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CLASSIFIED, SECTION B

GARDEN WALK SET FOR JULY 11, A3

NOVI NEWS

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Skate Bus

The Skate Bus, a new program presented in partnership with the PLUS Skate Shop in Farmington, will take local skateboarders, ages 6 years and up, to premier skate parks throughout Michigan and Ohio.

The bus will travel three Saturdays this summer, with pick-up and drop-off at the Novi Civic Center at 10 a.m. and Riley Skate Park in Farmington Hills at 10:15 a.m. Each Saturday will include two different skate parks. The three trips include:

July 28 - Lansing/Mason
Aug. 25 - Sylvania/Toledo, Ohio

All skaters under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a parent. Participants should be a lunch.

The deadlines to register are June 15 for week one, July 13 for week two, and Aug. 10 for week three. The cost is \$29 per trip and includes a Skate Bus T-shirt. Registration is going on now at the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department located inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road or the PLUS Skate Shop in Farmington. For more information, contact Greg Morris, recreation supervisor, at (248) 735-5646 or gmmorris@cityofnovi.org.

Learning

New Morning School, Plymouth, celebrates its 40th Anniversary during the 2012-13 school-year. New Morning School is offering special programs and events throughout the year beginning in July. Brain-friendly learning activities and information for parents are available this summer at the Novi Public Library at 7:45 p.m. July 9. Children are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian.

Brain-friendly learning was established by Jean Piaget, a Swiss developmental biologist.

Novi district teachers expect to take further contract concessions

District amid wage reopeners with several bargaining groups

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Discussions regarding wage reopeners for several bargaining groups in the Novi Community School District are set to intensify in the coming months.

The board of education approved its budget for the 2012-

13 school year last Thursday, coming in just over the board-mandated fund balance figure of 10 percent. The unions representing secretaries and paraprofessionals, food service workers and teachers all have wage reopeners.

Tom Brenner, president of the Novi Educational Association representing the teachers, said the

board's "insistence" on keeping a 10-percent fund balance essentially gives the group no negotiating power.

"What we are going to be faced with is some type of concession that will equate to most of what the board wants," Brenner said, noting that asking for a raise will likely be turned down. "It's almost that you have to throw your hands in the air. We are really at the mercy of the state, primarily for funding, and Novi's board insisting on a 10-percent fund equity."

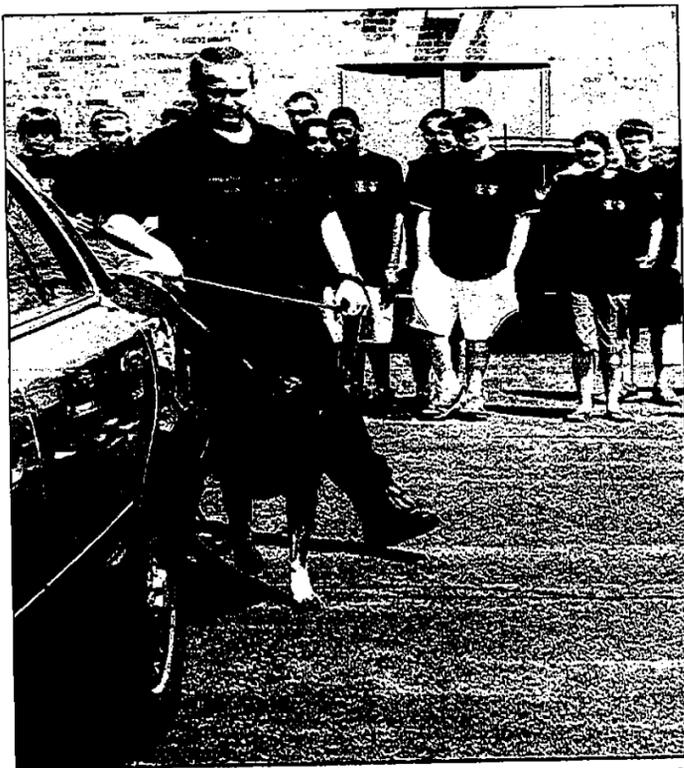
Steve Barr, assistant superintendent of business operations, said it

is hard to negotiate when the district does not know several variables it uses to create its budget. Barr said the four main variables are state funding, retirement reform, student enrollment and results of negotiations. The only variable known to Barr at this time is state funding.

The NEA's two-year contract was agreed to last year and included a 1-percent wage concession as well as paying 15 percent toward health care premiums.

Some teachers were bothered

Please see **CONTRACT, A2**



FILE PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Police Department K-9 officer Shawn Penzak leads his dog "Moose" around a car during last year's Youth Police and Fire Academy. Penzak was showing the students how the dog could sniff out narcotics in closed-in spaces, like a car's interior.

Novi youth police, fire academy opens eyes

Free, weeklong program takes inside look at public safety operations

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The Novi police and fire department are once again opening their doors to give area youth an inside look at how the city's public safety department operates.

This is the seventh year the city has hosted the free Novi Youth Police and Fire Academy, which is scheduled to run from noon to 4 p.m. July 16-20. Four of the days will focus on police operations, while one day will focus on fire operations.

"It opens their eyes and lets them see into our world,"

said Det. Jeremy Stempien, who also serves as the school resource officer. "It's a lot different than what they see on television."

Students who attend the academy will hear from police officers in the investigative and patrol division as well as from firefighters. They will learn about patrol and fire operations, use of force, get a tour of the police and fire departments, use the firearm training system, lift fingerprints, see how an investigation is conducted, watch the K-9 work and much more.

Please see **ACADEMY, A2**

McCotter, Congress candidates weigh in on health care

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

The Supreme Court's ruling upholding a central part of the Affordable Care Act, mandating that everyone must purchase medical insurance by 2014, drew expected mixed reactions, many

along political lines, from the incumbent congressman and the congressional candidates in the 11th District.

The ruling drew an expected sharp rebuke from Republicans and praise from Democrats. U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, a

longtime opponent of the Affordable Care Act, criticized the decision.

"This errant decision is the bitter fruit of an inverted jurisprudence that no longer inquires what the government can do, but what the government can't do," McCotter said. "Fortunately, this fall

the Supreme Court's error can and will be reversed by the ultimate power in America — her sovereign citizens," stated McCotter, who represents the 11th District which includes the Huron Valley area.

Candidates who are running for the 11th District seat had strong opinions

on the ruling. McCotter is not running because he failed to file enough signatures in his paperwork to the Secretary of State office. Duplicate signatures that were turned in are being investigated by the state attorney general.

Please see **HEALTH, A7**

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Michigan Republicans open Romney office in Livonia

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Now that the presidential primary season has wrapped up and Mitt Romney has sewn up the Republican nomination, Michigan Republicans and the Republican National Committee have opened a campaign office in Livonia with hopes of pushing their candidates to victories in national, state and county offices.



Volunteers are mobilized to help Mitt Romney and other Republicans get elected.

Located in Wondersland Village at Middlebelt and Plymouth roads, the "Victory Office" will staff campaign workers and volunteers in support of Mitt Romney and the GOP ticket in state and local elections.

Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party Bobby Schostak said the location in Livonia was "ground zero" for Mitt Romney to win the White House.

Republicans apparently used the same location two years ago in electing Rick Snyder governor, and helped state lawmakers such as John Walsh of Livonia and Kurt Heise of Plymouth to their respective state representative seats, Schostak noted. "You got our Republicans elected in 2010 and got our state back on track," Schostak said, noting that lawmak-

ers were going through "every line item of the state budget."

"What took place in Michigan over the last 18 months is what needs to happen in Washington and we're going to make it happen," Schostak said.

Schostak said Mitt Romney "will help Michigan prosper." "We're seeing the state's economy prosper," Schostak said later the Livonia location was chosen for its broad population, easy access and a "safe and secure" community for the campaign's volunteers.

"We're seeing the state's economy prosper," Schostak said. "It's a strong

When asked about the 11th congressional race, Schostak said Kerry Benivolo of Milford has an "opportunity to get the vote out" to support him, and Nancy Cassis of Novi, a write-in candidate, had a good record in Lansing, but has "a lot of work to do" for her write-in campaign.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter "made a terrible mistake" with the duplicated signatures in his paperwork to file for his candidacy, Schostak said.

Despite that snafu, Schostak wasn't worried about losing to the Democrats in that race. "It will not go to the Democrats," Schostak said. "It's a strong

Republican district. At the end of the day, it will stay that way."

Volunteers appear ready to help Mitt Romney and the GOP this summer and fall with phone calls and spending time to get their candidates elected.

Volunteer Carl Berry of Plymouth Township said Romney "knows what he's doing" with his business and political background. "He knows how to fix problems," Berry said. "He's been doing it for years."

Berry said he believes Romney will help fix the economy and bring more jobs.

Joe Xuereb, chair of the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee, said the location will help keep a Republican legislature and state Supreme Court and the Michigan Republican majority in Congress.

Xuereb said voters aren't happy with President Barack Obama. "Polls don't reflect the level of discontent in this country," Xuereb said. "The numbers are going to reflect that discontent when people get out and vote."

kabramczyk@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591 | Twitter: @Ken-Abramczyk

Bocce ball



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Cunningham, right, plays bocce ball at the Novi Senior Center on June 26. Sheldon Pringle, left, was competing against Cunningham on the last day of the season for the league. Bocce, meaning "bowl" in Italian, is played at the center during the fall and spring months. The league will take a pause now until next September when it will resume every Tuesday at 10 a.m.



Gloria Baske plays bocce ball at the Novi Senior Center on June 26. Harold McMahan waits his turn. The league, which meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., will pause until the cooler weather of September before starting back up.

CONTRACT

Continued from page A1

meeting regularly to discuss different options. Ultimately, Brenner feels there isn't a need for local school boards because that state controls all the funding. He also believes the state Legislature would like to see the entire teacher pay scale reduced, and that the public feels teachers are overpaid.

"I don't hear any of my top students saying they want to go into education or be a teacher," he said. "It perpetuates that cycle of self-defeatism." Both sides are hopeful to have the wage reopener completed before the school year begins. "I'd be very surprised if we don't," Brenner said.

Brenner said he does not believe the current administration is doing anything to deceive his group, and the two sides have been

ACADEMY

Continued from page A1

"I wish the academy was longer so we could get more stuff in," Stempien said.

The academy is open to any Novi resident or student who is between the ages of 13-18. Stempien said the program allows the two departments to foster open relationships with students.

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HOW TO REACH US

Community Office:
101 N. Lafayette
South Lyon, MI 48178
248.437.2911
Mon - Fri 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Editor:
Cal Stone
248.437.2011 Ext. 237
Email: cstone@hometownlife.com

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REIS gearing up for 7 Mile/Haggerty work

Work expected to begin later this month

By Ronnie Huhman
Correspondent

Things will soon be looking a lot different at the southwest corner of 7 Mile and Haggerty roads now that REIS has been given the green light to begin clearing and grading 50 acres of its property in preparation of further development.

The development planned to be constructed there includes a University of Michigan Hospital location for ambulatory

care as well as unspecified retail and restaurants.

The Northville Township Planning Commission on June 26 approved the site plan for land balancing and infrastructure improvements. Planning commission chair Robert Nix said they have resolved 80 to 90 percent of the issues with REIS and the remaining conditions will be approved by township staff. Work is expected to begin later this month.

Nix said this is the first step and it will involve losing trees and a lot of heavy equipment grading the area in order to properly develop the site. Other work includes removing old utility lines and installing new water and sewer lines.

Chris Rosen, township board trustee and planning commission liaison, said REIS expects to get done with the clearing by December, but will not begin landscaping until next spring. "We are hopeful that a high quality development will result, but we fear it will be an ugly construction site in the meantime."

Nix said there were two areas of concerns voiced by some residents at the meeting and both involve the area directly on 7 Mile Road, which is 24 acres set aside for retail and restaurants.

Part of the proposed plan for water management also involves constructing (along 7 Mile from Haggerty to Mead-

owbrook Road) three large detention ponds. It was emphasized by the planning commission that a landscaping buffer of at least 50 feet, set out in the agreement, should be adhered to when it comes to this part of the work.

Another aspect, which will also involve Wayne County's permission, is the proposed road planned to run off of 7 Mile, across from Meadowbrook through the site to Haggerty, directly across from Chippewa Drive at Scholcraft College. It's possible a traffic signal could go in at the opening across from Meadowbrook. Residents in this area are concerned their street could see an increase in traffic.

Sidewalks are also expected to be placed along 7 Mile and Haggerty.

The site plan for the U of M location is scheduled to go before the planning commission at their July meeting.

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Garden Walk

Country Garden Club puts best foot forward at July 11 event

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

When Judy and Robert Braun moved to condos off Haggerty near Six Mile years ago, she left her garden behind. She was, however, able to bring some plants from their previous home and those now are part of the "Secret Garden" featured in an upcoming Garden Walk of the Country Garden Club of Northville.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"It grew and grew and grew," said fellow club member Ronnie Cambra of the Brauns' garden, put on adjacent unbuildable land. It's also behind two other condos in Country Club Village, covering some two acres with 20 separate beds divided by theme and garden ornamentation.

This year's garden walk will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, and include six gardens.

"We've been doing this for 19 years," said Northville Township resident Cambra, who handles publicity and is one of three charged with picking the gardens for the walk. "We're the original garden walk."

You can find out more at the club website, www.cognv.org, and can get tickets for \$10 each. Tickets are also on sale at Gardenvues on Main in downtown Northville up to the day of the event. That day, they will also be available at Mill Race Village, one of the featured gardens.

"This is our largest fundraiser," Cambra said. "All of our money goes back into the community."

The club gives a scholarship to a graduating Northville High School senior who plans to study horticulture, the environment or a related field. The club maintains the Northville District Library as well as

Mill Race's, and is starting to do the post office garden.

In choosing garden walk sites, "We try and look for a variety," she said. Those include shade, pools, large areas and terraced or sloped land.

"There are people from all walks of life who love to go to these garden walks," Cambra said. Some don't have large yards or ideal soil but still want attractive gardens.

This year's "Blossoms, Bees & Butterflies" event will feature gardens of:

• Diane and Joe Pace, 41280 Levellynn;

• Judy and Robert Braun, 39424

Oakmont;

• Mary Jo and Jim Blasius, 18101 Sheldon;

• Judy and Tom Caroselli, 18155 Shadbrook;

• Margaret and John Fleming, 18939 Bella Vista Court;

• Dorothy and James Sullivan, 18597 Steep Hollow Court;

• Mill Race Village, 215 Griswold Ave. Strollers aren't allowed in the gardens, and restrooms should be used at Mill Race Village or City Hall. Pets aren't allowed. There will be refreshments at Mill Race Village, as well as live music. Vendors there will have plants and garden accessories. Call (248) 348-3263 for more information.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



Part of the Brauns' backyard "secret garden" in the Country Club Village neighborhood.

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NOVI ON CAMPUS

Schoolcraft College

Graduates: Schoolcraft College celebrated its 47th annual commencement ceremony on May 5 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. More than 1,700 students received associate in art, associate in applied science, associate in engineering, associate in general studies, and associate in science degrees or skills, one- and two-year program, and post-associate certificates in recognition of their higher education accomplishments.

Graduates from Novi included: Angelina Beals; Elizabeth Ann Belcher; Kathryn Jean Colling; Carrie Lynn Cottingham; Joseph Stanley Dobek Jr.; William Emery Dornbach; Karol Lynn Drabek; Gregory Estrin; Tiffany Monique Huffman; Ross David Hunter; Samantha Jean Lowry; Heather Lee Marks; James Means; Thomas James Mehall; Fe E. Myles; Paul Anthony Nadolini; Kimberly Marie Nalezty; Michele Karen Nance; Sarah E. Natzel; Vickie Ann O'Connell; Tammy Kay Rademacher; Scott Anthony Ray; Amanda Jean Robert; Evan T. Starr; Anna Marie Swift; Marissa L. Thomas; David Ujick; Lynn Ella Watson; Sanya L. Weston; Demario Windom and Cheryl Lynn Wischmeyer

Dean's List: Each semester Schoolcraft College recognizes students for high academic achievement by naming them to the Dean's List. The minimum requirements for recognition are completion of 12 or more credits during the semester and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The following students from Novi were named to the School-

craft College Winter 2012 Dean's List: Elizabeth G. Allen; Matthew S. Aoun; Ashi Arora; Lauren E. Baum; Joshua John Beaulieu; Kari Margaret Bingham; Christine Nicole Boyer; Matthew Brian; India Rose Clark; Marcia Eleanor Collins; Jeffrey Scott Cook; Morgan Claire Dalrymple; Subhra Das; Joseph Stanley Dobek Jr.; Kaitlyn Mary Dodge-Marra; Heather L. Donohue; Thomas Patrick Duquette; Brett E. Earle; Leila Fawaz; Roula Fawaz; Carter Eugene Fischer; Brandon P. Gaiffe; Tianna Garland; Durim Arsin Gega; Megan Elizabeth Gertley; Vanessa Gomes Wade; Kathryn M. Grundner; Justin Nicholas Hagan; Justin Richard Hogle; Stefanos K. Hountalas; Sophia Marie Juncal; Dora Elba Juvenal-Escalante; Yongtae Kim; Richard Lamphiear; Jessica Lynn Lyon; Colin Edward Maresh; Marianne McHugh; Deborah Susan McNeilance; David Matthew Middleton; Lisa Marie Minnaugh; Michael Mitchell; Anna Rose Moses; Fe E. Myles; Kimberly Marie Nalezty; nSarah E. Natzel; Melody J. Nicklaus; Vickie Ann O'Connell; Rachel A. Oshaugnessy; Nicola Lozanne Terrell; Ashley Kartvelil Thomas; Anthony M. Tindall and Jo Ellen Wayne.

Honors

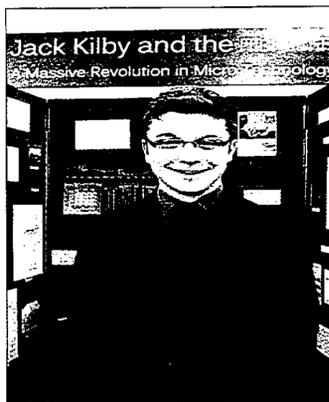


Novi Youth Assistance honored Novi students at the annual Youth Recognition Award Ceremony on May 16 in the Novi Civic Center atrium. A gathering of leaders from Novi schools, the City of Novi, Oakland County, state and U.S. representatives, and other civic groups recognized 14 Novi teens for their commitment to volunteering their time and talents. Many of the students have volunteered hundreds of hours throughout their high school careers at various organizations. Shown (l to r) are Hannah Fan, Alice Jiang, Weiki Li, Lucia Chen, Ashi Arora, Samantha Jahr, Jaymie Ziegler, Amy Quinlan, Amojit Chahal, Matthew Confer and Rubini Naidu. Not pictured are Rebecca Chen, Dulangi Silva and Nicole Stotler.



Graduating

On June 11, the Hickory Woods Elementary PTA sponsored the annual party for "graduating" fifth graders. Students are shown enjoying the food buffet including a chocolate fountain. The party included food, dancing with a DJ, a photo booth, and got the chance to dunk their teachers in the dunk tank.



Jack Kilby and the Massive Revolution in Michigan

Art Institute scholar

High school senior Austen Langley, of Canton, has earned a tuition scholarship in the local level of The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts' You Can Create Tomorrow poster design competition. Langley placed first in the high school senior category of the competition, earning a \$3,000 tuition scholarship to attend The Art Institute of Michigan. The competition was open to graduating high school seniors and high school graduates interested in pursuing a creative education. Students submitted an original poster design, a current high school transcript and a designer statement.

METROPARK CALENDAR

General: 2011 annual parking and boat launch permits are available at the park office. Vehicle entry permits are \$25; senior citizen \$15. Boat launching permits are \$30; senior citizen \$15. The HCMA and Oakland County Parks permits, valid within both park systems, are \$48. Daily entry fee is \$5.

Kensington

Note: For more information for registration, call the Kensington Park office at (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178. The Nature Center office phone number is (248) 685-0603. Pre-registration required for programs and a \$2 fee per person unless stated otherwise. Park hours are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Nature Center

Beasts on the Beach: Saturday, July 7 from 1-3 p.m., Martindale Beach. Snakes and turtles are among the most fascinating of all animals. There's a lot of misinformation about them. Stop by to sort out what is true and what isn't during this free, ongoing program.

Meet a Turtle: Sunday, July 8, 2 p.m. Michigan's turtle species are as diverse in appearance as they are in behaviors and habits. Come hear about, see and touch nature's "ancient" creatures. Fee: \$3 per person. Pre-registration required.

Explorer's Day Camp: Nature Center, Tuesday, July 10-Friday, July 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Some of the many adventures at this camp are: touring Kent Lake aboard the Island Queen II, experiencing astronomy from inside an inflatable planetarium, digging for fossils and studying about them, and taking the Voyageur Canoe to various islands in the lake. That's just a sampling of the fun in store for our day camp "explorers." For ages 7-13. Fee: \$150 per child. For additional information or to register, contact the Nature Center.

Stop the Invasion: Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to help retake the nature trails as they combat autumn olive, Asiatic bittersweet and garlic mustard - three invasive plant species. Bring loppers and gloves if you have them.

Summer Safari: Sunday, July 15, 2 p.m. Take a walk with an interpreter while exploring the sights and sounds of the nature area. Fee: \$3 per person. Pre-registration required.

Fish Camp: Nature Center, Tuesday, July 17, and Wednesday, July 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kids will make their own tackle and a fish print t-shirt, discover fun facts about fish, catch pond bugs and go fishing. They will acquire the fishing skills needed to make their own fishing stories come true. For ages 8-12. Fee: \$75 per child.

Exploring a Pond: Saturday, July 21, 1 p.m. The pond is home to many wonderful and unique animals. Join an interpreter to meet some of these pond personalities. Free.

Beasts at the Boat Rental: Sunday, July 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the boat rental. Snakes and turtles are among the most fascinating of all animals. There's a lot of misinformation about them. Stop by to sort out what is true and what isn't during this free, ongoing program.

Insects We Love to Hate: Saturday, July 28, 1 p.m. Annoying painful and itchy, there are many insects people love to hate, spray and swat. Find out what makes these insects so interesting and some tips on how to avoid them. Fee: \$3 per person. Pre-registration required. For ages 6 years and older.

Meet a Snake: Sunday, July 29, 2 p.m. Snakes are some of the most maligned animals, partly due to misinformation about them. Join an interpreter to sort out what is true and what isn't, and have the chance to touch or hold a snake. Fee: \$3 per person. Pre-registration required.

Tipping Point Theatre unveils its 2012-13 season

No need to worry about rising gas prices, long car rides, unexpected construction on Michigan roads, and overcrowding at your favorite vacation spot. All you need to do this season is pack your tickets and head over to The Point!

"Where are we going? We are speeding into our sixth season and it's full of suspense, surprises and laughter," said James Kuhl, producing artistic director. "This season includes a musical and four comedies from Connecticut to Ohio to a few in-between stops in New York City. We have also added a sixth show, 'This Wonderful Life', as a fun way to share the holiday season with friends and family."

"Deathtrap" by Ira Levin; Sept. 6-Oct. 7

Sidney, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a "dry spell", which has resulted in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his misfortunes occurs when he receives a brilliant manuscript from a student in the seminar he conducted at a nearby college—a thriller, which Sidney recognizes immediately as a potential Broadway hit. Sidney's plan, which he devises with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student, an idea the younger man quickly accepts. Suspense mounts steadily as the plot twists and

turns with cleverness and such an abundance of thrills and laughter that you will be on the edge of your seat until the final startling moments of the play.

"Ordinary Days" music and lyrics by Adam Gwon; Nov. 1-Dec. 9

From the bustling streets and subways to the quiet rooftops, Ordinary Days tells the interwoven story of four New Yorkers on a desperate search for their futures. Warren, an idealistic aspiring artist and "professional car-sitter," finds a notebook belonging to Deb, a stressed-out graduate student working frantically on her dissertation on Virginia Woolf. Jason and Claire are a couple navigating the rough terrain of their serious relationship and are wondering if moving in together is really pushing them apart. Although the two couples never meet, they alter each other's lives in this bittersweet musical centered around the city that never sleeps.

"Mrs. Mannerly" by Jeffrey Hatcher; April 4-May 5

Inspired by hilarious memories of a childhood etiquette class, this play introduces us to ten-year-old Jeffrey, who was not good at anything except being polite. Obsessed with good manners, he is determined to be the first student ever to

achieve a perfect score on the challenging final exam. Mrs. Mannerly is a demanding teacher and no student in her 36 years of etiquette classes has achieved that feat. After discovering a secret in Mrs. Mannerly's past, Jeffrey faces off with his classmates (all played by one actor) as he maneuvers his way toward the top to try to take the grand prize! This witty comedy of manners shows the difference between how we present ourselves and who we really are.

"I Hate Hamlet" by Paul Rudnick; May 30-June 30

After earning his fame and fortune on a successful television show, Andrew returns to New York for the next step in his career. To his surprise and horror, he lands the role of Hamlet in the prestigious Shakespeare in the Park festival. To add to his anxiety, his real estate agent has rented him an apartment once inhabited by John Barrymore, who is considered to have given the best performance of Hamlet in the twentieth century. However, the ghost of Barrymore still haunts the apartment and has set his sights on convincing reluctant Andrew to play the part. Now Andrew must decide between the easy money he could make with a new television series or the confidence to be gained by facing the world's most difficult acting challenge.

"Looking" by Norm Foster; Jan. 24-March 3, 2013

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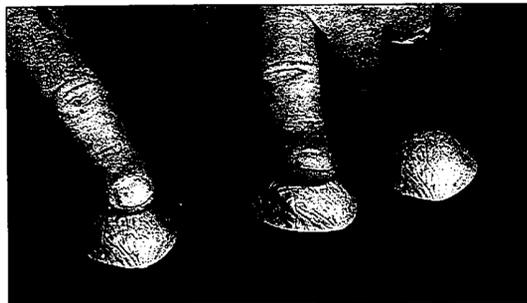


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Wednesday July 11, 2012
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(I-75 & Northline)

Thursday July 12, 2012
Holiday Inn Livonia, MI
(Laurel Park at 6 Mile & I-275)

SESSIONS BEGIN AT 10 AM AND 2 PM EACH DAY

Speaker: John F. Robbins, MBA, CFP



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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

MDOP

An unknown suspect attempted to break into a U-Haul that a Novi woman was using to move her son home from college.

On July 1, a Picara Lane homeowner reported to police of the incident involving the moving truck that also had a Honda car attached to it on a trailer.

Entry was not gained and the intent of the perpetrator is unknown. However, Novi Police think the suspect may have been trying to steal the entire truck.

Larceny

A Walton Woods Senior Center employee had her wallet stolen from the staff break room.

On July 1, the employee reported that she had arrived at work just before 4 p.m. and changed clothes, but could not find an open locker for her bag.

The home is located on 13 Mile Road and backs up to the Oakland Glens trailer park. There was an opening in the backyard fence that was thought to have been used

cards, one of which was used at a CVS in Redford before it was finally canceled. The break room where the wallet and bag were located is open to all employees and is unlocked, so the general public could gain entry.

Vehicle Theft

A vehicle with a history of going missing is missing again.

A Novi woman, who lives on Cortes Street in the Lakewood Park Homes, reported to police that on June 29 or 30 her silver 2006 GMC Sierra truck was taken by an unknown person.

However, this time the suspect is unknown. She thought it may have been a friend of her daughter's, but her daughter said she did not know. It was last seen on June 29 and her keys are accounted for, but she said it has gone missing so much that there may be an extra set out there.

The truck has been entered into LEIN as stolen.

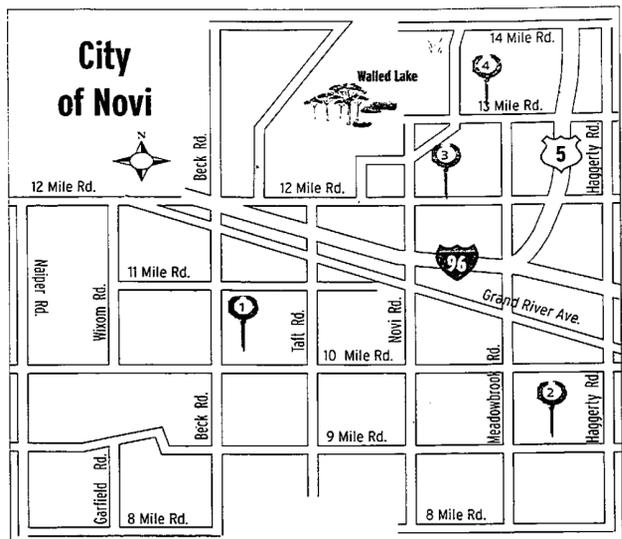
MDOP

A Novi man had his newly-purchased home vandalized by unknown suspects.

The man reported that the vacant home he recently purchased had

been spray painted with graffiti sometime on June 26 or 27. Markings of 666, upside down crosses and the letters OFWVGK were left on the front door, garage wall and rear windows.

The home is located on 13 Mile Road and backs up to the Oakland Glens trailer park. There was an opening in the backyard fence that was thought to have been used



by the suspects, according to police.

Compiled by correspondent Lonnie Huhman

HEALTH

Continued from page A1

of his office.

Kerry Bentivolio, Republican candidate in the 11th Congressional District, said the decision was "outrageous."

"I am extremely disappointed in the decision to allow the federal government to force individuals to purchase health insurance," Bentivolio said.

Bentivolio added that he would "fight tooth and nail to repeal 'Obamacare' and other overreaching big-government programs."

Nancy Cassis, a Republican write-in candidate for U.S. Congress in the 11th District, called the decision a travesty.

"I am outraged; the Constitution does not give the government authority to force this mandate on the American people," Cassis said. Cassis added that she will fight to repeal the law, making it a top priority. "We are a nation of laws and must continue to be such. 'Obamacare' is in direct violation of the Constitution and we will get it repealed," Cassis said.

sis said.

Democratic candidate Dr. Syed Taj applauded the Supreme Court's decision.

"While not perfect, the Affordable Care Act will result in a stronger, healthier America," Taj said. "As a medical doctor, I have dedicated my life to saving lives."

"The Affordable Care Act is a step in the right direction. I am the only candidate running in the 11th District who will stand with President Obama to improve and expand health care access for all Americans."

Bill Roberts is opposing Taj in the Democratic primary, and said he believed the ruling "could have gone either way."

"I know the opposition has a strong rugged individualistic approach to the constitutionality of the health care act," Roberts said. "With the health care act, my opposition is much more a question of austerity and the independent pay-ment advisory board."

Catholic leaders react to U.S. Supreme Court ruling

By Aileen Wingblad Staff Writer

Claiming that it's "what we here for, what the government is supposed to do," Pastor Ron Anderson of St. Mary, Our Lady of the Snow Roman Catholic Parish, in Milford said he was pleased with last week's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upholds the federal Affordable Care Act's individual mandate as constitutional.

"It's very favorable. It means 30 million people are going to be covered (by health insurance)," Anderson said.

Anderson said the Catholic Church is clearly in support of a federal health care program, which goes along with the conviction of "I am my brother's keeper" — regardless of the tax burden it could create.

Using Luxembourg as an example, Anderson said the people there "made a fundamental decision (resulting in) astronomical taxes" for their national health care plan.

"They are secure as a people, happy as a people," he said.

What isn't yet clear, however, is how the U.S. Supreme Court's decision will affect the 40-some lawsuits filed in federal court in May by the Michigan Catholic Conference and others. The lawsuits challenge a portion of the health care act requiring contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs to be offered in employee health care plans — including those offered by religious institutions. The requirement goes against the church's teachings and is therefore considered an assault on religious freedom, church leaders said.

Joe Kohn, director of public relations for the Archdiocese of Detroit, said his initial assumption is "nothing's changed on our end," regarding the church's efforts in the courts.

In reaction to the decision, the Michigan Catholic Conference released the following statement: "We are studying the Supreme Court's decision to determine if it impacts our case. A more detailed statement will be released once we have had sufficient time to review the court's decision and its

full impact on the Michigan Catholic Conference lawsuit against the (Health and Human Services) mandate."

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the group maintains its advocacy for comprehensive health care reform "to ensure access to life-affirming health care for all, especially the poorest and most vulnerable." Yet flaws remain in the health care act, the USCCB stated, and the legislation still needs "to fix conscience, abortion funding, immigration problems."

The USCCB stated the Supreme Court decision "neither diminishes the moral imperative to ensure decent health care for all, nor eliminates the need to correct the fundamental flaws described above. We therefore continue to urge Congress to pass, and the Administration to sign, legislation to fix those flaws."

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NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Green Science Adventure Camp open for registration

Michigan State University Extension welcomes back 4-H Green Science Adventure Camp to Novi. This camp, geared for youths between the ages of 5 and 10, incorporates hands-on learning in an outdoor environment.

Campers will investigate the science of the natural world with activities in areas such as gardening, cooking,

art, and fishing. Campers will be able to experience the great outdoors through hayrides, forest hikes, and journeys through the garden. These explorations will be filled with scientific exploration, with an emphasis on learning through an inquiry-based method of teaching.

In addition to many outdoor activities, campers will also have the opportunity to experience cooking healthy and nutritious meals that

they make themselves using fresh produce from the garden. Participants will learn about the scientific aspects of a balanced diet, and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

This year, three sessions will be held at the MSU Tollgate Education Center in Novi, and one session will be held at the Wolcott Mill Metro Park Farm in Ray Township.

Novi camp dates are as follows: July 9-13, July 23-27, and Aug. 6-10. The

one week session held in Ray Township will take place July 30 to Aug. 3. Camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, with aftercare available at an additional rate.

For more information about the Green Science Adventure Camp, please contact Alan Jaros at (248) 347-0269, Ext. 232, or jaros@msu.edu.

Novi News online Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from

the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at hometownlife.com that allow you browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too.

So, bookmark www.hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "Hometown-life."

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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. Sady, 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 personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign experienced 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.

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Novi/Northville MEDICAL SERVICE directory

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NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Novi events

BLOOD DRIVES
Time/Date: 1-6:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 10
Location: Hillside Middle School
Time/Date: 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 22
Location: Holy Family Church
Time/Date: 1-6:45 p.m. Monday, July 23
Location: Northville Township Fire Department
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 24
Location: Busch's Market
Time/Date: 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, July 26
Location: VFW Post 4012 Northville
Contact: To make an appointment, donors can go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter the zip code.

GREAT LAKES STATE FAIR
Dates: Aug. 31-Sept. 3
Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, Grand River Avenue (between Taft and Beck roads), Novi
Details: Michigan Pavilion featuring Michigan made, grown or produced products; livestock and agriculture areas with large indoor arena; local American/country live music entertainment; beer garden featuring Michigan Breweries; large midway with tons of games and rides; local and national merchandise and concessions vendors; and Shriners small scale circus and circus attractions. Tickets available in advance at www.GreatLakesStateFair.org.
Contact: Gretchen Jones; (248) 348-5600

PREVENTION PROJECT
Time/Dates: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays, July 9 to Aug. 6
Location: Botsford Diabetes and Nutrition Service, 39830 Grand River Ave., Novi
Details: A five-week, action-packed class. Registered dietitians at Botsford Diabetes and Nutrition Services in Novi will help you change your lifestyle by making the most out of your food choices, exercising and staying active, discovering your healthy lifestyle barriers, and having weekly goals and weigh-ins. Space limited to 25; cost is \$20.
Contact: (248) 477-6100 to register

MICHIGAN MADE ARTS CRAFTS JEWELRY SHOW
Time/Date: noon-8 p.m. first Fridays through December
Location: Atrium Of Novi, 43155 Main Street
Details: Featuring many handmade items from people with disabilities. Any one in Michigan that makes handcrafted items can get a space for \$20. Therapy Choir Michigan will perform at 6:15 June 1. Face Painting by Community Choices of Westland.
Contact: MichiganArts-CraftsShow@gmail.com; visit http://www.MichiganArts-CraftsShow.com; or call (248) 396-0396

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 grievers are available.
NOVI SENIOR CENTER
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414; thegl@cityofnovi.org

Business
NORTHVILLE-NOVI BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST
Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays (except Nov. and Dec., which are just the first Tuesdays)
Location: Kerby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road
Details: Business networking focused on building relationships. The Sunrise Networking Group, LLC (www.

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; or 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 Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

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 585-232-3009 or fonda@sunrisefinancialgrouppllc.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 effectively. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.
Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at (248) 797-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com.

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Contact: www.novicham.com or call (248) 349-3743
NOVI ROTARY CLUB
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
Location: Novi Methodist Church 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check website for speaker information: novirota.org
NOVI 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 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

Reunions
NOVI HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 AND 1978
Date: Aug. 11
Locations: The Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
Details: combined class

Library Lines

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY
Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772
HUD Counseling
Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.
Book Discussion Group
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group.
MicroSoft Excel Part 2
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 24
Details: Advanced; creating and working with worksheets and charts. Participants in the Excel classes should already know the basics of using a PC. Laptop PCs will be provided. There is no charge, but please register in advance by calling the library or email admin@walledlakelibrary.org; space is limited.

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY
Location: 45255 W. 10 Mile Road
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10-5 Friday-Saturday; closed Sundays (Memorial Day-Labor Day)
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 Zgether Knitting Circle
Time/Date: 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, July 5 and 12
Details: If you have a leaning towards knitting or any of the related handicrafts Knit Zgether Knitting Circle just might be your cup of tea. No instructor, no registration, and of course, attendance is free.
Summer Movie Spectacular!
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Thursday, July 5
Details: Continue your holiday week festivities with viewing of the funny family movie, "The Muppets" - a treat for all ages! We'll pro-

vide the refreshments and you provide the laughter to extend your holiday fun.
Excel Basics
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 7
Details: Learn how to create, modify, and save spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel in this hands-on workshop. Participants need to be confident using a computer and proficient with the keyboard and mouse. Registration required.
Word Basics
Time/Date: 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 7
Details: Learn the basics of creating, modifying, and saving documents using Microsoft Word in this hands-on workshop. Participants need to be confident using a computer and proficient with the keyboard and mouse. Registration required.
Lego Club
Time/Date: 6-6:45 p.m. Monday, July 9
Details: Join us once a month for Lego show-and-tell and building activities. We supply the Legos, you supply the imagination. For grades K-4.
An E-reader Sampler
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Monday, July 9
Details: Learn how to download library items to your e-reader with hands-on instruction. Please have an email account set up prior to coming and bring your fully charged e-reader and NOVI library card with you. Registration required.
Mad Science - Make a Splash
Time/Date: 10:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, July 10
Details: In partnership with Novi Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, the Library invites you to bring your blanket, family, and friends to Fuerst Park to celebrate summer with this wonderful theatrical and storybook presentation. Afterwards, make a summer tradition by walking to the library to check out your favorite summer reads. If the weather is inclement, the program will be in the meeting room of the library.
Help For Families from OLHSA
Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, July 10 and 17
Details: Meet with an OLHSA (Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency) staff member for support with Medicaid, food, cash, foreclosure, and many other human services. Please call the OLHSA office at 248-209-2686 to make an appointment.

WEDDING



Allison Holmes and Matthew Tolkaz

Holmes & Tolkaz

Allison Nancy Holmes, of Novi, and Matthew Joseph Tolkaz, of Novi, were married June 2, 2012, at First United Methodist Church, Northville with Father Terry Kerner and Rev. Steve Bug officiating.
The bride is the daughter of Doug and Jeanne Holmes, of Novi. She is a Class of 2008 graduate of Northville High School and earned a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Michigan. Her attendants included Rachel Holmes, Shannon Alcala, Jamie Cotrone, Carly Goldberg and Johanna Grum.
The groom is the son of Joe and Nancy Tolkaz, of Novi. He is a Class of 2008 graduate of Catholic Central High School and earned an Aerospace Engineering degree from the University of Michigan. His attendants included Mike Tolkaz, Mark Tolkaz, John Cristiano, Ben Fonteneau, Ryan Lumley and Shane O'Leary.
A reception was held at Walnut Creek. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and reside in Howell, Ill.

SEMER EARNS DESIGNATION
As a business leader and an involved citizen in the Novi area, Allstate exclusive agency owner Eric Semer has been designated an Allstate Premier Service Agent for 2012.
Bestowed upon less than one-third of Allstate's agency force, this designation is presented to agents who demonstrate a commitment to putting the customer at the center of their agencies' work.
Semer's agency is located at 45380 West 10 Mile, Suite 125 in Novi.

NEWSMAKERS

PERNA, MARY A.
Age 88, longtime resident of Northville, passed away 6/26/12. Funeral service was held 6/30/12. www.casterlinefuneralhome.com
QUINN, ALMA
Age 99, passed away July 2, 2012. Please call the Phillips Funeral Home for date and time for visitation and funeral. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com
Van ATTA, ALICE E.
Age 87, of Florida, passed away June 30, 2012. She was born on March 2, 1925 to the late Albert and Elizabeth (Wetters) Scheuermann in Detroit. On October 6, 1951, she married LeRoy VanAtta. Alice was a member of the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church of Ft. Myers, FL. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband LeRoy VanAtta and her two brothers. Visitation will be held on July 6, Friday, from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon, MI. A funeral service will be held on July 7, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. with final visitation at 9:15 a.m. at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of Ft. Myers. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

BOLOTNIK, MARGARET "PEGGY"

August 2, 1920 - June 28, 2012
Age 91 of Howell, Michigan, formerly of Detroit, passed away Saturday, June 28, 2012, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Howell, MI. Margaret was born on August 2, 1920 in Flint, Michigan to Michael and Christina (nee Friescher) Heisch. She moved at a young age with her family from Flint, MI to Youngstown, Ohio where she lived until after graduation, then moved to Detroit, MI. Beloved wife of the late John S. Bolotnik. Loving mother of Kristeen Bolotnik McKinley (Terry) and Susan Bolotnik Espejo (Luis), deceased. Loving grandmother of Susan Smith Forton, Kristen Espejo Hurtado, Marcela Espejo Prochick, Silvia Margaret Espejo, and Marco Eduardo Espejo and step-grandchildren Donald McKinley (Mariakay), Shawn McKinley, and Perry McKinley (Wendy), and seven great grandchildren, Brielle Forton, Adam and Erik McKinley, Jordan and Justin McKinley, and Taylor and Luke McKinley. Also mourning her loss are nieces, nephews, and many dear friends. Visitation: Thursday, July 5 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Howell City Hall, Howell Public Library, The American Cancer Foundation, and the American Red Cross. Margaret so loved her family, friends, music, dancing, gardening and flowers, reading, crossword puzzles, and rarely turned down an opportunity to play cards. She is remembered as a warm and wonderful Christian woman who always had a kind and encouraging word for everyone she came in contact with and she will be greatly missed. Online Guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

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Governor answers questions at interactive town hall

By Lonnie Huhman, Correspondent

Gov. Rick Snyder recently made an appearance ... sort of ... at Northville Township Hall to talk about roads and bridges.
An interactive town hall gave some Northville residents as well others from four different locations the chance to ask the governor questions on June 19. Through the online site Google+Hangout, Snyder spoke from Lansing to audiences in Northville, Grand Rapids, Adrian and Traverse City.
Each was hosted by a local

representative; in Northville, Rep. Kurt Heise (R-Plymouth) welcomed over 30 people who attended.
The first question from Northville came from resident William Barry. He asked Snyder about the proposed new bridge to Canada and, specifically, why hasn't the Legislature looked at the issue?
Snyder said the Legislature stayed away from the issue up to this point. He added since it doesn't use taxpayer money, his administration has taken the opportunity to move forward on it to create 10,000 jobs and further trade with

Canada. He said the Michigan-Canada connection currently produces \$70 million in revenue annually and has more traffic than a more-connected location like Niagara-Buffalo.
Snyder said Canada is in complete support of the second bridge and has pledged to help fund Michigan's portion.
The second question came from Northville Township Trustee Marjorie Banner and planning commissioner/supervisor candidate Robert Nix. They asked about fixing infrastructure, like roads, and how it will be funded?

Snyder said infrastructure is a big issue and he knows many drivers in the state are not happy with their condition. The solution is to invest more - up to \$1.4 billion.
"That's a lot of money," he said. Snyder said he knows this is a shocking request considering the economic challenges, but compared to car repair and upkeep, it's a good investment. He said in 2013 this will become even more of an issue.
Afterward, Northville resident Caroline Norris said Snyder offered some good ideas, but she remains worried about solutions being

sought because of the divisive nature of state politics.
"We need to remember we're in this together," Norris said.
Heise thought it went well and said this format is an exciting one.
"This was new for me, so it was exciting to hear the different questions along with Gov. Snyder's discussion," he said. "There were some great questions pertaining to things that are really important. Job creation and economic development is on everyone's mind."

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church listings including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Highland, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, New Hudson, South Lyon, Walled Lake, and Crosspoint Community Church. Each listing includes church name, address, phone, and service times.

OUR VIEWS

Steering clear Celebrate summer safe, sober, smart

This weeklong Fourth of July holiday has already brought plenty of fun for all — backyard barbecues, swimming, boating, camping and maybe even that cross-state trek to one of Michigan's best tourism towns. And because July 4 fell in the middle of the week — the fun continues through this weekend. Unfortunately, it's also a time when, each year, we see tragedies happen on our local roadways and state highways because drivers have taken the fun too far by getting behind the wheel while under the influence.

Just last year, during the Fourth of July holiday, eight people were killed in traffic crashes in our state — three of those deaths were alcohol-related.

Law enforcement agencies in 26 counties across the state, including those in Wayne and Oakland counties, are stepping up their drunk driving patrols during this holiday period.

The campaign, called, "Drunk Driving. Over The Limit. Under Arrest," is funded with federal money that's earmarked for traffic safety enforcement and is administered by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. It's a great local, state and federal partnership, but don't forget, it also involves every motorist who chooses to celebrate and socialize with alcohol.

So, when you're at that backyard party or out on that boat this week — and every week — pay extra attention to who will be driving home at the end of that fun-filled summer day. Designate a driver in advance or make arrangements for a safe ride home if you've been drinking. Motorists, this week, will see increased patrols throughout the metro Detroit area. They're on the lookout for impaired drivers.

Like Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper said this week, it's not worth the risk.

"State law penalties range from 93-day misdemeanors to five-year felonies, and drunk drivers who kill face 15 years in prison, or even, when called for, up to life," said Cooper.

In Michigan, a motorist can be arrested for drunk driving with .08 blood alcohol content or higher. Motorists arrested with a .17 blood alcohol content face increased penalties, including the possible installation of an ignition interlock device preventing the car from starting if the driver has been drinking.

It truly is a matter of life and death. According to the Criminal Justice Information Center, 319 Michiganders died in alcohol- and/or drug-related traffic crashes in 2011.

Drunk driving, unfortunately, is prevalent. In 2011, there were 37,540 arrests for drunk and impaired driving throughout the state — that's nearly 103 arrests a day.

And, that's not truly reflective of the actual number of drunk drivers there are on the roads — especially considering there are fewer road patrols on the streets these days, due to budget cut-backs.

It's one of the most often committed crimes in the United States, with more than 1.4 million people arrested nationwide in 2010.

Experts say the percentage of fatalities in alcohol-related crashes is eight times higher than in all crashes, and the percentage of the most serious injury level in alcohol-related crashes is almost four times higher.

But, those are just numbers, right? Wrong.

Those are lives that are taken or completely ruined because someone was too intoxicated to drive. It's a reminder that's worth repeating — don't drink and drive; plan for a safe ride home if you've been drinking.

Let's make sure the holiday week ends on a positive note. Make it a fun and a memorable summer by staying safe, sober and responsible. We owe it to ourselves and to everyone else on the road.

NOVI NEWS
A GANNETT COMPANY
Cal Stone, Community Editor
Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor
Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

The former Novi Expo location is being demolished. What would you like to see in its place?



"An outdoor skating rink."
Linda Daly
Novi



"A community pool would be a good idea."
Kyle Edwards
Novi



"Perhaps some new restaurants? We're always looking for new places to go to in Novi."
Jeff Edwards
Novi



"Not another mall. Maybe a green space or a splash park."
Susan Koceski
Novi

LETTERS

The middle class

Every day is labor day. A teacher in our schools. A construction worker building a new road or school. A nurse at our community hospital.

Across America, working men and women contribute to our nation's productivity and overall wealth creation. Unfortunately, we aren't sharing in these gains, as in decades past. As unionization has slipped, so have real wages and living standards and our middle class way of life.

In the four decades from 1967 to 2007, the union membership share of workers has slipped more than half, from about 26 percent to about 11 percent. During the same time frame, the middle class share of national income has dropped from 53 percent to 47 percent. Since 2007, we know that middle class fortunes have eroded even more steeply. The top 1 percent of Americans now own 42 percent of the nation's wealth, as well as half of the country's stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

It should be clear that unionization impacts everyone's wages, benefits and job protections for the better. From earlier last century to now, unions have fought for and earned — for all Americans — achievements like the end of child labor, a safer workplace, a defined work week, employee-sponsored health care and support of families. For example, unions spearheaded the Family Leave and Medical Act.

Unions continue to benchmark wage and benefits for all workers. But our share of this nation's prosperity will continue to slip unless we defend the right of workers to collectively bargain with employers. Businesses negotiate with other businesses. Similarly, so should workers be able to form unions and negotiate on a level playing field with businesses. This process of collective bargaining confers advantages and guarantees to each party.

Those who might wish that unions "just go away" are falling prey to anti-democratic special interests. In recent times, these special interests have orchestrated the outsourcing of entire industries, while doing all they can to create an insecure, threatened work force.

We have and can do better. Organized labor pledges to defend the right to collectively bargain, as we strive for the betterment of workers — union and non-union. Please join us in setting America right.

Mike Jackson
executive secretary-treasurer
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters

Taking a stand
It is difficult to grasp at this moment in time that a large segment of our population is prevented from marrying their significant other. President Obama's support for marriage equality might not correct this injustice. However, he should be commended for leading on one of the most significant, as well as contentious civil rights issues of our time. Thank you, Mr. President, for taking such a historic and courageous stand.

Violet Gavour
Livonia

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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

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

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

Jill Farber-Bramson
West Bloomfield

Hold school boards accountable

The idea and purpose of charter schools was to provide the opportunity for every student in Michigan to attend the school of their choice and to take with them their state education allotment monies.

The idea was innovative and appeared to be fair and equal to all. However, it was not the cure all for some of the ailing school systems that prompted this innovation. Not only has it drained the public school systems of much-needed capital, the monies are going to charter schools geared to avoiding deficits and making a profit.

I'm familiar with some that are hiring state-certified teachers on a part-time basis at \$15 per hour, 15 to 20 hours per week, to avoid giving these young professionals any benefits. Of course, this would result in a profit-making scenario. I am sure our legislators did not have this in mind when they instituted this brilliant voucher/school of choice system.

I thought the state control of public school funds was supposed to help the public school systems throughout the state. The state should direct their attention to mismanagement of funds by local school boards and top-heavy redundancy of administration.

I feel Lansing should not allow money designated for education to be cut to help balance the budget, which seems to be happening by cutting benefits and salaries of dedicated classroom teachers who are trying very hard to do their job. Local school boards should be held accountable for the academic performance of their district and should be held accountable for a balanced budget. Local school districts should be given the authority to strongly enforce safety, discipline and behavioral conduct issues. (These are all being accomplished in the private schools, therefore making them desirable to parents looking for these qualities.)

If all else fails, the state should step in and appoint a manager to do the job of the elected school boards and help "right the ship."

Alice Dinan-Thimm
Birmingham

No on DIA millage

Regarding the DIA millage on the August ballot, I propose a hearty no vote. The issue I have with it is this: an authority appointed by Bob Ficano and the idiots on the Wayne County Commission. If you look at the sweetheart deals Ficano's other appointees have received, how can you expect anything different now? Bear in mind, if Turkia Mullin wins her case, she will receive a \$100,000 a year pension for less than eight years work, thanks to Ficano and the idiots. I don't want them to touch that money.

I suggest that all the voters in the tri-county area vote no, then in November the millage can be offered again, but stripping out any involvement by the Wayne County Executive (Ficano) and the idiots on the Commission. The DIA can leave in the language for creating authorities in Oakland and Macomb counties. L. Brooks Patterson has always been very responsible with his county's money.

As for Wayne County, let them collect the taxes, subtract 1 percent for their effort, then transfer the rest directly to the DIA. That I would support.

Remember, spread the word. And the word is "no."

Mark Czajka
Garden City

Paying more, using less

In the interest of conserving energy, we've been educated and advised to invest in "Energy Star" labeled appliances. Likewise, when we consider a furnace, "High Efficiency" models are recommended, again, to lower our energy consumption.

We're lowering the temperature of the water in our water heaters. We're increasing the "R value" of our insulation and caulking all the little gaps that leak heat out of our homes. Not only are new and replacement windows manufactured with increased insulating quality, they're now tinted in a variety of colors and strengths to limit the heat of the summer sun. When we're away from home or sleeping, programmable thermostats save on the energy used to heat and cool our homes. Even our light bulbs have changed.

When we want to make changes or when it's necessary, and when we have the means, we're doing all we can to curb our consumption of "energy." It's working. We're using less. It's no surprise that now, as a result of our efforts, our energy provider is experiencing a reduction in their profits, and they're not happy. They apparently have the same overhead and need to continue receiving the same revenue.

Has our energy provider been able to or considered downsizing? Have they looked into ways to become more efficient themselves, as we consumers have? Maybe not. Consumers Energy has taken the least complicated and simplest measure to insure their continued "profits." They've decided to raise our rates for the energy we're striving so hard to use less of.

In conclusion, our reward for being responsible consumers is to pay more for using less.

Alice Dinan-Thimm
Birmingham

Not horsin' around: Milford woman specializes in equine massage

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Ears forward, deep exhalation through the nose, lips pulled back and eyes half closed.

According to Highland resident Paula Weaver, these are the unmistakable signs of a satisfied, happy and relaxed horse.

And they are precisely the reactions Sage, her spotted walker gelding, shows during a session with Marcia Sommerville.

Sommerville is owner of White Horse Therapeutics, providing massage therapy for horses and riders, as well as dogs. The Milford resident holds certification in both human and animal massage therapy.

Along with more than 20 years experience — which she uses to service clients throughout the Huron Valley and surrounding communities.

"It was just a natural transition. We all have muscles," Sommerville said, explaining why she decided to add four-legged clients a few years ago. "And I take everything I use on people and work on horses or canines." Sommerville said

unlike many other animal massage therapists, she's skilled in reflexology, acupressure, trigger point therapy, deep tissue sports massage and other techniques, which have proven to be quite helpful for those clients.

Sometimes she's called on to help because a horse "is just not moving right," has problems with saddling, improper strides, coordination, muscle spasms, or — like Weaver's horse, Sage — has suffered an injury.

After Sage took a bad fall several months ago and suffered some muscle issues, Weaver referred to a mailer she had received from White Horse Therapeutics. It took just one session for Sage to start moving easier and appearing to be in less pain. Another session about a month later, and the results were even better.

"This lady knows what she's doing," Weaver said. "To have such a dramatic effect after just a couple days of therapy is just so cool."

Weaver now treats Sage to "maintenance massages" every six



Marcia Sommerville demonstrates auricular massage on Sage during a recent therapy session.

weeks or so. She considers them "his spa day."

"He gets that look in his eyes — I call it 'the love eyes' when (Sommerville) is here," Weaver said. "I just watch him, and see the lids kind of come down."

And afterwards, there's no question Sage is feeling great. "I notice after she leaves he's running in the pasture, cantering. She's released that pent-up stuff that he needed to release," Weaver said.

Horse and dog owners often hear about Sommerville through word-of-mouth and horse shows, which she attends to spread awareness for her services. She admits that not everyone readily jumps on board with animal massage.

"Sometimes I get a lot of looks when I tell people what I do — and that's OK. People eventually come around," she said. "Of course, Sommerville said, if she comes across a problem that she doesn't think she

can resolve, she tells the owner to seek advice and treatment elsewhere. Choices include homeopathic care or traditional veterinary medicine, she said.

But when she's able to apply what she describes as her "God-given talents" to help ease pain or solve another issue, it's a sense of self-satisfaction like no other, she said.

"I just love it — when I get a good message I know how good I feel," Sommerville

said. "And I know how happy the owner is because I know how happy her horse is. I put my hands on, and it all just clicks. I get into the mode — and it feels good for me, too."

Sommerville's on-site visits include evaluation, treatment and re-evaluation after the massage. Sessions typically run about \$75. More information can be found at whitehourstherapeutics.com or by calling (248) 318-0648.

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ART IN THE PARK
MAY 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 2012

Downtown Plymouth
www.artinthepark.com



Field Day
Hickory Woods Elementary celebrated its annual Field Day on June 4 with tons of fun outside activities. Pictured is Mrs. Lada's second grade class enjoying a break.



Sunset at the Zoo
There were party animals of all types at the annual Sunset at the Zoo fundraiser June 22. Nearly 2,000 of the human variety — including Pam and Larry Border of Novi — enjoyed strolling through the zoo and taste-testing cuisine from Metro Detroit's finest restaurants. The other variety #8&212, including the Zooper Heroes — mingled with the guests and even took rides on the new carousel, which opened in September, including 33 hand-carved, hand-painted figures. Detroit Zoo heats up even more on Wednesday nights starting July 4 when live concerts will take place in the Main Picnic Grove from 6:30-8 p.m. Concerts will run through Aug. 29 and are free with zoo admission or \$5 after 5 p.m.

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES
hometownlife.com

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Location: 24505 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; 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: Father Bob LaCroix, pastor and Father Michael Zuelch, associate pastor
CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH
Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.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 6 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
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 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

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.

Details: Come and learn what John is writing about, 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: 9:30 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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875

FIRST UNITED METH-ODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 777 West 8 Mile

HOLY CROSS EPISCO-PAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holycrossnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nurs-ery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.lakesbaptistchurch.com
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Road, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.funnorthville.org
Sunday Worship:
Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.
Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.
Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.
Sunday School:
Nursery - 8 a.m.
Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m.
Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Sundays
Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

HOLY CROSS EPISCO-PAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holycrossnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
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BUSINESS

Discount Paper owner opens new gun store, aims to please

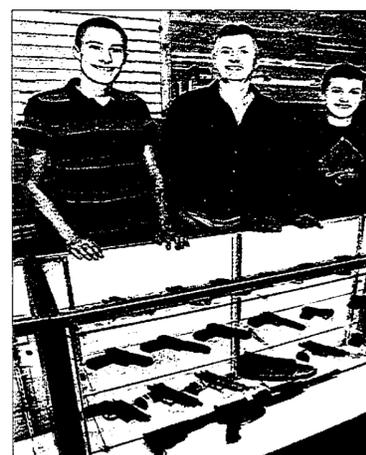
By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

True to its name, Huron Valley Guns offers a wide selection of firearms and ammunition — but when the shop opened its doors last Saturday, people saw there are plenty of other items sharing space on its shelves and racks. “The idea started off as just a gun shop, but slowly grew,” said owner Ed Swadish, who also owns Discount Paper in Novi. He has expanded his merchandise to include hunting and camping supplies, bow hunting equipment, deer cameras, slingshots, game processing kits, Tasers, paint ball kits, targets, books and magazines on the military and hunting, and more.

Swadish likens the store to “Gander Mountain without the clothes.” “This is all the same stuff me and the boys have been buying for years,” he said, referencing his sons, Spence, 20, and Nick, 15. Both are avid hunters and shooters. Swadish noted, and will be working at the store. Locating Huron Valley Guns in Milford — Swadish’s hometown — fills a niche in the area, he said. Interest is growing for firearms, he said, not only for hunting but also for personal protection. “There’s really a lot of gun people in Milford, and there’s nothing (else) close by where you can buy all this stuff. And if you’re on your way to the shooting range (at Island Lake State Recreation Area), for instance, it’s nice to be able to run into the store get a pack of bullets without waiting in line at Walmart,” he said.

Swadish noted that his store will have “extremely competitive pricing,” and customer service will be unlike what most people expect at a typical gun shop. “We have a different approach — a lot more friendly and much more customer service-oriented,” he said. Salesman Jim Carter, a pistol instructor, competitive shooter and pistol range safety officer, will be holding training sessions as part of the store’s commitment to offer firearms education to the public. For many, it will be a supplement to the instruction they’ve already received from the National Rifle Association, he said, while for others it will be a way to break bad habits they acquired as kids “playing guns.” Carter said the saying “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people,” definitely rings true. “If you learn the proper way to handle a firearm, they aren’t dangerous,” he said. “It’s like gasoline. It’s not dangerous if it’s handled properly.” Swadish agrees. “It’s not the gun, it’s the person who has it (that can be the problem). Responsible people are responsible with guns. If people want (a weapon) and don’t have a gun, they can pick up a tire iron or something else. You really can’t blame the gun,” he said. Everyone who wants to purchase a firearm must complete a request form which is run through the FBI database, sometimes while the customer waits. A permit from the police department is also required for handguns. “There are good checks

in place,” Carter noted, explaining he and the rest of the staff are “trained to pick up on people” who want a firearm for illegal purposes. “And if we any questions come up during the background check, the sale doesn’t go through,” Carter said. Swadish said he loves the Milford community and is very excited the store is finally coming together as he expected. Folks are anxiously anticipating Huron Valley Guns opening, he said, with some 50 people stopping by every day or peering in the windows. “I had a lot of drawings



Ed Swadish (center) owner of Huron Valley Guns, poses with his sons Spence and Nick at his new Milford store, which opened last Saturday.

and plans for this, and to watch it happening is kind of cool,” he said. Having a store that reflects one of his favorite hobbies adds to the thrill, he noted. “It’s a lot of fun shooting at targets or things flying in the air,” he said, smiling. “It really is.” Find Huron Valley Guns at 143 S. Milford Road, in the former Farmer Jack Plaza. Phone (248) 714-6173. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. awingblad@hometownlife.com | (248) 685-1507, Ext. 251

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Retail sales show continued strength

Retail sales showed continued strength across Michigan in May, according to the Michigan Retail Index, a joint project of Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The 100-point Index rose more than nine points to 61.9, the highest level since January’s 63.8. Michigan retailers’ three-month forecasts also rose, by more than eight points to 77.5, also best since January’s 78.0. “The results were stronger than expected, given a small rise in the state and national unemployment rates and falling retail sales across the nation in April and May,” said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan. “Michigan consumers appeared more resilient as our state continued its comeback from longer and more severe economic problems than those in other states.” The Michigan Retail Index for May found that 56 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 23 percent recorded declines and 21 percent saw no change. The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 61.9, up from 61.0 in April. A year ago May it was 53.5. The Index gauges the performance of the state’s overall retail industry, based on monthly surveys conducted by MRA and the Federal Reserve. Index values above 50 generally indicate positive activity; the higher the number, the stronger the activity. Looking forward, 66 percent of retailers expect sales during June-August to increase over the same period last year, while 11 percent project a decrease and 23 percent no change. That puts the seasonally adjusted outlook index at 77.5, up from 69.2 in April. A year ago May it was 60.5. National retail sales declined 0.2 percent in both May and April, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

Oakland County business leaders endorse 25 X 2025 ballot initiative

The Michigan Energy Michigan Jobs campaign has announced the support of more than 120 business leaders from across the state who are backing the proposal to create jobs and stimulate the economy, including the following local businesses: • Alan Croll; Cogeneration Consultants; Walled Lake • Mark Haggerty; Michigan Solar & Wind Power Solutions; Commerce • Anand Gangadharan; NOVI Energy; Novi • Marc Russell; Russell Design, Inc.; Northville • Prasad Gullapalli; SRI Energy, LLC; Novi These business leaders represent both large and small area companies. Adam Duke, president of Go Green Energy Consulting in Southfield, said he supports increasing Michigan’s renewable energy standard because it will make Michigan more competitive in today’s energy economy. Increasing Michigan’s renewable energy standard will also encourage young entrepreneurs and innovators to stay in Michigan, leveraging the state’s manufacturing and research base to compete in today’s energy economy.

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 services 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, July 11, 9-11 a.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required. **Business Research: Feasibility to Expansion** Are you thinking of starting your own business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to benchmark your profit margin and other measures against similar size businesses in your industry? Do you want to know about market trends and opportunities to grow your sales? Are you looking for new customers or to diversify your market base? Business Research will show you ways to find your ideal customers, find your competitors, perform competitive analysis and more. Presented by Oakland County’s Business Center, Market Research Division and an Oakland County Public Library business reference librarian. Thursday, July 12, 9 a.m.-noon. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required. **5 Keys to Achieving Fiscal Fitness** Fiscal management tools for the non-financial manager. This workshop provides the business owner an in-depth look at the essentials of using financial information to make effective decisions about improving their business performance. Topics include Ways to improve your company’s cash flow, How to use the balance sheet and income statement to diagnose business problems and opportunities, how breakeven analysis helps you make better pricing and business decisions and How to insure you have enough working capital to support growth. Wednesday, July 18, 8 a.m.-noon. The fee is \$25 per person. **Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan** This is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. 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, July 19, 9 a.m.-noon. Fee: \$40 per person. No refunds.

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Metropark connector brings trails together

By Christopher Nagy
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

For walkers, cyclists and inline skaters, a single mile goes a long way.

At Kensington Metropark, a single mile has opened up a stretch of nonmotorized pathways that extend beyond 40 miles when all the factors are combined into the equation — running from the village of Milford into two parks in Livingston County and back out to a trail system that leads to the municipal sidewalk systems in downtown Wixom and South Lyon.

The 1.02-mile connector at the metropark links the 8.5-mile paved loop at Kensington with the Milford Kensington Trail, which roughly follows Milford and Martindale roads north.

"That takes you all the way up into the village of Milford," explained Kim Jarvis, western district parks manager for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, which includes Kensington Metropark. "It ends at the YMCA, but you can get on that in Milford and ride all the way into Kensington."

The simple connector, which was started last year and opened officially May 30, allows bikers and walkers a path that runs from the village into Kensington's loop at the Dairy Queen on Milford Road.

"It's a nice part of the trail. It goes through some nice scenic areas. There are a lot of people who are already utilizing that part of



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Naggie of South Lyon takes a walk on the Kensington path on a recent afternoon. The metropark's newest one-mile path off the Milford Road entrance connects the Milford Trail to the park, as well as paths to Wixom and South Lyon.

the trail," Jarvis said. "Once the (Milford Kensington Trail) was built, we wanted a way for people to be able to get into the park without having to ride on the road."

Milford connection

The Milford Kensington Trail opened exactly three years to the day — May 30, 2009 — before Kensington's connector was christened, according to Don Green, supervisor for Milford Township. It includes roughly three miles through township land and about 0.75 miles through the village of Milford.

"We had been working on getting this done for about 14 years. It took a long time," Green explained, noting that lease agreements with the village and Metropark as well as securing grants took time to put in place. Yet the patience has paid off for the public, Green added.

"It's used very heavily. I had to put in an extra parking lot to handle the overflow traffic. Now, I have to put in another one," he said. "I've had people from Rochester come down, people from Southfield come down just to use it. It's just a beautiful, scenic walk

or bicycle ride." The township's portion starts out near the Huron River dam just outside the village limits, heads west to Martindale Road, crosses General Motors Road and travels into the Kensington Metropark property.

"It ends right at Dairy Queen — to make up for all that energy that was expended, and to get you ready for the three miles back," Green joked.

As a bonus, it's also a cost-effective way to visit the metropark. Driving in requires a \$5 vehicle-entry fee. Walkers and cyclists can glide past the toll

of the township."

Going beyond Kensington

Still, the appeal of the 1.02-mile connector at Kensington Metropark extends well beyond the park's borders. It gives bikers and walkers opportunities to spend hours and hours of recreational time isolated from cars and trucks.

In addition to the new connector, Kensington's 8.5-mile loop also links to about four miles of a linear paved trail at the Island Lake Recreation Area in Green Oak Township. The tie-in between the two parks links under Interstate 96 near Kent Lake Road, adding about another eight miles of a there-and-back trip with Island Lake.

In addition, Island Lake's system hooks up with the Huron Valley Trail, which runs parallel to I-96 to just east of Milford Road, where it splits at a T. The northern route takes walkers and riders to Pontiac Trail, where it attaches to the sidewalk system in Wixom.

The southern trail tracks into the sidewalk system in South Lyon. Taken altogether, the full trail provides more than 40 miles of riding or walking — running from the village of Milford, into Milford Township, into Kensington Metropark, into the Island Lake Recreation Area, along I-96 and into Wixom and South Lyon.

"The residents just love it," he said. "They'd like to have more access to portions

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Guest chef



Jeff Evans, from Steve & Rocky's restaurant in Novi, did a chef demo on July 16 at the Farmers Market, hosted weekly by the Novi Chamber of Commerce at Furst Park (southeast corner of 10 Mile and Tart roads). Renee Chodkowski, of The Great Foodini, will be guest chef this Saturday.

Wish You Were Here



Will Siembor took the Novi News on his annual extreme day hike adventure. This year it was a 12-hour hike to/from the top of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. "The photo was taken the afternoon of May 23 just before our group climbed the steep slope behind me with the assistance of a professional guide," he said. "The outline of Half Dome may seem familiar - as it should be - it's the logo printed on every North Face product! As usual, I was proud to take a piece of Novi with me to the top!"



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nathan Pall, 4, tries out a form of transfer block printing during the June 6 "Art 101 Experience" at Novi Library. The morning activity, which was attended by about 30 pre-schoolers and their parents, was meant to introduce kids to a variety of art styles including sculpture, collage and painting.



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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On a beautiful, warm but not too hot day, Evan Blanchard hits tennis balls at the courts at Novi High. Blanchard visited the courts along 10 Mile on June 25.

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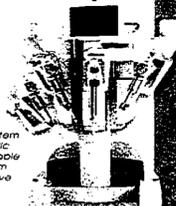


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Northville's Weber kicks through the competition

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Northville senior forward Mallory Weber has been a threat to local soccer teams for years, but she outdid herself this spring. Behind an astounding 28 goals and 19 assists, this Dream Team and three-time All-State First-Teamer blew through the competition while helping the Mustangs finish the regular season ranked No. 1 in Division I. In the process, she earned the All-Area Player of the Year honor.

"Mal was our team leader on and off the field," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "She was recognized for her yearly and high school career achievements by both her peers, her opposing coaches and her competitors."

Weber is a two-time team MVP and won the Northville High School Female Athlete of the Year award this year while also earning Michigan Miss Soccer and Gatorade Michigan Player of the Year consideration. The three-time scholar athlete will take her talents to Penn State University's squad in the fall.

ALL-AREA SOCCER

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Mallory Weber, Northville

FIRST TEAM
Natalie Krygier, Novi
Megan Buckingham, Northville
Jamie Cheslik, Northville
Kelli Timar, Novi
Sam Pavlika, Novi
Emily Bush, Northville
Kiki Hilmer, Northville
Kaylin Hoomaian, Novi
Andrea Pesch, South Lyon
Lauren Stancato, South Lyon
Megan Kalanik, Lakeland

SECOND TEAM
Jessica Jarvis, Novi
Morgan Kroezen, Lakeland
Jacqui Kozlowski, Novi
Katie Rudzinski, Novi
Mary Jacobs, Lakeland
Rachel Hay, South Lyon
Sam Cook, South Lyon East
Lora Palushaj, South Lyon East
Rachel Jankowiak, South Lyon East
Lauren Webster, South Lyon East
Heather Emke, South Lyon East

HONORABLE MENTION
Lakeland - Lexi Walker (Sr. CM)
Novi - Kendall Kramer (So. F), Taylor Pavlika (So. M)
South Lyon - Courtney Horaney (Jr. FIGK)



Mallory Weber's point-blank shot is stopped by Plymouth's goalie. Weber still scores the top spot on the 2012 All-Area Soccer Team.

Weber ends high school career in style

Northville standout soccer player earns recognition across the board

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

"Natalie is very smooth with the ball, she is difficult to dispossess once she has the ball at her feet," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "She also is a great passer, with both feet on short distance and playing balls deep over the defense. She also has the ability to shoot from distance with either foot."

Megan Buckingham
(Northville So. MF)
With the offensive end

on it or the shimmering from all those plaques and trophies would be blinding.

Weber, who will be headed to Penn State to play forward for the Nittany Lions at the end of the summer, has been a household name for Michigan high school soccer fans for quite some time. And why not? The Mustangs' standout has earned a ton of recognition from her coaches, her teammates, her opponents and her peers. Foes adjust their defense to account for her. Coaches assign their best player — or two — to simply shade

her for the entire contest and then shake her hand after the game when she bests their defensive strategy.

The accolades alone speak for the player Weber is: Three-time selections to the All-State First-Team, the KLA A All-Conference squad, the All-Area team and a three-time KLA A Scholar Athlete. She's been All-District, All-Region and was named to the 2012 All-State Dream Team. She's been a team captain twice, voted by her fellow Mus-

Please see ALL-AREA, B3

Please see WEBER, B4



Mustang pitcher Matt Stojkov pitches in a home game against Canton.

Stojkov, Regnier and West team earn win in All-Star game

Northville and Novi standouts help dominate in victory over East team

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It was strange to see when the East and West Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star rosters were announced: Northville and Novi were chosen to play for the West.

One didn't have to look long at a map to get confused as to why the line that separated the east side of Michigan with the West was drawn

through northern Metro Detroit. But for Northville's Matt Stojkov and Novi's Logan Regnier, that decision ended up being just fine.

Last Tuesday at Comerica Park, the best graduating seniors in high school baseball throughout the state met up for the 31st Annual East-West All-Star game. It wasn't much of a game, however, as the West put up a dominating performance to earn a 16-6 victory.

Three players from Metro Detroit ended up on the West squad with Stojkov, Regnier and Walled Lake Central's Zac Leimbach all representing the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. Other players from the West team hailed from Mt. Pleasant and Kalamazoo, among other locations.

Stojkov had a standout performance as he pitched two

Please see BASEBALL, B4

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Novi's Pavlika throws to the top

By Jeff Theisen
Staff Writer

Novi girls track and field totalled 30 points to place seventh with 30 points at the Division 1 State Finals. Thrower Sam Pavlika was responsible for 15 of those points with a State Title in the shot put with a launch of 40-0 and a fourth-place finish in the discus (115-7).

The senior was regional champion, conference champion, All-County and won the State Title in the shot put. She also won the KLAA title in the shot put with a heave of 38-8.25.

Pavlika is the 2012 All-Area Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

"Great competitor, won the state meet in the shot put and was fourth in the discus," said coach Marsha Reid.

First team

Rachel Barrett, Milford
The Maverick sophomore reached the podium at the State Finals with an eighth-place finish in the 1,600 in 4:57.8 to set a new school record. Barrett was also regional champ in the 1,600 and KLA Lakes Conference champion in the 1,600 and 3,200. She also helped the 4x400 team qualify for state.

"Rachel had an outstanding season this year," said coach Andy Hinckla. "She was our leader on the track and her level of performance this year as a sophomore was truly inspiring to everyone that was able to witness her races."

Reighan Fisher, Lakeland

The Eagle junior earned All-State honors with an eighth-place finish in the 800 meters at the Division 1 State Finals, finishing in 2:13.5. She was the regional champion in the same event, second at

ALL-AREA GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Sam Pavlika, Novi

FIRST TEAM

Rachel Barrett, Milford
Reighan Fisher, Lakeland
Alex Moynes, Northville
Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland
Jasmine Ward, Novi
Kerri McMahan, Novi
Kelly McCloskey, Novi
Janee Hood, Novi
D'Mya Davis, Novi
Mariah Smith, Novi
Rhiannon Pavlinac, South Lyon East
Brady Covert, South Lyon

SECOND TEAM

Lauren Rodriguez, Northville
Alexa Abbott, Northville
Lina Davis, Novi
Jackie Mullins, Novi
Carlie Fernandez, South Lyon
Abby Sigler, South Lyon
Madison Swiatowski, South Lyon

Melanie Sprinkle, South Lyon
Siemiantkowski, Milford
Whitney Mergens, Milford
Daniella Allen, Milford
Taylor Bridgewater, Lakeland

HONORABLE MENTION

Milford: Taryn Rogers (jr), Claire Slaughter (sr), Kat Slaughter (jr), Meg Stando (sr), Hannah Wikaryasz (sr)
Northville: Gracie Goble (fr), Rachel Coleman (so)
Novi: Karla Ayala-Talaveraz (sr), Collin Berenguer (jr), McKenna Burr (jr)
South Lyon: Christina Swain (sr), Miranda Spencer (sr), Jessica Fredericks (so), Katie Beaber (jr)
South Lyon East: Solana Gillis (jr)
Lakeland: Lena Tiedeman (fr), Jessica Erickson (fr)

the KLA Lakes Conference meet in the 400 and third in the 400 at Oakland County with a 58.3. Her 800 and 400 times are school records. She also helped the 4x200 team qualify for states.

"Reighan is as dedicated as any runner I have coached in 40 years," said coach John Kababik. "She is a fierce competitor who also is one of the most caring and friendly persons in all her relationships with teammates and opponents."

Alex Moynes, Northville
The Mustang senior cleared 5-4 at the Division 1 State Finals to claim fourth place and All-State honors. She set a school record by clearing 5-5.25 this year and also competed in throws. She finished second in the high jump with another 5-4 leap at the KLA Lakes championships.

Taylor Pavlika, Novi
The sophomore is the

younger sister of Sam and also a top-notch thrower. She placed fifth at the State Finals in the discus (115-7), one spot behind her sister. Along the way, she earned All-Region, All-County, All-County and All-State honors.

"As only a sophomore she showed great leadership and commitment," said Reid. "Stepped up when needed."

Jasmine Ward, Novi
The senior sprinter earned All-State honors on both the 4x100 (3rd-48.66) and 4x400 (6th-4:01.4) teams at the State Finals. Ward earned All-Region, All-County, All-County and All-State honors.

"Senior captain and leader of this area," said Reid. "Constantly called upon for the relays."

Kerri McMahan, Novi
The sophomore Wildcat showed tremendous versatility in a pair of All-State performances.



Novi goalie Sam Pavlika makes a punch-save against Northville. She also starred on the track and field squad, winning a State Title in the shot put. She is the 2012 All-Area Track Athlete of the Year.

She tied for eighth in the high jump (5-4) and was part of the 4x400 to finish sixth at state. McMahan earned All-Region, All-County and All-State honors.

"As only a sophomore she showed great leadership," said Reid. "Regional champion in the high jump."

Kelly McCloskey, Novi
The senior also turned in a pair of All-State performances by grabbing seventh in the 300 hurdles (46.73) and was part of the 4x400 to place sixth. McCloskey earned All-Region, All-County and All-State honors. "Came back from injury for a good part of the season to be all of the above in the 300 hurdles," said Reid.

Janee Hood, Novi
The Wildcat junior returned to the podium at the State Finals with a third-place showing in the 4x100. She earned All-Region, All-County and All-State honors.

"As a junior helped win the 4x100 last year and was third this year at the state," said Reid.

D'Mya Davis, Novi
The junior was part of the 4x100 team to finish third and also qualified for the 100 meters at the State Finals.

Davis earned All-Region, All-County and All-State honors.

Mariah Smith, Novi
The senior captain helped the 4x100 team to a third-place finish at the State Finals. She racked up All-Region, All-County and All-State honors in her final year as a Wildcat. "Hardest worker on the 4 x 100 team. Always leads by example," said Reid.

Rhiannon Pavlinac, South Lyon East
The Cougar junior earned Division 2 All-State honors with a chunk of 113-2 at the finals. She was third at regionals and seventh at the KLA Lakes Conference meet. She also compet-

ed on the 4x100 and 4x400 relays as well as the long jump.

Abby Sigler, South Lyon
The junior captain helped the 4x200 team win a regional title and qualify for states. She showed versatility throughout the year, competing in the 100, 200 and 400 meters as well as relays. Sigler finished second on the team in points earned.

Madison Swiatowski, South Lyon
The freshman Lion also helped the 4x200 team qualify for states. She competed in everything from sprints to the mile. She was third in the 400 at regionals.

Melanie Sprinkle, South Lyon
The sophomore was another part of the extremely young 4x200 team that won the regional title. She competed in sprints and the long jump.

Megan Siemiantkowski, Milford
The junior qualified for the State Finals and had a season-best jump of 10-0. She also competed on the 4x100 relay for the Mavs.

Whitney Mergens, Milford
The Milford freshman qualified for the State Finals and had a season-best leap of 5-4 in the high jump. Mergens also reached the State Finals in the long jump. She won the conference title in the high jump.

Daniella Allen, Milford
The sophomore led the Mavs in the sprints and helped the 4x400 team qualify for the Division 1 State Finals. She had a season-best time of 12.7 in the 100 and 26.6 in the 200.

Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland
The Eagle senior capped off her high school career with a third trip to the State Finals in the 800. She had a best time of 2:17.7 in the 800.

Jessie Erickson, Milford
The sophomore finished strong with a fifth-place finish at the Division 1 State Finals by clearing 5-4 in the high jump. She set a new school record with a 5-5 jump. She was the regional champ and Trojan Relays champ. Covert led the Lions in points scored.

"Runs both hurdles and qualified in Oakland County Championships in the 300 LH," said coach Rance Teeple. "Has run on a couple of relays (4x400 and 4x200). Brady gave track and field a try during one of our clinics and then continued in the high jump under the mentor of coach Sonita Harris right through high school."

Lauren Rodriguez, Northville
The Mustang freshman qualified for the Division 1 State Finals in both the 100 and 300 hurdles. She was the only freshman to qualify for the 100 hurdles.

Alexa Abbott, Northville
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jtheisen@gannett.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 228

ALL-AREA

Continued from page B1

of the midfield flowing through Northville sophomore Megan Buckingham, the young Mustang earned second-team All-State honors while generating 15 goals and eight assists. Like her playmate, Buckingham earned a Gatorade Michigan Player of the Year nomination. She verbally committed to play at University of North Carolina in fall 2014.

"Megan organized our midfield," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "She brought control and patience to our transition game. She scored the game-winning goal to knock the defending champs, Novi, out of the playoffs."

Jamie Cheslik (Northville So. F)
She tied for most assists on her team with 19 and was second in goals with 19, but Northville sophomore forward Jamie Cheslik earned second-team All-State honors as part of a lethal Mustangs offensive line.

"Jamie was the second leading scorer on Northville behind freshman Tamar Mallory Weber," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "Her 19 assists were best on the team. Jamie used her speed and fantastic foot skills to generate scoring opportunities not only for herself but for her teammates as well."

Kelli Timar (Novi Sr. M)
After losing several key All-State athletes from back-to-back Division I championship squads, the future of Novi's team was safe this spring as senior midfielder Kelli Timar returned to orchestrate the midfield. Moving to defensive center mid this season, the second-team All-State star played a different role, but was a key player in most of the Wildcats' games, still managing five goals and one assist. She finished a four-year varsity career with 20 goals and 27 assists while helping the team to the two state titles and a 71-9 record during her tenure. With a 3.9 grade point average, she will be following in her sister's footsteps by playing for Michigan State University in the fall.

"Kelli has done so much for us in her four years," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "She has scored many clutch goals during the state tournament, including five game winners in four years of state tournament play. She can play any role on the team, including attacking center mid, holding center mid or she can match up against the other team's best mid and play a shut-down role. She is a complete player that does everything well."

Sam Pavlika (Novi Sr. GK)
Transferring to Novi from Temperance Bedford, senior Sam Pavlika had no problem stepping in for a two-time defending state championship team. Allowing just nine goals in 19 games, Pavlika had 12 shutouts, a 0.47 goals against average and earned third-team All-State honors while balancing a track and field career that earned her a shot put state title. She will play soccer for Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne next fall.

"Sam had an outstanding senior year, she had the rare quality of being able to win us some games (or preserve ties) by coming up with multiple clutch saves toward the end of games," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "Without Sam, our record never would have been 11-3-5."

Emily Bush (Northville Jr. F)
Feeding off her teammates, junior forward Jessica Jarvis had an engine that kept

front line, converting 16 goals and five assists while earning All-State honorable mention. She has verbally committed to play at Grand Valley State University in fall 2013.

"Emily was the third leading scorer on our team with 16 goals," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "Her ability to find space for clean header in the opposing box made her a scoring threat on corners and deep crosses."

Kiki Hilmer (Northville Jr.)
An All-District standout, junior goalkeeper Kiki Hilmer was a big reason why Northville was ranked No. 1 in Division I throughout much of the year en route to a KLA title. She allowed 12 goals in 18 games while posting 12 shutouts. She has verbally committed to playing at the University of Rhode Island in 2013.

"Kiki helped to post a 2-0-1 record for Northville, All-District and defending state champs Novi in which two of those were shutouts," Northville coach Eric Brucker said. "She is 18 shutouts away from being the all-time shutout leader for Northville."

Kaylin Hoomaiah (Novi Jr. D)
Novi junior Kaylin Hoomaiah has plenty to look forward to. The All-District defender has a 3.94 grade point average and scored on nine times in 19 games.

Mary Jacobs (Lakeland Sr. D)
Known as a sliding specialist among her teammates, White Lake Lakeland senior defender Mary Jacobs earned All-District honors while captaining the Eagles with calm transitional play under pressure.

Rachel Hay (South Lyon Jr. D)
Just as her team's Defensive MVP, South Lyon junior Rachel Hay was the only returning defender for the Lions and consequently played nearly every minute of their season. She also managed to score twice and set up two assists from the back line while earning All-District honors.

Sam Cook (South Lyon East Jr. GK)
It was sometimes like she was facing a firing squad, but South Lyon East junior netminder saved 186 of 225 shots (82.7 percent) taken on her this season. Although she allowed 39 goals, largely due to Division I ranked teams on the schedule, Cook also mustered eight shutouts.

Laura Palushaj (South Lyon East Sr. M)
Junior midfielder Laura Palushaj held the South Lyon East offense together. Her positioning and passing skills kept the Cougars in games as she notched five goals and eight assists this spring.

Lauren Webster (South Lyon East So. D)
Defending against some of the top players in the state from Northville and Novi, sophomore defender Lauren Webster was able to use her speed to chase them down and keep South Lyon East in the game.

Heather Emke (South Lyon East So. M/F)
A young spark for the Cougars, sophomore midfielder/forward Heather Emke racked up 10 goals and three assists to give the South Lyon East program a few more victories this season than in those past.

Jessica Jarvis (Novi Sr. F)
Her offensive production wasn't what it was last year, but Novi senior forward Jessica Jarvis had an engine that kept

on going, powering Novi's offense forward with five goals and three assists. With a 4.0 grade point average and 60-5-9 record in her three years on varsity, not to mention 24 goals and 14 assists, this All-District Wildcat was voted the hardest working player on the team by her teammates for the second-straight year. She'll take her talents to Bowling Green University in the fall.

Morgan Kroezen (Lakeland Jr. CM)
An All-District center midfielder, White Lake Lakeland junior Morgan Kroezen was the Eagles' leading scorer with eight goals and seven assists thanks to strong midfield vision and set pieces pairing with her focused first touch.

Jacqui Kozlowski (Novi So. D)
Stepping into a major defensive role, Novi sophomore Jacqui Kozlowski answered the call and helped anchor the Wildcat defense. The Cats allowed just nine goals in 19 games this spring, and six through the 18 regular season contests.

Katie Rudzinski (Novi Sr. D)
A leader on the strong defensive line of the Wildcats, Novi senior Katie Rudzinski was also a vital piece to the offense, making runs up the side and sending balls into the box off set pieces. She was a major reason Novi was only scored on nine times in 19 games.

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Northville grad Sorensen retires from baseball

After five years, former pitching ace heads to law school

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Mark Sorensen told himself as he worked his way up through the high school ranks at Northville and into college at Michigan State University that he would keep playing baseball as long as there was progress toward the ultimate goal of playing in the Majors.

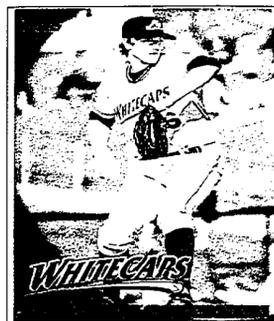
Last month, after having a few tough starts against some top-quality opponents in the Detroit Tigers minor league system, Sorensen decided it was time to call it quits. He spent five years playing professional baseball after being drafted by Detroit in the 32nd round in 2008.

"I have always told myself that I would keep playing as long as I was moving up the ladder, toward the ultimate goal of making it to the big leagues," said Sorensen. "This year it seemed like I had stopped making progress and that my window of opportunity to make it to Detroit had passed."

Throughout his career that found him playing for the Oneonta Tigers, the West Michigan WhiteCaps, the Lakeland Flying Tigers and the Erie Seawolves, Sorensen went 33-33, playing in 95 games and collecting a 4.6 ERA. He finished with 502.1 innings pitched, striking out 313 batters while earning a 1.407 WHIP.

"Playing professional baseball was a great opportunity, and one that I never took for granted," said Sorensen, who is the son of former MLB All-Star Larry Sorensen. "I was lucky to get paid to play a game that I love. I was able to travel around the country, play in some great ballparks, and meet a lot of talented people. I made a good run at it and I am glad that I did. The whole Detroit Tigers organization is first class and I can't thank them enough for giving me a chance."

While Sorensen has a lot of great memories from his time in the organization — like seven wins in a row as a starting pitcher for the WhiteCaps —



Former Northville Mustang Mark Sorensen is retiring from baseball.

one memory in particular will always stand to the forefront. Sorensen said his favorite memory was the day he heard his name called in the draft.

"To hear your name called and know that you are going to get a chance to play professional baseball is an incredible feeling," he said. "I was lucky to be able to celebrate with family and friends and it's a day that I will never forget."

Sorensen left baseball with a solid plan in place. The Michigan State University graduate took the LSAT exam last winter while prepping for the upcoming baseball season and passed. He'll be attending law school in the fall in New York.

"Obviously you can't play baseball forever and I did not want to be stuck with nothing to look forward to once I was finished," he said. "I'm looking forward to the new challenge and seeing what life is like in the city."

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REAL ESTATE

Northville Pom Pon brings home numerous awards

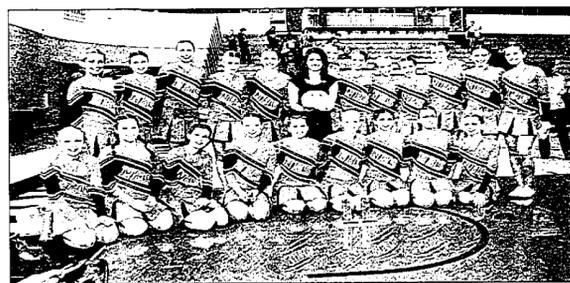
The Northville varsity and JV pom pon teams recently attended Mid-American pom camp at Davenport University in Grand Rapids from June 20-24.

This year it was Northville varsity captain Leigh Fitzpatrick who earned the highest individual award, "Smile, Sparkle and Shine" from the group of over 300 pommers in attendance. This highly coveted award is awarded each year to one pommer as the best overall individual, based on teamwork, pom technique and leadership.

In addition to Fitzpatrick, captains Elizabeth Boshoven and Alex Dimitrievski led the varsity pom team to the coveted Grand Champion Award. The team earned excellent ratings in the original routine, speed learning and high kick categories to achieve this distinguished award. Varsity had a record high camp score for Northville pom of 97.5 out of 100 on their original routine.

Northville's JV pom pon team brought home the Peppy Pom award for showing the most enthusiasm and spirit of any JV team at camp. JV additionally received an excellent in the categories of original routine and high kick.

The 2012-13 varsity team



members include: Taylor Bastianelli, Elizabeth Boshoven, Chandler Brown, Megan Carroll, Amber Carson, Susie Crawford, Alexandra Dimitrievski, Alexandra DiTommaso, Anna Fillar, Leigh Fitzpatrick, Ally Green, Emily Herring, Maddy Holloway, Faith Horbach, Isabel Inchaustegui, Taylor Jones, Mikenna Jones, Marissa Loszer, Liz Maier, Briquet

Michaela, Emily Mikels, Carley Olender, Tatiana Ray, Nicole Rister, Hannah Smith, Samantha Sneed, Torrey Tassic, Jocelyn Tucker, Vivian Zhong, Ashley Oleszkowicz is the new head coach for Northville varsity.

JV team members pictured are: Mia Chiesa, Katherine Chiesa, Isabella Corsi, Anny Dazy, Maria Demos, Bianca Dimitrievski, Nicole Dufault, Lauren Heiser,

Olivia Hoffman, Marla Halboth, Hannah Karam, Gabby Kwansy, Julia Rosinski, Megan Schoenberger, Lauren Scott, Leah Tappan, Abbey Tassic, Amanda Valle, Quinn Van Riper, Bailey Vollmar, Calista Zbiegeln. JV is coached by head coach Malory Mossolan.

For more information regarding Northville Pom Pon please visit: <http://northvillepompon.webs.com>.

WEBER

Continued from page B1

tangs as the best forward on the squad four years in a row and team MVP three times. She is a MFHSSA Scholar Athlete, Northville High School's Female Athlete of the Year and a Gatorade Michigan Player of the Year nominee. She was also in the running for Miss Soccer this year.

But what says the most about Weber, who also played varsity basketball for Northville, isn't the staggering amount of awards she's earned or the way opponents react to having her on the field against them. It's the way none of it has gone to her head.

"Mallory is a great example of trying to do the most for her team — every game, all 80 minutes," said Northville coach Eric Brucker. "The players around her feed off her energy."

He said she's never let the drive to succeed personally overcome her desire to do what's best for her teammates.

"For all the accolades, she is still a better person than a player," Brucker said in Weber's All-Area nomination this year.

Weber started playing soccer when she was seven years old. She said she was drawn to the sport because she liked to run and because of the competitive nature of the game.

To an extent, that competitive part of soccer is what has kept her going so strong even in this day.

"My favorite part of the game today is figuring out how to score goals at the highest level and against the best defenders," she said. "It keeps the game exciting and

it's what makes it fun for me."

Her desire to challenge herself brought her to the always-competitive club team, the Michigan Hawks. There she joined up with many of the state's best players in her age group and pushed herself to be the absolute best she could be — something that paid off just recently as Weber experienced her favorite moment in all of her career.

"My best memory so far just happened yesterday," she said July 1. "My club team, Michigan Hawks, won the ECNL National Championship. I scored a hat trick in the national final and it was the best way to end my season before we all went off to college!"

In addition to the Hawks, Weber has also been a part of the Regional Olympic Development Program for three years. Weber is the kind of player others can look up to and strive to be like, and she realizes that. It's one of the reasons she's always worked so hard and suggests that other players who hope to have an impact on their team do the same.

"Make sure that you always have goals and aspirations that you are working toward because it helps keep you motivated every day," she said.

"You should try to work harder than everyone around you because not only does it help you, but that will push the other to be better as well, especially your own team."

But the most important piece of advice Weber could give, and one she'll most definitely take with her to Pennsylvania?

"Make sure you always have fun with whatever you are doing," she said.

BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

innings of the game, giving up three hits while striking out two batters. Regnier and Leimbach each added to the West's 18 hits. Regnier went 1-for-4 and scored a run while Leimbach had a RBI single.

The East squad managed 10 hits in the contest as well as they jumped out to a 4-2 lead in the top of the third inning. That lead only lasted as long as it took for the West to get back to the plate in the bottom of the inning where they scored five times and then again

in the fourth for an 8-4 advantage.

The East picked up two more runs in the fifth to cut the lead to 8-6 but the West cranked out seven hits and scored eight times in the sixth for a 16-6 win.

The West has won three of the last four games and has averaged 13 runs in its three victories.

Starting pitchers in the game were Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett senior Alex Dart (16-1 in 2012 with a 0.50 ERA) for the East and Holt High's Justin Allemann (8-0, 0.40 ERA) for the West. The two were named Co-MR. Baseball prior to the game.

Report: Realtor incomes beginning to climb

By Julie Brown
Q&E Staff Writer

Making a living in real estate got challenging in metro Detroit these past few years. The 2012 National Association of Realtors Member Profile showed, however, that Realtor income/business is growing after years of decline.

The median income reported was \$34,900, a 2.3 percent gain, the first overall gain in nine years. Realtors with experience who have lived through the cyclical nature of the real estate market tend to do more, according to the NAR. Those who've been in the business 16 years or more reported a median income of \$50,200. Realtors working 60 hours a week or more earned \$80,900, and 17 percent of NAR members earned a six-figure income.

Repeat business accounted for a median 19 percent of real estate activity in 2011 and is higher for those

with more experience — for NAR members with 16 years or more in the business, the number rises to 38 percent. Phyllis Pultry is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel in Northville. "I think especially this year there have been some changes. Houses have been selling faster," she said.

"The good houses go fast. The last three I had sold within two to five days." That's true in all price ranges. "I think this year is going to be really good for listing agents. They're going over the list price."

One buyer of hers has been challenged to find a house. "I'm very busy with buyers. I think this year there's a lot of potential for making a lot more money," Pultry said.

She has over 20 years in the real estate field. "It's very, very important to keep in touch with past clients. I have gotten a lot of referrals to cli-



ents' children."

"The prices will take a little while," she said of the current market. "It's certainly helping the neighborhood." People are putting in extra money to make the appraised price.

If a \$600,000 house is appraised at \$550,000, she finds sellers can put in the extra \$50,000 "because they wanted the house. The appraisals are still low and it's going to take awhile for prices to come back up."

Pultry has advice for younger agents starting their careers. "Being thorough, keeping in touch with your clients and having a positive attitude at all times," she said. "You have to know what you're doing, you have to have experience."

"Yes, income is fine," she said. "I would say learn and talk to experienced agents. We have several new people in our office. They're doing open houses for experienced

agents."

Some newer people at her office are doing well, Pultry said. "You have to learn from the experienced agents and always talk to your manager." Her firm has a lot of resources and training for new agents.

"Do what they do. If we have too many listings, we always ask a new person. Hit the experienced agents," Pultry advised.

Tony Schippa is a Coldwell Banker Preferred of Plymouth Realtor and president of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors. He's been in the field since 2001.

"I'm hearing from our membership the market is starting to improve. When they (homes) sell, agents get paid," Schippa said. "Well-established agents 'have definitely weathered the storm. You're just starting to see that activity increase." He finds word of mouth combined with newer avenues like Face-

book help to reach customers. "Your sphere of influence and past clients definitely help you get through this," Schippa said. "It is the referrals from your past clients that keep you afloat."

"You need to write a business plan. You are an independent business," he said. "Try to get your name out," including using social media, he said.

"Do nice communications with your sphere of influence. You should be on your way to being successful. Keep a positive attitude. Try to stay away from negative people."

Schippa remained upbeat through the challenges of recent years in the housing market. "It's just a matter of how you look at it. We can make things happen, and they do happen," he said. "Just work on good communication skills."

jbrown@hometownlife.com

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 26-30, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	755 Stonehenge Dr GARDEN CITY 32911 Florence St 442 Henry Ruff Rd 32624 James St 27706 Buckingham St 8823 Crown St 14055 Denne St 18367 Posh St 3154 Gale St 18636 Gillman St 9031 Harrison St 9658 Harrison St 15055 Hubbard St 37516 Kingsburn Dr 27616 Lyndon St 11111 Lyndon Park Dr 14175 Newburgh Rd 14193 Park St 45936 S Stonewood Rd	\$155,000 \$74,000 \$65,000 \$30,000 \$90,000 \$140,000 \$140,000 \$75,000 \$35,000 \$45,000 \$65,000 \$115,000 \$29,000 \$29,000 \$116,000 \$175,000 \$118,000 \$127,000	36284 Pickford St NORTHVILLE 17848 Briar Ridge Ln 44951 Broadmoor Cir S 16237 Brook Trout Ln 19250 Northridge Cir 15489 Prestwick Ln 39658 Rockcrest Ln 17637 Rolling Woods Cir 28515 Village Run Dr PLYMOUTH 12749 Andover Dr 13406 Andover Dr 13540 Canterbury Ct 40905 Greystone Blvd 157 Hamilton Ave 27216 Lyndon St 8821 Northampton Dr 41678 Riveroaks Dr REDFORD 18261 Centralia	\$144,000 \$737,000 \$368,000 \$135,000 \$68,000 \$94,000 \$111,000 \$485,000 \$196,000 \$280,000 \$240,000 \$402,000 \$275,000 \$169,000 \$215,000 \$185,000 \$13,000	19916 Fox 26511 Glendale 19423 Glenmore 20476 Kinloch 9084 Riverdale WESTLAND 35724 Castlewood Ct 7412 Central St 31738 Conway Dr 1135 Craig Dr 32553 Fernwood St 39185 Hayward Dr 1917 Mel Ct 5862 N Carlson St 29652 Shackett St 34226 Sheridan St 7341 Sorrell St 36105 Traditions Dr 6014 Wilmer St	\$58,000 \$71,000 \$15,000 \$24,000 \$75,000 \$45,000 \$16,000 \$73,000 \$129,000 \$28,000 \$175,000 \$13,000 \$80,000 \$93,000 \$65,000 \$130,000 \$120,000 \$31,000
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HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 12-16, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	1990 Maryland Blvd 301 N Elm St 1005 N Old Woodward Ave 1795 Stanley Blvd BUCKFIELD HILLS 1965 N Hammond Lake Dr 450 Billingsgate Ct 4811 S Chipping Gin 2780 S Telegraph Rd 6458 Thorncrest Dr 631 Windsor Run 6530 Wing Lake Rd COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP 2347 Brigantine	\$230,000 \$55,000 \$112,000 \$573,000 \$115,000 \$65,000 \$53,000 \$450,000 \$319,000 \$340,000 \$256,000 \$225,000	3581 E Commerce Rd 21132 Robinwood St 35591 Tall Pine Rd FARMINGTON HILLS 29838 Club House Ln 33722 Heritage Hills Dr 23004 Montclair St 30750 Springdale St 32273 Tall Timber Dr NOVI 45667 Addington Ln 22425 Alton Ct 44474 Gwinnett Loop 27869 Hopkins Dr 23190 Inverness Ct 24775 Reeds Pointe Dr	\$225,000 \$145,000 \$230,000 \$235,000 \$200,000 \$80,000 \$125,000 \$257,000 \$325,000 \$308,000 \$154,000 \$117,000 \$600,000 \$435,000	22822 Vasilios Ct 22587 Waycroft Dr 28243 Wolcott Dr SOUTH LYON 5495 Brenwood Dr 22542 Lark St 24035 Prescott Ct 23660 Spy Glass Hill SOUTHFIELD 26939 Fairfield Rd 18220 Mount Vernon St 30220 Rock Creek Dr WHITE LAKE 9565 Garforth St 9108 Glasgow Dr	\$258,000 \$259,000 \$84,000 \$286,000 \$345,000 \$61,000 \$405,000 \$115,000 \$78,000 \$39,000 \$42,000 \$74,000
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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 35919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Investors

Michael Jeffreys will speak Thursday, July 12. Sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland 5:30 p.m./9:30 p.m. at Club Venetian, John R just north of 12 Mile, Madison Heights. Seminar free to mem-

bers; \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 247-6742 (www.REIAOakland.com)

Career Seminar

Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee Thursday, July 19, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For more information, contact Mike Workman at (734) 459-4700 or mworkman@kw.com.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have

an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update.

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership.

Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler, (313) 277-4168.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1

p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@edvaluearealty.com or visit Free-Foreclosure4our.com.

On Facebook

REMAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from REMAX experts. The new site is a chance for the public to ASKREMAX and get clear expert answers in real time. Visit www.facebook.com/ASKREMAX.

'Sunshine law' not for condos

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: We have a board that has stayed in power for seven years since we can't get a quorum at the meetings. They do not answer our questions, are not properly maintaining the community, keep hiring their favorite contractors, and do not allow us to go to the meetings of the board. Is there a sunshine law in Michigan? Do we have a right to go to the meetings of the board?

A: I have abbreviated your questions concerning the operation of your association, but what you need is a good association lawyer to pursue the board for what appears to be a breach of their fiduciary duties. There is no "sunshine law" in Michigan.

and the Open Meetings Act does not apply to condominium associations. So, you have no absolute right to attend board meetings.

Nevertheless, the board's fiduciary duties include keeping the co-owners reasonably informed of the administration and operation of the Association. In addition, the Michigan Condominium Act does give co-owners an absolute right to inspect the association's books, records and contracts, and requires the books and records to be audited by independent accountants once a year. What your board is doing or not doing sounds to be improper and you should seek to remove the board in accordance with the bylaws or Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Act.

Q: I am a tenant in a condominium. I understand that the association has insurance with me as a co-insured and therefore, I cannot be sued by the insurer that pays a claim. Is that correct?

A: Yes. In a recent case out of Washington State, a condominium's declaration required the board to obtain and maintain fire insurance in an amount equal to the full insurable replacement value of the building for the benefit of the board and the owners. But after the insurer paid the claim, it sued the tenants, claiming they negligently caused the fire. In that case, the court found for the tenants on the basis that they were co-insureds under the insurance contract and thus were not liable to the insurer on the basis of subrogation. The appellate court in that case held that the law presumes that a tenant is a co-insured on a landlord's insurance policy unless there is an express agreement to the contrary.

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. He also wrote Condo Buying: 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@meisnerlaw.com.

This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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