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Read 'Novi story' in new Community Profile

The City of Novi has published a new Novi Community Profile — a 24-page, premier magazine that features Novi's commitment to its global identity, cultural diversity, infrastructure modernization, renowned educational opportunities, and world-class amenities. This is the third time Novi has produced a marketing piece of this nature.

"The Community Profile is a cost effective way for the City to tell its story digitally and in print," said Mayor Bob Gatt. "I encourage everyone to visit cityofnovi.org and check out the piece on the web or to pick up a copy of the magazine to share with friends and colleagues. In it, you will find all the great things about Novi — excellent schools, quality public services, safe neighborhoods, preservation of natural features, and a commitment to continued development."

The Community Profile is published by Michigan-based Harbor House Publishers at no cost to the City of Novi and will be accompanied by a separate economic development profile scheduled for release in early February. The publication is used by the Neighborhood and Business Relations Group to promote the high quality attributes and benefits of the Novi community on retention, expansion and attraction visits and is a premier part of Novi's marketing and relocation efforts. The piece, in its entirety, is hosted on cityofnovi.org and investNovi.org.

For more information about the City of Novi or to view the Community Profile visit InvestNovi.org or cityofnovi.org, or stop by the Novi Civic Center.

City readies goals for 2012, future

Gatt to give State of City Address today and Saturday

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It's a new year, which means new goals — or renewing a focus on old ones — for the city of Novi.

City council members and city staff met Jan. 7 to discuss their goals for the future of the city, and one change made this year was to not be as broad with goals and instead split them into short



"I believe Novi is the envy of our fellow cities in the southeast part of the state."

BOB GATT
city of Novi mayor

term and long term. Novi Mayor Bob Gatt said past goals were more like mission statements, and the goals that

came out of the meeting will be ones that have tangible results. One certain thing that came out of the meeting, he said,

was that Novi, as a whole, has a bright future.

"I believe Novi is the envy of our fellow cities in the southeast part of the state," he said. "We have a very strong balance sheet, but it's not where we want to it to be yet."

The goals, especially those under fiscally responsible government, aim to get them there.

Please see **GOALS, A2**

All dressed up



JULIE YOLLES

Novi residents (from left) Kathleen and Paul Mozak and Maria and Mike Simonte were glammed and glitzed for Charity Preview 2012 that raised over \$3 million on Friday night at Cobo Center. For more photos of the charity preview, see page A14.

Cooper Standard enjoying auto industry revival

Company sees long-term growth on horizon

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The word "fun" probably wasn't used much around the Cooper Standard offices roughly three years ago as the company faced bank-

ruptcy protection and had to cut \$650 million in debt.

But with the North American International Auto Show back in town, and those struggles now in the rear-view mirror, it's an exciting time for the automotive

supplier of body sealing systems, anti-vibration systems, fuel, brake and emissions systems and thermal management systems with its global headquarters in Novi.

Please see **REVIVAL, A2**

City seeks new name for Landings Park

Residents encouraged to submit suggestions until Feb. 17

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

City of Novi officials believe its only fitting that the park being created for Novi residents is named by Novi residents.

DETAILS

And as the current Landings Park starts to take shape over the next few months and years, city officials want the people to take ownership of it.

The park, located at 13 Mile and Old Novi roads, got its current name from a failed development, and the idea now is to give it a name that has a more Noviesque feel.

"We want to have a name that is a little more indicative of Novi, and especially with that piece of property having such a rich and colorful history — something

The city will be taking park naming submissions up until Feb. 17. The names will be narrowed down by a committee of residents and the final name will be chosen by city council in March.

Some guidelines for naming include: neighborhood or geographical identification, natural or geological feature and historical or cultural significance. The city would like to avoid a name that is similar to another in the city, and it cannot be named in honor of a person due to grant requirements.

People can pick up forms at the city or e-mail their suggestion and why they chose the name to parknaming@cityofnovi.org.

For more information about the park, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

Please see **PARK, A2**

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Top dog



Pekingese "Tradewind Solid Gold" is groomed by its master Burt Custodio during a previous dog show at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. This year's show, the 2012 Michigan Winter Dog Classic, begins this Thursday at the Showplace and continues through Sunday.

GOALS

Continued from page A1

The top short-term goal for the category was to bring operating revenue and expenses closer together, and coinciding with that is the long-term goal of negotiating changes to union contracts to reduce long-term liabilities for pensions and health care.

Gatt credited City Manager Clay Pearson and his staff for not only providing a balanced budget every year, but also for keeping the fund balance at the high end of the 18- to 22-percent range.

The other themes discussed at the meeting included public safety, infrastructure, government structure, natural areas, economic development and parks and recreation.

Gatt highlighted the short-term goal of improving handicap parking at the civic center as something that needs to get done sooner rather than later.

"That is going to happen," he said. "I don't know how just yet, but it will not be something that will cost a

lot of money. We have to address the growing senior population and we are going to."

Another way the city wants to address seniors is by expanding services and looking into providing more cost-friendly transportation.

The city also has a goal of hosting meetings outside of the civic center, at a place like Fox Run, for example.

Improving roads, as always, was on the goal sheet, as was working to finalize a plan for Main Street.

"We have a lot of momentum and a lot of positive thinking going toward that," Gatt said.

Gatt will touch on several of the goals today at his first State of the City Address at the Baronette Renaissance. There is a cost to attend the speech, but a second opportunity to attend the State of the City Address (free of charge) will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 21 at the Novi Civic Center. Those who wish to attend the Saturday event must RSVP by calling Robin Working at (248) 347-0416.

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PARK

Continued from page A1

that would have a little more character," said Jason Mangum, director of parks, recreation and cultural services.

In the mid- to late 1980s, the city acquired the lakefront property, which once was home to an amusement park, the Walled Lake Casino dance hall and other public uses in the 1940s and 1950s. In March 2010, it was des-

ignated as parkland, and later the city received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grant to aid in its development.

The work on the park will be done in three phases. The first phase is expected to start this year and will feature improvements to the park infrastructure, fishing pier, shoreline stabilization and more.

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A fire on Jan. 10 completely destroyed this home on Wintergreen Court in Novi, but not before Novi firefighters were able to rescue a man trapped inside.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi firefighters rescue man from burning home
Investigators continue to search for cause of fire

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Novi police do not have an update on the status of a 56-year-old Novi man who was in critical condition Jan. 10 after being rescued from his burning home at 24414 Wintergreen Circle just after 8 p.m. that night.

According to Novi Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David Molloy, when the Novi Fire Department arrived on the scene the home was fully engulfed in flames.

A group of four firefighters entered the home, finding the man laying in the family room. As they were taking him out of the home, a "mayday" call came from fire

command as the roof was starting to collapse.

They were able to get the man out of the home before it completely collapsed, and he was immediately transported to University of Michigan Burn Center in Ann Arbor.

"Our firefighters did an outstanding job," Molloy said. "Obviously, it was a very dangerous and involved fire — and, according to neighbors, the man would have been deceased without their efforts."

Molloy said they were fortunate that the fire department was hosting a training session at fire station No. 4 that night so multiple resources were able to respond. They also received mutual aid from Lyon Township.

The man's wife, 52, was running errands during the time of the fire. She returned when the fire was blazing and got so close to the home that she later had to be taken to the hospital due to smoke inhalation. Two Novi firefighters also had to seek medical attention following the fire, but both have returned to work.

The home was completely destroyed, but fire crews were able to keep it from spreading to other homes.

Molloy said police and fire crews did not leave the scene until nearly 3 a.m. Jan. 11 and are continuing to investigate the cause of the fire.

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Novi, Lyon Township ready for auto industry rebound

Both communities have plenty of room to grow

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Michelle Aniol said what she loves most about the North American International Auto Show is that it has everything from reality to fantasy.

And for the DDA administrator and economic development coordinator in Lyon Township, it was refreshing to see that the reality appears to be that automakers have their swagger back.

"It never went away, it just needed a really overdue tune up," Aniol said of the auto industry. "We came through a very difficult time and now we are smarter and leaner."

Lyon Township is one of Oakland County's fastest growing communities as evidenced by its 32-percent population increase in the 2010 census, and in 2011 issued more single family building per-

mits (206) than at any other time in the township's history.

It close proximity to free I-96 makes it a desirable destination for many businesses, especially those in the auto industry. Aniol, who was at the show last Wednesday as an ambassador at the Pure Michigan display, said the township has a lot of developable industrial space available. She believes suppliers are "seeing light on the horizon and potential out there" in terms of work.

Ara Topouzian, economic development director for the city of Novi, agreed with Aniol: One could feel the impact of the struggling economy at the auto show the past few years, but this year is different.

"You can see a resurgence in energy and attitude about the auto industry," he said during indus-

try day last Thursday. "The auto industry has gotten a lot smarter. It's less about dazzle and more about quality and sustainability."

Novi is currently home to several automotive suppliers, including Cooper Standard, Harman, Howa USA Holdings, and Toyota Boshoku among others.

Topouzian said location is key, and Novi, like Lyon Township, has room to grow.

"The supplier base is a good one and a strong one for us in Novi," he said. "Both think it's a good time to be optimistic about the future and believe their communities are in a place to be able to take advantage of the opportunities."

"It seems like we are through the worst of it," Aniol said.

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The Love List: Be careful what you wish for

Tippling Point Theatre opens the third show in its 2011-12 birthday season with a fantastic, farcical comedy that will have you believing you should be careful what you wish for. "The Love List" runs from Jan. 19 through Feb. 19. Please Note: Adult content and language.



Davies



Gloss-Finnell



Parker

The next day, Justine (Tina Gloss-Finnell) appears at Bill's apartment and acts like she's been with him for years.

Leon (Wayne David Parker) takes his long time single buddy Bill (Bill Davies) out to dinner for his 50th birthday. As a humorous present, Leon gets an appointment with a gypsy who can guarantee she'll find him the perfect soul mate, but first he must make a list of the most important things he is looking for in a partner.

What would happen if you came up with a list of the 10 ideal attributes you desire in a mate and then someone fitting that exact description suddenly shows up at your door?

Leon (Wayne David Parker) takes his long time single buddy Bill (Bill Davies) out to dinner for his 50th birthday. As a humorous present, Leon gets an appointment with a gypsy who can guarantee she'll find him the perfect soul mate, but first he must make a list of the most important things he is looking for in a partner.

Since she is a perfect match for him, Bill thinks Leon is behind the whole thing, but Leon is also in the dark about this "perfect woman". When Bill and Leon change some of the qualities on the list, Justine's personality changes and the buddies now think they may have created a female Frankenstein! This situation throws the two friends into mayhem where the laughs never stop. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the theatre located at 361 E. Cady St. in Northville. Tickets are \$28 to \$30 for adults and \$26 to \$28 for students and senior citizens and are available now by calling the box office at (248) 347-0003.

Retiring can be scary, but financial pro has sound advice

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer



Mark Robinson of Northville discusses 'Your Retirement: Boom or Bust?' Jan. 11 at the Northville District Library. He's developer/presenter of the 'Investor Education in Your Community' program.

Knowing how much to save for retirement is no easy task. The average life expectancy is 78. If you're 65, however, it's 83 and at 75 it rises to 87. Even at 100, it's 102.

"We're living longer, but the bad news is we're living longer," said financial pro Mark Robinson during the "Your Retirement: Boom or Bust?" session at the Northville District Library on Jan. 11.

Northville resident Robinson is developer/presenter of "Investor Education in Your Community," taken since 2006 to some 15,000 Michiganders. He works through the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation in the program with sponsorship of the Investor Protection Trust. It's also affiliated with Michigan State University Extension (mimoney.health.org offers a survey on financial health).

"We have so much information and opinion from so-called experts," said Robinson of retirement planning before an audience of around 40 people.

How much?
He explained future retirees can only approximate the number they'll need. They need to save enough now: "You need to get it right, as does the financial services industry," he said.

Robinson gave several examples, including someone born in 1920 whose peak investing years would be in the bear market of the 1960s and 1970s. Someone born in 1940 would have hit peak investment time in the 1980s and 1990s, a bull market. Those born in 1960 or so are struggling with what he called the "lost decade" of 2000-10.

"You can't control which cycle you retire into," Robinson said.

His example of two retirees who left the work force in 1996 and 1999 with identical investments and withdrawals showed that dramatic difference. "It's already getting a bit scary, isn't it?" he said.

He said the market is all "a sea of averages."

Robinson explained the need to allocate and diversify in terms of long-term, intermediate-term and short-term investments. Asset classes include stocks, bonds, real estate, cash and hard assets.

He stressed the importance of allocation and diversification, adding bond funds are driven by the interest rate cycle.

Investors try to "beat time," he said, but need to manage volatility, especially downward.

"It starts me to start viewing my portfolio as a whole," Robinson said. He urged his audi-

ence to keep up with the news, reading a variety of sources to stay an informed investor.

Those attending liked what Robinson said.

"I thought it was very good," said Denise Myers of Northville Township, a General Motors retiree. She liked the unbiased information: "I was just very impressed," Myers said.

She added many retirement seminars assume you'll withdraw money immediately upon retirement, but that's not the case for Myers and others. She liked Robinson's intelligent approach, not spoon-feeding information, and will attend future library programs.

The library will host another session, "How To Select or Evaluate Your Financial Services Provider," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 212 W. Cady. To register for the free program, call (248) 349-3020.

Jeanine Davidson, head of adult services at the library, was busy that Wednesday passing out information, including library business resource lists. She was glad to host Robinson.

"They are not selling a product," Davidson said. "They are selling information. It's educating you so you will be the best consumer, the best investor. They are not being used in any way. They are just being informed."

In the next few days, fall MEAP test scores will be released by the

District will not define students by a moment

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist



Steve Matthews
Super Talk

What if one moment defined who you were? I stuck my tongue to the metal ice tray when I was six. I tried to throw a golf ball over my house when I was nine and threw it right through the front window instead. I drove down a dirt road in Iowa right after a rainstorm even though my girlfriend, who is now my wife, said, "I don't think you should do that." And I am glad that farmer came along to help pull us out. I tried to fix our kitchen faucet on New Year's Eve and we were without running water for two full days.

Then there was the time that I was trying to put up paneling in the bathroom and it never occurred to me that I might need to be careful. Shortly after I started my project I was running to find the water shut off because I had put a nail right through one of the water pipes.

If anyone used those moments to define me, I would probably not be sitting where I am right now. Taking one moment to define anyone is not very wise. I have had many moments in my life that I wish I could do over, and I am certainly glad that my life was not defined by those moments.

In the next few days, fall MEAP test scores will be released by the

state. These test scores will be the first to conform to the new "cut" scores. The "cut" score is a line identified by the state that determines if a student meets or exceeds state expectations or falls below state expectations.

In the original MEAP model cut scores were intended to reflect grade level proficiency. The new cut score model now uses the MEAP test to project college readiness in grades 3-8, 9, and 11. The state is focusing its effort on college readiness and is now using the MEAP test to estimate if students are on track to be college ready beginning in the third grade.

The new cut scores will have the effect of lowering scores across the state of Michigan. Applying this new metric will change how students, and by extension teachers and administrators, are perceived. Some students who were above the line last year will be below the line this year. The state will argue that it has "raised the bar."

In my mind this now circles back to defining people by one moment in their life. All of us have taken a test and received a score that we hope does not define us. In our district, I hope that we take the long view. I want our teachers to know and understand the curriculum. Then I want our teachers to use the best instructional strategies they know to teach our students. We assess our students to identify strengths and weaknesses, and then we create a plan to address the weaknesses and strengthen the strengths.

Our test scores give us a snapshot of where our students are at one point in time. Our teachers and administrators have the responsibility to take those scores, interpret them, and then create a plan that will help every student make progress every year.

The goal is to ensure that every student is prepared upon graduation. One test score does not define who we are. It is a tool we can use to help us get better.

I am confident that our teachers and administrators understand how to use test scores to help us continue to improve as a district and to meet the needs of every student in our 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.

Nominate your favorite teacher

Barnes & Noble bookstores are offering a My Favorite Teacher Contest for students in grades one-12. Categories are grades one-five, six-eight, and nine-12.

Students will write an essay, poem or letter sharing how a teacher has influenced their life and why they appreciate and admire the teacher. Entries should be 500 words or less and typed on 8.5 by 11-inch white paper in English.

Entry forms are required and are available at the Barnes & Noble on the northwest corner of Haggerty and Six Mile in Northville Township. A parent or guardian must sign the entry form acknowledging they have read the contest rules.

Entries are due to Barnes & Noble by March 1. They can also be e-mailed by that date to the store via the store locator at <http://store.locator.barnesandnoble.com>.

Student winners will be recognized in a ceremony at the local store, and will receive certificates of recognition. Winning teachers will be recognized, and will receive a selection of Leatherbound Classics (high school) or Classic Starts (younger grades).

Regional winners will each receive a Nook e-book reader and \$500 Barnes & Noble card. The winner of "Barnes & Noble Teacher of the Year" will receive \$5,000 and recognition at an event. The winning teacher's school will also receive \$5,000.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cadillac of Novi General Manager Edward Pobur and his sales staff sold their way to first place in the nation in 2011 for Cadillac dealers — putting 1,761 drivers behind their automobiles. The company sold 321 Cadillacs alone in the month of December.

Cadillac of Novi soars to top spot

Dealer wins company's national sales title

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It took just two years for Cadillac of Novi to get to the top in terms nationwide vehicle sales for Cadillac dealers.

And general manager Edward Pobur plans on staying there.

"It means a lot to us," Pobur said just days after the dealership celebrated its two year anniversary on Jan. 15. "I always preach to my staff that no one remembers who number two is."

The dealership on Grand River Avenue, which formerly housed a Hummer dealership, sold 1,761 cars in 2011, besting Gold Coast Cadillac in Oakhurst, N.J., by 36 vehicles. Gold Coast had won multiple nationwide titles over the last 10-12 years, Pobur said, so beating them for the title was even sweeter.

There is no trophy or celebration for winning the title, but that doesn't

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Detroit	1,300	1,200	8%
Ann Arbor	1,100	1,000	10%
Warren	1,000	900	11%
Dearborn	900	800	12%
Westland	800	700	14%
Livonia	700	600	15%
Farmington Hills	600	500	16%
Warren	500	400	17%
Dearborn	400	300	18%

el to put it together," he said.

He also was quick to praise the management and employees at the Novi dealership and the customers who believe in their product.

Pobur expects to sell between 1,800-2,000 vehicles this year, and foresees getting to a point where they are selling nearly 3,000.

"It's not like slicing atoms," Pobur said. "But you have to stay with it to make it work."

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Reading your spouse's e-mails could be a crime

By Wendy Alton
Guest Columnist



Wendy Alton

If you haven't been following the Oakland County criminal case against Leon Walker, now is the time to do it.

Last year I wrote a blog about the criminal charges pending against Leon Walker. He and his wife Clara Walker were living together, but going through a divorce. Leon logged into Clara's Gmail account on her computer by guessing her password. While logged in, Leon printed a number of e-mails between Clara and a friend, and these e-mails revealed that Walker was having an affair with her second ex-husband, Leon, her soon to be third ex-husband, printed the e-mails and gave them to Clara's first ex-husband, who used the e-mails as a basis to file an emergency motion for custody of their child.

Leon was charged with violating Michigan law MCL 752.795, which states that a person cannot "intentionally and without authorization" access a computer, computer program, computer network, or computer system, to "acquire, alter, damage, delete, or destroy property." The same law prohibits spam and viruses.

Despite the fact that they were married at the time he accessed her e-mail, and despite the fact that the computer was purchased by him and her password was not always kept a secret, Prosecutor Jessica Cooper charged him with

a felony that is normally reserved for serious hackers and Leon Walker now faces a penalty of up to five years in prison.

Leon appealed his charges to the Michigan Court of Appeals. On Dec. 27, 2011, the Michigan Court of Appeals reversed his opinion, and upheld the charges against him.

The Michigan Court of Appeals determined the following:

- 1) Leon Walker intentionally accessed the account by guessing her password, and his intention was also revealed by him printing e-mails and distributing them to a third party;
- 2) Leon Walker accessed the account without authorization because Clara Walker testified that she never shared her password with him, and he didn't even use her computer;
- 3) By accessing Clara Walker's Gmail account, Leon Walker did access a computer (Gmail e-mail is stored on Gmail servers), did access a computer network (Gmail e-mails are sent to the user over the internet), did access a computer program (Gmail itself is a program), and did access a computer system (Gmail servers act as a computer system);
- 4) Leon Walker acquired the e-mails by viewing, printing and distributing them, which

is essentially acquiring the property of someone else.

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that the criminal charges against Leon will stand, as his actions satisfy the elements of the criminal statute. The case is now sent back to Oakland County so that a jury trial date can be set. It is unknown if Leon will appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, and even if he does, even more unknown if the Michigan Supreme Court will hear the case.

What are the practical consequences of this case and this Michigan Court of Appeals ruling? Your personal e-mail is absolutely private unless you share your password with someone else or authorize them to check your e-mail. If you do not share your password or permit someone access, it is a crime for them to access your account without your permission. This is equally true for strangers as well as for spouses — there is no spousal exception.

If you are going through a divorce, it is best to leave your spouse's e-mail and Facebook accounts alone. The Michigan Court of Appeals has made it very clear that unless permission is given, it is a crime and it will be prosecuted.

Wendy Alton is a Northville attorney and mediator with Fausone Bohm, LLP focusing on family law, which typically involves divorce, custody, support and probate. She can be reached at (248) 280-9976 or walton@fb-firm.com.

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Docs vs. Cops hockey game

February is Hearth Month, so local emergency personnel, police, fire and physicians are partnering to raise awareness. Come to the "In a Heartbeat" charity hockey game on Saturday, Feb. 4 and you'll have a chance to take a heart risk assessment and get a discounted heart and vascular screening. The Providence Docs will take on the Novi Cops in this second annual game at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Plymouth Whalers vs. Windsor Spitfires game at 7 p.m. The cost for both games is \$12, with \$4 being donated to the Providence Heart Institute.

Enter The Art Institute's competition

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but for contestants in The Art Institutes 2012 Storytellers Photography Contest, a picture can be worth much more. Enter today by submitting six original photographs that tell a visual story and showcase your creativity and unique point of view. You could earn up to a \$40,000 tuition scholarship to The Art Institute of Michigan.

Along with the photos, entrants must submit a 500-800 word artist statement describing the entry and a high school transcript or proof of high school graduation demonstrating a GPA of 2.0 or higher. For complete entry details, please visit <http://artinstitutes.edu/photocompetition>.

The competition offers separate categories for high school seniors graduating in 2012 and high school graduates. The grand prize winner in the high school senior category earns up to a \$40,000 tuition scholarship, and the grand prize winner in the high school graduate category earns a \$10,000 tuition scholarship to one of 39 participating Art Institutes across the country.

Submissions are initially judged at the local level, with one finalist from each participating school advancing to the national level. The deadline for entries into the competition is March 2.

For more information on how to enter and for official rules, visit <http://artinstitutes.edu/photocompetition> or contact Jeanita Bright, jbright@ai.edu or (248) 675-3860, at The Art Institute of Michigan, located in Novi.

Kowall: State website a new tool for job seekers

Oakland County residents looking for a job or considering a career change have a new resource at their disposal: Pure Michigan Talent Connect, a state talent and jobs website, said Sen. Mike Kowall (R, White Lake).

"This new website is a great tool for anyone looking for a job or wishing to switch careers," said Kowall. "The website's various features are designed to help job seekers and providers. I encourage anyone looking for work to utilize the Pure Michigan Talent Connect website."

Residents may visit the Pure Michigan Talent Connect website at www.MiTalent.org. The page offers three key sections for visitors trying to find a job, employers looking to hire, and workers exploring new career and educational options. The Career Matchmaker and Career Investment Calculator are designed to help individuals identify which industries are in need of their job skills and calculate the value of additional training for a new career.

Other useful information highlighted on the MiTalent site include materials specific to veterans and entrepreneurs, such as the Pure Michigan Mentor Network, small business resources, Military Skills Translator and veterans job search sites.

Book presentation at Fox Run

The public is invited to attend a free January 21 presentation of the book "Have We Possibly Met Before? And Other Short Stories" by German author Susana Piontek at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 at Fox Run (41000 13 Mile Road, Novi); RSVP to Mel.Tansill@Erickson.com.

She will be joined in this book review/commentary by her well-known husband, Dr. Guy Stern, a retired Wayne State University professor and current director of the International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Museum. Stern translated the book from German to English.

Piontek is a seasoned author who has published numerous stories in a wide range of books and magazines in Europe. This is her first book for an English-speaking audience. The book offers seventeen short stories that surprise, shock, question conventions, and always end surprisingly.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Driver caught with weed

Novi police arrested a man for possession of marijuana after he was stopped on Jan. 9 on 13 Mile Road east of Novi Road with a faulty brake light.

According to the police report, when the officer approached the vehicle he could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside. The man admitted to smoking the drug earlier in the day, and during a search of the vehicle police found a glass jar containing 4.9 grams of the drug.

The man said he forgot the marijuana was in the vehicle, and he was then arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation and released after posting bond.

Police catch suspect with stolen phone

Novi police, thanks to the help of an iPhone's tracking device, were able to apprehend a suspect who is being charged with larceny following his theft of an iPhone and wallet from the Sports Club of Novi on Jan. 11.

According to the police report, the victim put the items in a locker before heading to the gym to work out. When he returned, those items were missing from his pants.

Police used the GPS on the device to track the phone and confronted a man at his home who admitted to taking the wallet and phone, and admitted to using a credit card at a gas station.

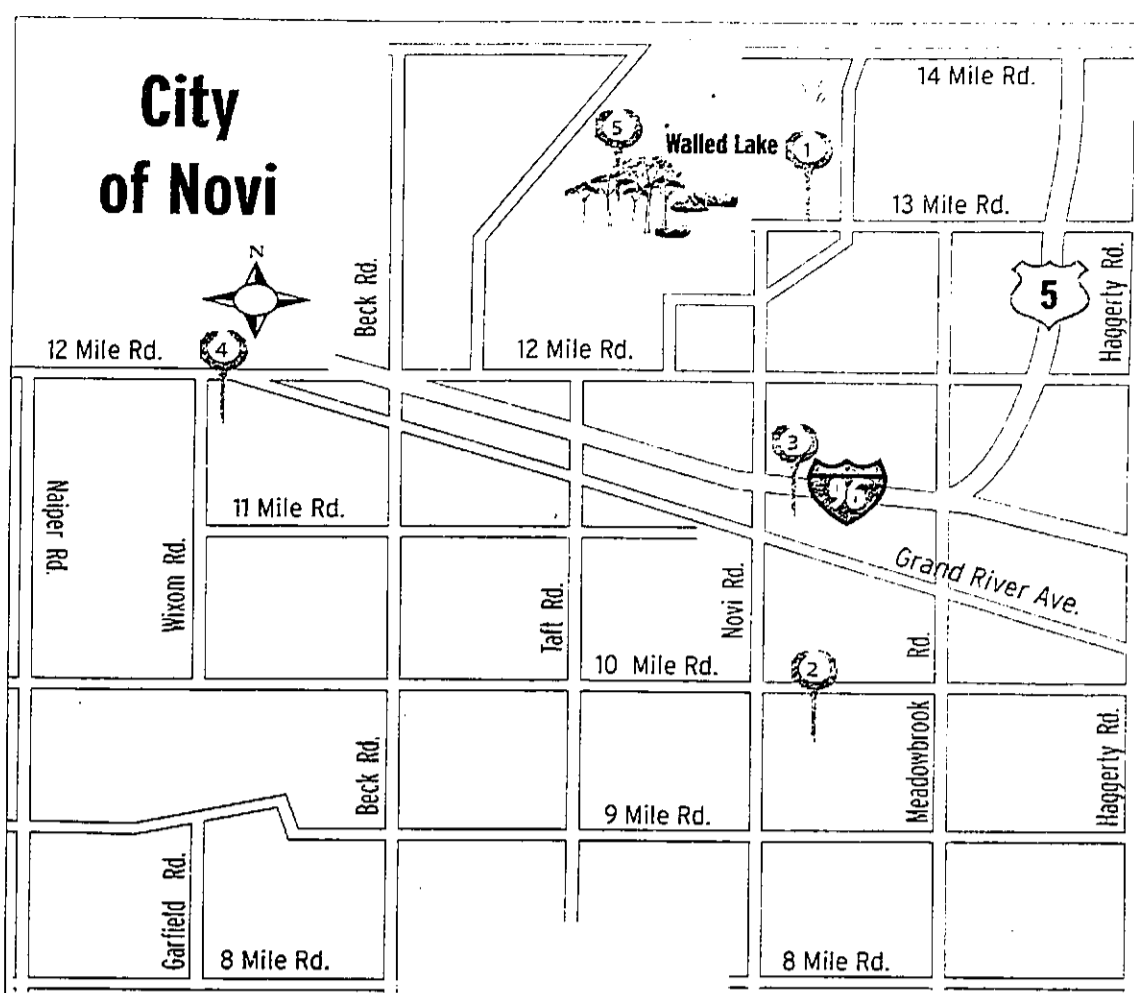
He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where he was processed and released pending the issuance of a warrant for larceny.

Suspended driver found with marijuana

A 21-year-old man was arrested at Town Center Drive and Crescent Boulevard for driving while license suspended and possession of marijuana on Jan. 11 after he was initially stopped for turning right at a no-turn-on-red sign.

According to the police report, the drug was found during the officer's patdown of the driver. He was then arrested for DWLS and possession of marijuana and transported to the police department.

He was issued a citation and released after posting bond.



Home broken into on South Lake

A condominium on South Lake Drive was broken into on Jan. 5, with the suspect stealing roughly \$400 in coins, a DVD player and two watches.

The victim said his door was locked when he tried to enter, but noticed the window above his sink was open.

Police were unable to locate fingerprints in the residence, and neighbors in the area did not have any information.

There are no suspects at this time.

TV stolen from Sam's Club

Novi police are on the lookout for a man in his mid-50s who is believed to have stolen a television from Sam's Club on Jan. 13.

According to the police report, the door greeter said he saw the man come in with a television box but he would not stop to fill out a return slip. The man then went to the electronic's section before leaving the store with a box in his cart.

Another associate at the store said the box the man brought in was stuffed with wood and toys and the television was missing. Security video shows a silver Ford Focus parked close to the store, and also shows the man put a television from the shelf into his cart and place the one he brought back into its place.

Police are continuing to investigate but have no suspects at this time.

Drop off unwanted prescription drugs at Police Department

The Novi Police Department is now taking back unwanted prescription drugs at their headquarters (45125 W. 10 Mile Road) seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

All drugs turned in will ultimately be sent to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for destruction. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

"With the success of two previous one-day take back events, the benefits of providing this service on a continual basis were recognized," said Novi Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David F. Molloy. "The Novi Police Department is dedicated to keeping our community safe and drug free. Ensuring medications are properly disposed of lowers the risk of our youth abusing drugs and senior citizens using expired medication. I encourage everyone to take an hour to clean out your medicine cabinet — it may save a life."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, enough prescription painkillers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult around the clock for one month. Medicines that languish in the home are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

Studies show that a majority of those who abuse prescriptions obtain them from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

— Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller



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TICKETS ARE \$3 IN ADVANCE, \$5 AT THE DOOR AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

- JAN 21 TRUE GRIT (1969)**
Planet Fitness located at 235 E. Main
- Jan 28 THE PINK PANTHER (1963)**
Poole's Tavern located at 157 E. Main
- FEB 4 GOLDFINGER (1964)**
Preservation Dental located at 371 E. Main
- FEB 11 ANATOMY OF A MURDER (1959)**
Johnson, Rosati, LaBarge, Aseltyn & Field, P.C.
Tickets available at: Center Street Cellar of Simply Wine located at 109 N. Center
- FEB 18 IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD (1963)**
Northville Physical Rehabilitation located at 215 E. Main, Suite B
- FEB 25 BYE BYE BIRDIE (1963)**
Keller Williams Realty Northville located at 200 N. Center

Presenting sponsor: The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all guests five years and older. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 East Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2012 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

Visit our website for updates at www.downtownnorthville.com

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Novi events

CONVERSATIONS IN HEALTH

Location: Providence Park Hospital (southeast corner of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue, Novi) in conference rooms A, B and C. (Enter the campus off of Beck Road and continue straight to the building's Heart Institute entrance. The conference rooms are located immediately to the left.)
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
Thursday, Feb. 23: Controlling Hypertension
Tuesday, March 27: Colorectal Cancer
Thursday, April 12: Health Literacy
Tuesday, May 22: Stroke
Tuesday, June 19: Intelligent Exercise

Details: Sandwiches, salads and refreshments will be available at no charge to all registered attendees. There is no charge to attend.

Contact: To register please call 866-501-DOCS (3627) so you can anticipate the number of attendees. Registration is free and includes only your name and the contact information that you would like to supply.

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

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 of "The Vice Busting Diet."

NOVI CO-OP PRE-SCHOOL 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.

NORTHVILLE & NOVI GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13
Details: Judy Vershave speaking on "Painted Clay Pots." Bring your own clay pot to paint.
Contact: Fran Gunderson at (248) 344-6457 or visit http://gardensnorthville-novi.org

BEREAVEMENT MEETINGS

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesdays
Location: Novi Civic Center (10 Mile between Taft and Novi roads)

Details: Led by Michael M. Meyer, D. Min. -- goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story. Handouts describing the phases of grief and the tasks of grief are available.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414; theglin@cityofnovi.org
"Investment Fraud - Buyer Beware!"

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26
Details: Senior Brigade presentation with information on the realities of the "Free Lunch" seminars, tips on how to recognize fraudulent investments, and tools to help check both the seller and the product before investing your money.

Lunch & Learn Event: "Alaska - Last Frontier"

Time/Date: noon Thursday, Jan. 19
Details: Expand your world! Join and learn something new as you munch on lunch. This interpretive program focuses on the presenter's personal experiences traveling through the picturesque state of Alaska. Presenter will be Laurel Zoet.

AARP Income Tax Preparation

Times/Dates: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 2, 9 and 23; March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; and April 5 and 12
Details: Tax counselors from AARP are coming to the Novi Senior Center to provide free tax preparation



Cool ride

Kyle Wormlight checks out a Suzuki Boulevard along with his dad Steve, right, during the Jan. 6 International Motorcycle Show at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. The show lasted from Friday through Sunday and featured bikes, lots of gear, and riding demonstrations.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

tion by appointment to older adults 55 years and older. The counselors do not prepare taxes for small businesses or rental properties.
Contact: Novi Senior Center (248) 347-0414 for an appointment.
Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26

NORTHVILLE-NOVI BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

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

Business

other. Cost of breakfast is \$10.
Contact: Fonda Milana 585-232-3009 or fmlana@sunnisefinancialgroup.com; metronovivi.com

METRO NOVI BNI

Time/Date: 7-8 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of Eight Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.
Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at (248) 797-1665 or julietaquette57@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com

NOVI TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday
Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome -- and bring a friend. Visit www.novi.freetoasthost.us.
Contact: Linda Kreuter at PR@novi.freetoasthost.us

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

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

Business to Business Breakfast

Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24
Location: Powerhouse Gym, 44125 W. 12 Mile Rd., Novi

Details: Join in networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at the door.

"Toast of the Town" Awards Gala and Cocktail Party

Time/Date: 7-11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27
Details: Live Motown music; Business Recognition Awards presentation; raffle and live auction; strolling dinner and cash bar. Cost is \$50 per person; \$45 per person for groups of eight.

Business to Business Breakfast

Time/Date: 8-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1
Location: Varsity Collision, 48600 W. 12 Mile Road, Wixom

Details: Join in networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at the door

Red Wings vs Predators Outing

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Feb. 17
Details: \$67 per person includes game and dinner in the exclusive Manhattan Room. Ride the party bus to the game \$5 per person.

Service Groups

NOVI ROTARY CLUB

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

NOVI LIONS CLUB

Time/Date: 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting starts; second and fourth Wednesdays
Location: Leo's Sports Bar & Grill Restaurant, lower level, 40380 Grand River, west of Haggerty. Visitors are welcome, dinner is from the menu. Details: Novi Lions is part of Lions International, the largest service organization in the world. Our purpose is to serve the blind and the community. Our principal

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activities are fundraising for Leader Dogs, Penrickton Center for Blind Children and other blind charities along with fundraisers for high school scholarships. We serve locally, in Michigan and worldwide as there is the need.
Contact: Lion President Ron Martin, (248) 473-1156 or Lion Secretary Ed Kramer, (248) 348-2747

Library Lines

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY

Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772

HUD Counseling

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.

Book Discussion Group

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group.

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Location: 45255 W. Ten Mile Road
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library. Register for programs at the library or on the library website.

Knit Zgether Knitting Circle

Time/Date: 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 and 26
Details: If you have a leaning towards knitting or any of the related handcrafts, Knit Zgether Knitting Circle just might be your cup of tea. No instructor, no registration, and of course, attendance is free.

Investing Fundamentals: It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19
Details: Provides a broad and diverse introductory-level overview of some of the more popular elements that make up the financial markets and also provides insight and common-sense concepts to make better, more informed investment decisions. Registration required.

Surveying and the Early History of Novi

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19

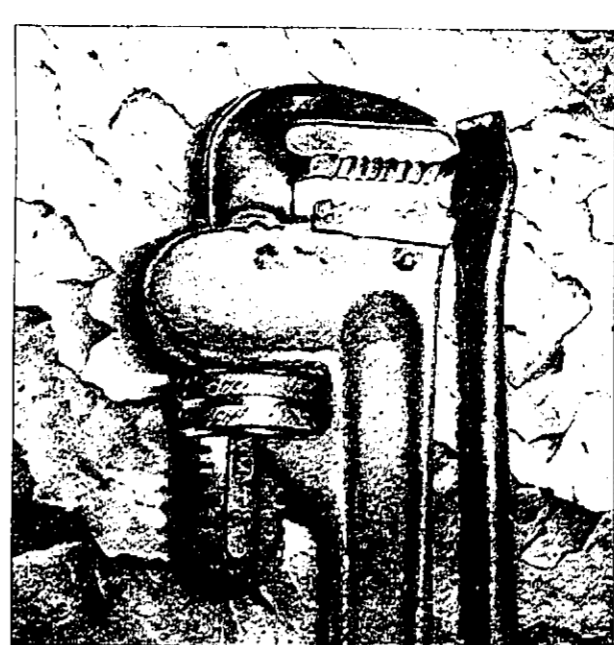


Exhibit at Picasso

The Picasso Cafe (39915 Grand River) is currently exhibiting the artwork of Amy Fell-Burford during the month of January. Her oil paintings include a variety of subjects, both traditional and not so traditional. Swimmers, cars and iconic cultural objects are some of her favorite subjects to paint. Also included in the exhibit is her collection of "Small Works," a series of pint-size paintings celebrating whimsical items, such as candy, fruit and newstandns.

Microsoft Word Basics

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 21
Details: Learn the basics of creating, modifying, and saving a document using Microsoft Word. Registration is required.

Microsoft Excel Basics

Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21
Details: Learn the basics to creating, modifying, and saving a spreadsheet using Microsoft Excel. Registration is required.

ESL Joy of Reading

Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 23 and 30
Details: For the High Beginning to Low Intermediate English speaker. Plan to have fun in this interactive program! Our group will read some American Tall Tales and short novels and even chant together. This is a 6-week series. Registration is required. Books and materials will be provided. Free.

High School Open Study

Time/Date: 2-5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23 and Tuesday, Jan. 24; 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25
Details: High schoolers are invited to study for upcoming exams in the library Meeting Room.

Hiding in Plain Sight: Encountering Michigan's Past in Unlikely Places

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23
Details: Hull's Trace was the first military road in the U.S. and an essential supply route for Detroit during the War of 1812. "Amazingly, a segment of "corduroy road," recently rediscovered by historian and archaeologist, Dan Harrison, has survived. Enjoy this first-hand account of a successful hunt for historical "treasure." Presented by the Friends of the Novi Public Library. Registration required.

ESL Book Discussion

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 24 and 31
Details: If English is your second language and you would like to be more proficient in reading and discussing books written in English, then join our ESL Book Discussion. For high-intermediate to advanced English speakers. We will discuss one book during the seven-week session. Title to be announced. Books will be provided. Registration required and limited to 15 participants.

Novi Historical Commission Meeting

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25
Details: Public is always welcome. Meetings discuss ongoing and future projects of the Novi Historical Commission.

Hooray for Hollywood

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25
Details: Join us for a presentation on Hollywood legends of the past and present, including a discussion of award-winning films throughout the years, just in time for a spirited discussion of this year's Oscar nominees. Registration required.

A Better You! Getting Fit and Healthy in the New Year

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26
Details: This is an ongoing partnership between the Library, Providence Park Hospital and You! Two events in one. If you choose, start with a FREE Yoga session from 6-6:45 pm. (Loose clothing recommended.) All skill levels welcome and all will receive a free yoga mat. Next, learn the latest facts (not harmful myths) about weight loss from a leading expert. Registration required.

Job Seekers Toolbox

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26
Details: Novi Public Library and Michigan Works! North Oakland Career Centers - Novi will co-host this one hour workshop, which covers free library databases that can be used to identify and research potential employers and create powerful resumes, as well as information on Michigan Works! Programs, services, skills assessments, and workshops essential to job-search success! Registration is required.

Mario Kart Tournament

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27
Details: Get your engines started!! Come and join us for the 3rd Invitational Mario

Kart tournament. Register today to play in this round robin competition. Prizes will be awarded for the top finishers. Separate tournaments for grades 3-6 and grades 7-12.
Scrapbook for a Cause!
Time/Date: 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 - 12 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29
Details: The Library is hosting 15 hours of scrap-booking fun with Creative Memories consultant Mary Gantt. Lunch, dinner, refreshments, and snacks will be provided. 1 scrapper \$50.00 (enjoy a 6 foot table) 2 scappers \$40.00 (share a 6 foot table). All proceeds go to the Novi Public Library to support future Youth Programming Events. Door prizes and demonstrations will also be available! To register call (248) 869-7204.

Novi Writers' Group

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 28
Details: Writers' groups can be a great way to make connections in the writing and publishing world and to get critiques that will improve your skills as a writer. Come to the Library for an inspirational environment where you can create and share ideas. This group is facilitated by local writer Kathy Mutch.

Lego Club

Time/Date: 6:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30
Details: Join us once a month for Lego show-and-tell and building activities. We supply the Legos, you supply the imagination. For grades K-4.

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OUR VIEWS

A salute Time to thank our local school board

January is School Board Recognition Month — a time to salute the work of 4,100 elected, volunteer school board members; a time to celebrate public education in Michigan's 552 local and 57 intermediate school districts; and a time to acknowledge the combined commitment to leadership and accountability assuring that all children succeed.

It's an exciting and challenging time in public education. School board members in Novi develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of around \$70 million, 6,357 students, 647 employees and 10 facilities. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our communities.

Novi's Board of Education, and the hundreds like it across the state, preserve the core of our democracy — public education. They ensure that decisions on school programming are made by people we've elected to represent our community's values, culture and circumstances.

Showing appreciation for the important work of school boards should be a year-round process, but too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent us. This month, we're asking all members of the community to take a moment and thank a Novi school board member.

Bruce Bagdady, president; Dennis O'Connor, vice president; George Kortlandt, secretary; Ann Glubzinski, treasurer; and trustees Bobbie Murphy, Shari Lebo and Jason Manar.

The mission of the board is stated on the district website: "The Novi Board of Education as an elected body represents the views of the community on issues affecting education. During their four-year term, board members work together to establish policy, approve educational goals and curriculum changes and work with the superintendent, administration and staff to set direction for the district. Community members are encouraged to attend board meetings and to participate."

That's a tidy paragraph that works well for web surfing. But Kathy Hayes, the executive director of the Michigan Association of School Boards, sums up the role of the state's 4,200 elected school board members more succinctly, stating they are "responsible for making fundamental policy decisions that affect the present and future lives of children."

A pretty heavy role for someone who is better recognized as your neighbor or friend, eh?

Yet these individuals receive little recognition for the countless hours committed to serving students, staff, administrators and the community. More often, they're called to the carpet on this very same page by others who are suspect of the decisions made on a mind-boggling array of complex issues.

Most people think that attending the official board meetings is the only thing these folks do, but in reality that's just a small part. There are hours of preparation and studying; numerous other meetings; a variety of school functions; and educational leadership training. And, of course, they get to make no-win financial decisions as each and every district as this state fights for survival.

All this and no pay. Who wouldn't want to be a school board member?

We say thank you to the men and women who dedicate countless personal hours to ensure the needs of our community are met by our public schools. We salute the public servants of Novi whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible. We applaud them for their vision and voice to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders.

The Novi Board of Education meets two Thursdays each month at 7 p.m. in the Educational Services Building (west side of Taft Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads).

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

With the auto show in Detroit this week, are you thinking of purchasing or looking at any new cars?



"I am not because I just bought a brand new Jeep Grand Cherokee."
Don Campana
Walled Lake



"If we were, it would be a Ford product or GM. My son works for them."
Judy Sheibels
Novi



"We might head down to the show, but we already have two newer cars — so nothing new right now."
Jim Glowski
Novi



"We just bought a new Ford Explorer, so nothing now. I'm still getting used to driving a big car, too."
Julie Pearson
Novi

LETTERS

Education apples and oranges

I am continually amazed at how right-wingers like Mr. Atcheson think by repeatedly perpetuating myths about the compensation of educators vs. the private sector that all of a sudden these ridiculous and uninformed arguments will hold water. Comparisons of public education and the private sector are silly and useless.

Public schools have never been, and never will be, corporations. By design they are not run like corporations since their mission and purpose is to educate children, and not simply to make a profit and pay bloated compensation to CEOs. Charter schools, on the other hand, are there to make a profit and have several advantages over public schools in terms of how their funds must be used.

Charter schools don't have to take all comers. The severely handicapped or mentally challenged, and the tremendous costs associated with providing them with services, are left solely to the public schools. Charter schools don't pay any less for supplies, but there are no standards for what they must provide, so they might save a little here and there by having students provide their own "stuff" and then pass the savings on to profits. Charter schools also have no standards for paying employees or providing benefits because they have to negotiate with no one — and when paying as little as possible in salary and benefits, it leaves more for the almighty bottom-line profits.

Unions will not prevent a poor teacher from being dismissed if the district follows the procedures required and provides the documentation necessary to replace someone that is consistently underperforming. It may take some time, as it should, but basically it is a lack of will to follow a process by the administration that is the cause of that person continuing to teach. In the private sector, however, if someone doesn't like the way you comb your hair, your job could be in jeopardy.

Early in my sales career, I was a district sales manager for a major consumer products company and was in Chicago having dinner with two zone managers and the VP of sales. In conversation, some of the other district managers were discussed, and when one of them from Kansas City was mentioned, the VP of sales said to his zone manager, "You know, I never liked that guy; get rid of him." The following week, he was gone. When I expressed a little surprise to my zone manager, he said that there were "problems" and that his sales people weren't well trained, etc. Two months before, one of his sales people was named sales rep of the year at our national sales meeting. I have a feeling a union would have been helpful to this guy and an injustice may have been prevented. Having spent 40 years in private industry, I have seen several examples of people progressing, not on merit or per-

formance, but by smooching the right behind or the boss picking his "own team."

Today, most people in private industry can expect to change jobs several times in their working years. Teaching isn't a job; it is a profession, and if you leave, there are very limited choices, if any, for you to go and continue teaching where you left off. I have three friends who worked here in the Detroit area for the auto companies. My wife retired a couple of years ago from elementary education as a reading specialist, and she and our three friends have essentially the same education — master's and, in the case of my wife, beyond a master's. (She didn't bother to get a Ph.D. because it would have paid a whopping additional \$200 per year.) My three friends that retired from the auto industry have six-figure pensions. Know any teachers with a pension over \$100,000?

It would have been great if my wife could have been paid more for her accomplishments. She didn't work in the "public spectrum" as you suggest, but quietly, one-on-one with her students to make sure they were prepared for the challenges of the next grade. In my sales jobs, I had the opportunity to make tens of thousands in additional bonus and fancy trips when I met assigned objectives. Maybe teachers should get a couple of grand or more for each student that is at or above grade level when they leave their class? Then they would be compensated more like I was in the "private sector." The real problem, Mr. Atcheson, is that you want to get something for nothing in your perpetuating these myths — an educated work force, while at the same time paying teacher-bashing salaries and benefits. On the other hand, it sounds like you could really use a good union where you work in your "private sector" job!

Steve Lawrence
Northville

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Fax: (248) 437-3386
E-mail: cstone@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.
Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

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Steve Lawrence
Northville

not favoritism in any profession when judging a person's work performance. Nepotism is prevalent in education as well as in the corporate sector. The purpose of the teachers' union is only to assure fairness and due process. All human beings deserve this.

Carol Maynard
Northville

Congressional concerns

When the average worker starts a job, he tries hard to succeed, hoping to keep the job, deserve a raise in time and, after 20 or 30 years, earn a pension. Maybe he'll get health insurance after a qualifying period, but he'll pay some of the cost himself

Elected to Congress, one probably hopes to do something for his district. But mostly, he hopes to be re-elected, regardless of how ineffective he turns out to be. He earns a high salary, has health insurance better than most Americans and, whether he's any good or not, is re-elected or not, he has a lifetime pension after only one term. He takes time off to campaign for future terms. He may, with other lawmakers, even vote himself a raise. Surely the American people don't expect him to actually "earn his keep" to hold the job.

If an ordinary American tries hard but still fails at his job, he's fired. He might receive unemployment assistance if his boss does not claim he was fired "for cause" — not doing the job right or violating some company "rule."

That's quite a contrast. Nobody in Congress has succeeded in cooperating with cohorts to accomplish governance. They take vacations with work unfinished, causing hardship to taxpayers who pay them. Debt rises, problems multiply, work is undone. Statesmanship requires cooperation and compromise to accomplish as much as possible. There are no statesmen in Congress.

The nation's financial woes have yet to impel Congress to vote down their high-class, employer-paid health insurance, to join Medicare, to pay a share of the cost themselves. Congress approved bankruptcies, which gutted pension plans for ordinary Americans, but has not altered their own "instant" pension plan to require even 10 years of service. Mandated rules result in job losses, wage cutbacks or funding cuts, but Congress has not "given back" 25 percent — or even 10 percent — of their wages, as unions have done.

I refuse to elect any incumbent since, together, they failed to govern. A new slate might do better. I write each incumbent citing failure to compromise and govern together as cause for discharge. "The new guy" receives a copy of that letter as a warning.

Let's vote out incumbents, tell them why, vote in a new batch, see what happens — over and over, until lawmakers earn their pay with statesmanship. Let's make our votes count.

Beatrice Fulton Keeber
Milford

NEWSMAKERS

Road commission positions remain same

The three-member Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Board, at its regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 12, re-elected Eric S. Wilson Board chairman and Greg Jamian vice chairman. The third Board member is Ron Fowkes.

"These are challenging times for Michigan road agencies," Wilson said. "But I believe we have taken positive steps at RCOC to enhance our efficiency and reduce our costs. I look forward to guiding the Road Commission as it strives to find additional ways to operate more efficiently and to provide the best service we can with the resources available."

Wilson has served on the RCOC Board since 2007. A resident of Orion Township, he is an attorney in private practice.

Prior to his appointment to the RCOC Board, Wilson served for four years on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners as well as nine years on the Orion Township Board of Trustees and 10 years on the township's Zoning Board of Appeals.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Wilson is a graduate of Western Michigan University and the former Detroit College of Law. The RCOC chairman's term is for one year.

Wilson was also re-appointed to represent RCOC on the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission for 2012.

Jamian, a resident of Bloomfield Township, was appointed to the Board in 2009. "During the coming year, we will continue to pursue every funding opportunity we can find," Jamian stated. "We are responsible for the largest county road system in Michigan, and current funding levels simply won't allow us to maintain the system at an appropriate level."

The CEO of an integrated health-services company in Troy, Jamian also served on the County Board of Commissioners for four years and was a Bloomfield Township trustee. He is a graduate of Oakland University.

Road Commission Board members are appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and serve for six-year terms.



Jamian



Wilson



Fowkes



Swindler

Six Varnum attorneys honored

Six attorneys from Varnum's Novi office were recently selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2012. Thomas H. Bergh, Marla S. Carew, Richard A. Hooker, Paul L. B. McKenney, David K. McLeod and Eric M. Nemeth.

A total of 48 attorneys from the statewide law firm were selected. Varnum has offices across Michigan in Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Novi.

Best Lawyers is based on an exhaustive peer-review survey in which more than 39,000 leading attorneys cast almost 3.1 million votes on the legal abilities of other lawyers in their practice areas.

Rebecca Swindler promoted at Holocaust Memorial Center

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus (www.holocaustcenter.org) in Farmington Hills announced the promotion of Rebecca Swindler to its director of programs.

As director of programs, the Novi resident is responsible for the Holocaust Memorial Center's exhibit, educational and historical programs, including exhibit openings, member/donor programs and cultural affairs events. Swindler, who began her career at the Holocaust Memorial Center as an intern five years ago, also currently serves as the organization's social media and web master, database manager and internship coordinator. Additionally, she is the interim director of education.

"Rebecca's work ethic and skills made it a very easy decision to promote her to become director of programs," said Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman. "She has helped us create several relevant and well-attended events in recent years that have enabled us to continue our mission of developing pro-

Holiday fun



Jennifer Cashin works with her daughter Josie, 3, on a crafts project at the Novi Public Library on Dec. 20. The library thought it would be fun for kids to have at their excess and leftover supplies for something to bring home for the holidays.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Murray & Doot

Megan Elyse Murray and Brian Edward Doot, both of Novi, are engaged to be married June 23 at The Inn at St. Johns in Plymouth.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Dennis and Mary Anne, of Novi. She graduated from Novi School in 2005 and from Michigan State University in 2009 with a bachelor of science degree in child and youth development.

The groom-elect is the son of Lewis and Mary Doot, of Commerce Township. He graduated from Detroit Catholic MSU in 2008 with a master of science degree in accounting. He is a certified public accountant at Plante & Moran in Southfield.

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Central High School in 2003 and from Michigan State University in 2007 with a bachelor of arts in accounting degree. He also graduated from MSU in 2008 with a master of science degree in accounting. He is a certified public accountant at Plante & Moran in Southfield.



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Glitz and glamor

Auto show charity preview raises \$3M for kids

Area residents were among the luminaires who filled Cobo Center at last Friday's North American International Auto Show 2012 Charity Preview. "What a night," said Bill Perkins, chairman, NAIAS 2012. "We were thrilled that ticket sales were up over 20 percent from last year, and as of show time we were 12 tickets short from our goal of 12,000 tickets sold, so the Detroit Auto Dealers Association purchased the remaining tickets, and we reached the \$3 million mark."

The black-tie crowd was served 4,200 bottles of champagne, 1,000 pounds of beef tenderloin, 20,000 bottles of wine, 35,000 bottles of beer from the Detroit Beer Co., 1,200 pounds of shrimp, 2,100 pounds of deli meat, 500 limos filled the streets and 378 cans of hair spray held it all together.

Proceeds from the event that mixed glamour and everything automotive go to support vital services for children of all ages in the Detroit area. Beneficiaries of the Charity Preview include: Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Boys Hope Girls Hope of Detroit, The Children's Center, Judson Center, The Detroit Institute for Children, Think Detroit PAL, March of Dimes, Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation and the DADA Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Charity Preview, Detroit's premier black-tie gala, was made possible by Charter One, part of the FBS group. The event is widely regarded as the largest single night fundraiser in North America.



Following the Charity Preview at Cobo Center, Northville residents Duane and Sheila Tarnacki attended Ford-Sponsored AutoGlow Under The Big Top at the Westin Book Cadillac to benefit The Children's Center.



Northville residents Ken and Laurel Salisbury at last week's Charity Preview. Laurel Salisbury purchased her dress at Neiman Marcus, her shoes and neckpiece were from Nordstrom and she purchased her necklace from her favorite local Northville boutique — Loria's on N. Center Street.



Ed Duquesnel of Northville brought out his snappiest Dominic Pangborn tie for the black-tie gala. He is joined by his wife, Melanie Duquesnel, Eastern Michigan Better Business Bureau President and CEO.



Karen Kaley of Novi attended the Charity Preview and AutoGlow Under The Big Top to benefit The Children's Center. The Children's Center partnered with the College for Creative Studies (CCS) for a student competition that resulted in three-rings — or in the Westin Book Cadillac's case, three floors — of fun including entertainment from Detroit Flyhouse and the Rick Leder Band.



Dave and Jennifer Mrocka of South Lyon attended the Charity Preview and AutoGlow Under The Big Top to benefit The Children's Center. The Children's Center partnered with the College for Creative Studies (CCS) for a student competition to create a theme and design for the fundraiser which included carnival and circus elements.



Girls' Night Out at the Charity Preview and AutoGlow Under The Big Top for (left) Holly Jones of Northville and Stacey Vince of Rochester. They both accessorized with the help of Loria's Boutique in Northville.



Northville residents John and Colleen Janosik danced 'til midnight under the Big Top at Auto Show Charity Preview and AutoGlow.



Following the Charity Preview at Cobo Center, South Lyon residents and newlyweds Robert and Debbie Menton attended Ford-Sponsored AutoGlow Under The Big Top at the Westin Book Cadillac to benefit The Children's Center.



Northville residents Fabrice and Jeanne Jund were two of nearly 1,000 guests who attended the AutoGlow fundraiser at the Westin Book Cadillac to benefit The Children's Center.

EVENTS

Continued from A11

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpresby.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Time: 9:30, 11 a.m.
Single Place
Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Thursday

Details: Single Place is a social organization for singles 40 and up hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Northville. Thursday meetings feature speakers, games, or entertainment followed with an ice cream social.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.
 Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.
 Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Sundays
Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or

churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Church School: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
Merry Widows Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Pilgrim Fellowship
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sundays

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
Location: 41355 Six Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-9030
Sundays 9-10 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children
9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium
10:15 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210)
Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: 8:45-10:30 a.m. (café)
Wednesday Family Night
7 p.m.: Adult elective classes; junior and senior high student ministries; children's programs (M-Pact Girls Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery and Pre-school Program on Sundays

Healing Service and Holy Communion
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil
Time/Date: Noon, first Sunday of every month
Location: In front of the church
Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.

Advent Service
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
OAK POINTE CHURCH
Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
Worship Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday

ReNew Life Group Ministries
Time/Date: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday
Details: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning, change from a Christian perspective.

Women's Life Groups Ministries
Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Tuesday 9:30 a.m. every

and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade) - contact (248) 348-9031
NOVI-NORTHVILLE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Susskind at (248) 790-6075 or rabbim@novi-jewishcenter.com; www.novi-jewishcenter.com

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com
Sunday Worship
Time: 9:45 a.m.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 770 Thayer, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olvnorthville.org
Saturday Worship
Time: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship
Time: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

OUR SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Contact: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

PENTECOSTALS OF NOVI
Location: Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375
Contact: 248-697-8158 or visit www.thepentecostalsofnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 3 p.m.
 If you are interested in receiving a free Home Bible Study, please contact Pastor David Gardner at (248) 697-

8158.
PLYMOUTH-ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth
Contact: 734-453-0190, ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org
PRATHE BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 45000 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 748-3898
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
Time/Date: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0190, ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 474-0584 or visit stjohn-lutheran.com
Saturday Worship
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
Time: 9, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School
Time: 10:15 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 201 Elm Street, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-3140 a.m.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON
Location: 25301 Halstead Road, Farmington Hills
Contact: www.uufarmington.org
Youth Interfaith Journey
Time/Date: 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays
Details: This religious education program is open to the public and currently enrolling new students. Classes are grouped into grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 with age specific education materials for all.

Contact: Jennifer Teed at 248/478-7272 or drea@uufarmington.org
Lifelong Learning Forum
Time/Date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays
Details: Six weeks exploring different topics like religion, philosophy, science, health, social and political issues. No advance registration necessary; a \$5 donation suggested. Drop in and pick the class that interests you most.
Contact: (248) 478-7272 or uufarmington.org/uuctire-lifelong
Multi-Generational Services
Time/Date: 6:45 p.m. Fridays
Details: Family members of all ages can gather for drumming, chanting, and meditation followed by a brief participatory worship service which could include stories, songs and sharing. A religious education activity will follow, such as an art project, music, dance, game or theater. The evening will close with a light snack and a short time to socialize, ending at 8:30 p.m.

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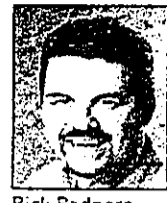
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Businesses shouldn't skimp on cost of training employees

By Rick Radners
 Guest Columnist



Rick Radners

I recently conducted a training class where I was able to interact with various professionals from a multitude of backgrounds. For the most part, I enjoy finding out where people are from and what makes them tick, more so what makes them tick. As the class concluded, most if not all the participants approached me and thanked me for leading the class. They were more than willing to attend training as it had been some time since their last. I had to ask myself why that was or better yet, ask some of the attendees why that was. To summarize the responses, many if not all responded with, "When times are tough, training is usually the first to go."

I had to scratch my head for a minute and ask why. Why is it that many companies are so quick to pull training programs during tough financial times? This subject triggered me to look at the relationship between the lack of training and tough financial periods. What I found is that many successful business leaders prefer to do the opposite. In times when companies begin to tighten the belt, effective leaders maintain or strengthen their training and development budgets, and here's why.

Dr. Edward Deming brought the concept of training into his principles of management. He is noted for commenting that training is for everyone in

the company, from the top down and from the bottom up. Employees must be trained on new and improved processes continuously while management or leadership must train themselves on what blocks employees from effectively doing the best job possible: day in and day out.

Jack Welch is noted as speaking towards a "relentless focus" on training and development while he was working through a restructure of GE. He noted that training is a motivator, and in many ways can be accomplished by "in-house" executives during good times and by outside agencies when times are tough. Either way, it is never dismissed.

Finally, even the ancient proverbs allude to training as an essential part of day to day life. Confucianism believes that giving a person a fish will feed him or her for a day but training them how to fish will feed them for a lifetime. The concept of training is vital to the growth and well-being of any company and here are a couple of reasons why.

First, training someone during a difficult period will allow that person to perform during profitable times. When a company turns the corner and finds themselves in a financial upswing, trained employees will be able to optimize processes, which in

turn will optimize profits. A company that reaches profitability with an unskilled workforce creates a profit performance that mimics a good roller coaster ride. Next training, as mentioned by the leaders above motivates people to new levels. The employee who is armed with new skills or a new skill set usually has a desire to apply that skill set. With the proper guidance and application, the combination of motivation and skill is a powerful team. A company who doesn't capitalize on that arrangement puts profit and customers at risk.

Training is essential to any company that hopes or plans to operate profitably. The last thing that any company wants to do is turn its back on training and development during difficult financial times. More so, a company should make the most of training opportunities and continue to develop employees and the governing leadership. I guess if I were headed into a financial battle with a group of employees, I would want the most skilled and proficient team I could get my hands on. I would want the same team during the good times as well!

Rick Radners Jr., EdD, has worked for Ford Motor Company for 13 years and has taught quantitative methods at Walsh College for more than six years. He has degrees in marketing and sales, business management, an MBA, and a doctorate in education. Radners can be reached at radners@walsh-college.edu.

N-N Family Medicine opens



Northville-Novi Family Medicine celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week. Shown are Victoria Frosh, Melissa Santhony, Dr. Victoria N. Dooley, Novi Mayor Pro-Tem David Staudt, and Linda Daly, executive director of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. Northville-Novi Family Medicine is led by Dooley, a board-certified Family Medicine physician. She provides comprehensive medical care for the entire family, from children to seniors. She admits patients at both DMC Huron Valley Sinai and St. John Providence Park Hospitals. Dr. Dooley's interests include women's health, dermatology, asthma, and hypertension. She is committed to treating the entire patient, including the mental & spiritual health and well-being of her patients. The practice is located at 21580 Novi Road, Suite 200, Novi; phone (248) 946-4905 for more information or visit www.drdooleymd.com.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fox Run marks increase in occupancy

Fox Run retirement community in Novi marked a 20-percent increase in settlements of apartment homes for year-end 2011. It also marked an 87-percent jump in reservations. As a result, Fox Run today is at an all-time high of 92-percent occupancy.

A total of 88 apartment homes were settled in 2011, compared to 73 the prior year. In addition, a total of 92 multiple reserved apartment homes, compared to 49 the prior year.

People moved to Fox Run from geographic areas of Oakland County, Macomb and Livingston counties, with some moving from as far away as Massachusetts, Tennessee and Florida. A key factor in helping people move to Fox Run was the in-house realty services program that connected prospective residents with movers, real estate agents and move-in officials to make the selling of a home, and the logistics management that go along with it, as easy as possible. A total of 98 percent of all settlements was obtained through this program.

apartment homes at Fox Run range in size from 700 square feet to 1,800 square feet. Entrance deposit prices range from the \$150,000s to \$400,000. Fox Run, managed by Erickson Living, is located at 14000 13 Mile Road, Novi.

Michigan Retailers' scholarship competition begins

Michigan Retailers Association is offering at least 30 college scholarships this spring through its annual competition.

The scholarships will be available to MRA members and their employees and families for the 2012-13 academic year. Scholarships are \$1,000 for public and private university and college students and \$500 for those attending community colleges or training institutes.

"We are excited that the Michigan Retailers Foundation continues to provide tuition help to families and individuals with direct ties to MRA member businesses," said James P. Hallan, MRA president and CEO. "Between 1999 and last year, our foundation has provided funding for an incredible 320 scholarships."

Recipients are selected for their average to above-average academic performance and extracurricular activities, including part-time employment. Financial need is not a consideration, and students do not need to be at the very top of their class.

Those eligible to apply are high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors who are dependent sons and daughters of owners or full-time employees of MRA's nearly 5,000 member businesses. Part-time employees who are full-time students also are eligible.

Applications must be submitted to International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS) by April 2. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the application process online at www.retailers.com. Students may also contact MRA's Laura Schilling at 800.366.3699 or lschilling@retailers.com by March 15 to request an application by mail or to check eligibility.

Recipients are selected by an independent panel of educators chosen by ISTS of Nashville, Tenn., which coordinates the application and selection process for MRA and many other associations and companies.

MRA's annual scholarship program is financed by earnings on the assets of Michigan Retailers Foundation, which is funded chiefly by tax-deductible contributions from MRA members.

The Michigan Retailers Association is the unified voice of retailing in Michigan and the nation's largest state trade asso-

ciation of general merchandise retailers.

Planet Fitness strikes a deal as 'Biggest Loser' brand partner

Planet Fitness, a gym franchise with locations in Northville (East Main Street) and Novi (Beck Road), has entered a brand partnership with The Biggest Loser, the NBC reality show that airs Tuesday nights at 8 p.m.

During the season, contestants will work out at Planet Fitness gym equipment at The Biggest Loser ranch in Calabasas, Calif. In some episodes throughout the winter and spring, contestants will work out at Planet Fitness gyms near their homes, under the guidance of Planet Fitness trainers.

"We're thrilled to be associated with The Biggest Loser and proud to have the opportunity to help the show's contestants on their journey toward improving their health and changing their lives," said Planet Fitness co-founder and chief executive Michael Grondahl. "Planet Fitness is the one gym where all people - no matter their fitness level - will find a comfortable and non-intimidating atmosphere to pursue their goals."

Recently, NBC film crews were on site at Planet Fitness clubs in Lansing and Westland to shoot scenes for the upcoming season.

"It's exciting not only to be associated with The Biggest Loser program, but to actually have our club participate in the filming of the show," commented Bryan Rief, a Michigan franchisee whose company owns and operates nine (9) Planet Fitness clubs in the Detroit area. The Biggest Loser, which debuted on NBC in 2004, attracts nearly 7 million viewers a week.

Shazaaam! giving away \$1M in pro bono services

Novi-based public relations, marketing and social media Firm Shazaaam! Public Relations is asking the public to assist in helping the agency gift \$1 million in pro bono services to worthy charities. The firm, founded by entrepreneur Adrienne Lenhoff, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in business by gifting 10 worthy charities each a \$100,000 in pro bono services.

Shazaaam! posted the nominated organizations on its website www.shazaaam.com and the public and the nominated organizations' supporters have been invited to vote on their top 10 organizations. Voting will take place through Jan. 23. The 10 organizations with the most votes will each be the recipient of \$100,000 in pro bono marketing, public relations and social media services.

In the event that a winning organization is unable or cannot accept Shazaaam!'s gift or does not respond to the agency's outreach, Shazaaam! will then begin to reach out to the next runner up in the voting. Winning organizations will begin being contacted on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

During Shazaaam!'s 10 Year Anniversary Million Dollar Challenge nomination period, over 140 worthy 501(c)(3) organizations were nominated. The nomination period ran from Nov. 28-Dec. 28, 2011.

Since forming in 2001, Shazaaam! has awarded more than \$3 million in pro bono services to help deserving organizations elevate their messages, mobilize thousands of supporters and raise millions of dollars.

"Since opening up the nomination process, we've been exposed to over a hundred worthy organizations each with a great story to tell," said Shazaaam! founder and president, Adrienne Lenhoff. "We have the skills and the talent to help them amplify their messages and create greater awareness. Since forming Shazaaam!, I have felt that it's important to be thankful for our clients and business growth and to also give back to those around us."

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— Charles Wadsworth, founding artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center



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difficult art form into something beautiful and effortless. China's 5,000 years of civilization provide an endless source of inspiration. The choreographers work closely with the composers to recreate ancient stories and legends, or convey an aspect of the culture, through short pieces that last no more than a few minutes. Our graphic artists, meanwhile, use advanced digital technology to produce stunning animated backdrops that correspond precisely to each dance.

After seeing the show, one audience member marveled, "This production... is nothing short of a miracle."

"It's not just pretty pretty, it's serious pretty — there's a lot of depth to it, and a lot of meaning."

— Vanessa Harwood, Officer of the Order of Canada, former principal dancer of the National Ballet of Canada

"A dazzling show... The production values are grand!"

— The Globe and Mail

"I have reviewed over 3,000 shows since 1942... I will give this production five stars. That's the top! ... I've never seen anything like that. "You should go back and see it about six times."

— Richard Connema, critic for *Backlist Broadway*

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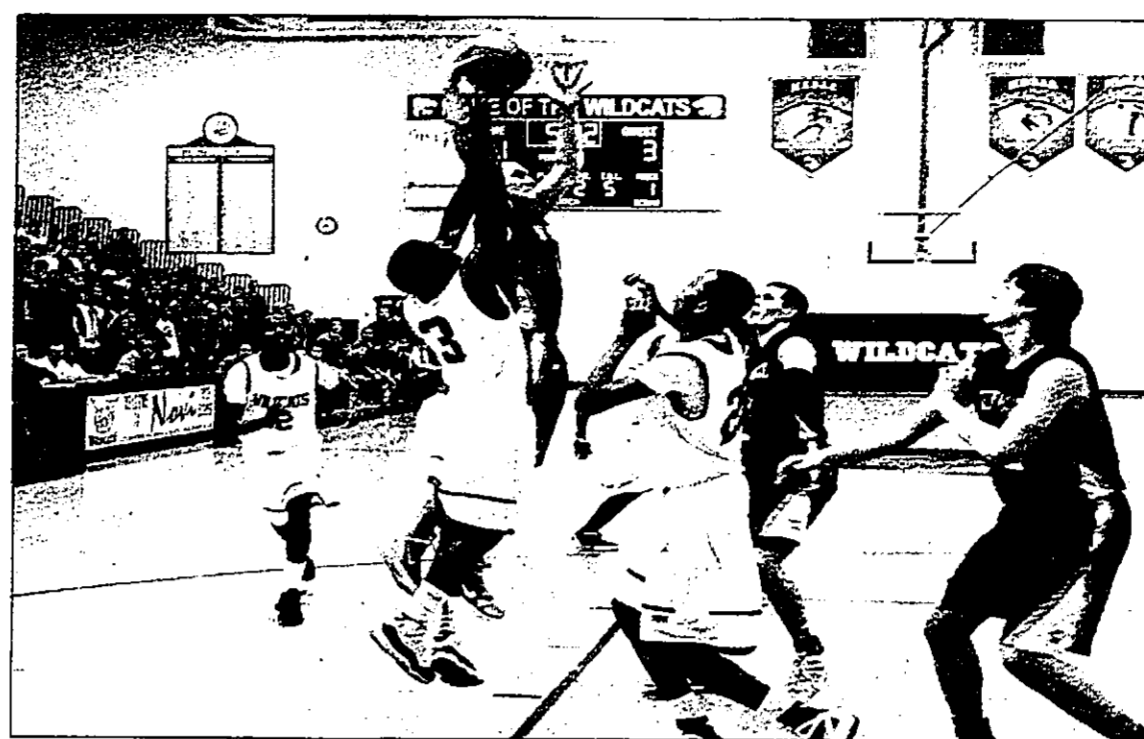
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Novi's Tre Cadwell and Northville's Jeff Gertley go up for a rebound on Jan. 13.

Mustang cagers nose past Wildcats

Northville seniors notch first varsity win over Novi 31-27

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In a game of streaks, it came down to free throws as Northville's seniors led the charge for their first victory over Novi in four years.

After building a big lead early and surviving a huge push by Novi (2-6, 2-1 KLA Central), the Mustangs (4-4, 2-1 Central) came out the 31-27 victors in a low-scoring, sometimes ugly, baseline rivalry contest.

"I think it's a typical Novi-Northville game," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "There's so much emotion that plays into this game. We got a great start, which we thought was key. They made a great run in the middle and I'm so proud of how our guys finished. We were very gutsy and gritty down the stretch, which is what you need when you play

ON TAP
Novi's boys basketball squad (2-6, 2-1 KLA Central) was scheduled to visit Plymouth Salem (3-0, 2-0 Central) last night and host Livonia Stevenson (4-2, 0-2 Central) tomorrow before hosting South Lyon East (1-5, 0-2 Central) Tuesday. All games 7:30 p.m.



Wildcat Charles McKinney tries to get a shot up against the Mustangs on Jan. 13.

this game because it's usually low scoring, it's usually in the low 30s."

Things didn't look good for Novi early. Northville built a 12-3 lead during the first quarter behind six points from 6-foot-6 sophomore Andrew Meacham (seven points) and Novi starting junior point guard Tre Cadwell (two points) left the game after injur-

Bobcats bowl over Wildcats

Novi bowlers fall short against Grand Blanc

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Last week's dual meet against Grand Blanc didn't end as hoped for the Wildcat bowlers.

The boys (2-6, 1-3 KLA Central) were on the wrong end of a 21-9 decision Jan. 12 despite winning six of 10 baker points.

The Bobcats (3-3, 2-2 North) won both games 1,005-882 and 876-779, although Novi's Charlie Woods shot a personal best of 223 and Mat Kotowicz strung together five strikes together to win his match.

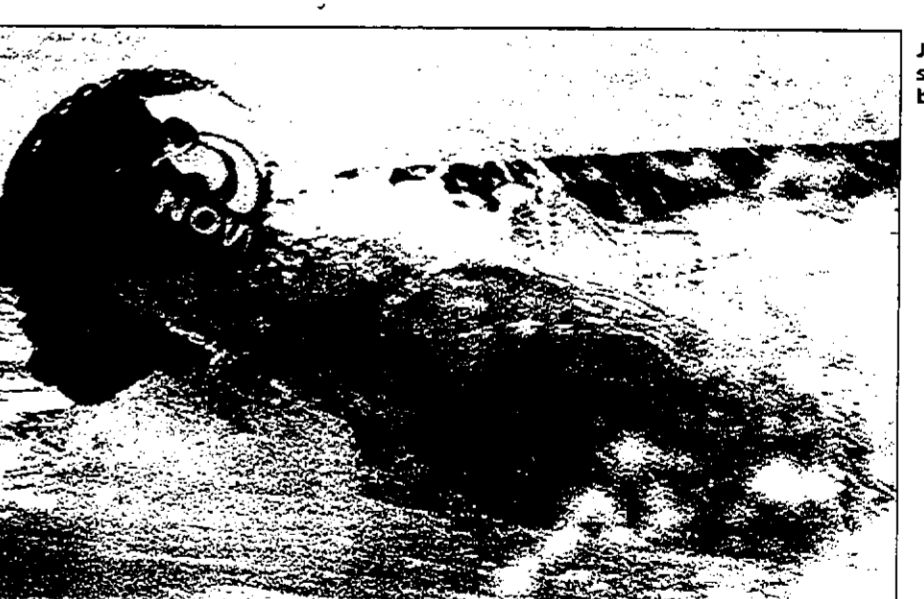
The girls (4-4, 2-2 Central) had a closer contest, but ended up losing 19-11. Grand Blanc (3-3, 2-2 North) won all 10 baker points and the first game 830-799, but the Wildcats won the second game 787-686 behind strong performances by Sara Schulz (214, 180), Jessie Snider (171, 180) and Abby O'Leary (160, 164).

ON TAP
Novi's bowling squads (2-6 boys, 2-3 girls) have a busy week ahead, visiting Livonia Stevenson (4-2, 0-2 Central) last night, competing in the Oakland County Championships Sunday and then visiting Wayne (4-1, 0-1 boys, 1-3 girls) Monday.

A few of the girls followed up their dual match performance Jan. 14 at a tournament Plymouth, Calif. Wright was third best with a high series of 569 with games of 191, 203 and 175.

In a promising showing for Novi's junior varsity program, Evie Plaetinck had high game of 180 and the third highest series of 453.

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



Jong Min Kim swims the butterfly.

Mustangs edge past 'Cats

Swim meet closest in recent memory for baseline rivals

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Among the various sports baseline rivals Novi and Northville match up in throughout the year, the swim and dive meets are usually end in favor of the Mustangs.

Shamrocks take second hockey loss of season

Despite bowing to Cranbrook, squad still ranked first

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Two wins and a loss—for most teams, that's a pretty stellar week of high school hockey. For the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks, it's a sign that there is still a lot of work to do.

The Shamrocks, which are ranked first in the state with a 12-2 record, took a victory over DelaSalle before playing back-to-back games against Cranbrook last week.

In their opening contest against the Cranbrook Kingswood Cranes, the Shamrocks took home a 4-3 overtime victory. A day later, it was the Cranes who skated off with the win, 2-1.

The opening game between the two teams found Cranbrook jumping to a 1-0 lead in the first quarter as Alex Alger took a pass from Zach Feldman and found the back of the net. It was nearly a full period later when the Shamrocks were able to tie it, scoring on an unassisted play by Tyler VanAcker to knot the game, 1-1.

The Cranes didn't wait long to regain the advantage, scoring just a minute later off the stick of Kevin Shand to reclaim the lead, setting of a back-and-forth flurry of goal scoring.

The Shamrocks were determined to be stubborn in the contest and Pete Halash took assistance from Matt Sorisho and Nolan Gluchowski to tie the game again just 38 seconds later, 2-2. The frenzy of goals continued 24 seconds later as Cranbrook brought the puck down the ice to collect yet another goal to go up 3-2 off a shot by Cameron Heath.

The two teams continued their feverous pace in the contest as the game went into the third stanza. The Shamrocks knotted the game again with just 3:47 off the clock in the period as Lucas Linville scored on a power play with assistance from Charlie Green and Halash.

With the game tied at 3-3, the two teams clashed back and forth until the buzzer sounded, signaling an overtime that lasted 6:14 until the Shamrocks found the winning goal off the stick of Sorisho, who scored off a pass from Ryan Wandel to earn the victory.

Taking the win in goal was Ryan Mulka, who stopped 17 shots, while Justin Kirk had 44 saves in the losing effort.

The next day, the game started furiously with both teams scoring in the first period, but ended in a defensive struggle as Cranbrook added another tally in the second period and held on for the win.

Green put the Shamrocks on the board first with assists from Halash and Gluchowski on a power play goal before Cranbrook scored off the stick of Blake Manginell on a power play of their own.

ON TAP
The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks varsity hockey team is slated to be back in action when they play at Culver Academy for their next two games. The first will be 8 p.m. tomorrow and the second will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Please see MUSTANGS, B4

Please see HOCKEY, B2

Please see SWIM, B4

Both sides of the Baseline

Junior Brittany Berehulka knows Northville and Novi rivalry all too well

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Just a minute into the third quarter of the girls varsity basketball game between the Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats last week, a whistle blew and the referee threw up the sign for a technical foul.

Northville junior Brittany Berehulka was being ejected.

"Both teams had players diving for a loose ball in front of the Northville bench," said Northville coach Todd Gudith. "Brittany took offense to a Novi player (Kerri McMahan) diving on her."

Berehulka swung her arm back, Gudith said, and hit McMahan in the face, leading to the technical foul and the ejection.

For Berehulka, a guard for the Mustangs, it was nothing personal - despite the roar from the crowd and the gossip that no doubt flooded the stands moments later.

You see, Berehulka used to be a starting guard for the Novi Wildcats, before moving to Northville in 2010 and transferring schools.

"I was a little nervous coming to Northville at first, but it wasn't too bad because I knew a few of the girls from our AAU team," said Berehulka. "A few of us played travel basketball together since sixth grade. I was nervous, though, when it came to all the girls I didn't know



Novi Wildcat-turned Northville Mustang Brittany Berehulka after a recent practice.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

yet. But the girls were more than nice to me and accepted me (with) no problem."

And why not? As a guard with the Wildcats the first time she played against Northville's varsity, she made quite the impact on the squad, and its coach.

"Brittany is a fierce competitor that made a quick name for herself the first time she played against us for Novi as a freshman, scoring 12 points," Gudith recalled. "She's a strong outside shooter with great range and brings another offensive threat to

our team. Our girls have welcomed her in from the beginning and we are happy that Brittany is playing for us instead of against us."

When Berehulka transferred to the school in December 2010, it was just the start of the girls basketball season. Michigan High School Athletic Association rules dictate that she had to sit out for a full semester before being able to participate in sports at the new school - meaning she could only watch as Northville played basketball and she sat idly waiting for her eligibil-

ty to come.

"Sitting out is never an easy thing to do for me," Berehulka admitted. "But sitting out when I'm not injured is the hardest. It was hard not being able to play a team game with other girls or be a part of the team. But I worked on my game in the gym and was pretty much counting down the days until I could play team ball again."

And when the season started up, Berehulka was ready - as were her Mustang teammates.

"The Northville team welcomed me with open arms," she said. "The

girls passed to me, talked to me, and encouraged me as if I were on their team for years. I was more than happy with the way the transition went. Coach Todd Gudith also accepted me and treated me no different than any other girl."

As the Novi-Northville game was steadily approaching, Berehulka knew that the competition would be fierce. No matter what the team records were when the Mustangs and the Wildcats met up, it was always going to be a tough contest.

Very few athletes have every known the rivalry as well as Berehulka does now - she's been on both sides of Eight Mile Road.

"Both schools are bound and determined to beat one another in any sport," she said. "I look forward to beating any team we play. Yes, I was excited to beat Northville at Novi, and now I'm excited to play Novi at Northville. I am happy to be wearing black and orange and head with the green and white."

And now Berehulka knows the feeling of being the winner on both sides of the rivalry. The first time she played in it, she won as a Wildcat. Following her team's 34-19 victory over Novi last week, she's a Baseline winner for the Mustangs as well.

Despite the ejection from the game, Berehulka scored six points in the winning effort.

That competitive spirit isn't reserved for playing against Novi alone - Berehulka comes into each contest looking to play her best and be the most competitive player on the court. The Novi-Northville match-up is no different than any other.

"It's just another game, another team, nothing more or less," she said. "I always go out looking to work hard, and looking for a win."

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

CC grapplers take first loss of season

Squad falls to No. 3 ranked team

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The CC Super Duals were hyped up across the state and the country as a must-see for the high school wrestling fan and last week's event didn't disappoint.

The Super Duals, which were touted on the nationally-recognized Inter-mat Wrestling website, featured two nationally-ranked teams and a slew of perennial powerhouse from Michigan and Ohio.

When all was said and done, it was quite the ground-shaking experience for those in attendance, as St. John's, ranked No. 3 in the country by Inter-mat, handed the Shamrocks, ranked 15th in the country by the website, their first loss of the season, 31-21.

"I thought our guys battled hard out there and gave the fans their money's worth," said Catholic Central coach Mitch Hancock. "There is a reason why those guys are ranked No. 3 in the country. I was proud of the way our guys competed and how smart they wrestled in certain situations. We had several guys do a nice job of limiting bonus

ON TAP

The Shamrocks will be back on the wrestling mat when they compete against Cincinnati Moeller, Richmond and Lowell at 10 a.m. Saturday before visiting Dundee and Hudson at Hudson High School Wednesday.

The Shamrocks, wrestling without their heavy-weight grappler Bob Coe, took an early 18-7 lead over the St. John's Red Wings as Kevin Beazley (215 pounds), Jay Peterson (heavyweight) and Trevor Zdebski (103) all earned victories to start the match off. Those victories were followed by Ken Bade (125), one of Catholic Central's defending state champions, who defeated his opponent with a late takedown.

"We expected Bade to win that match, as we do every match," said Hancock. "His trains extremely hard (and) loves to compete against the best."

The Red Wings proved

to have too much muscle in six of the final seven matches however, earning victories to pick up the points for the team win-Catholic Central's first of the season.

Alec Mooradian picked up a victory at 152 pounds, however, with a win over Travis Curley, to keep St. John's from sweeping the final matches.

The Super Duals did bring the Shamrocks plenty of success, however, as they defeated Temperance Bedford, 52-17, Ohio's Solon High School, 52-13 and Clarkston, 48-17.

Those victories were secured in front of more than 40 alumni who attended the tournament, including hall of fame Catholic Central coach Mike Rodriguez, who retired in 2007 with over 40 years of coaching the Shamrocks.

He collected more than 730 dual meet wins, retiring as the most successful coach in the history of USA high school wrestling.

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

Tourney champs



The St. James sixth grade JV girls basketball team won the 2011 St. Genevieve Christmas Tournament with wins over St. Mary's of Wayne (32-12), St. Fabian (44-3) and Shrine (30-9). The girls outscored their opponents 106-24. The tournament MVP was awarded to Mikayla Lynch for her outstanding offensive and defensive performance. These three wins continue to demonstrate the strong team chemistry among the players pictured: (l to r, front) Ireland Whalen, Kendall Dillon, Ella Duckworth, Mikayla Lynch; (second row) Julia Lalain, Danielle Karr, Amanda Hawkins, Lauren Murphy, Erin McDonough, Mackenzie Kwasniewicz; (top row): Asst. Coach Russ Karr, Head Coach Rob Lalain, Assistant Coach Sean Whalen and Assistant Coach Jim McDonough. Not pictured is Meghan Giroux. The girls, now 11-0, continue their quest to repeat as division champions as they head into the second half of regular season play.

Bracket champs



The St. James Thunder girls JV B team won their bracket in the annual St. Patrick Christmas Tournament. During the three games of play, the Thunder generated 56 points of offense and only gave up 21 points to the competition. The girls won games against Our Lady of the Lakes (20-4), St. Patrick (14-7) and St. Fabian (22-10). So far this season, the Thunder are 10-0, averaging 22 points per game, while only giving up 5 points per game in return. This strong record is the result of a speedy and effective offense, stifling defense, and selfless team play. Pictured are (l to r, front) Georgia Carlson, Lexi Whalen; (middle) Julia Stadhler, Vivian Oessleke, Leah Kurra, Jessica Bandyk; (back) Coach Dave Skown, Sydney Moss, Olivia Skown, Kate Dowd, Anna Biberstein, and Assistant Coach Jeff Dowd.

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Sun 10a-6p, Closed Sunday Hours: Mon-Fri 10a-7p, Sat 10a-6p, Sun 10a-6p

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

The Cranes added the final score of the game at 11:22 in the second off a shot by Heath.

Aaron Alkema got the win for the Cranes, stopping 42 shots, while Derek Moore took the loss for the Shamrocks as he stopped 12-of-14 shots on goal. Against DeLaSalle, the Shamrocks had no

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

to be held on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012**
CITY OF NOVI

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan.

Notice is hereby given that the Novi City Clerk's office, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 will be open:

MONDAY, January 30, 2012
from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
LAST DAY TO REGISTER

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be interviewing applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Building Authority, Construction Board of Appeals, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee and Library Board.

If you are a registered voter and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, information about the various Boards and Commissions is available at www.cityofnovi.org or at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375, (248) 347-0456.

The deadline for filing an application (available on the website or at the City Clerk's office) is Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. All applicants will be required to be present at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2012 in the Council Chambers to be interviewed by City Council. All City Council meetings are televised.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Publish: January 19 and 26, 2012

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.702 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR REZONING OF PROPERTY IN SECTION 18, SOUTH OF TWELVE MILE ROAD AND EAST OF MAPLE ROAD, FROM RA, RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE, AND R-1, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, TO R-4, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. The subject property is approximately 64.0 acres.

Interested parties are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Novi Planning Commission
David Greco, Secretary

Publish: January 19, 2012

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Interested parties are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

Novi Planning Commission
David Greco, Secretary

Publish: January 19, 2012



Novi junior Dan DeNova (right) picks up a Jan. 11 victory over a South Lyon East opponent in the 103-pound weight class, helping the Wildcats to an 84-0 win.

Wildcat grapplers strong in league opener, large tourney

Dobras goes 7-0 on the week

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

It was a solid week for Novi's wrestling squad, who went 6-1 over two days to improve on a .500 record for the season.

The Wildcats (13-8, 2-0 KLA.A Central) opened up division competition with a pair of convincing victories against Plymouth Salem and South Lyon East before finishing fourth at the South Lyon Invitational with their only loss coming to No. 8 Southgate-Anderson.

"We wrestled well on Wednesday and Saturday, and for the week we were 5-2 and we beat Salem twice," said coach Brad Huss. "Everyone is improving ..."

Jake Dobras was excellent this week and he was 7-0 against his opponents at 171."

Starting off against Salem, the Wildcats took an early 30-6 lead with six victories in the first seven matches by juniors Dan DeNova (103 pounds), Andrew Park (112), Tony Levy (119), seniors Alejandro Albuera (130), Giddiani Albuera (135) and sophomore Jalen Ward (140).

The Rocks cut the lead to 30-24 with three pin fall victories, but the

ON TAP

Novi's grapplers (13-8, 2-0 KLA.A Central) were scheduled to visit South Lyon last night for a matchup against both the Lions (1-2, 0-1 Central) and Northville (2-1, 1-0 Central) before heading to Livonia Stevenson (4-5, 2-0 Central) 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Wildcats won the last four matches by decision to close out a 42-24 victory. Senior Jake Dobras (171) won 5-4, junior Zack "Judo" Roush (189) won 14-10, senior Justin Michael (215) won 5-3 in overtime and senior Jimi Keller (heavyweight) won 7-3.

The squad followed the streaky victory with a complete domination of South Lyon East. The Cougars never had a chance, as Novi rattled off nine pins and five voids for an 84-0 victory.

Riding high, the Wildcats headed to the South Lyon Invitational last Saturday to face off against a wide range of teams. Novi started with a 57-18 victory over Pinckney in the first round, leading to a bye in the second round.

The third round would be their toughest task of the day, as Novi took on a ranked Southgate-Anderson squad. Dobras and both Albuera won matches by pin fall, but the Titans won 41-24.

The loss wouldn't detract the Wildcats much, as they defeated Brighton in the fourth round 49-25 with pins by DeNova, sophomore Ben Wright (145) and Michael. The Albuera brothers and Keller also earned victories.

A victory over the Bulldogs set up a rematch with Salem, but the Cats prevailed again, winning 42-33 with some strategic measures. Dobras managed a last-second pin against a stalling opponent, while senior Mike Gurney (152) ankle picked his opponent and went straight into a pin. DeNova, Levy and Michael also picked up victories.

The Wildcats capped the day with a 44-29 win over Fowlerville, featuring Roush winning an intense technical fall contest and Dobras earning his fifth pin of five attempts that day.

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

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DUELING CHAINSAW SPEED CARVING SHOW

Novi splits week with rival squads 'Cats defeat South Lyon, shut down by Northville

By Chris Jackett

Although the scoreboard was pretty similar during both of Novi's girls basketball games last week, the Wildcats found themselves on opposite ends of it from one night to the next.

Novi (6-2, 2-1 KLA Central) was on the winning end of a 38-18 decision at South Lyon (4-4, 1-1 Central) Jan. 10, but lost 34-19 while visiting Northville (5-4, 1-2 Central) last Friday.

Coach Bill Kelp attributed the split to how well the Wildcats started and finished. Although they had a 26-6 halftime lead in South Lyon, they were down 17-9 at halftime in Northville.

"(We) played a very good first half at both ends of the court," Kelp said of the first contest against the Lions.

Sophomore Kerri McMahan led all scorers with 10 points to go with four rebounds and four steals, while senior Anna Lausch added nine points, three rebounds and two blocks for Novi.

ON TAP

Novi's girls basketball squad (6-2, 2-1 KLA Central) was scheduled to host Plymouth Salem (1-6, 1-1 Central) last night before hosting Hamtramck (1-2) 6 p.m. tonight and visiting Livonia Stevenson (5-2, 1-1 Central) 7 p.m. tomorrow.

tany Beruhulka, who now plays at Northville as a junior, added six points to the Mustangs' offense. Also chipping in were senior Meredith Williams (nine points, three rebounds, four steals), junior Kendra Brenner (two points, five rebounds) and senior Aly Bates (two points, seven rebounds).

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

Energy efficiency vital for winter months

With winter in full swing, many people are looking for ways to save money through energy efficiency. Better Business Bureau is offering a checklist for homeowners to safely prepare their homes for the cold winter months, and perhaps save a few dollars in the process.

According to the Energy Information Administration, home heating costs this winter are expected to rise by 10.2 percent for homeowners who rely on heating oil. Luckily, homeowners can fend off some of the rising energy costs by winterizing their home before the harshest weather takes hold.

"With the unpredictability of Mother Nature, now is the time to prepare for the winter months ahead," said Patrick Bennett, BBB Director of Community Relations. "Taking the time to winterize your home gives you the peace of mind that you will not only save money, but be energy efficient as well."

The following is a BBB home winterizing checklist for consumers to consult when preparing for the cold months ahead:

•Furnace. Furnaces older than 15 years might be due for a replacement. For new-



er furnaces, BBB recommends making sure the furnace filter is clean, the thermostat is working properly and the pilot light is functioning. Homeowners can also hire an inspector to do the job and make sure the furnace is in safe working order.

•Chimney. Before lighting up the fireplace, homeowners should have the chimney inspected for animals, debris and leaves that may have fallen in. BBB also recommends installing a screen over the chimney opening.

•Gutters and ridge vents. Gutters should be cleaned to prevent any clogs that would cause rainwater to back up and freeze, making the gutters expand and crack.

should consider replacing smoke alarms older than 10 years.

•Caulking and weather stripping. To prevent leaks, homeowners should inspect the caulking around windows and doors and check for cracking and peeling. In addition, BBB recommends ensuring that doors and windows shut tightly and no cold air is coming in due to worn weather stripping.

•Seasonal equipment. Homeowners won't need their spring and summer equipment for a few months, so BBB recommends draining the water from garden hoses and air conditioning pipes, and the gasoline from the lawnmower and other garden tools. It's also time to pull out the snow shovels and plows and ensure they are in good repair.

•Emergency kit. When a winter storm strikes, an emergency kit should have all essential materials in one handy place. An emergency kit should include flashlights, candles and matches, a first aid kit, bottled water, nonperishable food and a battery-powered radio. BBB recommends creating the same emergency kit for the car as well, including a couple blankets.

For more consumer tips, visit www.bbb.org.

Lawyer: Fee policy a negative

Q: Do you have any information concerning announced plans by FHA to begin disqualifying condominiums from FHA financing if an association charges a deed based transfer fee at the time of sale?

A: Yes, I understand that this is the case which, of course, puts FHA at odds with the

Federal Housing Finance Agency which earlier in 2011 determined that such fees benefit community associations that do not impact on the sale of community association properties. This is yet another unilateral action by FHA without public notice or input that will have a detrimental effect on the condominium market where transfer fees are utilized.

Q: Our landlord removed and has stored some of our personal property after we were evicted. I think by taking away our property they may have converted it. What do you think?

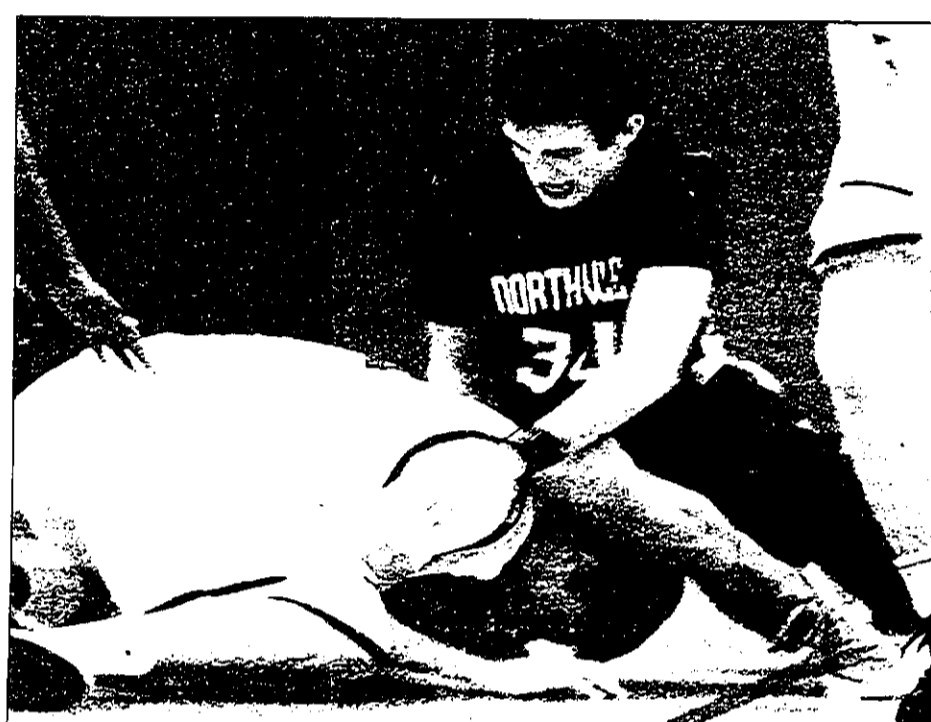
A: The Supreme Court of Michigan has held that placing a former tenant's property in storage does not constitute conversion. In addition, your landlord's removal of an evicted tenant's personal property is not wrongful if the landlord undertook the removal pursuant to an eviction order. Obviously, removal of personal property pursuant to an eviction order can constitute conversion if the manner of removal was unnecessary to the eviction. Of course, if the landlord willfully or carelessly destroys the personal property, the removal was wrongful. Obviously each case is fact intensive and you should consult with an attorney.

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

MUSTANGS

Continued from page 81

ing his left leg while trying to get through three defenders in the center circle during a Northville full-court press with 1:05 left in the quarter.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

However, sophomore Nelson Cagle (five points, eight rebounds) helped lead the Wildcats back in the second quarter, nailing a three-pointer to take Novi into halftime down 16-13. The momentum carried into the second half, as a trio of tres from junior Charles McKinney (eight points, five rebounds, two steals), senior Scott Kempa (eight points) and again from McKinney put Novi ahead 23-16 during a 16-2 run.

"I thought Nelson played pretty hard there at that spot," Tass said. "I don't want to play him there that much, but he did a pretty decent job at it. We just have to do a better job offensively and get more points on the board."

The Mustangs finished the third quarter with a 5-0 run and senior Jeffrey Gertley (game-high nine points) scored a layup 1:06 into the fourth quarter to tie the game at 23-23.



Novi's Nelson Cagle.

ly close game as they emerged as 38-36 victors over South Lyon (3-3, 1-1 Central).

Cagle led his team with 16 points and five rebounds after going 3-for-3 from three-point land, while McKinney added eight points, four rebounds and four steals. Also chipping in for the Wildcats were Jocz (five points, seven rebounds) and Cadwell (five points, one block), as well as junior Blake Brown (one point, five rebounds, two blocks), senior Alex King (two points, three rebounds) and Kempa (one point).

South Lyon Earlier in the week, Novi had an equal-

SWIM

Continued from page 81

refocused and figured out that they couldn't go 80 percent and be successful. Against Northville, we knew we couldn't even go 99 percent and be successful. Northville has a very fast team with a lot of depth, especially in the free. I knew it would be very close if we swam our absolute best and we did."

er two relay events, as Novi took the top two in the 200 medley relay and Northville took the top two in the 200 free relay.

Gordy Williams Jr., Jongmin Kim, Dennis Kim and Song won the 200 medley relay in 1:42.79, as Gucci Omimura, Austin Reed, Vincent and Ao took second in 1:43.51.

The Mustangs won the 200 free relay in 1:33.76 behind solid swims by Chris Kim, Mike Miller, Hunt and Spencer Miller, while Novi's Arthur Shi, Sreeram Paidemary, John Heslop and Jake Robbins took third in 1:43.90.

The Wildcats won six of the remaining nine individual events, placing two swimmers in the top three for four of the events. The Mustangs' depth was enough to keep them in the meet and edge out a victory.

Adding to his 200 medley relay victory, Jongmin Kim won both the 100 free (50.24 seconds) and 200 individual medley (2:01.59).

He was trailed in the 200 individual medley by Vincent, who took third (2:05.05) and who took 100 fly (55.98 seconds). Dennis Kim touched a moment after Vincent

in the 100 fly, finishing second in 57.53 seconds and also taking second in the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.88. Austin Reed won the 100 breast for Novi in 1:06.31.

Keeping with the successful day had by the three other Kims at the meet, Novi's Derek Kim won the 1-meter diving event behind 256.95 points. With only one Northville diver competing, Novi's Nick Dagher finished third with 119.15 points.

Ao provided the Wildcats with their only other win, taking the 200 free event in 1:49.69. He finished second in the 500 free in 4:58.36, just 0.08 seconds behind Northville's Hunt.

A deep core of freestyle swimmers got another victory for Northville in the 50 free, which Spencer Miller won in 22.77 seconds. Novi's Song took third in 23.50 seconds.

Novi's Derek Kim won the 1-meter diving event behind 256.95 points. With only one Northville diver competing, Novi's Nick Dagher finished third with 119.15 points.

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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.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar on Tuesdays A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

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 Willowbrook Rehabilitation provides all disciplines of outpatient rehabilitation and on-site residential care to adults recovering from Traumatic Brain Injuries. We are currently seeking dynamic individuals to work at one of our beautiful residential facilities in providing assistance to our clients in the development and promotion of life skills. CEAS's, Direct Care Workers, COTA's, Rec Therapists or Psych Nurses preferred. Full or part-time, afternoon or midnight shifts with rotating weekends available. Call 810-237-0119, ext. 212 or ext 205 for an interview.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST NEEDED
 Howell Care Center, a skilled nursing and rehab facility, is seeking an individual who is a graduate of an accredited respiratory program Certification with the NBRC required. Duties include resident care assessment, care planning, evaluation of care, staff, resident and family education and other duties as related to our resident unit, track and (2) dependent residents. Send resume to: Howell Care Center 3003 W. Grand River Howell, MI 48843

Help Wanted-Professional

TAX PREPARER
 to fill temporary position through April 30 at local public accounting firm. Applicant must be knowledgeable in both individual and business tax preparation for small people and computer skills a plus. To apply, please email resume to: sreed@bwcpa.com

Help Wanted-Sales

ANYTIME FITNESS OF HOWELL/HARTLAND, MI is seeking motivated P/T Salespeople for Howell & Hartland facilities who are energetic, friendly, and customer service oriented. Hourly plus commission. Resumes to howell@anytimefitness.com or fax: 517-540-1554. No phone calls please!

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