



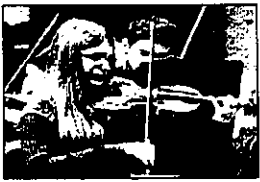
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NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

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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 High Orchestra Concert slated for 7 p.m. tonight

The Novi High School orchestras at 7 p.m. tonight will be performing a two-part concert including the Concert and Symphony Strings in the high school auditorium.

The Symphony Strings will be collaborating with a selected group of individuals from the High School's Wind Ensemble and Symphony Bands.

They will perform two tunes together: a movement of the Nutcracker, "Danse russe Trepak", and "A Christmas Festival" that contains familiar Christmas carols that all ages will recognize and love. Along with the combined full orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra will be performing another piece themselves, and the Concert Orchestra will also have pieces of their own.

In an effort to promote this relatively new and growing program the orchestra will have a donation basket located in the front of the auditorium lobby just before you enter, and they would greatly appreciate a donation of any quantity.

Conductor Jim Van Eizenga and the orchestra students are extremely excited to showcase their talent and spread a little Christmas cheer through their music.

Novi contracts with CEMS for emergency medical services

Response times expected to improve

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Improved response times are anticipated under a new contract between Novi and Community Emergency Medical Services, which Mayor Bob Gatt says is

"one of the most important contracts" for the city.

City Manager Clay Pearson calls the two-year emergency services agreement, with options for additional years, an important one and an improvement. "This is not just a rehash of

what we've been doing — it's an improvement in that service," Pearson told the City Council, which recently approved it by a 7-0 vote.

CEMS has been providing this

Please see **CONTRACTS, A18**



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Light Up the Night!

Above: Members of the Metropolitan DanCentre & Ballet Company entertain at Novi's annual Light Up the Night event at the Civic Center last Friday night.

Left: Eight-year-old Ben Matas enjoys a Rudolph pair of antlers and light-up nose.

Right: Mrs. Claus and Santa greet the crowd and the light the city's official Christmas tree.



Needed: A million voices for schools

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Contact your legislators ASAP, says Vickie Markavitch, and let them know that you oppose the "radical and very dangerous" proposed education reforms that are on the fast track in our state capitol.



Markavitch

The superintendent of Oakland Schools spoke to a group of more than 50 during a 4 p.m. presentation Nov. 28 in Novi High School's media room. A second forum was scheduled

Please see **SCHOOLS, A5**

Toy Drive: Help area children have a happy holiday

Scoop the Newshound is asking Novi families to join the O&E Media toy drive to benefit youth served by Methodist Children's Home Society and Orchards Children's Services.

"Both organizations help protect abused and neglected children by providing housing, education and other services," said Choya Jordan, O&E Media marketing manager and project organizer. "Please consider donating a new unwrapped gift this year. Your gift will help brighten a youth's holiday sea-

son."

Donate a new unwrapped toy and you will receive a voucher for a free Buddy's four-square cheese pizza.

This is the second year the O&E has sponsored a toy drive to benefit these local organizations and help brighten the holidays for area children.

The Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford has been successfully helping children for 95 years, but right now foster children are in dire straits. The cost of caring for

these children has increased, but state funding has not. In these hard economic times, these children need help now, more than ever.

Last year MCHS served more than 270 children through residential, foster care, adoption and literacy programs.

Orchards Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for more than 50 years.

Orchards seeks to protect and

Please see **TOY, A6**



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On the grow: Paradise Park aims to expand its services

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Paradise Park will be taking a step forward in its services now that it has been granted a liquor license and dance permit by the City of Novi.

However, don't expect it to become a traditional bar setting. It's really just an expansion of its operations that will allow it to become even more of a full-service fun spot. The development will help it bring events to Novi that would otherwise be lost to similar facilities on the east side, said owner Jeff Wainwright.

"This is a game-changer for us, and we are excited about it," he said. "We have lost some business to other places that could offer this, but now we are able to expand. The hope is to capture more business from corporations and other groups looking to hold events at a fun place that also offers some adult beverages and good food."



Theresa and Jeffrey Wainwright, co-owners of Novi's Paradise Park, hope to soon be toasting their success with real adult beverages after the City of Novi recently granted them a license to sell alcohol. The Grand River Avenue amusement park is still awaiting final approval and modifications by the State Liquor Commission.

Paradise Park is located at 45799 Grand River Avenue, between Taft and Beck roads.

Owner Theresa Wainwright said they seek only to enhance the excellent level of service they

already provide to their guests. It's expected they will move forward on this after they, hopefully,

receive confirmation of state compliance of the liquor license in January. Established in 2005, the Wainwrights said it's the only full-service family entertainment facility on Detroit's west side.

Paradise Park is open year around and offers a variety of fun activities with indoor and outdoor venues such as their 18-hole miniature golf course, Formula-style go-kart track along with a kiddie track, a 26-foot climbing wall, an Olympic-style trampoline center as well as soccer cages. In addition, the park has an Interactive Laser Tag Arena, AMF mini bowling and Arcade center.

The City Council approved the license based on the long-term investment Paradise Park has made into the community. The Wainwrights have put in over \$1 million at the park over the years. It has been a place of employment to both young and old, and is a

supporter of local organizations. It has donated to and hosted fundraisers for organizations, such as the Novi Library and local schools.

Councilwoman Terry Margolis said it's a unique place and "top notch facility" that has become a mainstay and has weathered difficult times.

Councilman Justin Fischer concurred and said this new development should help to attract more visitors to the Novi community. He did inquire about safety as far as alcohol and the go-karts were concerned.

The Wainwright's attorney Kelly Allen said the council has been thought about and will be dealt with through the use of wristbands to differentiate what a park guest can do at the time.

This is Novi's last license and permit of this type that the city can grant this year.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Novi may lose control of liquor license approvals

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The city of Novi is worried about the recent decision issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that states the transfers of on-premises liquor licenses do not require approval of the local unit of government.

In response to the LCC's move to make its operations more efficient, Novi City Council voted 6-1 to ask either state Rep. Hugh Crawford or state Sen. Mike Kowall to write a state attorney general opinion regarding this recent inter-

"Frankly, I'm appalled the Liquor Control Commission would see fit to take over our governing duty to the citizens to approve or disapprove of a license request."

BOB GATT
Novi mayor

ports a local say in how a liquor license would be approved.

"Frankly, I'm appalled the Liquor Control Commission would see fit to take over our governing duty to the citizens to approve or disapprove of a license request," Gatt said.

He agreed with Councilman Andrew Mutch about there being minimal issues in Novi regarding licenses and that the process has worked in the past. Councilwoman Terry Margolis said she's all for streamlining the process, but said Novi should have a say because this pertains to transfers within the city and from outside.

According to the city staff's recommendation, the LCC decision includes transfers from one person to another, but would also apply, apparently, to

transfers of licenses into Novi from other communities.

Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt was the lone dissenting vote for the request. He asked the city's attorney whether or not the LCC would contact Novi about a license according to this new process.

"Our ability would be hampered, but we still have the ability to weigh in on any decision LCC has prior to them making the decision," Staudt said to council and administration.

Please see CONTROL A3

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HOW TO REACH US

Community Office:
101 N. Lafayette
South Lyon, MI 48178
248.437.2011
Mon - Fri 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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

To Advertise:
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A GANNETT COMPANY

Visit Santa



Santa Claus will be at Novi Town Center between Golfsmith and TJ Maxx this weekend and next. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Bring your camera or phone for pictures to this free event. Pictured with Saint Nick are Kowanda Robinson with her children, Sydney and Xavier.

CONTROL

Continued from page A2

City Attorney Thomas Schultz said Novi could let the LCC know of its opinion, but it wouldn't be binding.

City Manager Clay Pearson said Novi wants to maintain its review power over these licenses.

This was why the city further recommended referring to the Planning Commission to review and recommend Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments to apply Special Land Use standards for liquor license holders. However, this motion was voted down 5-2, with only Gatt and Margolis voting yes.

Staudt said he understands the concerns,

but one reason he voted against both actions was that he's against putting further burden on local businesses and piling on new regulations.

"Additional regulations on businesses in our community to me doesn't serve a purpose," he said.

Gatt said he supports looking into ways to re-establish local control.

"We're the governing body of this city — that we're elected by the citizens to make these kinds of decisions, not the Liquor Control Commission," he said.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
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UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

"The Wizard of Oz" auditions Dec. 10 and 12

The Novi Civic Theatre is seeking dancers, singers and performers of all ages to be a part of upcoming musical production of The Wizard of Oz. Auditions will be held from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 10 and 12 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road (between Taft and Novi roads). If cast, participants are expected to pay a \$50 registration fee. Rehearsals begin in January and will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The audition packet is available online at cityofnovi.org and at the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office. It is

suggested that actors call (248) 347-0400 to sign up for an audition time. Interested actors may also sign up online (beginning Dec. 4) at cityofnovi.org. Walk-ins will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

Performance dates and times:
Friday, March 1 and 8, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 2 and 9, 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 3 and 10, 2 p.m.

In "The Wizard of Oz", little Dorothy Gale of Kansas, like so many girls her age, dreams of what lies over the rainbow. One day a twister carries her away over the rainbow to another world. Audience members will join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion, and Toto as they travel the universe of Dorothy's imagination. This musical includes the songs "Over the Rainbow", "Munchkinland (Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead)", "If I Only Had A Heart, If I Only Had A Brain, If I Only Had The Nerve" and "We're Off To See The Wizard (Follow The Yellow Brick Road)".

Tickets for the Wizard of Oz will be available beginning in February at the Novi Parks Box Office and at cityofnovi.org. Tickets for the December production of The Nutcracker are on sale now.

For more information, please contact the Novi Parks Office at (248)

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novitowncenter.com

Two of McCotter's former staffers enter pleas in petition fraud

By Ken Abramczyk Staff Writer Two former congressional staff members entered pleas Nov. 27 to all but one of the criminal charges they faced concerning their involvement in former U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's petition scandal.



Seewald Yowchuang felony, remains pending against both.

Attorney General Bill Schuette. "As Attorney General, I have a responsibility to enforce the law and ensure public integrity," said Schuette in a prepared statement.

gressman was "asleep at the switch" and that four staff members were to face criminal charges.

she will serve 18 months probation, with the first 12 months as restorative probation. O'Brady was also ordered to pay \$2,625 in fines and court costs.

Passages Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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BARNES, VIRGINIA Jan. 12, 1924 - Nov. 24, 2012 On-line condolences www.obituariesullivanfuneralhome.com

LANCINA, GEORGE A. Age 61, longtime Milford resident, November 30, 2012.

MOORE, JAMES W. Age 65, of South Lyon passed away December 1, 2012.

CLUBB, HESTER Age 71, passed away Nov. 29, 2012. A private family service was held.

LEE, WAYNE August 7, 1928 - Nov. 25, 2012 On-line condolences www.obituariesullivanfuneralhome.com

WAYNE, JOHN C. Age 67, passed away November 28, 2012.

Gleason, Donald J. May 5, 1926 - Nov. 21, 2012 On-line condolences www.obituariesullivanfuneralhome.com

LITTLE, IRENE Feb. 28, 1920 - Nov. 19, 2012 On-line condolences www.obituariesullivanfuneralhome.com

KLOBUKOWSKI, STEPHEN J. Age 60, passed away November 30, 2012.



KLOBUKOWSKI, STEPHEN J. Age 60, passed away November 30, 2012.

GRIFITH, IRENE Age 92, passed away November 28, 2012. He was born on October 9, 1924, in Finley, Tennessee.

KARAN L. Age 76, passed away November 30, 2012.



KUBAN, JOSEPH ANTHONY Age 91, passed away on November 24, 2012.

ZUCAL, KARAN L. Age 76, passed away November 30, 2012.

PAYNE, STEPHEN T. Age 67, born on July 27, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan.

SCHOOLMASTER, DONNA M. Age 80, passed away Nov. 27, 2012.

SERMAN, HEAVENRIDGE WILMA ELAINE Age 78, 11/25/12.

SCHOCKI, STANLEY May 10, 1922 - Nov. 18, 2012

TOY Continued from page A1



nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life and educational skills and opportunities.

For more information contact Choya Jordan via e-mail at cjordan@hometownlife.com.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Drop off gifts at these O&E Media and partner locations:
• Plymouth Office and Distribution Center, 41304 Concept Drive

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches across Michigan including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Whitmore Lake, Livonia, Plymouth, New Hudson, Northville, and Highland. Lists church names, addresses, and service times.

Crystal Creek Assisted Living advertisement. Features the text 'Care & Love are the greatest things we provide' and lists services like 'Full Assistance with Bathing, Dressing & Hygiene in a Small Home-like Setting'.

INFINITY Family Medicine Internal Medicine Pediatrics advertisement. Features the infinity symbol logo and text: 'High quality, coordinated patient-centered medical care from newborn to geriatrics'.

May you find comfort in Family and Friends. Advertisement for obituaries and funeral services.

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

Santa moves into Fox Run

After hundreds of years of hard work, Santa Claus has decided to hang up his jingle bells, park his reindeer, close the workshop and retire. Old St. Nick sold his North Pole residence, downsized and moved into retirement paradise at Fox Run retirement community in Novi where he is experiencing life as never before.

In a new candid video chronicling his retirement experiences, Santa's up close and personal moments with neighbors are captured as never before. While he may have been looking forward to his retirement years, the man in the red suit is shown to be having trouble adapting to life below the North Pole.

"While we are thrilled to have one of the world's most iconic figures here on campus, there are issues that still need to be resolved," said resident Marian Ellis. "For example, when he isn't gobbling up all the cookies on campus, he's letting his reindeer run wild. And if that's not bad enough, Santa's retirement threatens to put an end to the holiday season as we know it."

Do a YouTube search for "Santa Retires!" or enter this address in your web browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0477FQ765pY&feature=youtu.be>

"Santa's Shoes"

Talented local youths, ages 5-18, will showcase their acting talents in Spotlight on Youth's upcoming production of "Santa's Shoes" from Dec. 13-16 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

"This production appeals to all ages from the very young to the young at heart," said director Barbara Bloom, of Novi. "It has charm and humor and endearing characters with spectacular costumes, sets and, of course, Santa!"

The story starts when Santa forgets to put on his "magic" shoes. The Elves worry that he will get lost; meanwhile, the Ice Princess and her pack of wolves plot to take control of Santa's flight. They are foiled when the Elves unleash Robo Elf. Santa himself serves as the narrator of the play and will be available afterwards for photos with Santa.

The play runs about 1.5 hours with a 15-minute intermission. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday as well as 2 p.m. performances on Saturday and Sunday. General seating tickets are \$10; phone (734) 394-5300.

Holidays at Twelve Oaks

Santa photos: Santa will be available for photos at the Ice Palace in Twelve Oaks Mall. Santa hours through Dec. 23 are during all mall hours with breaks from 12:30-1 p.m. and 5:30-6 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 1-1:30 p.m. Sundays. On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, Santa will be available 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a break from noon-12:30 p.m. Guests must be in line with a ticket by 3 p.m. to see Santa before he leaves for the North Pole. Santa Paws: All crea-



JULIE YOLLES

Thanks for 86 memories

There was quite a festive, colorful group gathered at the 50-yard line at Ford Field on Nov. 16 — just one Detroit Lion (Roary the Mascot) and hundreds of children, several Compuware Elves, unicorns, marching bands, dancers and a whole lot of clownin' goin' on. The 23rd Annual Hob Nobble Gobble brought nearly 2,000 supporters to the "D." The Hob Nobble Gobble, along with the Distinguished Clown Corps (DCC) and the Big Heads Corps, help raise needed funds to produce America's Thanksgiving Parade which just celebrated its 86th year on Nov. 22. This was the second year that Ford Field hosted the annual black-tie gala. Pictured are Armen Oknayan (left), of Novi, and Marty Shoushanian, of Northville.

tures great and small are invited to have their photos taken with Santa from 9 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 in Center Court. Space is limited and reservations are a must. Call (248) 348-9438 to reserve a spot. Parking is available in the Green Lot (between Sears and Macy's). All dogs and cats must be on a leash or in a carrier and up-to-date on all shots. Ice Palace and Santa:

This holiday season, visitors to Twelve Oaks Mall are in store for some cool family fun when they step inside the spectacular holiday Ice Palace. The display features a 30-foot ice dome with falling snow, a light show and, new this year, the beloved prehistoric herd from the family film "Ice Age: Continental Drift."

Salvation Army seeks bell ringers

The Salvation Army Farmington Hills Community Corps 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 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 Walmart. Paid bell ringers can ring at a variety of 42 local sites throughout Farmington Hills, New Hudson, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield and Milford.

Those interested in volunteering for The Salvation Army Farmington Hills Community Corps Center can visit www.registering.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 Shiawassee Road, Farmington Hills.

Funds collected at red kettles go toward the campaign goal of \$2.5 million. Donors collected will allow The Salvation Army Farmington Hills to continue to do the Most Good.

The annual campaign runs through Jan. 31. To make a tax deductible contribution:

- Visit www.salmich.org
- Call 877-SAL-MICH
- Text "GOODMICH" to 808888* (an automatic \$10 donation)

• Send a check or money order, made payable to The Salvation Army, to: 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075.

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.

The Health Division offices are located at the following addresses:

• North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac

• South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield
Online registration provides a consent form that must be taken to the clinic

selected. Online payment options include Visa, MasterCard, Medicare and Medicaid, or residents may select to pay cash at the time of appointment. To register, call (248) 858-7350 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 — 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.

Visit www.UltimateFishingShow.com or call (800) 328-6550.

The 40th Annual Outdoorama, Feb. 21-24, is one of Michigan's most popular shows for hunters, anglers, campers, boaters, 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.Outdoorama.com or call (800) 328-6550.

Hockey goal
Make-A-Wish benefit family project for NHS teen

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer



Rabinowitz

Novi High School freshman Ryan Rabinowitz doesn't take his good health for granted. The 14-year-old and his family are conducting a benefit in which ice arena concessions are rounded up to the next dollar and donated to Make-A-Wish, a nonprofit grants wishes for children who've been hospitalized or are terminally ill.

"I'm truly grateful for everything that I have," said Rabinowitz. He's on the prep hockey team at school, and said, "It's the best sport in the world, in my opinion. Hockey's something very near and dear to my heart." He started playing hockey at age 5.

The teen knows some children can't go to school or live a normal life, due to illness. "We're really trying to push this," he said.

He worked on a project as a fourth grader to help a girl who'd had strokes and other complications from a vaccine. "Round Up at the Rink" was created by the family in part for his confirmation at St. James Catholic Church

and NHS community service hours.

"It's a really great program and it really impacted

my life when I worked with them before," Rabinowitz said. Some other teens do food bank projects, and he wanted something different. Younger brother Zac, 8, comes along for practices and games, and parents Trish and Alan noted he eats food from the concessions often.

The family saw many others using rink concessions, and got help from the Michigan Hockey Association with a rink list for letters and e-mails. "We still want to get the word out," said Rabinowitz, who heard back from about 10 rinks, some of which have held their concession benefits. The Grand Rapids Griffins, part of the American Hockey League and feeding into the Detroit Red Wings, have been very supportive.

Make-A-Wish told the family wishes usually cost about \$5,000 to fulfill. "That's what we're really shooting for," he said, adding they'd gladly go beyond that. Rabinowitz and his family would like to see the benefit become annual. "Anything we can do to support that is a great thing," he said.

His e-mail for more information is abin144@att.net. "We're very proud of him," said mom Trish of Novi. She recalled his work in grade school with Make-A-Wish.

"He loved doing that. He loved the smile it put on her face." Teaching hockey wasn't an option, due to Ryan's age and the children's illnesses, so the benefit was created. "I just think there's a lot of possibilities with this little idea," she said.

Ryan Rabinowitz also plans to try out for the baseball team in the spring. His dream is to attend the University of Michigan and its law school. "I'd like to stay around sports," possibly as an agent. "Sports are a huge part of my life," he said.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With a hand from her daughter Adrian, 11, Becky Hartford sells some photos at the Nov. 30 Light Up the Night event at the Novi Civic Center. Many merchants and handcrafters were selling their wares at the Friday night gathering.

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Santa is making his list and checking it twice. Visit Santa at the Food Court this holiday season.

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm
BREAK TIMES: 1:30 - 2 pm and 5:30 - 6 pm

Sunday, Noon - 6 pm
BREAK TIME: 2:30 - 3 pm

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
December 15, 8 am at the Food Court
Tickets available at the Concierge Desk
Sponsored by the Livonia Kiwanis Early Risers

HOLIDAY MUSIC ON THE MALL
December 10, 6:30 pm
Plymouth Christian Academy Choir

CAMERON MUSIC PIANO RECITAL
December 16, Noon - 4 pm
Performance locations near Von Maur

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If you would like to be included in this directory, contact Brian at 248-850-6440 or bcullins@hometownlife.com

ALL-YOU-CAN-SEE BUFFET.

Friday Night Live!
The Chamber Soloists of Detroit perform works by George Crumb, Hector Villa-Lobos, Astor Piazzola, and others. 7 & 8-30 p.m., Rivera Court.

Sunday Music Bar
Song stylist Kathy Kosins performs her love letter to the ladies of the 1940s and 50s west-coast jazz scene. 1 & 3 p.m., Kresge Court.

Family Sundays
Enjoy interactive stories for children and cozy tales for adults from the European Christmas tradition performed by award-winning storyteller, Yvonne Healy. 2 p.m., Lecture Hall.

Now on View
Fabergé: The Rise and Fall, through January 21, 2013. Tickets at dia.org.

Residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties receive free general museum admission!

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DIA DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Novi Events

FUN FIRST FRIDAYS

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 7
Location: 27300 Wikom Road at Grand River Avenue (large retail building next to Varsity Lincoln)
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

THE POWER OF A MENTOR

Time/Date: 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12
Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Novi
Details: The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association presents "The Power of a Mentor" by Kris Marshall, CEO of Winning Futures. Donations of thumb drives and \$5 gift cards to fast food restaurants are welcome, as Winning Futures is an award-winning non-profit that serves area youth, who are often economically disadvantaged. Networking begins at 6:15 with dinner and presentation following. The cost is \$16 which includes dinner.
Contact: Please see www.abwa-novi.org for registration and payment information.

GET LISTED!

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

BEREAVEMENT MEETINGS

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesdays
Location: Novi Civic Center (10 Mile between Taft and Novi roads)
Details: Led by Michael M. Meyer, D. Min., goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story. Handouts describing the phases of grief and the tasks of grief are available.
NOVI SENIOR CENTER
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414; theglin@cityofnovi.org

Library Lines

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY
Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772
HUD Counseling
Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified

counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.
Book Discussion Group
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group.
NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY
Location: 45255 W. 10 Mile Road
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10-5 Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library. Register for programs at the library or on the library website.
Contact: (248) 349-0720
Web: www.novilibrary.org
Story Times: Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Contact: www.novi-chamber.com or call (248) 349-3743

Business

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

Clubs

NOVI ROTARY CLUB
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
Location: Novi Methodist Church 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check website for speaker information; novirota.org.
NOVI TOASTMASTERS CLUB
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday
Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome — and bring a friend. Visit www.novi.freetoasthost.us
Contact: Linda Kreuter at PR@novi.freetoasthost.us
NOVI LIONS CLUB
Time/Date: 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting starts; second and fourth Wednesdays
Contact: Contact Julie Paquette at (248) 797-1665 or juliepaquette57@gmail.com; www.metronovi.org

HOLIDAY CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia
Details: Over 50 crafters and vendors will be there to help you find that perfect gift or home decoration. There will also be raffle items and a bake. Admission is \$1 or the donation of one non-perishable food item to the Good Hope Food Pantry
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS 33RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14-15
Location: Mercy High School, located at 29300 West 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
Details: The Farmington Community Chorus, directed by Steven SeGraves and accompanied by assistant director Susan Garr, will present its annual holiday concert, "Glad Tidings," featuring a variety of holiday favorites. Tickets are \$12 in advance and can be purchased on our website, at the Costco Center (248) 473-1800 or by contacting the ticket line at (248) 682-6562. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15 on the evening of the concert.
Contact: Shelly Addison at (248) 250-1447 or shellyadd2@yahoo.com, or visit website at www.farmingtonchorus.com.
CANTATE! CONCERT
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 S Mile, one block west of Inkster in Livonia
Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16
Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, corner of 11 Mile Road
Details: The 16-voice chamber chorale, Cantate!, conducted by Dr. Gerald Custer, will present its annual holiday concert, "Heaven to Earth," in two performances. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.
Contact: Shari Clason at (248) 349-8175 or visit the Cantate web site at www.cantate-detroit.org.

Regional

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Notre Dame students garner military kudos



Michael Dompierre of Northville (from left), Garrett Quick of Northville Township and Daniel Courtney of Novi are Army ROTC cadets who earned Distinguished Military Graduate status at the University of Notre Dame.

Three University of Notre Dame seniors with local ties have received the Distinguished Military Graduate honor through the university's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

The three are Daniel Courtney of Novi, son of Kate and Bill Courtney; Michael Dompierre of Northville, son of Patricia Dompierre and Mike Dompierre; and Garrett Quick of Northville Township, son of Geraldyn and Chris Quick.

Courtney graduated from Northville High School in the Class of 2009. After college graduation, he has chosen military intelligence with a branch detail in Armor. After serving his military commitment he will pursue a career in corporate finance.

Dompierre graduated from Detroit Catholic Central High School in the Class of 2009. He will graduate in May 2013 from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. with a double major in political science and philosophy. He will commission in May as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He chose military intelligence, and will attend the MI Basic Officer Leaders Course in Fort Huachuca, Ariz., next fall. He hopes to be stationed either at Fort Carson or Fort Bragg in an Airborne unit.

DETAILS

The Distinguished Military Graduate honor is:
 • Awarded to the top 20 percent of the nation's senior level commissioned ROTC cadets for consistent performance at a high level
 • This award remains with a cadet throughout his/her military career
 • 5,579 senior-level cadets in an Army ROTC program were ranked this year
 • These senior-level cadets were from one of the 273 Army ROTC programs nationwide.
 Academic performance, Leadership Program Evaluation and physical performance are used in selecting honorees.

Novi News online

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at hometownlife.com that allow you browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too. So, bookmark www.hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown.
 You can also find us on Facebook by searching "Hometownlife."

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Alzheimer's Seminar
 Tuesday, December 4
 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 "Know the Ten Signs of Alzheimer's Disease" presented by Roxanne Chang who is a member of the Speaker's Bureau of the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and an elder law attorney in Plymouth. Any Social Workers who attend will be eligible for one CEU.
 RSVP by December 2.

Winter Holiday Vocal Ensemble
 Saturday, December 8
 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 All you who are young at heart, come sip eggnog & enjoy holiday cookies while be entertained by the "Backbeat Boys" from Northville High School!

Christmas in Connecticut Feature Film
 Friday, December 28
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Get cozy in front of the fireplace with your favorite movie theatre treats and join us for a heart-warming holiday matinee presented by Movies to U on the 80" big screen.

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Rare restoration

Fox Run resident takes his time with 129-year-old grandfather clock

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Harry Burt has restored 25 grandfather clocks, but the one that he's currently working on is special — there are only two in the world.

The 82-year-old resident of Novi's Fox Run is putting the finishing touches on a two-weighted, 129-year-old American clock built in Rhode Island by Walter H. Durfee.

"It's coming along pretty good," said Burt recently after a day in the retirement community's hobby shop.

Burt said he's cleaning it up and overhauling the movement. He doesn't strip the mahogany finish at all; he only hand rubs it and removes the grime from the metal parts.

"His clocks were so well finished when they were made," said Burt. "They look like they just came out of the factory today."

He's restoring the clock to its original condition, including a functioning pendulum to sound each hour.

So what makes this particular clock, which Burt purchased in September from a California owner, so unique?

"The American



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The inner workings of the 1885 grandfather clock restored by Novi's Harry Burt.

Novi Fox Run resident Harry Burt, 82, has spent a lot of time in the last three months restoring to good working condition this 1885 Walter Durfee grandfather clock. The clock, made in Providence, R.I., was found by Burt in California, and the lifelong Michigan resident plans on giving it to a grandson after it's displayed at Fox Run for a while.

grandfather clock industry came to a screeching halt in 1815, and only the wealthy could afford them at that time," explained Burt. "In the 1880s, Durfee made the Rolls Royce at that time — even up to today, actually — with high quality, style, design and now historical value."

For nearly 50 years, Burt and his wife, Jo, have been collecting clocks. He learned of the Durfee through his membership in the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. The Burts

are particularly fond of clocks from the E.N. Welch Manufacturing Company, which made clocks in the 1860-1895 period, but he won't reveal how many clocks are in his collection overall.

"Collectors don't tell," he said. "Now we're limited by space, and the major collection I have given to my grandson, who is 30. I restore them for him."

The Burts moved to Fox Run in August 2011 from Rochester. Jo doesn't work on the restorations, but Burt spends time in the hobby shop along with

about 55 other men who belong to the community's hobby club.

"After I moved in, I was looking for something to keep me occupied," said Burt. "I asked if I could restore a grandfather clock here. I heard about the Durfee, purchased it and had it shipped."

A former auto parts supplier to Detroit's Big Three automakers, the Redford native has published articles about Durfee, who made clocks for around 20 years.

Burt's clock measures eight feet high; 22 inches at the base;



Fox Run resident Harry Burt spent many hours restoring and polishing up the 1885 Walter Durfee grandfather clock. 16 inches at the waist; and 12 inches deep. Once he's finished with the restoration, it will be displayed on the Fox Run Campus — ideally, in time for the holidays.



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www.Waltonwood.com

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: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org.
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.
Destiny Worship Center
Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: DestinyW3C@Gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org.
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Book of Revelation Study
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays
Details: Come and learn what John is writing about, what the symbolism means, and how this book still speaks to us today.
Faith Journeys

Date: Third Sundays
Details: Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have experienced God in their life and the difference that has made.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m., first Saturday of every month
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH
Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
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
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 Class, Youth Group
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

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

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship:
Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.
Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.
Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.
Sunday School:
Nursery - 8 a.m.
Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m.
Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or hollycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holycrossnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. Second Saturday of month.
Blue Christmas Service Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 8
Details: This service is for anyone feeling a sense of grief or loss for any reason during the holiday season.
Contact: (248) 427-1175.
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 39200 West 12 Mile Road (east of Haggerty Road), Farmington Hills
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between 8 and 9 Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org.
Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion: 9:45 a.m.
First Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil: noon, first Sunday of every month
Location: in front of the church
Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
Advent Service: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
OAK POINTE CHURCH
Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org

Worship Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday
Children's Life Group Ministries: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday
Details: Overseen by TrueNorth Christian Counseling, offering a variety of support and relational groups: Divorce Care; Grief Share; Life Disrupted (Doing Well At Being Sick); Restarting; Setting Boundaries with Teen & Adult Children; Single and Single Again; Men's Integrity; Cross Current; Her Story/Partner Care; Growing Seasons (for children); and two new groups are Caretakers and Krittet Together (Adoption/Foster Care) Workshops.
Contact: (248) 912-0043; http://www.oakpointe.org/lifegroups/renew/index.html.
Women's Life Groups Ministries: 7 p.m. every Tuesday 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Men's Life Groups Ministries: 6 a.m. every Friday morning at various locations for both Women's and Men's Life Groups Ministries, please contact the church office.
ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Preschool/Kids Choir: 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday
Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 770 Thayer, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olvnorthville.org
Saturday Worship: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

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OPINION

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

Speak up!

Tell lawmakers what you think about budget, school issues

As lame duck sessions go, this one is shaping up to be an interesting one when it comes to the Michigan Legislature and U.S. Congress.

In the past two weeks, Gov. Rick Snyder has rolled out his plans for sweeping reforms of public education and revamping the state's personal property tax. Congress, on the other hand, is in the middle of a stare down with the President that could take the country over the fiscal cliff.

None of these issues as they presently stand, bode well for taxpayers. Michigan cities could lose money with the elimination of the personal property tax that businesses pay. School districts could lose control of their purse strings not to mention unused school buildings. And taxpayers would lose even more, if there's no agreement on continuing tax cuts and a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

This all comes at a time when politics is the last thing people want to think about. It's Christmas. There's gifts to buy, cookies to bake and parties to plan.

Wrong. Voters also need to keep their attention focused on what is happening in Washington and Lansing, and let legislators know what they think about their plans.

In the case of the fiscal cliff, the pain will be felt in pay checks. The House and Senate failed to resolve major party differences on \$1.2 trillion in targeted savings over 10 years, triggering the tax hikes and program cuts scheduled to begin next year. Income tax will increase, if the Bush tax cuts are allowed to expire on Dec. 31, and payroll taxes will climb, if President Barack Obama's two-year-old Social Security payroll tax ends.

It's time to get on the phone, write an e-mail or send a letter. Compromise is needed now, not in the 11th hour. Recovery from the last recession has been painful at best and the financial losses, as the result of it, have affected all citizens. Partisan politics need to be set aside for the good of the country.

Lansing is another place voters need to watch closely.

Gov. Snyder has done well to turn around the state's finances, but at what price. Support to public schools has been cut, and cities have seen revenue sharing slashed. Both entities now must meet a number of devised best practices to get a little extra cash out of the state.

While the elimination of the personal property tax would be phased in, it's still a loss for cash-strapped communities, even with the creation of an authority that would send back money, if the loss is a minimum 2.5 percent of the general fund revenues.

School districts, for years, have said that the funding mechanism for K-12 education is flawed, but the proposed changes which would revamp the School Code go well beyond tweaking.

The governor has said the state's educational system has not given taxpayers, teachers and students "the return on the investment" they deserve. Last month lawmakers rolled out proposed bills that will, among other things, create a new any time, any place, any way, any pace public school learning model in which per pupil school aid would be tied to the student not to a specific district.

The bills also expand the use of virtual learning, putting education just a mouse click away, use performance as the basis for funding and create a list of unused school buildings that could be taken over by the state and repurposed for public academies and charter schools.

Politicians are always good about telling constituents what they want and what they need, whether or not they want it or need it. In these instances, people need to make it perfect clear what it is they want: Higher taxes? Giving up local control of their school districts? Giving up control of school buildings they paid for with their tax dollars?

Whether the answer is yes or no, now is the time for people to let their voices be heard loud and clear. Today is the day to send the Beltway and Lansing a message: You, the people, elected them, and they need represent your interests, not theirs.

Don't wait, don't hesitate. Tomorrow will be too late.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you know what is significant about Dec. 7 in our country's history?



"No, I don't."
Cilkin Brooks
Novi



"Pearl Harbor."
Aiden MacDonald
Novi



"Pearl Harbor. I got an 'A' in history class."
Kent Gruber
Novi



"No, I honestly don't know."
Marko Saicic
Novi

LETTERS

Bills bad for education

It's been encouraging lately to see high school students writing letters to the editor expressing opinions about their schools. They should know that if the Michigan Legislature and governor have their way this week, funding for schools and overall conditions are going to get a lot worse. The Michigan House and Senate lame duck sessions are quietly blitzing through a group of bills that will realize the 20 years of relentless efforts to dismantle ("harvest") public education in Michigan by ALEC, the Mackinac Center, and the Oxford Foundation. These groups' collective goal is to corporatize public education in Michigan and redirect public tax dollars out of our schools to Wall Street profits.

The various bills are House Bill (HB) 6004, its twin Senate Bill (SB) 1358, HB 5923, and SB 620. Specifically, HB 6004/SB 1358 will, if passed, circumvent the voters' recent rejection of the Emergency Manager Law by codifying the Educational Achievement Authority in a new law. The EAA creates an entirely separate education system statewide that isn't required to abide by state laws or tests or answer to any voter or school board, but is funded by the taxpayers.

HB 5923 allows for unlimited online and charter schools, and allows for discrimination against students based on academic achievement. These organizations take full public funding for each student but don't provide the full set of resources that we expect, like bus service, art classes, sports, band and choir, well-trained teachers, AP curriculums, and special education. The biggest provider of online schools today in Michigan is K12, Inc. K12 is based in Virginia, was started by convicted felon Michael Milken, and in 2011 paid its CEO \$5 million in compensation. That's a lot of buses.

It's difficult to summarize in a few paragraphs the threat these bills pose to the outstanding public schools we have. You can Google any of these bills and find a lot of information. I can suggest going to Oakland Schools' website (www.oakland.k12.mi.us) and looking for the message and resources from the superintendent.

The superintendents of Birmingham, Farmington, Rochester, Grosse Pointe, Northville, Flushing and Chelsea schools have already spoken out against this legislation.

Please contact Rep. Hugh Crawford at (517) 373-0827 or (hughcrawford@house.mi.gov) and Sen. Mike Kowall at (517) 373-1758 or (SenMKowall@senate.michigan.gov) and request that they oppose these bills.

Kathleen Hood
Novi

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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

Fair is back in business

The state fair was the highlight of many's summer, an amazing experience that Novi is happy to host.

The state fair was established in 1849, and the fairgrounds were later established. The fairgrounds have been shut down, so the fair was looking for a new home. Blair Bowman decided to open his land up to host.

All of Novi banded together to make this fair possible. The Great Lakes Agricultural Fair Board gave back, as stated in a previous article ("Great Lakes State Fair gives back to Novi," by Lonnie Huhman). Due to the contributions made by them, this will benefit two park projects — which makes them happy, showing that hard work pays off. The fact that Mr. Bowman decided to give back shows us that the state fair is a good thing that should be welcomed back for years to come.

Adrian Hart
Novi High School

Attacking education

Education is again under attack. This time it is serious, and it is coming from some of our legislators and governor during a dangerous lame duck session. Senate Bill 1058 and House Bill 6004 have been drafted under the pretense of codifying the Educational Achievement Authority (EAA). House Bill 5923 expands upon provisions of House Bill 6004. These bills are nothing but Trojan horses housing a group of anti-public schools voucher and charter warriors.

The EAA was established to address the unique needs of the lowest rated 5 percent of schools in Michigan. These bills go well beyond their original intent. In addition to codifying the EAA, these bills:

- Extend coverage to all schools in the state, not just the lowest 5 percent of failing schools;
- Provide an end run for

charters and vouchers allowing selective enrollment for charters so they can select students based on abilities and needs, thus skimming off the best and brightest and most talented students from public schools;

- Exempt these schools from a vast majority of the requirements of the Revised School Code that all public schools must follow;
- Remove the EAA schools from supervision of the state Board of Education and the state school superintendent, placing them under the supervision of the governor;
- Are silent on any quality measures for EAA schools;
- Provide for a takeover of unused, vacant instructional buildings in local school districts for use by EAA schools; districts would have to divert funds for instruction to maintaining vacant buildings for potential use by the EAA;
- Make charter schools unaccountable to any board and are removed from oversight by the Michigan Department of Education.

- Make a mockery out of, and totally ignore, local control; it totally by-passes community governed public schools.
- These bills are on a fast track for action in lame duck. Please support public education and the Novi Community Schools by calling Sen. Mike Kowall, (517) 373-1758, and Rep. Hugh Crawford, (517) 373-0827, and tell them to vote a resounding no on Senate Bill 1358 and House Bills 5923 and 6004.

Bob Schram
South Lyon

Wrong notes in orchestra story

As a member of the Novi High School Symphony Orchestra, I greatly appreciate the Nov. 15 article regarding the orchestra program. However, within the article, several mistakes were made that should be addressed.

In a caption on the front page, the Novi High School Orchestra was referred to as the "Novi High Orchestra Band." This title is a misinterpretation of when select band members join the orchestra to perform select pieces. Collectively, this is called "full orchestra" and, as a combined group, the ensemble is still called the Novi High School Orchestra.

Similarly, in another caption, the orchestra was identified as "the band's string section." Though the Novi High School Orchestra does practice with certain band musicians on a weekly basis, the orchestra is certainly not one of the band's sections. Instead, the brass, woodwinds and percussionists who participate in full orchestra are part of the orchestra — not the other way around.

Overall, the article was an excellent review of the orchestra program, and I commend you for bringing it to the public's attention.

Ethan Lu
Novi High School sophomore

Get into spirit of giving
In regards to your article, "Goodfellows, Salvation Army need your help," it is clear to me how we may take the Christmas holiday for granted. For some people, Christmas time is not always a happy time. Many families don't get the opportunities that we do. They may not get presents because they can't afford it, and some families have to worry if they will even get a cooked meal on this special holiday. I believe it is important to help the less fortunate families have a wonderful holiday as well.

During the Christmas holidays, some families' happiness depends on the generosity of others. For those who cannot afford the presents or food on this day, they rely on these giving people to help make their holiday a good one. Because of the economic recession and loss of jobs, there is an increase in the number of families living in poverty. In order to give these families a great holiday, I believe the people of Novi should open their hearts and donate a toy to the Toys for Tots organization or drop money into the Salvation Army Red Kettles.

We, the people of Novi, can help make this holiday season the best yet for these families if we just get in the spirit of giving. It can be as simple as donating an on-sale food item at the store or some old clothing that is too small for you or your children. This can also include an old toy that isn't use anymore. That old toy could mean the world to some other child. I hope the people of our community join me in giving these few items to the Goodfellows or the Salvation Army because it is definitely a gift they will treasure and never forget.

Mallory Buha
Novi High School student

Candidate's post-election thoughts

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of my supporters in my unsuccessful bid for Oakland County commissioner. With friends, I campaigned during the summer and fall by knocking on doors throughout Novi and Northville. I met many interesting people. Quite a few said they had never had a candidate come to their door before. I learned about our community from the people who

live here. Whether they live near Walled Lake, in an apartment, or in one of the diverse neighborhoods, many people took the time to have a conversation with me about their ideas for our government. Thanks to everyone for your time and encouragement. I congratulate Mrs. Crawford on her victory, and I wish all of our community a safe and happy holiday season.

Gwen Markham
Novi

Snyder's draft of major K-12 changes 'opens the door to private investors'

Extra school is a choice. Many students these days dread school. However, there is a small minority that actually enjoys learning. Why not give students the chance to learn more, and perhaps end high school earlier? Despite what the critics say, we as fellow citizens and active voters should vote for the Michigan Public Education Finance Act. This act allows students to take advantage of the Internet, a very powerful resource. Students are

available to learn information online. Also, you can take courses that you may not be able to fit in your schedule online. Schools can also receive funding from this amazing program! Schools can obtain \$2,500 per semester just by allowing their studious pupils to study online. Even though some may say that anybody could open up a bogus internet school that won't be useful, schools could recommend some legitimate sites that would actually benefit students. You as voters CAN make a difference. Vote YES for the Michigan Public Education Finance Act. Help those students who want to accelerate at a faster rate than normal classroom speeds. If enough voters support this act, we can better educate the up-and-coming generation.

Michele Bhagwagar
Novi High School student
Stopping obesity in our society, obesity has become a huge problem. It's starting to affect our children now and the children in future generations. It starts with the parents. Kids look up to their parents and act the way they do. Parents need to step and take control. They need to help

lead their children on the right path into life. If they don't live a healthy lifestyle, neither will their kids. Weight problems cause more than the feeling of being "big ger"; it can lead to life threatening diseases. Some places like New York City have tried to ban unhealthy food. They tried to take action and ban that no sugary drinks be sold over 16 ounces. Their hope was to help bring obesity to an end. But is that really helping anything? When it comes down to it, it's not about taking away unhealthy food — it's about being able to personally choose the right, healthy lifestyle. It's up to us to promote daily exercise and healthier food choices. We shouldn't let fast food commercials persuade citizen to go eat their unhealthy food. We need to make a change on the choices some people choose to make about their unhealthy lifestyle. It will take more than one of us to make this change happen. It will take a majority to get things going. We need to help our kids and put an end to obesity.

Hannah Lonergan
Novi

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CONTRACTS

Continued from page A1

service to Novi for many years. The current contract is up at the end of January. Under the new agreement, CEMS will work to get the response time down below eight minutes in 90 percent of its calls, and there will now be three dedicated AJS units for Novi.

Emergency units will be placed in stations at 11 Mile and Beck roads, Providence Park Hospital, and Haggerty and 10 Mile roads as well as other areas where needed. This service will be shared with the City of Northville.

Getting the response times down will be difficult, and Novi's public safety department will be monitoring the calls each month to see if improvements are made.

"We will be closely working with them to assure that we're getting the quality care that we need for our residents," said Jeff Johnson, Novi Fire Department director.

The cost to Novi is \$0. According to Victor Cardenas, assistant city manager, all costs associated with emergency transport are billed to the patient.

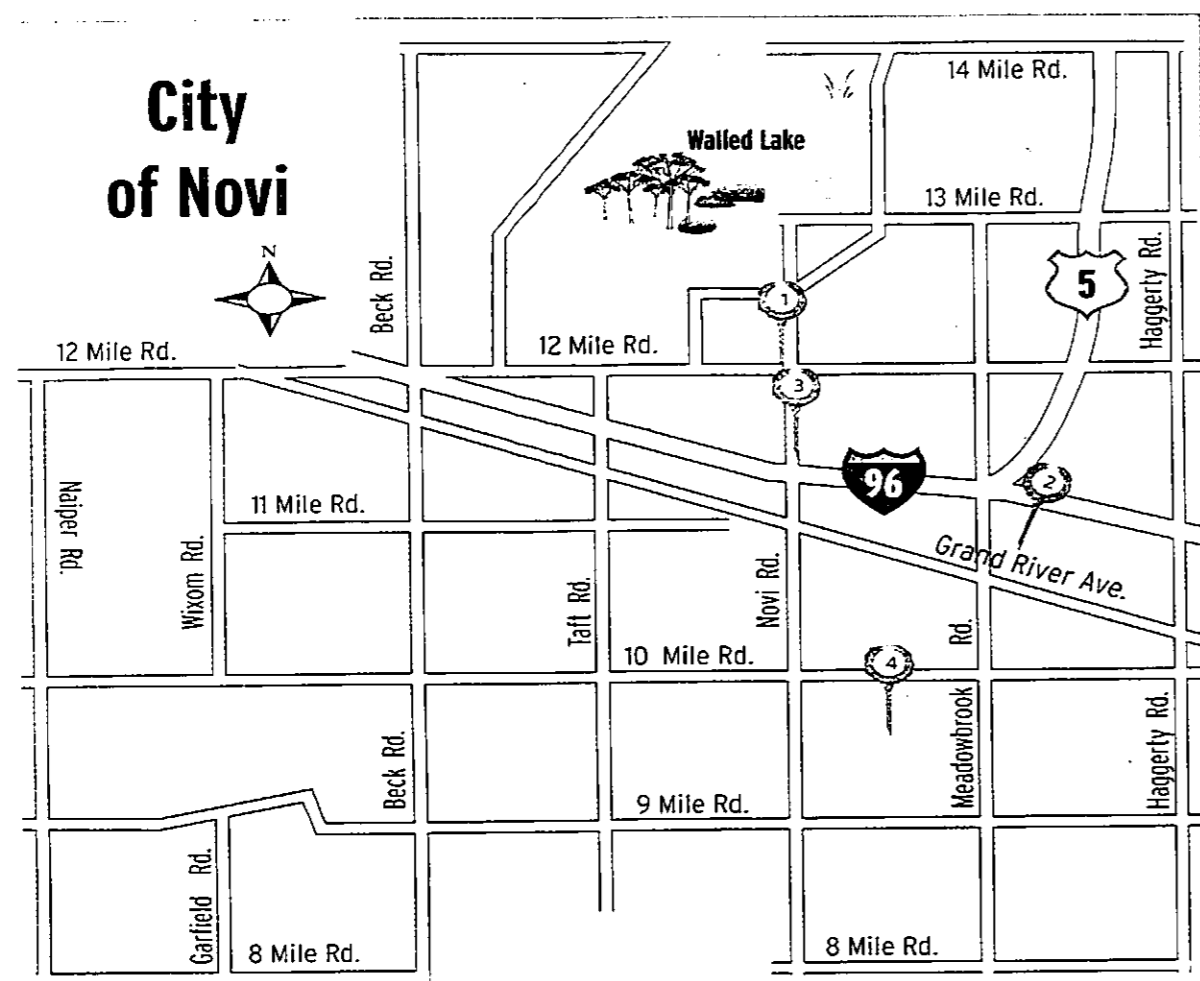
"The current pricing model mirrors the previous contracts the city has entered into with CEMS," Cardenas said.

The Novi Public Safety Department stated the core purpose of the agreement is to provide the best quality health care to all community members and guests of Novi.

Also considered was a bid from Huron Valley Ambulance, but the long-standing relationship with CEMS and its guarantees helped win the bid.

"These are really extraordinary enhancements to our current agreement," said David Staudt, mayor pro tem, prior to the vote.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



Car keys taken

1 An employee of the Tilted Kilt had her car keys stolen on Nov. 29 from the new bar/restaurant on 12 Mile Road.

The employee went to Novi Police to file the report after finding the keys missing from her purse, which was stored in the location's changing room.

There are lockers, but the victim was unable to fit the bag inside of it. There are no witnesses/suspects and there is no security camera for that room.

The victim's vehicle was left parked at the lot at 12 Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk. It

was watched by police before a new set of keys were acquired.

Snowmobiles stolen

2 Over \$15,000 in snowmobile equipment was stolen from Lacy Tool sometime during the last 60 days. A snowmobile trailer valued at \$10,000 as well as \$5,000 black SkiDoo, two kiddie snowmobiles and an ice shanty were stolen from a storage area at the location at 40375 Grand River Avenue. There is no surveillance video and no leads for possible suspects at this time.

Lug nuts stolen

3 A rental Chevy Malibu had its lug nuts stolen from its wheels in what appeared to be an effort to steal the tire.

It was reported to Novi Police that on Nov. 29 the car was discovered in the parking lot at the Crowne Plaza Hotel without the 20 lug nuts. Police believe the suspect was trying to take the tires/wheels, but was probably scared off by something. There is no security camera in that area of the lot and no suspects.

Tires slashed

4 A Novi woman has had her car tires slashed twice in the

last several weeks. She went to police to report that her car, while parked at her residence on Pheasant Run, had its tires slashed. She said this was after she had replaced the previously damaged tires from a previous incident the day before. The woman said she hasn't had any bad encounters with anyone that could explain these crimes.

There are no witnesses.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman.

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- Lindsey H., Northville

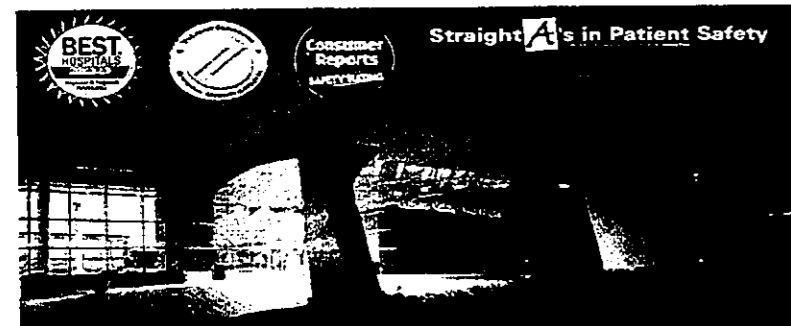
"I could no longer do the many activities I once enjoyed. I knew something was wrong. People told me that this happens as you age and it's normal. So I tried to pretend everything was ok. My husband and I attended your seminar and I felt hopeful. The improvement I experienced was dramatic in just a few weeks. All of the symptoms I've struggled with began to fade away. I am back on my feet again."
- Sane F., Novi

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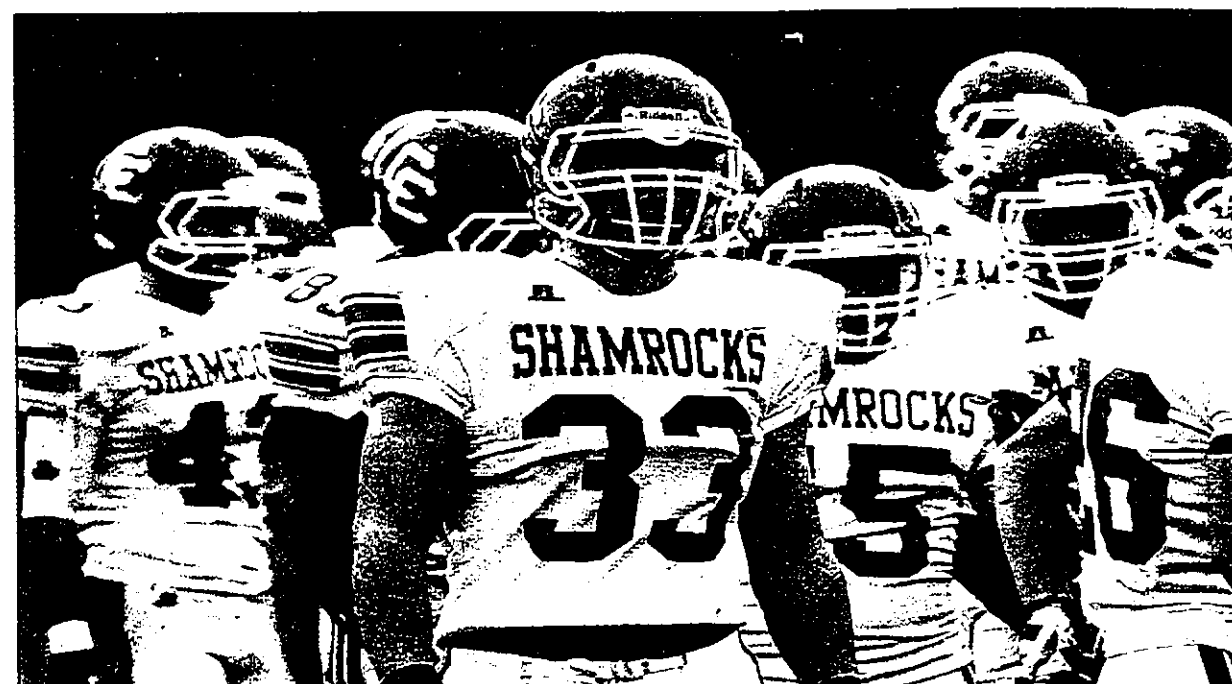
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SECTION B (NON)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012
HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
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SPORTS

CAL STONE, EDITOR
cstone@hometownlife.com
(248) 437-2011 EXT. 237



CC student athlete David Widzinski passed away Monday.

Standout Detroit Catholic Central football player dies in his sleep

Tammy Stables Battaglia
Gannett News Service

As the Catholic Central High School community grieves the loss of a standout football player and friend, David Widzinski's mother hopes he's remembered for his wit, dedication, generosity and faith.

"It's just a huge loss — we're in a fog," Barbara Widzinski said today from the family's home in Northville, as her husband, Paul Widzinski, a lawyer for General Motors, and daughter, Emily, 17, a student at Northville High School, attended a Mass held in David's honor at the Novi high school. "I just want David's memory to live on. That's just really important to me. He was an amazing son, amazing in so many ways. And I want everyone to know that."

Barbara Widzinski went to wake David, 15, Monday morning for school, but he had died in his sleep. The Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office is conducting an autopsy to determine a cause of

death, a spokesman there said. Sunday was uneventful, after the family went to church and David hung out at home, according to his mother.

"We have no idea," she said. "I went to wake him up for school and he was already gone. And he went to bed healthy. He had a good day. The day before, there was no indication."

The Catholic Central community mobilized immediately upon learning of the tragedy Monday. A handful of administrators kept the situation quiet, so the family could tell David's older brother, Stephen, 20, a Michigan State University student, who was traveling back to Michigan Monday after participating in a mock trial at Yale over the weekend. They also called the parents of David's closest friends and asked them to come to the school with their child Monday evening. Together, they learned that the stand-out football player had passed. Later Monday night, the boys sent a picture of Barbara Widzinski, their hands in fists, sur-

rounding David's number on the Shamrock's football team, 33. "He was very strong in his faith, and he just loved Catholic Central," said his mother. "And he felt it was a brotherhood and those were his brothers there. The support from Catholic Central has been amazing. We feel the love and support from Catholic Central and our friends and family."

David, one of two sophomores on Catholic Central's storied football team, was at Ford Field Nov. 26 for Catholic Central's 36-21 loss to Cass Tech for the Division 1 title. "He had a lot of just natural athletic ability, but he was always very humble, very generous, very loving," his mother said. "He just had a lot of friends. He connected very well with people and was very sensitive to people's needs — just a wonderful, son, brother and friend."

Leading the team in tackles as a linebacker, he continued playing even though he broke his

South Lyon's Reinig spikes top position

By Jeff Theisen
Sports Writer

South Lyon's Chloe Reinig is easy to spot on the floor. The 6-4 senior played front and back row while knocking down ridiculously hard shots at the net all night.

Reinig is the 2012 All-Area Volleyball Player of the Year.

Reinig finished with 631 kills with a .354 hitting efficiency. On defense she accumulated 292 digs and had 72 blocks while also serving 36 aces.

"Even though Chloe was out for 10 games this year injured, she still managed to rake up some serious numbers in the stat column," said coach Mandy Collins. "This is a testament to how dominating of a player she really is. She is not only our strongest force at the net, but is also our most consistent passer in the back row."

"Chloe set numerous records for South Lyon throughout her career and would have broken her own kill record this year if she hadn't been out with her ankle injury. We will miss having her presence on the court next year, but are excited to see her playing down the street and look forward what she can do in her collegiate years."

Reinig recently signed her letter of intent to play at Michigan State University.

First team
Rebecca Martin, Northville
The senior filled the stat sheet with 1,331 assists, 179 kills and 89 aces. On defense she had 297 digs and 115 blocks (23 solos). Martin also picked up 166 points on serve.

Please see VOLLEYBALL, B3



South Lyon's Chloe Reinig is the 2012 All-Area Volleyball Player of the Year.



Kerri McMahon jumps up for a shot against Walled Lake Central on Nov. 27.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wildcats rout first two opponents

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

As it was for former MLB All-Star Roger Marris, 61 was the magic number last night for Novi's girls basketball team.

The Wildcats (2-0) tallied 61 points in two consecutive victories where their opponents combined for 56 points. Friday's home opener against Farmington was the closest of the two, but the 'Cats put the game away with a 21-2 run in the third quarter en route to a 61-33 victory.

In a battle between

high 19 points on 8-for-14 shooting. She also had 11 rebounds for her first double-double of the season.

"I think she's working her way back into shape from the second ACL injury, said Novi coach Bill Kelp. "She's got to finish more around the basket, but each day she's slowly getting there."

McMahon and Howell each tallied 15 points apiece, but Howell didn't get a lot of help until Taylor Suemeyer caught fire in the fourth quarter against Novi's reserves to tally 11 points.

"That girl's a tough girl to guard and it was a challenge for Kerri," Kelp said. McMahon's match-up with Howell. "That girl's probably as fast, if not faster than her, so it's a good experience for her to guard someone like that."

The Wildcats traded blows with the Falcons early, taking a 21-13 lead after a full-court press in the first quarter that led to nearly as many turnovers and free baskets as it created. Novi had 19 turnovers and Farmington had nine.

Please see HOOPS, B4

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WINTER 2012-13 HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

Novi Wildcats
ICE HOCKEY
11/16 6 p.m. Lake Orion
11/17 8:30 p.m. Rochester
11/21 6:30 p.m. Plymouth
11/30 6:30 p.m. Canton
12/5 8 p.m. @ Plymouth
12/7 7 p.m. @ South
12/12 6:30 p.m. Howell
12/14 7 p.m. @ Davison
12/15 TBD @ TBA
12/15 TBD @ TBA



12/17 7 p.m. @ Northville
12/19 8 p.m. @ Livonia
1/4 7 p.m. @ Calumet
1/5 1 p.m. @ Houghton
1/6 1 p.m. @ Marquette
1/19 6:30 p.m. Northville
1/23 6:30 p.m. Brighton
1/26 6:30 p.m. Livonia
1/28 6:30 p.m. Livonia
2/1 6 p.m. @ Brighton

1/15 @ Plymouth Salem
1/18 Livonia Stevenson
1/25 @ South Lyon
2/1 @ South Lyon
2/5 Plymouth Salem
2/8 @ Livonia Stevenson
2/12 KLAAs Crossover
2/14 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/18 KLAAs Crossover
2/21 KLAAs Crossover
2/25-3/1 TBA @ Districts

WRESTLING
12/15 5:30 p.m. Novi
12/29 9 a.m. @ Howell
12/29 5 p.m. @ Farmington
12/29 5 p.m. @ Plymouth
12/21-22 TBD @ Oakland
12/21-22 TBD @ Oakland
12/29 10 a.m. @ Plymouth
1/5 9:30 a.m. @ Manning
1/9 5 p.m. @ Livonia
1/12 10 a.m. @ South
1/15 5 p.m. @ Northville
1/18 @ Livonia Stevenson
1/22 @ Saline
1/25 @ South Lyon
1/29 @ South Lyon
2/1 @ Northville
2/5 @ Plymouth Salem
2/8 Livonia Stevenson
2/15 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/22 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/26 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/28 TBD @ Districts

1/24 6:30 p.m. @ Livonia
1/31 6:30 p.m. @ South
2/1-2 8 a.m. @ Oakland
2/15-16 6 p.m./12 p.m. @ KLAAs Central Division
2/22-23 12 p.m. @ KLAAs
2/25 @ Last Chance
2/25 @ Royal Oak
3/5 TBA @ Diving
3/6-9 TBA @ States

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
12/29 9 a.m. @ Howell
12/29 5 p.m. @ Farmington
12/29 5 p.m. @ Plymouth
12/21-22 TBD @ Oakland
12/21-22 TBD @ Oakland
12/29 10 a.m. @ Plymouth
1/5 9:30 a.m. @ Manning
1/9 5 p.m. @ Livonia
1/12 10 a.m. @ South
1/15 5 p.m. @ Northville
1/18 @ Livonia Stevenson
1/22 @ Saline
1/25 @ South Lyon
1/29 @ South Lyon
2/1 @ Northville
2/5 @ Plymouth Salem
2/8 Livonia Stevenson
2/15 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/22 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/26 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/28 TBD @ Districts

BOYS BASKETBALL
12/4 Walled Lake Central
12/7 Walled Lake North
12/12 @ Lincoln Park
12/14 @ Wayne Memorial
12/18 Westland John Glenn
1/4 South Lyon East
1/8 @ South Lyon
1/11 Northville
1/15 Plymouth Salem
1/18 @ Livonia Stevenson
1/22 @ Saline
1/25 @ South Lyon
1/29 @ South Lyon
2/1 @ Northville
2/5 @ Plymouth Salem
2/8 Livonia Stevenson
2/15 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/22 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/26 @ KLAAs Crossover
2/28 TBD @ Districts

BOYS & GIRLS SKIING
12/12 @ Westland John Glenn
12/14 @ Wayne Memorial
12/17 Wayne Memorial
1/5 12:30 p.m. @ Ladywood
1/10 Hartland, Milford
1/17 Ladywood, West Bloomfield
1/24 Lakeland, Walled Lake Western
1/28 Brother Rice, Marian
1/31 Walled Lake Central
2/7 8:45 a.m. KLAAs
2/11 8:45 a.m. KLAAs
2/18 8:45 a.m. KLAAs
2/25 8 a.m. @ States

BOYS SWIMMING
1/6 Brandon
1/8 @ Eastern Michigan University
1/14 @ Tri-Meet
1/17 Northville
1/12 11:30 a.m. @ Laker
1/17 Plymouth Salem

FIGURE SKATING
12/9 10 a.m. @ Hartland
1/14 4 p.m. @ Farmington
2/13 4 p.m. @ Farmington
2/24 8 a.m. @ Individual
2/25 8 a.m. @ Team
2/26 @ Farmington Hills

Novi icers cut through Chiefs

Wildcats cruise to 7-1 victory

By Chris Jackett

There continues to be an upward trend for Novi's hockey team, as the Wildcats exhibited a season high in goals and season low for goals allowed.

1 battle Nov. 30 at Novi Ice Arena. "The guys worked hard and played smart against Canton," Novi coach Todd Krygier said.

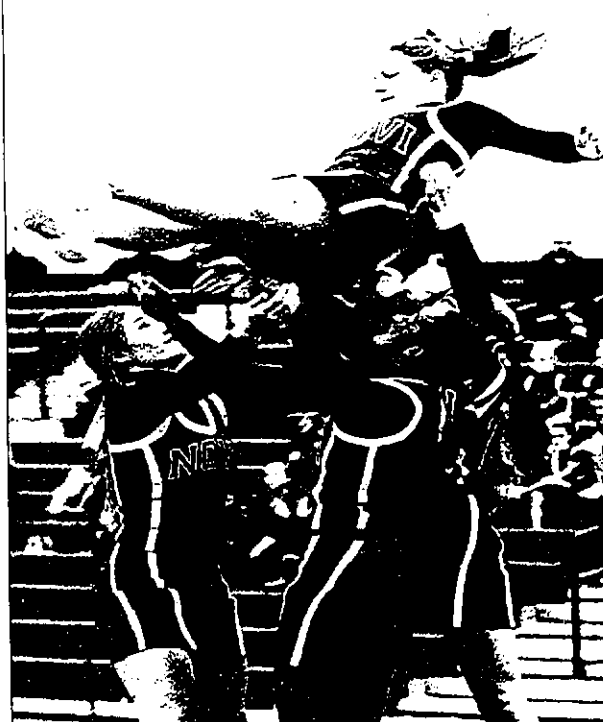
offensive lines. Sophomore Bryan Fegert got the scoring started with an unassisted goal, which senior Luke Bageris followed up with the eventual game-winner for a lead that the Chiefs wouldn't catch up to, off assists from junior Christopher Kennedy and senior Kyle Lash.

first goal, was the only Wildcat to score twice as senior Carl Faron and sophomore Bradley Hofelich set him up for the team's final goal. Despite the seven goals, Canton's net-minder had 31 saves. Senior Patrick Carney improved to 2-1-0 on the season with 29 saves in the 7-1 victory.

ON TAP

Novi's hockey team (2-2-0, 2-0-0 KLAAs Kensington) was set to visit Plymouth (5-1-0, 2-1-0 Kensington) last night before visiting South Lyon (2-5-1, 0-1-1 Kensington) 7 p.m. tomorrow at Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton. The 'Cats will then host Howell (0-1-0, 0-1-0 Lakes) 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The Novi High School competitive cheer team enters the gym for its third and last performance on Dec. 1 during the Fire Up winter competition at the school hosted.



Three Wildcats look to catch at teammate during their Dec. 1 meet at home.

Novi cheers way to third in season-opening invitational

By Chris Jackett

The Wildcats hosted 17 other teams Dec. 1 for the Winter Fire Up Invitational and had an impressive third-place showing behind 688.90 points.

The competitive cheerleaders were third after each the first and second round, failing to catch up to Southgate Anderson (754.54) or Allen Park (698.60), but keeping a few paces above the other 15 teams, including a late surge from Farmington (fourth in 684.52).

The Wildcats tallied 213.50 points in the first round, 208.70 in the second and 266.70 in the third round. Novi was one of 11 squads not to be penalized any points during any of the three rounds.

The junior varsity team finished sixth of nine teams at their level with 302.98 points, as Southgate one the JV category, as well, with 562.08 points. The Novi Middle School team finished fifth of six schools with 100.46 points, as Scranton Middle School's Brighton-based eighth-grade team was first with 365.34.

The varsity squad will next compete 6 p.m. Wednesday in a quad meet at Howell against the host Highlanders, White Lake Lakeland and Westland John Glenn. Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page B1

Martin earned a ton of awards in helping Northville to the final four in Division 1 — Honorable Mention All-National team, 1st team All-State, All-Region and top 100 recognition for the Under Armour All-American Team. She is a four-year varsity player, senior captain, Northville volleyball's all-time leader in assists, second all time in blocking, second all time in aces and signed for Georgia Tech.

"Rebecca Martin has left a legacy to live up to at Northville," said coach Amanda Yaklin. "She is an intelligent, driven teammate that works hard on and off the court. Her work ethic leads by example to show what it takes to be successful. Rebecca has made huge improvements every year to take a below 500 team her freshman year to a state semi-finalist team her senior year."

"Thank you for your contribution to the program. You will be missed." Cassidy Minghine, Northville The junior outside hitter was a jack-of-all-trades for the Mustangs. Minghine recorded 349 digs, had 219 perfect serve receptions, 186 points on serve, 151 kills, 82 aces, 30 assists and 15 blocks. She was yet another force as the Mustangs captured a North Division title and made it to the final four in the state playoffs. "While Cassidy is not a leader in any particular stat category, she leads the team with a balanced skill set as a six rotation player," said Yaklin. "Her heart and work ethic proved to be the rock we needed to lead the team to a semifinal appearance."

ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

PLAYER OF THE YEAR Chloe Reinig, South Lyon FIRST TEAM Rebecca Martin, Northville Cassidy Minghine, Northville Casey Sheldon, Novi Emily Robb, Novi Kelly Merkle, Lakeland Jenna Villemure, Milford SECOND TEAM Olivia Landis, Northville Isabelle Glancy, Novi Brooke Laney, Novi Carolyn Neihaus, Lakeland

lead the team to a semifinal appearance. "Kasey Sheldon, Novi The senior outside hitter accounted for 572 kills on 1,291 attempts for a 44.3 kill percentage. Sheldon averaged 4.2 kills a game while also putting together a strong defensive game with 631 digs. She also had a 93.3 serving percentage and had 58 aces. She was named All-KLAA as well as All-Region. Sheldon was one of the main factors in Novi winning the KLAA Association title.

"Kasey is one of the best all-around players in the state," said coach Jen Cottrill. "She consistently took the offensive load for our team from the front and back row, was our best defensive player and passed in a two-person serve reception pattern for most of the season. "She is a three-year varsity player as well as team captain this season. She is the hardest worker in the gym, extremely passionate and a great teammate." Emily Robb, Novi The Novi junior setter passed out an astonishing 10.2 assists per game en route to

WOMEN AND PELVIC HEALTH

The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth Wednesday, Dec. 12 6-8 p.m.

REGISTER NOW! Registration is required. Please call 734-655-1980.

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NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

Boys hoop tryouts Attention all fourth, seventh and eighth grade boys — don't miss your chance to attend Open tryouts for the 2013 Novi Cats travel basketball team. Fourth grade tryouts will be held 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10 and Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Orchard Hills Elementary School, 41900 Quince Street, Novi. Seventh and eighth grade tryouts will be held 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 15 each day at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, Novi. Games start in early January and run through March. You must be a Novi resident and attend at least one tryout session to be considered. For more information, visit www.novicatsbasketball.com.

Holiday Hoops Camp Boys in grades third through eighth are invited to attend a Holiday Hoops Camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 at Novi High School. This camp will feature a morning session of individual offensive and defensive skill improvement and contests along with an afternoon session of action-packed games. In addition to Coach Tass and the Novi High School staff, campers will learn from current Novi Varsity players. Attendees should bring gym shorts; T-shirt; a bag lunch; basketball shoes; enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn. Cost is \$25; register online prior to the event at https://www.totalgatesolutions.com/SelectEvent-Tickets.aspx?eventId=31474. For further information, contact Brian Tass, Novi boys varsity coach, at (248) 408-2463 or btass@novi.k12.mi.us.

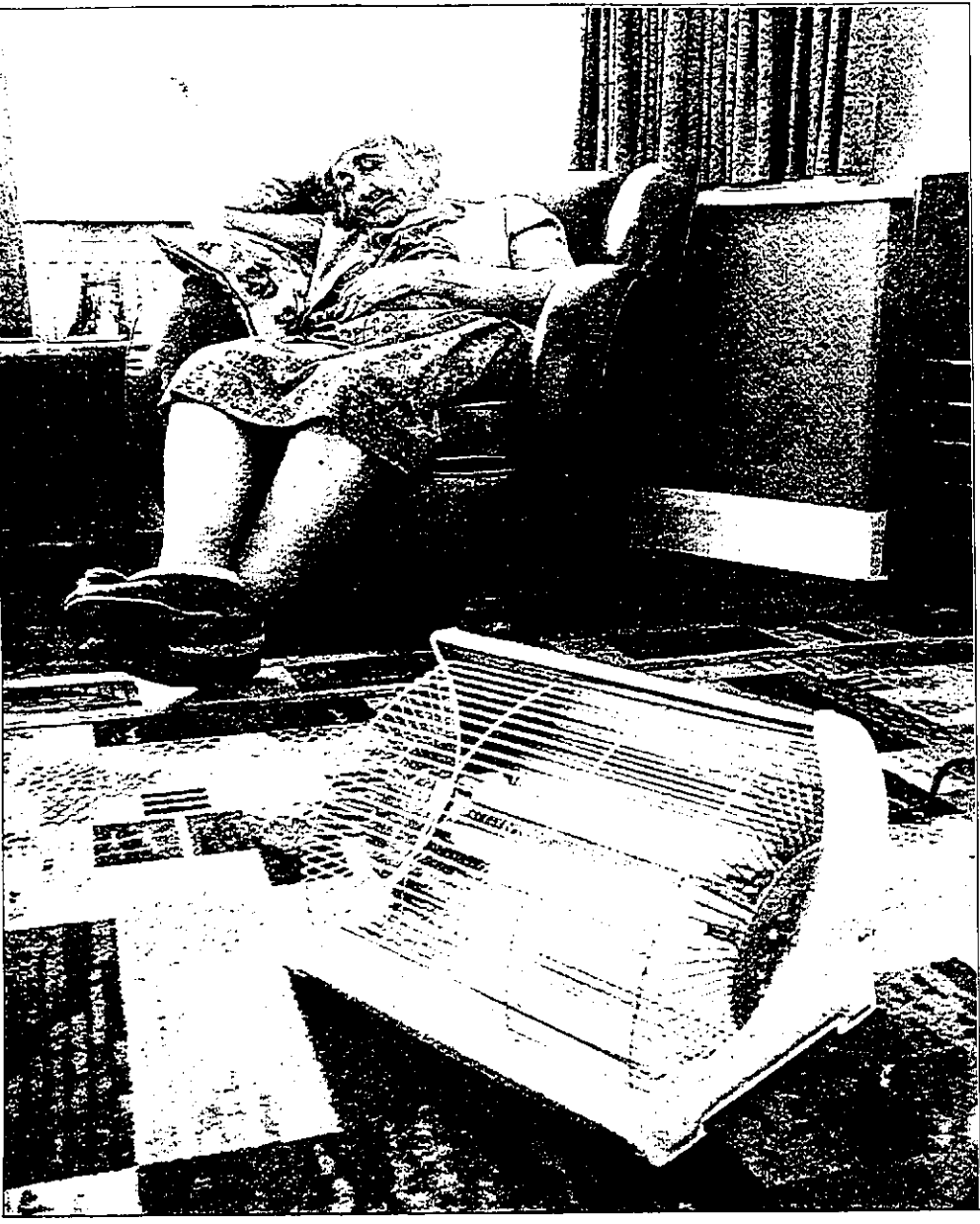
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ST. MARY MERCY LIVONIA Women's Services WOMEN AND PELVIC HEALTH The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth Wednesday, Dec. 12 6-8 p.m. REGISTER NOW! Registration is required. Please call 734-655-1980.

As temps fall, be aware of safety in home heating

'Tis the season for rosy cheeks, but- down coats and cranking up the heat. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), it's also the time of year when home fires peak, many of which are caused by heating equipment. "Half of all home heating fires occur during December, January, and February, when we are fully utilizing our heating systems," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications for NFPA.



As temperatures begin to drop, here are some safe heating behaviors to follow: • Always wear the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.

Lincoln strong college town

By Robert Meisner Guest Columnist

Q: My son is thinking about going to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I am wondering if you happen to have any information about the opportunities for rental and/or purchase in that city? A: I find that the Lincoln real estate market is similar to that of Ann Arbor.

Q: Has the property in San Francisco, in terms of residential housing, taken a dip at all because of the recession, and how does it stand now? A: It has basically stayed stable. It has not decreased as much as most of the rest of the country.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE Table with columns for address, price, and other details.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND Table with columns for address, price, and other details.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling.

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WANTED TO BUY WANTEDS: I am looking for a 1965-1970 vintage car

SPORING GOODS GOLF CARTS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

MISC. FOR SALE CHEAPESTE CHAIRS 8 Mile & Van Dyke

ABSOLUTELY ALL SCRAP METAL WANTED

ORGAN: Lowrey Festival Wagon with 40' organ

MUSIC INSTRUMENTS REC'D TV NEWSPAPER HELP WANTED - General

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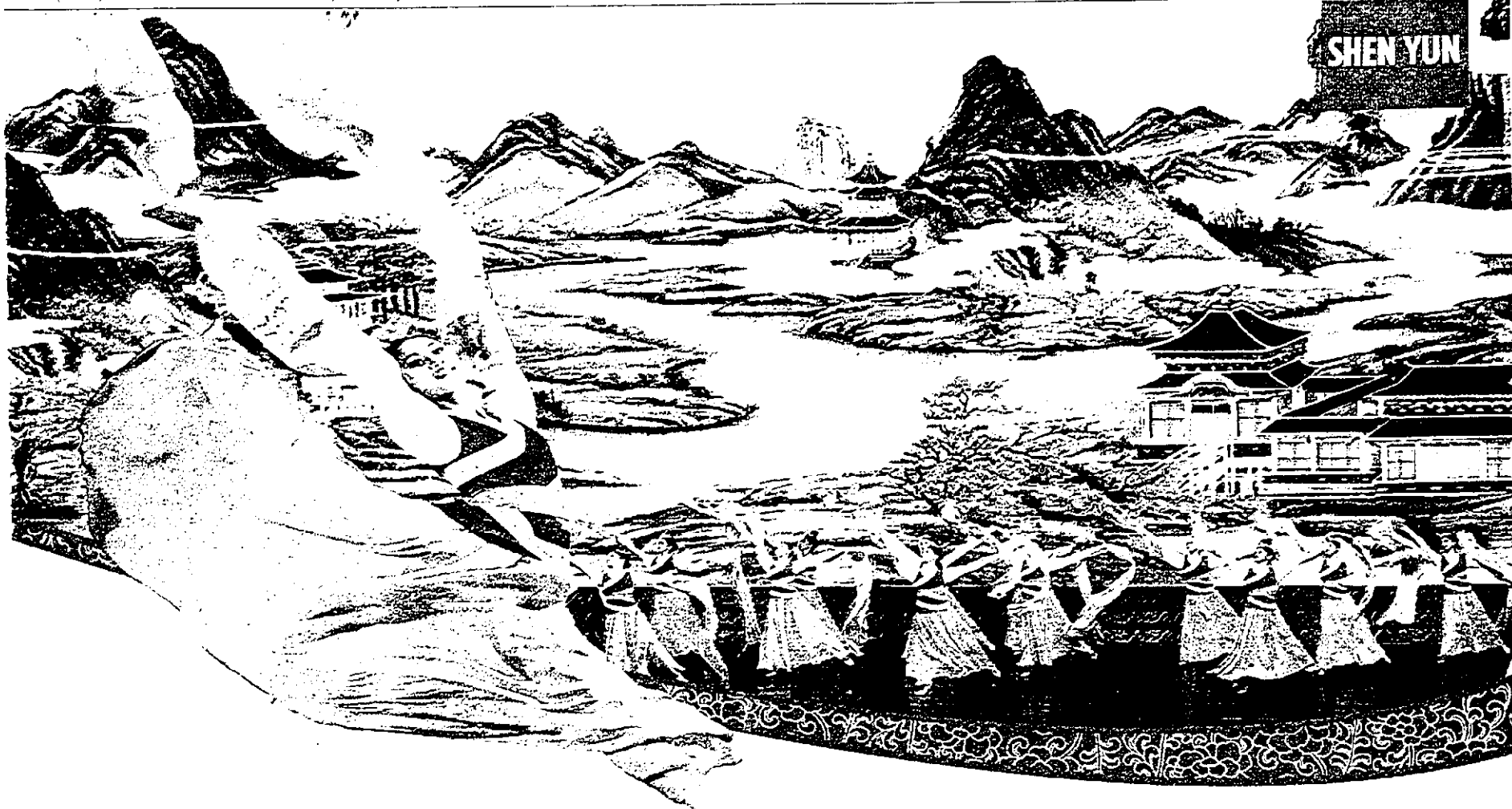
Crossword Puzzle Ohio Style ACROSS 1 Lyrical verses

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle FACIADIE TVADIS STUFAIRM

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HELP WANTED - General NEW CAREER? Quality

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A PRODUCTION NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE.

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Exquisite costumes from ancient dynasties & peoples
Stunning, animated backdrops

SHEN YUN—it's a grand production. Every year we start fresh. Every detail matters. Our goal? Not just another show. We take our craft beyond the boundaries of performing arts as you know it.

A Shen Yun show is a fusion of classical arts with modern appeal. As one audience member put it, "It's like a fashion show, opera, concert, and dance performance all rolled into one." Difficult? Yes. Impossible?

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Classical Chinese dance lies at the heart of our performances. The dancers—with what some have called "limitless bodies"—turn an intensely difficult art form into something beautiful and effortless. China's 5,000 years of civilization provide an endless source of inspiration. The choreographers work

closely with the composers to recreate ancient stories and legends, or convey an aspect of the culture, through short pieces that last no more than a few minutes. Our graphic artists, meanwhile, use advanced digital technology to produce stunning animated backdrops that correspond precisely to each dance.

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

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5,000 YEARS OF DIVINELY INSPIRED CULTURE THE SHOW THAT'S LEAVING MILLIONS IN AWE...

"The ancient Chinese wisdom it conveyed will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also the whole world."

—Ted Kavanau, *Chicago Tribune*

★★★★★

"Mind blowing. I've seen enough shows and none can compare to what I saw tonight... Go back and see it six times!"

—Richard Connema, *Chicago Tribune*

"Really out of this world!

There is no word to describe it... if I had to, the words might be 'divine,' 'reborn' and 'hope.' You have to see it to believe it."

—Christine Walevska, *Chicago Tribune*

"If heaven is the way we saw it tonight, count me in!"

—Nathaniel Khan, *Chicago Tribune*

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—Joy Behar, *Chicago Tribune*

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