that can record the flow of the materials as they move

through the process. Csapo said they'll be able to produce an educational program, from the videos, to show to students at area schools.

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Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • htwobits@hometownlife.com
Deadline: Tuesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

JOHANNINGSMEIER, EUGENE (GENE) DUANE

Of South Lyon, Michigan, died December 23, 2011, in the company of his minister and family members. He was born on August 1, 1932, in his late parents William and Emma home in Sandborn, Indiana. He grew up on a farm and was active in 4-H. He graduated from Purdue University, January 1958, BSA (Agricology, Turfgrass Management Specialist). Gene moved to Michigan and went to work for Hiram Godwin and Sons, Inc. He later worked for Turfgrass, Inc. He offered agronomic advice and supplies to the golf industry. He was a member of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Purdue Alumni Association, Masonic Plymouth Rock Lodge #47, Past President of Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. He enjoyed rebuilding Model A cars, having summer pool gatherings and grilling a good steak. He is survived by Barbara Ann Johanningsmeier-Mason (married 1954) and with whom he lived; three sons: David of Gaylord, Douglas (Julie) of Brighton, Dwight (Dawn) of Howell, Pamela (Richard) Smith of Wixom and Daniel (Amy) of Howell; Barbara Jean (Richard) Johanningsmeier (married 1977) and her children: Duane Richard of Asheville, N.C., Pamela (Craig) Williams of Quarryville PA, Rene (Mark) Quross of Fort Worth TX, and Keith (Nugget) Richards of Howell; brother Charles Lee of Freeholdville, IN and sister Opal Jane Alexander of Dugger, IN and grandchildren: Austin, August, Chase, Chris, Dawson, Deven, Emma, Emerson, Ethan, Jason, Lydia, Mariah, Mitchell, Nathan, and Ross. A memorial service will be held January 14th, at 11:00 a.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 205 E. Lake Street, South Lyon, Michigan. Family will receive friends from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to the Building and Grounds Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of South Lyon, MI. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

KELLY, JR., WILLIAM HENRY

William Henry "Bill" Kelly, Jr., of Rapid City, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, December 28, 2011. Bill was born on Nov. 7, 1953, in Detroit, MI to Rose Marie Robertson and William H. Kelly. Bill grew up in Northville and graduated from Northville High School in 1971. He went to the University of Michigan and was a respected Civil Engineer in his field. He married Stephanie Marie Butler on May 7, 1983. They moved to northern Michigan almost 20 years ago to raise their three sons. Bill loved and owned many muscle cars through the years, and was also into antique tractors. He had a great sense of humor, and loved to hear and tell jokes. For many years he was a familiar figure in the scooter's box running the clock at his sons' hockey games. Bill loved his family and was exceptionally proud of his 15 year old lucky. He is also survived by his wife, Stephanie; his sons, Tanner Kelly, Trey Kelly, and Hunter Kelly; and his beloved dog, and adored his three sons. Bill is survived by his wife, Stephanie; his sons, Tanner Kelly, Trey Kelly, and Hunter Kelly; and his beloved dog, and adored his three sons. Bill is survived by his wife, Stephanie; his sons, Tanner Kelly, Trey Kelly, and Hunter Kelly; and his beloved dog, and adored his three sons.



ROSE, WELMA

Age 85 passed away December 29, 2011. She was born on October 6, 1926, in Blue Diamond, KY to the late Courney and Edna (Taubee) Burton. On Nov. 27, 1945, she married the late Hural Rose, who passed away Nov. 9, 2003. She moved to South Lyon in 1943 and was a member of the First Baptist Church of South Lyon. Bill (Mary) Rose of South Lyon, 1 brother, 1 sister, 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her 3 sons: Darrell Rose in 1971, Charles Rose in 2005 and David Rose in 2008, 5 brothers and 2 sisters. Visitation was held on December 30, Friday, from 3 - 8 p.m. A funeral service was held on Dec. 31, Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 22 West Lake Street, South Lyon, MI 48178. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

THORNTON, SHELDON R.

A resident of Holly, passed away Thursday in the company of his wife, after an 8 year battle with ALS, on Friday, December 30, 2011. He was 64 years old. Sheldon Thornton was born January 23, 1947, in Brighton, MI to parents Elwood Sheldon and Ada Thornton. Sheldon was a proud Marine, veteran of the Vietnam War and a Purple Heart recipient. Following in his father's footsteps, Sheldon owned and operated Thornton Septic and was well recognized throughout the Highland area for over 40 years. Sheldon loved trips to the Upper Peninsula for hunting and fishing excursions on the river. He enjoyed traveling worldwide, more recent trips included visits to the Caribbean Islands with his beloved wife, Janet. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Janet (nee, Pete) Thornton; daughter, Andrea; sons, Andrew (Christina), Spencer Thornton; step-daughters, Penny (Robert) King, Michelle (Lore) Calcaterra, Jennifer Gye, Elizabeth (Sam) Lockey; grandchildren, Dan, Wes, Gracie, Raven; great-grandchildren, Gabe, Lilly, Colby; mother, Ada Johnson; sisters, Penny (Pete) DeGarmo, Sharon (Steve) Miller; and other extended family. Funeral Home: 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Tuesday, January 3, 11 AM. Burial & Military Honors took place at Highland Cemetery, Memorial contributions may be made in Sheldon's memory to Avalon Hospice, 2360 Stonbridge Drive, Flint, MI 48829. For further information please call 248-684-6645.

ORLICH, JOHN C.

Age 59, of South Lyon, passed away 12/20/11. Memorial Service will be held 12/31/11 at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

QUALMAN, AMY JUNE

Age 97, passed away December 23, 2011. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 62 years, Jack Walter, sisters Grace (Frank) McIndoe, Birdie (Eugene) Pigg and brother Bill (Deany) Qualman. Amy is survived by her loving children, Jay (Brook) Qualman and Al (Connie) Qualman; grandchildren, Jay III, Erik, Matt, Holly, Heather; great-grandchildren, Jack, Katherine, Will, Charlie, Scarlett, Sofia; brother-in-law, Alfred (Luan) Qualman. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, January 9th, 2012 beginning 11 AM at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N Main St., Milford in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are encouraged to Milford Historical Society or Michigan Humane Society. For further information please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford, 248-684-6645

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Etch, Sketch and Stiletto: The Work of Topher Crowder

The Northville Art House will present a show that reflects an artist's diversity yet ultimately spotlights his unique vision — Etch, Sketch and Stiletto: The Work of Topher Crowder — Jan. 6-28.

Crowder, an adjunct professor at Schoolcraft College, burst upon the art scene eight years ago after a journey of fixing computers, merchandising beer, designing Christmas ornaments in a plastics factory and packing boxes in an audio/video supply warehouse. "I always wanted to be an artist. I would take apart laser printers, put them

DETAILS

The Northville Art House is located at 215 W. Cady Street and is a facility of the Northville Arts Commission. Admission to Art House exhibits is free and open to the public. For additional information, call (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org.

back together and make art out of them. I couldn't suppress it anymore!" Inspired by animated Saturday morning cartoons, vintage postcards, comic books of the 1960s and 1970s, Crowder's ear-

ly works were, in effect, detailed stream-of-consciousness line drawings.

His show, organized by Jeff Cancelosi, at the Art House will include: • Show paintings — pop cultural streams of consciousness capturing the dichotomy and conflict inherent in male and female stereotypes in today's world.

• Day-Glow plexiglass creations — intricately detailed biomorphic, mechanical shadow images of the human form that have morphed out of his early ink line drawings.

• Crowder's sculptural "studio weavings" — art constructed from the tat-

tered remnants found anywhere and everywhere.

• Crowder's reverse vandalism signs — unfinished boards branded with messages, left intentionally in forgotten public spaces as unspoken invitations for public interaction, the art itself "finished" only when the anonymous person chooses to engage (most often through spray-painted graffiti).

The show will open in the Art House's upper gallery with a reception and artist's talk on from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6 and will continue through Jan. 28 through the Art House Gallery hours (1-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays).



'Yves Saint Laurent Patent Leather — Tribute — Peep Toe Platform,' acrylic on canvas by Topher Crowder

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Pastor Steve Swartz
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Rev. Jeff Sparrow, Associate Pastor
- OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH**
133 Orchard Dr., Northville
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Children's Church - 10:00 AM
Youth League - Wed. 4:15 to 5:30 M.M. in
N. St. Anne's Center
Rev. Scott Miller, Senior Pastor
www.fpcnorthville.org
- Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church**
54899 S. Mile Rd. at Currie Rd.
Northville, MI, 48187
Pastor Andy Whitton
Phone: 248-348-1050
Sunday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 AM
Sunday Service and Children's Church at 11:00 AM
Bible Study Thursday at 7:00 PM
- Destiny Worship Center**
www.dwc.org
Saturdays @ 6pm
Meeting at Ridge
Wood Elementary
49775 Six Mile Road
- ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI**
48325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Reverend George C. Smith, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7776
- FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD**
133 Detroit St., Milford • 684-5695
Pastor Steve Swartz
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Young Adults, Sunday 10:00 a.m.
www.milfordbaptist.org
- OAK POINTE (Milford)**
1320 South Hill Rd.
(248) 685-3560
www.oakpointe.org
Contemporary Worship Services: Sunday 10:00 am
Adventurous Children's Program: Sunday 10:30 am
Middle/High School Youth Group
Sunday Evening 8:00 pm
Life Groups: Various Times & Locations
- SOUTH LYON**
Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
304 N. Lafayette Street
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:15 AM
Education Hour 10:30 AM
Rev. Bart Muller, Pastor
www.shepherdswaylutheran.org
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON**
64220 Manogue Ave. St. South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-337-2500
Sunday School 9:15 am • South Lyon 11:00 am
Evening Service 8:00 pm • Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm
Senior Pastor: Rev. Pastor / Assoc. Pastor: Steve Paul
Website: www.fbcsl.com
E-mail: stevepaul@shepherdsway.org
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
648 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760
Sunday Worship: 8:15, 11:30 am & 6:00 pm
9:45 am, Sunday School
Nursery provided
Rev. David Hildebrand
www.fumcsl.com
- BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH**
Gathering in Jesus Name
22902 10 Mile Rd • South Lyon, MI 48178
Worship 10:30 and 1:30
Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Mike Ragan, Pastor
734-241-1983 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching KJN
- IMMANUEL LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy.
at Liberty St.
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651
- CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH**
28800 Pontiac Trail (at exit off Silver Lake Rd.)
Contemporary Worship, Soul-Bared Messages
3 Sunday Services
8:45, 10:00 & 11:30 AM
248-466-0403 • www.crossroadschc.net
- WIXOM**
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
"Best of Our Heritage in a Fresh New Way"
48380 Pontiac Trail • Wixom, MI 48393
NEW WORSHIP TIMES:
8:45 AM & 11:30 AM
EDUCATION HOUR - 10:15 AM
248-624-9525 • www.st-matthew.org
- CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH**
28530 W. Wixom Rd.
Wixom, MI 48393
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
New, Renewed, Restored - 5:00-5:30 p.m.
www.cpcw.com



High pile of garbage to be recycled.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local organizations receive Seasons of Giving gifts from Community Financial

As part of its Season of Giving program, Community Financial Credit Union announced donations to a number of non-profit organizations in the Northville and Novi communities recently. Community Financial announced donations to the Novi and Northville education foundations. The credit union followed those up with donations to the Novi and Northville food pantries, the Northville Community Foundation and Love, INC in Novi.

"We are proud to be among the businesses who support and reinvest in our communities," said Bill Lawton, Community Financial president and CEO. "Without the tremendous work they do, our communities would not be as strong as they are today."

The Northville Community Foundation received a \$5,000 gift while the Novi and Northville education foundations along with Love, INC received \$2,500 each. Each of the food pantries received \$750 donations. Community Financial announced it would be donating \$50,000 during its Season of Giving program, from Dec. 5-23, to support non-profit organizations in areas the credit union serves - Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Gaylor, Hillman and Lewiston.

Groups receiving gifts so far include: the Plymouth Community Foundation; Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Educational Excellence Foundation; the Canton Community Foundation; Gaylor, Hillman, Atlanta, Jo-Berg and Lewiston schools; Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan; Osego County Community Foundation and food pantries in Canton, Hillman, Lewiston and Gaylor.

Schoolcraft hosting mother/daughter Micro-Lending workshop

Schoolcraft College (18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia) will host Micro-lending 101 from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11. Discover the ways that small loans make a big difference to entrepreneurs all over the world. Explore their unique businesses, and learn how Zonta International clubs support them.

Become an investor without spending any money of your own. Each participating mother/daughter team will choose a small business in a developing country to support with a small loan, and will learn about:

- strategies to make investment decisions,
- cultures around the globe and
- the economic impacts of micro-lending.

Register online at <http://zontanorthwestwayne.eventbrite.com>

"We have had the honor of Christy Hicks, our nominee and winner of the District 15 and International Jane Klausman Business scholarship, offer our club the opportunity to host the Mother/Daughter Micro-Lending Workshop," said Sally Randall, Zonta Club of NW Wayne County member. "It is free and is open to middle school and if room, high school girls, but spaces are limited."

"Micro lending is nothing new to Zonta," added Randall. "We have helped thousands of women worldwide to establish a business and in time, set up others with their profits. We feel this is a great way girls can learn to think of others less fortunate than they are and find the joy they receive in helping others."

Two Men for Tots



To bring Christmas cheer to youngsters spending their holidays in the hospital, the local Two Men and a Truck of Wixom donated a truck and delivery services to Toys for Tots in order to bring approximately 300 stuffed animals provided by IKEA to Providence Park Hospital in Novi. Pictured (from left) are Providence worker Rebecca Perelli Yarbrough; Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Marci Schultz; and Rochelle Igrain from Providence; Two Men and a Truck drivers Demonde Kemp and Roosevelt Jackson; Linda Daley from the Novi Chamber of Commerce; and Garry Jakiel of Two Men and a Truck.

MEDC support for entrepreneurs, innovation continues with grants

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) announced that the Michigan Strategic Fund is supporting entrepreneurs' efforts to launch and grow start-up companies throughout the state with funding for high-performance business incubators and accelerators in Michigan. Business incubators in Michigan represent support for thousands of jobs and more than a billion dollars in economic impact and are playing a critical role in diversifying the state's economy. The \$6 million in awards builds on the MEDC's work to spur growth of high potential technology companies by providing local and state-wide services.

"Early-stage companies require seed capital and access to a strong network of public and private resources," said MEDC President and CEO Michael A. Finney. "We are confident that with the funding of these organizations and the types of services they will provide, we will continue to accelerate the growth of innovative technology start-ups in Michigan."

In October, the MEDC issued a Request for Proposals for grants of up to \$2 million. Of the 23 proposals that were submitted, 12 were chosen for grants.

In order to be considered for a grant, applicants were required to submit a comprehensive business plan for delivering entrepreneurial services to start-up businesses, such as marketing assistance, legal services, and training. Applicants were required to develop a dashboard of indicators to measure the effectiveness of the business incubator and accelerator programs that also ties to the state's strategic goals.

In June 2011, the Michigan Legislature mandated that a portion of the funds appropriated to the Michigan Strategic Fund for innovation and entrepreneurship be used for business incubators and accelerators located in the following governmental units: Houghton County, Kent County, Macomb County, Oakland County, Washtenaw County, a city with a population greater than 650,000, and a Midland County satellite site of an incubator located in Isabella County.

The MSF also considered proposals from entities located in other governmental units provided that no governmental unit receives more than one award.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a public-private partnership serving as the state's marketing arm and lead agency for business, talent and jobs, focuses on helping grow Michigan's economy. For more on the MEDC and its initiatives, visit MichiganAdvantage.org.



Shown are (from left) Chris Struwe, Deidre Todd and Marcia Green with items collected by ABWA Novi Oaks.

Area businesswomen give back to community

In lieu of the traditional gift exchange, the members of the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) collected children's pajamas and storybooks for those in need. Longtime ABWA member and chapter vice president Chris Struwe contacted Deidre Todd, chapter president of the Pajama Program, about the chapter's desire to give back to the community during the holiday season.

Members brought in bags of pajamas, books and even stuffed animals and presented them to Todd who will oversee the distribution of the items to Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac.

"It's a great feeling to work together to make

a difference in someone's life," remarked Holly Hengstebeck, chapter secretary. "We collected 55 new pairs of pajamas, 39 brand new storybooks, and even some stuffed animals. We are so pleased to partner with the Pajama Program to provide a better bedtime for children in need" said Marcia Green, chapter president.

In addition to small community projects, the chapter raises funds for area scholarships as well. "We provide over \$3,500 annually to scholarships such as the Betty Archer Johnson scholarship and the Steven Bufon Memorial Education fund, as well as outright grants and other educational opportunities for area women" said Struwe.

The mission of the American Business Women's Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi. Networking begins at 6:15 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:45 with a presentation shortly after. New members and guests are welcome; contact president@abwanovi.org for more information or visit www.abwa-novi.org.

Novi events

EASY, FUN & HEALTHY COOKING FOR 1 OR 2

Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10

Location: Providence Park Hospital Conference Room A

Details: Free lecture on tips and tricks to make your mealtime simpler. Be prepared to go home with recipes, ideas and knowledge you can start using immediately. Blood pressure screening will be available. Presenter is Emily Schwartz, registered dietitian.

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; seating is limited to the first 250 attendees, and checks, payable to City of Novi,

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@hometownlife.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Novi Health Market Facebook page.

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 CO-OP PRESCHOOL OPENHOUSE
 Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday Jan. 28

Location: 41671 West Ten Mile Road (in the Novi Methodist Church) Novi

Details: A play-based kindergarten readiness program for 2 to 5 year olds. Bring your family and meet teachers, talk to some of the parents and explore the classroom.

Contact: For more information, visit www.novipreschool.com or call (248) 349-3223.

AUTHOR JULIA HARVEY SEMINAR

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19

Location: Better Health Novi, 42875 Grand River, east of Novi Road

Details: Julia Harvey, a diet "survivor" who battled morbid obesity and weighed in at more than 300 pounds, is the best selling author

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Handicap access improvements coming to civic center

The City of Novi is looking to make some changes to the parking at the Novi Civic Center in an effort to improve handicap access.

Starting this year, handicap access will no longer be used as a programmable area during events at the civic center, and the parks, recreation and cultural services department also is requesting temporary handicap signage that will allow them to provide additional parking spaces during times of high usage by seniors. Some of those times include during the senior show and large senior programs such as bridge.

Pathway project gets award

It wasn't without controversy, but the Nine Mile Pathway Project has turned out to be a success.

The project, which was met with opposition by nearby residents when it was initially presented as a federally funded 10-foot wide pathway, was selected as the American Public Works Association/Metro Detroit Branch "Project of the Year" for transportation projects with a constructed value under \$5 million. The end result was a six-foot wide pathway on Nine Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads that residents were much more in favor of.

The project also will be in the running for Project of the Year recognition by the Michigan Chapter of APWA. State level awards should be announced by the end of January.

City gets more liquor licenses

Thanks to an increase in population during the 2010 census, the city of Novi will be getting additional liquor licenses this year from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

With a population of 55,224, the city has received two additional quota licenses for a total of four. The process to obtain a quota license from the City depends highly upon Section 3-15 "Applications for new license" under the Alcoholic Liquor chapter of the Code of Ordinances. The application process is similar to a liquor license transfer.

Committed to a healthy new year?

Did you overindulge this holiday season? You're not alone and the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department offers a variety of classes to help you commit to a healthy new year. Perennial favorites such as Zumba, Zumba Gold, Basic Yoga, Power Vinyasa Yoga, Stretch and Strength, and Balance Training have sessions beginning in January. New classes including Fitness Kickboxing and Target Toning have been added this year to create a comprehensive fitness program. Classes are offered both day and evening and many take place in newly renovated fitness rooms at the Novi Civic Center.

Fitness classes not your thing? Try Martial Arts for Everyone or Biggest (Weight) Loser - Novi Style. Classes begin the week of Jan. 9.

For detailed class information and to register, visit cityofnovi.org and click on the Engage! link, or contact the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department at (248) 347-0400.

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. Clients may select the location, date and time of appointment. Online registration also provides a consent form that must be taken to the clinic where the client is pre-enrolled. Online payment options include Visa, Mastercard, Medicare and/or Medicaid. If you are unable to register online, please call (248) 858-7350 or (248) 424-7120.

Donate 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.org.

Call 1-866-448-3487 or log onto <http://www.cars4charities.org/>.



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OUR VIEWS

County lines GOP hacks orchestrate power grab

Sadly, Gov. Rick Snyder didn't have the gumption to stand up to his party hacks who have orchestrated an unconscionably naked power grab. When push comes to shove, Republicans have essentially no respect for democracy.

At the end of the day, their motto is: Hey, we won the election, we can do anything we darn well please. Perhaps that attitude shouldn't be all that surprising from state lawmakers. When they put politics ahead of good government, they are likely doing the best they can.

We expected far more from Snyder, the businessman who was going to take politics out of the business of getting Michigan government back in shape. When pressed, though, Snyder chose to eschew his responsibility to Michigan citizens in favor of kowtowing to the Republican majority.

At issue is a situation that will likely have major interest for the vast majority of Oakland County residents because it shows a disturbing disregard for the democratic process.

It involves Oakland County, where a committee drew districts for the county commission following the 2010 census. The decision was made by a five-person committee — the county prosecutor, the county treasurer, the county clerk and the chairs of the county's Democratic and Republican parties.

This is exactly the way that the other 82 counties in Michigan draw these districts and it is the way that Oakland County has completed the task in the past.

The big difference this year is that, for the first time, Democrats controlled the five-person committee. So when they drew the districts, they did so in a legal way — it survived a court challenge — that favored Democrats more than it did Republicans.

But then something amazing and disgraceful happened. State lawmakers passed a law that took the reapportionment duties away from the committee and gave it to the Republican-dominated county board. This law affects Oakland County and only Oakland County.

This stinker of a law sailed through the House and Senate, with our local Lansing leaders voting as follows:

YES: state Rep. Hugh Crawford, R, 38th District; state Sen. Mike Kowall, R, 15th District; and state Rep. Kurt Heise, R, 20th District.

NO: state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R, 7th District.

Then Gov. Snyder signed it, proving he can be as politically craven as the best — or worst — of them.

His rejection of anything approaching principled government left his press spokesperson issuing a ridiculous press statement that justified the law because it "brings greater transparency to the process."

Oh, really? That's ridiculous on the face. But if the governor's office pretends that's the case, then the only logical conclusion is that the governor believes there is a transparency problem in the state's other 82 counties.

Lawmakers insult our intelligence by saying this is a cost-saving measure because it will reduce the commissioners from 25 to 21. Since Oakland County isn't financially failing, it's up to that county's elected officials to make that decision.

While 25 commissioners seems a lot, it must be remembered Oakland County has 1.2 million people, or about 48,000 people for each commissioner. But, apparently, you just can't have too many Republicans.

COMMUNITY VOICE

The holiday shopping season's over — how'd you do with your gift budget?



"I went way over (but don't tell my husband)."
Andrea Kitchen
Northville



"I definitely went over. I didn't have a lot of restraint, but it was fun."
Al MacDonald
Northville



"I stayed right on budget. It was easy as we only had three people around here to shop for."
Ingrid Kasley
Northville



"We did not have a budget — or at least my wife didn't, as our daughter just had twins."
Ron Stevens
Bonita Springs, Fla.

LETTERS

Republican rule

Where is the outrage? Where are all the screams of Big Brother takeover, crony capitalism and legislation for special interest? If we currently had a Democrat majority running our state the screams would be deafening. But with Republican domination it appears to be just a whimper of objection as they over run the people's choices. What are some of these Republican overruns?

Oakland County Republicans fearing losing control of the county commission (after a court challenge failed) went to state legislators to change the rules after the fact. In 2008, two Democrats were voted into countywide positions. Because of this voter choice, the committee charged with redrawing county commission districts became majority Democrat. With legislation applying to Oakland County alone, Gov. Snyder has signed these new rules into law. The rules were OK with Republicans in the majority.

Republican legislators are again trying to take away our catastrophic injury coverage, this time referring to the No Fault law. This was tried under the Engler Republican majority. It was challenged by the voters who said no to giving up the coverage. Under the change we could still buy it at higher cost with less coverage. (Legislation for special interest.)

A new bridge from Detroit to Canada. Our last governor (Granhall) and the Democrat-controlled State House passed a bill authorizing a new bridge to be built Downriver. The Republicans in the Senate (at the behest of the Ambassador bridge owner) refused to vote on the bill.

Our new governor (Republican), the Detroit auto companies and labor unions along with many other industries and unions on both sides of the border favor a new bridge. Canada has even said they will front Michigan's share of the money if the bridge is not built next to the Ambassador Bridge. Building a new bridge would mean thousands of construction jobs, increase in trade and travel traffic and thousands more spin-off jobs.

(Republican dominated Legislature bows to special interest.)

With Republican domination you get legislation for special interest, disregard of the people's will and crony capitalism. They have even passed legislation so one particular businessman could and will receive a tax abatement if he expands his business giving him an advantage that those he would be competing with will not receive.

This is not government of, by and for the people. This is Republican rule. All voters should refuse to accept this.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Sam Logan will be missed

Detroit, Michigan and America lost a man that stood tall with the passing of Sam Logan, the publisher of Michigan's largest African American weekly newspaper. Sam

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/Northville Record, 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.

was a fierce fighter for what is good and right.

His vision, spirit and integrity transcended politics, gender or race.

He was an accomplished journalist and business leader who nurtured the young and gave hell to politicians and business leaders who deserved it.

His lifelong commitment to serving Detroit and Detroiters will remain an inspiration for many generations to come. He was a trailblazer not only in journalism and business but also in human decency and kindness. He was a man of grace with a keen wit and a readiness to laugh and embrace life.

I am deeply saddened by his passing. Mr. Logan asked me to write for the Michigan Chronicle and it is an honor to be associated with the flagship newspaper he led.

I extend my sympathies to our community, his colleagues at the Chronicle and to his family during this time of sorrow.

Mr. Logan, you will be missed.

Tom Watkins
former state superintendent of schools and regular contributor to The Michigan Chronicle

Performance-based pay needed for teachers

My friends Pete and Emily speak eloquently and accurately from the teachers' perspective regarding the issues confronting teachers and public education in the U.S. today.

Their position also highlights the divide between education and those working in the private sector. The issues of compensation and benefits between teachers and nonteachers will forever exist as long as unions exist and provide a security blanket that professionals in fields where performance is the primary indicator for job retention do not enjoy.

Yes, the economy and the tax structure of today is placing unheard of pressure on our public school systems. Salary structures,

jobs and pensions are at risk, for everyone, not just teachers. This reality has been documented many times over in recent years. And yes, teachers have a tremendously difficult job in the classroom today for the reasons Pete and Emily mentioned. While industry personnel do not influence our youth as only teachers can do in the classroom, all professionals — white- and blue-collared workers — contribute daily to making our country what it is; they just don't do it in such a public spectrum as teaching. Most workers pursue daily tasks without the long-term satisfaction of having their work rewarded by former students or associates acknowledging who they were years afterwards.

Until there is general recognition that performance is the common denominator for salaries and benefits, whether it is teaching or corporate America, we will have a divide politically, economically and socially on what is the right way to compensate teachers and ultimately encouraging our youth to pursue a teaching career.

Roger Atchinson
Northville

Turf over janitors?

I find it interesting that we, as parents of Northville students, receive this e-mail for donations to the turf at the football stadium when Northville is laying off the custodians. As a Northville resident who lives a short walk from the football field, I am all for sporting improvements. However, it seems a little misguided when the custodians are losing their jobs. For the amount of money being put into new "fake" grass we could keep the custodians.

While I understand budget issues and the need for districts to save money I also understand that these are people with families to support. It just seems misguided. Merry Christmas, by the way.

Jim Kastely
Northville

Santa Depot kudos

This year on Dec. 10 Northville Civic Concern held their 23rd annual Santa Depot Party. Every year, kind-hearted members of our community adopt our families in need and provide them with Christmas gifts and essentials. Because of this, our Santa Depot Party was an overwhelming success.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Detroit First Church of the Nazarene for hosting our party this year and to all our loving shoppers and volunteers who gave of themselves with their time and monetary gifts. Blessings abounded as our community came together to share the Christmas Spirit.

It is because of each individual, organization, family, and business that Northville Civic Concern is able to continue serving those who are currently struggling in our community. Thank you and God bless you all for your help and generosity.

Marlene Kunz, director
Northville Civic Concern

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Waara & Krau

Jodi Waara, of Chicago, is engaged to John Krau, of Round Lake, Ill.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Larry and Janice Waara, of Novi. She is a graduate of Novi High School and Western Michigan University, and is employed by Kellogg.

The groom-elect is the son of Thomas and Marie Krau, of Byron, Ill. He is a graduate of McHenry East Campus High School and Milwaukee school of Engineering. He is employed by Northrop Grumman Corporation.

A July 21, 2012, wedding is planned in Wheaton, Ill.



Servinsky & Ketelhut

Mr. and Mrs. Garry Servinsky, of Northville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Marissa Lynn Servinsky, to Bryan James Ketelhut of Bloomfield Township, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of North Farmington High School and a graduate of Western Michigan University. The groom-elect is a graduate of West Bloomfield High School and a graduate of Pennsylvania State University.

An autumn wedding is scheduled for the couple that met by chance in Dallas, Texas, two years ago.

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Two receive Lawyer of the Year honor

Two attorneys in the Metro Detroit office of statewide law firm Varnum

L.P. were recognized with Lawyer of the Year status in their areas of practice in the U.S. News — Best Lawyers second annual survey of law firms in the United States.

Attorney Paul L. B. McKenney was recognized for Tax Litigation and Controversy, and Thomas H. Bergh was recognized in the area of Trusts and Estates Litigation.

The methodology for "Best Law Firms" involved surveying thousands of law firm clients, leading lawyers and law firm managers, partners and associates, and marketing officers and recruiting officers.

In addition to the individual recognition, the firm received 25 first tier rankings and 19 second tier rankings.



McKenney



Bergh



Hampton

Hampton earns Lawyer of the Year honor

Best Lawyers has named William P. Hampton as the "Detroit

Lawyer of the Year" for 2012. Hampton is the group chair for the Municipal Practice Group, which handles work for the City of Novi.

After more than a quarter of a century in publication, Best Lawyers is designating "Lawyers of the Year" in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities.

Hampton, a former Oakland County Circuit Court judge and state legislator, has been listed in "The Best Lawyers in America" since 1995 in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Family Law, Land Use and Zoning, Real Estate Law, and Municipal Law. He is currently serving as attorney for the cities of Bloomfield Hills and Auburn Hills and for the townships of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield.

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Art House presents Art Enrichment for ages 3 through mid-teens

"Art isn't a luxury. It's a necessity," renowned American painter Lyonel Feininger once said.

That may be so, but our current climate of belt-tightening means that today art education in elementary and high schools often gets the short end of the crayon. A decade ago, students typically enjoyed smaller art class sizes.

In addition, projects like ceramics, fiber arts, and copper on enamel work, as well as the use of supplies including archival quality paper and canvases and high-quality brushes were common.

Today, art class sizes are larger and students sometimes find themselves limited to lower-cost projects, and even painting on cardboard, as resourceful teachers struggle to stretch slim budgets.



Art instructor Julie Woodard shares painting pointers with her class at the Northville Art House.

However, Northville area students are fortunate. The Northville Art House launches its 2012 winter/spring art classes the week of Jan. 9.

The classes offer an array of art enrichment as instructors Julie Woodard and Patricia Witte present art classes for kids geared to the interests and abilities of various age groups. In the Tots Art Explora-

tion Class, the instructors will show children ages 3.5 - 5 how to transform paper, paint, clay and glue into colorful and attractive artistic expressions.

The Kids Painting Class — for children ages 9-12 — will enable students to explore various mediums such as watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and pastel, as well as techniques such as collage and print-

ing. And Creative Kids, a once-a-month class for 5- to 10-year-olds, will enhance students' creativity, art appreciation and self-expression with a mixture of art history and hands-on drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media projects, combined with tours of exhibits of professional artists on display in the Art House gallery.

Additional classes including drawing (ages 7 to 9), painting (ages 10 to 15), and potato painting (ages 9 to 13).

"The study and practice of art improves self-esteem. It involves planning and problem-solving skills, and improves observation, attention and coordination," notes Woodard who also has a master's degree in clinical psychology. "It's not just pushing buttons on a computer or video game and having something done for you. Whether one becomes an artist or not, the skills art develops are so important and enrich our lives. And art is a wonderful hobby just to have for relaxation and stress relief too."

Woodard notes that in addition to having kids learn art and materials and how to use them, she views her role as being "to encourage confidence and a positive attitude, since those attributes will help kids succeed in anything they do. That is what I see as the most important in the job that I do."

"Every class is different and unique," Woodard says, "and I love the enthusiasm that the kids bring, and their approach to creating art." Class sizes are usually small, allowing for individual attention. The fee for children's classes vary from \$20 to \$60. Art House members receive a discount. For an online pdf list of upcoming classes, prices, and information on how to enroll, visit the City of Northville's Website at <http://ci.northville.mi.us/>, click on the "Art House" tab, then select the "Art Classes and Workshops" link.

In addition to classes for children, the Art House also offers one-day workshops and ongoing adult art enrichment classes, ranging from Developing Drawing Skills to jewelry making, and from watercolor and acrylic painting to calligraphy.

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Getting relaxed



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Luna Lopez, 3, jumps for joy (above) at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall on Dec. 16 during a Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital-sponsored "relaxation station" seminar. Participants got to witness a healthy cooking segment and join in on some yoga — which is what Luna's doing here. A pretty active form of yoga for kids. Henry Ford Hospital employees Ashley Gwisdala and Lisa DeBastas, right (below), demonstrate some healthy holiday season baking tips.



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County road commission preparing for winter

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is reviewing winter plowing and salting procedures with its truck drivers, preparing its trucks for winter and getting snow plows ready — all in anticipation of the inevitable arrival shortly of the first winter weather.

Despite RCOC's detailed preparations, however, the agency warns motorists to be extra careful while navigating the roads this winter. That's because budget cuts in recent years have left the Road Commission with fewer employees to drive and maintain an aging fleet of snow plows/salt trucks.

"This winter, we continue to have about 50 fewer employees to drive snowplows/salt trucks than we had in 2007," stated RCOC Board Chairman Eric Wilson. "That is more than one quarter fewer drivers than four years ago."

RCOC typically puts 106 snowplows/salt trucks on the road to battle a major snow or ice storm. The initial drivers can stay on the road for up to 16 hours before they must rest, according to RCOC rules.

In the past, RCOC was able to replace the initial 106 drivers with up to 84 drivers for a second 16-hour shift to continue fighting the storm or to clean up after the storm. For the second year, this year the agency will have less than 40 drivers available for the second shift.

"That's a substantial reduction in our ability to fight a prolonged storm, or even a series of small storms, or to

FACT SHEET 2011-12

Below are some facts and figures related to winter road maintenance in Oakland County.

- Salt trucks and snowplows typically travel more slowly than other traffic. RCOC urges drivers to use caution around the orange trucks and allow them enough room to safely do their jobs: "Don't crowd the plow."
- RCOC uses an average of 83,000 tons of salt per winter.
- RCOC salt trucks are kept at six garages located throughout the county. Salt is kept in salt storage facilities at each of those garages.

- RCOC does not anticipate any problems getting salt this year, based on assurances from its salt vendor.
- RCOC divides all the miles of paved primary roadway it maintains (including county roads and state highways) into 106 salt "routes."

- In all, RCOC has jurisdiction over 2,700-plus miles of county roads (including subdivision and gravel roads).
- RCOC also maintains 230 miles of mostly multi-lane state highways on behalf of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). This includes I-75, I-696, I-96, M-59, Telegraph Road and Woodward Ave., among others. These 230 miles of mainly freeway roads are the equivalent of over 1,500 miles of one-lane pavement.

- RCOC expects to spend approximately \$12 million on winter road maintenance this year alone, including approximately \$4.4 million to maintain the state highways for MDOT.
- RCOC expects to spend approximately \$4 million this winter on salt alone (cost per ton = \$46.51).

- RCOC standards call for approximately 400 pounds of salt to be applied to each two-lane mile of pavement.
- Most RCOC salt trucks are equipped with computerized salting mechanisms that automatically adjust the amount of salt spread based on the vehicle's speed. The salt spreaders also include "pre-wetting" devices that spray salt brine on the salt as it is being spread, so that it begins working more quickly. These technologies also allow RCOC to conserve salt.

- A single "salt run" for a truck typically uses about 6 tons of salt.
- At temperatures below 20 degrees, salt begins to lose its effectiveness. At 10 degrees, it does virtually nothing.

clean up after a storm," explained RCOC Vice Chairman Greg Jamian. He explained the reduction in staff is a direct result of declining state road funding for RCOC. "Our primary source of operating funds — the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees — fell for the last five years in a row," noted RCOC Board

member Ron Fowkes. "Those five years of decline follow nearly 10 years of virtually flat revenues. We'll receive less funding in the current fiscal year than we received in 2000."

As a result, RCOC has been making cuts and finding ways to operate more efficiently for years. It is now at the

point where the only way to achieve the level of savings needed to balance the budget is to reduce staff. So far, RCOC has been able to avoid layoffs, simply not replacing employees as they leave or retire. The agency currently has 122 fewer employees than in 2007.

In addition, RCOC has had to defer the needed replacement of its aging fleet of snowplows/salt trucks, meaning many will be out of service for more frequently this winter.

"We are not happy about this situation," Chairman Wilson stated. "Safety is RCOC's number-one priority, and it pains us greatly to have to reduce the level of service we can provide."

Jamian pointed out that as a result of these changes, motorists must, more than ever, be vigilant when driving during or immediately after winter storms. "Because of the reduced level of service we will be able to provide this winter, it's critical that motorists be aware of the road conditions and drive appropriately for those conditions. We simply can't salt or plow the roads as have in the past."

Additionally, it may take RCOC snowplows/salt trucks longer to get into subdivisions following snow storms this year due to the reduced number of drivers. "Safety dictates that we focus our reduced resources on the roads that carry the most traffic at the highest speeds," Fowkes said. "Only when those are sufficiently clear will we move to the slower, less-traveled subdivision streets."

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

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

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Northville boys take second in holiday tournament



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mustang Stewart Henzi.

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs boys basketball team will be back in action when they host Salem tomorrow before hosting Livonia Stevenson Tuesday and visiting Novi a week from tomorrow. All games have a 7 p.m. tip off.

Cagers can't top undefeated Milford squad

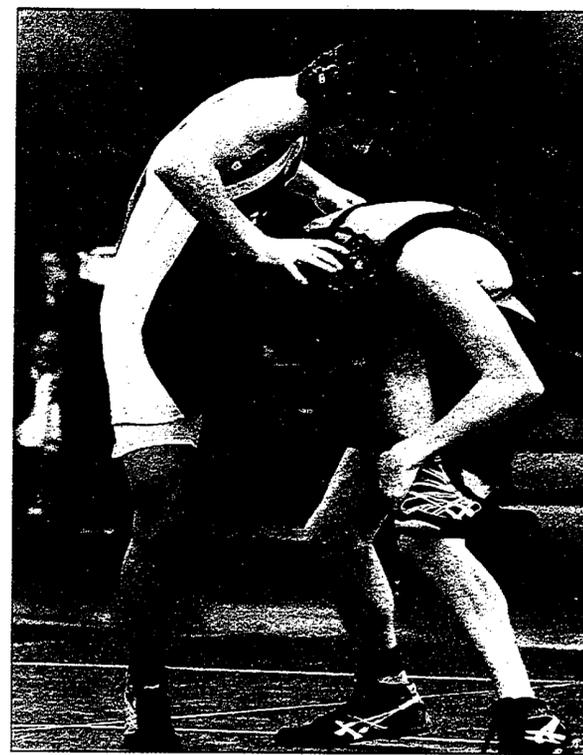
By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

You win some. You lose some. The important thing is that you learn from both experiences. The Northville Mustangs boys basketball team took away plenty of experience and some tough lessons when they played in their own Holiday Tournament last week. The squad split their games, beating Birmingham Groves in the opener and falling to an undefeated Milford squad in the title tilt.

"I was proud of the fight we displayed down the stretch," said Northville coach Todd Sander of the Milford game. "Guys showed some guts."

In the end, Milford prevailed convincingly, winning with a 49-34 final. Right from the start, Northville looked like a team trying to find its

Please see BOYS, B3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Evan Davis wrestles a North Farmington player on Dec. 14.

Mustangs win holiday tournament

Girls cagers topple Harrison for title

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Alex Moynes sure knows how to end a year with a bang. The senior girls cage standout put up 26 points in last week's victory over Farmington Hills Harrison, leading her team to the Northville Holiday Tournament championship. Northville won the title with a 36-34 final in double overtime.

"It was a defensive battle," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "No team got a lot of easy opportunities. This was a quality win. We haven't been in a tight game down the stretch this season up to this point so it was nice to see our girls battle through the ups and downs of a close game and pull it out." The victory was a reversal of last year's final, when Northville fell to Harrison in double overtime.

"Pretty strange that both years it went to double overtime and the winner won by two," Gudith said. "Winning the tournament was one of our goals. Hopefully this is a springboard to even better things as we start up division play." The Mustangs started the game with an 11-7 lead in the first quar-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mustang Alex Moynes tries to complete a shot after getting fouled by a Skyline High player on Dec. 28.

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs girls basketball team won't have much of a break as they get back on the hardwood tomorrow when they visit Salem at 7 p.m. before hosting Livonia Stevenson on Tuesday and Novi next Thursday. Both games have a 7 p.m. start time.

ter, but the Harrison squad buckled down in the second and held Northville to just three points

Please see GIRLS, B4

Wildcat grapplers pin down winning record

Novi wrestlers battle with ranked competition at Seasons Beatings

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

With a string of victories, Novi's wrestlers finished off 2011 with a strong showing. The Wildcats piled up six victories, one loss and a solid performance at the county meet to finish the year.

Please see WILDCATS, B3

ON TAP

Novi's grapplers (5-1) were scheduled to visit Wayne Memorial last night for a tri-meet with Wayne and Westland John Glenn before heading to Brighton 9:30 a.m. Saturday for the annual Manning Vieau Invitational. The 'Cats then host Plymouth Salem and South Lyon East 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Catholic Central wins Medina Invitational

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team doesn't back down from a challenge—in fact, the squad goes out of its way to find them.

Take, for example, the recent trek down to Medina, Ohio, to take on a field of 38 teams. The Medina Invitational Tournament, often considered one of

the toughest tournaments hosted in Ohio, including such teams as Massillon Perry, ranked 27th in the nation.

But, in the end, the true challenge was for any team to figure out how to best the Shamrocks, a feat that was not accomplished in Medina as the Catholic Central grapplers became the first out-of-state school to

ON TAP

The Shamrocks will be back on the mat when they host the CC Invitational Saturday starting at 9 a.m. before wrestling in the CC Super Duals a week later.

Please see CC, B3

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Lakeland's Zuk tops Division 1 field

By Jeff Theisen
Sports writer

Lakeland senior Garrett Zuk runner had one goal in mind at the State Finals for his senior year - win his last race in high school.

Zuk did just that by besting the Division 1 field in a time of 15:21.2.

He finished second at regionals, the conference meet, the Oxford Invite and at the Jackson Invite. He was third at Oakland County and at the Nike/Holy Invite.

"Garret has been a tremendous part of our program the last four years," said coach Joe Verellen. "His efforts are perfectly matched by his accomplishments."

FIRST TEAM

Brian Kettle
The Milford sophomore was Zuk's main competition throughout the year, with Kettle getting the upperhand more than once, including at regionals with a first-place finish for Kettle in a scorching 15:25. Kettle went on to place second at the State Finals in an even faster 15:24 to propel the Mavs to a State Championship. Kettle also won the Lakes Conference title, was runner-up at Oakland County and is the sophomore record holder at Milford.

"In Brian you have a runner with poise, confidence and a burning competitive desire," said coach Brian Salyers. "He loves to compete. This season allowed him the opportunity to grow into one of the state's best runners, something that fueled our State Champi-



Northville Mustang cross country runner Edward Clifton.

onship run."

Cody Snavely, Milford
The Milford junior was another top force for the Mavs, finishing fifth at the State Finals, third at regionals and an Oakland County invite title. He earned All-State, regional medalist and First Team Lakes Conference honors along the way. He had a top time of 15:31 on the year.

"He is driven, consistent and committed to excellence," said Salyers. "Cody sets the tone for practice, workouts and races with his all business attitude and old school work ethic. Cody provided the team presence essential to bring Brian and Paul to the forefront of the racing scene."

Paul Ausum, Milford

The lone senior in Milford's top five at the State Finals also earned All-State honors in 13th (15:51). He was a regional medalist, was 2nd Team All-Conference and qualified to represent Team Michigan at the Mid-east Cross Country Championships.

"Paul is the Heart of our team," said Salyers. "He is passionate about his sport, the program and his teammates. Paul is a tireless worker filled with dedication and determination. Watching a senior realize his potential as a runner and lead his team to the podium is one of the coolest things I have experienced as a coach."

Dan Sims, Northville
The Mustang sophomore claimed 11th at the State Finals (15:48.9) to claim All-State honors. He turned in a top time of 15:41 at Huron Meadows. Sims finished second at the MSU invite, third at the Wayne County Championships, finished sixth at regionals and won the KLAAs Kensington Conference title.

"From beginning to end, one could argue that Dan has had perhaps the best season of any runner in last 35 years for Northville cross country," said coach Chris Cronin. "Dan combines great talent with a ferocious competitive spirit. You might beat Dan once or even twice, but his ability to adapt from race to race sets him apart from other runners."

Scott Neff, Lakeland
The Lakeland senior joined Zuk in All-State status by finishing 27th in 15:59 at the State Finals.

ALL-AREA BOYS XC

RUNNER OF THE YEAR

Garrett Zuk, Lakeland
Brian Kettle, Milford
Cody Snavely, Milford
Paul Ausum, Milford
Dan Sims, Northville
Scott Neff, Lakeland

SECOND TEAM

Nick Noles, Northville
The Mustang freshman blitzed a path to All-State status with a 29th-place finish at the State Finals (16:01). He had a season-best time of 15:57 at Huron Meadows. Noles was fourth at the KLAAs Conference meet and 13th at regionals.

HONORABLE MENTION

South Lyon — Mark Cogo, Mike Brodowicz, Andrew Thomas
South Lyon East — Ian Juntunen
Lakeland — Ryan Carrigan
Novi — Ryan Tgiros, Brian Barnes, Ben Jenkins, Eric Gardner, Kevin Hanlon, Dan Lee, Cameron Richman, Mike Benkarski, Allen Potter, Tim MacPherson, John Potter
Northville — Jason Lerner, Jason Ferrante, Matt Sierra, Neson Nesmith, Sean McCullough
Milford — Matt Graves, Steven Sloboda, Shawn Welch

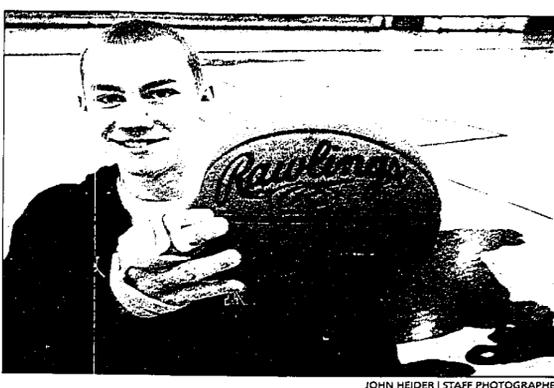
has become legendary at Lakeland when he ran over 2.5 miles in our dual meet against Mott at Hess Hathaway with only one shoe."

Edward Clifton, Northville
The senior Northville runner finished 52nd at the State Finals in 16:18. Clifton had a top time of 15:54 at Huron Meadows where he placed 11th at regionals. Other highlights included a third-place finish at the South Lyon Invite, sixth at the Bath invite, fourth at the MSU invite, and third at the KLAAs Conference meet.

Chris Housel, Milford
The Milford junior finished 75th (16:27) at the State Finals for the champion Mavs. He had a top time of 16:07.

Nicholas Lanzetta, Catholic Central
The Catholic Central junior just missed qualifying for All-State honors by placing 32nd at the State Finals (16:02). The top 30 earn All-State.

John Heider | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Although he broke his hand in practice and has yet to play in a game this winter, Mustang Jeff Gertley will be a contributor to the team as it makes its way through their schedule.

A new point of view

Gertley won't let injury stop him from helping Mustangs

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It's an odd sight to see Northville senior Jeff Gertley directing the Mustangs basketball team from anywhere other than his normal point guard position.

But Gertley has been sidelined since just before Thanksgiving due to a broken finger that required surgery to repair. But he hasn't let that slow him down - at least not when it comes to helping the Northville Mustangs strive to succeed on the court this season.

Gertley can be found at each and every practice, helping the point guards who are temporarily filling his shoes learn the ins and outs of the game.

Gertley was suddenly thrust into the role of coach and sideline support after having his finger hyper-extended during practice just prior to Thanksgiving when it was accidentally caught up in a teammate's jersey. The injury required surgery to repair, and Gertley isn't expected to be back on the court until, at the earliest, January 6, when the Mustangs play Salem.

Coaching a role that Gertley, a standout athlete in several sports, hadn't experienced until his injury put him on the

sidelines.

"I have always loved our coaching staff," Gertley said. "To coach a team you always have to be focused. When you are a coach you can never have mental lapses and it is your job to keep the team focused. My time on the side lines has given me a greater appreciation for all my coaches."

It's been difficult for Gertley to watch the game from the bench, but he knows he still has a responsibility to the team.

"Even though I am injured, I know I have to still be a leader," he said. "I try to push my teammates to get better every day in practice."

Northville coach Todd Sander said Gertley has been key in helping replacement point guards Jeff Hewlett and Alec Lasley improve each week as they learn to run the offense.

One aspect of the game that Gertley is now realizing his coaches go through from time to time is watching, powerless to do anything, as a game goes right down to the last second.

Gertley experienced that feeling first hand when the Mustangs played Walled Lake Western recently - his team wasn't able to secure the victory until the final moments when

Hewlett hit two clutch free throws to win the game by one point.

"Watching that Walled Lake Central game gave me a heart attack," said Gertley. "I was going crazy on the bench the whole game. You could say I was crawling out of my skin - I wanted to be on that court."

And while Hewlett's shot went home, no one was more excited for his teammate than Gertley. "As the game ended and we won, Gertley (seated near the end of the bench) was one of the first guys to race off the bench and meet Hewlett at half court for a terrific 'chest bump,'" noted Sander.

And while Gertley admits he was on pins and needles, wanting nothing more than to go out and try to help his team win the game, he had the utmost confidence in his teammate and friend.

"I've been best friends with Jeff my whole life and I knew he had it in him, even under all that pressure," Gertley said.

Despite that confidence in his team and their ability to win without him, Gertley is ready to get back to the court and shoulder the pressure of being the team's starting point guard once again.

While many people are reflecting on 2011 as the year comes to a close, Gertley is focused firmly on the days ahead - January 6 cannot get here soon enough for him.

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

BOYS

Continued from page B1

rhythm. The squad netted just two points in the first quarter while holding the Mavericks to nine. By the end of the half, the Milford cagers were leading, 21-10.

"We need to play with more energy early," said Sander.

Northville didn't have as many troubles in the second half, despite trailing by 17 points at one point in the third stanza. By the start of the fourth quarter, they had cut the Milford lead to 11 points, 31-20, and then down to just five with about 4:45 left on the clock.

The squad couldn't make the best of their run, however, and ended up faltering in the final minutes as the Mavericks continued to grind out points to secure the victory.

Northville wasn't without its highlights, however. Brett MacDonald scored 19 points in the contest, including four three-point field goals—two of which

came in the fourth quarter. The mark is MacDonald's career high.

"Mac continues to get better and better," said Sander. "He was active and assertive all night on both ends of the floor."

Jake Hanson scored five points for the Mustangs, coming off the bench.

Northville 50, Birmingham Groves 39

The Mustangs started the tournament off with a big win over the Birmingham Groves Falcons despite a slow start that found them trailing in the opening minutes of the game, 4-0.

Northville was led by Steward Henzi and Nick Raad to get their game back on track, eventually firing it up on all cylinders to take a 14-9 lead by the end of the first quarter before extending the advantage to 24-16 by the end of the half. Henzi went 4-for-4 from the floor in the second and MacDonald poured in several

buckets to keep the Northville offense chugging.

"Stew was awesome tonight," said Sander. "He was very active, and did a nice job playing smart to stay in the game. Nick gave us a nice offensive spark, and did a nice job of attacking."

In the second half, it was smooth sailing as Northville's lead was never in jeopardy. By the end of the third, they led 37-22. The Falcons did employ a full-court press that caused some Northville confusion in the fourth quarter, but the Mustangs' lead was significant enough that they held on for the victory despite being outscored, 17-13, in the final quarter.

Northville was led by Henzi, who poured in 16 points in the victory, while MacDonald added 14. Raad had nine and Jeff Hewlett and Andrew Meacham notched four points apiece.

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

CC

Continued from page B1

win the tournament in the history of the event.

"Our guys should feel good about the way we competed," said coach Mitch Hancock. "We circled this day on our calendar as a test, and we passed that test this weekend."

The Shamrocks took home four individual titles and scored 256.5 team points to win the tournament. Massillon Perry scored 202 points for second place.

"Our guys have a lot of pride and they believe they're one of the best teams in the country," said Hancock.

The Shamrocks earned huge victories from tournament champions Ken Eade, Alex Mooradian, Drew Garcia and Kevin Beazley while Malik Amine finished second and Evan Toth took a fourth. Taking fifth was Bob Coe while Logan Marcicki and Myles Amine both took sixth in their respective weight classes.

Mooradian continued his march toward a historic season as he defeated Jake Faust of Lexington—the 14th-ranked wrestler in the country in the 145-pound weight class—in triple overtime.

The victory marked the second time the Shamrocks have ever won the Medina Invitational, with the first title coming in 1988.

Hancock said his team cannot rest in its hunt for being the top team in Michigan, however.

"We have a tough January schedule so we have to put this behind us (prepare diligently for what lays ahead)," he said.

The Shamrocks' White Team also competed last week, taking fifth in the Goodrich Tournament of Champions.

Leading the team was Riley Hanson, who won the tournament title at 140 pounds with a victory over an opponent from Springfield in the finals.

Andrew Thompson also had a strong day, finishing third, while Zack Colone finished fourth. Casey Fagan and Mike Babicz took fifth. Chris Nautbert took seventh and Alex Goings, Parker O'Brien and Josh Carolin took eighth.

Milford's Barrett runs to the top

By Jeff Theisen
Sports writer

Milford runner Rachel Barrett backed up an All-State performance as a freshman with another as a sophomore.

Barrett hit the tape in 15th place at the State Finals with a time of 18:30.

"In Rachel you have a young and gifted runner who is learning the intricacies of distance running," said coach Brian Salyers. "With two solid years under her belt she has all the tools to continue to rewrite the Milford record books throughout her career. All season long she provides our team with a front running presence yielding low tickets in every meet."

Barrett earned several honors throughout the year, including All-State Academic All-State, First Team All-Conference, Regional runner-up and an Oakland County medalist.

FIRST TEAM

Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland
The Lakeland senior was next across the line for the local All-Area runners at the Division 1 State Finals in 26th place to earn All-State status. She was first at the Flint Carmen Ainsworth invite, second at the Jackson Invite, third at the Brother Rice/West Bloomfield invite and fourth at the KLAAs Lakes Conference meet and sixth at the regional meet.

ALL-AREA GIRLS XC

RUNNER OF THE YEAR

Rachel Barrett, Milford
FIRST TEAM
Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland
Jackie Mullins, Novi
Rachel Coleman, Northville

SECOND TEAM

Taleen Shahrigian, Northville
Gina McNamara, Northville
Alison Robinson, Northville
Kerri McMahan, Novi
Christina Swain, South Lyon

HONORABLE MENTION

Northville — Nicole Mosteller, Claire Courtney, Alex Rodriguez, Becky Chase
Novi — Hannah Lonergan
East — Erin O'Donnel, Courtney Collins, Sylvia Domancic
South Lyon — Madison Swaitowski, Caitlin Mills, Maggie Sadler, Katie Beaber, Meghan Shelton, Meghan Burke

Milford — Madison Paquette, Lina Erlingis
Lakeland — Sara MacDonald, Nicole Clover

She has been Lakeland's MVP two years running.

Jackie Mullins, Novi
The Novi junior qualified for the State Finals and just missed out on making All-State, finishing in 37th (19:00.7).

She was the KLAAs Conference champion and earned All-Region and All-County honors. She was also a captain for the Wildcats.

"Hands down the number one runner for our program this year," said coach Marsha Reid.

Rachel Coleman, Northville
Despite being a sophomore, she was the leader for the state-qualifying Northville Mustangs. She was first in for the Mustangs at state in 57th place (19:14), helping the Mustangs to eighth place as a team. She earned All-Conference, All-Wayne County and All-Region honors. Coleman helped the Mustang reach the State Finals with a seventh-place finish at regionals (18:42.4).

"She finished in the top 2 spots at every dual meet this season," said coach Nancy Smith. "She is very talented and I think she still has not seen her true potential as a runner."

Erin Zimmer, Northville
The Mustang sophomore finished shortly after Coleman at the State Finals, claiming 65th place (19:18.9). She earned All-Conference and All-Wayne County honors.

"Erin again had another great year running a career best time of 18:56 at regionals (17th place)," said Smith. "Dedicated and hard-working day in and day out, always striving to get better."

Erin Dunne, Northville
Dunne ran a career-best



Northville Mustang cross country runner Gina McNamara.

18:53 at regionals to claim 15th place in helping the Mustangs advance to the State Finals. She placed 77th at Michigan International Speedway in 19:28. She earned All-Conference and All-Region honors.

"Erin had an unbelievable junior year and stepped up when we needed her most," said Smith.

SECOND TEAM

Taleen Shahrigian, Northville
The sophomore Mustang ran through knee issues, finishing the year by claiming 84th at the

State Finals. She also finished 13th at regionals with a career-best time of 18:48. She earned All-Conference, All-Wayne County and All-Region honors.

Gina McNamara, Northville
The lone senior on Northville's team to finish eighth at state helped the Mustangs get there with a 14th-place finish at regionals (18:51). She went on to finish 151st at state. She earned All-Conference, All-Wayne County and All-Region honors as well as competing at state for the third time.

Christina Swain, South Lyon

The sophomore finished third for the Mustangs at state in 68th (19:23). She also finished 18th at regionals in 19:04. She earned All-Conference and All-Wayne County honors.

Kerri McMahan, Novi
The Novi sophomore ran 18:43.9 to finish ninth at regionals to punch a ticket to the State Finals. She finished 110th at state. McMahan earned All-County, All-Conference and All-Region honors.

Christina Swain, South Lyon
South Lyon's top runner ran 19:30 at the KLAAs Conference meet and a 19:33 at regionals to place 27th. Swain won three dual meets, won the MVP award and was the leading point-scorer for the Lions.

John Heider | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PeeWee Warriors win Team of the Week

The results are in and Play It Again Sports has its new winner for the Play It Again Sports Hockey Team of the Week contest. The

Suburban PeeWee Warriors from the Suburban Ice Rink in Farmington racked up the most votes and will now get to celebrate their win at their local Play It Again Sports store in Novi.

NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

The Play It Again Sports Hockey Team of the Week Contest will continue through mid-December. Hockey players, coaches and parents can nominate their teams at www.pisteamoftheweek.com.

Teams only need to be nominated once. Team voting starts fresh every week, so teams are encouraged to vote often.

Now that the Warriors have won, the team will now be entered

into a drawing for a grand prize—a chance to win tickets for the entire team to attend the CCHA College Hockey Championships taking place March 17 at Joe Louis Arena.

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

South Lyon's Reinig slams home top honors

By Jeff Theisen Sports Writer

In a ridiculously talented field of volleyball players from the area, South Lyons' Chloe Reinig stood out above the rest, figuratively and literally.

Reinig, a 6-3 outside hitter for South Lyon, earned First Team All-State honors for Class A after posting an amazing 653 kills, 58 aces and 56 blocks. She is far from just a front-row player though, posting 226 digs on defense.

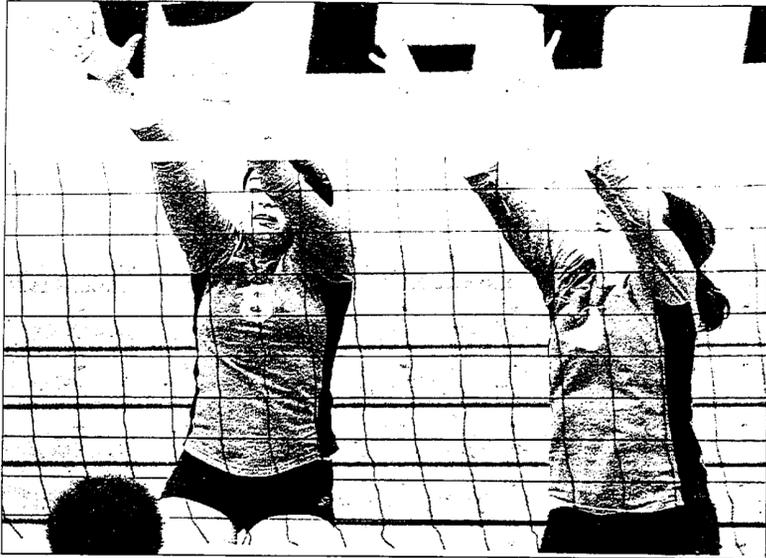
The junior earned First Team All-Conference and All-Region on honors along the way. "Chloe is probably one of the most, if not the most dominating hitters in the state," said coach Mindy Collins. "Teams that play us plan their game around how to stop Chloe. When Chloe has a good set, she can put it away anywhere on the court. When the game is on the line, our game plan is get the ball to Chloe."

"She also became one of our primary passers and defenders this year, which is great in that we can use her offensively from the back row as well. She was second on our team in digs and set a school record for kills in a season with 653."

Despite being a junior, Reinig has verbally committed to playing at Michigan State. "Katie is probably one of the most dominating outside hitters we have seen all year," said coach Ginetra Parsley. "She has consistently been able to terminate plays with big and dynamic attacks."

"Katie could certainly have a lot more kills on another team in another offense, but we are blessed with a group of attackers and all play significant roles. Her ability to put the team success ahead of her own personal stats is why she has been a true leader all season long."

Enright earned All-State Second Team honors. Senior Aly Ryan helped



Mustangs Rebecca Martin.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Wildcats Katie Enright, left, Molly Marzonie and others celebrate a point against Northville on Oct. 6.

control the middle for the Wildcats. She recorded 248 kills with just 41 errors. Ryan also served at a 97.3 percentage with 58 aces. On defense, she recorded 102 digs and had 42 solo blocks and 91 assists. She earned All-State Honorable Mention honors.

"As you can see from the her stats, she contributes to the team's success in almost every statistical category," said Parsley. Emily Robb, Novi

offense. The sophomore dished out 1,059 assists on 2,733 attempts. She also fired out 50 aces and had 192 digs.

"Emily has been asked to run a very complicated offense this season and has excelled at it," said Parsley. "Her ability to execute every play-set is really impressive, and she has done a fantastic job keeping all of our attackers involved in the offense."

Ciara Schultz, Lakeland Lakeland's senior setter proved she was a constant threat near the net.

Schultz passed out 985 assists and also hammered out a team-high 304 kills. She also provided 329 digs and 67 aces. She was voted All-KLAA Conference, All-Region and earned All-State Honorable Mention.

"Ciara is one of the most athletic, competitive high school volleyball players currently playing the sport," said coach Jen Cottrill. "This season she was able to put our team on her back and lead us to our third straight KLAA Division, Conference and District Championship.

She led us in every statistical category as a setter and ran our offense with perfection. Her passion, dedication and her work ethic were unparalleled every time she stepped on the court, and she will be absolutely impossible to replace next season."

Jenna Borgstrom, Northville Northville's senior setter passed out 591 assists on 1,675 attempts (2nd all-time at Northville). Her 34.1 assist percentage is fourth in school history. Borgstrom also provided 46 aces, 144 digs and 53 kills.

Dagny Stark, Milford The senior outside and middle hitter slammed home 267 kills on 698 attempts. She was involved in 81 blocks and had no serving errors while playing in every match.

"Dagny was a game changing front row presence," said head coach Jeff Stark. "Her attack and blocking skills could generate or prevent offense off any ball. Her presence alone forced other teams to turn their lineups to avoid having to hit against her or to find a way to block her, usually without success. Her best games were always when she new she was playing someone who was going to some big school to play."

ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

PLAYER OF THE YEAR Chloe Reinig, South Lyon

FIRST TEAM Ciara Schultz, Lakeland Jenna Borgstrom, Northville Aly Ryan, Novi Emily Robb, Novi Katie Enright, Novi Dagny Stark, Milford

SECOND TEAM Rachel Kopf, Milford Gabby Williams, South Lyon

Brittany Leonard, Lakeland Rebecca Martin, Northville Kacey Sheldon, Novi Victoria Rose, Novi HONORABLE MENTION St. East: Rieley Kuznicki, Samantha Cook Lakeland: Mary Armstrong Northville: Symone Abbott, Kelsey Knickerbocker, Makenzie Wilson Novi: Molly Marzonie

SECOND TEAM Rachel Kopf, Milford

The senior outside hitter played a perfect compliment to teammate Stark. She knocked home 259 kills on 716 attempts, produced 152 digs and had 27 blocks while playing in every match.

Rebecca Martin, Northville The junior setter handed out 536 assists, had 66 aces and 12 solo blocks with 78 assisted blocks. She also had 205 kills and 198 digs.

Brittany Leonard, Lakeland The senior middle blocker hammered home 300 kills with a 49.3 attack percentage, had 40 blocks and 82 digs. She earned All-KLAA Conference and All-Region honors.

Gabby Williams, South Lyon The senior outside hitter was option 1A for the Lions this year. She had 420 kills with 516 digs with 72 aces and 27 blocks. She earned All-Conference First Team honors.

Kacey Sheldon, Novi The junior outside hitter rarely left the court. She had 207 kills, 56 aces with only 17 errors on 466 serves, 309 digs and only 51 errors on 380 serve receptions.

Victoria Rose, Novi The senior middle hitter produced 225 kills on 521 attempts, and provided 44 solo blocks with 67 assisted blocks.

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Be wary of home loan scams

Loan modifications are changing every day. Here are some of the most common loan modification scams out there today.

Phony Counseling or Foreclosure Rescue Scams

The scam artist poses as a counselor and tells you he can negotiate a deal with your lender to modify your loan or save your house — if you pay him a fee first. The fee may be called a processing fee or administrative fee. He may even tell you not to contact your lender, lawyer or housing counselor — that he'll handle all details. He may even insist that you make all mortgage payments directly to him while he negotiates with the lender. Once you pay the fee, or a few mortgage payments, the scammer disappears with your money.

Fake 'Government' Modification Programs

Some scammers may claim to be affiliated with, or approved by, the government, or they may ask you to pay high, up-front fees to "qualify" for government mortgage modification programs. The scammer's company name and website may sound like a real government agency, but the website may end with .com or .net instead of .gov. You may also see terms like "federal," "FIAMP," "NIFA," "HARP" or other words related to official U.S. government programs.

Contact your lender first. Your lender will be able to tell you if you qualify for any government programs to prevent foreclosure or modify your loans. And you do not have to pay to benefit from these programs.

Forensic Loan Audit

The scammer who may be called a forensic or mortgage loan "auditor" offers to review your mortgage loan documents to determine whether your lender complied with state and federal mortgage lending laws. The scammer will usually require that you pay a fee to start the process. The scammer may say you can use the audit report to avoid foreclosure, accelerate the loan modification process, reduce your loan principal, or even cancel your loan.

There is no proof that a forensic loan audit can save your home from foreclosure although it's conducted



by a licensed, legitimate and trained auditor, mortgage professional or lawyer. Even if you sue your lender and win, your lender is not required to modify your loan to make it more affordable. If you cancel your loan, you will have to return the borrowed money, which may result in you losing your home.

Mass Joinder Lawsuit

The scam artist, usually a lawyer, law firm or a marketing partner, will promise that they can force your lender to modify your loan. They will tell you that by joining other homeowners in a mass joinder lawsuit against a particular lender, you will be able to stop a foreclosure, reduce your loan balance or interest rate, receive monetary damages, or even receive title to your house free and clear. Mass joinder lawsuits can be used legitimately; these lawyers are usually paid "after" the lawsuit is over, on a contingency basis. However, mass joinder lawsuit scammers will try to "sell" you participation in a lawsuit against your mortgage lender, claiming that you cannot participate in the lawsuit until you pay some type of fee.

Bait-and-Switch

The scam artist convinces you to sign documents for a "new loan modification" that

will make your existing mortgage current. This is a trick. You actually just signed documents that surrender the title or deed of your house to the scam artist in exchange for a "rescue" loan. Thoroughly read any document before you sign it.

Rent-to-Own or Leaseback Scheme

The scammer urges you to surrender the title or deed of your home as part of a deal that will let you stay in your home as a renter and then buy it back in a few years. He may tell you that surrendering the title will permit a borrower with a better credit rating to get new financing — and keep you from losing your home. However, if the scammer may have no intention of ever selling the "home back to you."

But the terms of these deals usually make buying back your home impossible. Worse yet, when the new borrower defaults on the loan, you're evicted.

Bankruptcy to Avoid Foreclosure

The scammer may promise to negotiate with your lender or get refinancing on your behalf if you pay a fee up front. Instead of contacting your lender or refinancing your loan, he pockets the fee and files a bankruptcy case in your name — sometimes without your knowledge. A bankruptcy filing often stops a home foreclosure, but only temporarily. Filing bankruptcy stops any collection and foreclosure while the bankruptcy court administers the case. But, eventually you must start paying your mortgage, or the lender will be able to foreclose.

You could lose the money you paid to the scammer and your home. Worse yet, a bankruptcy stays on your credit report for 10 years, which makes it difficult to obtain credit, buy a home, get life insurance or even get a job.

Bedbug issue calls for action

Q: Our condominium has had incidents of bedbugs in the units, but the full extent is unknown. The association has mandated treatments by all and asks for proof of it. Some of the co-owners have complied and some have not. What is your experience with how communities have addressed it, and should the condominium exercise self-help to enter and treat and then charge back those who have not complied or supplied proof of treatment? Or have some associations just treated all as a common expense to make sure that it gets done?

A: This issue has not been widely discussed among condominium association practitioners, but it would be my belief that to the extent that bedbugs have infiltrated from the exterior, that it may well be an association responsibility to pursue.

On the other hand, if the origin of the bedbug is within the individual unit, that may be the responsibility of the individual co-owner to take care of, all of course, depending on your condominium documents. Obviously, it is hard to trace the origin of bedbugs and the Board of Directors, with the advice of counsel, will have to establish a policy which best suits the accomplishment of the end result, that is, to get rid of bedbugs.

Q: Our condo association board was doing a good job, but there were a few people, we think "crazies," that challenged them on everything. At times, the "crazies" crossed the line and our lawyer had to write them a letter. Now, they have gotten themselves elected to the board, intimidated some of the old directors into resigning, and, basically, have taken over the association. They have fired our manager, our accountant and our lawyer, and who knows who else. What can a simple homeowner do to deal with the situation?

A: Most condominium bylaws provide for the removal of a director or directors on the vote of more than 50 percent of the co-owners, and require that special meeting be scheduled at which you can hold such a vote upon the submission of a petition signed by one-third of the co-owners. You may wish to retain the services of an attorney who could assist you in this process. Before circulating the petition, you may want to contact members of the Board of Directors who may not be aligned with the "crazies" to try to gather additional information about the abuses that may have been undertaken by the new board. Unfortunately, to the extent that those directors breached their fiduciary duty, breached incompetent or no persons to take over the management of the condominium, a proceeding without proper or any legal advice and are otherwise acting maliciously or vindictively against former members of the board and/or professionals retained by the association, legal recourse in court may be the only available option that you have. In that case, you would need to retain an attorney who could bring a derivative action on behalf of the association against those directors to seek an injunction to keep them from undermining the operation of the association. Hopefully, the other co-owners in the condominium will help you handle the matter financially because their investment in their homes may well be at issue.

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

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Mustang Meredith Williams brings the ball upcourt against Ann Arbor Skyline High on Dec. 28.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Mustang Meredith Williams brings the ball upcourt against Ann Arbor Skyline High on Dec. 28.

GIRLS

Continued from page B1 while scoring seven of their own to knot the game up at the half, 14-14. By the end of the third quarter, Northville led, 22-20, but the Harrison team wasn't about to go quietly into the night. In the fourth quarter, they held strong, outscoring Northville, 9-5, heading into the last moments to take the lead. A last-minute shot by Moynes tied the game at 29-29 to force the game into overtime.

Both teams scored three points in the first overtime before Moynes and Harrison's Joslyn Wilcox exchanged baskets in the second overtime to keep the game tied at 34-34. It looked as though a third overtime was on the horizon when Moynes found a lane and scored on a lay-up to give her team the edge and the victory. Moynes' 26 points ties her for second at Northville for most points scored in a single game for girls basketball player and is the most points scored by a Mustangs girl

championship game.

Northville jumped out to a 26-3 lead in the first quarter and tacked on 12 more points in the second for a 38-7 halftime advantage. They put their offense on cruise control from that point on, scoring just 12 more points in the second half to Ann Arbor's 16 points to secure the victory.

"This was really similar to our first game of the year in the way we broke the game open early," said Gudith. "Overall, this was the most complete team game we've played to this point. It was a total team effort and everyone played their part."

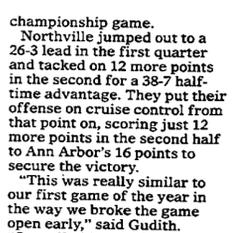
Moynes led the team with 13 points while junior Kendra Brenner scored 10 and senior Aly Bates had eight in the victory. As a team, the Mustangs shot 56-percent from the floor, going 20-for-36 in total, including 4-for-11 from beyond the three-point arc.

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

since 2001. Northville is now 4-2 on the season.

Northville 50, Ann Arbor Skyline 23

The Mustangs didn't have any trouble in their opening game of the Holiday Tournament, cruising past Ann Arbor Skyline to earn a berth to the



Mustang Alex Moynes goes flying through the air in an attempt to steal a pass on Dec. 28.

HOMES SOLD-REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS/WAYNE

Table listing real estate transactions in Wayne County, including addresses, sale prices, and dates.

HOMES SOLD-REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS/OAKLAND

Table listing real estate transactions in Oakland County, including addresses, sale prices, and dates.

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