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NOVI NEWS
A GANNETT COMPANY

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Roadway shooting suspect faces 60 counts in Oakland County

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer



Casteel
District Judge Dennis Powers denied bond on the assault charges, punishable by up to life in prison. Bond was set at \$25,000 for several of the other crimes, including

discharging a weapon from a vehicle and other felony firearms charges.

In his request for bond, attorney Charles Groh said Casteel's family supports him "100 percent," adding that he has no criminal history, is a college graduate and is a stay-at-home father to his 2-year-old child.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Ken Frazee argued that a high bond or no bond was warranted,

calling the shootings "acts of terror."

Casteel was arrested Nov. 5 at his in-laws' home, where he had been living with his wife and daughter since moving from Kentucky five months ago. A task force comprised of more than 100 investigators linked Casteel to the shooting spree that began Oct. 16 in Wixom and Commerce, then spread to Livingston, Shiawassee and Ingham counties.

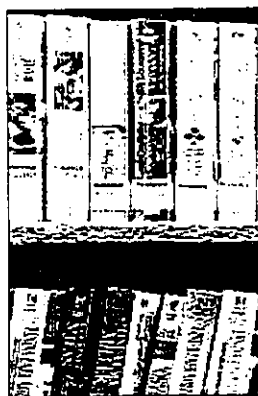
All but one of the 24 reported incidents involved motorists. One driver was hit by the gunfire.

Information provided by a Livingston County witness led investigators to Casteel. A 9mm handgun which has been forensically linked to at least nine of the shootings was confiscated from the home and a shell casing was recovered from the windshield wiper

Please see SHOOTER, A2

Multiple counts of assault with intent to murder are among the 60 felonies Raulie Casteel faces for the series of roadway shootings in Wixom and Commerce Township, following his arraignment Nov. 9 in Novi's 52-1 District Court.

Not guilty pleas were entered on behalf of the 43-year-old Wixom resident, arraigned via video



Fundraiser for Friends of Library

Come out and test drive Varsity Lincoln cars on Monday, Nov. 19 and help raise funds for the Friends of the Novi Public Library. The dealership will donate \$20 per test drive.

There will be 8-10 cars available for each of the test drive sessions. Additionally, a raffle will be held for a chance to win a "Day at the Spa for your Car" detailing package; five packages will be raffled.

Parking will be available in the Novi Public Library lot (45255 W. Ten Mile Road) during the 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. session. Parking for the 3-8 p.m. session will use the Novi High School parking lot, behind the library. Entrance to Novi High School is located off of Taft Road. For more information about this event, please contact Novi Public Library at (248) 349-0720 or visit their website at <http://www.novilibrary.org/>. You can also contact Varsity Lincoln at (248) 374-3412.

The Novi High School Orchestra making sweet music as students learn

Hard work, but students enjoy music program

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Many of the musicians in the Novi High School Orchestra have been honing their skills daily since elementary school, but it goes beyond just learning an instrument. It's an vital outlet for their creativity.

"This is a great way for us to express ourselves," said Novi junior Brooke Calhoun, who plays the viola. "I've been part of this for seven years, and I really enjoy the dynamic we have. It's really a different musical experience that can open doors."

Orchestra was first

CONCERT

The next concert will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 with both sections performing a holiday-theme at the high school.

introduced to these students in fifth grade. When all put together, the orchestra program is made up of a large instrumental ensemble that contains sections of string, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Students describe it as one of

Please see MUSIC, A2



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi High sophomore Sonja Large plays some John Williams' tunes during an Oct. 24 rehearsal of the school's Novi High Orchestra Band.

Novi development on tap near I-96, to replace Big Boy

The Big Boy at I-96 and Novi Road in Novi has closed, confirmed Ara Topouzian, city of Novi economic development director.

Kristen Kapelanski, a city planner, said the owner, Novi Land Company LLC, has already been before the Planning Commission.

"I think they're plan-

ning on two restaurants and then one or two retail spaces," she said Nov. 13.

After the Big Boy is demolished, the three- or four-tenant space will be built at some 10,000 square feet.

Building permits are in for review with the Building Division, she said, and will be looked at by city

officials for code compliance.

Kapelanski was unsure of the timeframe for building construction.

By Julie Brown

A staple of Novi's restaurant scene for decades, the Big Boy on the west side of Novi Road just south of I-96 has closed.



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INDEX

- Business.....A6
- Crossword Puzzle.....B9
- Education.....A4
- Homes.....B9
- Jobs.....B10
- Obituaries.....A12
- Opinion.....A14
- Services.....B9
- Sports.....B1
- Wheels.....B12

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Youth Assistance looks to community for help NYA serving Novi families for over 50 years

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

A \$2,000 donation capped the Novi Youth Assistance's 55th annual breakfast meeting on Nov. 8, with a wide range of community supporters attending.

NYA has been strengthening families through community involvement for over half a century. It operates with the sponsorship of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, the Novi Community School District, the City of Novi, and with principal funding supplied through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"Volunteers are our most important resource," said NYA Chair John O'Brien, "and we have many sponsors to thank for making this a great community organization."

NYA is connected with Oakland County Youth Assistance and is dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect. Youth Assistance programs are community-based and developed by volunteers. According to case worker Tom Switkowski, NYA has provided services to 571 families in the past year.

One support group is the Novi Youth Council. The 21-members are charged with making recommendations to the City Council concerning the needs of children, youth, and families in the city, and the appropriate role of the public and private agencies in cooperation with volunteer efforts may address such needs.

During the meeting, Rebecca Chen, Youth Council leader and Novi High School student, presented the NYA with a check for \$2,000 — money raised

at all night movie marathon event, "Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs". This movie event has been going on for several years and is in partnership with the Novi Police Department and Emagine Entertainment. It features drug education materials and the opportunity for students to create public service announcements about drug education for broadcasting on local cable television.

For Chen and the rest of the youth council, NYA was the logical choice for the donation and they couldn't be happier to help.

"It does a lot good for the community," Chen said of NYA. "We try to help out as much as we can."

The keynote speaker at the breakfast meeting was Bob Steeh, Novi Community Education director. He emphasized the cooperation among the various NYA supporters and how it works to make it



The Novi Youth Council donated \$2,000 to the Novi Youth Assistance during the NYA's annual breakfast meeting. From left to right are NYA chairperson John O'Brien, NYC leader Rebecca Chen, NYA secretary Julie Abrams and Bob Steeh, Novi Community Education director.

SHOOTER

Continued from page A1

of Casteel's 2009 Chevy Malibu, police said. Casteel is reportedly a former employee of the Department of Energy who has been out of work for the past two years.

Clarence Goodlein, Wixom's public safety director, said the reason behind the shootings is a mystery to investigators. "It's unlikely (we'll learn why) unless he tells us or someone else knows and gives us the information," he said.

Goodlein said the investigation includes "looking into (Casteel's) background and history in Kentucky" but wouldn't comment further on findings at this time.

The size of the task force is what brought a successful conclusion to the shooting spree, Goodlein said.

"Any time you put that many people together, you can move an investigation quickly," he said.

Casteel was scheduled for a pre-exam conference yesterday, after press time, at the Novi court. It hasn't yet been determined if a competency evaluation will be ordered.

An exam conference in Howell's 53rd district court was set for later that day for six felony counts he faces in Livingston County. Charges are also pending in Shiawassee and Ingham counties.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi High Orchestra Band conductor Jim Van Eizenza works with the band's string section during an Oct. 24 rehearsal.

ly unknown outside of family circles. The students want to change this by getting the word out. "We want to get our name out there because many people don't know about us," said Calhoun. "There are a lot of talented people in our orchestra."

Some new energy has been brought to the orchestra this year as new director Jim Van Eizenza is now leading the orchestra. Each school day he takes his two orchestra classes through a 54-minute practice. Each class has around 40 students.

For him, it's not too difficult to get the students energized each day, and the desire they bring to each practice makes his job easier.

"These are young people who have been doing this for some time and really love it," said Van Eizenza. "So motivating them is not hard because they want to be here and want to do well."

Many in the community know about the high school marching band, but the orchestra, which is made up of the symphony and concert sections, may be relative-

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MUSIC

Continued from page A1

their favorite courses.

"It's really like no other class," said junior bassist Ashwin Johri. "It's a lot of practicing, but it's fun. And our new teacher is hands-on, so that helps out as well."

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GRAND OPENING

Thursday, November 15



Joes Produce is opening their bakery facility so you can experience the freshness of our hometown bakery

Pastry chef Teresa Summers, head baker Bob Carter and bakery chef Kenneth Ilich will be mixing and stirring up fresh flavors daily. Our fresh breads will be coming out of our ovens just prior to the store's opening at 7am daily. All of our items are made from scratch using the finest ingredients and without preservatives. To compliment our freshly baked breads, we are offering a wide selection of sweet and savory pastries, olive oils, jams, soups and sandwiches.

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EDUCATION

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D.C. trip a reminder of country's sacrifices

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist

Last weekend, 322 eighth grade students and 28 chaperones loaded seven buses and headed out for Washington, D.C. We traveled through the night, stopping occasionally. Unloading and then loading 322 students is quite an experience.

Once in D.C., we had the opportunity to see history. We visited the National Archives to see the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. We spent time at a

musium dedicated to freedom of the press — the Newsseum. We toured the Capital Building and the Library of Congress.

The guides were impressed by the knowledge our students had about government and history. As they asked questions there were always several students who knew the answers.

During our trip we also saw the monuments and memorials dedicated to the great leaders and those who fought for America's freedom.

As we walked around the Arlington National Cemetery, World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials, I watched the faces of our eighth graders. They were awed by the magnificence of the monuments. But I wondered if they truly understood the sacrifice the men and

women who fought in these wars really made for the rest of us.

It is hard for me to comprehend the sacrifices that have been made so that I can live in this country. At Arlington National Cemetery there are rows and rows of headstones, each representing the life of someone who died for this country. At the Vietnam Memorial you see thousands of names etched into stone that represent lives given to this country.

Our students are fortunate to live in a community, a state and a country that affords them limitless possibilities. Our students have some of the best educational facilities in the state and nation. They have opportunities in the arts and athletics that many students in other dis-

tricts and schools do not.

Our students have these opportunities because they live in a community that is willing to sacrifice for them. Our community has voted to fund improvements to schools through millages and sinking funds. Our community has voted to provide extra opportunities for students through a recreational millage.

Our community did not have to do that. In fact, many communities have chosen not to do that. But our community has, through its votes, demonstrated a commitment to our students that has allowed us to build a quality school system.

The visit to Washington, D.C. last week reminded me about the sacrifices people make to support causes bigger than

themselves. In our country we have many, many examples of people who were willing to sacrifice. Last week in Washington with our eighth graders we all saw many examples of the sacrifices that people make.

In the Novi Community School District we also have examples of sacrifice. We have a community that sacrifices time and money to create a school system that provides opportunities for our students so that they have the opportunities to excel.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community Schools district. He can be reached at smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us; (248) 449-1204; www.twitter.com/docsmatthews; or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

Ex-Wildcat uses broadcast class experience to win first in film fest

Have you ever asked yourself: What impact do the classes I take in high school have on my future success? Why take electives? Can't the school day just be shortened to include only standard classes?

Electives can have a big impact on your future. Aside from the standard curriculum, you get to learn about a variety of different fields by taking elective classes. For many students, this helps them pick their major in college, and ultimately, helps them decide on a career.

High school is the time to explore and look at all kinds of different options. Novi High School offers a wide variety of classes to provide students the opportunity to explore. Graduation standards require students to take classes in the four core subjects as well as physical education, health, world language and visual performing or applied arts. This provides an opportunity for this exploration for every student.

Josh Buscher, a graduate of Novi High

School, class of 2009, has seen the benefits of this kind of exposure.

"My interest in film started in high school with my broadcast/television news classes," said Buscher. "Although I did not think that this would lead to a career, working on the daily Cats Eye News taught me to work together with a team of people to produce a daily show in a short period of time. Cats Eye also gave me the opportunity to get involved with production and eventually led me to select my major at Michigan State University. I was fortunate to be able to have the freedom to take classes that interested me."

Now Buscher can boast of winning first place in the East Lansing Film Festival, one of the largest and most diverse film festivals in Michigan.

"In the 48/5 contest we had only 48 hours to create a quality film working with a team of diverse people," said Buscher. "Each team was provided a genre, a line of dialogue and a prop to be included in the film. Because of my

experience, I had many roles in the production including executive producer, art director, props master and production assistant. It was a great experience that will help me in launching a career in film and the best part was taking first place!"

Created in 1997, ELFF is dedicated to bringing quality foreign and independent films to Michigan. The festival is a cooperative effort with the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University.

And electives do matter, said Buscher, adding that he would encourage students to think about taking a variety of electives.

"The only way you get a taste for different subjects is by exploring a variety of interests," he said. "The benefit to them is that they, too, might find their passion and begin to build a career around it."

Submitted by Noah Buscher, younger brother of Josh Buscher, who can be reached at ncbuscher@gmail.com.



Buscher

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OCC's Philharmonic Orchestra, December 14 • 7:30 pm

THEATRE

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College Events: OCC's Got Talent,
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Community Events at the Smith Theatre:
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Fun Run

Reagan Lentz, center, and her Deerfield Elementary School fellow students race around the school's gym on Oct. 19 during its fall Fun Run. The run coincided with its Spirit Week activities, was coordinated by the national "Get Movin'" crew and doubled as a fitness and fundraiser effort for the Novi school.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mock Legislature

Approximately 50 high school students from FRCS are participated in a Mock Legislature program last week with Lansing-based Student Statesmanship Institute (SSI), under the leadership of James Muffett, running the SSI Onsite Program. The program is an educational course where high school students experience leadership at a high level while learning about civics. Shown (l to r) are several participating students: Kyla Robison (11th grade), Brecken Mumford (11th), Christina Montoro (10th), Kelsey Clay (10th), Jessica Brand (10th), Marissa Kjos (10th), Anthony Poik (10th) and Delaini Walnich (11th).

Time is flying, but you can still get a fresh turkey

Some like to buy down on the farm



Turkeys rule the roost in the field at Roperti's Turkey Farm.

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

If Thanksgiving crept up on you this year, there's no need to get in a flutter.

Local farms are still taking orders for fresh turkeys.

Customers can walk in and purchase oven-ready birds as late as Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, as long as there are some left.

Fresh turkeys save time because they bake faster and don't take days to defrost.

Christine Roperti, owner of Roperti's Turkey Farm in Livonia, and Tom Toth, manager of Huron Turkey Farm in Romulus, said some customers were caught off-guard this year by how fast Thanksgiving came.

Thanksgiving is the earliest it can possibly be this year.

Officially designated as the fourth Thursday of November since 1941, the national holiday can vary from Nov. 22 to Nov. 29.

"I think a lot of people don't realize it's already here," Toth said. "We're just getting over Halloween."

And the election. Roperti said personal orders were down 14 percent and business orders were down 28 percent before rebounding after the election.

Roperti said they joked at her farm that the toms were the blues and the hens were the reds because of the colors of their heads.

"They're for America," she said. "Ben Franklin wanted them to be the national bird." Franklin argued that the turkey, although "vain and silly," was a better choice than the bald eagle, which he thought cowardly, according to the reference site infoplease.org.

Turkeys aren't specified as being on the menu that first Thanksgiving in 1621. Pilgrim Edward Winslow's writings note "fowl."

Yet today, more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in

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the United States at one-sixth of all turkeys sold in the U.S. each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Roperti's sells about 4,000 turkeys each year, and Huron Turkey Farm sells about 2,200.

Both have been in business for decades, Roperti's since 1948 and Huron Turkey since 1963.

Fresh turkeys cost more than frozen — Roperti's charges \$3.39 a pound. Huron Turkey, \$3.18 a pound.

"People don't mind spending that money once a year," Toth said, when they can taste a difference.

Roperti said people want a moist and tasty turkey. She feeds her birds a mix of corn, oats and wheat, which gives them their flavor. "I'm a

small farmer," she said. "I can afford to feed them the very best. I don't raise hundreds of thousands of turkeys."

The turkeys are free-range, roaming the five-acre farm on Five Mile Road.

Toth feeds his birds corn and water. "There's no preservatives, no chemicals, no medications. They're the cleanest purest organic turkeys money can buy," he said.

Turkeys at Roperti's and Huron Turkey Farm are processed the day before they're picked up.

People think they're getting a fresh turkey when they buy Amish birds, Toth said, but they're trucked in from Indiana. "Before you

get the bird in the oven, it's been on ice 10 days," Toth said. "I think the Amish (turkey) is nothing to brag about."

Nancy Provan of Grosse Ile brags about Huron Turkey Farm and the turkeys she has been buying there for 40 years. "They're just delicious," she said, adding the breast meat is moist, never dry, and the birds cook faster being fresh.

She said the customer service she gets at Huron Turkey Farm is great and "everything about the place is immaculate."

"I wouldn't think of going to a store," she said.

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UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

Civic Center Campus will be brighter than ever at Light Up the Night on Nov. 30.

With the holiday season aglow with activity, the Civic Center Campus will reflect the cheer at the annual to Light Up the Night event from 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30.

The event, held indoors and out, offers seasonal fun for everyone.

Mayor Bob Gatt and a special visitor from the North Pole will set the festive tone by lighting the holiday tree at 6:45 p.m. Additional highlights include a craft show, Santa visits (professional photos are \$5 each), kids' activities, marshmallow roasting, hockey skills competition, live reindeer, miniature train rides and free food samples from several local restaurants.

Festive hay wagons will shuttle people to and from the Novi Public Library to enjoy face painting and Tom Plunkard the Magician performances, sponsored by the Berenger Family, starting at 7:30 p.m.

A variety of live performances will feature Muskratler & Mice, the Notre Chorales, and an interactive Nutcracker performance for all to enjoy! New for 2012 is a House Decorating Contest with the winner announced at Light Up the Night.

To enter, send photos of outdoor house decorations to Greg Morris, Recreation supervisor at gmorris@cityofnovi.org by Nov. 26.

Artists and crafters interested in participating in the Light Up the Night craft show may visit cityofnovi.org and complete the application by Wednesday, Nov. 14. Donations of gifts and money will be collected at the event to benefit HAVEN — a safe place for families of domestic abuse.

To learn more about the City of Novi, visit cityofnovi.org.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

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

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of I-275. Call them at 1-800-331-3330 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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

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

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

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Local Horologist Repairs Hard-to-Fix Timepieces

Miller has over 28 years experience with watches and timepieces, and received his degree in horology at Houston Technical College before relocating to southeast Michigan.

Over his expansive career, Miller has seen his share of unique cases. "One of the most interesting cases I worked on was an English Grandfather clock from the 1590's. The owner wanted it restored to working order, and rewired for battery operation," said Miller.

"Another difficult request was hand-cutting a triangular crystal for a special-edition Maserati pocketwatch by Rolex," Miller continued. "There's good reason over 172 jewelers in the area rely on Triple Crown and Miller for those hard-to-fix assignments. "I enjoy the challenge of restoring unique timepieces to their original functioning state. It is as much an artform as it is pure mechanics, and it is extremely rewarding to see these old pieces correctly keeping time again."

Triple Crown is located at 1940 E. Maple Rd. (at John R.) in Troy. In addition to repairing watches, straps, batteries and winding boxes, Triple Crown has a large amount of battery operated and wind up pocket watches.

For more information, stop by Triple Crown at 1940 E. Maple (15 Mile) just west of John R., visit www.triplecrownwatchcompany.com or give them a call at 248-585-7777. They will make sure you stay on time in 2012!

Advertorial

Holiday shopping online saves time

By **Jon Gunnells**
 Guest Columnist

Black Friday deals aren't always the cheapest way to shop before the holiday season. Consumers also don't have to wait until Cyber Monday (Monday after Thanksgiving) to get the best deals online.



Tech Savvy
 Jon Gunnells

Below you will find several sites that will help you find the best prices on electronics, computers and other consumer goods between now and January. **Slickdeals.net** — This site is a catch all for the best-priced computers, parts, televisions, DVD players and even other household items like bedding, towels, food and more. The items listed on this site are submitted by consumers and voted on by the community. The deals with the most votes get higher placement on the site — which is always changing, so make sure to check back often. **Newegg.com and Tigerdirect.com** — If you want to save money on a laptop, camera, desktop or computer accessories you don't have to wait in line at the big box store with a yellow price tag. A 500gb external hard-drive, for example, can currently be purchased for \$50 and that's before the holiday fire sales have started. For those who don't want to buy big ticket items online, you can find similar deals on similar items at ABC Warehouse.

Daily Deal Sites — Searching for a night on the town, local activities or half-priced food? Try scoring a deal at any one of the popular daily deal sites. One such destination is dealchicken.com. DealChicken has new deals each day that can save you up to 50 percent on food, tickets and more. **Woot.com** — The most fun you can

have spending money is on woot.com. Each day Woot has a deeply discounted item or items that users can purchase (while supplies last). They also have discount wine at winewoot.com, discount shirts at shirtwoot.com and more.

And when the holidays near, the site gets a little hectic as well with an event called a Woot Off. During a Woot Off, the site clears out the warehouse one item at a time, selling goods in their online firesale. Once an item sells out, the next item enters the Woot off until all the items are sold. Additionally, woot.com has community-sourced deals that list the best sales at stores in major cities.

Cowboom.com — This Best Buy-owned site sells new and refurbished items online at deep discounts. The inventory is similar to what you would find at a retail store, but doesn't have the hassle of long lines, parking lot congestion, cell phone salesmen and crazy people.

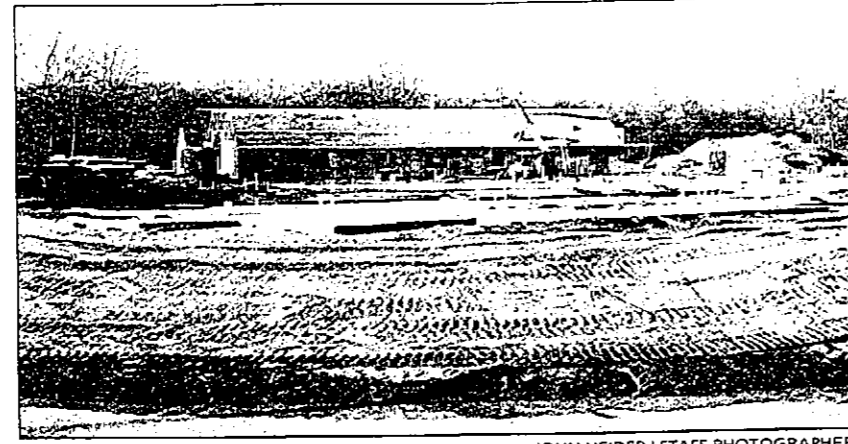
eBay.com — If you don't like bidding in auctions you can search for items with "Buy It Now" options. The majority of eBay items come with free shipping — especially those from professional sellers. eBay users are also given buyer protection to protect consumers from scams and fraud.

Hometownlife.com — While you can't purchase gifts on the newspaper's homepage, you can access local advertisers, big box retailers and more. Hometownlife.com is also a portal to homefinder.com, just in case you feel like being a big spender this year.

Just remember, whenever or whatever you buy, do your research. Just because a Black Friday or Cyber Monday sale is hyped, doesn't mean it is the best deal around.

Northville resident Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnShow.

In the works



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Work continues on Novi's 100-bed, skilled nursing center MediLodge on 11 Mile Road. The facility is slated to open in the summer 2013 and is located between Wood and Beck roads. Some of its beds will be transferred to Novi from Bloodfield Hills' MediLodge under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Community Health.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cooper Standard reports third quarter results

Novi-based Cooper Standard Holdings Inc. (OTCBB: COSH), the parent company of Cooper Standard Automotive, a global supplier of systems and components for the automotive industry, announced financial results for the third quarter ended Sept. 30. The company also reaffirmed its previous sales outlook for 2012.

The company reported revenue of \$684 million for the third quarter of 2012, compared to \$708.5 million in the third quarter of 2011. Sales were positively impacted by increased volumes in North America, offset by unfavorable foreign exchange of \$42.5 million and decreased volumes in Europe. For the nine months ended Sept. 30, revenue was \$2.18 billion, compared to \$2.16 billion in the same period in 2011, an increase of \$26 million or 1.2 percent.

"Our global footprint has been invaluable in managing headwinds in challenging markets," said Cooper Standard Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey S. Edwards. "Cooper Standard has been able to deliver a relatively strong quarter despite lower volumes and ongoing weakness in Europe. As we support our customers, Cooper Standard will continue to win diverse global platform business, while focusing on meeting the demand for more fuel efficient technologies."

Gross profit for the quarter was \$103.1 million or 15.1 percent of sales, compared to \$108.6 million or 15.3 percent of sales in the third quarter of 2011. Gross profit was positively affected by volume and vehicle mix, raw material recovery and lean savings, offset by costs related to vehicle launch activities, footprint adjustments and increases in raw material prices.

The company reported net income of \$11.6 million or \$0.44 per share on a fully diluted basis in the third quarter of 2012, compared to \$15.7 million or \$0.58 per share in 2011. Third quarter net

income reflected the same factors that primarily impacted gross profit as well as higher restructuring charges, offset by increased equity earnings from non-consolidated joint ventures and foreign exchange. Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$112.7 million, which included a \$48.3 million benefit related to the reversal of the valuation allowance on the company's deferred income tax assets in the United States recorded in the second quarter, as compared to net income of \$79.6 million in the same prior year period.

Medical community supports Big Family of Michigan

Big Family of Michigan is an organization in southeast Michigan helping to make life better for children waiting to be adopted, or in at-risk situations. One of their programs ensures that in-need children are given toys for the holidays. Over 6,000 toys will be given out this holiday season and, once again, Michigan Surgery Specialists (MSS) and Oakland Regional Hospital (ORH) have volunteered to help Big Family reach their goal. Guests may visit Big Family at www.FamilyofMichigan.org for more information on their many programs.

MSS office locations and ORH — Including 44000 West Twelve Mile Road, Suite 205, Novi (248-374-0077) — are hosting a toy drive from Nov. 16 through Dec. 5 that is open to the public and their employees. Individuals are asked to drop off new, unwrapped toys or gift cards (Target or Walmart) for infants to 18 years of age.

The medical group will also host an internal employee contest to raise funds to purchase toys, purchase holiday potholders with proceeds benefiting Big Family; host a toy wrapping party; and employee volunteers will support Big Family initiatives over the holidays.

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.

CEED Microloan Orientation

Many small business owners face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases, and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

- Dec. 5: Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business (p.m.)
- Dec. 6: Business Research: Feasibility to Expansion, Farmington Hills Library (a.m.)
- Dec. 6: Small Business Loan Workshop (a.m.)
- Dec. 6: LinkedIn for Business (Beginner) (p.m.)
- Dec. 12: CEED Microloan Orientation (a.m.)
- Dec. 12: LinkedIn for Business (Intermediate) (p.m.)
- Dec. 13: Fundamentals of Starting a Business (p.m.)
- Dec. 19: LinkedIn for Business (Advanced) (p.m.)
- Dec. 20: Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan (p.m.)

Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan

For small business owners who are developing their plan to success. Workshop participants discover the elements commonly found in effective plans and develop these for their own business. Thursday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. This workshop is free but pre-registration is required.

20th annual Gala raises nearly \$200,000 for St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia

Health care gets boost

St. Mary Mercy Hospital's 20th Annual Gala "Return of Hollywood Nights" raised nearly \$200,000 to benefit the Generations Together Campaign, which is raising money for enhancing emergency care and inpatient services. The campaign has been a driving force behind the newest building addition at the hospital: a new 154,000-square-foot building that includes a state-of-the-art emergency center and 80 private patient rooms.

Nearly 600 guests supported the black-tie event held Oct. 5 at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia. The Gala celebrated the glitz and glamour of Hollywood Nights and featured a

gourmet dinner, dancing, musical entertainment by the Robert Williamson Band, and special Hollywood entertainment.

"It was an enjoyable evening that supported a worthy cause," said Dave Spivey, president and CEO, St. Mary Mercy Hospital. "The growth and continual progress of St. Mary Mercy Hospital comes from the support of our community."

The hospital is a member of Novi-based Trinity Health, the nation's fourth largest Catholic health care organization. Saint Joseph Mercy Health System hospitals provide approximately \$100 million in community benefit to the communities it serves each year.



Members in the St. Mary Mercy Gala Committee (l to r): Dave Spivey, president and CEO, St. Mary Mercy Hospital; Carol Cassie, Gala chair and founder; and Sara Stauffer, director, Development, St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

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 Sunday, November 18th: CLOSED
 Monday, November 19th – Wednesday, November 21st: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 THANKSGIVING, Thursday, November 22nd: CLOSED
 Friday, November 23rd – Saturday, November 24th: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

www.HoneyBakedFoods.com

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hap.org/medicare

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Livonia Fri., Dec. 7

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A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings call (800) 449-1515 or TTY/TDD (800) 649-3777. Workshops discuss plans for Medicare-eligible individuals who purchase their own health care coverage.

Health Alliance Plan and Alliance Health & Life Insurance Company are health plans with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (pdp) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Supplement plan is not connected with or endorsed by the United States government or the federal Medicare program. Neither Alliance Medicare Supplement nor its agents are connected with Medicare.

Y0076_ALL 732R Event Ad CMS ACCEPTED 11/11/2012

Salvation Army seeking bell ringers

The Salvation Army Farmington Hills Community Center is seeking energetic individuals to spread Christmas cheer and help those in need by ringing a bell for The Salvation Army's 2012 Red Kettle Campaign.

Applications are currently being accepted for volunteer and paid shifts. Shifts are available from Nov. 9 to Dec. 24, Sundays excluded. Paid five-hour shifts begin at \$8 per hour. Depending on the site, volunteer shifts range from two to four hours.

Individuals can volunteer at nine area sites including Twelve Oaks Mall, Busch's Market, Kroger and Wal-Mart. Paid bell ringers can ring at a variety of 42 local sites throughout Farmington Hills, New Hudson, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield and Milford.

Army Farmington Hills Community Corps Center can visit www.registeronline.com/salmich or call (248) 477-1153 Ext. 12. Applications are accepted between 10 a.m. and noon and 1-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at 27500 Shilwassee Road, Farmington Hills.

Funds collected at red kettles go toward the campaign goal of \$8.5 million. Donations collected will allow The Salvation Army Farmington Hills to continue to do the Most Good.

The annual campaign runs from Nov. 9 through Jan. 31. To make a tax deductible contribution to The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign:

- Visit www.salmich.org
• Call 877-SAL-MICH
• Text "GOODMICH" to 80888 (an automatic \$10 donation)
• Send a check or money order, made payable to The Salvation Army, to 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075.

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Flu shots available

Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) is now offering flu shots for \$16 at their Pontiac and Southfield offices. Flu clinic hours are noon-8 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Residents can pre-register online at oakgov.com/health.

"We encourage everyone to get a flu shot and reduce their risk of getting the flu this season," said Kathy Forzley, manager/health officer of the Oakland County Health Division. "Each year nationwide, tens of thousands of people die from the flu. Receiving a flu shot helps lower the risk of getting the flu and becoming ill."

terCard, Medicare and/or Medicaid, or residents may select to pay cash at the time of appointment. To register by phone, call (248) 888-7350 or (248) 424-7120. Flu shots are also available on a walk-in basis. Walk-in payment options include Medicare, Medicaid and cash (no credit cards, checks or money orders).

For more information, visit the Oakland County Health Division website at oakgov.com/health or on Facebook at facebook.com/publichealthOC.

Two Ultimate Sport Shows coming to Novi ShowSpan, Inc. announced 2013 dates for its Ultimate Sport Show tour, including two shows at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

The Ultimate Fishing Show—Detroit, to be held Jan. 10-13, is the Midwest's biggest pure-fishing show in America's largest freshwater market. More than 200 booths of new rods, reels, lures and other tackle, plus outfitters, lodges, guides and charter fishing destinations are in the show, along with 200 new fishing boats representing 40 brands. Led by Kevin Van Dam and Mark Zona, more than 75 free seminars are planned for novice to expert anglers.

For more information, visit www.UltimateFishingShow.com or call (800) 328-6550. The 40th Annual Outdoorsama, Feb. 21-24, is one of Michigan's most popular shows for hunters, anglers, campers, hikers, conservationists, canoeists and wildlife enthusiasts. More than 150 booths of new products and fishing boats, pontoons, canoes, kayaks, deck boats, runabouts and ski and wakeboard boats are in the show. Dozens of free hunting and fishing seminars by national experts are scheduled. The show is held in conjunction with the 6th annual Cottage and Lakefront Living Show—Detroit.

For more information, visit www.Outdoorsama.com or call (800) 328-6550.

Big Band Memories



Musician Bill Hart entertains an Oct. 25 gathering at the Novi Library with his "Big Band Memories". The former University of Oakland math professor played a number of tunes from that era and some musical theatre standards and told of his experiences playing with Marvin Hamlisch, Tony Bennett and Chubby Checker.

Twelve Oaks opens ice palace

This holiday season, visitors to Twelve Oaks Mall are in store for some cool family fun when they step inside the center's spectacular holiday Ice Age Ice Palace where visitors can enjoy footage from the family holiday movie "Ice Age: Continental Drift", debuting on Blu-ray™ and DVD Dec. 11.

The Ice Age Ice Palace display at Twelve Oaks features a 30-foot ice dome with falling snow, a light show and, new this year, the prehistoric herd from "Ice Age: Continental Drift". Interactive globes will showcase Scrat on his endless mission to catch his precious acorn, while the whole "Ice Age" herd is adrift on an iceberg in pirate waters. Families can measure their prehistoric heights against Sid and Diego, no paw-to-paw with the herd and track down Scrat's missing acorns through-out the palace. The high-seas adventure culminates with a visit to Santa and a special "Ice Age" gift, along with the exclusive option to pre-order the DVD.

"The Ice Palace is the highlight of the holidays at our center, and there is hardly a more perfect film to showcase in an Ice Palace than the newest 'Ice Age,'" said Dan Jones, general manager. "We are thrilled to partner with Fox Home Entertainment to feature this popular family film." Twelve Oaks Mall hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com for more information.



The Ice Age Ice Palace display features a 30-foot ice dome with falling snow, a light show and, new this year, the prehistoric herd from "Ice Age: Continental Drift."

'The Adventures of Stuart Little' opens tomorrow

Tickets are now on sale for "The Adventures of Stuart Little", presented by The Novi Civic Theatre's Little Peoples Players. The show opens Friday, Nov. 16, and tickets may be purchased online at cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. Ten Mile) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



"The Adventures of Stuart Little" features (l to r) Sara Stanley, Jill Harrington, Clare Fitzpatrick, Nick Czarnota, Zach Argonis, Carmyn Tynan and Sarah Griffith.

The production is such a good story and I am sure everyone will enjoy it. The actors are very excited to share the fun with the audience. Northville, Walled Lake, and Commerce Township. Eight-year old Zach Argonis, who plays lead character, Stuart Little, shares his thoughts regarding his first production with the Novi Civic Theatre. "I like it! No, I love it. I like working with all the kids. The production is such a good story and I am sure everyone will enjoy it. The actors are very excited to share the fun with the audience."

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Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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CARLTON WILLIAM E.

Age 90 passed away on November 10, 2012. William was born on December 24, 1921...

DOWNS FRANKLIN HALLER, JR.

Age 87, November 12, 2012. A Memorial Service will be held at Lynch & Sons...

McFADDEN, RICHARD EARL

Died peacefully in his South Lyon home at the age of 87, surrounded by his family on Tuesday...

DREFFS, RODNEY S.

Age 63, passed away November 4, 2012. He was born on April 27, 1949 in Wyandotte...

KNEALE, BEVERLY

Age 83, passed away Nov. 8, 2012. A private family service was held...

LaLONDE, RUSSELL A. J.

Passed away November 10, 2012. Age 86, a South Lyon resident...

DENEWETH, ROBERT (BOB) POST

Age 46, passed away suddenly on November 10, 2012. Resident of Novi since 2007...

ZABOR, BEVERLY L.

Age 96 of Northville, loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother...

MIELKE, DAVID R.

Age 74, passed away November 4, 2012. He was born on October 24, 1938...

MARTIN CHARLES "BUD" APRIL

April 3, 1935 - November 17, 2003. We thank God for every precious moment we spent with you...

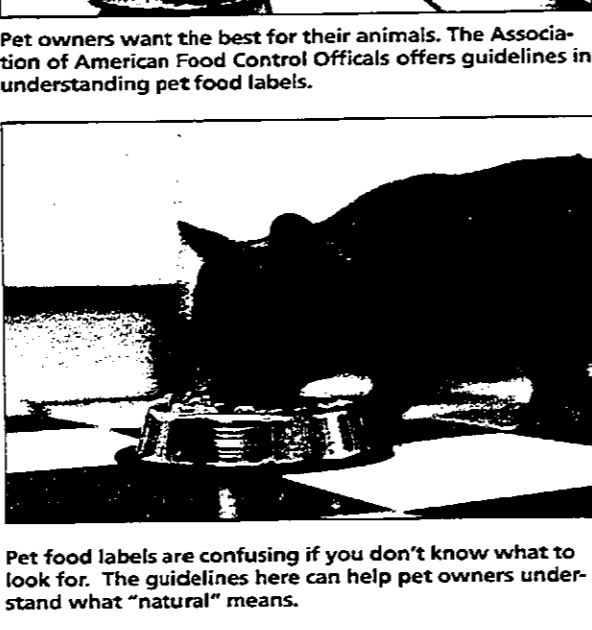
What you need to know to make the right food choices for your pets

Pet owners want the very best for their animals, but it can be hard to choose the right food...



Pet owners want the best for their animals. The Association of American Food Control Officials offers guidelines in understanding pet food labels.

Pet Food Names So what's in a product name? More than you might think. According to the manual produced by The Association of American Food Control Officials (AAFCO)...



Ingredient List The primary goal of pet food is to deliver key nutrients to your pet. The higher the ingredient quality is, the easier it is for your pet to absorb and use the nutrients they contain...

Guaranteed Analyses By law, pet food packaging must show the minimum percentages of crude protein and fat, as well as the maximum percentages of crude fiber and moisture...

Created equal. For example, a high-quality pet food often recommends that include 25 percent of the listed ingredients...

Agencies and Stages The AAFCO guidelines only govern food for three pet life stages: growth and reproduction, maintenance, and all life stages...

What about by-products? A by-product is a secondary material that is made from a primary ingredient production stream. A by-product like "chicken by-product meal" can contain organ meat that has a high nutritional value...

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What about by-products? A by-product is a secondary material that is made from a primary ingredient production stream. A by-product like "chicken by-product meal" can contain organ meat that has a high nutritional value...

WHAT DOES 'NATURAL' MEAN? AAFCO has developed some guidelines for natural claims for pet foods. In general, the term "natural" is applied to products that are free of artificial flavors, artificial colors and artificial preservatives...

November most likely time for car-deer accidents

It's that time of year to look for deer. And in Michigan, the odds of a car-deer accident are on the rise. Using information from the Federal Highway Administration...

vehicle confrontation involving your vehicle becoming part of the story we tell next year: • Keep in mind that deer generally travel in herds...



The areas from which deer will enter roadways. If a deer collision seems inevitable, attempting to swerve out of the way could cause you to lose control of your vehicle or place you in the path of an oncoming vehicle. Don't rely on mounted deer whistles.

Your invitation to Worship

Directory of churches across Michigan including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Whitmore Lake, Livonia, New Hudson, Plymouth, Northville, Highland, and South Lyon. Each entry includes church name, address, phone, and service times.

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

For more information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011, ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Goodfellows, Salvation Army need your help

For many people, being merry this season may mean a hot meal at the local soup kitchen or a warm place to sleep on a cold winter's night. For many, it's a fine line that separates them from being a have and a have not. They are struggling to make ends meet.

A protracted economic downturn, massive loss of jobs and a slow recovery has increased the number of families living in poverty. For these some families the happiness of Christmas is provided through the generosity of strangers. They are the people who buy Goodfellows newspapers, drop money into Salvation Army Red Kettles or unwrapped toys in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tot boxes.

For decades these nonprofits have been helping those in need. They rely on our support both financially and in donations of food, clothing and toys to help the less fortunate. And now is the time for us to open our hearts and our wallets to help them help the needy.

If there's no room under the Christmas tree for that present, think about giving it to the Goodfellows or the Salvation Army. Instead of dropping \$10-\$20 on a quick dinner out, drop it in a Red Kettle or send it to the Goodfellows. Use a good deal on food at the grocery store to buy a few extra cans and donate them.

And consider volunteering — and while at it, have children do their part. Let them drop money in the Red Kettle. Let them select toys to drop in the Toys for Tot boxes and help pack boxes for delivery by the Goodfellows. It's an important lesson that they will keep for life. The gift is the generosity, a life skill that needs to be learned as a child. It is taught through example and experience.

With the need for assistance remaining high, we need to take that extra step and help. So be sure to make an extra purchase for those less fortunate. It isn't shiny and bright, but that generosity is a gift that's well worth giving.

Deer hunting opener tradition like no other

For many people in the state of Michigan, today is an annual holiday like no other. It's not an official holiday, of course, but don't tell that to the people across the state who look just as much forward to the Nov. 15 traditional opener for firearms deer hunting season as children do to Christmas morning.

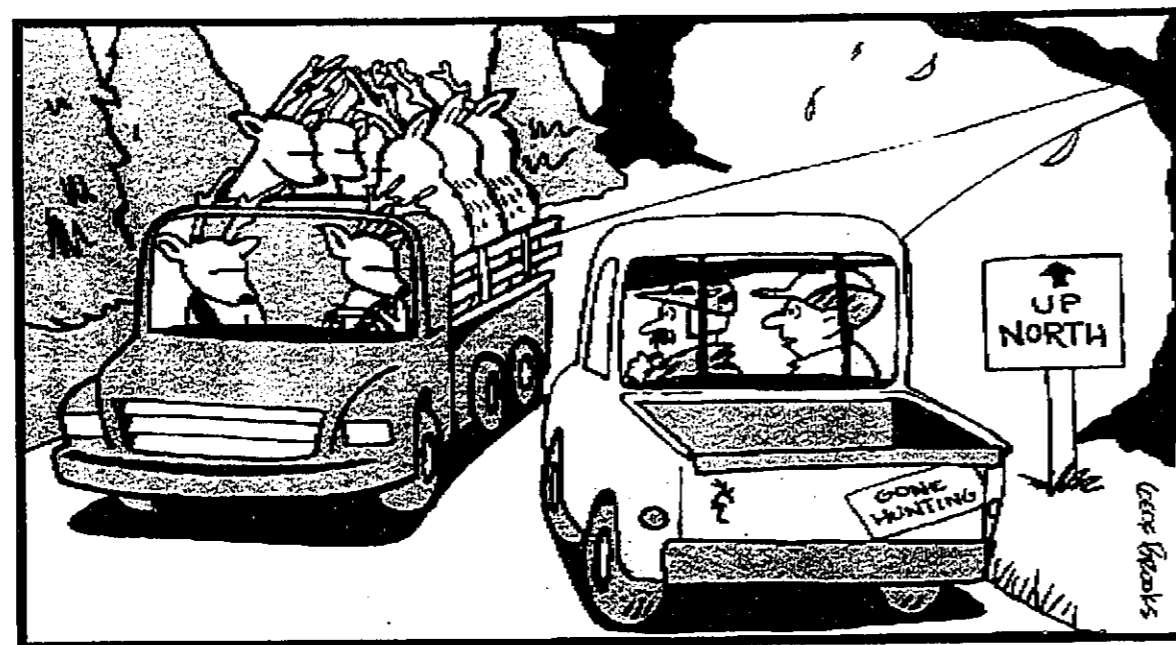
Beginning this morning at the crack of dawn, and over the course of the next couple weeks, more than a half million hunters will be hunkered down in the forests, swamps and farmlands across the state, with dreams of bagging a big buck. But that is not the only reason hunters from all walks of life look forward to deer hunting. Survey after survey have shown that hunters enjoy spending time with friends and family during their hunting trips, not to mention just getting outdoors and enjoying the state's natural beauty.

Deer hunting is particularly important to the rural areas of the state. In fact in many communities, schools are closed down for the day, and many businesses display "gone hunting" signs on their front doors as the proprietors have headed to "camp."

It is also big business. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates the more than 750,000 licensed hunters (including all hunters) ranks third in the nation. And they have a tremendous impact, adding \$1.3 billion annually to the state's economy. Of course hunters purchase hunting gear, but they also stay in motels, shop at stores and eat at restaurants while on their hunting trips. That especially means a great deal to small towns in rural Michigan.

Because of the mild winters we have experienced in recent years, wildlife biologists say deer numbers are up around the state. Hopefully that means many of our hunters will have a successful hunting trip.

We wish you all good luck, and hope you remember safety is the first priority out in the field. Happy hunting.



LETTERS

Novi Road better option for walkway

The city of Novi is planning two pedestrian crossings over I-96, including one on Meadowbrook Road. Do you think the other should go on Beck Road or Novi Road?

Novi Road's bridge over I-96 isn't safe — for runners, bikers or people just out for a stroll. As Novi is known for encouraging healthy activities, why shouldn't one of the city's biggest roads encourage it, too? As a student and cross country runner at Novi High School, sidewalks and crossings are important. Since driving is not yet available to me, I have to find alternative modes of transportation to go places in town. Novi Road is the best solution to the Novi vs. Beck issue. The road is the city's main street and is heavily utilized for vehicle traffic, thus preventing cyclists and joggers from accessing Novi Road in a way they would like to.

When looking at a city map, it is clear to see one thing: the Novi Road Bridge over I-96 separates two regularly-used community locations, the Twelve Oaks and the Novi Town Center. The pedestrian walkway would provide a dedicated section to ensure citizens' safety. More cyclists and walkers/runners could experience our city's stores and businesses. Rather than visiting just one side of I-96, one could enjoy and explore our city's downtown while getting exercise, too. Novi Road needs a connector such as this pedestrian walkway over I-96.

Samantha DeLisle
Novi High School sophomore

Why stop at 1,000 cards?

In regards to your article, "Creating 1,000 holiday cards for 1,000 troops," I agree that we should make at least 1,000 cards for at least 1,000 troops. I think that we need to actually make more — at least one card for each troop out there serving time in duty. I think that we should make holiday greeting cards because the troops are out defending our country. On most occasions they don't have any loved ones with them to comfort them. This is the least that we can do for those men and women protecting each and every one of us.

I would like to see this implemented in Novi High School. If every student and staff member made at least one card, our high school alone would have made more than 2,150 cards for troops. And if we could take it one step further and involve the entire Novi Community Schools district and each student made one card, we will have made more than 6,000 cards to send to our troops.

Aaron Pringle
Novi High School sophomore

Academic Advisory changes needed

The schedule for late start days at Novi High School needs to be changed. In their second year of use, late start days replaced Novi's professional staff development days. It has come to my attention

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) 437-3286

E-mail: cstone@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.

table or sit alone on benches. Sitting alone on a bench is especially unpleasant when your meal consists of bland, watery milk, crusty fish, pasty chicken tenders and stale pizza rolls. Not only is the quality of the food low, but so is the nutritional value. There are a plethora of cookies, ice cream and snack foods. Nachos are considered an entree. With the current emphasis on healthy eating habits, I find the actual food options to be very counterintuitive. Just a few years ago, soda was removed from the vending machines and replaced with water — but the food we eat daily is still this unhealthy!

Right now, the \$4 lunch includes milk, juice, a fruit/vegetable (of which there are very few options) and an entree. I would be willing to pay a few extra dollars for a quality lunch with more healthy options. I would also like to see larger tables to address the seating issue. The lunch program is the one aspect that Novi Schools is severely lacking in and must be brought up to the standards of the rest of the district. I will be perfectly content with bringing my own lunch until this issue is addressed.

Robbie Darrow
Novi High School student

Bus safety's an issue

There have been many issues regarding Novi Community Schools' Transportation Department so far this school year. One problem in particular that I feel is extremely important to address is the issue of safety on our school buses. Buses are extremely overcrowded this year, more than ever before. I understand that this is a result of the district making efforts to cut down on costs by consolidating routes; however, while the district may be saving money, it is doing it at the cost of students' safety.

There are some school buses currently that continue on their routes with three to four people per seat, children sitting in the aisles, even with children being forced to stand in the stairwell, in extreme cases. Most school buses are manufactured to hold 64 passengers, or two people per seat — not three to four.

When a bus is overcrowded, the safety of students is jeopardized greatly. People are squished very close together and it is very uncomfortable, as well as unsafe. If a bus were to crash, there would be a much higher probability of injury because not all students would be properly protected.

I feel that the safety of our young children is vital to our growth as a community. Safety needs to be put first, before things like money-saving ideas. In my opinion, to ensure safety, any bus containing more than its capacity limit should not be allowed to run. Even after alerting several administrators of the situation, overcrowded buses are still an issue and there has been little to no improvement. This problem needs to be fixed and, until it is fixed, kids' safety, as well as their lives, will continue to be put in danger every day.

Jennifer Hepp
Novi High School student

School lunches lacking

As a student at Novi High School, I have to admit that the lunch program is outright atrocious. Not only are there very few options, but many of the items on the menu are never available. To make matters worse, there is a severe lack of seating to the point where students either sit in rings of chairs outside a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Samantha DeLisle
Novi High School sophomore

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's the right time for Christmas music to start?



"I secretly listen to them all year around... every once in awhile. But in general, not until mid-November." Lynn Reed
Novi



"After Thanksgiving." Shannon Ross
Novi



"Not until after Thanksgiving. We've kind of forgotten that holiday." Wendy DuVall
City of Novi employee



"Probably November 1. Anything before Halloween is out of bounds." Glen Stroup
Novi

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Aaron Pringle
Novi High School sophomore



WOW! Anytime Fitness is coming to Novi!



Low Pre-Opening Rates!

...and they will be open in your neighborhood!

The newest and most convenient fitness facility will be OPEN SOON in Novi. We'll show you how to make feeling good a way of life - no matter your fitness level. From increased strength, greater flexibility, weight-loss and stress relief, to improved self-esteem, more energy and so much more! Getting started has never been easier. Experience all we have to offer with these pre-opening, Charter Member specials!

Become a charter member! Pay \$0 Enrollment Fee!

free gift when you enroll!

ANYTIME FITNESS
4790 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48277
248.348.8080
anytimefitness.com



MOVE TO WALTONWOOD BY DECEMBER 31ST AND WE'LL FREEZE YOUR RENT AT 2012 RATES!

Don't Get Left Out in the Cold this Winter

Move to Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks, Where the Only Thing Freezing is Our Rates!

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks offers carefree senior living. With friendly neighbors, convenient amenities, personal staff and caregivers on-site, you're free to choose how you spend the day.

Spacious apartments • Housekeeping & maintenance • Delicious, home-cooked meals • Activities and scheduled transportation

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Call today to schedule your personal tour (248) 277-5981

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*Rate freeze offer applies only to Independent Living move-ins by December 31, 2012. See community for complete details.

www.Waltonwood.com

NOVI NEWS
A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone,
Community Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Novi Events

NOVI HYDE PARTY/ FUNDRAISER

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1
Location: 10 North, 24555 Novi Road, Novi
Details: Novi High classmates, friends and family are invited to celebrate Andy Hyde's memory. Special guest will be Dave Rozema of the 1984 World Series Champion Detroit Tigers. There will also be a silent auction and donations at the door to benefit Andy's family and the Gift of Life Michigan - Organ & Tissue Donation Program. You can also donate to the Andy Hyde Memorial Fund at this web link: <http://www.fundoflife.org>
Contact: Cathy Reilly, (248) 207-5837

MICHIGAN MADE ARTS CRAFTS JEWELRY SHOW

Time/Date: noon-8 p.m. first Fridays through December
Location: Atrium Of Novi, 43155 Main Street
FUN FIRST FRIDAYS
Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 7

Location: 27300 Wilcox Road at Grand River Avenue (large retail building next to Varsity Lincon)

Details: Featuring many handmade items from people with disabilities. Anyone in Michigan that makes handcrafted items can get a space. Free admission, free parking. Everyone that bowls a strike in our portable bowling alley gets a Free fountain drink. Bowl two strikes in a row and get a free hot dog or slice of pizza, too.

Contact: For more information or to reserve a space, email FunFirstFridays@gmail.com or call (248) 812-9751; www.FunFirstFridays.com

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.

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to ctstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.
More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

Meyer, D. Min., goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story. Handouts describing the phases of grief and the tasks of grief are available.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

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

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 newly-formed group.

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Location: 45255 W. 10 Mile Road
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon-

day-Thursday; 10-5 Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place 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.

Library will be closed Nov. 16, 21 (at 5 p.m.) and 22.

See novilibrary.org for a complete listing of all Adult, Entrepreneurship Database Webinar

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

Description: This live training webinar will introduce users to the content of the Entrepreneur database which includes annual reports, articles, blogs, business cases, company profiles, market research collections, and much more. Please register.

German Language Conversation Group

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26

Description: Test popular e-Readers and tablets before you begin your holiday shopping. Also, learn more about downloading library eBooks and audiobooks free with OverDrive. Registration required.

Novi Public Library - Reg. Board Meeting

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28

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

Light Up the Night at the Library

Time/Date: 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30

Details: Celebrate the night with us as we are entertained by the unbelievable Magic of Tom Plunkard @ 7:30. We will also be featuring a face painting station as well as a craft station to complement the night, before and after the magic show. Hope you'll join us. This program is generously funded by the Berenguer Family.

Mandarin Language Conversation Group

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19

Description: Adults & Teens interested in practicing the Mandarin Chinese language are invited to meet-up once a month at the Novi Public Library. Registration required.

Transferring VHS to DVD

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

Description: Learn how to transfer your VHS tapes onto a DVD using the Library's Creation Station. Registration required.

Super Saturday Story Time

Time/Date: 1-1:45 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24

Description: Preschoolers, join us for some favorite stories and a craft to take home!

An e-Reader Sampler

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26

Description: Test popular e-Readers and tablets before you begin your holiday shopping. Also, learn more about downloading library eBooks and audiobooks free with OverDrive. Registration required.

Park it here



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Work continues on Nov. 9 at Novi's Brookfarm Park off Willowbrook. The City of Novi is enhancing the small neighborhood park, its landscaping and shoring up the small stream that runs through it. Work should be complete before winter.

Horsin' around



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Shey Wilson, 12, of Milford, leads her Lilly to the show area at the Novi Equestrian Expo at the Suburban Collection Showplace on Nov. 9. The three-day event featured all shapes and sizes of horses, ponies and all the riding tack and feed a horse lover could use.

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

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: Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and Rev. Michael Zuelch, associate pastor

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH

Location: 28000 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

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to ctstone@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.

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays

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

Faith Journeys

Date: Third Sundays

Details: Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have experienced God in their life and the difference that has made.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 217 N. Wing Street
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

Worship Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family;

Currently on Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group

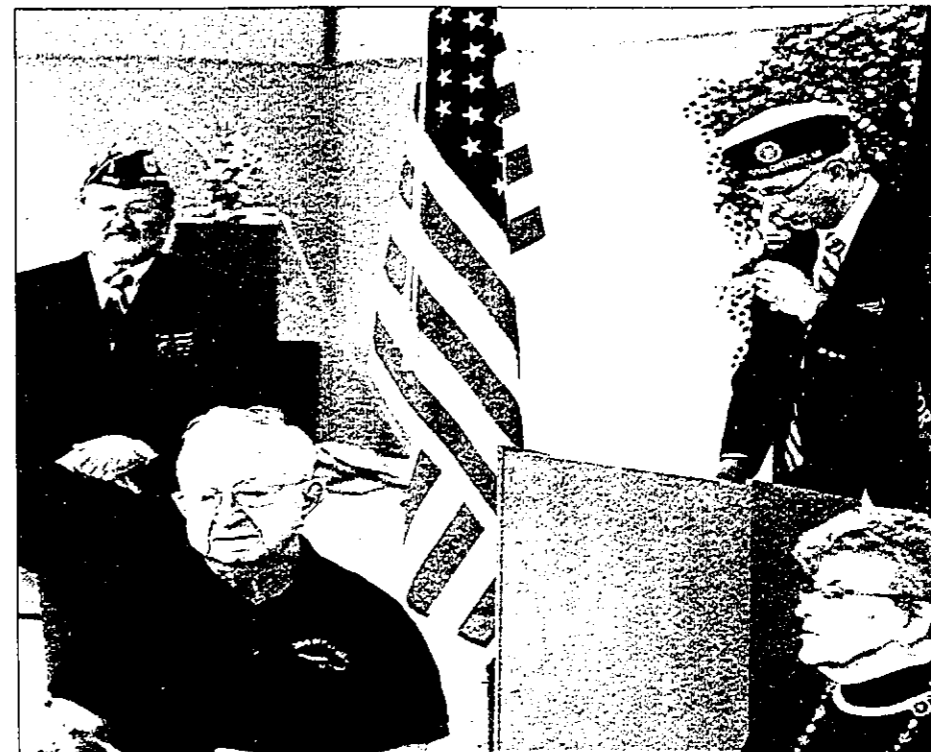
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.

Family Worship: 11 a.m.

Bible Study: 8 p.m.

Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Northville VFW Post Commander Dennis Strikulis, right, and District Commander Jerry Montgomery, left, pay respects to fellow veterans on Nov. 9 at the Novi Senior Center. The center honored veterans that day including Richard O'Donhue, seated, who survived a kamikaze attack on the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill during World War II.

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org

Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service

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THURSDAY SCHEDULE

6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 200 E. Main Street
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Details: 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 Road, Northville

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday

Details: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

Location: 41355 6 Mile Road

Contact: (248) 348-9030

Sundays 9-10 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children

9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

11:30 a.m.: Fellowship Hour

1:30 p.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children

3:00 p.m.: Pilgrim Fellowship

5 p.m.: Sunday Service

7:30 p.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

9:30 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children

11:30 a.m.: Fellowship Hour

1:30 p.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children

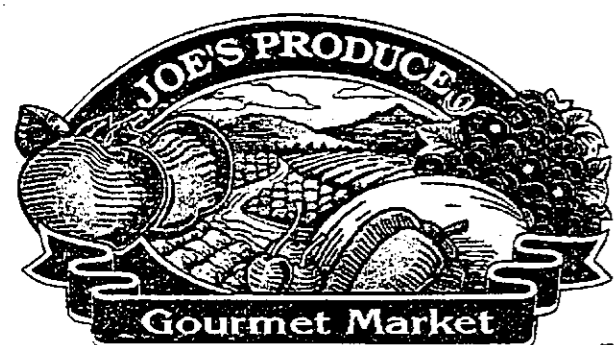
3:00 p.m.: Pilgrim Fellowship

5 p.m.: Sunday Service

7:30 p.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

9:30 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children

11:30 a.m.: Fellowship Hour



It's Finally Here!!

Part of bread

Grand Opening of the Art of Bread Thursday, November 15 @ 8:00 am

Joe's Produce is opening their bakery production facility so you can experience the freshness a hometown bakery can offer. From fresh baked breads made every morning to sweet and savory pastries; from soups and sandwiches to jams and olive oils, we will have all your favorites. Stop in and experience a freshness you can taste. Located next to Joe's Meat & Seafood.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 9 am - 8 pm • Sunday 9 am - 6 pm

33152 W. SEVEN MILE RD • LIVONIA, MI 48150 • 477.4333 (JOE'S PRODUCE) • 248.477.4323 (JOE'S MEAT & SEAFOOD)

Washington Extra Fancy Honey Crisp Apples \$1.99 1 lb Lunch Box Size	Dole Sweet & Juicy Golden Ripe Whole Pineapple 2/\$4	Louisiana Sweet Potatoes 33¢ lb.	California Pascal Celery 99¢ each	Fresh Ocean Spray Cranberries 2/\$4	Washington Extra Fancy Red, Golden, Gala, Fuji, Grannysmith Apples \$1.29 1 lb Lunch Box Size
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Joe's Meat & Seafood

Fresh All Natural Turkeys \$1.99 lb. Bell & Evans Turkeys \$3.49 lb.

All Natural Leg of Lamb or Lamb Shanks \$4.99 lb Save \$4.00 lb	All Natural Boneless Pork Roast \$2.49 lb Save \$1.00 lb	Joe's Housemade Sausage Sweet Italian Hot Italian Polish \$2.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb	USA Wild Caught Shrimp \$9.99 lb 26/30 ct. Save \$1.00 each	Fresh Atlantic Salmon \$5.99 lb Save \$3.00 lb
Alexander Hormung Spiral Honey Glazed Ham Made in Michigan \$2.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb	USDA Premium Choice Angus Delmonico or Standing Rib Roast \$8.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb	Entrée of the Week Apple Cherry Pork Chops \$4.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb	Entrée of the Week Crab Stuffed Salmon or Crab Stuffed Tilapia \$6.99 ea Save \$1.00 each	Fresh Shucked Select Oysters \$15.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb Perfect for Stuffing!

DELI

Boar's Head Honey Maple Ham \$6.99 lb Boar's Head Save \$3.00 lb	Dietz & Watson Homestyle Turkey \$6.99 lb Save \$4.00 lb	Joe's Signature Rotisserie Chicken \$5.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb	Old Tyme Yellow or White American Cheese \$4.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb	Hoffman's Salami \$5.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb
Boar's Head Honey Maple Turkey \$7.49 lb Boar's Head Save \$3.00 lb	Dietz & Watson Horseradish Cheddar Cheese \$6.99 lb Save \$3.00 lb	Joe's Signature Turkey Pastrami \$5.99 lb Save \$2.00 lb	Hoffman's Super Sharp Cheddar Cheese \$5.99 lb Save \$4.00 lb	Krakus Ham \$5.99 lb Save \$1.00 lb

GROCERY

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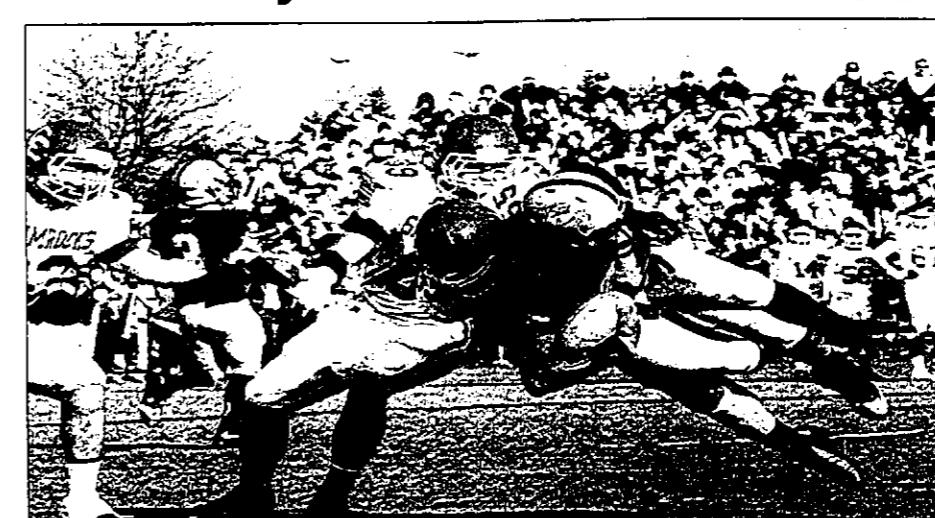
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Catholic Central continues to roll
Squad defeats Plymouth convincingly

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Talk about a prestigious group of high school football teams in the Division I final four. Detroit Catholic Central will play Rockford at 1 p.m. Saturday in Battle Creek and Detroit Cass Tech will play Lake Orion at the same time but at Troy Athens. All four teams have won the Division I state title in the past four years. Rockford claimed the crown in 2008, while Catholic Central captured it in 2009, Lake Orion in 2010 and Cass Tech last year.

But prestige doesn't matter when all is said and done. Just ask the Plymouth Wildcats, who came into last week's game with a 9-2 record when they hosted the Shamrocks. When the smoke cleared, it was



Dan Bowen (55) and Dylan Roney (89) line up Plymouth running back Donte Fox.

the Shamrocks who held a 28-7 victory to earn the regional title and a chance to take on Rockford. "Football's real-

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks are slated to be back in action when they travel to Battle Creek Saturday to play at 1 p.m. against Rockford. The Rams are currently 10-2 on the year and the Shamrocks hold an 8-4 record. The winner of the game will play the winner of the Detroit Cass Tech (10-2) and Lake Orion (11-1) game that will be played Saturday at 1 p.m. at Troy Athens.

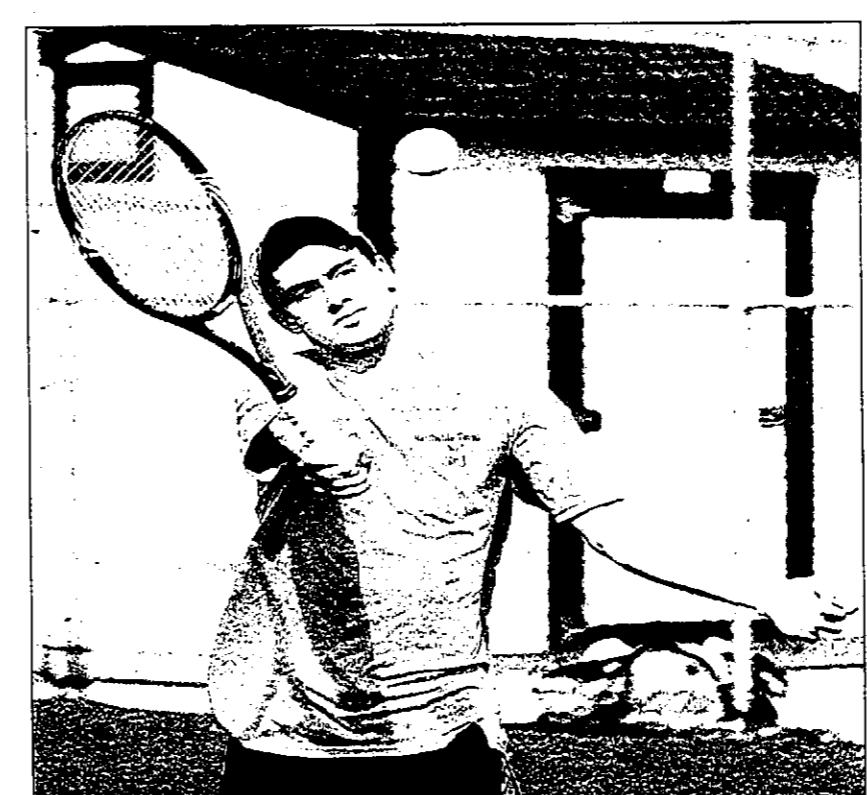
best is going to win. Catholic Central climbed out to a 14-0 lead on two long runs before Plymouth was even able to mount a response. Anthony Darkangelo, who raced 137 yards on 14 carries, scored on a 70-yard scamper to open the scoring before Garrett Moores added a score on a 55-yard run. He carried the ball 100 yards on seven attempts.

"He really made some things happen with his running ability, as opposed to throwing the ball," said assistant coach Michael Mach. "Regardless of how he does it, Garrett just continues to make plays and get the job done."

When the Wildcats did respond, it was in the third quarter and spanned eight plays and 80 yards. The culmination came in the form of Plymouth quarterback Jamarl Eiland hauling the ball over the goal line on a nine-yard run.

Catholic Central didn't even flinch as they scored on their next possession, which lasted more than six minutes and found David Houle—who rushed nearly 100 yards in the game—pounding his way into the end zone on a one-yard run.

Please see SHAMROCKS, B3



Northville's Tyler Gardiner earned Player of the Year honors by going 30-1 in his senior campaign this year.

ALL-AREA BOYS TENNIS

Gardiner swings way to area's best with 30-match streak

Discussions of the best high school tennis player in Michigan rarely got far in the past few years without mention of Northville's Tyler Gardiner. The defending one singles state champion in Division I, Gardiner went 30-1 in his senior campaign this year, falling to Utica Eisenhower's Ed Covaalschi during the state final attempt at a repeat.

"Tyler is an incredible talent," Northville coach Matt Stetson said.

"He is the type of talent that a coach gets only once or maybe twice in his or her career. His tenacity and determination to win every single point sets him apart from his peers. He will graduate with the crown jewel of high school tennis: No. 1 singles state championship."

A regional and KLAAs champion, Gardiner defeated many of the other area's top student-athletes throughout the season en route to a second-consecutive No. 1 overall seed at the

Please see TENNIS, B4

Wildcat divers jump into final contest

From gymnastics to diving, Novi quartet take on new sport, succeed, set records

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Three years ago, a group of freshmen gymnasts decided to join Novi's diving team, which wasn't known for consistent high performances that matched up to their swimmer teammates.

Now, as seniors, Rachel Aepelbacher, Jillian Odom, Lauren Harrington and Lana Davis have become some of the most consistent point earners in Novi's lineup.

Driven by the common interest in being a Wildcat student-athlete, the girls decided to join the diving team after the Novi-Northville Wild-stangs unified gymnastics team folded when the girls were in eighth grade.

"Me and Jillian did gymnastics together when we were 8 years old," Aepelbacher said. "Freshmen year we came into diving and fell in love with it."

Odom's older sister, Jocelyn, a 2008 Novi graduate, also helped peak the girls' interest as she went on to a career with Oakland University's diving team before graduating this past spring.

"I loved going to her meets to watch and I would come into some practices and play on the boards," Odom said. "I was originally going to do the HS gymnastics team but the program was cut. I still want-

Please see DIVING, B4



Novi's Jillian Odom: "I was originally going to do the HS gymnastics team but the program was cut. I still wanted to be involved in Novi athletics and the school. I didn't want to be a cheerleader, so I thought diving was a good alternative."

ON TAP

Novi's dive team was at Ann Arbor Huron Tuesday for Regionals, hoping to join several of their swimmer teammates Friday and Saturday in Holland for the Division I state meet.

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NOVI SPORTS ROUND-UP

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Coch Smith inducted into Hall of Fame following 30th season at helm

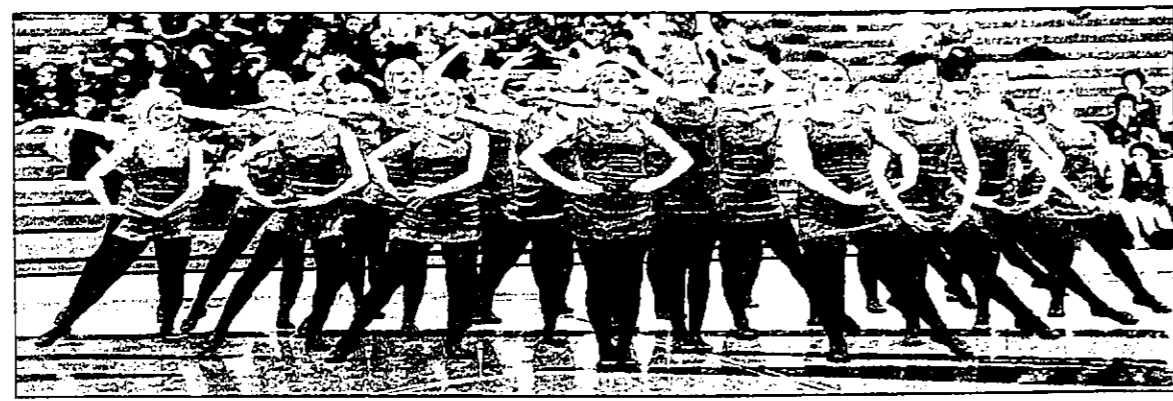
Novi boys cross country coach Robert Smith was inducted into the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame Nov. 9 during a ceremony in Mount Pleasant. Smith just completed his 30th season leading the Wildcats' program, which has found success over the years with a format that has often included one frontrunner trailed by a pack of 'Cats running close together.

VanderMey commits verbally to Western Kentucky

Novi senior swimmer Andrea VanderMey was recently offered a scholarship and has verbally committed to become a Hilltopper as a collegiate swimmer at Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green, Ky.). VanderMey had won the Division I state title in the 100-yard backstroke as a freshman in 2009 and is returning to form just in time for this weekend's state meet after a major injury started off her season. Her 2009 state championship can be seen online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFmX6zr-z88.

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

Second place



The Novi High School varsity pompon team earned second place in their division at the 22nd Annual Hip Hop & High Kick Championship on Nov. 4 at Saginaw Valley State University. The competition was presented by Mid American Pompon. The team placed second in the Large Varsity High Kick category. Their routine theme was synchronized swimming. The 23-member team is coached by Maria Hernandez and comprised of the following girls: Captains Kailey Oppat and Delaney Ulle; and Mackenzie Betts, Yianna Bourdeau, Bailey Borycki, Michela Brant, Amy Cao, Madison Cojei, Karla DeLaCruz, Lauren DiPaola, Kelly Dubay, Olivia Ghannam, Lexa Giragosian, Mia Gurizian, Bailee Kiel, Kaitlyn Kotcher, Angela Lazzara, Jessica Leone, Amy Liang, Chandler Link, Morgan Shepherd, Emma Weil and Renee Weil.

French exchange student enjoying life in Novi

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

As if high school wasn't already loaded with social challenges requiring growth and maturity, imagine doing so more than 4,000 miles from home in a language you first got a grasp on less than one month prior.

That's what Novi's Albane Blanchet, 16, has done this fall while helping the Wildcats' field hockey team (15-1-1) to its most successful season ever. The midfielder also had offensive support from Argentinian foreign exchange student Sofi Mosso, who did not return several messages as of press time.

A native of Lille, France — which is about 150 miles north of Paris, France — Blanchet played field hockey for eight years before coming to the U.S. over the summer. After spending three weeks in St. Louis to learn English, she has been staying with the Masserant family in Novi since Aug. 15.

"My experience here has been really good," Blanchet said. "I did a lot of things with my family and with the school. I try to see everything I can see, to discover everything I can discover. I take all the opportunities to do something I don't know. I have really improved my English and I hope to improve it more during the year. I am really happy about my life in Novi so far. I am really glad to be doing this."

As expected with life in different countries, the cultures are different. But it's some things that may be considered commonplace for local residents that stand out most to Blanchet.

"The life here is really different," Blanchet said. "But, I think it is awesome to discover the American way of life. In America, everything is bigger; roads, schools, stores, cities. I used to live in a little country compare with America, and in a city where everything is closer than here. I noticed in America you need a car all the time. It is very different in France, we have a lot of public transportation and we walk a lot. So, it is really new for me to be dependent of the car. People are really nice and very welcoming. And I think it is really pleasant."



Novi's field hockey team poses with their Division II championship trophy earned during a program-record 15-1-1 season. The Wildcats advanced to the state semifinals before losing 1-0 following an extended shootout to Ann Arbor Huron from Division I.

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With most of the younger Masserants off at college, Blanchet has gotten help adjusting from sophomore Keri Masserant, 15. But she said the overall student body at Novi High School has been very welcoming and the school is more pleasant than her school in France in several areas.

"Novi High School has been really good and students are really nice," Blanchet said. "Teachers are

quickly adopted her as one of their own. I decided to play field hockey in America because I didn't want to stop it, and I really like this sport," Blanchet said. "Also, I thought playing field hockey will make easier the integration. And it did."

The season was awesome. We had an excellent team with a really good spirit. We worked hard during each practice and each game. We had a lot of fun together. I think it was a really good experience to play with another team with a different language and a different point of view. I think it was a new experience for the team, too, to have foreign players in their team. I learn a lot about this."

Although she's played field hockey half of her life, Blanchet said the transition to Novi's grass field was one of the biggest hurdles compared to her turf field in Lille.

"In France, I used to play on a real turf, like the kind of turf that college teams use to play field hockey on, and didn't play with goggles. But the game still remains the same," Blanchet said. "But I have to admit, the first time I played on grass I did not understand why it was so slow, but that makes you more precise and more attentive at the game."

Blanchet said she would return to Lille around June 15, 2013; about one month before she turns 17. In the meantime, she plans to continue soaking up the American way of life and having fun along the way.

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

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

SHAMROCKS

Continued from page B1

"That's what CC does, pounds the ball," said Darkangelo. "Our offensive line stepped up big for us, and our quarterback made some big runs. We knew our offense would score points, but we needed the defense to step up and keep them off the board."

The Shamrocks pounded the final nail in the Wildcats coffin on a 20-yard jaunt by Zach Bock in the fourth quarter. Moores hit all four extra point attempts in the game.

"We're very proud of our kids and the effort they gave on Saturday," said Michael Mach. "They came out focused and played a tough football game, competing hard for the full 48 minutes. This group has done a great job of continuing to work and improve week after week. While a lot of outsiders were down on them because of their record, our kids didn't get hung up on those numbers. Instead, they embraced the opportunity that a playoff birth presented and set their hearts and minds towards making the most of the opportunity."

Defensively, the Shamrocks focused on stopping Plymouth's quarterback, who will be playing collegiate football in Buffalo. Stepping up to fill that role was senior defensive tackle Dan Bowen, who had nine tackles on the night, while sophomore linebacker David Wlazinski had seven tackles. The player who had the most time getting to know the quarterback was senior linebacker Brandon Malinowski, who had two quarterback sacks.

The Shamrocks will now face Rockford, a team the coaching staff is very familiar with.

"We're really looking forward to the challenge of playing Rockford," said Michael Mach. "There have been some tremendous games between the two teams—the '98 state championship game and then last year's state semifinal OT game—and we're preparing for this year's game to be along those same lines. They have an outstanding program with a winning pedigree. We are going to have to match their level of preparation and focus and come to compete at an extremely high level."

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

Advertisement for Great Lakes Art Fair. Includes dates: Nov 16 1pm-8pm, Nov 17 10am-6pm, Nov 18 11am-5pm. Location: 46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI. Website: www.GreatLakesArtFair.com. Special offer: Friday is Andiamo Ladies Day Out 50% off Admission!

Novi Ice Arena hosting Metro Invite

The 11th Annual Metro High School Invitational will take place Nov. 16-17 at the Novi Ice Arena. The Metro Invitational traditionally serves as a kick-off event for teams to start their hockey season and is formatted to showcase five high school hockey teams from the Kensington Lakes Activities Association against five rival teams from the Oakland Activities Association. Teams from each conference will play two games from the other side and the conference with the best record overall will have bragging rights for the year.

The showcase gets underway at 4 p.m. Friday when Livonia Stevenson (KLAA) takes on FH North/Harrison (OAA). Next up is Plymouth (KLAA) vs. Farmington (OAA) at 5 p.m. Those are followed with games between Novi (KLAA) vs. Lake Orion (OAA) at 6 p.m., South Lyon High School (KLAA) vs. Clarkston (OAA) at 7:30 p.m., and ending with Northville (KLAA) taking on Rochester United (OAA) at 8:30 p.m.

The action continues on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. when Plymouth (KLAA) plays Lake Orion (OAA). At 1:30 p.m., South Lyon (KLAA) meets the FH North/Harrison team (OAA); and Livonia Stevenson (KLAA)

takes on Farmington (OAA) at 4 p.m. The last two games of the showcase pit Northville (KLAA) against Clarkston (OAA) at 6 p.m. and wrap up with Novi (KLAA) vs. Rochester United (OAA) at 8:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the Metro High School Invitational games an All Metro Team composed of three forwards, two defensemen and one goalie will be announced to highlight the exceptional performance of the weekend's best players. The All Metro Team honorees will receive gift cards from HockeyDeals.com. All players will receive Metro Invitational T-shirts supplied by Contemporary Industries and will be fed throughout the weekend by Mr. Pita. In case of injury, stand-by athletic trainers will be on-hand from Plymouth Physical Therapy.

Metro passes are on sale at Novi Ice Arena for \$12 for adults and \$9 for kids (5-18 year olds) and seniors. Those who purchase Metro passes will have access to all 10 showcase games. One-day tickets will be sold at the door for \$7 for adults, \$5 for kids between 5-18 years old and senior citizens. Kids ages five and under will be admitted free. Call (248) 347-1010.

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Making a difference



KAITLYN BERG, NOVI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

The Novi High School girls swim and dive team recently raised almost \$1,500 for two causes that affected their teammates. The girls donated proceeds from their Chuck a Duck 50/50 meet fundraiser to show their support. At their KLAAs Division meet, the team raised \$412 for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Two of their swimmers were hit by a drunken driver whose blood alcohol content registered .32 at 3 p.m. on a Thursday. One of the girls is still suffering from back problems that impact her swimming. On Novi's Senior Night, the team raised \$1,067 for the American Brain Tumor Association. They chose this charity in honor of a senior swimmer's sister who has battled a brain tumor since January 2011.

DIVING

Continued from page B1

ed to be involved in Novi athletics and the school. I didn't want to be a cheerleader, so I thought diving was a good alternative. "It came easy to me with all my gymnastics experience. Freshman year, I did diving and club gymnastics, but it was too hard on my body. So, after 12 years of gymnastics, I stopped and switched my focus to diving. I like to say I retired; it sounds better than quitting."

Since leaving gymnastics behind, both girls have excelled in diving despite injuries over the years that have ranged from a banged up hand to of places. Another obstacle, which ended up being a mixed blessing, was that the Novi divers have had four different coaches each of the past four years. However, both Aepelbacher and Odom said current coach Don Mason, who was introduced to the team sophomore year by then-coach Ingrid Mayer, has helped them the most. "Don is basically the perfect coach," Aepelbacher said. "He is the All-American chair for the National Diving Association. He's a Big Ten judge. He's like our diving dad."

Mayer, who is in her second year with OU's program, introduced the Wildcats to Mason two years ago and helped some of them transition onto the University of Michigan club team in the

offseason.

"I think the turning point was when our sophomore dive coach Ingrid Mayer introduced us to Don Mason and some of us started training with him," Odom said. "We were finally getting the right coaching we needed to succeed. Don knows diving better than anyone and we could tell as soon as we started training with him there were huge improvements."

"Having a different coach every year was a good thing and a bad thing. It gave us new ways to look at diving and how we approached the sport. At the same time, every person was at a different level of coaching and we never got the consistent training we needed. I think if we had one consistent coach all four years, we would be at an even higher level of diving. But I am grateful for the coaches I had as each one brought new experiences and memories."

Along with the diving team's new heights came new school records by Aepelbacher this season in both the six-dive and 11-dive variations of the 1-meter dive. "My favorite part I think is coming to practice every day and getting to see my best friends and seeing everyone improving along the way," Aepelbacher said. "All of us really want to dive in college."

Odom echoed Aepelbacher in noticing the improvement over the years. "This diving team, the seniors I have been with

for the past four years, is so strong," Odom said. "I think our success has helped bring some respect back to the sport as it usually goes unnoticed by the rest of the school. I am so proud to say I was on the Novi dive team, and that even with the injuries and the mental blocks, I have achieved more than I ever imagined."

"My favorite part of diving is just the thrill of jumping off the board. It is unlike any other sport and, contrary to belief, is very challenging both physically and mentally. I also love the team atmosphere we have. We are like a family, even with our swimmers. I see a lot of teams where swimming and diving is divided into two teams, but we have pushed us to be involved with one another and have a mutual respect for what they do."

Aepelbacher said that camaraderie has helped the team as a whole. "We've always been really close with our swimmers," Aepelbacher said. "They push us and we push them. Some swim and dive teams separate them from each other." Once Aepelbacher, Odom, Harrington and Davis graduate, the diving team will be in the hands of junior Jaymie Ziegler and sophomore Alyssa Stark, who are already learning from Mason and the seniors on their way to taking over next fall.

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

TENNIS

Continued from page B1

state tournament for the Mustangs, who finished fourth as a team.

FIRST TEAM

Connor Johnston (Northville Fr. 25) With Tyler Gardiner's high school reign over, Northville freshman Connor Johnston is primed and ready to lead the Mustangs for the next three years. Johnston went 32-3 and won the state title at two singles in his first season of varsity competition, winning the KLAAs title along the way and avenging all three of his regular season losses; two in the state semifinals and finals.

"What makes Connor so special on the court is his ability to adapt and to keep fighting," Northville coach Matt Stetson said. "There were several matches throughout the year, especially at the state tournament, where Connor found himself down in a set or in a match, and he would change his style of play to combat the opponent's strategy and, as his record shows, this would work. He had to fight back in the quarters and the semis at States to pull off an amazing state title run. Quite an accomplishment for anyone, but especially for a freshman."

Tim Wang (Novi So. 15) As a sophomore, Novi's Tim Wang led the Wildcats into battle at one singles throughout the season, facing the top players in the state and helping his team to a No. 1 ranking in Division I and runners-up team finish at States. Wang went 28-5 on the season, with three of the losses coming to Tyler Gardiner, including the KLAAs and regional championships, to earn the No. 3 seed at the state tournament.

"Tim Wang recorded many big wins for Novi during his sophomore year," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Tim utilized his strong forehand, serve, foot speed and competitive desire to beat some of the best players in the state. His ability to change speeds, control the net and play the big points in close matches paid dividends for the Wildcats."

Although his baseline rival put a stop to several title hopes, Wang won five invitational tournaments throughout the season. Michael Dubé (CC Jr. 15) Detroit Catholic Central junior Michael Dubé was the Shamrocks' leader throughout the season, powering his way to a 25-5 record and No. 5 seed at the Division I state meet.

"Michael has been a dominant No. 1 singles player for us, since taking over for two seasons ago," CC coach Joe Safford said. "Michael had two great wins this year's Mr. Tennis. Brett Forman. Michael always shows great poise and self-control on and off the court."

Forman was the No. 6 seed at the Division I state meet after recovering from hip surgery last winter, but fell to eventual state champion Ed Covalschi of Utica Eisenhower in the semifinals.

Koushik Kondapi (Novi Fr. 35) Another impressive freshman campaign for local players came from Novi's Koushik Kondapi, who went 34-1 at three singles. His only loss was the state championship match to Ann Arbor Huron's Colin Williams, who he had previously defeated in a dual meet match-up.

"Freshman Koushik Kondapi utilized his consistent groundstrokes to give the Wildcats added depth to their singles lineup," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Koushik's ability to draw opponents in and then pass or lob them proved to be a winning formula." Kondapi was the No. 1 seed at the state meet at four singles, with his only loss coming to Detroit Country Day's Max Shanbrum.

Pavan Rao (Novi Sr. 45) With the surge of young, talented Wildcats at Novi, senior Pavan Rao moved from one singles in 2011 to four singles this fall. That depth that helped lead the Wildcats to No. 1 Division ranking and a runners-up finish at the state meet put Rao in the position to go 34-1 and win the state title at four singles, with his only loss coming to Detroit Country Day's Max Shanbrum.

"Pavan Rao added an attacking net game to his already steady backcourt game and the combination of the two propelled him to a MHSAA state championship at No. 4 singles," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "His ability to use underspin groundstrokes along with an offensive lob kept his opponents off balance and resulted in many big wins for the Wildcats this year."

Rao gained the No. 1 seed at the state meet after winning five invitationals, the KLAAs and regional crowns. Jason Carless & Andrew Ying (Novi Sr./Jr. 1D) A 29-2 campaign led Novi senior Jason Carless and junior Andrew Ying to a runners-up finish at the Division I state meet. With Carless fielding his third different doubles partner in three years at one doubles and Ying moving into the flight after winning the four singles state title in 2011, the duo found success early on and rolled late into the season.

"Jason Carless and Andrew Ying used their penetrating ground strokes to become a very good and consistent doubles team for Novi this year," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Their ability play defense, return service and hit midrange overheads produced many important wins for the Wildcats."

Although the duo fell to Ann Arbor Huron in the state final, they had defeated the River Rats earlier in the season. Their only other loss came to Detroit Coun-

ALL-AREA TENNIS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR Tyler Gardiner (Northville, Sr. 15)

FIRST TEAM Connor Johnston (Northville Fr. 25) Tim Wang (Novi So. 15) Michael Dubé (CC Jr. 15) Koushik Kondapi (Novi Fr. 35) Pavan Rao (Novi Sr. 45) Jason Carless & Andrew Ying (Novi Sr./Jr. 1D) Alexander Kim (Lakeland Jr. 15) Nishant Kakar & Michael Chang (Novi Sr./Jr. 2D)

SECOND TEAM Matt Evasic & Brian Manney (Northville Sr. 1D) Jon Thompson & Maxx Anderson (Novi Sr./Fr. 3D) Andre Liu (Novi So. 25) Nate Albanelli (Northville Sr. 35) Brendan Slovitsky & Andrew Schafer (Northville Sr/So. 2D) Shashank Chitta & Kevin Xu (Novi Jr. 4D) Veer Shah & Ben Crabill (Northville Jr/Sr. 3D) Oliver Daniel & Jason Wang (Northville Fr/So. 4D)

HONORABLE MENTION Novi - Achuta Doddipatla & Harrison Halley (Novi Srs. 5D)

ty Day, as they rolled to five invitational titles, as well as the KLAAs and regional titles.

Alexander Kim (Lakeland Jr. 15) An All-State selection from White Lake Lakeland, junior Alexander Kim was a standout for the Eagles in an otherwise very competitive tennis hotbed within the state. Kim went 25-3 on the season while maintaining a 3.0 grade point average.

"Alex is an extraordinarily talented tennis player, likely the best that Lakeland has ever seen, yet he is a gracious, humble competitor," Lakeland coach Sean Beacom said. "He is a highly ranked USTA player for his age group, yet you would never hear him talk about this unless you asked him about it."

Nishant Kakar & Michael Chang (Novi Sr./Jr. 2D) Two specific strengths on the court paired up to create a formidable two doubles team for Novi. Senior Nishant Kakar and junior Michael Chang went 32-2 en route to a runners-up finish in the flight at the state meet after Ann Arbor Huron avenged a loss earlier in the season.

"Michael Chang's powerful groundstrokes complimented Nishant Kakar's strong net game to form a rock solid doubles team for Novi," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Both players utilized good serves and returns to produce a winning doubles combination for the Wildcats."

The duo's only other loss came to Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice as they cruised to five invitational titles, a KLAAs and regional title.

SECOND TEAM

Matt Evasic & Brian Manney (Northville Sr. 1D) Seniors Matt Evasic and Brian Manney ranked up a 22-9 record at one doubles for Northville en route to a quarterfinal exit at the state tournament. The duo also finished as runners-up at both the KLAAs and regional levels to Novi's top doubles duo.

Jon Thompson & Maxx Anderson (Novi Sr/Fr. 3D) With mix of experience and youth, Novi senior Jon Thompson and freshman Maxx Anderson advanced to the state semifinals at three doubles behind a 30-4 record together. They won KLAAs, regional and five invitational tournaments together, earning the No. 3 seed at the state meet in the process.

Andre Liu (Novi So. 25) Novi sophomores Andre Liu rolled up a 23-7 record at two singles for the Wildcats while winning four invitational titles. He also took second at the KLAAs meet and was a regional semifinalist, earning a No. 5 seed at the state meet.

Nate Albanelli (Northville Sr. 35) Behind a 26-7 record, Northville senior Nate Albanelli grinded his way to the three singles quarterfinals at the state meet after finishing second in the KLAAs to his Novi opposition.

Brendan Slovitsky & Andrew Schafer (Northville Sr/So. 2D) Senior Brendan Slovitsky and sophomore Andrew Schafer finished second in the KLAAs behind Novi after the Northville duo amassed a 21-10 record at two doubles, gelling throughout the season.

Shashank Chitta & Kevin Xu (Novi Jr. 4D) Behind a 31-2 record, Novi juniors Shashank Chitta and Kevin Xu cruised to a state semifinal in the Division I state meet this fall, winning KLAAs and regional titles along the way, plus five invitational titles, to earn the No. 2 seed at the state meet.

Veer Shah & Ben Crabill (Northville Jr/Sr. 3D) Northville junior Veer Shah and senior Ben Crabill used an aggressive style of play to amass a 17-8 record and runners-up KLAAs finish at three doubles.

Oliver Daniel & Jason Wang (Northville Fr/So. 4D) Giving local patrons something to look forward to in future years, Northville freshman Oliver Daniel and sophomore Jason Wang racked up a 23-9 record at four doubles, advancing to the state quarterfinals after finishing second in the KLAAs to Novi.



What are you thankful for?

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

William Taylor IV Inkster Nov. 5

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Coordinator/Contributing Writer: Chaya Jordan, Marketing Manager Design/Layout: Randall Masters, Graphic Artist Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions? Email: cbjordan@hometownlife.com

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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights



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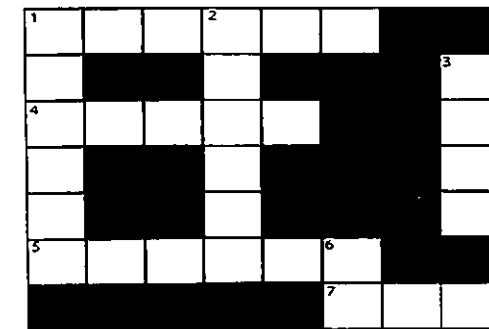
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Thanksgiving fun...



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Thanksgiving food
- 4. Taken _____ surprised
- 5. Dinner, another name
- 7. Consume

DOWN

- 1. Give _____
- 2. Toss up something
- 3. Sweet potatoes
- 6. Prefix for "once more"

Answers: 1. chili hot bigger 2. missing spoon 3. missing snore over food 4. snood on other side of head

Courtesy of Metro Creative

Oh No!

My name is McThevar. One fine sunny morning, I was eating my breakfast when my Mom came up to me and said, "Would you like to come with me to the dentist office for my appointment?" I never liked dentists, so first I said no but she added a catch. "You can bring your DS." I was so excited that I couldn't help but say, "Yes... Yes... Yes!!!"

So the next day the first thing I put in my pocket was my DS and I my favorite game. It was Sonic Colors the evolutionary. It was a long drive and I enjoyed my DS in the car. We reached the dentist office on time. When we came inside, I chose a comfy chair and started playing again. Every few minutes the dentist office assistant comes out of the door and calls out the names to see the dentist. I was curious to hear my Mom's name. Finally she comes out, looks at us, then looks at the paper and calls the name, McThevar.



Madhavan C. Thevar Editor and Writer of self-produced magazine McScribbles from www.mcscribbles.com Third Grader at Highmead Middle School Common Campus

Madhavan C. Thevar Farmington

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, MI 48170 All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Media by close of the business day on November 26th, or email your form to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT (TSLUP) 12-0001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for DSW Building LLC / Weiss Construction is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 3004.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary exterior storage of new stock vehicles at 41001 Grand River, parcels # 50-22-24-151-001, & 002 south of Grand River Ave. east of Meadowbrook Road, a developed parcel, for a 12 month period. The property is zoned I-1 and the use is contrary to 1905.11 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance. A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

This request will be considered at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 30th, 2012 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Angie Pawlowski and must be received prior to November 29, 2012.

Angie Pawlowski Senior Customer Service Rep. (248) 347-0459

Publish: November 15, 2012

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

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be interviewing applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Board of Review, Historical Commission, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee, Public Access Promotion Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

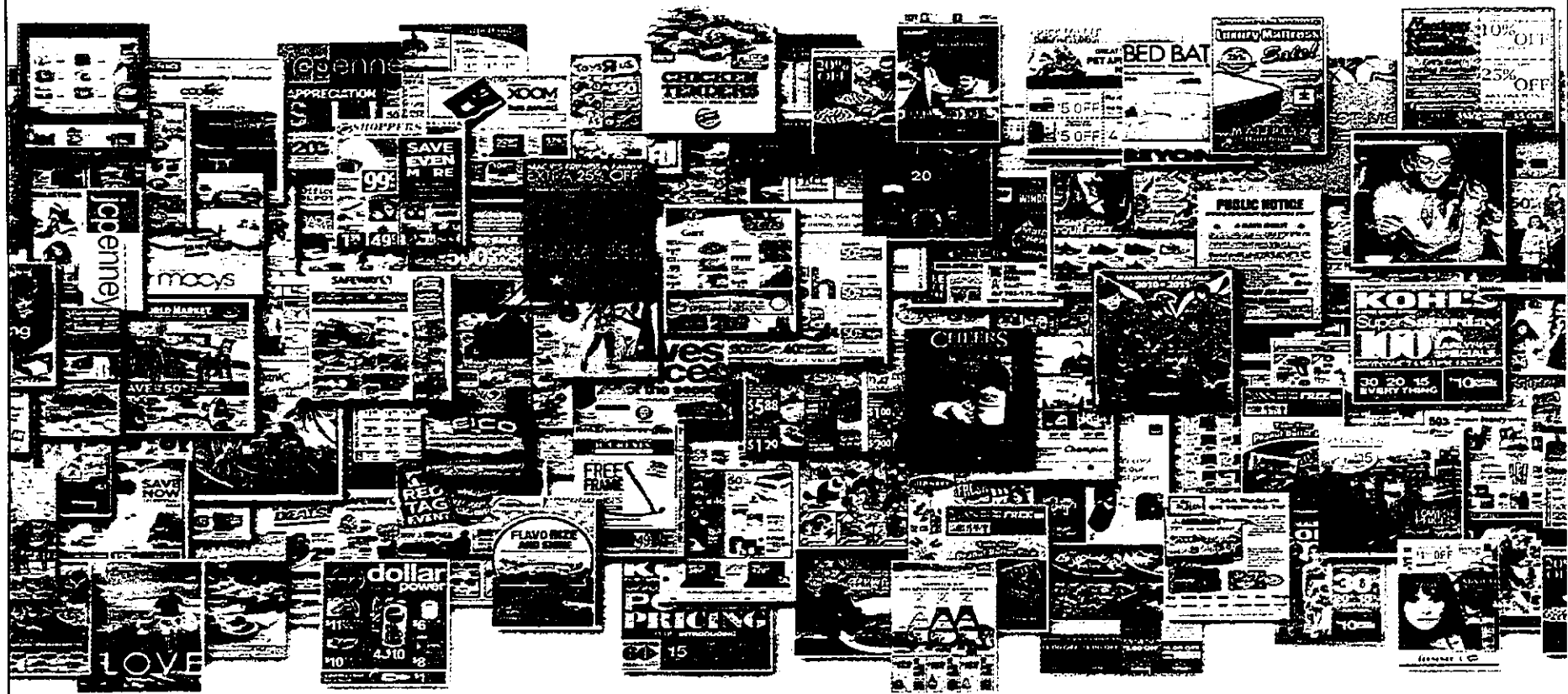
The deadline for filing an application (available on the website or at the City Clerk's office) is Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. All applicants will be required to be present at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2012 in the Council Chambers to be interviewed by City Council. All City Council meetings are televised.

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Publish: November 15, 2012

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A fond farewell Mary Jane Ossola steps down from coaching after nine seasons

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Mary Jane Ossola is ready for some golf. Not the kind that she's been participating in since 2005, where she's instructing, coaching and watching her Northville Mustangs girls' golf team play the links. Instead, Ossola is ready to swing some clubs herself. To that end, after nine seasons at the helm of the Northville varsity program and two as the head junior varsity coach, Ossola recently announced that she'll be handing the reins over to someone else. "It is time for me to play more golf myself, and I have a grandchild coming

so I want more free time," said Ossola. "I have loved these kids and it has been a very enjoyable 11 seasons." It definitely has been one heck of a ride. Ossola coached the girl's team to eight outright division titles and one shared title, making her teams the top each season she coached them. They earned the conference title in the spring of 2007 and in the fall of 2008 and 2009. The team was co-conference title holders in 2006 and the fall of 2007. During her nine seasons as head coach, Ossola made the trip with her team eight times—every season except 2011 when Camilla Zhao qualified as an individual but the team

wasn't able to escape the regional tournament. The team's best finish during that time was third place, and that came twice with one in the fall of 2007 and the other in 2008. Ossola has seen some changes in the high school game. Most notably was the switch in seasons when the Michigan High School Athletics Association realigned several sports when volleyball was moved to the fall and girl's basketball to the winter. The girl's golf teams played in the spring then, and switched with the boy's teams to play in the fall instead in 2007. Her entire time with the Northville program has been filled with great moments, talented play-

ers and a lot of graduating seniors. But one thing always remained constant—her assistant coach Jeff Balagna, who is a likely candidate for the head coaching position. "Jeff has been my assistant the entire time," said Ossola. "I think we made a good team—a good mix of old and young." Ossola will continue her day job as an English-Language Paraprofessional for the Novi School District. She works at Village Oaks Elementary with first- and second-grade students who are struggling readers. Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Lincoln's Less-Is-More Strategy Is About To End



By Dale Buss

While waiting for the revival of the Lincoln brand and product line, Ford CMO Jim Farley is starting to talk about Lincoln's bare cupboard as an advantage. At the recent opening of the first fully dedicated Lincoln Design Studio in 40 years, Farley acknowledged the long quiescence of Lincoln in the U.S. market, which is set to begin to end with the launch of the redesigned 2013 MKZ sedan when it reaches Lincoln dealerships in November.

As it steps up on the design front, the Lincoln brand also is seeing big changes on the marketing front. Ford just reassigned Lincoln's previous CMO, C.J. O'Donnell, to another challenge: overseeing marketing, branding and positioning of Ford's growing stable of electric vehicles.

To guide Lincoln now, Ford just announced a new global management team starring Farley himself. He will add the new job of global leader of Lincoln. Reporting to him will be Matt Van Dyke, who will become head of global marketing, sales and service. He has been director of U.S. marketing communications for the Ford and Lincoln brands.

Lincoln also said that Andrew Frick will become Lincoln group marketing manager on January 1. His current title is general manager of Caribbean and Central America and Asia Pacific export operations and growth.

Farley hadn't been the official head of Lincoln until now, though he had been the guiding force behind the brand's re-invention since Ford killed the Mercury

brand at the beginning of 2011. Drawing on his experience developing the Lexus brand during his years at Toyota, Farley has been a prime designer of Lincoln's plan to reinvent itself by offering a new style of customer care based on the service offered at boutique luxury hotels.

And meanwhile, Farley has maintained that Lincoln relative lack of product relevance over the last few years actually has set Lincoln up for a stirring revival, in at least two ways.

First, Farley said, the U.S. "large-sedan market has literally dropped in half in just a few years. In that way, Lincoln is fortunate — maybe even lucky," he told attendees upon the center's unveiling. What Farley meant is that in its product and brand revival, Lincoln will be able to avoid much concern about big sedans, traditionally a major segment, and focus instead where the luxury brand is vibrant in these days, in smaller and fuel-efficient yet still well-appointed new models.

Indeed, the new MKZ, with radically new styling including a "spread-eagle" grille style, is intended to kick off a Lincoln renaissance that will include four brand-

new vehicles by 2015. "Our ambition is not to be No. 1 [in volume] but to be a different kind of brand," Farley said. "An alternative choice for a personalized product, human and warm, not cold, not type A ... an affordable luxury sedan that [doesn't] feel like everyone else's."

Along with products that hit the new expectations in the premium segment, Farley said, Lincoln will bring an enhanced experience in its dealerships — something that most other luxury marques already are moving toward.

"It's not about being a big-box retailer with a cappuccino machine and 100 people waiting in the lounge, but to be more personal," Farley said. "Think of your neighborhood tailor."



The new 2013 Lincoln MKZ will launch the brand's new-product parade.

However, before he can deploy Lincoln's lineup of new products, Farley also has to be concerned about continued erosion of the brand because of its persistent difficulties with MyLincoln Touch. Largely as a result of the company's continued difficulties with the system, Lincoln dropped to third-

from-the bottom in Consumer Reports magazine's new listing of predicted reliability — just ahead of Ford, which similarly is struggling with MyFord Touch.

The magazine scored Ford and Lincoln for continuing to struggle to overhaul what are essentially second-generation versions of Sync. The company keeps adding MyLincoln Touch and MyFord Touch to more new vehicles even though its new-car buyers have indicated tremendous confusion and frustration with the design and operation of the systems.

The second reason that Farley likes the timing for gearing up the "new" Lincoln is that Ford has said it plans to introduce the brand to China by the end of 2014.

"Chinese consumers want to know about your brand's history and authenticity," Farley said. For more Chinese buyers of luxury autos these days, "It's more for them than about showing off. In China, we can think about delivering the kind of service and an auto brand that fits that [context] from scratch."



Lincoln has just opened its first dedicated design studio in decades.

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