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SPORTS, B2



RECOVERY

NOVI HOUSING MARKET SHOWING
SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT;
LOCAL NEWS, A3

NOVI NEWS

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State of Wixom

Mayor Kevin W. Hinkley will present his annual State of the City address scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in the Wixom Community Center (located at the Wixom Civic Center Campus, 49015 Pontiac Trail).

In his presentation, the mayor will provide an overview of the City's opportunities and challenges for 2012.

The public is invited to attend.

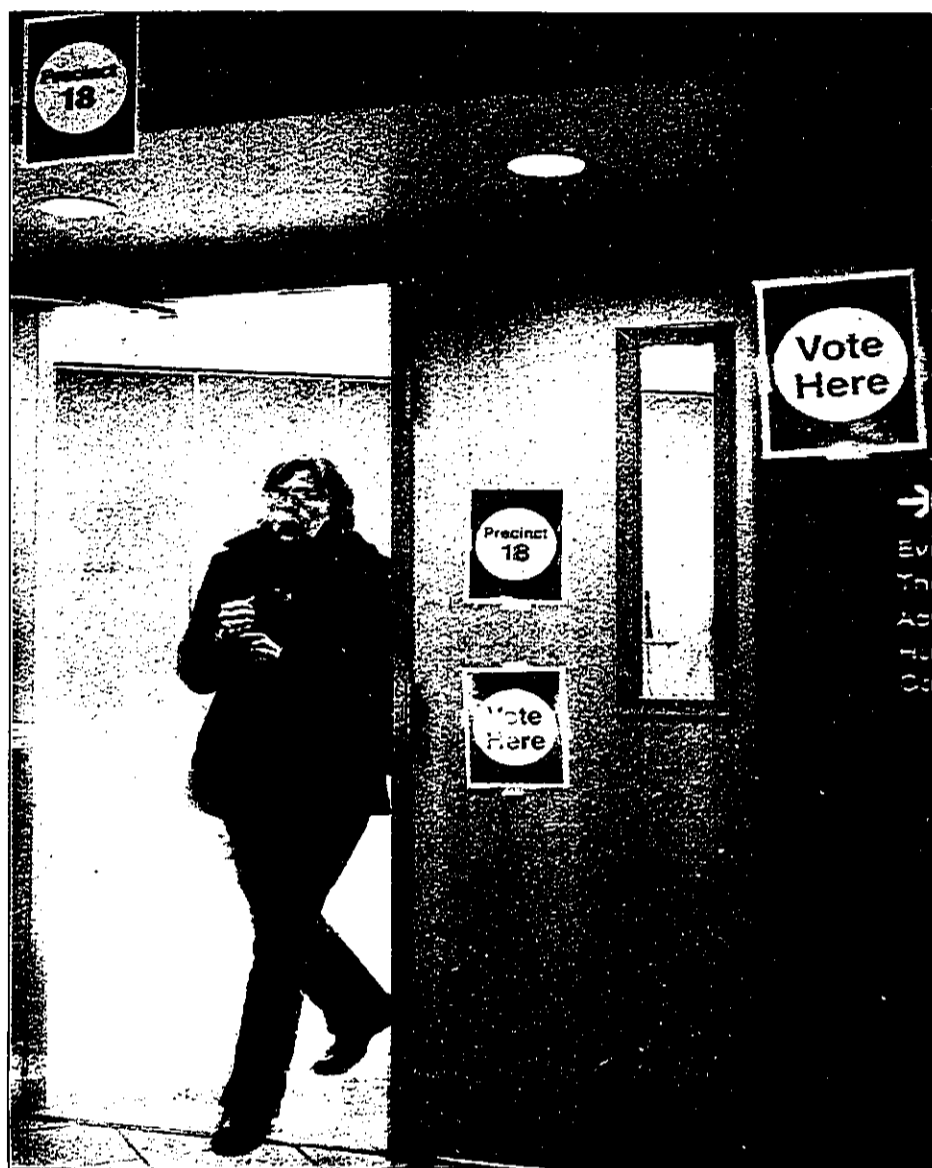
Children's book drive

March is reading month, and to celebrate reading, while helping the community, Novi Meadows Girl Scout Troop 40173 is holding a children's book drive at the Novi Public Library. Gently used children's books are requested for donation to Oakland County Child Protective Services. Ultimately the books that are donated will be used in visitation rooms, foster homes, and given to kids in need.

The Book Donation Program is one of four Bronze Award projects the troop has undertaken. The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can receive and is a first step on their path to leadership designed to help young ladies develop more confidence, meet new people, and develop and activate a plan to change the world around them.

If you have gently used books up to the eighth grade reading level, please consider dropping them off during the month of March at the Novi Public Library main entrance (45255 W. 10 Mile Road). Library hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10-5 Saturday; and 1-5 Sunday. For more information, e-mail Troop40173@yahoo.com.

ELECTION 2012



Marcia Van Hamme exits from Novi's Precinct 18 — at the Novi Civic Center — on Tuesday morning after casting her ballot in the Michigan presidential primary.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Romney soars past Santorum in Novi, ekes out state win

Novi clerk pleased with 20-percent voter turnout

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Novi voters echoed others throughout the state who put their support behind Mitt Romney (41 percent) Tuesday as he edged out Rick Santorum (38 percent) in Michigan's Republican presidential primary election.

The race in Novi wasn't as close as the final state results were as Romney garnered 54.96 percent of the vote (3,747 votes) to Santorum's 27.05 percent (1,844 votes). Ron Paul finished third with 9.46 percent.

A total of 7,558 Novi residents voted in the election, including 2,487 absentees, good enough for a turnout of 20.06 percent.

Maryanne Cornelius, Novi's clerk, said the majority of the precincts saw steady traffic throughout the day and she was pleased with the results.

"Everyone was predicting between 15 and 20 percent, and we are on the higher end of those predictions," she said.

Dennis Pittman, executive director of the Oakland County Republican

Party, was just off on his prediction of a 5-percent Romney win, but credited Santorum for working hard to capture voter attention.

He also didn't shy away from a future prediction regarding Romney.

"Romney is going to definitely win the (Republican) nomination, and I predict he is going to be the next president," Pittman said.

The steady flow of voters who entered the precincts at the Novi Civic Center in the late after-

Please see PRIMARY, A2

Water rates expected to rise in Novi

Proposed 4.4-percent increase is still at low end

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Water rates appear to be on the rise again this year, one year after Novi's rates showed a slight decrease.

However, compared to other nearby cities, Novi's proposed increase is at the lower end of the spectrum. According to the preliminary numbers from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the city is expected to see rates jump 4.4 percent. The cities of Northville and Farmington are expected to see rates jump 8.3 percent, Plymouth 8.1 percent and Wixom 7.9 percent.

Rob West, water and

sewer manager for the city, said it's rare that rates stay the same, but credits the residents for buying into the water management program that keeps Novi's rate from increasing drastically.

"The 4.4-percent increase, I'm proud of it to be honest," he said. "What people don't realize is that every little bit helps, not only yourself, but the whole community."

The DWSD's rate structure is a two-part rate structure that includes a fixed component for capital replacement and a consumption charge. Also, the city

Please see WATER, A2

Novi expanding senior transportation service

Non-medical trips added to program

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Seniors in Novi will soon be able to take the city's transportation service 10 miles outside of the city for more than just medical appointments.

Starting April 6, the Novi Senior Transportation Service is expanding to offer rides to all destinations 10 miles beyond the city limits. Currently travel is limited, but Jason Mangum, director of parks, recreation and cultural services, said enough residents spoke up for the city to consider the change.

Riders can now take the vans to restaurants, grocery stores, shops, friends' homes and many other places outside the city.

"We just want to provide a better service for seniors," Mangum said. "And as the population

Please see SENIOR, A2

DETAILS

Who: Novi Senior Transportation Service
What: Expanding service to 10 miles outside city of Novi limits

When: begins April 6
Schedule: Six buses run from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. Two-day notice is required for regular rides. After-hours trips can be made until 9 p.m. on Monday-Friday and 5 p.m. on Saturday, but three days notice is required.

Cost: \$4 for a one-way ride within the city and \$6 for a one-way ride outside the city within the 10 mile radius.
For: residents of Novi age 55 or over, or physically challenged non-seniors.

Appointment: Calling (248) 735-5617 or visit the city of Novi's website at www.cityofnovi.org.

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INDEX

- Business.....B5
- Crossword Puzzle.....B7
- Education.....A4
- Homes.....B7
- Jobs.....B8
- Obituaries.....A10
- Opinion.....A12
- Public Safety.....A15
- Services.....B7
- Sports.....B1
- Wheels.....B10

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WATER

Continued from page A1

changed its rate structure to include a minimum water rate but not a minimum consumption to better align with DWSD's rate structure.

Detroit determines the rate using a formula that factors in how far the city is from a collection point, how high the elevation is and the city's usage. A city can control its usage, and that is where Novi's

lawn watering ordinance comes into play. The ordinance calls for alternate day watering that takes place during the non-peak hours of 11 p.m.-5 a.m.

"A gallon of water at midnight is not the same as at 7 a.m.," West said. The numbers still must be approved by the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners before taking effect July 1.

nmuller@gannett.com
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SENIOR

Continued from page A1

grows, we want to continue to meet their needs."

The hope is that by expanding the services the city can maximize ridership by scheduling the rides close to medical appointments and having as many people on the buses as possible.

vice usually costs the city money at the end of the year, but he hopes the changes can help them recoup some of the cost.

"We are hoping we can increase revenue based on the fact we can maximize ridership on these trips outside of the 10 mile radius," he said.

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Bob Hammer exits from Novi's Holy Family Church on Meadowbrook after voting in Tuesday's primary. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PRIMARY

Continued from page A1

noon had mixed feelings about who they were going to vote for in the primary.

Nikki Vandis, who came to the precinct with her two children in tow, said she tries to vote in all the elections and looks at the moral issues when casting her vote.

"I was voting for the lesser of the evils," she said. "There isn't a particular candidate that stands out."

Resident Lisa Berry praised current President Barack Obama for his work in office, particularly for helping Detroit and the auto industry.

"I am going to make a vote to show my apprecia-

"I was voting for the lesser of the evils. There isn't a particular candidate that stands out."

NIKKI VANDIS
Novi voter

tion for Obama," she said. Compared to the primary four years ago, the total number of Novi voters was down from 9,145, which amounted to a 26.68-percent voter turnout.

Cornelius said the reason for the slight dropoff could be because in 2008 the primary was in January, closer to the time candidates filed.

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

Presidential Primary Results

Republican Party	City of Novi	Novi Township
Ron Paul	645	3
Rick Perry	4	0
Buddy Roemer	11	0
*Mitt Romney	3,747	24
Rick Santorum	1,944	12
Michelle Bachmann	7	1
Herman Cain	407	0
Tim Pawlenty	7	3
Jon Huntsman	9	0
Gov. Chris Christie	0	0
Gov. Scott Walker	8	0
Uncommitted	325	0
Write-in	0	0
Democratic Party	City of Novi	Novi Township
*Barack Obama	659	0
Uncommitted	74	0
Write-in	3	0

*indicates state winner

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Editor:
Cal Stone
248-437-2011 Ext. 237
Email: cstone@hometownlife.com

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THYROID CONDITION?

Cold Hands Cold Feet, Fatigue, Weight Gain, Hair Loss, Constipation, Low Libido, Depression, Insomnia, Anxiety, Heart Palpitations



Dr. Tom Sladic DC is Holding A FREE SEMINAR
Thursday, March 8th at 6:30pm-7:30 pm
Location: Holiday Inn Express
48953 Alpha Tech Drive, Wixom, MI 48393
(Located at the corner of I-96 and Wixom Rd.)

Dr. Sladic's protocols are based on the groundbreaking work of Dr. Datis Kharrazian, author of the book "Why Do I Still Have Thyroid Symptoms when my lab Tests are normal"

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— S. Finn, Novi

View More Testimonials at DrSladic.com

District focused on helping students swim, achieve

By Steve Matthews
 Guest Columnist



Super Talk
 Steve Matthews

Sat on the edge of the swimming pool next to my dad, and in front of me a clown performed a series of dives and told jokes as he splashed into the water.

While I laughed at the antics of the clown, I also marveled at his acrobatic grace as he performed his slapstick routine. The gathered group of seven and eight year old boys and their fathers laughed at the clown's dives and comedy.

I was 7 years old that day. My father and I were part of the local YMCA Indian Guide program and we had come to see the clown perform his comedy routine and then to enjoy an afternoon in the pool.

The clown, at the end of his show, invited everyone into the pool. I jumped in and quickly started to sink. Evidently my father and I had sat down at the deep end of the pool. When the clown said, "Jump in!" I did. I thought my feet would touch the bottom. They didn't! While I had taken swim lessons I was not prepared for the deep end of the pool that day.

I remember feeling my father's hand as he reached into the water

and pulled me back to the top. It was a good feeling.

Today we expect every student in our district to be able to swim in deep water. Expectations are high for our students. The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires every student in our district to complete four years of math and English, three years of science including chemistry or physics, and three years of social studies.

In addition, competition for jobs has increased. To find employment and access the middle class lifestyle, students need to have more skills than a generation ago. The jobs of today and tomorrow require increased levels of education and training. Our students need to be prepared.

In our district, we are committed to making sure that every student achieves at a high level. This requires that we understand the current skill of our students and that we have a plan to help each of our students move forward. Every stu-

dent is important and every student needs to be prepared for the challenges of the future.

Our teachers and administrators understand that our students need to be ready for the challenges of tomorrow. Teachers know their subject and spend time learning and reflecting on effective instructional strategies. Administrators work with teachers to reflect on student data and to identify how that data will inform our classroom instruction.

When our students jump into the deep end of the pool they will be ready. Our commitment is that our teachers and administrators will make sure that every student will learn to swim in the increasingly complex world that we live in.

Every student is important. Every student will achieve.

And we will work to make sure that no student sinks and that every student will be prepared for the next step in their life.

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

Science Alive



A snake, chinchilla, kookaburra and alligator visited Jacqueline Ukrop's fourth grade classroom at Orchard Hills Elementary School Feb. 20-21 as part of the Science Alive Program. Shown are Taiga Shiokawa and Joey Vesche.

District saves taxpayers nearly \$2 million with bond refunding

By Nathan Mueller
 Staff Writer

Taxpayers in Novi will be saving \$1,878,377 over the next nine years after the Novi Community School District refunded more than \$15 million in outstanding bonds.

The district initially thought in November that the savings would be

approximately \$895,000, but a favorable bond market pushed it to a nearly \$2 million savings in future interest payments.

"To see a savings of almost 12 percent is phenomenal," said Steve Barr, assistant superintendent of business and operations. "We were thinking close to 9 percent at first, and to double that is exciting for us and exciting for the taxpayers."

The refunding of bonds is similar to refinancing a home mortgage, and taxpayers will see the savings in the debt millage rate. Barr noted that this has no impact on the general fund budget.

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

Making sushi



Novi High School junior Vicky Qiao gets ready to roll some California sushi with bamboo mat during the Feb. 21 Japanese Club meeting. Students got to prepare and then eat their own sushi during that meeting.



A couple of students spread cooked rice on thin mats of seaweed.



The finished product—a California sushi roll.

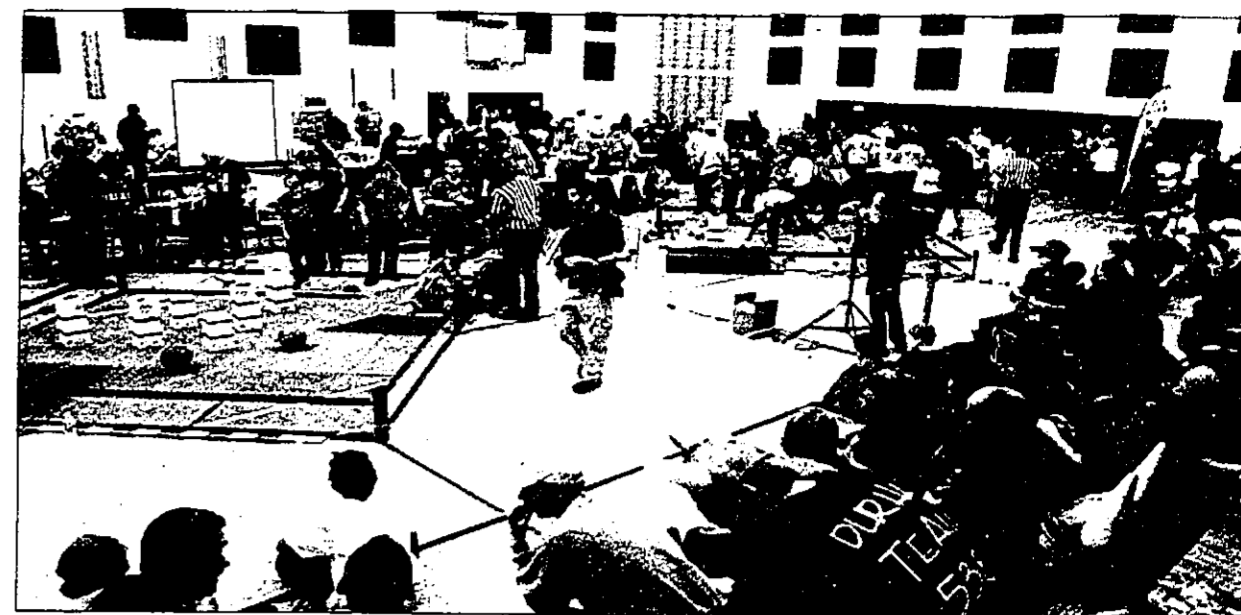
Robotic challenge



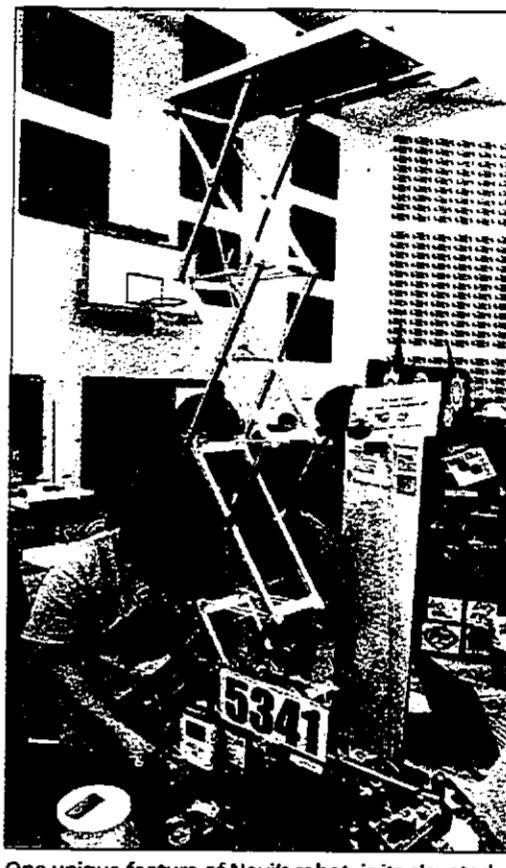
Novi Middle School student Kevin Yoo works on his "Black Frog" robotics team robot during a First Tech Challenge competition on Feb. 25. The competition, held at Novi Middle School, was for rookie teams across the state of Michigan—from middle schools.



Black Frog team crowds around their robot to make some adjustments.



Novi Middle School's gymnasiums were packed with robotics teams and fans from all over the state on Feb. 25.



One unique feature of Novi's robot, is its elevated platform. More points are awarded if the robots elevated their "catch" at the end of the competition.



Some middle school teams wore interesting headgear and uniforms—like this team from Van Horton Middle School.



Black Frog team members, from left, Stephen Evanceo, Ben Dolan, and Kevin Yoo—man the controllers as their robot goes into action during a Saturday morning competition.

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'Music Man'

Tickets are now on sale for 'The Music Man' presented by The Novi Civic Theatre and featuring (from left) Matt Markham, Robert Stanley, Lauren Landman, and Sophia Psikis all of Novi. The show opens Friday, March 9 and tickets may be purchased online at cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. 10 Mile Road) from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, Meredith Wilson's 'The Music Man' follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he con the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize, despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. All seats are reserved. For more information, please call the Novi Parks office at (248) 347-0400. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 9 and 16 and Saturday, March 10 and 17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 11 and 18.



City council keeps attorney, changes firms

Budget amendment includes phase two of Landings Park

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

A new law firm is now representing the city of Novi after current city attorney Tom Schultz left his previous employer, Farmington Hills-based Secrest Wardle, to join a new firm.

Schultz will remain the city's attorney while working for Johnson, Rosati, Schultz and Joppich, providing legal support to Novi for everything not pertaining to labor or prosecution.

The Novi City Council approved the termination of its contract with Secrest Wardle last Tuesday, while also agreeing to an interim contract with the new firm. City manager Clay Pearson and former Novi mayor and attorney David Landry are working on negotiating a new agreement that is scheduled to go before the consultant review committee on March 12.

"This lets us move forward with Mr. Schultz and his colleagues who served us so well," Pearson said. "We appreciate the services of the firm Secrest Wardle, (it's) just we have had Mr. Schultz specifically, and I believe it's in the city's best interest to continue on that basis."

The new agreement with Johnson, Rosati, Schultz and Joppich will include the same legal fee schedule as the previous contract with Secrest Wardle.

Budget amendment approved

The city council on Tuesday approved a budget amendment for the second quarter, which included the transfer of \$288,000 from the fund



Schultz

balance to the parks, recreation and cultural services fund for development of phase two of the Landings Park.

Other items in the amendment included, capital outlay items for the department of public services, 9 Mile Road between Beck and Taft roads construction project, Meadowbrook and 9 Mile signal project, building improvements for the senior transit center relocation and Randolph Street drain maintenance per agreement with the Oakland County Drain Commission.

The city reports overall actual revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year are tracking within budget.

Board commission appointments

- The city council also filled vacancies on its boards and commissions Tuesday, appointing the following residents:
- Samuel Ray - Beautification Commission
- Mark Sturing - Building Authority
- Lee Mamola - Construction Board of Appeals
- William Lawler - Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee
- Brandon Stewart - Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee
- Bob Churella - Economic Development Corporation
- Larry Czekaj - Library Board
- Larry Kilgore - Library Board
- David Margolis - Library Board

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Novi events

BLOOD DRIVES

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Saturday, March 10
Location: Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Time/Date: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 21
Location: Providence Park Hospital (southwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck road, Novi)

Contact: riskd@usa.redcross.org or (313) 549-7052 to set up an appointment

GARDENERS OF NORTHVILLE AND NOVI MEETING

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. March 12
Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street
Details: Karin Andresen speaking on "Color in the Garden." She is an advanced Master Gardener, professional gardener and former president of the Association of Professional Gardeners. Karin has a large personal garden containing annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, vegetables and vines. She also has a greenhouse.

Contact: Fran Gunderson at (248) 349-6457 or Connie Marcangelo at (248) 380-0500

CONVERSATIONS IN HEALTH

Location: Providence Park Hospital (southwest 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
Tuesday, March 27: Colorectal Cancer
Thursday, April 12: Health Literacy
Tuesday, May 22: Stroke
Tuesday, June 19: Intelligent Exercise



Karmanos annual dinner

Join the celebration and help save lives by participating in the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute's 30th Annual Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at the General Motors Vehicle Engineering Center in Warren. Pictured are the event chairs: Mary Barra, senior vice president, Global Product Development, General Motors Company; and her husband, Tony Barra, president, Filament Consulting. This signature event continues the great partnership between GM, the GM Foundation and the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Proceeds raise needed funds to advance cancer care. This year's Annual Dinner will continue to benefit the critical work of Karmanos researchers and physicians who are creating the next standard of cancer care that will be used around the world. The event will include a cocktail reception, an elegant seated dinner, brief program, entertainment, an exciting raffle, and more. For more information, contact Lisa Koltunich at (313) 576-8106 or koltunil@karmanos.org.

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

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414; theglin@cityofnovi.org

AARP Income Tax Preparation

Times/Dates: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays, 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 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.

opportunity to share their story. Handouts describing the phases of grief and the tasks of grief are available.

Business

NOVI OAKS CHARTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Marketing on a Dime"
Time/Date: 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 14
Details: By Kym Johnson, owner of KJ Marketing Communications. Explore inexpensive and free marketing techniques to promote your business, both online and offline.

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.

NOVI TOASTMASTERS CLUB

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

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 other. Cost of breakfast is \$10.
Contact: Fonda Milana 586-232-3009 or fmlana@sunrisefinancialgroupilc.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" to develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.
Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at (248) 797-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com.

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

COMBINED NETWORKING BREAKFAST WITH LAKES AREA CHAMBER

Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. March 14
Location: Sam's Club, 27300 Wixom Road, Novi
Details: Join for networking and a hearty breakfast; \$5 payable at the door. Please pre-register on line.

BUSINESS AND TASTE EXPO

Time/Date: 3-6 p.m. Thursday, March 15
Please see CALENDAR, A8



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Novi housing market showing signs of recovery

Residential property values up 1.2 percent

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

When Gary Reggish, a broker for Remerica United Realty, looks at the real estate market in Novi he sees something that has been missing for quite some time — stabilization.

The market, Reggish said, is heading toward recovery, and Novi is one of about 17 communities in Oakland County that is seeing property values and

assessments increasing.

"For all the home buyers who have been sitting on the fence waiting to buy at the cusp of the upturn, now is the time to get in and buy your first home or buy the bigger home," he said. "It will be a solid year of stabilization in 2012, maybe even some modest growth."

Reggish noted that inventory is down significantly in the city and that most homes are selling with multiple offers and for

nearly full asking price.

In 2010, the average sold price for a home in Novi was \$283,000, and in 2011 that number increased to \$296,000. Also the average days a home remained on the market dropped from 98 days to 84 days, and 436 homes were sold in the city in 2011.

"Buyers are really getting off the fence," he said.

Glenn Lemmon, city of Novi assessor, said residential prop-

erty values increased 1.2 percent, as opposed to last year when they were down about 4.3 percent. This is a plus for the community as it should increase property tax revenue.

He noted that he has already closed on five transactions so far in 2012, and credits the community for being an attractive place for buyers.

"There is a lot more optimism, which is needed for buyers to complete a deal or for tenants to be willing to sign a lease," he said.

nmuellegannett.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Time for digital spring cleaning



Tech Savvy
Jon Gunnells

Don't let the snow on the ground fool you. The spring is almost here. And what better time to take care of some much needed digital spring cleaning.

Some of the items you need to properly clean your electronics are already in your home, but that doesn't mean you should simply grab a bottle of Windex and start wiping down everything you own. Follow these helpful tips when it comes to cleaning and maintaining your electronic devices.

clean computer towers, keyboards or other small delicate places, try purchasing compressed air (some times called canned dust-er). A 10-ounce bottle can be purchased from ABC Warehouse for \$6.99 and will come with an extension tube to help you clean crevices like the ones all over your keyboard.

Canned air is odorless and can be moisture-less in some circumstances. When used for long periods of time, however, the can and the compressed air may become cold and make devices appear frosty for a few moments. The cold air won't damage your keyboard or most household products. Just be sure that you don't get any frost or moisture on circuits like the circuits found in your DVR, or your computer motherboard.

Digital cameras are another household item that can be cleaned with canned air, but more expensive devices and lenses require more sophisticated equipment. You can purchase digital camera, video camera and lens cleaning equipment at ABC or specialty camera stores. Many electronics stores also carry lens-cleaning prod-

ucts for CD players, DVD players, Blue Ray players and the discs themselves.

Cleaning tips

Nearly any electronic device in your home, from video game units to speakers, can be cleaned with dusters or whisks. Dirtier items can be wiped down with a damp cloth but, again, avoid getting moisture inside a speaker grille or video game console.

If your main goal is to disinfect your tech toys, you can always clean them with antibacterial wipes, or cotton swabs with rubbing alcohol. Cotton will clean and disinfect surfaces without leaving lint behind.

Of course, the dirtiest electronics you own are almost assuredly your cell phone and your tablet. Those filthy items that you touch with your dirty hands hundreds of times a day might be damaged with rubbing alcohol.

A solution: Wipe the screen down more often with water, and wash your hands with soap and water even more.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonath.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnShow.



Novi High School sophomore Matthew Hawkins asks a question during High School Journalist Day at Joe Louis Arena on Feb. 16.

An inside look at Hockeytown

Student journalist gets taste of the industry

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Matthew Hawkins is an admitted "hockey enthusiast" who learned how to read by reading about the Detroit Red Wings in the newspaper.

So when the Novi High School sophomore was picked to attend the Detroit Red Wings' annual High School Journalist Day on Feb. 16, it was a dream come true.

"It was awesome," he said. "The atmosphere was terrific down there and the players were really cool guys and down to earth."

Hawkins was one of 60 high school journalists from all over the state

who attended the daylong event to get an inside look at the life of a sports journalist.

The students met with Kevin Allen of USA Today; Michael Caples of Michigan Hockey; Shannon Hogan of FOX Sports Detroit and Jeff Riger from 97.1 The Ticket, who briefed them on their specific jobs and fielded questions. They then took a break to watch the Wings practice, a highlight for the hockey-playing Hawkins.

"I really enjoyed watching practice to see what they did differently than my team and how they did it," he said. "Everything is quicker, faster and more organized."

Red Wings General Manager Ken Holland and coach Mike Babcock also fielded questions from the student journalists before turning the microphones over to players Todd Bertuzzi, Dan Cleary and Valteri Filppula.

Hawkins said he hopes to take over the sports editor position at The Wildcat Roar when the current editor graduates, and learned some valuable lessons from his day with the Red Wings.

"I learned to not expect the best job at first; just take any job you can get and do it well," he said.

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CALENDAR

Continued from page A7

day, March 22
Location: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile
Details: 3:4 p.m. keynote presentation by Dr. Lee Meadows, professor of management, Walsh College; 4-6 p.m. vendor booths open. Display your products and services - over 250 attendees last year. Call Chamber office for application and early bird booth price. Entrance fee is \$5 payable at the door.

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.

FAMILY SPAGHETTI COOK-OFF DINNER
Time/Date: 6-8:30 p.m. March 14
Location: Novi United Methodist Church
Details: With celebrity judges Mayor Bob Gatt; Maria Paciocco from Maria's Italian Bakery; and Lou Martin, St. John Providence, Public Relations. Entertainment by Joseph David the Magician. Everyone is wel-

come to attend, but please register to help organizers determine the amount of food needed. Everyone is welcome to enter their favorite sauce. Prizes will be awarded for the top sauces. Register at www.novirota.org. Any donations will go to the Novi Rotary Foundation.

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. Principal activities are fundraising for Leader Dogs, Penrickton Center for Blind Children and other blind charities along with fundraisers for high school scholarships. Serving locally, in Michigan and worldwide as there is the need.

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.
Contact: (248) 349-0720 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.

LISTEN @ THE LIBRARY
Time/Date: 3-4 p.m. Sunday, March 4
Details: PNC Bank, The Chamber Music Society of Detroit, and the Novi Library proudly present Steve Vogaman, Chamber Music Society of Detroit's President, accomplished pianist, and chamber musician. Mr. Vogaman is our featured performer today as part of the Listen @ the Library concert series.

OPEN OFFICE HOURS IN THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
Time/Date: 12-2 p.m. Monday, March 5
Details: On the first and third Mondays of each month, a member of the Novi Historical Commission will hold office hours in the Local History Room to help researchers use its many resources.

SNACK TALES
Time/Date: 7-7:45 p.m. Monday, March 5
Details: Each time we meet you will get a chance to listen to some great stories and cook up a tasty snack. For grades K-4. Registration required.

MONDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 5
Details: Join your neighbors for a discussion of Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli.

HELP FOR FAMILIES FROM OLHSA
Time/Date: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays, March 6 and 13
Details: Meet with an OLHSA (Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency) staff member for support with Medicaid, food or cash assistance, foreclosure assistance and many other human services. Please call the OLHSA office at 248-209-2686 to make an appointment.

ESL BOOK DISCUSSION
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, March 6
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.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP
Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Tuesdays, March 6 and 13
Details: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills. No need to register.

3RD-4TH GRADE MINI-BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
Time/Date: 7-7:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 6
Details: Teams read 4 books and answer questions about them. Teams are formed the day of the Battle, so all you have to do is read the books and be ready to have fun. Join us to win prizes and make new friends.

TWEEN/TEEN BOOK CLUB
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 7
Details: Join us as we talk about a popular Tween/Teen Read! Snacks will be provided. We'll be reading Newbery Honor book "Everything on a Waffle" by Polly Horvath. For grades 5-12. Registration required.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

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IB Talent Show

Novi High School's second annual IB International Talent Show "Around the World in 20 Acts" will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 17 in the auditorium. All proceeds are donated to Doctors Without Borders. Last year over 300 people attended the event which raised \$2,485, and this year the group hopes to raise even more funds for this international organization.

The show will feature Novi High School students performing in 20 acts representing various countries. Some of the many acts include dances from India, Greece, Ireland, and Mexico; songs in Latin and French; instrumentalists from French and Finland composers, a Japanese traditional drum performance, and more.

The production was organized by the 27 IB diploma candidates at the school. This event is part of their CAS (creativity, action, and service) requirement for earning the diploma. The students planned all aspects of the show from recruiting to advertising, ticket and program preparation, and emcee duties. In addition, many of the IB students are performing in the show under the direction of their staff coordinator, Barbara Clift.

A new feature added to the event this year is taste testing of international foods during the intermission. Tables will be set up with food from Japan, India, Belgium, Germany, China and more.

Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the door. Come help and support this charity while celebrating the diverse talents of the Novi students.

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Saturday, April 7

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CROW, DONALD
83, passed away February 24, 2012. Services are February 28, 2012, 2pm at United Pentecostal Church in Piggott, Arkansas.



FURMAN.

KATHLEEN "KATHY"
Age 70, of Northville, passed away February 24, 2012. She was a graduate of Harper Hospital School of Nursing. She was a proud and active member of South Lyon A.A. and a devoted member of Crossroads Christian Church in South Lyon. Kathy is survived by her beloved husband Donald of 25 years; her sister Nancy (Burch) and her niece and nephews. She was loved by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held at Crossroads Christian Church in South Lyon. Please contact PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME regarding day and time of service. In lieu of flowers, donations appreciated to Crossroads Christian Church. Online Guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

HADRILL (BREMER) MURIEL JANICE
Age 94, died peacefully at her home in Saratoga Springs, Michigan on February 24, 2012. Muriel was born May 30, 1917 in Ypsilanti, MI. There, she attended Ypsilanti Normal school. She then moved to Milford, MI where she lived from 1938 to 1966. While in Milford she taught grade school for about five years. She was a great cook and kept a very nice home for her kids as well as others. She loved to read, garden, and knit and any other neighborhood folks. Next, Muriel moved to the Holland-Douglas-Saugatee area where she moved several times (about six) just ask her son and son-in-law. There, she was a graduate of Harper Hospital School of Nursing. She was a proud and active member of South Lyon A.A. and a devoted member of Crossroads Christian Church in South Lyon. Kathy is survived by her beloved husband Donald of 25 years; her sister Nancy (Burch) and her niece and nephews. She was loved by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held at Crossroads Christian Church in South Lyon. Please contact PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME regarding day and time of service. In lieu of flowers, donations appreciated to Crossroads Christian Church. Online Guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

KASSABIAN, SARAH
May 4, 1925 - February 22, 2012. Online condolences: obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

KONKEL, JOANN
February 25, 1942 - February 21, 2012. Online condolences: obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

LEVEQUE, PAUL RUSSELL
Age 70, a resident of Milford and formerly of Marquette, passed away in the care of his family on February 24, 2012. Survived by Vickie his beloved wife of nearly 48 years; loving children Ronald LeVeque, Jeff (Sherry) LeVeque, Wendy (Shawn) Sprague; grandchildren Kyle LeVeque, Zachary and Ryan Sprague; brothers Bob (Janet) and Larry (Shelley) who extended family and dear friends. A Memorial Service will be held at First United Methodist Church of Howell, 1230 Beaver St., Howell, on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 11 AM with gathering beginning at 10 AM. The Rev. George H. Lewis to officiate. Memorial contributions encouraged to: American Cancer Society or American Heart Assoc. or American Lung Assoc. For further information, please contact: Milford at 248-684-6945 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

POWELL, BARD LAMAR (RED)
Age 84 passed away on February 15, 2012 in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Powell is survived by his wife of 22 years Linda, 5 children, 5 step children, 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Born October 10, 1927 in Fort Myers, Florida. Mr. Powell lived most of his life in South Lyon, He was a member of The VFW 2605 in South Lyon, The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, The Jonia Black Powder Rifle Club, and The Lansing Gun Club. Mr. Powell was a United States Marine he served and fought in the Korean War. He worked and retired after 35 years of service at the Quaker Tube Mill in South Lyon and was a proud member of the United Steel Workers Union. A memorial service will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall 3555 E Grand River, Howell Michigan Saturday March 10th, 2012 at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to: Life Path Hospice, 12973 N. Telecom Parkway, Temple Terrace, Florida 33637.

GERBIG (GRiffin), PATRICIA
Feb. 25, 1931 - Feb. 25, 2012. Online condolences: obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

GIROLAMI, VICTOR
Age 84, of Novi, died February 24, 2012. Beloved husband of Gale for 63 wonderful years; devoted father of Gigi (Bob) Steel, Jayne (Gary) Steel, Anthony (Patty), Tom and Michael (Lisa); dear brother of Quin (Doris) Barrett and the late Roland (Nina) others; grand-father of Kirra Steel, Michael Steel, Joel Langemann, Andrea (Patrick) Nichols, Matthew, Anthony Petty II, Quinn Percy and Emma Gale. Funeral service Saturday, March 3rd, 2:30 pm, at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River) in Farmington. Visitation 12 Noon until 2:30 service time. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Kenneth Catholic Community CSA Church Organ Fund. heenev-sundquist.com

GRANT, LOIS R.
Age 75, a longtime resident of Northville, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2012. She was born on June 11, 1936 in Detroit, Michigan to William and Frances (Brown) DeGuere. She was united in marriage to William Grant in 1957; she was a devoted wife for 46 years until his death in 2003. Lois retired in 1993 as a personnel director from Realtron Corp. She loved gardening and enjoyed swimming. Lois adored dogs, she rescued many strays and gave them loving homes. She is survived by her loving children, Deborah (Daniel) and Raymond (Pam) Grant; and her cherished grandsons, Chad and Trevor. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her sister Shirley DeGuere, and her brother William DeGuere. Visitation will be held Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 11am until 1pm with the funeral service at 1pm at Casteline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Alzheimer's Assoc., 30300 Civic Center Dr., Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076 or the Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Rd., Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

HALLORAN, PATRICK ALDEN
Age 68 of Venice, FL, passed away on 2/10/12 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer and lymphoma. He passed from this life surrounded by his family and good friends. Pat was known for his strength both physically and mentally. He was admired and adored by many friends, co-workers and family members. He loved boating, fishing, traveling, his wife and his growing family. He was also very proud of his Irish heritage. Pat had a long career with Michigan Caterpillar and in his younger years, served as a flight chief in the Naval Air Reserve. He is survived by his wife, Becky (Baird) daughters, Colleen (Jeff), Kelly (Mike), Meghan (Tom); 9 grandchildren; brother, Al (Carolyn) brother, Dennis (Sue); sisters, Peggy (Otto), Kathy (Hud), Maureen (Scott). A service was held for him in Venice, FL. Memorials preference to the American Cancer Society. Online Guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

HILLEBRAND, WILLIAM T.
Age 56, of Whitmore Lake, passed away February 24, 2012. He was an avid motorcyclist and enjoyed building antique motorcycles with his best friend Wendell Turner. He is survived by his son Willie; his loving mother Ellen; his siblings: Maureen (David) Anderson, Joseph Hillebrand, Mary (Brian) Jenkins, Sherry (Todd) Damon and Tom (Julie) Hillebrand. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and loving friends. He was preceded in death by his father William. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 2, from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with a memorial service at 8:30 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, in Venice, FL. Memorials preference may be made to the Hillebrand memorial fund; payable to Phillips Funeral Home. Online Guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

ZIELINSKI, DOROTHY T.
August 26, 1923 - February 25, 2012. Online condolences: www.obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

JAPES, PATRICK R.
Age 78, of Northville, passed away Feb. 22, 2012. A funeral mass was held Mon., Feb. 27 at Our Lady of Victory Church, 15000 Telegraph Rd., Southfield, MI 48033. Online Guestbook: www.easterlinfuneralhome.com

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamily-novi.org

Mass Schedule
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday; 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.

Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: Father Bob LaCroix, pastor and Father Michael Zuelch, associate pastor

Lenten events
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays
Details: "Catholicism" dvd discussion
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Fridays
Details: couple's prayer

Location: Stations of the Cross
CHRISTIAN BIBLE TALKS
Location: Plymouth VFW Hall, 1426 S Mill Street (north of Ann Arbor & Lilley Rds)
Time/Dates: 4 p.m. Sundays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25

Details: These one-hour meetings will emphasize the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. No collections will be taken. Ministers are Matthew Jensen & Jason McNally
Contact: (515) 851-2939

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH
Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org

Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center
Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile Road, Northville
Contact: DestinyW3@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822 or www.newhope-center.org

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faith-community-novi.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Book of Revelation Study
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Details: Come and learn what John is writing about, what the symbolism means, and how this book still speaks to us today.
Faith Journeys
Date: third Sundays

Details: Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have experienced God in their life and the difference that has made.
First Baptist Church of Northville
Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020

Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church
Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptist-churchofnovi.org

Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month

First Church of the Nazarene
Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dcnazarene.org

Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service

Wednesday Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast

Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group
First Presbyterian Church of Northville
Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpres-novi.org

Sunday Worship
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.
Date: March 1
Details: Heide Schmid, pharmacist at St. John's Hospital discussing how to manage medications in the home. Ice cream social follows; \$5 donation appreciated.

Date: March 8
Details: Paul Durso, of Curtis & Associates, discussing the current economy and how to

GET LISTED!

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

safely improve your investment return. Ice cream social to follow. \$5 donation appreciated.

Date: March 15
Details: St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner with Mary Ann Murphy providing traditional Irish music. Cost of dinner and entertainment is \$12. Please sign up for the dinner or call the Church (248-349-0911) for reservations.

Date: March 22
Details: Peter Baker, of AAA of Michigan, discussing changing insurance needs as our life changes. Single Place social follows; \$5 donation please.

Date: March 29
Details: Cards & Games Night. Enjoy playing euchre, Mexican train and other games. Also honoring those of who have had birthdays in the months of February and March. Birthday cake and snacks will be provided; \$5 donation please.

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.funorthville.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.

Sunday School: Nursery - 8 a.m. Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m. Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 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 churchofthe-holycross.com

Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 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
Holy Cross Episcopal Church (Novi)
Lenten Book Study
Dates: Tuesdays in Lent - March 6, 13, 20, 27

Details: A five-week study of The Heart of Christianity Part One: Seeing the Christian Tradition Again by Marcus Borg. Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a soup-and-salad supper followed by discussion of the book at 6:30 p.m. The program will be repeated on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Blanket Blitz 2012
Dates: Saturdays, March 17 and March 24
Details: Join Holy Cross Episcopal Church on March 17 to cut the fleece and/or March 24 to tie the fleece for the fleece blankets we are making for Project Night Night (PNN). PNN provides homeless shelters with free toys for children containing a blanket, children's book, and stuffed animal. This is a fun activity to do with friends and family, so please invite others to join you.

Lakes Baptist Church
Location: 305 Decker Road, Walled Lake
Livonia Church of Christ
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org

Sunday Worship: 10-11 a.m.
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
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 supper church on the second level (208/210)

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study
8:45-10:30 a.m.; (cafe@)
Wednesday Family Night
7 p.m.: Adult elective classes; junior and

St. John's Episcopal Church
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth, MI 48170
Contact: (248) 349-0911

Services: Sunday 9:30 a.m. (with Holy Eucharist) 10:30 a.m. (with Holy Eucharist) 11:30 a.m. (with Holy Eucharist)

Ward Church
Location: 4000 So. Main Road
Contact: (248) 349-1144

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church
Location: 54809 S. Miller Rd. at Currie Rd.
Contact: Pastor Andy Whitten (248) 349-2268

Destiny Worship Center
Location: 49775 Six Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-0911

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Location: 505 Pleasant Valley Road in Brighton, MI 48114
Contact: (248) 349-1144

Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church & School
Location: at the corner of Plymouth & Musch Rd.
Contact: (248) 349-1144

Christ Lutheran Church
Location: 520 General Motors Bldg. in Milford
Contact: (248) 349-1144

First Baptist of Milford
Location: 133 Detroit St. in Milford
Contact: (248) 349-1144

West Highland Baptist Church
Location: 11166 S. Hickory Ridge Rd. in Milford, MI 48360
Contact: (248) 349-1144

Milford United Methodist Church
Location: 238 N. Main Street, Milford, MI 48360
Contact: (248) 349-1144

Milford United Methodist Church
Location: 1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48331
Contact: (248) 349-1144

Mill Creek Church of Christ
Location: 1270 W. 10 Mile Rd. in Milford, MI 48360
Contact: (248) 349-1144

St. John's Episcopal Church
Location: 574 S. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth, MI 48170
Contact: (248) 349-0911

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OUR VIEWS

MEAP results Novi moves forward to expand assessment data

Novi School Superintendent Steve Matthews says MEAP results aren't the most important piece of data, just the most public.

We agree. The recently-released MEAP scores are just one benchmark of student progress. And to their credit, Novi education leaders are moving ahead to give parents and the community a more accurate assessment of student performance.

The MEAP tests really don't reveal anything surprising about the relative performance of school districts. In general, those districts with higher median household incomes -- like Novi -- perform better than others. This doesn't mean the more affluent are better people, but they do have more resources, their communities are often more stable, their schools are generally better funded and their children often do better on standardized tests.

The scores themselves prove how unreliable the tests are for comparing school systems. It's not hard, for example, to find significant swings in scores from one year to the next. Does that mean that the quality of a teaching staff suddenly increased or decreased, or does that just mean that there is a natural, if unpredictable, volatility in test scores?

There is also the dubious nature of this so-called significant change in how the tests are scored. In fact, the scores are tallied the same as always. It is just that a higher percentage (65 compared to 40) of correct answers is now required before a student is deemed proficient. If these tests really were helpful, the schools would have addressed the fact that students were getting many or most of the questions wrong -- even if an arbitrary standard declared them to be proficient.

The Michigan Department of Education went back over the last four years and adjusted the data to fit the new system. Not surprisingly, Novi remains well above state averages and at the top of the Oakland County. Using the new cut scores, Novi students in third, fifth, sixth and seventh grades showed improvement in math and reading, while fourth graders improved in reading. There were no major dropoffs in any subject level at any of the schools.

Let's face it, the MEAP tests steal a lot of time from the classrooms -- not just their administration but also the weeks of teaching to the test that precedes them. And from the time the tests are given to when the results are released, many students have closed the gap in those five months. They also put a lot of pressure on teachers, principals and administrators who feel as though their effectiveness is measured solely on the outcome of these tests.

Thankfully, Novi administrators are looking beyond the MEAP and designing their own system that gives the district, students and parents accurate feedback on a regular basis.

"We don't want our teachers to rely on just data," said Matthews. "We want them to have personal perceptions and ask 'How does this piece of data fit in with everything else I know about this student?'"

It's no surprise that the MEAP is expected to disappear in a few years. The U.S. Department of Education is developing a nationwide test, which should be a more consistent way to compare student achievement across state lines.

We're happy to see a new test system in the works. The state has spent plenty of time and money on the MEAP test, but we have yet to see proof that MEAP tests are accurate measurements of student performance and that they are in any way predictors of future educational success.

"We won't be satisfied until every student makes a year's growth in a year's time and achieves at a high level," Matthews said. "Our goal isn't to do well on the MEAP test -- our goal is to prepare our students for the long haul."

And that's the way it should be.

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone, Community Editor
Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor
Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What would you like to see Novi have that caters to teens?



"I would like to see an independent coffee shop, not a place like Starbucks."
Joe Meriedeth
Novi



"A downtown like Northville's with shops and restaurants."
Nicole Coblentz
Novi



"An updated Fountain Walk with new stores and different things to do."
Angela Kosmyna
Novi



"A less expensive arcade."
Spencer Laitinen
Novi

LETTERS

Gas gouging

Well it took a week of reporting by the national media, but gas prices around town are now at or above the national average. Surprisingly, I witnessed prices actually dropping 20-30 cents the first couple of days, but they're up there now.

And how did the media break this story? By showing businesses and consumers dealing with the increased cost. So how will the oil companies deal with increased prices of the oil product they use to make gas and diesel fuel that we all use? No doubt the same as they always do -- by simply charging us more. Will the national media be as quick to report the new record profits for the oil companies? Doubtful. Whatever the reason for oil prices going up it means more profit for the oil companies. You have to ask, why would they want them to go down?

Let's not forget the first time gas prices in the country went above \$3 and \$4 a gallon: we had two oil men (Bush and Cheney) in the White House. Their response was there was nothing they could do, that it was market driven. Bush's statement that America is addicted to oil is still very evident, and the dealers supplying that addiction have no intention of doing anything to ease it.

What is driving the current increases? They say demand is at or below what it was in 2007. Market speculators again, investors who never take ownership of the oil -- they just bet on the price. Maybe even some of the investors that invested and bet on the failure of home mortgages that led to the crash of our financial markets. Or could it be the oil companies trying to remove a president they fear is trying to break their hold on our government?

What can we do? As President Obama has repeatedly said, we must continue an "energy policy that includes all sources of energy".

Until we can break the addiction, end tax subsidies and add an excess profits tax on the oil companies. Extra taxes would be justified because the reason they are making excess profits is they are taking extra money from us and doing nothing different to earn it. The extra revenue could be used to fund research and development of alternative energy sources and end our national addiction.

As gas prices continue to rise, it is being said that gasoline is now our largest manufactured export. It doesn't seem like Big Oil is too concerned about America and our economy.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Represent all Americans

Most Republicans want limited government regarding the economy. But many want government involvement when it comes to telling people (especially women) how to live their lives. These extremists are launching a comprehensive and radical assault on women's health. There should be no contraception, no choice in family planning, no prenatal testing. Women should not work outside the home. Other

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.

social and cultural wedge issues, -- public schools, environmentalism, same sex relationships -- are exploited by these far right conservatives.

Be aware of the importance placed on the health of all people, including women, in the Affordable Care Act (derisively called Obama Care") by Republicans.

Women voters outnumber men by large numbers. Be sure to vote to preserve the progress women have made in all areas of their lives. For men voters, too: Remember -- You, I, all Americans are the government! Choose representatives wisely using reason.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce

We've come a long way

In recognition of Black History month, I, along with fellow Oakland County Commissioner Mattie Hatchett, presented a proclamation to Novi resident, Sally Luzzo Prado, the official youngest daughter of Viola Gregg Luzzo.

Viola Gregg Luzzo was a 39-year-old, white, Michigan mother of five, who was so moved by the news broadcasts of attacks on civil rights demonstrators in Selma, Alabama in March 1965, that she answered the request from Martin Luther King, Jr. to go south and assist the marchers. She, along with 25,000 other volunteers from all over the U.S., drove to Selma and worked for the Southern Christian Leaders Conference.

On March 25th, Viola and a 19-year-old local black activist, drove her car to pick up the last group of demonstrators. Four Klansmen attacked them on the road. Viola was shot and killed and her passenger left for dead. Knowing the danger, she left a letter to her family in the car, where she died.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover painted Viola as an unstable woman who had abandoned her family to cause trouble in the south. Her killers received little more than a slap on the wrist.

Her death stirred a great debate that resulted in support for the passage of the Voting Rights Act along with a Federal investigation of the Klan.

TC Howery
Salem Township

Novi and the U.S. were very different in 1965. There was little tolerance of outsiders -- and that included anyone who did not live in Novi as well as a lot of people who did. There was bigotry, unimaginable in Novi today, which included mistrust of Catholics, Jews, the deaf and developmentally disabled, protestors of any kind, city folks and the list went on.

I am proud that we have come such a long way since 1965, particularly in Novi where people have come here from all over the world. Story hour at the library is heard in several different languages and the archway entrance of Novi High School says "Welcome" in 25 languages. Forty-seven years have passed and we seem to be more accepting of other races, cultures and religions, but there exists a growing animosity toward those who have opinions different than ours. I have conservative views but I don't hate those with a different idea or think of them as evil.

Viola Gregg Luzzo's life and death affirms the constitutional rights of all individuals, but we still need to work on the lack of tolerance which exists in the closed minds of some.

Kathy Crawford
District 9 Oakland County commissioner

Obama spins the truth

February 2012 marks the three-year anniversary of the passing of President Obama's stimulus package. The rate of unemployment has remained above 8 percent since February 2009, making the last three years the longest stretch of high unemployment since the Great Depression. Nearly four million people have dropped out of the labor force and long-term unemployment is at Depression-era levels.

The Congressional Budget Office now projects that the unemployment rate will remain above 8 percent until 2014. The official unemployment rate excludes those individuals who would like to work, but have not searched for a job in the last four weeks as well as those who are working part time but would prefer full-time work. If those people were counted among the unemployed, the unemployment rate in January 2012 would have been about 15 percent. Also, the share of unemployed people looking for work for more than six months (long-term unemployed) exceeded 40 percent in December 2009 for the first time since 1948 when such data began to be collected, and it has remained above that level ever since.

You can find these facts by logging in to the Congressional Budget Office website provided below, or listen to President Obama and his stunningly inexperienced (less than 10 percent of his administration has any real-world business experience) and inept administration spin the truth and claim that the economy is improving and unemployment is dropping. So much for hope and change.

Who will you vote for in November?

Oak Pointe members to perform 'Sound of Music'

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The performers at Oak Pointe Church are eager to get back on the stage.

After taking a year off, the group is back with what producer Sharen Gustafson says is "everyone's favorite" musical, "The Sound of Music."

While the goal of the performance is to entertain, it also will serve as a fundraiser to benefit Living Hope International, and specifically an orphanage in Zambia.

"Our goal is to something that is fun and enjoyable for people but also can help raise money for the orphanage," Gustafson said.

She said the musical, which is a full-feature production, has close to 30 cast members, including "phenomenal" singers.

"They will give you chills when they sing they are so

DETAILS

"The Sound of Music" will be performed three times at Oak Pointe Church on March 9 and 10. The March 9 production is at 7:30 p.m., while the March 10 productions are at 1 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Families would be capped at \$40.

Oak Pointe Church is located at 50200 W. 10 Mile Road.

For more information, call (248) 912-0042.

good," she said. Meteorologist Chuck Gaidica's daughter Riley has a spot in the performance and his wife Susan is making the costumes. "If it wasn't for her we wouldn't look so cool," Gustafson said.

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



Cast members from Oak Pointe Church's performance of 'The Sound of Music' are preparing for the musical's opening performance on March 9. Proceeds from the musical will benefit Living Hope International.

CHURCH

Continued from page A11

Contact: (734) 453-0190, ext. 16, or visit www.stjohn-splymouth.org.

Weekend of Centennial Celebration
The Centennial Festival Eucharist

Time/Date: 10 a.m.

Details: Service to celebrate official centennial anniversary with Bishop Wendell Gibbs joining for a combined service. Staff is busy with plans for this service including special music and it will be the first use of the banners created by the women and men of the parish. After the service, join the celebration reception and enjoy fellowship with the people of St. John's.

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.

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Location: 201 Elm Street, Northville

Contact: (248) 349-3140

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 dre@

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/uucflre-lifespan

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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A group of visitors to Tollgate Farms on Feb. 25 learn how maple syrup's made as they stand in a grove of maple trees.



Don Millington helps Justin Baker, 11, as he drills a hole in a maple tree at Novi's Tollgate Farms on Feb. 25. Tollgate hosted a maple syrup-making demonstration that day from the tapping of the trees, transporting its sap via a network of tubes, to its boiling down to syrup in the farm's shack.



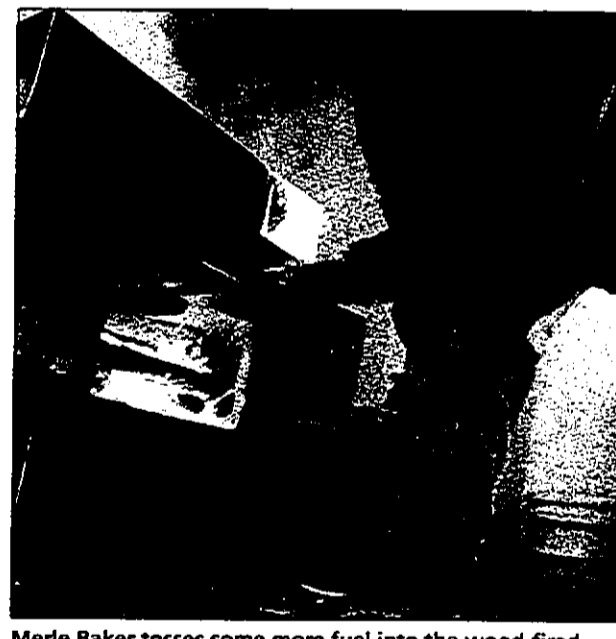
A visitor to Novi's Tollgate Farms approaches its maple syrup shack, where the sap is boiled down to syrup. Steam is seen exiting the shack.



The shack and its large boiler — which is used to reduce the sap down to syrup. It takes about 35 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.



A five-gallon bucket filling with the maple syrup.



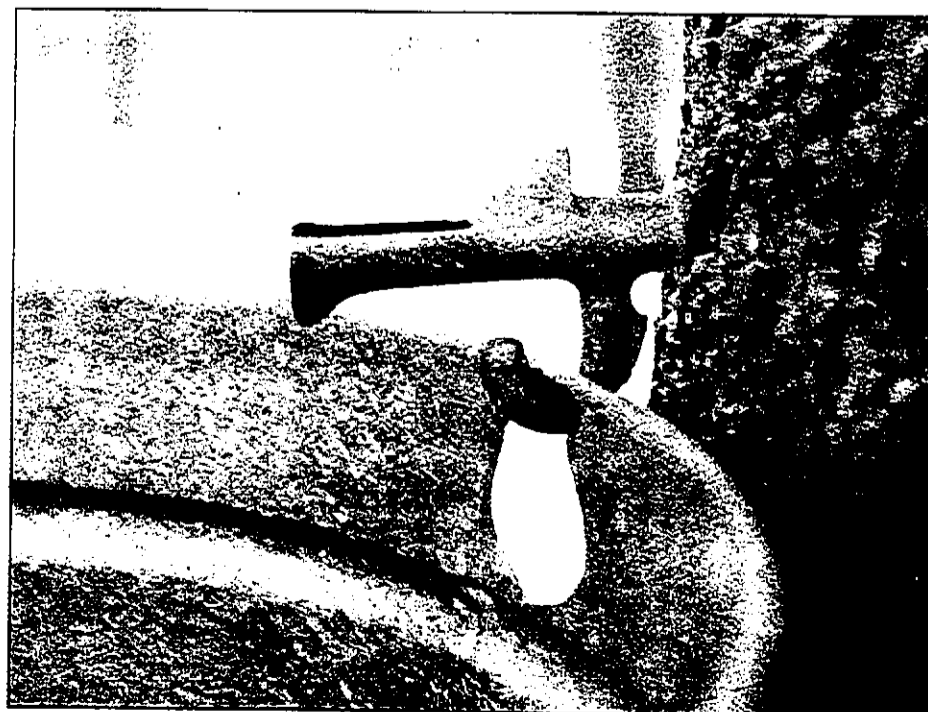
Merle Baker tosses some more fuel into the wood-fired boiler — where the sap is boiled down.



Sue Millington gets a boost from Clay Ottony as she drills a hole in a maple tree at Tollgate Farms to tap its sap. The tubes seen attached to tree will carry its sap to central collection barrels located throughout the forest.



Merle Baker demonstrates how the boiler works to visitor Carla Jackson and her nieces Jayda, 8, and Kymani Jackson, 7, center.



A spindle and tap placed on a maple tree.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Woman attacked, robbed

1 A woman suffered a bloody nose and had her purse stolen from her following an altercation on Feb. 25 at Tin Fish.

According to the police report, the woman was at the upper level of the bar for a party promotion when a drink got spilled on to some patrons on the lower level. When the woman went downstairs to leave the bar later in the night she told police she was attacked by four girls.

A manager and bartender saw the fight, and it was broken up by security. The suspects fled the bar before they could be identified or stopped.

The victim's purse contained her iPhone, \$100 cash and her debit card, which was later used at a gas station in the area.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Drunk caught with gun

2 Novi police arrested a man on Feb. 26 for possession of firearm while under the influence after they were called to the home because the man was acting recklessly.

According to the police report, the man was punching walls and walked into the living room with a loaded gun. Another person in the home was able to take the gun from him before police arrived. The suspect also threatened to harm himself with it.

When police arrived he was combative before being placed in handcuffs and transported to the Novi Police Department. A preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .179 percent.

He was released when sober and the report has been forwarded to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for review of charges.

Man arrested after fight

3 A man was arrested outside of 29 Park on Feb. 26 after he was involved in a fight with another patron.

According to the police report, the man engaged in physical contact with another male in the smoking area outside of the bar before being separated by bouncers. The suspect said he was punched in the face, but there was no evidence of that happening. He also admitted to making the first physical contact.

He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation for assault and released after posting bond.

Stamps stolen from Archiver's

4 An unknown suspect stolen nearly \$300 worth of rubber stamps from Archiver's on Feb. 23.

According to the police report, the suspect took 11 packages of Tim Holtz rubber stamps off a display. The same

stamps have been stolen before for a loss of over \$1,000.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Woman arrested on outstanding warrants

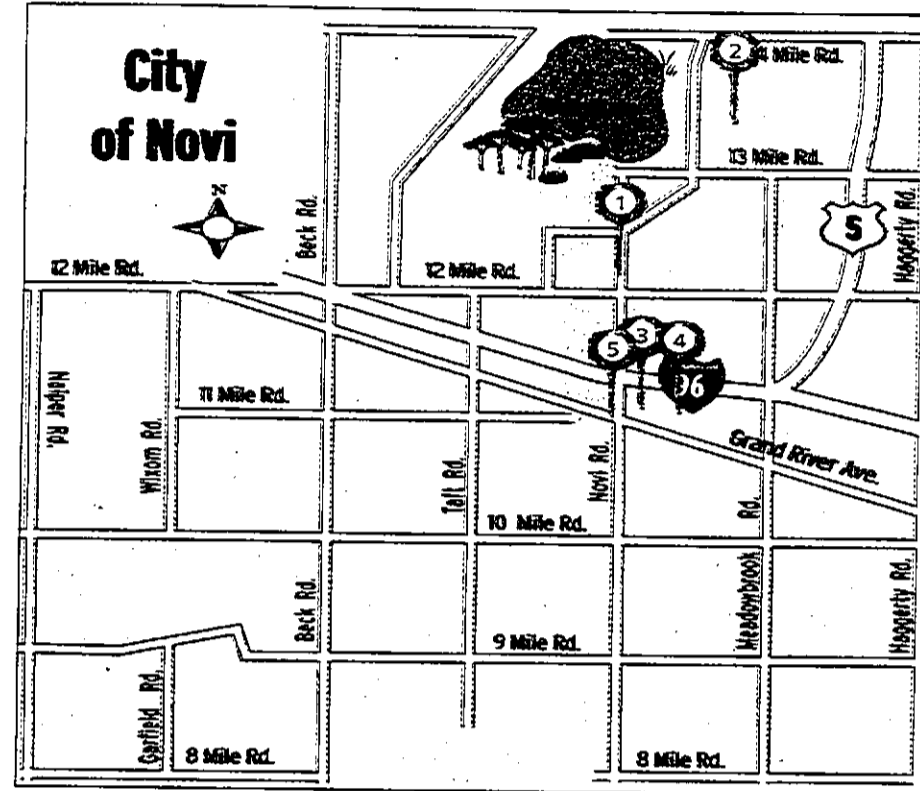
5 Novi police arrested a woman for driving while license suspended, possession of marijuana and outstanding warrants out of Livonia and Detroit after she was topped on Feb. 26 at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue.

According to the police report, the officer ran the license plate through LEIN to discover the outstanding warrant and then initiate the traffic stop. The woman admitted to not having a license, but said she didn't know about the Detroit or Livonia warrants.

While she was being processed, police also found two small baggies of marijuana inside her purse.

She was transported to the Novi Police Department where she released after posting bond.

— Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller



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Rep. Crawford plans Repealer Blitz tour

State Rep. Hugh Crawford (R-Novi) announced he is kicking off a series of public town hall meetings across the state to discuss laws on the books in Michigan that may no longer be needed. Crawford, chair of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform, will begin the tour with a town hall in his hometown and then join other members of the committee in their districts during the months of March and April to hear from their constituents as well. "As chair of Regulatory Reform, I want to ensure that Michigan's regulatory environment is simple, fair, efficient, transparent and conducive to business growth and job creation," Crawford said. The first town hall of the tour will take place 5-6 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at the Novi Civic Center. Those unable to attend may contact Crawford by e-mail at HughCrawford@house.mi.gov or call his office at (517) 373-0827. Crawford also has a form on his website that residents may use to submit a law or regulation for review by the regulatory reform committee. Crawford plans to hold the final leg of

the town hall tour in northern Oakland County sometime in April before beginning official committee hearings on the topic in Lansing.

Saturdays Super for seniors

The Novi Senior Center is planning a series of events that will have attendees moving, grooving, celebrating, and competing. Each Super Saturday event includes a meal and live entertainment. All events are from 4-6 p.m. at the Novi Senior Center. March 24: South of the Border — "It's fiesta time!" May 5: Derby Day — "Race Day, Novi Senior Center-style" Tickets for each event are \$7 for Novi residents and \$8.50 for non-residents. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at the Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road or the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 347-0414 or visit cityofnovi.org.

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

- North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac
 - South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield
 - Hours are noon-8 p.m. on Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.
- Registration is preferred. To register for a flu shot, go to www.oakgov.com/health. Clients may select the location, date and time of appointment. Online registration also provides a consent form that must be taken to the clinic where the client is pre-enrolled. Online payment options include Visa, MasterCard, Medicare and/or Medicaid. If you are unable to register online, please call (248) 858-7350 or (248) 424-7120.

Novi News online Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at www.hometownlife.com that allow you browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too, chime in with your opinion on our stories, editorials and letters to the editor, check out our amazing photo galleries and videos that are captured daily by our reporters and photographers. Readers can also find garage sale list-

ings — with a map! — each week from Wednesday-Sunday. So, bookmark www.hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "Hometownlife."

Wanted: vacation photos! Take a copy of your Novi News along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here. Just be sure to include the newspaper in your photo. Send your photo in a .jpg format to cstone@gannett.com. Identify everyone in the photo (first and last names) and tell us where they live. Tell us when the photo was taken and where. Tell us what was special about your trip, if you wish. Include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Then look for your photo in the newspaper and on our Facebook site under WISH YOU WERE HERE!

See pics online You can see staff photographer John Heider's photos in print in the Novi News and Northville Record, but don't miss his videos and photo galleries online. Visit hometownlife.com every day and see what's new!

'I live in No-ville'
Boundaries blurred between Novi and Northville

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

You won't find No-ville on a map even though for more than 30 years some people affectionately say they live there.

No-ville is north of 8 Mile, west of Novi Road to 9 1/2 Mile road. Residents live in their respective cities but attend the other's schools. Regardless of the mailing address, many people think of themselves as living in the school district that serves the kids in the neighborhood.

That's true for Oakland County S2-1 Judge Brian McKenzie, who lives on Eight Mile between Haggerty and Meadowbrook. He has a Northville mailing address, but his home is in the Novi School District.

"I think of myself as living in Novi, but I have a unique perspective because of my job," McKenzie said. "People who are just west of you, whose kids go to Northville schools, think of themselves as living in Northville."

The Novi school district has 6,357 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. About 150 of those live in Northville, according to Ange Vaughan, executive assistant to the Novi superintendent.

The Northville school district has 7,004 kindergarten through 12th grade students. About 2,600 of those live in Novi. Unlike the City of Novi, the City of Northville, however, does not bill its residents for Novi school taxes.

No-ville is "sort of like an urban legend," explained Kathleen McLallen, Novi mayor from 1993-1999. She has a Novi mailing address, but lives in the Northville School District.

The confusion grows when you throw in multiple Novi zip codes, the fact that Northville is in Oakland and Wayne counties, and there's a small municipality of Novi Township with a population of about 150 people. Novi Township lies within the boundaries of Northville Public Schools.

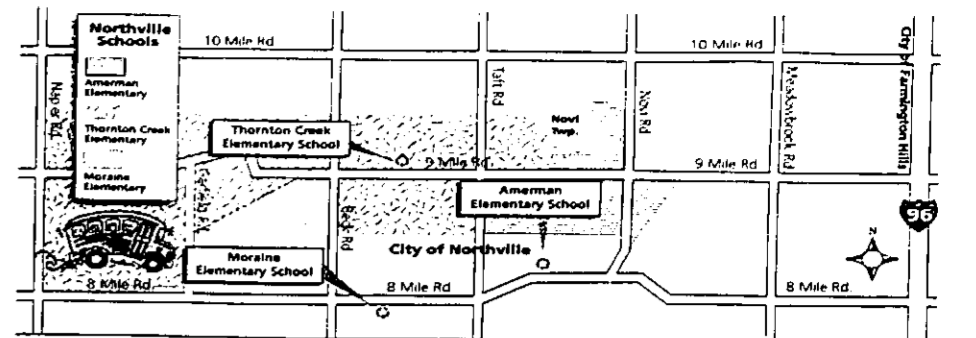
Also consider that a portion of Northville is physically surrounded by Novi. Novi, Northville and Walled Lake school districts serve

Novi residents, which also adds to the mix-up. Natalie Massey lives in the Novi school district, but has a Northville mailing address. "I always say I live in Novi, because I vote in Novi and my kids go to school in the Novi school system," Massey said.

How it started Novi High School was built in the late 1970s when there weren't a

lot of residents in the city and the local school district was Northville. Novi's development explosion didn't happen until the 1980s and early 1990s.

McLallen said she first heard of No-ville in the 1980s. "People said it with a laugh, 'I live in No-ville, kind of like Who-ville (Dr. Seuss's fictional city)," she said. "No-ville extends back to when there wasn't



much of a population, and now it's strange. There are multiple layers of government that need to be peeled back and rearranged." Michelle Bain lives at

Eight Mile and Meadowbrook. She has a Northville mailing address, but her kids attend Novi schools. "It always causes challenges and it creates a little bit of confusion, but we've been there almost 12 years and we have gotten used to it. My kids call it No-ville."

Novi Planning Commissioner David Greco, an attorney living in

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A couple of Hereford cattle have a snack of some hay at Novi's Tollgate Farms on Feb. 25. Tollgate, located at the northwest corner of Meadowbrook and Twelve Mile Road, is open for visitors seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Novi's Wes Guenther (left) and South Lyon Unified's Cameron Thomas battle for the puck Feb. 27 during the Wildcats' 4-0 regional quarterfinal victory over the Cougars at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Wildcats shut Cougars out of post-season play

Novi icers knock off South Lyon Unified 4-0 in regional quarterfinal

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

After giving up 11 goals in three games during a weekend trip to the Upper Peninsula just after the New Year, Novi's ice hockey team has won 11-straight and allowed just four goals during the streak.

South Lyon Unified was the latest victim as both teams opened their playoff runs Monday with a regional quarterfinal at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, but the 'Cats prevailed 4-0.

Please see HOCKEY, B4

ON TAP
No. 10 Novi (18-6-1) was scheduled to hit the ice against either No. 1 Detroit Catholic Central (19-4-1) or No. 33 Northville (13-9-2) last night in a regional semifinal at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

"The common sense says CC is going to be the team we have to face, but you never know," Novi coach Todd Krygier after Monday's win. "If Northville comes out and competes, you never know with these games. I don't take anything for granted in our own games or the next games. We're going to stay and watch CC play a little bit. We're more familiar with Northville obviously because we play them and we're in the (same) rink."

Novi nips Salem in district opener

Wildcats finish regular season fourth of 24 teams in KLAA

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

They got the one that mattered. Novi's girls basketball team (16-5, 8-2 KLAA Central) split the past week's set of games 1-1, but the victory was necessary to keep the season going. The 'Cats dropped the KLAA third-place game 51-44 Feb. 22 against Hartland (17-3, 9-1 West), but regrouped to defeat Plymouth Salem (6-14, 2-8 Central) 41-31 Monday in a playoff-opening district quarterfinal to end the Rocks' season.

Although the Wildcats had beaten Salem twice in the regular season, Kelp had reiterated for the past two weeks that a third time would be the toughest, especially after the Rocks took a double-digit lead in the Feb. 7 matchup before Novi hit a late run and held on to win 42-37.

Please see GIRLS, B3



Wildcat Anna Lausch tries to keep a Hartland Eagle out of the paint.

NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP



Novi's Jong Kim swims at the KLAA meet.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Tankers take fourth at conference meet

Novi's boys swim and dive team finished fourth of 11 teams last Saturday at the KLAA Kensington Conference meet.

Among the highlights was a second-place 100 fly finish by Tanner Vincent, who broke the school record in 54.02 second. Vincent also won the second flight in the 500 free, putting him at ninth, but his state-qualifying time would've landed him third overall if he had made the first flight during last Friday's preliminary swims.

Andrew Ao and Jongmin Kim also had strong days, as Ao was the conference champion in the 200 free and third in the 100 free, while Kim was second in both the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke.

Derek Kim led the Novi divers, finishing second overall, while Gucci Onimura and Austin Reed earned sixth-place finishes in backstroke and breaststroke events. Eugene Song was also seventh in the 50 free.

The 200 medley relay squad of Onimura, Jongmin Kim, Vincent and Song took second, while the 200 free relay was fourth and 400 free relay was fifth.

Headed to the March 9-10 state meet at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti are Jongmin Kim, Ao, Vincent, Onimura and both the 400 free and 200 medley relay teams, which include most of those individual swimmers. Derek Kim will try to earn a spot in the state meet by qualifying Tuesday at diving Regionals at Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Boys Swim and Dive Alumni

Recent Novi High graduate Travis Vincent, now a freshman at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, was named to the All-MIAA team Feb. 22 after finishing third in the 200 breaststroke in a school-record 2:07.07. He also finished second in the 400 IM and third in the 200 IM, helping his team to a school-record point total of 635

Please see ROUNDUP, B4

Novi cagers split KLAA crossovers

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Splitting two close battles on the road this week, Novi's cagers' pair of games were very similar.

In both games, both teams grabbed 27-28 rebounds and each scored in the 40s, allowing the victor to win by single digits. For Novi (6-13, 4-6 KLAA Central), Livonia Franklin (5-13, 2-8 South) got the best of them Feb. 21, but the Wildcats got the edge on White Lake Lakeland (3-16, 2-8 North) Feb. 23.

"Tuesday's game was rough since we could not buy a basket in the first half. We had a very off shooting night and they let us hang around until the end. I would say we looked flat and lacked energy," Novi coach Brian Tass said.

Please see BOYS, B3

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CC wins first CHSL basketball title in 15 years

Squad stops De La Salle from winning fourth straight

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

In the history of the Catholic High School League, there has only been one school to ever win four titles in a row in the largest division. From 1948 until 1952, the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks were simply the team that couldn't be stopped, earning title after title.

This year, Warren De La Salle threatened to become the second team in history to accomplish the feat. The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks, however, had something to say about that, earning a 62-51 victory on the shoulders of some stout defense to earn the CHSL A-B Division championship. It was Catholic Central's first title in 15 years.

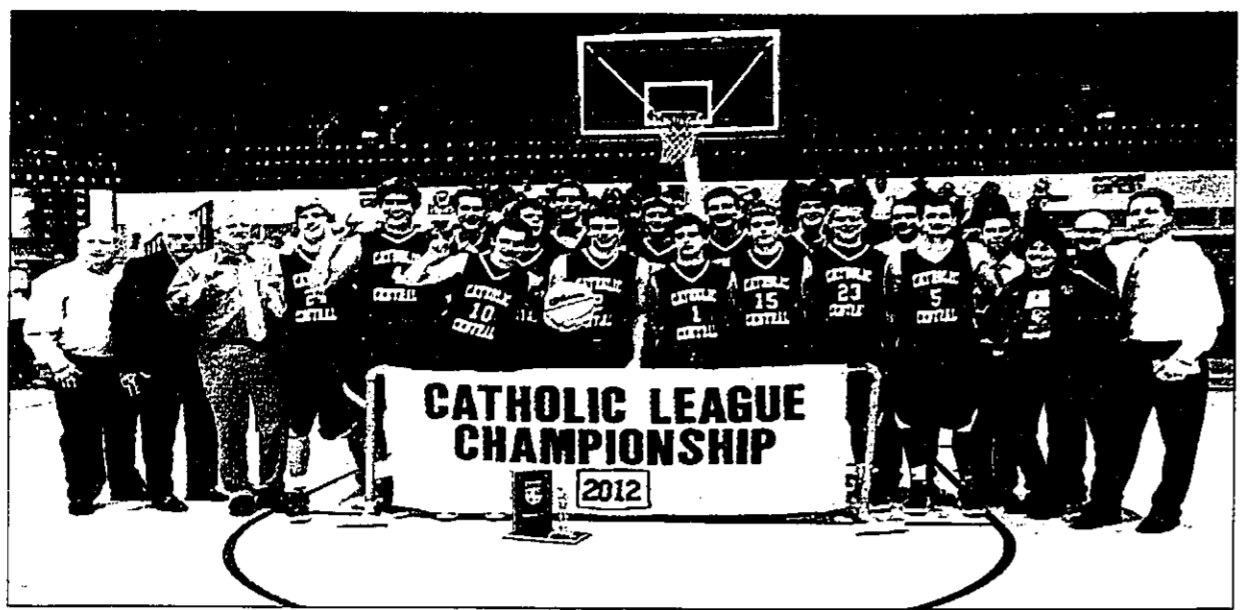
When the two teams had played previously, it was the De La Salle Pilots walking away with the

win as they upended the Shamrocks, 57-37, in the first contest between the teams and again in a close contest, 58-56.

"We've matured a lot since the first time we played them," said senior Matt Doneth during an interview with the Detroit Free Press. Doneth scored 14 points, 12 in the first half alone, for the Shamrocks in what was the 90th varsity game of his career. "We're working hard in practice and we're trying to get better every day. Our confidence level is growing."

The Shamrocks defense held the Pilots to no field goals and just three points from the free-throw line throughout the second quarter and took a 32-19 lead into the half. The offense went on a tear, scoring 10 unanswered points in the final minutes of the second quarter.

They were helped along



Catholic Central topped Warren De La Salle 62-51 to capture the CHSL A-B Division crown.

by the fact that De La Salle's stud player, Connor Tava, was in foul trouble almost out of the gate, picking up his third in with 4:33 left in the first half. Catholic Central used that to their advantage, playing at Tava throughout the second half to help keep the lead.

"Football season is over, and I think the first time we played them the kids were coming down from the (loss in the) state championship game," Catholic Central coach Bill Dyer told the Free Press. "I think it helped us a little bit when Tava got in foul trouble."

De La Salle did fight their way back into contention by the start of the final stanza, trailing just 46-37 as the fourth quarter began. With 6:30 remaining in the contest, Tava picked up a technical foul and left the game. The Shamrocks held a 33-24 advantage in

rebounds with Kyle Cooper and Jack Dillon pulling down nine each. David Racey had 14 points in the winning effort while Cooper and Richard Karkic had 12 and 10 points, respectively. Tava, despite having foul trouble, led the all scorers with 24 points.

Catholic Central bests Mustangs in playoff opener

No. 1 Shamrocks move on as Northville's season comes to close

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

With just a few miles separating the two high schools and the members of both hockey teams having known one another for years, there was no doubt the game between Northville and Detroit Catholic Central to open the MHSAA playoffs was going to be a good one.

The two teams skated out with intensity and strong defense but when all was said and done it was the top-ranked Shamrocks who would be continuing their season as they secured a 3-0 victory over the Mustangs.

The game began with a 0-0 tie throughout the first period of play as the two teams' defenses worked to keep one another at bay. The tactic worked as the Shamrocks held Northville to just two shots on goal in the first period and the Northville defense kept Catholic Central off the scoreboard with some excellent play, especially by goalie Jake Pawloski, who stopped 14 shots in the opening stanza.

The second period kept the two teams close until the 8:42 mark when Steven Haydon found the back of the net as the Shamrocks up, 1-0. He received assistance from Pete Halash and Nolan Gluchowski on the play that would prove to be the game winner.

Just a minute later, fol-

lowing a charging call on Northville's Matt Sopha at 9:42 that put the Shamrocks on the power play, the second goal of the game was scored. Haydon, once again, was the shooter that found a way past Pawloski as the Shamrocks went up 2-0. Charlie Green assisted on the play, as did Gluchowski.

Northville and the Shamrocks swapped shots throughout the third period, but it was the back of the net as Green put the final score on the board at the 4:01 mark. He had assistance from Halash and Haydon.

The game was rather tame in terms of penalties despite the intensity at which these two teams typically play. Northville was hit for six penalties for 12 minutes while the Shamrocks had two calls against them for four minutes.

Catholic Central's Ryan Mulka earned the win, stopping six shots on goal, while Pawloski took the loss as he faced 47 shots in total and fended off 44.

Mustangs fall to Plymouth

Northville's other game in the past week was also a loss as the Plymouth Wildcats skated away with a 3-2 victory in overtime.

The Mustangs tallied the only goal of the first period and when Clay

Neal took a Ben Crabbill pass just outside the crease and showed great patience in moving the puck to his backhand before lifting it over a sprawling Plymouth goaltender. AJ Bradley picked up the other assist on the play.

The second period saw Plymouth pick up the pace of play as the Wildcats controlled the puck for a good portion of the period. However, Tyler Harrigan was able to push the Northville lead to 2-0 midway through the period when he took a breakout pass the length of the ice and fired it home. Connor Brown and Matt Giordano got the assists.

The lead didn't break Plymouth's momentum as their continued pressure resulted in the Wildcats cutting the lead to 2-1 heading into the final intermission.

The third period was controlled by Plymouth, which out shot the Mustangs 18-2 over the course of the stanza. The Wildcats tied the game following a seminar in front of the net with just nine seconds left in the game to force overtime.

Plymouth remained in control in sudden death, generating shots and forcing Northville into icing the puck to relieve pressure — a tactic that worked until the Wildcats intercepted a Mustangs pass and scored off a rebound for the win. Pawloski finished the game with 45 saves.

CC advances to bowling finals

Squad takes second in regional

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Look out state finals tournament — here come the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks. The team's pin leader, was only on the mat for a total of one minute, 42 seconds last weekend.

Earning wins for the Shamrocks in the state finals championship were: Malik Amine (103 pounds; via 3-0 score), Trevor Zebksi (103; 14-6), Fagan (119; pin in 2:45), Ken Bade (125; technical fall, 18-2), Andrew Thompson (135; 8-4), Logan Marcicci (145; 9-0), Mooradiar (152; pin in 2:32), Nick Mason (160; 7-3), Drew Garcia (171; 16-6), Beazley (189; pin in 0:39) and Jay Peterson (215; 6-4).

and from Eric Pavlov, who scored a 223 and a 213. Dan Ault also had two strong games, shooting a 204 and a 200, while Brad Conflitti had 202 in one of the games.

In the regional singles competition, Pavlov was simply outstanding. He finished first overall with a six-game total of 1,256. His individual game totals were 256, 215, 146, 218, 186 and 235. Also finishing in the top 10, and advancing to the state individual finals, was Jeff Conflitti. His total pin count was 1,169 with games of 166, 168, 204, 195, 187 and 249.

BOYS

Continued from page B1

"We were the opposite on Thursday. We still did not shoot well early in the game, but played much harder and did some things well."

Sophomore Nelson Cagle led Novi against Franklin with 10 points and five rebounds as the 'Cats shot 15-for-42 (35.7 percent) from the field, including an evenly deuces, seven threes and seven free throws. The teams tied 27-27 on the boards, while Novi added 12 steals to offset 11 turnovers and 11 fouls, but the Patriots picked up a 49-44 victory. The Wildcats shot more three-pointers (23) than two-pointers (19).

"We should have beat Franklin," Tass said. "You have to come out and compete every night, especially on the road. They out-worked us and we could not defend with effort, so we lost. Even if you shoot poorly, that does not excuse soft defense."

Also scoring for the

ON TAP

Novi's boys basketball squad (6-13, 4-6 KLAAs Central) was scheduled to host Hartland (4-15, 1-9 West) two nights ago before a district quarterfinal Monday at Canton (14-5, 8-2 South). If the 'Cats can pull off the upset, they'd face Detroit Catholic Central (11-6, 6-4 Catholic League) Wednesday at CC. All games tip off at 7 p.m. "As far as the Novi-Canton matchup, if people would consider us winning that

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GIRLS

Continued from page B1

In Monday's contest, sophomore Keri McMahan was on fire. She shot 8-for-13 (61.5 percent) for a game-high 20 points while adding five rebounds and two assists. Junior Jade Antolec also hit 71.4 percent of her shots (5-for-7) for 11 points and three rebounds.

"Kerri got into the paint well and she either finished or gave it to Jade," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "After taking an 18-17 halftime lead, Novi was only up 32-27 heading into the final quarter. With Salem's Bri Berberet dropping in a team-high 18 points on 6-for-11 shooting, Novi's defense needed to step it up and they did."

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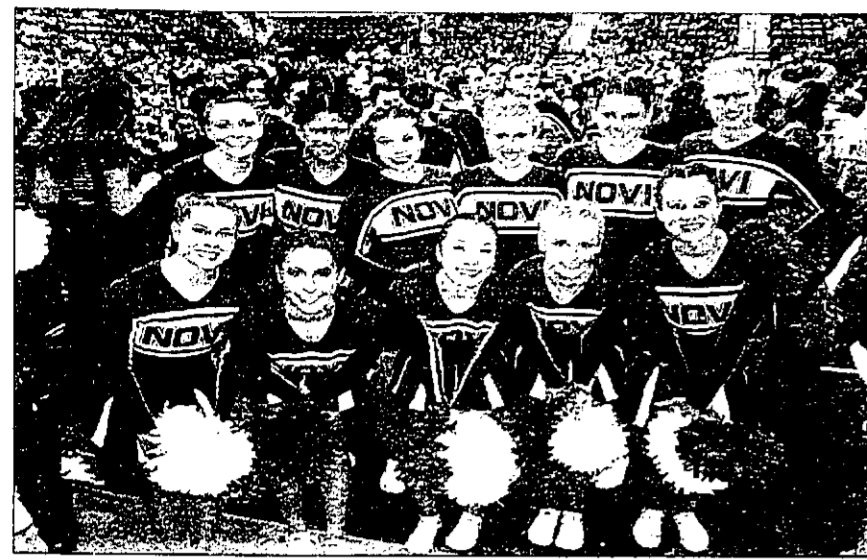
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Novi pompon



LYNDA FAVORITE

Although they finished in second place at the state meet earlier this month, Novi's pompon seniors were still happy with having two state titles under their belts from the past two years.

ROUNDUP

Continued from page B1

at the MIAA Championships.

Boys and Girls Bowling

The bowling season ended for Novi's program Feb. 25 after a two-day regional meet at Westland Lanes.

Needing to finish in the top three to advance to States, the girls team finished fifth at the Feb. 24 regional with 3,073 pins, just 143 short of third place. Senior Callie Wright led the way with a 535 series off games of 187, 184 and 164. The boys finished 11th with a score of 3,253.

Both squads had a chance Saturday to send individuals to the state meet if they finished in the top 10, but Sara Shulz and Wright fell short, finishing 11th and 14th.

respectively. Shulz was four pins away from qualifying with 1,004, while Wright had 972 pins.

Junior Morgan Wiley led the guys with a score of 1,045 over six games, finishing 22nd overall.

Boys Cross Country

Novi High School's boys' cross country team will hold tryouts Aug. 14, but those who are interested and did not run on the team last year are asked to contact coach Robert Smith by the end of March.

Potential student-athletes must have a completed MHSAA physical exam card brought to the tryout and be prepared to run a time trial to qualify for the team. Contact Smith at crosscountrycoach-smith@hotmail.com by March 31.

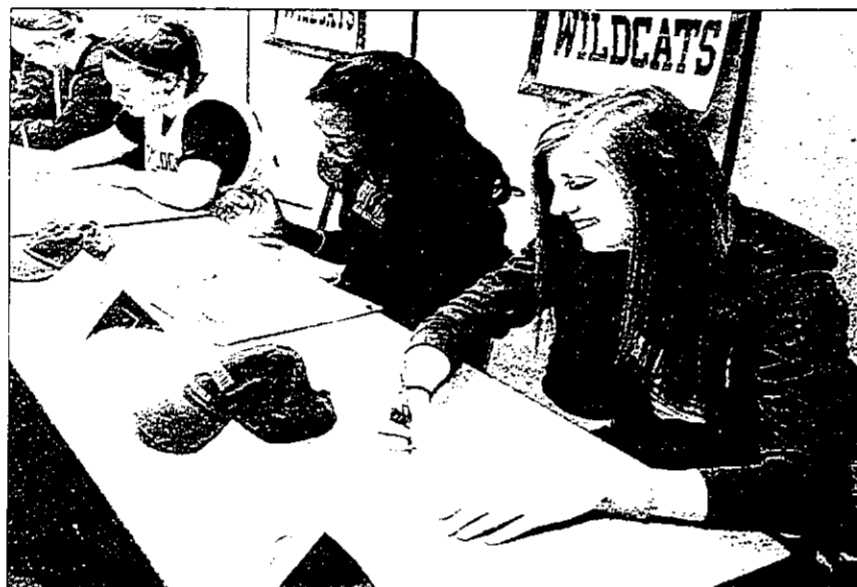
Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.

Letters of intent



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Wildcat football player Derek Cingel is watched by teammate Alex King and varsity soccer player Jessica Jarvis as he signs his national letter of intent on Feb. 1. To play football at Michigan Tech in the fall of 2012, King will play football at Northwood University and Jarvis will play soccer at Bowling Green University in Ohio.



Novi High's Jasmine Ward (left) and Kelly McCloskey sign their national letters of intent on Feb. 1. Both received scholarship offers for their track and field abilities. Ward heads to Grand Valley State and McCloskey to Michigan State.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

Both teams got off to a slow start and missed breakaway opportunities, leading many in the crowd to see shades of Novi's 1-0 overtime victory over the Cougars from Feb. 3.

Ranked No. 10 in the state, Novi (18-6-1, 6-3-1 Kensington) got on the board first when a slap shot by junior Wes Guenther was deflected into the goal by senior Dylan Shepard 31 seconds into the game's first power play, putting the 'Cats ahead 1-0.8 into the contest.

Senior Kent Burnett also assisted on the play. "I thought they did a good job tonight," Novi coach Todd Krygiar said of his team's power play line. "I think the main thing with power play is getting the puck to the net. That's really how the first goal got scored. We took that shot at the net and we screened the goaltender and it was up high. In playoffs, special teams wins games, too."

Ranked No. 19, South Lyon (14-10-1, 5-3-0-1 Kensington) kept things close, but failed to convert on a power play for their own with 2:54 left in the first period.

"We had some great opportunities that we just didn't finish or it certainly would've been a different game," South Lyon Unified coach Bill McCreary Jr. said. "Sometimes the puck is bouncing your way and sometimes they're bouncing against you. Tonight, legitimately, Novi always scraps hard and protects in front of their net. It makes it really tough to take advantage of those opportunities."

Novi turned up the tempo in the second period, gaining a 2-0 lead 5:52 into the second period when junior Jon Mencer knocked one in with senior Jacob Mastropaolo and Guenther assisting.

"Luke played really well," McCreary said. "He's just a warrior. He's a great kid, he showed his will tonight. He showed will tonight. He's got a bad knee that he may need to have some work done on this summer and he hung in there and did a great job for us."

After a hooking penalty to South Lyon's Juhopetteri Maki-Lohiluoma, Trainor's backhand struck again.

gave up a lot of opportunities. If we give up those opportunities against the winner of the next game, it'll be tough to advance."

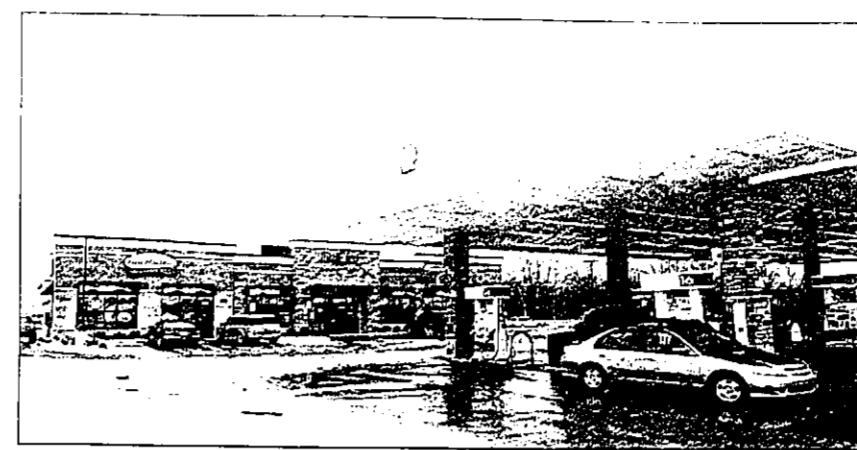
South Lyon kept knocking in the third period, as Junior Cameron Thomas and senior Jared Vineck each had good opportunities, but failed to convert for the Cougars.

The Wildcats gave themselves some breathing room with 8:52 left in the game when a put was played behind the net to senior Ryan Kobylarek in the left corner, who found senior Travis Trainor coming out of the right corner and to the top of the crease for a quick one-timed backhand over Cougars senior net-minder Louis Carnevale (16 saves).

"The Cougars turned up the physicality and also got some wide open opportunities, but either missed the net or were snuffed by sophomore netminder Austin Petty (18 saves), who just about stood on his head to make a few off-balanced saves."

"I think today our goaltender, Austin, did a good job," Krygiar said. "Defensively, I thought we played OK. We still

New station in town



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A US 2 Go Shell gasoline station and Tim Horton's recently opened at the southeast corner of I-96 and Beck Road. Previously, the closest stations would have been about a mile away from the area.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hosco comes to Wixom

The City of Wixom welcomed a new corporate resident, Hosco Fittings LLC, at the Feb. 14 council meeting.

"We were happy to assist Hosco through tax abatement," said Mayor Kevin W. Hinkley, "and both Hosco and the City will reap the benefits of their investment (\$740,000) through jobs and increasing Wixom's tax base. Wixom is the place for high-tech research, development and manufacturing."

Hosco produces stainless steel components, fittings and systems for advanced paint and coating delivery for a diversified client base including automotive, aircraft, agricultural, etc.

According to Hosco President Tom Murray, after a comprehensive site selection process, Hosco chose Wixom as the location of their new manufacturing, research and development facility due to the availability of a suitable building and the reputation of Wixom as a responsive organization with a culture conducive to business development, expansion and entrepreneurship.

Murray also credits his realtor, David Giltner of Signature Associates, for bringing the move to fruition.

Capitalizing business opportunities in Michigan and Asia

The APACC 2012 East West Business Connection will be held at Suburban Collection Showplace (Diamond Center) from 1-9 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

It will be a two-part event focused on the trends for business growth and opportunities in the Asian Pacific region and locally in Michigan, followed by a procurement Meet the Buyers showcase with corporate buyers, minority-owned businesses, U.S. and Asian-owned businesses.

Buyers confirmed to date include Aisin World Corporation of America, Beaumont Health System Chrysler Group LLC, Comerica Bank, Delphi Corporation, DENSO International America, Faurecia, Federal Mogul, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Honda of America Manufacturing, Martinrea, Oghara America Corporation, ThyssenKrupp Bilstein of America, Toyota Gosei N.A., Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing and Yazaki North America, Inc.

Call (248) 844-4100 for more information and registration details.

William Hallan leads government affairs

William J. Hallan has been named Michigan Retailers Association vice president government affairs and general counsel, placing him in charge of the association's legislative advocacy.

Coming off landmark legislative victories reforming Michigan's item pricing law and eliminating the Michigan Business Tax — and in the middle of a campaign to bring about Main Street Fairness regarding collection of sales tax on Internet purchases — the promotion is part of a reorganization to provide additional resources to government affairs efforts, said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan.

Wm. Hallan joined MRA last August as vice president and general counsel. He takes over government affairs

responsibilities from Eric Rule, who has become a partner in the Lansing-based multi-client lobbying firm Capitol Strategies Group. Rule and his firm also will lobby for MRA.

"These changes are designed to make our government affairs activities even more effective at this critical time in our state's history," said James Hallan.

"Michigan is remarking itself after a decade of decline, and we want Michigan Retailers to have the strongest hand possible in helping shape decisions that affect the business community in general and the retail industry in particular for years to come."

Prior to joining Michigan Retailers, Wm. Hallan was a litigator in the Dykema law firm's Bloomfield Hills office. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Toledo School of Law and a graduate of Denison University.

Michigan Retailers Association is the unified voice of retailing in Michigan and the nation's largest state trade association of general merchandise retailers and other businesses. MRA's nearly 5,000 members represent more than 15,000 stores and websites across Michigan.

Solid expectations for 2012 sales

Coming off a positive 2011 and good holiday season, Michigan retailers are looking for an even stronger 2012. Ninety percent expect to increase annual sales, with most projecting increases of 5 percent or more, according to the latest Michigan Retail Index, a joint project of Michigan Retailers Association and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

"Michigan retailers are optimistic," said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan. "They are looking at improvements in the economy and seeing that translate into better consumer spending and retail sales — a quarter of them believe their own sales will rise by double-digit percentages."

The industry's overall sales performance increased in January, setting a course for what retailers hope will be continued improvement throughout the year.

The Michigan Retail Index for January found that 48 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 32 percent recorded declines and 20 percent saw no change.

The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 63.8, up from 59.1 in December and 63.2 in November. It was best showing since November 2010. The Index gauges the performance of the state's overall retail industry, based on monthly surveys conducted by MRA and the Federal Reserve. Index values above 50 generally indicate positive activity; the higher the number, the stronger the activity.

Looking forward, 57 percent of retailers expect sales during February-April to increase over the same period last year, while 9 percent project a decrease and 34 percent no change.

That puts the seasonally adjusted outlook index at 78.0, up from 71.8 in December and 75.8 in November.

Nationally, the U.S. Commerce Department said sales rose by 0.4 percent in January, but 0.7 percent excluding autos — the largest gain since last March.

Employees with social inertia keep companies from moving forward

By Lee Meadows Guest Columnist

At a time when the economy is showing signs of positive movement, there is growing concern about the number of employees who are demonstrating symptoms of social inertia. While it may be hard to believe that the "tendency of an object to resist any change in its motion" would be a behavioral issue for anyone who ties their body to a pole as a way of holding on during the economic storm, the idea of not moving forward during its recovery is even more unbelievable.

The lack of movement has more to do with attitudes about survival and, thus, so, may have created an unintentional, through-the-backdoor, form of entitlement. Survival mixers with fear and entitlement is a toxic combination that produces a "toxinertialistic" form of behavior that seeps into the organization like a contaminant and, when left unchecked, will alter the natural, collaborative chemistry that comes when events have taken on a positive flow.

One form of "toxinertial" behavior is unintentional, not deep seeded, and an unconscious aftermath of individuals who have survived the storm with their wits intact and, now anchored, are driving pillars into the ground in order to stabilize their foundation. Their tendency to resist change in motion has more to do with over-analyzing every push forward so as to eliminate risk and maximize certainty. While they have seen and experienced



Lee Meadows

the results of strategic decisions made way above their pay grade, their resistant behavior is linked to their need for a "guarantee" that the next step forward will not rock, shake or destroy the foundation that they have re-established.

Managers, charged with the task of managing forward progress, may find often that the over-analytical behavior has a way of preventing the start of new ideas, processes or perspectives. Essentially, the wolf is at the door and will not be allowed access until there is a guarantee that it has changed its nature. What the 21st century economy has brought with it forms of inter-organizational behavior that exceeds, in these first 12 years, what was witnessed during the one hundred years of the 20th century.

Some would argue that what we have experienced will only serve to make us globally stronger for the challenges ahead. In doing so, some of the newer forms of behavior will have to be seen, analyzed and managed in a broader light. All physical laws of change begin with movement — and the first obligation of leadership is to understand the how and why elements that prevent movement.

The pace, speed and force that has driven the 21st century economy has brought with it forms of inter-organizational behavior that exceeds, in these first 12 years, what was witnessed during the one hundred years of the 20th century.

Some would argue that what we have experienced will only serve to make us globally stronger for the challenges ahead. In doing so, some of the newer forms of behavior will have to be seen, analyzed and managed in a broader light. All physical laws of change begin with movement — and the first obligation of leadership is to understand the how and why elements that prevent movement.

Lee E. Meadows, Ph.D. is a professor of management at Walsh College working at the Novi Campus. He can be contacted at leameadows@walshcollege.edu.

Attention Boys, Girls, Teachers and Parents!



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Must be able to clean and maintain hotel rooms. Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment. Please email resume: housekeeper@hotel.com

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Seeking a motivated individual to join our marketing team. Must be able to create and execute marketing campaigns. Please email resume: marketing@ad.com

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Registered Nurses Encouraged To Pursue Bachelor's Degrees

As many industries scaled back and cut resources in the last year, health care continued to grow, adding an average of 26,000 jobs per month, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This trend is likely to continue as technological innovations and new regulations prompt additional oversight within the health care setting.

In order to meet the needs of this increasingly complex health care system, industry leaders, such as the Institute of Medicine (IOM), recommend an increase in the proportion of nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from 50 percent to 80 percent by 2020. With these additional skills,

registered nurses (RNs) will be prepared to deliver high-quality patient care and, as the IOM recommends, become partners with physicians and other health care professionals in redesigning health care in the United States.

Some schools of nursing offer specialized nursing degree programs that help meet this call to action. Chamberlain College of Nursing, for example, offers an online degree completion option that allows RNs to earn their BSN in as few as three semesters - as opposed to traditional three- or four-year nursing programs - without altering their current work schedule. With the flexibility of online learning, completing a BSN

degree is an attractive investment for RNs.

"Nurses who hold a bachelor's degree have additional training in leadership, health policy, research, teamwork, collaboration and other skills that are integral to the successful function of many health care roles," says Dr. Margi Wheeler, a registered nurse and dean of the RN-BSN online degree option at Chamberlain College of Nursing. "That type of advanced education positions nurses as more viable job candidates for managerial roles such as nursing director, clinical nurse manager or nurse practitioner, for example."

RNs who earn their BSN degree can be qualified for

nursing positions in private practices, hospitals, surgical centers and nursing homes and have greater upward mobility, whether they aspire to enter management, training, director or facilitator positions. RN-BSN graduates are also one step closer to master's degree status, which can open doors to higher levels of health care leadership.

"Nurses can and should play an integral role in the health care system's transformation," says Wheeler. "Working together and encouraging each other to pursue advanced degrees, we can help to provide safer care that is accessible to all and leads to a healthier population."

Nurses are being called upon to fill new roles in the health care setting. From harnessing new technologies and information management systems to collaborating across teams of health care professionals, nurses are expanding their presence and the traditional definition of the profession. To continue to advance the role of the nurse and meet the needs of an evolving industry, nurses must achieve higher levels of education that allow them to elevate the profession and to better serve patient needs nationwide.

—ARA Content



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