

5 WAYS TO RESURRECT YOUR CAREER
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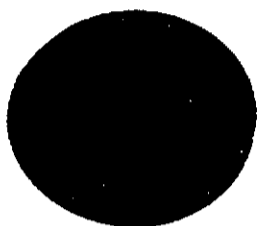
2 a.m. Sunday, March 11
Spring forward

Don't forget to turn your clock ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday (or before going to bed Saturday night)

Look inside for **MONEY SAVING COUPONS**

CCHA ticket contest

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win a family four-pack of tickets to the CCHA semifinals March 16 at Joe Louis Arena. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest. Prizes will be awarded March 13 and the winners must be able to pick up the tickets on game day. You can enter by clicking on the contest link in our Don't Miss module at HometownLife.com or by visiting our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/OEHometown>.



Easter Bunny hops into 12 Oaks Mall

All signs point to spring at Twelve Oaks Mall this March as the Easter Bunny hops into the lush, colorful Central Park Garden display. Photos with the Easter Bunny are available for purchase, and each child who visits receives a free gift. Central Park Garden is located in the Lower Level Center Court. A new feature this year: the Easter Bunny has made some new furry friends. All customers can stop by the Easter Set and purchase a DVD and BLU-RAY copy of the popular Alvin and the Chipmunks series. And each Easter photo package includes a promotional certificate for a free 8x11 photo book from Snapfish. The Easter Bunny remains at Twelve Oaks Mall from Friday, March 16 through Saturday, April 7. Photo operation hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. The Easter Bunny takes brief carrot breaks throughout the day. A complete list of photo packages and prices is available on www.shoptwelveoaks.com.

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NOVI NEWS

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Toyota Boshoku America technical center vice president Ted Schafer takes a look at some of the seating the auto parts company is engineering for Cadillac. The company is one of nearly 70 Japanese businesses in the city.

Japanese businesses succeeding in Novi

Diverse companies aid city's financial health

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The Michigan economy is still struggling and the overall job market has people concerned. But for the 480 Japanese facilities in Michigan, including 67 in Novi, things are moving in a positive direction. According to the Consulate General of Japan's annual Japanese Investment Survey, 33,190 people are employed at those businesses, up 932 employees from the year prior. The majority of Japanese business' focus is in the automotive sector, and those manufacturers created 843 new jobs,



Kawashima

up 6 percent in the last year. Ted Kawashima, director of North America for the automotive supplier Japan Auto Parts Industries Association on Haggerty Road, said while the economy is still "kind of shaky," automotive sales are growing back again at a faster pace than the economy itself. He also said while other states may be more economically friendly, Michigan is still the heart of the industry. "Every important decision of

the automotive future has been made in this town," he said. "It's the capital of automotive brains, and it's where the automotive future is always talked, discussed and decided." Ted Schafer, technical center vice president at Toyota Boshoku America on West Park Drive, echoed Kawashima's sentiment that the "volumes are coming back," and the business is getting requests to start working on future projects. He also said that location is key, saying "from an engineering perspective, this is where it all is."

Please see JAPANESE, A2

Young Novi hockey player battles cancer

Association hosting fundraiser for Salah, family

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

It was only three months ago that Anthony Salah was gliding up and down the ice with his Tigers teammates in the Novi Youth Hockey Association mite division. And now the 7-year-old is in a fight for his life as he undergoes treatments at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston to battle Medulloblastoma, the most common malignant brain tumor in children.

Salah underwent 12-hour surgery on Nov. 25 to have the brain tumor removed, and according to his coach, Jim Allen, has completed radiation treatment. The next step is chemotherapy, and doctors are waiting for him to get stronger before starting it. "It was all really quite a shock," Allen said. "He is a very bright kid and someone you loved to have on your team and was a joy to be around."

To honor their teammate, the Tigers players wear a black '7' patch on their jerseys and stickers on their helmets. Allen said being so young, they don't fully understand what Salah is going through. "We just want to try and support him and help him," he said. "We are down a man on our team and we are all pulling for him and showing our support for him and his family in a time of need."

To help Salah and his family, the Novi Youth Hockey Association is sponsoring a fundraiser at their annual Coaches Cup game at 5 p.m. on March 17 at the Novi Ice Arena. The game is made up of two

Please see PLAYER, A2



FAMOUS PHOTO

The Novi Youth Hockey Association is hosting their sixth annual Coaches Cup game to benefit the family of Anthony Salah, a hockey player in the mite division. Salah was diagnosed with brain cancer in November and is currently undergoing treatment in Texas.

Great Indoors at Fountain Walk on closure list

Official closing date yet to be announced

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

There is going to be a large retail opening at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk as Sears Holdings announced in late February that they would be closing The Great Indoors

chain of nine stores. The Novi location is 152,000 square feet and visible from I-96. Kelly Kaufman, general manager of Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, said Monday she had not received the official word that the store would be closing, but was under the impression it was one of the top stores and doing well. "I couldn't even begin to tell you," she said of how big of a

loss the store closing will be. "I'm going to be sad to see that store close." No official store closure date has been announced, but the closure is part of a series of moves affecting Sears Hometown and Outlet Businesses, certain hardware stores and K-Mart. There are six other Sears Holdings stores that will close

Please see CLOSURE, A2

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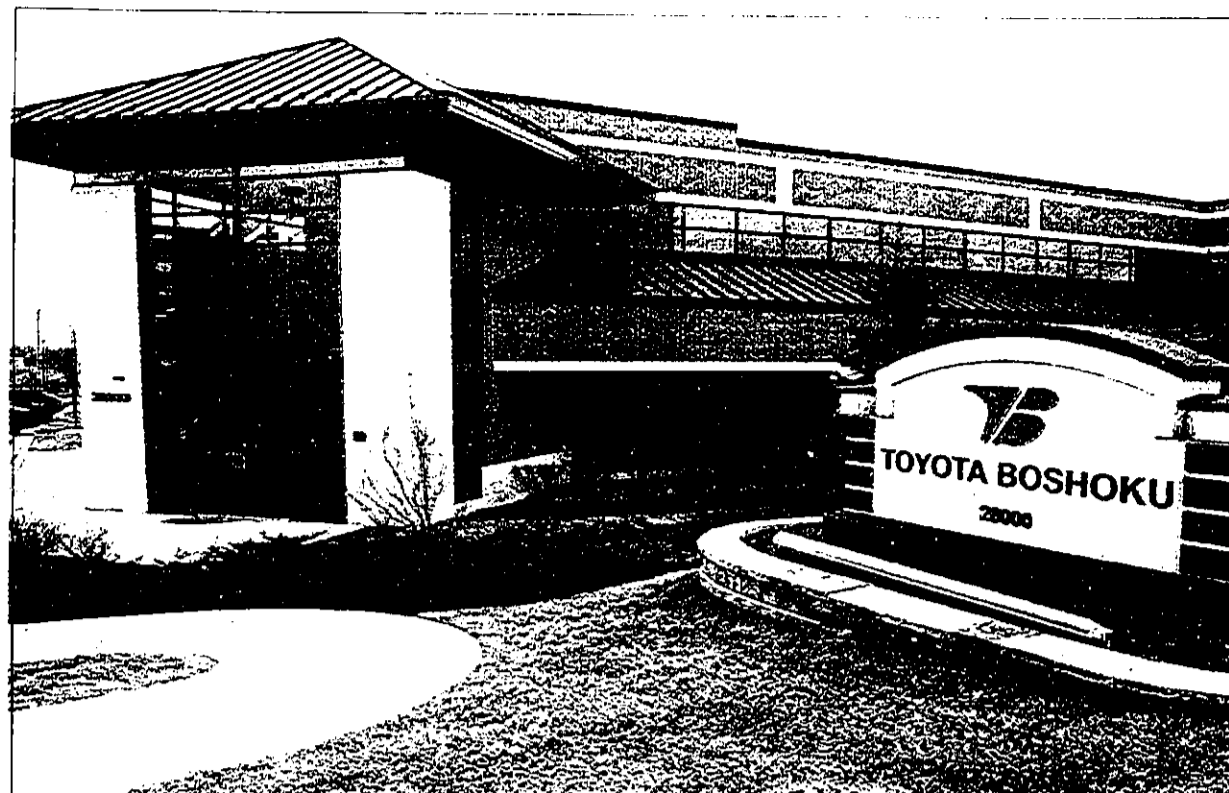
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Novi's Toyota Boshoku America is one of the many automotive-based Japanese businesses in the city.

JAPANESE

Continued from page A1

However, Schaffer did say that finding qualified employees has gotten harder.

"The job market is very tight," he said. "A lot of people moved out of the state and got out of automotive. It's tough to find engineers and designers."

Not just autos

Ara Topuzian, director of economic development for the city of Novi,

said while the automotive businesses may take all the headlines in the city, the overall climate is more diverse than people think.

It's research and development on a wide range, from software development to new technology and beyond, he said.

Topuzian noted that what he has learned over the years that business is "taught."

"If one business tells another that Novi is a business friendly community, then that is

where they tend to look," he said.

Novi's neutral territory and numerous amenities make it an attractive place for businesses to locate, and the city benefits from them as well.

"You don't want to have your eggs in one basket when it comes to the types of businesses," Topuzian said. "Other communities who rely on one big manufacturing company, when something happens to that company and there isn't a diverse tax base that

community is in trouble," Consul General Kuninori Matsuda, Japan's chief diplomat in Detroit, said he is excited about the future of Japanese businesses in the state.

"We are very encouraged to see Japanese companies diversifying into emerging sectors such as advanced battery technology and advanced composite materials, right here in Michigan," he said in a press release.

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The 152,000-square-foot The Great Indoors store at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk is on Sears Holdings' closure list as the company looks to straighten out its finances.

CLOSURE

Continued from page A1

in Michigan, including The Great Indoors will leave a giant hole at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, Kaufman said the entertainment center has a lot coming in the near future.

"We are taking immediate actions to address our fourth quarter performance including cost and inventory reductions, honed and targeted marketing, margin actions, and bringing in new talent to strengthen our merchandising and leadership team, like Ron Boire, who was recently named Chief Merchant and President, Sears and Kmart Formats," said Lou D'Ambrosio, Sears Holdings' Chief Executive Officer and President, in a press release.

"If you want to have fun, you're going to come to Fountain Walk," Kaufman said. "Seriously, a year from now this place is going to be rocking and filled with all kinds of things to do."

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A shopper returns some items to The Great Indoors at the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk.

PLAYER

Continued from page A1

teams of NYHA coaches and will feature auctions and raffles for memorabilia. All proceeds will go directly to Salah and his family, who are living in Texas as Salah undergoes treatment.

Rob Massard, organizer of the Coaches Cup game, said this is the first year

the game has been used as a fundraiser because there has never been a player with a serious health issue in the association before.

He said even if people don't like hockey they should still come out.

"There is something for everyone," he said.

The raffle features two prizes, a Nick Lidstrom-signed jersey and the other is a Johan Fran-

zen signed stick. Tickets are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. The drawing will be at 8 p.m. on March 26. Tickets can be purchased at the Novi Ice Arena front desk, NYHA Office, or by calling (248) 735-0393.

Auction items include Red Wings, Lions, Whalers and Michigan State autographed memorabilia, Sports Club of Novi memberships, hockey

program gift certificates and more. Bidding is outside the NYHA office at the Novi Ice Arena and closes at 8 p.m. on March 26.

For more information, to donate or to look at this list of memorabilia, visit www.noviyouthhockey.org or call Allen at (248) 995-8938.

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Concert series drawing large crowds to library

Two shows remain in April, May

The Listen @ The Library concert series has gotten off to frenzied start as people have packed the Novi Public Library for the first two performances.

The Shanghai Quartet kicked off the series Feb. 5 — sponsored by PNC Bank, the Chamber Music Society of Detroit and Novi Public Library — and their show was deemed a big success by an enthusiastic audience of over 200 adult and youth concertgoers.

The concert was an informal and engaging introduction to chamber music which also included the opportunity to interact with the artists. "I left... feeling so happy from the music, I just wanted to smile," said Daniel Vela, a student at Novi Middle School. "And then one of the violinist said bye to me and I felt so special."

The second and most recent Listen @ The Library free concert featuring Chamber Music Society of Detroit pres-

ident, innovative educator, and celebrated pianist Steve Wogaman on March 4 was also highly acclaimed by a full and engaged audience.

The next free Listen @ The Library concert will be at 3 p.m. on April 1, showcasing Juilliard's acclaimed flutist, Carol Wincenc, teaming with principle New York Philharmonic harpist, Nancy Allen.

The series culminates at 3 p.m. on May 20 with an inter-generational family concert at Novi High School featuring Windscape, one of the nation's foremost wind quintets. The concert titled "A Floating World: Japan and the Impressionists" showcases the atmospheric music of Debussy, Takemitsu, and others, accompanied by slides of Japanese and French visual art.

Tickets for the are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$25 for families. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the Chamber Music Society



Members of the Shanghai Quartet entertained the crowd of more than 200 people on Feb. 5 at the Novi Public Library during the first ever Listen @ The Library concert series.

of Detroit at (248) 855-0070 or www.comehear.com.

Prior to the family concert, a free Instru-

ment Petting Zoo will be offered at the Novi Public Library from 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. The Petting Zoo will give people the oppor-

tunity to touch, learn and try out a variety of musical instruments before the concert series, visit www.novilibrary.org.



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A PASSION FOR HEALING

Consistency in curriculum is key to student success

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist



Super Talk
Steve Matthews

Some say that being consistent is boring. And these are the people who would argue that variety is the spice of life. However, I would argue that there is a place for consistency.

I learned a lesson this past week about consistency. Actually, my experience last week reminded me of a lesson that I had already learned, but that I obviously had forgotten.

Instead of a regular fence, we have an invisible fence around our yard. Our dog Kaya has learned the boundaries so well over the four years we have had the invisible fence that we stopped putting the special collar on her. After all, why bother with the collar when she stays in the yard.

Last week Kaya wanted out in the middle of the night. This was unexpected and I should have known better, but because I was sleepy I clearly was not considering the possible ramifications. She scratched at the door at 3:30 a.m. I stumbled to the door and let her out.

Fifteen minutes later when she had not come back I stuck my head out the door. Much to my surprise she was behind the neighbor's house chasing down a possum. I quickly slipped into some shoes, ran outside in my pajamas, and, luckily, was able to herd her back to

the house. I told her that she was bad and went back to bed. About an hour later she wanted out again. I didn't want to let her out but she was persistent.

So at 4:30 a.m. I rummaged around the junk drawer and found her special collar. I put it on her, let her out, and went back to bed. I would be getting up in a little while so she could just stay outside.

After I awoke and prepared to go to work, I went out to get the paper. Kaya was no where to be seen.

At this point I was beginning to learn my lesson on consistency. Because Kaya had not been wearing her special collar, I had not replaced the battery. The battery in her special collar had died, and the protection afforded by the invisible fence was now useless.

Here in our school district consistency is important. One of the characteristics of a successful school district is a viable and guaranteed curriculum. It should not matter which school, which teacher, or which classroom a child is in. We should provide the same quality educational experience regardless of the circumstances.

We are working to make

sure that every teacher has access to our curriculum through an online program called Atlas Rubicon. This resource will ensure that every teacher has access to resources and curriculum materials. It will ensure that assessments are common.

Our district has a goal to ensure that every student will have no less than one year's growth in one year's time. By providing a quality instructional program to every student in the district we can come closer to guaranteeing that every student will make progress every year.

It is easy to get complacent and forget the habits and the consistent practices that help you be successful. In our house we forgot to be consistent with our invisible fence collar, and as a result I was running around in the dark chasing a dog that was chasing a possum.

In our district I want us to provide a quality educational experience every day. Providing a curriculum tool for our teachers allows them to know and understand the goals and to ensure that every one of our students will make progress every single day.

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

Dictionary Project



MELISSA ISRAEL

Finding new words to use in writing might be accessed faster with the click of a keyboard through dictionary websites, but students need to experience what turning pages in a dictionary can offer to them as well. The Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 awarded third-graders at Orchard Hills the gift of student dictionaries as part of a national initiative called The Dictionary Project (www.wordpower@dictionary-project.org). The belief that "A Dictionary is a Necessity" is the driving force behind getting these resources into the hands of third graders nation-wide. Elks Secretary Stewart Israel (shown) and Americanism Chairman David Burley visited the classroom with dictionaries in tow. Students will be able to utilize these resources throughout their school day and will get to take these tools with them for future use. As Orchard Hills continues to experience the 7 Habits as an aspiring Leader in Me school, donations like this one offers a plethora of win-win opportunities. "More civic organizations need to take part in this project so that more children can benefit from the gift of learning that a dictionary can offer," said Israel.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATE

Motorcycle safety classes offered

The steady increase in fatalities in recent years represents a concern to all drivers utilizing the nation's roads and highways. In response, the Continuing Education and Professional Development department of Schoolcraft College is continuing to offer its popular motorcycle safety classes through the Detroit Metro Motorcycle Safety Consortium.

The motorcycle safety program offers a variety of courses including: the Basic Rider Course, for those with minimal knowledge/experience who are looking to get their motorcycle endorsement; the Three-Wheel Basic Rider Course for the novice three-wheeler fan; the Returning Rider Basic Rider Course for the experienced but unlicensed rider who wants to get an endorsement; and the Advanced Rider Course for licensed, experienced riders wanting to

enhance their basic skills and improve crash avoidance.

Upon successful completion of the Basic Rider, Three-Wheel Basic, or Returning Rider course, the Secretary of State will waive the riding skills test required for a cycle endorsement. However, a short written test required for license endorsement will be given at the Secretary of State at the time of endorsement application.

Courses are offered at Schoolcraft College's main campus in Livonia, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City, and at Milford High School. The fee for each of these courses is only \$25, which is made possible through a grant administered by the Michigan Department of State.

Registration is under way for the 2012 season and courses run now through September. For more information on the Motorcycle Safety Program visit www.schoolcraft.edu/esp/motorcycle/ or call (734) 462-4448.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

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; instrumentals 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.

Lakes Area Rotary offering scholarships

The Lakes Area Rotary Club is accepting scholarship applications from Walled Lake High School students. A minimum of three \$1,250.00 scholarships will be awarded. Eligible students will have maintained a B (3.0) average, be in good standing with the school and have actively participated in community service during their high school years. Application deadline is April 1. Applications can be secured at www.lakesarearotary.org (follow down on the right to the bottom of the page for a download) or by contacting Rotarian, Lorrie McVey at (248) 390-8572.

NOVI ON CAMPUS

Alma College

The fall 2011 Dean's List includes four students from Novi — Douglas Gantt, Gwneolyn Greer, Carolyn Nagle and Chelsea Radgens — who achieved a 3.5 or better grade point average during the term

while carrying a minimum of 13 credits (at least eight of which are evaluative grades).

Olivet College

Mark Gouba, a senior from Novi, will portray Brad Majors in the Performing Arts Depart-

ment and Music Program presentation of Richard O'Brien's "Rocky Horror Show" Friday and Saturday, March 30-31 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 1 at 3 p.m. in the Oaks Theatre in downtown Olivet. All performances are free and open to the public.

MDOT considers full closure of I-96; wants public input

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

The Michigan Department of Transportation wants to hear from the public before deciding on the best strategy to tackle the \$150 million I-96 reconstruction project that could begin in late 2013.

MDOT is considering closing the freeway completely for the seven miles of freeway between Telegraph and Newburgh roads; leaving either eastbound or the westbound traffic open during the construction; or both directions open, according to plans revealed to the public last Thursday night at an open house at Livonia City Hall.

The project calls for the road reconstruction of the freeway, bridge rehabilitation, geometric upgrades, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping. Repairs will be completed to 36 bridges, with five of those bridges totally replaced.

Total reconstruction
Rob Morosi, spokesman for MDOT's metro Detroit region, said even though I-96 was recently resurfaced in 2001, that repair only lasts seven to 10 years. The pavement is starting to split apart, Morosi said.

"We've really exhausted all the opportunities to do quick fixes," Morosi said. "The construction will consist of ripping out everything that was put in, in the 1970s, down to the sub-base, remove the existing drainage, put in new storm sewers and new pavement. We anticipate the project will be bigger than the Lodge Freeway in Detroit and last year's Southfield project in Detroit."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Traffic on I-96 on a Tuesday evening appears clear, but that will change late next year when construction begins between Newburgh and Telegraph Road.

among the alternatives, no median crossovers, no shoulder upgrades or temporary pavement, no work adjacent to traffic, and concurrent bridge construction. The disadvantage is motorists need to find alternative routes whether they drive east to Detroit or west to the I-275 or M-14 freeways or the western Wayne County suburbs.

Full closure considered

The first alternative calls for closing the freeway down entirely. MDOT expects construction will last 250 calendar days at a cost of \$500,000 to maintain and redirect traffic.

MDOT exhibited a "pros/cons" chart. The advantages to a complete shutdown are the shortest construction duration

bound side, followed by a westbound closure with one lane closure on eastbound side, 450 calendar days, \$2.3 million.

- Eastbound closed, maintain three westbound lanes with crossover, 450 days, \$3.2 million.
- Westbound closed, maintain three eastbound lanes with crossover, 450 days, \$3.5 million.
- Two westbound and two eastbound lanes open with a crossover, 550 days, \$3.7 million.
- Three westbound and two eastbound lanes open

with a crossover, 600 days, \$9 million.

- Two westbound and three eastbound lanes open with a crossover, 600 days, \$9.1 million.

Other alternatives are highlighted on the 96fix.com website that consider morning and afternoon traffic shifts and crossovers with moveable barriers, and splitting the construction into separate projects.

Residents can visit the website, study these proposals and complete a survey to let MDOT know what they prefer. Morosi said.

"We want the feedback," Morosi said. "A second public hearing will be scheduled in the fall 2012 at which the traffic recommendations will be discussed. Construction plans will be presented early next year."

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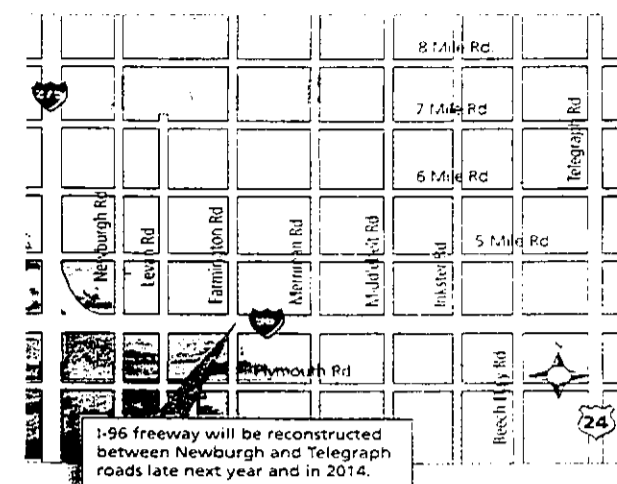
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Residents can comment on the I-96 reconstruction project scheduled to start in late 2013. They can view the construction alternatives at www.96fix.com. They can also fill out and email a survey at that Website. The public comment period ends March 8.

YOUR OPINION

Residents, business owners impacted by the construction and commuters can view the construction alternatives at www.96fix.com. They can also fill out and email a survey at that website. The public comment period ends Thursday, March 8.

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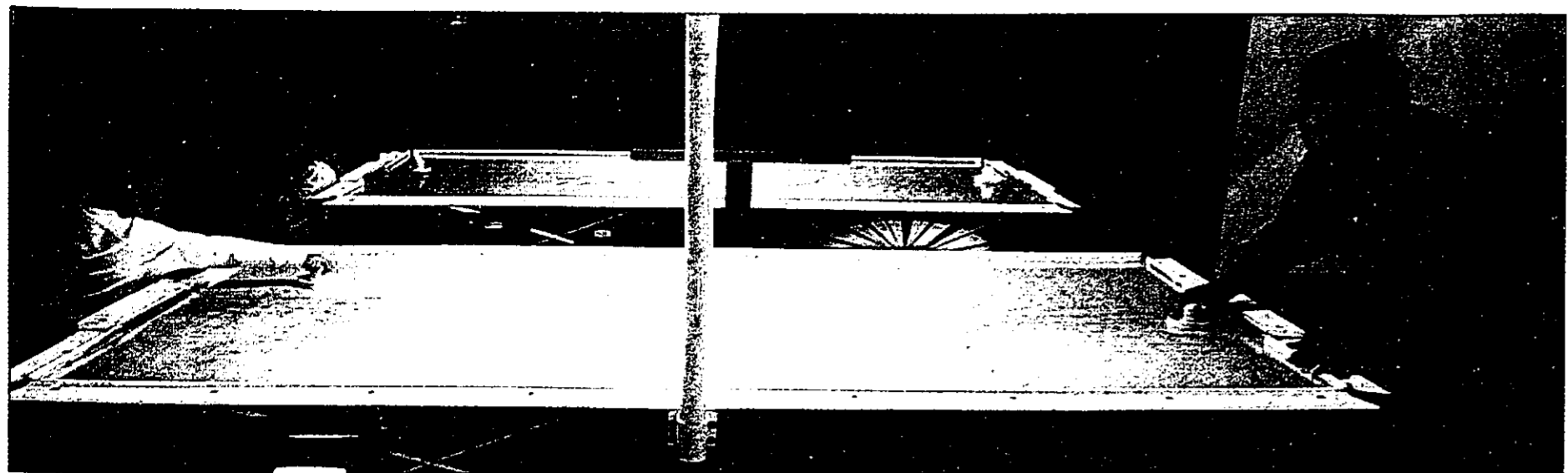
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A youngster and an adult play some air hockey at Lucky Strike Lanes.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

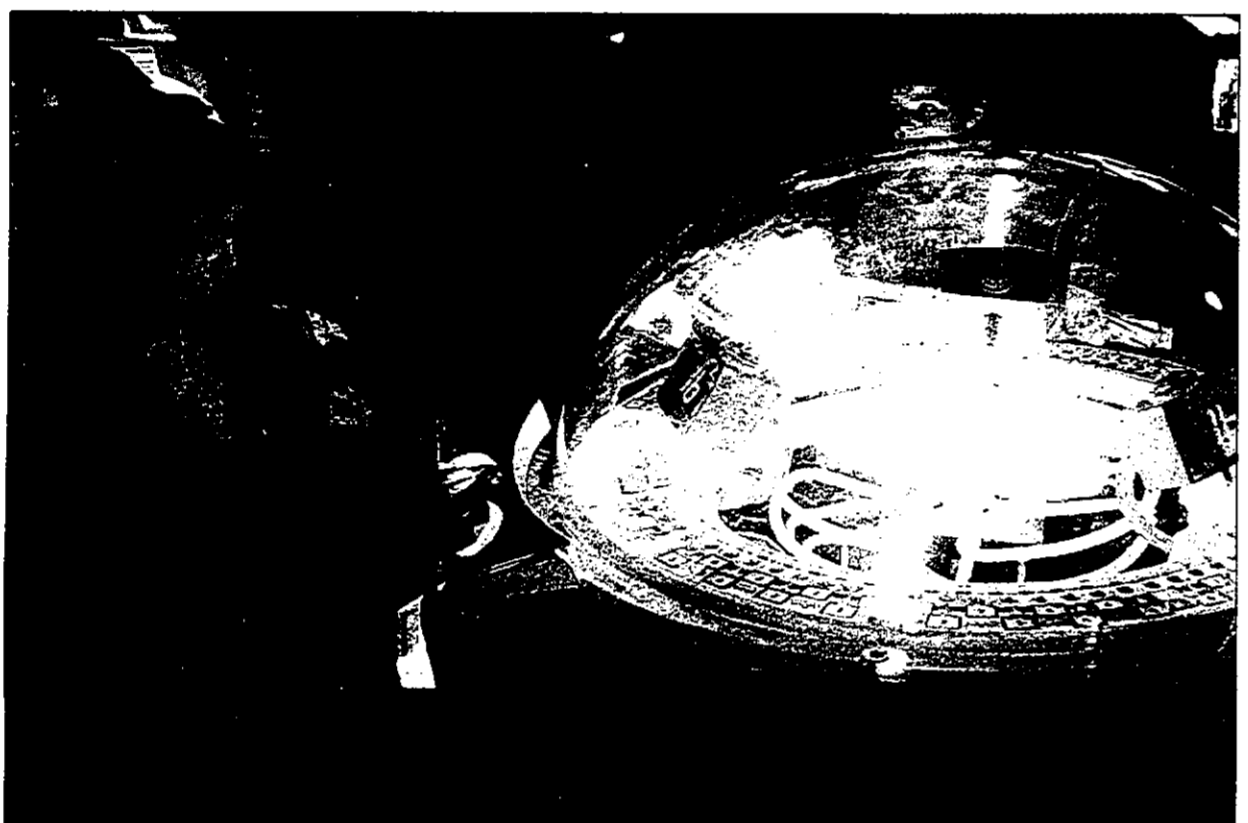
Students get addicted to games at Lucky Strike

Annual program raises money for drug education

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Lucky Strike Lanes was bustling with activity Friday morning as nearly 300 Novi students participated in the annual fundraiser Addicted to Games, Not Drugs. The event, which is in its fourth year, raises money for drug education in the schools, while also giving students a chance to get out of the house on a day off from school and have fun. Aparna Yechoor, a junior at Novi High School and member of the Novi Youth Council, said it's great to see the kids interacting with the police officers and firefighters as well as the youth council members. "The event is about promoting healthy fun," she said. "It's educational, but it's also great because it gets you active." For three hours on Fri-

day, the students had free reign to all that Lucky Strike has to offer, from video games and air hockey to bowling upstairs. Brian Conway, manager at Lucky Strike, said the business truly enjoys entertaining the students. "It's an opportunity for us to partner with the community and make an impact on the anti-drug message," he said. Robert Hamelin, a parent and CERT volunteer, said programs like Addicted to Games, Not Drugs plant seeds for kids as they get older. "I truly believe in giving children activities to do so they don't get bored or in trouble," he said. The other program organized by the Novi Youth Council is the all-night movie marathon Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs at Emagine Theater. nmueller@gannett.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255



Kids visiting Lucky Strike got to try out all of its games for free — and collect tickets to redeem for prizes.



Julia Katulski, 9, rolls some Skee Ball at Lucky Strike Lanes in Novi during the "Addicted to Games, Not Drugs" event.



Adam Zakaria surveys the lunch offerings. The outing, sponsored by the Novi Police and Fire Departments, Lucky Strike and Novi Youth Council, opens up the arcade to Novi school children for a free morning of games and food. This year saw about 300 kids and their parents at-



Alex Howard, 11, shoots some basketball at Lucky Strike on Feb. 24.

'Groundbreaking' new ministry caters to families with autistic children

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

'ALL GOD'S CHILDREN AUTISM

Where: St. Joseph Catholic Parish, 830 S. Lafayette Street, South Lyon
More info: Call St. Joseph Church at (248) 446-8700 and ask for Karen Schmid or Patti Banks; www.facebook.com/agcmin

Karen and Paul Schmid know what it's like to watch an autistic son struggle with sitting through a mass and they wonder about other families who avoid church altogether because it's just too hard. They know how hard it is when the sounds, sights and perfumes in the church can make children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) anxious and feel the need to make noise, move about and just want to flee.

"Catholics have autism as well, where are these kids?" Karen asked. "Families need support and the perfect place for that should be from their church. I want to start with a catechism program to bring back families who have left and a sensory friendly room for them to attend mass and not feel like they're being disruptive. The parents don't have to be concentrating on their kids the whole time and missing out on mass."

Karen has provided a questionnaire on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/agcmin, to gauge whether or not there is a need. Initially it drew responses from eight families and seven of those said they didn't go to church because

of their child's autism. Schmid and Banks are looking for more Facebook visits. "We're just getting started and we're trying to get the word out there," Karen said. "I know there are people who have stopped going to church. Our hope is that we can make this successful at our church and then teach other people to do it at their churches so we aren't missing people out there who really need it."

Easily distracted

Karen describes her son as "amazing, he's just amazing." But learning to deal with his behavior that results from the autism has been a challenge. Paulie is six, is brilliant at math and has been promoted to second grade at Salem Elementary School. He was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism that causes a lot of behavior issues. Little tasks can become overwhelming. When Paulie walks into a grocery store, for instance, his heightened senses accentuate the humming of the fluorescent lights; the odors from the bakery and fish counter are maximized. Autistic kids also tend to process every comment as literal. There are no blacks and whites. "He was our first (Paulie has a brother, Frankie,

4 and a sister, Clara, nine months) and we had nothing to compare him to," Karen said. "We realized that there was more than him being a strong personality and quirky. We would give his brother time out and it would work. Just a time out with him would take two hours and it never seemed to help."

Teachers and staff at Salem have taught Paulie and the Schmid's how to deal with his behavior. "I don't know what we would have done without them," Schmid said. "We've been so blessed with all the people there. They have changed his life and ours."

Volunteers teaching catechism, however, don't always know these techniques and an autistic child's behavior can escalate. Banks explains that her son, Geno's behavior at church was so distracting and difficult. "I had to stop going to church," Banks said. "I hope to get other parents and families comfortable in a church setting." Banks tried getting Geno in a catechism class, but he couldn't deal with the classroom setting and began running up and down the halls looking for his two siblings. "It was so exhausting to take him and bring him home it wasn't worth it," Banks said. "Families

need to feel accepted and not feel ashamed." Not only are noises louder, odors stronger and lights brighter for autistic children, but their balance can be off-set, too.

Religious education

Schmid and Banks are investigating if a room at St. Joseph can be designated for families who need a controlled atmosphere. Another part of the ministry is to develop religious education programs where autistic children can more easily participate in classes and in some cases finding different ways to integrate them into existing classes. Paul Schmid is a Novi teacher and is Paulie's catechism teacher at St. Joseph's this year. The ministry would give autistic children resources to the cate-

chism program for the preparation of the Holy Sacraments and possibly support groups; a baby-sitting program and even a vacation bible school. Schmid and Banks aren't limiting the possibilities. St. Joseph Pastor the Rev. Stan Tokarski describes the "All God's Children Autism Ministry" as groundbreaking. "I am excited about this," Fr. Stan said. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for more people to be aware of this. Karen is starting something that is remarkable and laying the foundation for something that hasn't been tried before."

Banks and Schmid believe there are likely many other Catholics in South Lyon and the surrounding communities experiencing similar challenges. "We're learning as

we go, but if we can employ the same techniques that are used at school, therapy and home to reach fellow Catholics with autism, we can ensure that they will have a Christian home and a community to grow in and feel supported," Banks said. "At the same time, parishioners will benefit from autism awareness and ideally, acceptance." For more information visit "All God's Children Autism Ministry at St. Joseph Catholic Church" on Facebook and fill-out the survey provided. Hard copies of the survey are also available at St. Joseph's. Call St. Joseph Church at (248) 446-8700. Schmid and Banks can be contacted by e-mail at allgodchildrenministry@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/agcmin.



From left in back, Karen Schmid, the Rev. Stan Tokarski and Patti Banks and (front left) Paulie Schmid, 6, and Geno Banks, 6, at the St. Joseph Catholic Parish. The women are putting together a ministry to help families with autistic children to more easily attend Mass and receive religious instruction.

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Raj Raina of the Novi Youth Council helps to serve food on Feb. 24 at Novi's Lucky Strike Lanes during the annual "Addicted to Games, Not Drugs" event. The outing, sponsored by the Novi Police and Fire Departments, Lucky Strike and Novi Youth Council, opens up the arcade to Novi school children for a free morning of games and food. This year saw about 300 kids and their parents attending.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Brookside Travel honored

Brookside Travel has been recognized for their outstanding achievement by Sandals Resorts at the Tenth Annual Travel Agency Recognition S.T.A.R Awards held recently at the stunning new Sandals Grande Riviera Beach & Villa Golf Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The prestigious event honored travel agents from across the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Top agents were recognized for their outstanding expertise and performance in selling the world's best Luxury Included® resorts.

Brookside Travel's awards included: 2010, 2011 Sandals Star Awards "Best of the Best" and the Prestigious Chairman's Royal Club Award

Thirty years ago Sandals Resorts has recognized the importance of a travel agent in helping consumers choose the vacation experience that's right for them. Brookside Travel has been recognized for their valuable role in making vacation dreams come true.

"Our resorts have more luxury inclusions than any resort on the planet - from luxurious suites with exclusive butler service, to 17 dining options per resort, to unlimited land and watersports - even golf!" said Gordon "Butch" Stewart, chairman of Sandals Resorts. A Certified Sandals Specialist or Preferred Sandals Agency can best recommend the resort that is perfect for you."

Dedication at The Manor

The Manor of Novi dedicated two of its remodeled nursing units to two former residents, Barbara Webber and Norma Kennedy.

Webber was a resident at the Manor of Novi for two years. Her family, especially Scott and Cindy Ferriman, continues to be involved in the facility and support The Manor's many events. A coffee maker, donated by Cindy in memory of her mother, is in the lobby and is used daily by residents, families and staff. The C wing unit was dedicated in memory of Mrs. Webber.

Kennedy resided at the Manor for nine years on B wing and the Unit was dedicated in her memory, as well. Her family also was very involved and supportive at the Manor, especially her daughter, Kathy Kemp. Kathy and her mom and Kathy's dog, Lexi, were frequent visitors in the front lobby, socializing, visiting and drinking the coffee donated by Cindy.

Approximately 40 family members and friends attended the dedication which was held Feb. 9. Cindy and Kathy were treated to flowers and balloons and both families were involved in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

A plaque in memory of both Norma and Barbara is displayed as one enters their former units, B and C wing.

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, Ogihara America Corporation, ThyssenKrupp Bilstein of America, Toyoda Gosei N.A., Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing and Yazaki North America, Inc.

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



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Farm insurance agent Veronica Murff is organizing an essay contest to recognize women in Novi for being influential and having a positive impact in the lives of others. The winner will receive \$500 and be recognized with the other nominees at reception on May 8.

Business owner looks to highlight accomplishments of women

Winner to receive \$500 award, recognition at reception

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Veronica Murff has always been focused on making a difference in the lives of others. But when it comes to doing that in Novi, where she has owned a State Farm Insurance agency for the last 20 years, she believes her impact is lacking.

She aims to change that by making Novi community service her focus, starting with an essay contest to recognize an influential Novi woman. "I am blessed and I believe God wants me to help make a difference outside of my job," she said. "I just want to help women, raise them up, and recognize them."

Murff lost her husband to a heart attack in late 2010, and the experience gave her a new perspective on life. On top of the essay contest, Murff also is organizing a series of programs to help people

ESSAY CONTEST DETAILS

Submit a double spaced typed document, no more than 250 words in length. On a separate sheet, include contact information for the person being nominated (name, address, phone number, age) and contact information for person submitting the nomination (name, address, phone number, relation to the person being nominated).

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. April 30. Submit via e-mail at veronica@veronicamurff.net or mail to: Essay Contest, c/o State Farm Insurance, 24360 Novi Road, Suite C, Novi, MI 48375

plan for the unexpected in life and she is searching for a local charity to support for the next 10 years.

"This is the fun stuff, and I'd rather do it in the community I work," she said.

The focus of the essay contest, which started March 1, is to highlight Novi women who made a positive impact in a person's life or the lives of others. A woman can nominate herself or others in the 250 word piece, and a panel of judges will select the winner.

The winner, selected by judges Julie Farkas, Linda Daly, Susie Gatt and Murff, will receive \$500 and be announced at a reception honoring all nominees at 7 p.m. May 8 at the Novi Public Library. JoAnne Purtan will emcee the event.

"I'm hoping women will take the opportunity to recognize other women who have helped them out or helped others," Murff said. "I want other people to feel good."

[nmuellet@gannett.com](mailto:nmueller@gannett.com)
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in February offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit online at oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.

CEED Microloan Orientation

Many small business owners face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases, and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the MicroLoan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan. Program presented by the Center for Empowerment & Economic Development (C.E.E.D.)

Wednesday, March 14, 9-11 a.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan

This workshop is for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

(a.m.) Morning Class 9 a.m.-12/12:30 p.m.
(p.m.) Evening Class 6-9/9:30 p.m.
April 04: CEED Microloan Orientation
April 04: Pre Business Research (p.m.)
April 04: Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business (p.m.)

Workshop participants learn what elements are commonly found in effective plans and work on developing each of these for their own business. Assistance in the process as well as information on resources is provided.

Thursday, March 15, 9 a.m.-noon
Fee: \$40. No refunds

QuickBooks Essentials

This introduction to small business financial management provides an overview of accurate recordkeeping, report interpretation and utilization, and management of the variety of tools provided in this system. Presented by Kildal Services, LLC. Session I includes basic accounting terminology, new company file setup, customizing forms and letters and working with bank accounts. Session II includes invoicing customers, receiving payments and making deposits, entering vendor bills/paying vendor bills and using credit card accounts.

Thursday, March 29, Session I 9-11:30 a.m. Session II 12:30-3 p.m.
Session One: \$40/person, Session Two: \$40/person, Both Sessions: \$75/person. Laptop highly recommended.

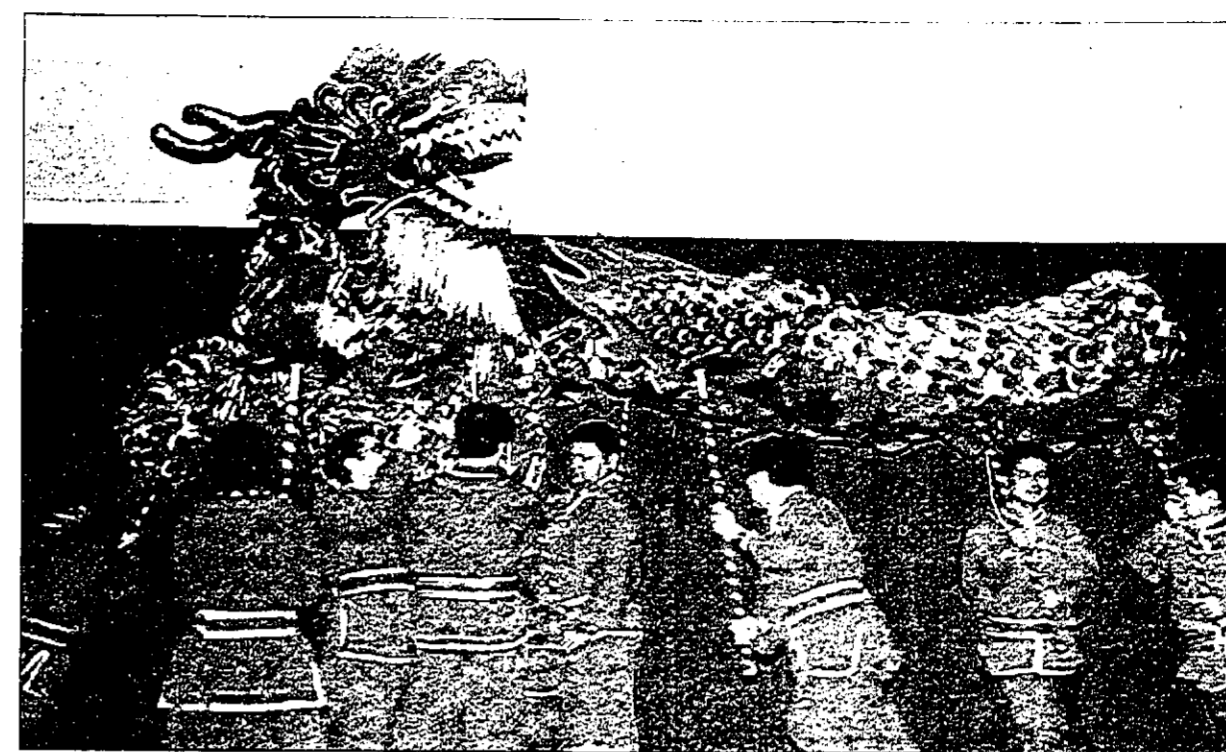
Chinese celebrations set for March 16-17

The Chinese Association of Greater Detroit — the largest Chinese American organization in the state — will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Friday, March 16 with a gala dinner that will include influential business and political leaders and also starts the Year of the Dragon Celebration on Saturday, March 17. Both events will be at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"The Chinese Association of Greater Detroit has been proud to help build bridges for 20 years between Metro Detroit, Michigan and China," said CAGD incoming president Lisa Gray. "We look forward to a more promising future as an organization and as a state as the bridges being built today grow stronger."

The Chinese Association of Greater Detroit was created in 1992 by a group of engineers from GM and Ford. It has grown into the largest Chinese-American organization with over 2,400 members from southeast Michigan. Its mission is to promote and facilitate US-China exchange in culture, business and education.

VIP guests planning to attend the CAGD dinner



The Year of the Dragon Celebration on Saturday, March 17, will be at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

include Chinese Consul General Yang Guoqiang, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, and executives.

During the dinner, Special Tribute Awards will be given to Gov. Rick Snyder, Tom Watkins,

CEO of TDW & Associates; and Carol Cain, Emmy winning Senior Producer and Host of WWJ-TV CBS Detroit's "Michigan Matters" and columnist at Detroit Free Press.

Gov. Snyder has boldly taken leadership of the state as he seeks to create greater global opportu-

nities with his trade mission to China," Gray said. "He is planting seeds that will help Michigan's future."

"Tom Watkins has been at the forefront of creating opportunities for Michigan and China for decades," Gray said. "From his time as State School Superin-

endent to today being CEO of a global strategy firm, Tom Watkins has excelled in being a positive force."

"From her breakthrough TV special 'Building Bridges: From the Great Lakes To the Great Wall, she did with her team at WWJ-TV CBS Detroit, to her weekly TV

show 'Michigan Matters' and writings about globalization, Carol Cain has been at the forefront of keeping a focus on these vital issues as few others," Gray added.

Tickets to the celebration dinner, which is open to the public, are \$50 each.

The CAGD dinner also marks the beginning of the Year of the Dragon Celebration with events on Saturday, March 17, also at Suburban Collection Showplace. It includes family fun festivities such as dragon and lion dances and other performances, interactive activities for families, Chinese folk art like paper cutting and Chinese calligraphy, Chinese merchandise, as well as sampling of Chinese cuisine. The Saturday's festivities are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is \$5 per family with free parking.

The Year of the Dragon Celebration is co-organized by Oakland County, Wayne County, and Macomb County. GM is the largest sponsor of the celebration. Other sponsors include Ford, HAP, and Tempo Group. For more information about the event, please contact Lisa Gray at lisa.gray@live.com.

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Grand River rehab meeting

The long-anticipated Grand River Avenue Rehabilitation Construction Project is under way. An informational meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20 at Steve & Rocky's restaurant (43150 Grand River Avenue, Novi).

The project will include the resurfacing of Grand River Avenue between Novi and Haggerty Roads, some road base repairs, as well as repairs to the curbs, gutters and other components of the drainage system along Grand River Avenue. Additionally, the project will include extending the right-turn lane on west-bound Grand River just east of Novi Road. Pedestrian crosswalks within the project will be also be updated.

The City of Novi and the Road Commission for Oakland County invite ALL community & business members to a Grand River Avenue Rehabilitation Project Information Meeting to hear first-hand the project timeline; roadway detour info; and marketing/PR tips. If you cannot attend but would like to receive electronic project updates, visit cityofnovi.org and sign up to receive the Keeping You Posted Newsletter. For more information, contact the City of Novi Community Relations Office at (248) 735-5628.

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.

Gleaners Smart Bites

Huntington National Bank and Emagine Theaters are teaming up all through March to support Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan's Smart Bites program. The community is encour-

Please see BRIEFS, A10

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Quilting for a cause



Janet Bickner (left) cuts some fabric at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Novi Needlers at the Novi Senior Center. The group, which meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month crafts quilts for various local charities — and last year gave away 308. The quilts go to Detroit Sinai Grace's neonatal ICU, Ann Arbor's VA Hospital, and Plaquette Square — a homeless shelter in Detroit for veterans. The group is always looking for donated cotton material which can be as simple as shirts that are no longer wearable due to wear. Novi Needlers members (above from left) Donna Kraska, Thelma Davidson, and Nelda Lietzau take a look at some material in their inventory.

Passages

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

LANG JR., HARRY O.
Age 90, of Northville, formerly of Farmington Hills and Traverse City, passed away 02/29/2012. Service to be held at later date. www.casertinefuneralhome.com

FOOTE, ELISABETH TRAVIS "BETSY"
Age 78 of the Tellico Village Community, Loudon, TN passed away Saturday, February 2, 2012. She was an active member of the Community Church at Tellico Village. Betsy and her husband owned and operated a tractor dealership in Franklin, MI for 8 years. Betsy was an avid bridge player, powder and golfer, and she enjoyed water aerobics. She was a past president of the Women's 9 Hole Golf League, a member of the Golf Committee and the Garden Club. Betsy was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Betty Travis; sister Barbara Clifton; and brother Robert Travis. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Charlie Foote; daughters Linda Ketter and husband Ralph Ketter of Reston, VA, Lisa Magnuson and husband David of Kansas City, MO; grandchildren Ian Ketter, Elisabeth Ketter and her husband Dan Sparlock, Sarah Ketter-Nguyen and husband Anh Nguyen, Christy Raines and husband Mike of Omaha, NE; great grandchildren Molly and Keegan Raines. A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday at 2:00 at the Community Church at Tellico Village. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Community Church at Tellico Village or the Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department. Click Funeral Home & Creations - Tellico Village Chapel is serving the family of Betsy Foote. www.clickfuneralhome.com

GABEL, CLARENCE M.
Of Brighton, formerly Farmington Hills, died Feb. 29, 2012 at home in the care of his family. www.lynechfunerary.com

May you find comfort in Family and Friends
VOAKES, ELIZABETH
Age 88, of Brighton, passed away February 27, 2012. A memorial service was held Thurs., March 1, 2012 at the funeral home. www.casertinefuneralhome.com

PEARSON, ALLAN E.
Age 72 of Vantage, Tennessee, formerly of South Lyon, Michigan, (resident for 28 years) passed away 11/05/2011, Thursday, March 1, 2012 at Blount Memorial Hospital, Member of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Madisonville, TN, and a former member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon, Michigan. Member of the Knights of Columbus and the Plymouth Elks. A biology & chemistry teacher at Fordson High School & Ford Community College for many years. Avid at golfing, bowling, fishing and boating. A loving husband, father & grandfather. Survivors: wife, Gayle Pearson, Daughters & sons-in-law, Sharon & Craig Goins, Waterford, Michigan, Christine & Christopher Hall, Portland, Oregon, Son & daughter-in-law, Michael & Pamela Pearson, Smyrna, TN, Grandchildren, Adam, Andrew, Elizabeth, Emily, Nicole, Denali, Jessica & Nolan, Sister, Elaine Pearson, Fowlerville, Michigan, Mother-in-law, Dolores Hurst, Vantage, TN. Several other relatives. Preceded in death by parents, Edward & Gertrude Pearson. Funeral Mass 11 A.M. Monday, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Father P.J. McGinley officiating. Interment Sunset Cemetery, Rosary service 5:30 P.M. Sunday. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Good Shepherd Center, 5150 Hwy. 411, Madisonville, TN 37354. Family will receive friends 3-5:30 P.M. Sunday at Bireley-Hale Funeral Home, Madisonville, Tennessee.

MONTPELLI, GABRIEL
84, passed away on February 28, 2012. A memorial service will be held on Sunday at Nichols & Lundquist Funeral Home in New Port Richey. He was born on June 2, 1927 in Michigan to Ralph and Blanche Montpelli. He served in the US Navy during WWII as a tank operator. After being discharged, he worked for the US Government as a Project Manager on M581A1 tank recovery vehicles. He was responsible for developing an automated computerized system for ordering repair parts for all tanks. This system proved so successful it was adopted by the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois. He retired in 1982 and has been a New Port Richey resident since 1983. He was a brilliant painter. Some of his other favorite hobbies were golfing, fishing, playing cards, and hunting. He met his lovely bride, Beatrice, June 1949. It was love at first sight. They were married on November 11, 1950. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Beatrice; sister, Anita Wilkey; son, Donn Montpelli; daughters and their spouses, Gaye and John Burton and Suzanne and Phillip Kruse; grandsons, Jason and Sean Burton; granddaughters and their spouses, Kelli and Derek Gibbs, Aimee and Bobby Burns, Brandee and Jason Bianco, and Jennifer and Greg Cadigan; great-grandchildren, Roman Burton, and Connor and Isabelle Burns. He was preceded in death by his son, Russ Montpelli.

RAJKOVICH, SYDNEY GENEVIEVE
Age 78, passed away peacefully in her home on February 24, 2012 after a long and courageous fight against cancer. She was a thirty year resident of South Lyon and Michigan prior to relocating to Ann Arbor twenty-five years ago with her beloved husband, Andrew. She was born on August 16, 1934 in Montreal, Wisconsin to Clarence and Genevieve (Stanlake) Johnson and grew up in Bessemer, Michigan. She met Andrew in Chicago and was united in marriage in 1953. They resided in Ironwood, Traverse City, and East Lansing before settling down in South Lyon. Sydney worked at an Insurance Agency for over 25 years, before retiring in 1992. She loved gardening, cooking, local sports teams, travel, and her pets; she gave loving homes to many stray animals. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Andrew and her loving children Daniel (Amia) Rajkovich and Kathleen Towler, grandchildren, Chad Clements, Jason and Marissa Houston and Kaitlyn Towler, great-grandson, Talan Birnbaum, and her brother, Rodney (Joy) Johnson. Visitation will be held Friday, March 9 at 10 AM followed by a funeral mass at 11 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2250 East Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Following the memorial service, a luncheon will be held at Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Avenue, Ann Arbor. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Humane Society of Huron Valley and Michigan Great Lakes Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

NEWPHW, LUELLA
Age 97 formerly of South Lyon died March 2, 2012. Beloved wife of 60+ years to the late Harry (d. 2004). Loving mother of Linda Hayes and Cheryl Tapp. She has 4 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Luella was a long time resident of South Lyon and was the librarian for South Lyon Schools for 30 years. Private family services to be held at a future date. Arrangements entrusted to Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Walled Lake. Condolences at LynchFamilyFuneralDirectors.com

New tax business focused on year round service

Employees have more than 100 years of combined experience

By Nathan Mueller, Staff Writer
Margie Winston acknowledges that most people only see their tax agent once a year during tax season. But it doesn't always have to be like that, she said. Winston, who is one of the co-founders of Taxes Plus USA Inc. in Novi, believes the agents can be a valuable resource all throughout the year. "We not only do returns during tax season, but help prepare for audits, do tax planning and work with budgets," she said. "We are a one-stop tax office and want to take care of people's tax and financial needs." The independent business just opened in January with five employees, including a certified public accountant, who have more than 100 years of combined tax preparation and representation experience. Winston, who serves as secretary/treasurer, was attracted to starting the business because it allows her to work closely with customers and get to know them. "It's exciting because it's something new," she said. "But one of the things I like best is that I can spend time with people and build relationships with my clients." And by building those relationships, Winston said she hopes to take the stress out of what can be a stressful time for people. "We want to make this as comfortable as possible." The co-owners chose



Novi's Taxes Plus USA staff, from left: Sharon Millon, Tom Sullivan and Margie Winston. The new business located at 31178 Novi Road aims to provide year round tax service for clients.

Novi for its first store because of its central location, and the plan is to expand in the future. "We want to grow, but not too fast," Winston said. "We have come a long way but we still have some more work to do." Taxes Plus USA is located at 31178 Novi Road. mueller@ganett.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

BRIEFS

Continued from page A9
The free program, co-sponsored by the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) and the Novi Public Library, offers a unique opportunity for older adults and their caregivers to learn about new aging and scientific advancements that are contributing to the longevity revolution. Participants will be encouraged to reevaluate preconceived opinions about ageism, and also address fears about the uncertain future. With Rosen's guidance, people who attend the open forum will discover new strategies to help them value the treasured memories, heartfelt emotions, and cherished events that encompass the depth and rich layers of their lives. Rosen specializes in geriatric psychiatry, and is the medical director at OCCMHA. For more information about Opening Minds or to register for Growing Old Gracefully, contact Debbie at (248) 858-0929 or visit www.occmha.org.

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 non-residents and \$8.50 for non-residents. Tickets must be purchased in advanced 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.

Growing Old Gracefully
Life lessons learned from patient experts will serve as the discussion platform for Leonard Rosen, M.D. as he leads the Opening Minds interactive program Growing Old Gracefully at the Novi Public Library at 45255 W. 10 Mile Road from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Location: 24105 Meadowbrook Road.
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
Time/Day: 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 Zuelich, associate pastor
Lenten events
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays
Details: "Catholicism" dvd discussion
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Fridays
Details: stations of the cross
CHRISTIAN BIBLE TALKS
Location: Plymouth W/VW Hall, 1246 S Mill Street (north of Ann Arbor & Lilley Rd)
Time/Dates: 4 p.m. Sundays

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.
March 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 McInally
Contact: (515) 851-2939
CROSSPOINT 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.crosspointmeadows.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: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822 or www.newhopecenter.com
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Book of Revelation Study
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:10 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 Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH
Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.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 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit drcnazarene.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
Please see CHURCH, A13

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church listings for Brighton, Milford, Novi, Highland, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, New Hudson, Wixom, and South Lyon. Each listing includes church name, address, phone, and service times.

OUR VIEWS

Rallying for a cure

Local cancer events begin March 24-25

Anyone who has been through cancer — either being diagnosed themselves or loving someone else who has — knows it is a difficult journey. It can destroy lives. It can rip apart families without regard to wealth or social status. Everyone is susceptible. Nobody is immune.

According to the American Cancer Society, more than a half million people died due to cancer last year — that's a total of more than 1,500 per day. Another million and a half people were diagnosed with some form of cancer in 2011.

The many thousands of people who annually get involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event certainly know how destructive cancer can be. Most of them have been personally impacted by cancer in one way or another. That's why they have been fighting back since 1986, the first year of Relay for Life.

The event has grown tremendously since the mid-1980s. This year communities around the nation and the globe will organize their own Relay events, including Novi and Northville.

This year's first local event is the Relay for Life of Novi Northville Students on March 24-25 at Hillside Middle School in Northville. Currently, 355 participants on 32 teams have raised more than \$16,000 to find a cure for cancer and for programs to help people who are suffering from it.

Two more events are scheduled for June 2-3: the Relay for Life of Novi will be held at Fuerst Park and the Relay for Life of Northville will be at Ford Field.

Those who have been a part of a Relay for Life can tell you what an emotional event it can be. Even though every event is different, there are traditions that take place during the 24 hours of every Relay.

Celebrate - The Survivors Lap: The Survivors Lap is an inspirational time when survivors are invited to circle the track together and help everyone celebrate the victories they've achieved over cancer. The Survivors Lap is an emotional example of how Relay participants are creating a world with more birthdays like those of each individual on the track.

Remember - The Luminaria Ceremony: A time to honor people who have been touched by cancer and remember loved ones lost to the disease. Candles are lit inside bags filled with sand, each one bearing the name of a person touched by cancer, and participants often walk a lap in silence.

Fight Back - The Fight Back Ceremony: There is a Fight Back Ceremony where one makes a personal commitment to save lives by taking up the fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society says in recent years real progress has been made with cancer research. The survival rate is up dramatically from what it was just a couple decades ago. They attribute a lot of that success to the overall awareness of cancer, and the fact so many people are getting on board with the fight. Perhaps this is the year you will join in. Visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/> to find out how.

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone, Community Editor
Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

Since March is Reading Month, we asked Novi librarians: What is your favorite book?



"The Eight: A Novel" by Katherine Neville."
Betty Lang
Novi adult services librarian



"The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle."
Kelly Kolchuk
Novi youth librarian



"The Help" by Kathryn Stockett."
Julie Farkas
director of Novi Public Library



"Tuck Everlasting" by Natalie Babbitt."
Margi Karp-Opferer
assistant director at Novi Public Library

LETTERS

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?

TC Howery
Salern Township

How is capitalism unfair?

Our president, of the moment, has once again played the class warfare card in, of all places, his whiny, complaining nonbudget budget address. Involving a typical community organizer rant, he pictured the poor and middle class as not being given a "fair shot."

His threadbare, but constant drumbeat indictment is that capitalism in general and the "rich" in particular have not the poor and middle classes to reach their potential. The question is how does he think this crime against fairness was perpetrated?

Has capitalism not provided the highest standard of living and greatest freedom of choice and expression for its work forces of any nation in the world?

How many workers on production lines outside the United States have vacation homes, travel trailers, not one but two cars and weeks of vacation in which to enjoy them? As for the rich, that our president constantly denigrates and would like to see "soaked."

Have they not been the engine of production within capitalism that provided the above jobs for the majority of Americans in the private sector?

Have you, or anyone you know, ever gotten a long term, well-paying job from a poor man?

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: ctone@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.

Have the rich not significantly endowed schools and colleges, or provided scholarships to them?

Have the rich not significantly created and donated public parks and playgrounds?

Have the rich not significantly funded hospitals and humanitarian enterprises?

How then, have they robbed the poor and middle classes of what was theirs by "right"?

Our Constitution guarantees only three major rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Everything else comes from motivation, self-denial and hard work, not from some newly discovered vote-getter called "entitlements."

Have the Obama-denigrated rich not risked their personal fortunes in creating wealth for others, as well as themselves? Are they not entitled to a significant reward for this risk?

Why then, would we think it only fair, to ask the rich 1 percent, who already pay more than 28 percent (almost one-third) of all federal taxes collected, to be taxed even more as a reward for their achievements?

If Obama can determine how, and how much, capitalism and the rich have disenfranchised the poor and middle classes, we can then legitimately demand that the lost wealth be "redistributed." But, if such oppression is only touted for political gain... then who is not being fair to whom?

Our town is beautiful and I am tired of stepping in dog crap because of inconsiderate people.
Susan Weber
Northville

Hospital property boondoggle

Squander of taxpayer resources to cover bad judgments is indigestible. This happened with the purchase of the derelict state hospital property in Northville Township from REIS. Taxpayers were bamboozled, buying land with problems, never, ever, needed in the first place. Abundant, undeveloped, publicly-owned acreage spreads over our township, most of it gifted free.

This deal-maker had needs. The property was zoned residential, and most profitable possibilities were the Seven Mile/Haggerty corner. Residual property and derelict hospital buildings were his burden. Suddenly, annexation threat orchestrated, township leaders bought exaggerated, thinking of loss of tax base to the savior, Livonia. Their eager minds lusted at glossy dreams of awesome, commercial taxation. Livonia voted, wisely dumping annexation outside existing city boundaries, perhaps viewing difficulties of utility expansion or serving isolated properties.

Our township initiated odd midsummer voting for their bond issue for property excess of REIS' retained corner. We're stuck with it. Bond issues in millions never reveal lingering costs. Our board revealed needs for parkland despite huge abundance. Next, a red herring, a threatened lawsuit, typical for land use disagreements but disposed of through established land use plans. Our relaxed township recruited studies for grand plans. Bonded indebtedness is better applied to public safety or school support or serious needs. The township was misguided, through fear or bad counsel.

Without an oil gusher, this property is a horrible investment. I served many years on the Township Board and was chairman of the Planning Commission. This deal, outcomes, and especially costs to taxpayers, is absurd! Many share my view, but are helpless, dutiful taxpayers. Dreams of high tax income from commercial uses at Seven Mile/Haggerty vanish. Insult would be tax abatements for development crowning piles of millions. One more bite into taxpayers.

A good leader desires to defend our community from threats to its character, people and tax resources. Trustees make decisions on spending, ordinances, planning, and are stewards of growth. Their succession plans are unnecessary. The unselected employees maintaining functional responsibility are outstanding. Board members have a stipend for office, talent and time. New contenders should be assembling for every position, led by a new supervisor candidate. Leaders are available, fitting every principal position and supporting trustees. Others equally displeased with squander of taxpayer resources will welcome making pensioners of the current board.

Ed Ford
Milford

Pick up after your pooch

I walked down to the new park at Seven Mile and Sheldon, I brought my dog for a walk. I am shocked to see how many people who walk their dogs don't pick up after their pets. I always bring bags with me and from there brought it back home to throw it out. I think a dog poop dispenser and trash can would help to keep the area cleaner.

I also have a beef in town that pet owners aren't responsible. The other day I walked in my sub and a dog had pooped on the sidewalk and no one picked it up. I feel bad for all the people who don't own pets and still have to clean up after them. Why can't the citizens of Northville be responsible and pick up after their pets? If not, there should be a

Jim Nowka
Northville

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Masson & Barr

Deanna and Gordon Masson, of Novi, announce the engagement of their daughter Melissa Masson, of Grand Rapids, Mich., to Adam Barr, of Grand Rapids, son of Cheryl and Ted Barr, of Brecksville, Ohio.

The bride-to-be graduated from Novi High School in 2006 and earned her bachelor's degree in advertising and public relations with an emphasis in public relations from Grand Valley State University in 2010. She is employed at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park as a public relations specialist.

The groom-to-be attended Malone College in Canton, Ohio, later graduating from Grand Valley State University in 2009, earning a degree in advertising and public relations with an emphasis in advertising. He is a copywriter for numerous advertising firms in the Grand Rapids area.

The two met while working at GVSU's student-run radio station in 2008 and will wed on May 5, 2012 in Ann Arbor.



Rogg-Ramas

Rachael Rogg and Kevin Ramas were married Feb. 4, 2012 at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. The Rev. Rodney Quanton officiated. The bride, daughter of Brian and Erin Rogg of Novi, attended Novi High School and Michigan State University. She is employed as a senior account manager at Autobot, an automotive marketing firm.

The groom, son of Tim Ramas of Commerce and Linda Ramas of Farmington Hills, attended Michigan State University and received a juris doctorate degree from Wayne State University. He is employed as an attorney at Michael Morse PC.

A reception was held at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. The couple took a honeymoon trip to Las Vegas, Nev. They reside in South Lyon.

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NEWSMAKERS

Mitchell in 'White Buffalo'

Nate Mitchell, of Novi, is among the cast members in the Purple Rose Theatre Company's upcoming presentation, "White Buffalo", which will run from March 20-June 2 at the Chelsea theatre. Inspired by true events, "White Buffalo" tells the story of the miracle birth of a white buffalo calf on a family farm in Wisconsin. When a white buffalo is born on Carol Gelling's small farm, it heralds a Sioux prophecy of peace on earth and unity to mankind. Quickly, the farm becomes a hotbed of spiritual outpouring — from Native American pilgrims to the Dalai Lama. The publicity reaches Carol's long-estranged husband whose return further complicates Carol's life. When a mysterious businessman offers to buy the calf, Carol must decide whether the white buffalo signals the end of her financial hardships or the beginning of her personal enrichment. Phone (734) 433-7673 for more information.

CHURCH

Continued from page A11

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit first-presville.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 8
Details: Paul Durso, of Curtis & Associates, discussing the current economy and how to 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.fumcnorthville.org

Sunday Worship: Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.
Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.
Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.

Sunday School: Nursery - 8 a.m.
Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m.
Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.



Marycrest Heights is a newly constructed senior community, with a commitment to quality construction, safety, and maintaining a faith-based community atmosphere. With Marycrest skilled nursing and rehabilitation services in your backyard, heated underground parking, and a range of community events and activities, Marycrest Heights provides independence, safety, and convenience.

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Marycrest HEIGHTS

St. Patrick's Day Party

Thursday, March 8
3-4:30 pm

Join our residents for a "wee bit o' fun" as we celebrate with traditional dishes, spirits & entertainment.

Take this opportunity to meet our residents and tour our community.

(734) 838-6240

Marycrest Heights
15495 Middlebelt
Livonia, MI

MarycrestHeights.org

Community Amenities:

- Chapel
- Beauty Salon/ Barber Shop
- Resident Activities
- Media Room Lounge
- Fitness Center
- Heated Underground Parking
- Community Garden
- Walking Paths
- Emergency Call System

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: riskod@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

MANAGING YOUR MEDICATIONS!
Time/Date: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 13
Location: Providence Park Hospital (Conference Room A), Novi
Details: Take an active role in the selection, cost and organization of your medications. Presented by Heidi Schmid, Pharm D. Free.
Contact: 888-751-9456 to reserve a seat

NOVI CO-OP PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Thursday March 22
Location: 41671 West 10 Mile Road (in the Novi Methodist Church)
Details: A play-based kindergarten readiness program for 2- to 5-year-olds. Bring your family and meet our teachers, talk to some of the parents and explore the classroom.
Contact: For more information, visit www.novipreschool.com or call (248) 349-3223.

HEALTH SEMINAR
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22
Location: Better Health Market, 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Details: Natural health expert Terry Lemerond will show how to fight pain naturally, sharing medicinal secrets and the benefits of a popular spice.
Contact: (248) 735-8100

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

GET LISTED!
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to stone@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.

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

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

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

NOVI SENIOR CENTER
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414; theglin@cityof-novi.org

Business
NOVI OAKS CHARTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Time/Date: 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 14
Details: By Kym Johnson, owner of KSJ Marketing Communications. Explore inexpensive and free marketing techniques to promote your business, both online and offline. Networking begins at 6:15 with dinner and presentation following.
Contact: see www.abwa-novi.org for registration and payment information
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 fmilana@sunrisenetworkinggroup.com

METRO NOVI BNI
Time/Date: 7-8 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of Eight Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.
Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at (248) 797-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com

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

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Location: www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-7743
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 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; novirotary.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 Paolocco from Maria's Italian Bakery; and Lou Martin, St. John Providence, Public Relations. Entertainment by Joseph David the Magician. Everyone is welcome 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.noviroary.org. Any donations will go to the Novi Rotary Foundation.
Contact: Joe Carrier cbalaw@gmail.com or Ginger Barrons reliable@dn.net or (248) 348-5244.

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.
Contact: Lion President Ron Martin, (248) 473-1156 or Lion Secretary Ed Kramer, (248) 348-2747

Library Lines

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY
Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772
HUD Counseling
Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.

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
Web: www.novilibrary.org
Story Times: Please see the library website or story time brochure for details.

Knit 2gether Knitting Circle
Time/Date: 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, March 8 and 15
Details: If you have a leaning towards knitting or any of the related handcrafts Knit 2gether Knitting Circle just might be your cup of tea. No instructor; no registration, and of course, attendance is free.

Job-Seekers Toolbox
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 8
Details: Novi Public Library and Michigan Works! North Oakland Career Centers - Novi will co-host this one hour workshop. Learn about free library databases that identify and research potential employers and create powerful cover letters and resumes as well as programs, services, skills assessments, and workshops essential to job-search success! Please register.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting
Time/Date: 3:15-3:45 p.m. Friday, March 9
Details: Join the TAB as we create and plan programs for teens at the Library. Meeting attendance will count as volunteer time. For grades 9-12.

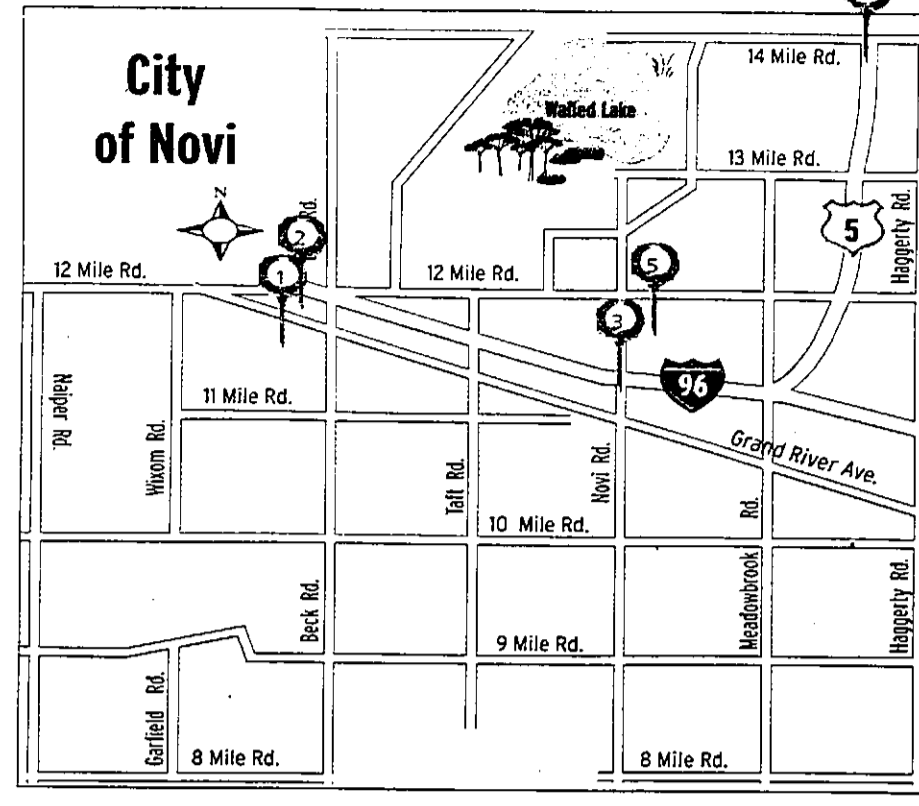
Help for Families from OLHSA
Time/Date: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays, March 13 and 20
Details: Meet with an OLHSA (Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency) staff member for support with Medicaid, food, cash, foreclosure, many other human services. Please call the OLHSA office at (248) 209-2686 to make an appointment.

English Conversation Group
Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Tuesdays, March 13 and 20
Details: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills. No need to register.

Starlight Story Time
Time/Date: 7-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13
Details: One of your favorite NPL Youth Librarians will combine stories, music, and fun for a special bedtime treat at this preschool story time. Wear your pajamas so you'll be ready for bed when you get home.

Please see CALENDAR, A16

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



Man caught with heroin
 Novi police are awaiting a warrant on a 23-year-old man who was caught with heroin on March 1 after he was taken to Providence Park Hospital for a drug overdose.
 According to the police report, the man was transported to the hospital via ambulance after emergency personnel were called to the parking lot of Guernsey's. They found the suspected heroin, along with a can of dusting spray used for huffing in his sweatshirt.
 The man told police he was a heroin addict and that the items they found were his. An officer contacted the man on March 5 to get a written statement, but he has yet to return calls.

SUV damaged at Kroger
 A woman had her 2011 Ford Escape vandalized while she was shopping at Kroger on March 2.
 According to the police report, the woman said a man approached her several times while she was walking into the store and while she was inside the store. She said she ignored him at first, but after he asked her out she told him she was not interested.
 When she returned to her vehicle, the driver's side front tire was nearly flat. The woman told police that the same man approached her at the store nearly a year ago and she gave him a fake phone number.
 Police have no suspects at this time.

Driver stopped with weed
 A 27-year-old woman was arrested for possession of marijuana after she was stopped on Novi Road near I-96 on March 4 because a headlight was out.
 According to the police report, when the officer approached the car he could smell the odor of marijuana coming from inside. The woman said there wasn't anything illegal in the car and got out so the officer could search the vehicle.
 During the search the officer found a glass pipe and two roaches sitting on top of a plastic tray in the center console. The woman was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where she was issued a citation and released after posting bond.

Driver, three minors arrested for drinking
 A 21-year-old man was arrested for drunk driving and two 20-year-old women and a 19-year-old woman were arrested for minor in possession after being stopped for speeding on M-5 south of Fourteen Mile Road on March 5.
 According to the police report, the

vehicle was going 84 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone before it was stopped. When the officer approached the car he could smell the odor of intoxicants coming from inside and everyone admitted to drinking.
 The driver failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .18 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.
 The three passengers all had BACs over .14 percent. A fifth passenger in the car was 21 years old and not arrested.
 All subjects were arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where they were issued citations and released after posting bond and when sober.

Man caught stealing from several stores
 Macy's and Bakers are planning on pressing charges on a 21-year-old man who was caught stealing several items from the stores and others inside Twelve Oaks Mall on February 28.
 According to the police report, the suspect was seen cutting the security wire off a handbag in Macy's, taking two of them. He also was caught taking items from Forever 21, Charlotte Russe and Bakers.
 The total value of the items taken was over \$700.
 The man admitted to taking the items to sell and help pay his rent. He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department, and the report has been sent to the prosecutor's office for a warrant review.

— Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

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Thursday, March 22, Classroom 10
Wednesday, April 25, Classroom 10

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Modern-day retirement foundations

By Paul Housey
Guest Columnist

Many American workers are facing a retirement crisis. A generation ago, retirement was characterized by short life expectancy, a strong pension and the certainty of Social Security. Today, those planning for retirement must account for the possibility of living into their 90s, fewer pension plans and uncertainty surrounding Social Security.

If pensions and Social Security were the foundations of your grandparents' retirements, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, Traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs are the modern-day alternatives. It's important for workers to educate themselves on IRAs so they can get the most for their retirement dollar. Following are some of the key characteristics under the current law.

Contributions

You can contribute to a Roth at any age. Contributions to Traditional IRAs can only be made for years in which you are 70.5 or younger at the end of that year. Both plans allow those under age 50 to contribute up to \$5,000 for 2011 and 2012, or up to \$6,000 for those 50 or older. You may contribute to both plans in the same year, however your combined contributions cannot exceed the above limit.

For both plans, you (or your spouse) must have earned income to make a contribution.

Roth contributions and the ability to deduct Traditional IRA contributions may be limited at certain income levels.

For any tax year, you must generally make your contribution by April 15 of the following year. So you still have time to make a 2011 con-



Paul Housey

Distributions

Generally both plans allow penalty-free access to your account six months after you turn 59 (or earlier under certain exceptions).

The Traditional IRA mandates that distributions begin shortly after you turn 70.5. Roth IRAs do not have similar distribution requirements if you are the original owner.

Tax benefits

You may be able to deduct contributions to Traditional IRAs on your tax return. If you do this, then all of the distributions you later make will be subject to income tax. Contributions to Roth IRAs are never tax deductible. However, qualified distributions

from Roth IRAs are not taxable.

Those who expect their income to rise significantly in the future — such as part-time workers or first-time wage earners — often choose Roth IRAs because they are willing to forgo the immediate tax deduction in favor of tax-free distributions in the future.

However, workers nearing retirement who are expecting their income needs to decrease significantly often choose Traditional IRAs. They take the tax deduction today at tax rates that they anticipate will be higher than those in place when they are making distributions.

Investments

Both plans are very flexible with the investments you can own. Most stocks, bonds, CDs, and mutual funds can be purchased in either plan. Because Roth IRA bal-

ances can later be withdrawn without any income tax, many advisors recommend you use Roth for the investments you expect to increase the most in value. Accordingly, bond mutual funds are often purchased in Traditional IRAs, while more aggressive equity funds are often purchased in Roths.

Beyond the Basics

Some workers make too much money to contribute to a Roth IRA. A tax law that took effect in 2010 provides a workaround for some of these taxpayers to get money into a Roth. Anyone with income and under the age of 70.5 can make a contribution (even if it is not deductible) to a Traditional IRA. Starting in 2010, anyone can convert IRA balances to a Roth. For the last few years, we have been advising many of our

clients to make a non-deductible contribution to an IRA and immediately convert the contribution to a Roth. Note that the process is not as simple if you already have an IRA balance. Check with a Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner or a CPA to understand all the rules and implications before trying to complete this strategy.

For more details about IRAs, consult IRS Publication 590 at www.irs.gov (Page 6 offers a quick comparison).

Paul E. Housey, MBA, CPA, CFP, is president of the Financial Planning Group of Snook House Advisors, Inc. in Troy and teaches financial planning at Walsh College. Contact him at (248) 458-1100 or phousey@snookhouse.com or visit www.snookhouse.com for articles, calculators and more information to help you with your financial planning.

CALENDAR

Continued from page A14

Internet Instruction for Seniors

Time/Date: 11-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 14

Details: Personal instruction by a Librarian on Internet basics such as navigating the task bar, searching with known addresses, and keyword searching.

Booked for Lunch

Time/Date: noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, March 14

Details: Join your neighbors for a discussion of The Glass Room by Simon Mawer. Feel free to bring a snack.

Alpha Boomers: Boom or Bust for Your Retirement?

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15

Details: Provides direction on how to get control over the management and oversight of your retirement assets. Registration required.

Microsoft Excel Basics

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 17

Details: Learn the basics to creating, modifying, and saving a spreadsheet using Microsoft Excel. Registration required.

Favorite Characters Story Time

Time/Date: 11-11:45 a.m. Saturday, March 17

Details: Read books featuring a couple of your favorite story characters, see a short movie, and do a craft — all in 45 minutes! What a great way for preschoolers to spend a Saturday morning!

Microsoft Word Basics

Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17

March 17
Details: Learn the basics of creating, modifying, and saving a document using Microsoft Word. Registration required.

Local History Room Open Office Hours

Time/Date: noon-2 p.m. Monday, March 19

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.

A BETTER YOU!: Controlling Migraines

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Monday, March 19

Details: This is an ongoing partnership between the library, Providence Park Hospital, and You! Find out the latest in migraine diagnosis and treatment

from an expert Neurologist certified in Headache Medicine. Also, speak directly with a Registered Dietician and see the food display about specific food triggers for migraines. Light supper provided. Please register.

Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20

Details: Detroit is becoming a magnet for innovative and creative people in business, technology, and the arts, but is it enough to resuscitate the city that is the heart of the region? Learn more from Detroit News Reporter, John Gallagher, as he discusses the future of Detroit and surrounding communities in this special program sponsored by the Friends of the Novi Public Library. Please register.

Transferring VHS to DVD

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 20

Details: This presentation will walk you through the process step-by-step to transfer those home videos from tape to disc using the Library's Creation Station. Please note that You will not be transferring VHS to DVD during this class. Please register

Novi Public Library - Regular Board Meeting

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 21

Details: The Library Board Meeting will be held at the Novi Civic Center - Council Chambers. The Library Board meets to discuss planning for the future, making policy decisions, developing and approving the annual budget, and broad operational oversight of the library.



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Kite Contest

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Parent's information to contact entry: (Phone, email, home address) _____
Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Mail to:
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Scoop's Craft Corner

Spring is almost here and on the first warm day it would be fun to go outside and fly a kite; especially one that you have created yourself using your old newspapers. Here is an inexpensive way to have tons of fun with mom and dad inside and out.

* PARENTS HELP IS NEEDED

- Items needed:
- Old newspapers
 - Two long sticks or dowels approximately 1/4" thick
 - Masking tape
 - Scissors
 - String
 - A little saw or exacto knife
 - Colorful cloth or ribbon 2" wide and one foot long
 - Art supplies for decoration

Take two wooden dowels or sticks making sure that one is longer than the other. One stick should be approximately 36 inches long and the other 33 inches long. (You can always use barbecue skewers and taped them together to get the same effect).

- 2 Wooden Dowels
- 1 length - 36 inches
- 1 length - 33 inches

Take both pieces of wood and wrap a layer of masking tape around each end like shown in this picture then use your saw or exacto-knife to make a notch in the ends. This notch is for your string.

Take a small piece of tape and place it between the two sticks on top of each other making a cross. Make sure that the right and left sides are equal distance and top is shorter than the bottom portion. (See illustration)

Wrap the string around the sticks multiple times to secure it.

Now wrap a single layer of string all the way

around the kite. It should go right into the notches of each stick. Make sure that the string is tight. This will make a diamond shape. You will need to make a knot securing the string to the stick. Tape over the notches so the string does not come loose.

Now lay your frame on a sheet on old newspaper. Cut the newspaper to about the same shape and size as the frame leaving a slight overlap.

Use a long piece of masking tape to fold the newspaper over the diamond shape. Tape down the edges of the newspaper over the string.

Create the handle of the kite by cutting a six foot piece of string. Tie one end to the bottom of the kite. It is also important to tie colorful pieces of cloth or ribbon every 12" to the string.

Decorate your kite using your favorite paints, markers, feathers, ribbons, etc. Get creative and make it your own.

Send a picture of the kite that you created and you could win great prize.

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Shamrocks earn three individual state titles Squad adds to banner year with championships from Beazley, Bade and Garcia

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It's been a remarkable year for the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team, and they punctuated that last week with three individual state champions and six additional All-State selections.

The Shamrocks wrestling team—which won the team title in Division I two weeks ago with a victory over defending champion Oxford—was dominant at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Leading the way for the team was senior captain Kevin Beazley, junior Ken Bade and sophomore Drew Garcia

as each won their respective weight classes.

Beazley, who will wrestle at Old Dominion next year, earned a victory over Brandon Sunday of Temperance Bedford in the finals, 6-0, in the 189-pound weight class. Bade, who wrestled at 130 pounds, earned his second-straight title with wins over Austin Gullick of Portage Central, 18-3, in the quarter finals, Dom Trevino of Holt, 20-5, in the semi-finals, and Mike Wiltrits, 6-1, in the finals.

Garcia, a 171-pound wrestler, defeated Charlie Meyers of Utica Eisenhower, 5-2, in the finals to earn his title.

A wrestler who made school

history this year was Alec Mooradian, who became the first wrestler at Catholic Central to reach four MHSAA finals. His bid fell short, however, in the championship tilt in the 152-pound division as he fell to Brighton's Aaron Calderon, 3-2.

"Alec Mooradian is an amazing young man and has had an incredible career here at CC," said coach Mitch Hancock. "He will go down as one of the greatest competitors and wrestlers in the history of our school. His work ethic, determination and success has earned him a scholarship to Columbia where I believe he will use this weekend's experience to motivate

him to accomplish even greater things. I couldn't be more proud of him."

Sophomore Malik Amine also made it to the finals, competing at 135 pounds, earning All-State status and a second-place finish. He fell to Alec Pantaleo of Canton, 9-6, in the finals.

"Malik is an amazing competitor," said Hancock. "He loves to wrestle and believe that when he steps on the mat he deserves to win. I'm proud of him."

TJ Fagan, a senior captain, finished his high school career with a loss in the semi-finals to Mitch Frynak of Forest Hills Central before winning two rounds in the consolation bracket to finish third in the 125-pound weight class.

Also taking third was freshman Trevor Zdebski, who fell in the semi-finals of the 103-pound division and then won the remainder of his matches. Nick Mason finished fifth for the Shamrocks at 160 pounds while Bob Coe finished seventh in the heavyweight bracket. Freshman Myles Amine bowed out of the tournament on the first day, finishing with a 1-2 record.

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

Shamrocks cagers capture city championship Win marks first city title for CC since 1968

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

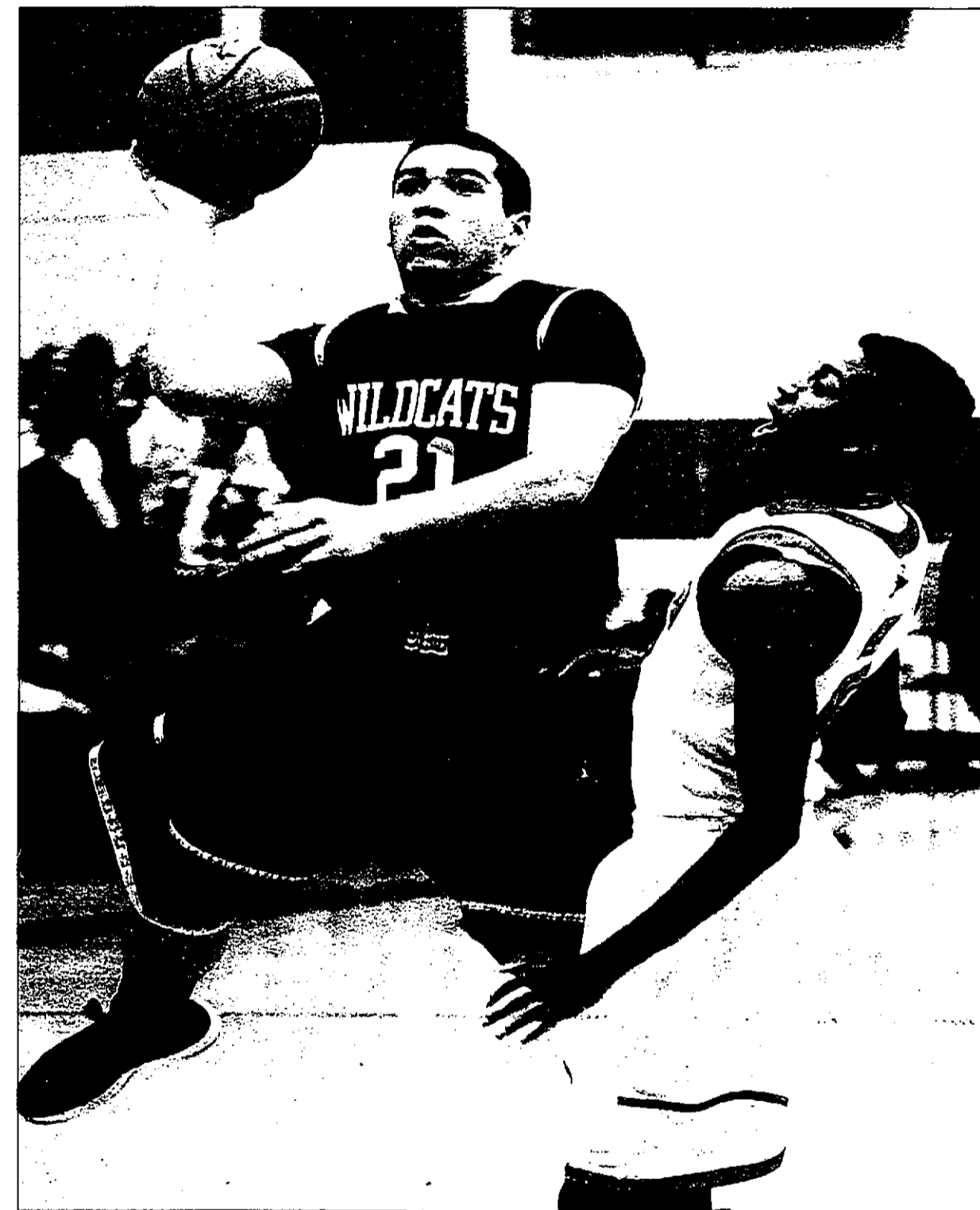
This is a year of reclaiming old titles for the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks basketball team.

The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, followed up their first Catholic League title since 1997 last week with their first city championship in 44 years with a surprising win over Public School League champion Detroit Martin Luther King, 56-48.

Things actually got off to a very slow start for both teams—and not on the scoreboard. The squads had to suffer through a 45-minute delay after a leaky floor moved the game from Cass Tech to Western International High School. The venue, it turns out, didn't really matter to the Shamrocks.

"We knew we were a good team, and we knew we had the pieces," said Dyer.

Please see CC, B3



Wildcat Kyle Clemmons gets a shot off against Canton on March 5.

Novi seniors go cold in playoff finale Chiefs cut Wildcats' district title hopes short

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

After defeating Canton 37-35 with a buzzer-beating layup Feb. 16, Novi's girls basketball team couldn't repeat the magic for the playoffs Feb. 29. The Wildcats (16-6, 8-2 KLA A Central) never recovered from a 14-1 first-quarter deficit and 24-7 halftime pounding last week as the Chiefs cruised to a 45-37 victory during a district semifinal matchup in Canton.

"In the first quarter we had six turnovers and four missed layups," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "It was a great second half. I was very proud of how hard the girls fought to cut the lead to four, but when you give a great team like Canton a 17-point lead, it's tough to overcome."

Sophomore Kerri McMahan (game-high 19 points, three rebounds, two steals) and junior Jade Antolec (11 points) both put in solid efforts, but the rest of the Wildcats combined for just seven points, which was too few to combat with the six Canton players who dropped in multiple baskets.

"They both are fun to watch in different ways," Kelp said. "I think Kerri has grown in so many ways, especially with being a leader on the court, and Jade is really starting to post up people and

Please see GIRLS, B2

Chiefs cut into playoff run for Wildcat cagers

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

After winning three of four KLA A crossovers, Novi's boys basketball season came to an end Monday at Canton as the host Chiefs demolished the Wildcats 53-33.

Canton (15-5, 8-2 KLA A South) led 18-15 at halftime and the Wildcats (7-14, 4-6 Central) were unable to claw their way ahead despite committing a timid nine turnovers. Junior Charles McKinney led Novi with 13 points and seniors Alex King (seven points) and Michael Jozz (five points, seven rebounds) were the only other Novi players to hit multiple field goals.

The team shot 12-for-33 (36.4 percent) while narrowly losing the rebounding battle 18-17.

"McKinney has been more aggressive and had more confidence toward the end of the season," Novi coach Brian Tass said. "He played hard on defense and had a winning mentality."

Also chipping in for the Wildcats' offense was sophomore Nelson Cagle (three points), junior Tre Cadwell (three points) and senior Ignas Bernotas (two points), while seniors Scott Kempa, Kyle Clemmons and Gannon Mathis were all held scoreless.

"We struggled offensively throughout the game," Tass said.

"Never got the ball moving well enough to be effective. Did not shoot well and did not pass well."

Novi's match-up against Hartland (4-16, 1-9 West) was an entirely different boat Feb. 28. Having scored 33 points through four quarters against Canton, the "Cats had already taken a 33-24 halftime lead against Hartland.

With three steals and 21 points on 9-for-13 shooting (69.2 percent), McKinney again led the Wildcats, who defeated the Eagles 28-17 on the boards while shooting 22-for-54 (40.7 percent).

Despite combining for 5-for-20

Please see BOYS, B3



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Jimi Keller (left), 285 lbs., wrestling against Walled Lake Central in the state finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Novi's Keller finishes eighth among Division I heavyweights Dobras knocked out of state tournament early

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

As the final two Novi wrestlers standing among the top four in their respective weight classes at Regionals, seniors Jimi Keller (40-15 at 285 pounds) and Jake Dobras (37-14 at 171 pounds) competed at the Division I state meet last Thursday through Saturday at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Both capped their high school careers at a high level, with Keller even advancing to the finals and finishing eighth despite going 2-3 on the weekend.

Keller started the tournament with a loss by 3-1 decision to Grand Ledge senior Cory Amouts (sixth, 38-9), dropping him into the consolation bracket against Fraser senior Mike Fruelich (27-13), who Keller pinned in 2:34.

This set up a match with Walled Lake Central senior Ildo Luca (26-20), who Keller defeated by a 3-2 decision.

Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse senior Jeff Tautolo (fourth, 53-4) then pinned Keller in 2:42 in the consolation semifinal, dropping him into the seventh-place match, which he lost in a 5-2 decision to Detroit Catholic Cen-

tral junior Bob Coe (seventh, 40-9). Dobras' tournament run ended a bit sooner. He was pinned by Grand Haven junior Connor Moyrihan (fourth, 47-4) in 1:11 before losing a 3-1 decision to East Detroit senior Thomas Broughton (32-13) in the consolation bracket.

"If the season had ended at the weigh-ins at the Palace, it was a great season and it was an honor having them on the team," Novi co-coach Joel Smith said. "They will be hard to replace next season."

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

GIRLS

Continued from page B1

demanding the basketball.

"We knew that we needed everyone to contribute with some scoring, but we just couldn't hit some shots whereas it seemed like they couldn't miss. We got some good looks, they just didn't fall."

Novi tried to battle back from the 17-point halftime deficit, but a 16-10 third quarter advantage still had them looking at a double-digit deficit, 34-23. The Cats capped off the final quarter 14-11 to end the season and, for many players, their high school basketball careers.

Sophomore Taylor Pavlika added five points and four rebounds while seniors Sam Pavlika (two points, four rebounds, one block), Abby Chandler (four rebounds), Anna Lausch (four rebounds), Abby Robinson (four rebounds) and Katie Seelenbinder struggled offensively.

"I thought all the seniors did a great job this year each in their own way," Kelp said. "I don't think most people thought we would win 16 games and three-peat as division champs, but all the credit goes to them."

"My one wish though would have to be that Ally D'Annibale got to play a healthy senior season. So what this team accomplished with and without one of our best players is a testament to the whole team. I also want everyone to understand the heart and commitment that Ally showed all of us by being injured with a torn ACL will never be forgotten. She was truly an inspiration."

The Cats shot 15-for-44 (34.1 percent) from the floor, with 13-of-24 (54.2 percent) coming from McMahan and Antolec. The rest of the team was 2-for-20 (10 percent) with each Pavlika sister hitting one shot.

The girls were outrebounded 25-21 and six of 18 Novi turnovers were steals made by the Chiefs.

The Chiefs shot 17-for-41 (41.5 percent) while committing 14 turnovers. Senior Robyn Mack (14 points, four assists, three steals, three rebounds), junior Kiara Schneider (eight points, 11 rebounds) and sophomore Rachel Winters (eight points) led the way.

With six seniors graduating, McMahan, Antolec, Taylor Pavlika, sophomore Kristen Schubring and the rest of the Wildcats will have a good core with some shoes to fill.

"I'm pretty excited about the core that we have coming back, however, the season is a long way away and you just hope everyone stays healthy," Kelp said. "Also, we will definitely need some of the younger girls in our program step up and contribute right away."

"I think the strength of this team was how well they all got along on and off the court. We could see the fun they were having, thus it was more fun for us as coaches. This team reminded me of how lucky and blessed I am to be a basketball coach. I really, really enjoyed this team."

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

Churchill hockey upends defending state champs

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

It's guaranteed there will be a new champion in MHSAA Division 1 boys hockey for 2012. Livonia Churchill repeated its regional title of a year ago Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena with a dominating performance in a 4-1 win over the Novi.

The Chargers, outshooting the defending state champions 39-12, scored three times during the second period and added an empty netter during the final minute to advance once again to the state quarterfinals.

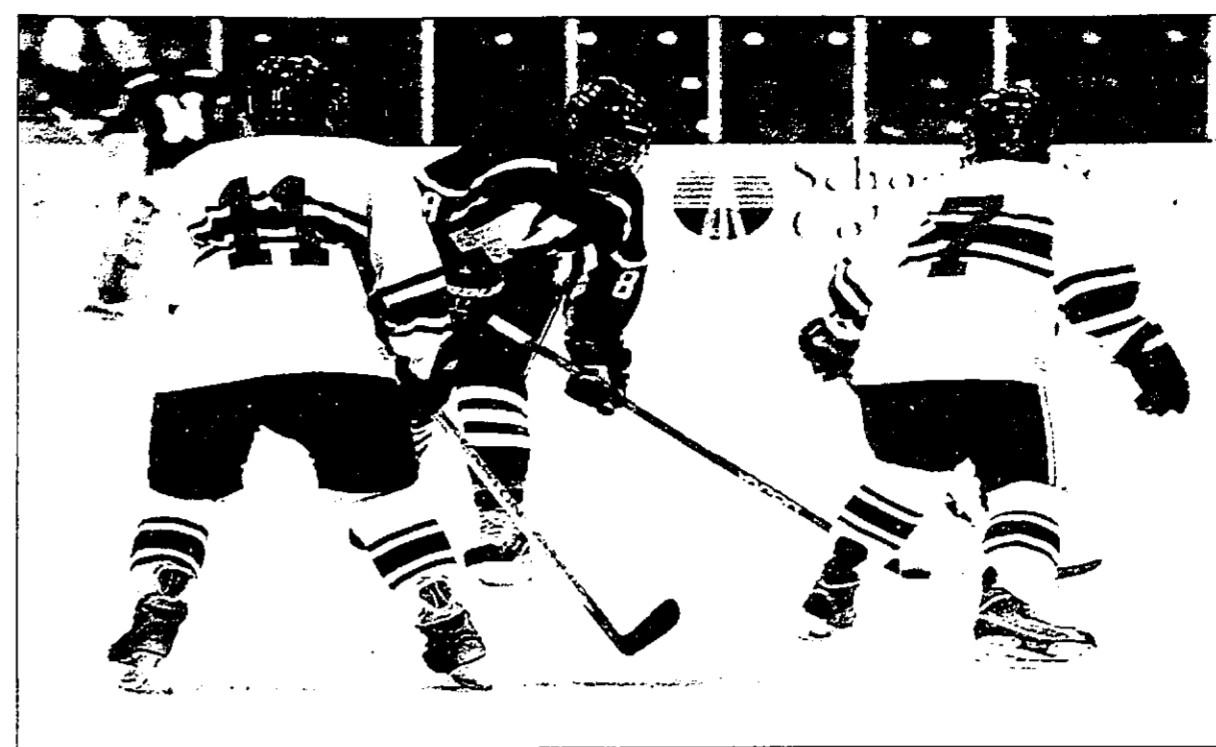
Churchill (21-6 overall) faced Grosse Pointe North (13-14) in Wednesday's quarterfinal at Trenton's Kennedy Arena.

Novi (18-7) used a 1-2-2 defensive zone trap Wednesday to upset No. 1-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central in overtime, 3-2, but the Wildcats found themselves on their heels throughout the first two periods as Churchill dominated with a combined shot total of 30-6.

The Chargers also got a pair of key third-period stops from senior netminder Alex Estes.

Despite being outshot 15-3 in the first period, Novi enjoyed a 1-0 advantage on Ryan Kobylarek's goal off a two-on-one break from Travis Trainor at 6:30.

"It's a great feeling to see you think twice about it," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said of the first-period deficit. "They (Novi) had a game plan and they stick to it, and they do it very well. It forces you ... even though you're generating offense ... you still have to make sure you clean things



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Novi's Jon Mencer (middle) looks for an opening between Churchill's Nick Proben (left) and Jim Leikatch (right) in Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 regional semifinal at Compuware Arena.

up defensively. One bad break ... and we're down 1-0."

Churchill finally cracked the hot Novi goaltender Patrick Carney at 2:11 of the second when Andrew Puihes scored the equalizer from Kevin Louwers and Brad Milks.

The Chargers continued to apply the pressure and scored at 8:10 when Michael Gambino tallied the first of his two goals on a lengthy pin-point tape-to-tape pass from sophomore defenseman Evan Gibbons.

Gambino struck again just 2:03 later to give the Chargers a two-goal cushion on a rebound tap-in with Ben Proben and Milks assisting.

"I think today they (Churchill) had great speed and had a lot of shots," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "We played very poorly in our zone. I just think we came out after an emotional win and just didn't recover."

"As much as a coach, you just try and make sure they're just ready for the next game. And Churchill was just too good for the emotional victory we had. We just physically spent it all beating CC and didn't have enough time to recover."

And then Churchill is greatly conditioned. They're well coached. They skate hard, they shoot well. They've got good talent, so it just gets tougher and tougher."

With Novi pulling Carney for the extra attacker, the Ben Proben put it away on a breakaway effort with 25 seconds remaining.

Churchill was able to solve the Wildcats from clogging the middle of the ice.

"We thought two things," Mazzoni said. "One was to get in and get out quick enough, and quicker before they can set

up. The other thing that we feel is that when we can get three guys going through the neutral zone with speed, that we'd be pretty tough to beat. At times we were able to do it today, at times we weren't."

"That kid (Carney) has been in fire since mid-January and they play real tight. I didn't think we'd get four."

Carney finished with a total of 36 saves, while Churchill's Alex Estes stopped 11-of-12 shots, including a couple of key stops in the final period.

"That's tough because you're standing down there and nothing's going

on," Mazzoni said. "Then all sudden they score on opportunities and get some pretty good chances. You have to be mentally tough and right now Alex is playing well for us."

The win over the defending state champs puts the Chargers in the same position they were last year when they lost a four-over-time heartbreaker in the quarterfinals against Orchard Lake St. Mary.

"We knew it would be a battle," Mazzoni said. "They (Novi) went through it last year. They graduated some guys, but brought some nice guys in, and the returning guys were able to share the experience ... so, it's one game in the process and we'll wake up tomorrow find out who the next team will be."

Meanwhile, the season ends for the Wildcats and Krygier, who said he plans to return and coach again next season.

"I'm extremely proud of our guys," he said. "They worked extremely hard. It's our first loss in 14 games ... and we lose to a good hockey team. We're disappointed, but I'm not upset. I'm very proud of my guys on how hard they played and how hard they worked. And even today - when we didn't have a lot to give - I really felt our guys did the best we could. Hockey is like that many times. I've seen it and experienced it as a player. You're just doing the best you can do and sometimes you don't have it those days. And the other team does. And that's their credit, they (Churchill) got the win."

benoni@hometownlife.com
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Shamrocks ski team ends regular season

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks ski team finished up its season with a respectable showing at the Southeastern Michigan Ski League Championship, placing fourth as a team. Walled Lake Northern took home first place in the championship races, earning 190 points,

followed by Fenton with 161, Lakeland with 149, and Catholic Central with 124. Coming in behind them was Grand Blanc with 98 points, Brother Rice with 94.5 points, and Holly/Oxford with 73 points.

Coach Tom Gable said the team was led by seniors Damon Rottermond and Ian Pierce, turning in solid performances in their events.

Rottermond won the slalom, and placed third in the giant slalom race held later in the afternoon. Pierce placed fourth in the slalom and seventh in the giant slalom, backing up Rottermond's scores. The two moved on to the state finals, though information was not submitted by press time.

"Rottermond and Pierce have been focused on their goal to

reach the state finals, and have once again proved they belong there," said Gable. "Damon is the reigning state giant slalom champion, and Ian hopes to improve on last year's second team All-State honors."

Shamrock skiers Erik Kurcz and John Dooley, both seniors, helped put Catholic Central in the fourth-place slot with more points: Kurcz placed 27th in sla-

lom and 28th in giant slalom, while Dooley placed 36th in slalom and 23rd in giant slalom. Catholic Central had previously earned its spot in the championships by finishing in first place in its Mt. Brighton League.

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

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shooting, Clemmons (nine points, three steals) and King (seven points, four rebounds, four steals) added an offensive spark for Novi, who also got contributions from Mathis (six points, eight rebounds), Cagle (five points, three steals) and two points each from Jocz (seven rebounds), Bernotas and junior Brandon Macklin.

"King was available in transition a few times in the Hartland game and Clemmons hit some open shots in the second quarter," Tass said.

With six seniors graduating, the Wildcats will have a solid core returning next season. McKinney and Cagle are expected to return their scoring touch, while a healthy Cadwell, Brown and Kozinski look to make more of an impact after being sidelined with injuries for portions of this season.

"I think the underclassmen have showed a willingness to do some extra work to get better," Tass said. "They have a good chemistry and have a desire to put work in during the off-season that will develop their skills. With a year of the defense and offense, they will come together quickly as we assemble a team next year."

"There were a lot of frustrating parts of this season with injuries and losing close games that we may have won with some of those guys. We stuck it out and I give these guys a lot of credit for that. You really find out the true make-up of a person when things are not going well. Everyone shines when the sun is out. Guys who worked hard and stayed focused got better. That's what we value daily."

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

CC
Continued from page B1

The contest was quite the interesting affair, with the Shamrocks' top scorer, Kyle Cooper heading to the bench at the 3:11 mark in the first quarter due to two fouls followed up by a technical in the second quarter for hanging on the rim following a dunk. Cooper sat the bench throughout the entire third quarter, despite scoring the team's first eight points of the game.

Cooper insists the technical foul was called in error.

"I had Chase Janer under me, and I would have fallen on my head," said Cooper. "I don't think I've ever been called for hanging on the rim. I don't think I've sat the entire third quarter since elementary school, but my teammates stepped up."

The Shamrocks were also in the tough position of trailing for pretty much the entire first half, down 17-13 after the first quarter and 31-28 heading into halftime. The Detroit Catholic Central squad

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NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BID PROPOSAL CUSTODIAL SERVICES

Novi Community Schools is accepting sealed bids for district-wide Custodial Services.

Six (6) copies of the sealed bid along with one (1) original and (1) electronic copy should be submitted to: Steven Barr, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374 by 10:00 a.m. local time, Monday, April 9, 2012. The bids will be publicly opened at this time and the proposal must contain the wording: "PROPOSAL: CUSTODIAL SERVICES" on the envelope/package. Bids received after the specified date and time will not be considered or accepted. Faxed or e-mailed Proposals will not be accepted.

A mandatory vendor's conference will be held on March 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. local time, at Novi High School.

Bid documents may be obtained and/or examined beginning on March 9, 2012 at Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, and are also available on the district web site at <http://www.novi.k12.mi.us>.

Published: March 8 and 15, 2012

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

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

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

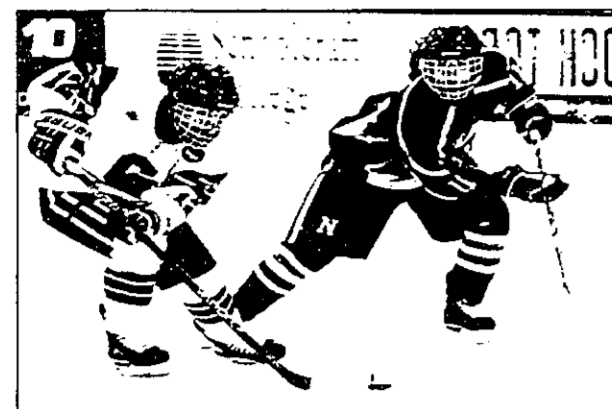
Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Higley Road just north of I-96. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied Social Security for a free consultation if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Novi icers knock CC out of playoffs with 3-2 overtime win, again

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Novi defeated Detroit Catholic Central 3-2 in triple overtime last year at Compuware Arena en route to a Division I state title, so when the same match-up went into overtime tied 2-2 Feb. 29 at Compuware, there were quite a few people remembering last year's intricacy battle.



CHRIS JACKETT

Detroit Catholic Central senior Max Wanko (left) and Novi senior Curtis Herzog battle for the puck Feb. 29 during the Wildcats' 3-2 overtime regional quarterfinal victory over the Shamrocks at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

"Whenever you beat Catholic Central, it's a big deal," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "They're the No. 1 team in the state, they work hard, they play well, they've got kids from all over the area. We're from one town and we've got to find a way to compete and be a stronger family than theirs. And that's what we're finding a way to do and there's nothing more that I preach. It's not about beating Catholic Central, it's about our game, our systems and whether we're going to compete or not compete on a daily basis. And when we compete, we're a tough team to play against."

It was 3:51 into the first overtime when Novi senior Travis Trainor ended it with a quick shot from the left side after senior Curtis Herzog set him up with a crossing pass from the right corner. Trainor heard CC junior netminder Derek Moore (21 saves) on the glove side to give the

10th-ranked Wildcats (19-7-1) a 3-2 victory over the No. 1 Shamrocks (20-5-1). "I knew we had to get the shot low because the goalie was sliding over and he was giving up rebounds," Trainor said. "I was just hoping to get it on net and Curtis would get past me and put it in. It got a lucky bounce and slid up and that's just how it happened."

Trainor had been a force in the playoffs with two goals in Novi's 4-0 regional quarterfinal win over South Lyon United two nights prior, so he was happy to notch the winner and give the Cats a 12th-straight victory. Trainor has been getting a lot of help from my teammates and I couldn't do that without them,"

Trainor said. "I had a good pass from Curtis today and the two goals I had the other day were good passes, too. We're just all working together and I just put a couple away right now."

For CC coach Todd Johnson, the 3-2 loss to Novi in extra time for a second-straight year stung even more than the first time because the Wildcats weren't as highly ranked as in 2011. "Disappointing. They both stink," Johnson said. "These guys worked their tails off and they certainly didn't plan on ending their season this way. That's the state tournament. If roles were reversed, they'd be feeling the same way we are."

"There's no messages to tell them now. They're too sad in there to listen. No ones listening to me now. It was a good hockey game. That's why the state tournament's a great tournament. Someone had to win this game. I give Novi all the credit in the world. They played their hearts out. They took advantage of a couple good scoring opportunities and buried them under the bar. Good for them."

Like Moore did for CC, Novi junior netminder Patrick Carney (26 saves) made quite a few tantalizing saves, keeping the Shamrocks off the board for the first 22:01.

"Overall, I played all right," Carney said. "But today the two goals I had in front of me, out the scoring chances down, got the puck out whenever we got the chance. They really made it as easy as possible for me to get the win and they really deserved it."

"I saw how hard everyone was working in front of me, so I just thought this might be the last opportunity we get this year as a team. You have to work hard, you have to push through what you're feeling to get the win for the boys."

Novi senior Jacob Hole kept the puck in the zone and set up junior Jon Mencer for a spinning shot out front to the

right that rebounded off Moore to Novi senior Ryan Kobylarek on the left side for an easy power play goal 2:22 before the first intermission.

Carney helped maintain that 1-0 lead until CC junior Charlie Green received the puck from junior Steven Jarzynski and carried the puck up the right side and ripped one just inside the back post 7:01 into the period, which would tie it 1-1 heading into the final period.

"We did some good things," Johnson said. "They play a style that obviously doesn't suite us to our level of comfort and slow things down and get things ugly. We couldn't get our gears turning as much as we were hoping to. They hung around and they took advantage of their power play. Their first two goals were power play goals and their power play looked real good tonight and they executed well on it."

It took just 1:17 into the third period before CC senior Robert Ault poked home a goal during a power play scramble in the crease. Seniors Nolan Gluchowski and Pete Halash assisted. The Shamrocks were 1-for-4 on the power play, while Novi was 2-for-6.

The Cats tied the game 2-2 with their second power play goal. With 4:26 left in regulation, Kobylarek fed Mencer a

pass in the right circle for a smooth one-timer into the roof of the net.

"After we got that second goal, I just wanted to get out of that period, regroup and get our legs back because I felt that the two goals we had given up were kind of weak and I just felt we were playing a good hockey game and was a little disappointed in how they scored their goals," Krygier said. "I think Carney played an excellent game. He faced a lot of shots. I think any goaltender will take a two goals against or less. He's only given up two goals in the last six or seven games he's played. And to knock CC out of the playoffs is a big accomplishment for our team and for him."

Mencer got a good chance to win the game in regulation with 58.2 seconds remaining, but Moore knocked it away. "When they made it 1-0 and he stopped that breakaway, that was huge late in the first period," Johnson said. "Derek had no chance on any of those goals. I thought he was really solid tonight. I though he played the puck good. It certainly wasn't an issue with the goaltender tonight and I though Patrick Carney played great for them, too."

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

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Wildcats fourth in Kensington Conference

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Novi's swim and diver team may have been fourth in the five-team K.L.A.A. Central Division, but they also finished fourth in the 11-team Kensington Conference.

In fact, all five Central Division teams placed ahead of the six South Division teams Feb. 24-25 at South Lyon East. Novi earned 500.5 points as Northville won the conference meet with 847.5 points.

The Wildcats' lone conference championship came from sophomore Andrew Ao in the 200-yard freestyle, which he swam in 1:46.62.

Ao also took third in the 100 free

ON TAP

Jongmin Kim, Andrew Ao, Tanner Vincent, Gucci Onimura and both the 400 free and 200 medley relay teams, which include most of those individual swimmers, will head to States Friday and Saturday at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Derek Kim was set to try to earn a spot in the state meet by qualifying Tuesday at diving Regionals at Ann Arbor Pioneer.

(48.67) behind Northville's winning time of 48.52 seconds while contributing to fourth- and fifth-place finishes in the 200 free relay and 400 free relay. Teaming with Eugene Song, Arthur

Shi and Dennis Kim, Ao and crew took fourth in the 200 free relay in 1:32.31 while Canton won in 1:28.01. With Jongmin Kim, Tanner Vincent and Dennis Kim on the starting blocks with him, Ao helped the 400 free relay finish fifth in 3:21.23 as Canton won in 3:12.80.

The Wildcats got runner-up finishes in four of the 12 events, including the 200 medley relay. Gucci Onimura, Jongmin Kim, Vincent and Eugene Song combined to finish in 1:39.19 behind Livonia Stevenson's 1:39.93.

In the 100 butterfly, Vincent was second in a school-record 53.52 seconds, behind Canton's time of 50.43 seconds.

Vincent didn't qualify for the top eight during 500 freestyle preliminaries, meaning his ninth-place finish

was the highest spot he could earn, but his time of 4:56.43 was faster than the third-place swimmer in the top eight during the finals heat. Stevenson won the event in 4:48.37.

Taking second in the 1-meter dive was Derek Kim with 411.15 points, behind South Lyon's 471.15.

In the 200 individual medley, Jongmin Kim finished second in 2:00.66 as Canton won in 1:51.65.

Also placing in the top eight were Onimura (sixth in 100 back in 56.56), Austin Reed (sixth in 100 breast in 1:04.43) and Song (seventh in 50 free in 22.80).

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

Shamrocks finish 8th in the finals

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

All good things must come to an end, they say, and Detroit Catholic Central's bowling season was one of them.

Last week, the team capped off an impressive season with an eight-place finish in the state finals, competing against the best 18 squads in the state. Macomb Dakota earned the state championship for its second consecutive year.

"CC is graduating four seniors, but we should come back strong next year with a solid young group of players moving up from junior varsity," said coach Al Bridges.

The Shamrocks began the day by qualifying in fourth place following

the qualifying round of eight Baker games and two regular games, earning a total pin count of 3,294. The leader, at the time, had 3,639 pins and the eighth-place team heading into the final, Sterling Heights Stevenson, had 3,170.

In the finals, Catholic Central was pitted against Macomb Dakota, playing two Baker games and one regular game with the team with the most total pins advancing. The Shamrocks was down only 23 pins against the defending state champions after the Baker round, but faltered in the regular game, losing 1,325-1,130.

The Shamrocks also had two players compete in the individual state finals in Eric Pavlov and Jeff Conflitti—both co-captains and seniors this year.

Conflitti finished in fifth following a six-game qualifying round, bowling a total of 1,246 with high games of 245, 233 and 212. Conflitti then advanced to the final eight with a 326-301 win over Salem's David Nijala. He fell in the next round to Kevin Yang of Lake Orion, 353-308.

Pavlov didn't fare so well, finishing tied for 16th after the qualifier and losing in a tie-breaker against Davidson's Tyler Greene to bow out of the finals. "Both bowlers had great seasons, have been nominated for All-State honors and should be proud of their accomplishments," said Bridges.

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

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**CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF MEETING
OF BOARD OF REVIEW**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 6th, 2012 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 12, 13, and 14, 2012.

All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only.

If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 9, 2012. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.cityofnovi.org

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 14, 2012. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property, other than their own, **MUST HAVE** written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.cityofnovi.org

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

Monday, March 12, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13, 2012 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 14, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

Publish: February 16 & 23, March 1 & 8, 2012

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Plymouth businessman heads Building Industry Association

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan has announced its 2012 Executive Committee. BIA's president is Rich Kligman, Superb Custom Homes, in Plymouth. He and the other Executive Committee members took oath of office as part of BIA's Economic Forecast Luncheon & Industry Awards Program on Feb. 15 at the Best Western Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights.

In addition to Kligman, the Executive Committee includes Salvatore (Sam) Palazzolo, Palazzolo Brothers Construction Co., Sterling Heights, moving into the position of first vice president; Paul Aragona, Aragona Properties, Clinton Township, as treasurer; Norm Finkelstein, Norwood Homes, LTD, Farmington Hills as secretary; Robert M. Tedesco of Silverado Homes, Birmingham, as vice president; and Katie Hallett, TK Design & Architecture, Howell, in the newly created position of associate vice

president. Adorno Piccinini, Walbridge, Detroit, moves into the position of immediate past president. Continuing in their positions are vice presidents James Clarke, Robertson Brothers Co., Bloomfield Hills, Lawrence Cohen, CohenHomes.com, LLC, Franklin and William Phillips, Windham Development Inc., Bloomfield Hills. Richard Komer, Winemac & Komer, Southfield, continues as special counsel and Michael C. Stoskopf continues as BIA's CEO.

The Executive Committee is responsible for furthering the building industry's relationship with municipal and county governments and providing representation in the state and national associations. Additionally, the committee assists in overseeing BIA's mission to provide education, information, programs, networking, political action and all other activities that advance the building industry, while making the



Rich Kligman
BIA president

American dream of home ownership a reality for Michigan families.

In addition to the swearing-in ceremony, the guest speakers were David Crowe, Ph.D., chief economist for the National

Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in Washington, D.C. and Edsel Charles, chairman, MarketGraphics Research Group in Franklin, Tenn. The speakers addressed topics pertinent to those involved in the residential and light construction industries.

The program also included the annual Industry Leadership Awards presentation to Immediate Past President Adorno Piccinini and the distinguished awards honorees. Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Building Industry Association of SE Michigan and Apartment Association of Michigan are trade associations representing nearly 600 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. BIA is affiliated with the Michigan Association of Home Builders in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Court upholds mixed parking

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: Does our association have to grant a parking request as a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act when the member hasn't paid his condominium dues?

A: While that decision may not be clear in Michigan, according to a recent decision in New Jersey, the member's request for an accommodation request was not reasonable. In that case, the association had revoked the disabled person's parking privileges because he was substantially in arrears on his monthly assessments. The state civil rights agency



Robert Meisner

indicated that under fair housing law, housing providers may be liable for refusing to make a reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services when necessary to afford a person with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. However, the court noted that the duty to provide a reasonable accommodation for a resident with a disability does not necessarily entail the obligation to do everything possible to accommodate that person. The court reasoned that although the association may be liable for failing to provide a resident with a disability a parking space accommodation, the member's accommodation request was unreasonable because the association collected assessment fees to maintain the common areas of the community, including the parking lot, but since the member didn't make his required payments for several months, the association had a right to revoke his parking privileges. In that particular case, the association also attempted to resolve the parking issue with the member and accommodate his needs by offering a payment plan which was rejected. However, each case is fact intensive and you are best advised to consult with your association attorney who presumably has knowledge of the Fair Housing Act.

Q: Several of our neighbors in our condominium are concerned about second-hand smoke that is infiltrating our unit. Do you think we have any recourse?

A: A tough question since there may not be a specific statute or rule in your condominium that deals with this. The cases are somewhat divided about whether smoking in a unit where the smoke permeates another unit constitutes a nuisance. It would seem to me that you would have to have specific bylaw provisions limiting smoke inside of the unit in order to be reasonably successful, but that may or may not be the case depending upon the court and jurisdiction. You are best advised, if you are a board member, to consult with your association attorney.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling fee, plus \$5.95 for Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

2267 Arcadia Dr \$95,000	36607 Gardner St \$169,000	9010 Kinloch \$70,000
212 Charterhouse Dr \$127,000	NORTHVILLE \$500,000	16875 Macarthur \$48,000
1412 Hampshire Dr \$95,000	16560 Brooklane Blvd \$500,000	25049 Puritan \$33,000
457 Lenox Dr \$359,000	17445 Cameron Dr \$315,000	9035 Tecumseh \$37,000
42154 Tonquish Ct \$127,000	48871 Freestone Dr \$415,000	WESTLAKES \$38,000
LIVONIA \$38,000	PLYMOUTH \$38,000	8702 Hugh St \$100,000
19596 Brentwood St \$110,000	48118 Edinburgh Dr \$363,000	37512 Lang Ct \$100,000
37849 Dardanelles St \$110,000	42985 River Bend Dr \$125,000	5818 N Berry St \$40,000
9930 Doris St \$102,000	REDFORD \$40,000	
18617 Doris St \$120,000	26136 Joy Rd \$75,000	
14585 Flamingo St \$95,000		

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

619 Fox Hills Dr N \$45,000	FRANKLIN \$350,000	22855 Pontiac Trl # 8 \$21,000
433 Fox Hills Dr S \$49,000	31625 Franklin Rd \$50,000	22200 Quail Run Cr Unit 5 \$110,000
4578 Kirkcaldy Rd \$22,000	30815 Hickory Ln \$94,000	61436 Rambling Way \$100,000
2444 Loch Creek Way \$335,000	LATHRUP VILLAGE \$15,000	26268 Shumans Way \$285,000
4267 Stoneleigh Rd \$380,000	26825 Lathrup Blvd \$15,000	57950 10 Mile Rd \$165,000
5380 Wing Lake Rd \$338,000	18318 Rainbow Dr \$130,000	260 Washington St # 280 \$47,000
2327 Tiltbury Pl \$400,000	18168 Sunnysbrook Ave \$89,000	SOUTHFIELD \$92,000
COMMERCER TOWNSHIP \$161,000	MILFORD \$213,000	27335 Aberdeen St \$92,000
5504 Leafwood Dr \$300,000	1648 Hidden Pond \$82,000	28546 Lowell Ct 5 \$29,000
3788 Loch Bend Dr \$850,000	730 Milford Glen Dr \$82,000	16316 Meadow Rd \$106,000
3517 Newton Rd \$95,000	NOVI \$395,000	22571 N Bellwood Dr \$70,000
31432 Lamar Dr \$23,000	42864 Ashbury Dr \$375,000	17400 New Hampshire Dr \$70,000
16208 W 13 Mile Rd \$389,000	28093 Carlton Way Dr \$520,000	30065 Northgate Dr \$122,000
BIRMINGHAM \$250,000	24401 Cavendish Ave W \$375,000	30243 Pleasant Trl \$122,000
1731 Dorchester Rd \$525,000	47539 Cheltenham Dr \$520,000	28802 Red Leaf Ln \$68,000
1011 Humphrey Ave \$215,000	22725 Cortes St \$487,000	1 Richmond Towne St \$43,000
517 Lewis St \$215,000	24695 Midway Dr \$488,000	28475 Tavistock Trl \$155,000
1010 N Glenhurst Dr \$584,000	26298 Fieldstone Dr \$242,000	29074 Tiffany Dr E \$41,000
1437 Pierce St \$414,000	24239 Hampton Hill St \$175,000	19700 Villa Ct E \$50,000
243 Ravine Rd \$400,000	30779 Country Ridge Cir \$165,000	WHITE LAKE \$137,000
451 Vinewood Ave \$326,000	20370 Fernhill Dr \$160,000	9090 Buckingham St \$288,000
620 W Frank St \$497,000	44577 Midway Dr \$299,000	4344 Coastal Pkwy \$223,000
443 Wellesley St \$395,000	24695 Nepavine \$534,000	336 Dakota Ln \$207,000
2219 Yorkshire Rd \$275,000	22381 Peachtree \$70,000	585 Westneworth St \$91,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS \$485,000	31074 Seneca Ln \$192,000	9041 Gale Rd \$42,000
671 Bennington Dr \$120,000	54465 Brentwood Dr \$30,000	123 Lisa Cir \$147,000
2900 Justin Ct \$100,000	228 Brookwood Dr Unit 6 \$25,000	8040 Springdale Dr \$115,000
3900 Oakhills Dr \$310,000	679 Grand Ct \$162,000	109 Union Lake Rd \$36,000
4118 Wabeek Lake Dr S \$160,000	205 Maplewood Ct Unit 7 \$27,000	2220 Wigen Ln \$250,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP \$21,000	60609 Mary Ln \$260,000	
1645 Dell Rose Dr \$180,000	22684 Tulane Ave \$21,000	
2950 Eastways Dr \$465,000	33794 Vista Dr \$125,000	

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors
"Mr. Landlord" (Jeffrey Taylor), a nationally known "Landlording Expert" and author, will cover finding qualified prospects, having tenants leave the property in move-in condition and how to increase monthly cash flow when filling vacancies at the regular meeting of the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, March 8, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. www.REIAofOAKLAND.com; (800) 747-6742.

Real Estate Career Seminar
A free Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at Keller Williams Realty 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100 Plymouth. For more information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

BIA courses
Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present all three courses needed for Certified Aging-in-Place designation by the National Association of Home Builders. Don Pratt, CAPS, CGP, CGR of CECS of Michigan, LLC will be the instructor for all three courses. He will cover the technical, business management and customer service skills essential for competing in this fast growing segment of residential construction. CAPS I, Marketing and Communication Strategies for Aging and Accessibility, will be held on Monday, March 12. CAPS II, Design/Build Solutions for Aging and Accessibility, will be held on Tuesday,



Docent Linda Smith in the kitchen at a recent home tour. Many people are looking for home improvement ideas for this spring.

March 13. Business Management, the third course required for this designation, will be held on Wednesday, March 14. Each session runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

Registration for each course is \$195 per person for BIA members and \$225 per person for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

Seminar on Tuesdays
A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

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Finance Seminar
Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 947-5006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

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