Holiday closings

City of Novi offices will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays, Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1. Novi Public Library will be closed those days as well as Sundays, Dec. 23 and 30.

Holidays at Twelve Oaks

Santa photos: Santa will be available for photos at the Ice Palace in Twelve Oaks Mali. 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.

Ice Palace and Santa: This holiday season, visitors to Twelve Oaks Mail 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

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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Right-to-work: New legislation could deplete union membership

By Cal Stone Staff Writer

Contentious right-to-work legislation was approved last week by state lawmakers and signed by Gov. Rick Snyder, but its impact on Novi's large employer of union members — the Novi Community School district — is difficult to tell at this point

Five union groups represent teachers, secretaries, food service, transportation and maintenance workers - approximately 800 school employees in all. For six years, Tom Brenner has been president of the local teachers' union, Novi Education Association, and he said the impact of the legislation is fairly unknown at this time. His main concern is that the NEA will lose the financial support of some of its 406 members.

"I found the news of this law's passage particularly disturbing on a personal level," said Brenner, adding that he has done his best to represent

members as fairly and professionally as possible.

"The new law to me was a slap in the face," Brenner said. When Rep. Crawford voted for it and the governor said he would sign it, I took that as a message that he (and his colleagues) did not value my efforts, personal-

Snyder signed the legislation on Dec. 11, making Michigan the nation's 24th right-to-work state.

Please see UNION, A16



WWW.NOVINEA.COM Tom Brenner is president of the Novi Education Association, the teachers' union

Sounds of the season



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parkview Elementary School students sing "Must Be Santa Claus" during their Dec. 11 holiday concert. The group was directed by music teacher Matt Ownby.

Toast of the Town gala set for Jan. 25

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Business leadership and civic engagement will be honored at the Friday, Jan. 25, Toast of the Town gala, hosted by the Novi Chamber of Commerce at the Suburban Collection

The gala begins at 6:30 p.m.,

said Sheryl Romzek, chamber interim executive director, and includes dinner and dancing to music of a live band. Individual tickets are \$60, with a cost of \$400 for a table

The 2013 Business Recognition Awards will be given, along with a live auction and raffle to benefit the American



THE NOVI CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE

Red Cross.

That evening, an individual will receive the Mayor's Award, chosen by Novi's may-or, Bob Gatt. There are also three additional award categories: Community Builder, Best Place To Work, and Customer Service Excellence.

For those three, separate awards are given in each for small businesses of 50

Please see TOAST, A2

Novi aims to improve Older **Adult Services**

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

The City of Novi is hoping to engage a wider audience and increase awareness of the various

senior citizen programs.
Those are the two goals in the updated Strategic Plan for the City of Novi's Older Adult Services presented to the city council at their Dec. 3 meeting by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Jason Mangum and Older Adult Servicroli. Both said this plan is a vital tool in bringing forth quality programs and services for Novi's older adults.

The process to complete this strategic plan was comprehensive and multi-faceted," Mangum told council.

He said it included a dedicated steering committee, focus groups, and data collected from our 2012 Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults, a statistically valid reflection of perceptions held by Novi older adults.

The plan, for 2013-2015. aims to be a road map

Piease see ADULTS, A13



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Crossword Puzzle Education

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Charity hockey game to benefit fallen police officer's family

By Aileen Wingblad

If the National Hockey League lockout has you hungering for some action on the ice, mark your calendar for Dec. 21.

It's the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association versus several local police departments for a charity hockey game fundraiser at Compuware Arena, in honor of fallen West Bloomfield police officer Patrick O'Rourke. O'Rourke, 39, was killed in action Sept. 9 after responding to a domestic

Watch retired pros Joe Kocur, Kris Draper, Dino Ciccarelli, Kirk Maltby and several others show they still got it when they face off that evening

against "boys in blue" from Milford, Plymouth. West Bloomfield, Southfield. White Lake, Sterling Heights and Grosse Pointe. The event is presented by the Joe Kocur Foundation for Children and the Detroit Red Wings Association.

Along with the game, the evening will include a 50/50 raffle and live auction of autographed game-worn NHL alumni jerseys. All proceeds will benefit the Patrick O'Rourke Family Trust.

"Pat left behind four young children and a wife. We're trying to do to take care of 'our own,' said Sgt. Scott Tarasiewicz of the Milford Police Department.

Tarasiewicz came up

with the idea for the benefit as the legacy project for the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, in which he's currently enrolled. Tarasiewicz heads the legacy gift committee.

Opening ceremonies are at 7:15 p.m. with game start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available at each participating police departments. "If we get a sell out, that's 4,000 tickets - and

that's roughly \$80,000 right there that we can give to the family," Tarasiewicz said. Compuware Arena is at 14900 Beck in Plymouth.

(248) 685-1507, ext. 261



Along with the game, the evening will include a 50/50 raffle and live auction of autographed, game-worn NHL alumni jerseys. All proceeds will benefit the Patrick O'Rourke Family Trust.

TOAST

Continued from page A1

employees or under and for larger businesses of 50 or more, Romzek said.

This is the second year for the gala, with awards given by the city of Novi, Novi Rota-We had close to 100" attend, last year, she

said. Businesses that win must be physically in Novi, with home-based businesses accept-

You can obtain Toast of the Town tickets by calling the chamber at (248) 349-3743 or going online to www.novichamber.com. The website has more details and forms for nominating businesses.

"We're basically looking for businesses to nominate themselves or another deserving business," said Romzek. Dec. 28 is the dead-

line for nominating businesses. "Last year, everyone had a great time," she said. "Having the gala was a nice way to recognize the businesses."

Businesses that won last year are again eligible, and one can nominate a business in more than one category, although it won't

win in more than one. Organizers are now working on the live auction and raffle items. The business honorees will receive an award, an article in the city's "Novi Today," and a profile in the chamber e-blast and in the city e-Biz online newsletter.

OVI NEWS

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nd address changes to:

Novi court staffer, Michigan State Police retiree was 'a great guy,' judge recalls

By Julie Brown

William M. Chatfield, supervisor of the Novi 52-1 District Court Community Service Program and Garden, died at age 70 on Dec. 5.

Chatfield, a Davisburg resident, was a retired Michigan State Police sergeant, having served there 27 years. He was later a security officer at V.G.'s Food Market, and was a U.S. Army veteran.

"He was a great guy," said Judge Brian MacK-



est, hardworkine sense of kindness.'

field had worked many years as a policeman, MacKenzie added, and had reason to be cynical but wasn't. The court staff knew Chatfield was facing

revamped the alterna tive service program of the Novi court. "It was the two of them that implemented the garden program for us," said MacKenzie, adding Chatfield oversaw other court alternative service endeavors as well. Chatfield began July 5,

be missed. He did a very

Chatfield and col-

league Bill Brown

1995, at the Novi court. 'A long time. I'm going to miss him. I really am," the judge added. cancer. "It's a real loss "He's part of the original for the court." MacKenzie said. "He's going to

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receive free general museum admission.

Charfield is the father field II, Deborah (Paul) West and Jason (Cassie) Chatfield. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, and was the brother of Margaret, John, Jan, Ginny and Donnie. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Memorials are suggest ed to the family in support of the 52-1 District Court Community Service Garden Program. Arrangements were by Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Walled Lake.





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online at hometownlife.com Has Santa hijacked Christmas? Families still welcome Santa to religious holiday

Christmas has become more commercialized than ever. The National Retail Federation predicts that Americans will spend \$586 billion this Christmas, a 4 percent increase

from last year. Americans lick 1.76 billion candy canes a year, reports Spangler Candy Company. That's enough to circle the globe nearly

Do local families consider the massive amounts of shopping and decorating a distraction from the religious holiday? Has Santa hijacked Christmas?

"No." said Tom Duncan, a South Lyon father of four and grandfather of nine, "Santa enhances the joy and love of Christmas. There is a happy co-existence between Santa and the religious aspects of the

Despite some frustration with the overabundances of the season, the jolly elf is as well-loved as ever. Santa is still wel come in the South Lyon and New Hudson areas. but local families are digging in against letting commercialism take over the holiday completely.

Local mother Taire Thie has noticed that her 4-year-old son, Nathan, already become caught up in the excitement of presents and Santa Claus.

"My son gets a lot of Santa from his dav care. so we go with it but we

don't promote it further," she said. "I think it is important to teach him ta from a Christian perspective. I make a point to show him the Veggie Tales movie that talks about the history of St. Nicholas.' Other area residents have some fun with the

Santa tradition to draw the family closer during the holiday. Sometimes people think that Christmas is about Santa and giving pres-

ents," said 12-year-old Haley Thrift of South Lyon. "Christmas is actually about the birth of Jesus,' added her 9-vear-old brother, Clay, "It is such an amazing day that we have huge celebrations

presents to kids." While some Christians balk at the notion of an allknowing Santa with amazing powers, the Thrift family said the myth is simply describing the role of a caring parent.

and Santa comes to give

kids," said mom Robin Thrift. "We know when they are sleeping, and we know when they're awake It is all true. As they've ized that we are Santa, it all makes sense to them that Santa knows so much about them and loves them so much."

David and Shawna Rudd have always encouraged their four children to enjoy both the secular and sacred aspects of Christmas. Now that the couple



David and Shawna Rudd celebrate Christmas at church with their youngest daughter, Ashtyn. The couple uses Santa and popular Christmas traditions to teach their children about the true meaning of

helps lead a Sunday morning kids program at South Lyon Baptist Church, they see the excitement about Santa as the perfect opportunity to teach kids to love and care for others

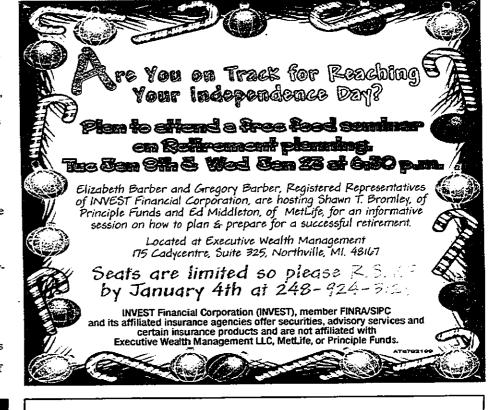
in the community. "I do know some people that reject Santa altogether, and I respect that. David Rudd explained. "I think Santa can be used as a teaching tool. I ask the kids why we give gifts. What was in this guy's heart that made him give to others? Can we be like Santa and not just give to people in our family, but also give to others that are

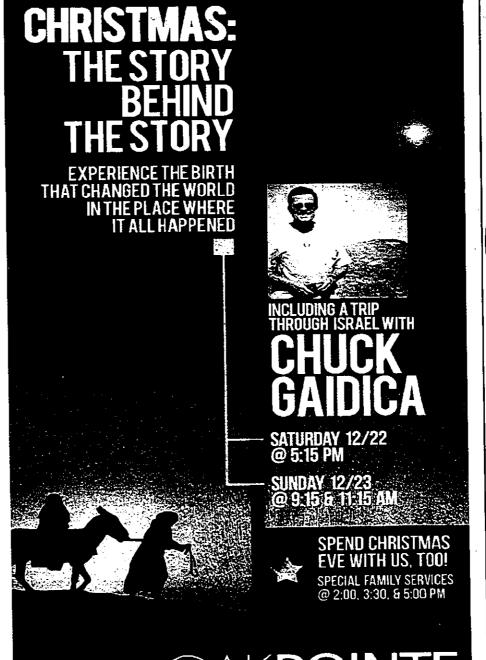
The Rudd family loves visiting a local Santa and participating in all of the holiday cheer. Mom Shaw na Rudd enjoys recalling fond memories from her own childhood as she watches her kids shake brightly wrapped pres-

"I love seeing their eyes light up," said Shawna Rudd. "It is the wonder of being a kid."



Hayley Thrift, 12, and her brother Clay, 9, look closely at a Christmas tree. These kids said that Santa and gift giving make the religious holiday even more fun.





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Novi reassures families after Newtown tragedy

The school day in Novi following the Dec. 14 tragedy in Newtown, man killed 20 elementary students and six teachers before turning a gun on himself - was "nothing out of the ordinary" according to superinten dent Steve Matthews.

"We made sure the police were visible, but extraordinary from the student perspective," he said of Monday.

Although some parents call the district with concerns about safety, Matthews said he explained Novi's procedures. "And we talked about

continuing to review to make sure we are doing all that we can to make sure we keep our students safe," said Mat-

6134 Black Frogs team and mentors with their Inspire Award banner: (I to r, back) Sanat

(middle) Maria Mazza, Aditya Chitta, Soorya Ramappan, Mitchel Huang, Corey Grassmyer,

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Ashwin Vangipuram; (front) Duncan Yang, Ria Joshi, Eric Mazza and Andrew Pospeshil.

On the day of the killings, Matthews sent the community an email via ListServ with the follow-

> "We grieve with those families and that staff in Connecticut. It is difficult to understand why these things happen.

"Please know that we take school safety seriously here in our school district. I am confident that we have created a school environment that is as safe as it can be. We keep our doors and windows locked. People cannot just walk in to our buildings, they have to stop at the front door and be buzzed in. We have a police liaison officer. We have a positive and close

Police Department. "But, I know that all of these efforts are for naught if we do not

relationship with the Novi

they revisit throughout er to protect our students the year.

"Our schools should be "We have and will cona place where our stutinue to pay attention. dents are safe. Working We will continue to pri together - our communioritize safety by doing ty and our schools - we simple things like keep can continue to build safe ing our doors and winschools and a safe comdows locked, making sure we pay attention to people who want to enter our

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Black Frogs heading to Robotics World Championship

buildings, and watching

and reporting suspicious

"Each building has a

Novi Robotics (NBot) had five Novi Middle School FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Teams performed at the East Michigan State Championship event Dec. 15 at Discovery Middle School in

Team 6134, Black Frogs, qualified as one of two teams to represent Michigan at the FIRST World Championship Event to be held in St Louis Missouri April 24-27. There, the Black Frogs will compete with 128 of the best FTC teams from around the world for top robot and team awards. This is the second consecutive year that a Novi team has advanced to the FTC World Cham-

The next opportunity to see the Novi FTC teams in action will be at the FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC) season kickoff event hosted by the Novi High School's FRC team Frog Force 503 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 5 at Novi High

6134 Black Frogs (Sanat Joshi, Mallik Chitta, Brendan Bloom, Chris Huang, Sripriya Vangipuram, Tom Pospeshil, Maria Mazza, Aditya Chitta, Soorya Ramappan, Mitchel Huang, Corey Grassmyer, Ashwin Vangipuram, Dun-can Yang, Ria Joshi, Eric Mazza and Andrew Pospeshil): Rockwell Collins Innovate award Finalist; PTC Design Award Finalist; Think Award Finalist; Inspire Award Winner; FTC World Championship qualifier: fifth place qualifier robot performance; selected for first ranked finals alliance; third place alliance robot performance

5341 Atomic Toads (Ronit Tiwary. Harchint Arora, Colin Bilyeu, Advay Muchoor, Matt Macek, Raviraj Rege, Ethan Large, Joe Macek, Jonathan Lee, Wyatt Parson, Asha Tiwary and Brian Large): Think Award Finalist; Robot performance Finalist Alliance (secrobot performance; selected for second ranked finals alliance; second place alliance robot performance

6155 Purple Unicorns (Vivek Chinimilli, Richard Chen, Jasmeet Chahal, Shashank Swaminathan, Prajwal Konanur, Vandik Vadlapudi, Rikin Ankam, Varun Vinod, Dhruva Vishwanath and Suhas

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For more information on FTC, visit http:// www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc For information about the Michigan FTC program, visit http://firstinmichigan. org/index.html or email michiganftc@ amail.com

For information about programs in Novi, e-mail novi.robotics@gmail.com

17th place qualifier robot performance; selected for third ranked finals alliance; fourth place alliance robot performance

6225 Team Terrabyte (Roshan Chhaya, Aneesh Cherukuri, Ian Mascarenhas, Neil Parikh, Suraj Sheth, Sam Feig, Arun Annamalai, Gitika Kumar and Robert Chen): third place qualifier robot performance; Captain of third ranked finals alliance; fourth place alli ance robot performance

6294 GoRobo-Novi (Rajdeep Kaur, Samuel Wood, Sarav Noor Singh, Aakash Ray, Amal Ivaturi, Sanidhya Singh, Vedant Gandhewar, Mitchel Wu, Ruchira Ankireddygari and Roshini Ankireddygari): 23rd place qualifier

At FTC events, robots compete in randomly selected two team alliances during qualifying matches. After qualifying, the top four teams pick their alliance partners to compete in best two-ofthree elimination matches.

Teams are also interviewed by a panel of judges for the Inspire, Think, Connect, Motivate, PTC Design, Rockwell Collins Innovate and Judges awards. These awards recognize outstanding performance in various aspects of the FTC program. The highest FTC award, Inspire, is presented to the team that formance, community outreach, engineering, and gracious professionalism

FTC is part of the FIRST family of programs that promotes STEM education from first through 12th grades in the Junior FIRST Lego League (Jr. FLL), FIRST LEGO League (FLL), FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) and FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC).

Novi school district receives recommendation for accreditation

The External Review

its stakeholders as a pos-

itive and powerful place

The AdvancED External Review team on Dec. 12 presented the findings of its review of the Novi Community School District to the Board of Education. Lynn Simmers, chair of the External Review team, informed the Board of Education that the Novi Comwould be recommended for accreditation when

the Advanced ED board meets in January Advanced ED works with over 30,000 schools throughout the world on continu ous improvement, organizational effectiveness, and accreditation Schools that work with AdvancED use a rigorous protocol that focuses

and sustainable change

and improvement. Other highlights by Simmers included the The External Review process took place over recognition that the Novi three days and involved 294 school district stakecommunity and schools holders. The school disembraced, valued and trict engaged in an exhauscelebrated diversity. tive internal review pre-Differences were seen as a positive part of the paring for this visit.

team met with adminisate an environment that trators, teachers, support prepared Novi students staff, parents, community members, and city of Novi employees gathering information about the the district:

In her comments to the Board of Education, Simership teams mers commented that "pride suffuses and enerbusiness partnerships. gizes every comment and perception about the school district from stakeholders." The disfor all students. trict was clearly seen by

The review also noted other positive aspects of *Progressive administrative and teacher lead-*Strong community and

district that helped to cre

that enhances school

effectiveness at all levels.

*Abundant curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities *Parental involvement

This holiday season's best gift: learning

By Steve Matthews

online at hometownlife.com

have the honor and privilege of visiting schools every week. When I step into a teacher's classrooms I know that I will see something good. Visiting schools around the holidays is

especially exciting. Students are full of energy. In many instances students are preparing for special concerts or creating Holiday mementos

o take home. When I was in sixth grade my teacher, Mr. Robbins, helped each of us make a purse out of a carpet scrap as a Holiday rift. It sounds kind of crazy but my Mom really liked it. Although looking back I am not sure

mv Mom ever took it out

Super Talk

Steve Matthews of the house. This year the excitement of the Holidays has been muted by the trag-

edy in Connecticut. Schools are supposed to be places where there is enthusiasm and energy. Students and teachers work together to create an environment that encourages

creativity and learning. Students and parents do not expect that safety will have to an issue that they worry about. Over the years, however,

schools have slowly lost their innocence. In Novi, we have created one of the safest school environments possible. We have locked doors. We have security cameras. We have emergencies plans.

We have a supportive police department More importantly we have a staff and a community that cares deeply for stu-

This is only my second Holiday season in Novi, yet, in my short time here, I have witnessed the great compassion our staff has for our students. From food service workers to secretaries to support staff to bus drivers to teachers and administrators, everyone cares for our students.

Additionally, I have heard from and seen our community step forward to ensure that our students have the resources that they need to be successful. Whether that is voting for bonds or volunteering for school events, we have a community that is ready to help our

And that ultimately is what the holiday season is about. The secular and sacred stories that form the heart of this season revolve around the idea that people care for others. We share stories of people giving gifts to others and sacrificing so that someone else can be happy and celebrating giving not

As this holiday season continues to unfold I think it is important for us to remember that we are lucky in Novi. We are a community that has come together for our children. We value and support the children who live here and attend our schools. Whether we work with our students, parent our children. or support the school district with our time and talent, we are a community that will continue to care and protect

I cannot think of a greater gift this holiday season.

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

Salvation Army support



Over 140 Novi High School students in grades 9-12 volunteered to ring kettle bells for Salvation Army during their Holiday 2012 campaign. This is the 23rd year in a row that Wildcats have helped with this cause. Rae Lynn Harvey, volunteer and events coordinator of the Farmington Hills branch of Salvation Army, thanked the students for their con tinued support throughout the years. She stated that Novi continues to be one of the leading area schools volunteering. Nov High students are assigned to both doors of Lord and Taylor at Twelve Oaks Mall and also at Busch's in Novi on Fridays and Saturdays from Nov. 23 to Dec. 22 in two-hour shifts. Shown are Novi High sophomores Alex Felice and Keri Masserant ring bells outside of Lord and Taylor

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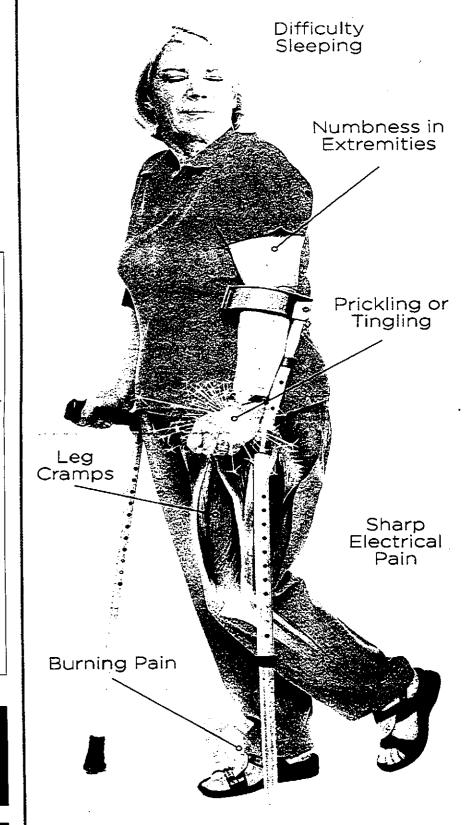
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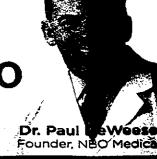
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made it to the airwaves

ed local country radio sta

tions with requests to play

it, and it helped launch her

tions began playing the

friends and fans were

making," Cochran said.

to all the local country

ing for a repeat. In fact,

She has already sent

Snowing in My Hometown

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INCOVER

Hoping for a little hometown snow

Country musician's new Christmas single inspired by South Lyon

By Kurt Kuban

About a month ago, right around Thanksgiving, Anita Cochran was on her way to a meeting in Nash ville. It was sunny, 70-plus degrees and "just a beautiful day." Having grown up in Michigan, it just didn't seem like the start of the holiday season to her.

That's when the question popped into her head "I wonder if it's snowing. back in South Lyon?' And just like that, the

native South Lyon songstress had the basis of her newest single, a Christmas song called Snowing in My Hometown.

through her meeting. Cochran was thinking of lyrics for the song, and by the time she arrived back at her house she pretty much had it finished. And with her own home recording studio, she didn't waste any time performing and recording it. In addition to singing on the track, she plays nearly all the instruments (with the exception of drums and piano), and even produced it herself.

With the help of some friends, she also went to work on a video for the her backyard. In a matter of three weeks, both the single and video were completed - just in time

Cochran (formerly Anita Renee Cockerham). who graduated from South Lyon High School in 1985.

says the song was inspired by her hometown (she grew up near Pontiac Trail and Milford Road). In fact, at the end of the video, she even holds up a sign that reads, "Merry Christmas from South Lyon, Mi." Her Christmas memories during her childhood guided the song's lyrics. "Christmas was always

a special time for me. I come from a large family, and we always had big gatherings with lots of friends and family," said Cochran, "It was my favorite time of the year. She tried to instill those

feelings into the song, which is about going home for Christmas — where it's snowing, of course.

"When I think about Christmas, I always think

Cochran. "Even after I moved to Nashville (in 1994) I would come home for Christmas every year to be with the family. It holds a special place in my

This is Cochran's first single in a while. In recent years, performing in country star Terri Clark's band has kept her busy, touring all over the globe. But she also does plenty of her own work, and is best known for her hit duet with Steve Wariner, What If I Said, which climbed to number one on the country charts

town is available on iTunes The new song kind of and can also be purchased through her website, www. brings Cochran full ciranitacochran.com. The cle, because her very first video is already availsingle back in 1994 was able to view on YouTube a Christmas song called The song is dedicated to

recently passed away. In recent years, most of Cochran's immediate family migrated down er to her, and it has been a number of years since she came home for the holidays (though she did play a show in New Hudson last summer, which raised money for Operation Injured Soldiers). That will change this year. With some of her family members, she is coming back to South Lyon, and is set to arrive

this weekend. "I'm hoping to see a lot of my old friends. Hopefully there will be a gathering at the South Lyon Hotel," Cochran said.

"I hope it's snowing in my hometown when I get

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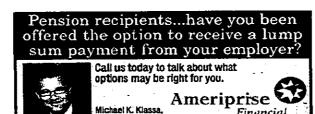
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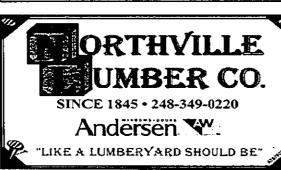
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South Lyon native Anita Cochran's new single, "Snowing in My Hometown," was released just in time for Christmas. As the title suggests, the song was inspired by her



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shopping, but have a few more people to buy for and are stumped.

Or a few extra folks recently made their way onto your gift list. Or perhaps it has all just sneaked up on

you — and you're just now realizing that Dec. 25 is only a few days away. Don't panic. And don't think your only option is to trudge out to the mall and fight

the crowds of shoppers that are in the same situation as you. Downtown Milford has a variety of

unique, affordable items sure to make for plenty of smiles at Christmastime. From clothing and accessories for teen girls and women of all ages, from housewares to toys, from home decor to restaurant gift cards and so much more, Main

Street merchants are ready — and most

with extended hours through the end of December. "We have lots of things priced very reasonably - and all are one of a kind and made by artists in Michigan," said Bonnie Mottaghi, a member of the Aubergine Gallery co-op which features more than a

dozen artists' works. Find an assortment of candles and needle felt creations, hostess gift baskets, shadow box art, prayer flags, CDs and books for kids and adults, artsy coasters and magnets, along with paintings, photography, and metal art. "It is a popular place for Christmas shopping," Mottaghi said.

different colors are in stock — top seller Lily Pad lids, Le Creuset cast iron cookware, Wusthof knives and other items.

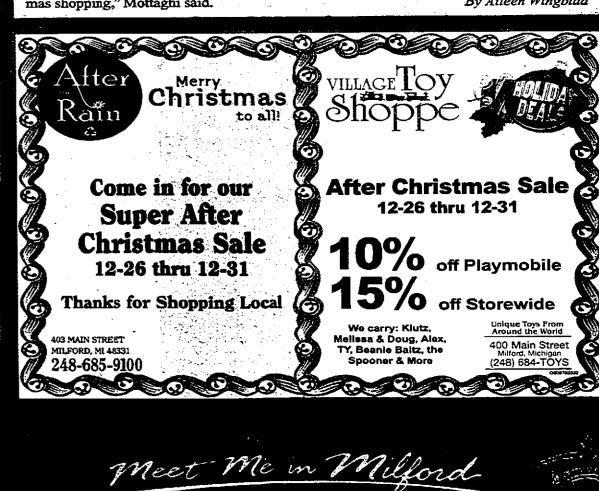
"This is all quality kitchen ware. It's something you can have and then pass on to your kids," said Karen Pianki, Acorn Farm sales clerk. "And we pride ourselves on hometown service, we can package everything for you and we have no-hassle

At Main Street Art, manager Suzanne Gilbert reminds shoppers that the shop has an assortment of Le Sueur pottery, the complete line of Carl Sams books, DVDs, prints and plush toys, gift cards, and Michigan-made jewelry and art work --- as well as art supplies and framing services.

And what would Christmas be without plenty of surprises under the tree for the little ones? The Village Toy Shoppe is stocked with a huge assortment of Playmobil, stuffed animals, books, dolls, puzzles, magic kits and science kits. You can also pick up "gotta have it" Spooner Boards, Papo dragon figurines, Wild Creations Eco Aquariums, Magformers magnet building sets and more. "We have unique gifts that are educational and fun for all ages," said owner Cindy Hughes.

Many shops have extended hourse, and 34 Main Street stores and restaurants have added Sunday hours until year's end. So grab that gift list and head to downtown

By Aileen Wingblad



Restoring a legacy

Wayne County Parks reviving 'specimen' trees in Arboretum

By Kurt Kuban

Back in October, Elizabeth Iszler walked along a trail in Bennett Arboreturn and marveled at autumn's glory amid towering trees and rolling

"This is a beautiful place," said Iszler, who was hired back in April as the landscape architect and design manager for Wayne County Parks.

Under Iszler's leader ship, the county is taking a fresh look at Bennett Arboretum, which is located in the northwest portion of Edward Hines Park in Northville Township. In addition to its rolling topography and green vistas, Bennett Arboretum contains more than a hundred trees planted back in the 1930s when the park was a major destination for Wayne County families. It also contains an interpretive trail system, wetlands and plenty of wildlife.

Over the years, nature has taken its course in the arboretum and many nonnative plants and trees have sprouted up, and in many cases have now overrun the "specimen trees planted decades

According to Wayne County Parks Naturalist Carol Clements, those trees were brought in from all over the world. In fact, Clements said more than 400 trees were planted during Bennett Arboretum's heyday. Some were native to Michigan and America, but many were imported from Europe and even

"We still have 104 of those original trees, including a beautiful fern-leaf beech and an acanthopanax tree from Asia," Clements said. "We've lost a lot of trees, but we still have some great collections left. including beech, maple and oaks collections." She also mentioned a very rare Manchurian maple, which she was told are almost impossible to get these days.
The problem in many

cases is finding them. With brushy invasives like buckthorn and honeysuckle growing in thick stands, some of the trees have become hidden to those using the

With her landscape architecture background Iszler brings a new perspective to Wayne Counry Parks. She was immediately struck by the uniqueness of the arboretum area, and hopes to shine a new light on its

"There aren't a lot, if any, county arboretums in the state. It's a big part of the history of Hines Park," said Iszler, a Novi resident. "The fact that it is here offers a great opportunity. I would really love for people to get out and experience it." Iszler has initiated a

restoration plan that will help people do just that. People who frequent the park or who drive Edward Hines Drive will begin to see that plan go into effect as early as January when the ground freezes. That's when a contractor will begin going out to the



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Elizabeth Iszler walks through Bennett Arboretum in Hines Park back in October. Iszler, with Wayne County Parks, is working to preserve and restore the remaining "specime trees dating back to the 1930s. The arboretum is located in Northville Township.



Under Elizabeth Iszler, Wayne County Parks is restoring the speciman trees in Bennett Arboretum, which were planted in the 1930s.

BENNETT ARBORETUM FACTS

- Established in 1930s by J. Merle (J.M.) Bennett, who worked for Wayne County Road Commission as director of Wayne County Parks and Forestry
- Located in the northwest portion of Edward Hines Park, in Northville Township
- Michigan's oldest public arboretum
- 104 of the original 470 or so specimen trees from the

arboretum to remove the invasive plants and trees. The work should continue into the spring. when workers will also prune the specimen trees and bring them back to health. There are also plans to add more signage that will explain both the history and natural features of the arbo-

retum. "People will really notice the changes by

summer." Iszler said. Bennett Arboretum was the brainchild of J. Merle Bennett, a visionary who joined the Wayne County Road Commission in 1922 at a time the county was starting to develop its

roadside plans. Bennett became nationally recognized as a pioneer in roadside development, writing several books on the subject and even get-ting the state of Michigan to enact the "Roadside Tree Protection Act." He was fascinated by forestry, and was personally responsible for the planting of thousands of trees across the county, and especially along the Middle Rouge Parkway, which we now know as Hines Park. It

was Bennett's idea to

featuring unique trees from around the world.

According to Clements,

back in Bennett's day,

create an arboretum

Hines Park was a major attraction for Detroiters. The arboretum was the site of popular bridle trails for horseback riders, as well as tobogganing and skiing. Annual Soap Box Derbys were also held on the steen roadway next to the arboretum.

"This was the place to be in the '30s and '40s. It was kind of like going up

New trees will also be planted to supplement on adding native trees. Iszler said she is excit-

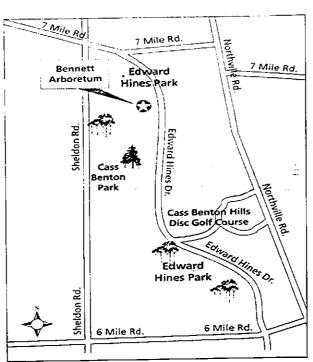
"Hopefully this is just the beginning," Iszler said. "My hope is to add to the educational component of the arboretum. I think this would be a great place to bring school kids to learn about

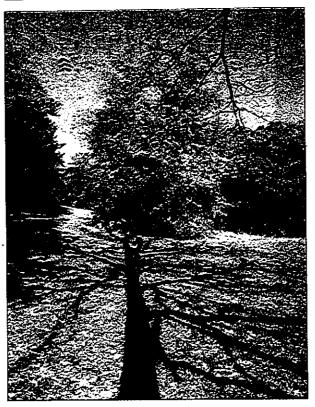
of the arboretum is that it's free, and it's open to

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Bennett Arboretum's bridle trails were a popular attraction for years after being estab-





ennett Arboretum, located in Northville Township, features acres of fields and unique trees, and is popular with walkers, birders and area high schools' cross country



Arboretum in the 1930s.

north is today," Clements

While Wayne County Parks has done a couple of recent surveys of the arboretum with the help of University of Michigan students, Iszler and Clements believe they will know even more after the invasive plants

are removed. In addition to restoring the specimen trees, the master plan calls for creating wetland and prairie ecosystems that weren't part of the original plan. the various collections, though the focus will be

ed about the future of Bennett Arboretum. Her goal is that more people discover what a jewel the county has, even though it hasn't always been treated as such.

"Perhaps the best part



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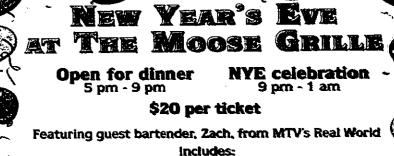
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Week, National

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tal Awareness

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First step with depression is awareness

here are many groups. organizations and causes which have obtained local. state, national and global proclamations. These denote specified periods of time to be recognized by the general public. For example: Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month. World Mental Health Day, Therapy Choirs of Michigan Awareness Week, Children's Mental Health Awareness



ness Week. Autism Awareness Week,

Depression Screening Day and many oth-The annual National Mental Illness Awareness Week took place the first week of October. It occurred to me that all of these "proclamations of awareness" have in common the fact that they don't dis-

criminate across culture, age, race, geographical location or time. What is promoted is awareness of issues important enough so that all communities should be made aware of them all the time. According to Wikipe dia, National Mental Illness Awareness Week was established in 1990 by an act of the U.S. Congress. Its purpose is to recognize efforts

Advocates sponsor a variety

by the National Alliance on

increase awareness about

Mental Illness to educate and

of events to promote community outreach and public education concerning mental illnesses such as major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Examples of activities include art/ music events, educational sessions provided by health care professionals, advertising campaigns, health fairs, movie nights, candlelight vigils, benefit runs and more.

An estimated 26 percent of Americans age 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable mental illness in any given year. However, stigma surrounding mental illness is a major barrier that prevents people from seeking the mental health treatment that they need. Programs during Mental Illness Awareness Week are designed to create community awareness and discussions in an effort to put an end to stigma and advocate for treatment and recovery.

Speaking specifically With our students back into a new school year it is timely to increase awareness about a prevalent mental health issue:

Normally, teenagers transverse the ups and downs of their adolescence relatively unscathed. However, some teens fall prey to emotional problems that can send them dangerously off course. A common problem is depression. Depression is an alteration in mood. It can take the form of sadness, irritability, trouble with attention and concentration as well as feel-

adolescent depression and sui-

According to the Nation-

ings of hopelessness and with-

al Association of Mental Illness, every year approximately 2 million U.S. adolescents attempt suicide. In a 12-month period, 300 children age 10-14 suicided as did 1,600 youth age 15-19. This does not include failed suicide attempts or suicide threats or gestures. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among teens following car accidents. In a typical high school class, one boy and two girls have seriously considered suicide.

What can be done? Watch for persistent mood changes, prolonged withdraw al, relinquishing of friendships, lack of laughter and presence of self criticism. Invite teens to talk about their emotional and mental health issues. Attend presentations in schools and community groups that educate adults and teens on depression. Many schools offer support groups for students. And, always take youngsters talk about suicide seriously. Happy kids don't

joke about such matters. The issue of suicide is complex. There is still great reluctance to talk about it. It often hits by surprise. Interestingly suicides are more common in the spring time. It is although a person with underlying depression see everything else "coming back to life", yet they remain melancholic.

Several years ago, two of my close friends killed themselves. One used a gun to her head and the other hanged herself with a rope in her kitchen. As I joined the mourners there was a great amount of anger, sadness, sympathy and confusion.

In "Psychological Autopsies"

the method of choice can often City receives give clues about what the person's private and often hidden Budget suffering was about. A gun shot to the head is a very vio-

> The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce the City of Novi, Michigan has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for

To receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the City of Novi satisfied nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation which assess how well the City's budget serves as a polcial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. For budgets including fiscal period, 2011, over 1,328 entities received the award, 36 in

The award represents a significant achievement by the City of Novi and reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the high est principles in governmental budgeting.

In addition to the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. the City of Novi regularly earns recognition for excellent financial reporting. Commonly referred to as "the audit", the financial reporting prepared by Novi staff is completed soon after the fiscal year closes to aid City leadership in policy making,

The City of Novi has a long history of fiscal transparency, evidenced by televised Council and Commission meetings, public Budget Sessions. comprehensive website (with supporting materi als for meetings), monthly Fiscal Fitness publication, and more. When the State of Michigan introduced the Economic (EVIP), Novi easily met the new state standards The Government

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lent activity. A hanging could suggest much guilt. In the olden days, that's how the guilty were condemned to death. More passive approaches such as use of pills or carbon-monoxide can represent a wished for peaceful bliss and possible reunion with a departed loved one. The person described about who shot herself did so, one year to the day, of the date

> Disordered minds In psychotherapy the attempt is to build a strong

of her mother's death.

enough working relationships so that suicidal thoughts and feelings will be talked about, in detail, with a commitment to not take action. This is one way to achieve an understanding of buried thoughts and feelings and find better ways to solve problems. Find resources at: The

National Help-line Network: 1-800-SUICIDE. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at www.afsp.org. The National Association of Mental Illness in Michigan, at www.namimi.org. and the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Oakland County at www.amioakland.org.

Len McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, traumatic stress, addictions and social work. He is also president of The Therapy Choirs of Michigan, a non-profit for people org). He can be reached at (248) 474-2763, Ext. 22.

UPDATES FROM YOUR

Distinguished Presentation Award

type of loss: families with loved ones behind bars the 16th consecutive year.

Michigan.

Vitality Incentive Program

Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association servfinance professionals throughout North Amer ica. To view Novi's current budget document, cial status, public safe cityofnovi.org and choose the "Government" tab to access the "Open Government" link.







Dealing with the death of a loved one is extreme ly hard during the holidays as memories of hanpier times flood back during gatherings with friends and family and empty chairs serve as a constant reminder of loss The painful feelings are just as strong for those dealing with another

within the prison system. Those feelings are often intensified during the holiday season as families left behind also struggle silently with the shame of their loved one's crime. often making the feelings of grief even harder

"It is very similar to the feelings of a loss from death. However, it is even more painful because on top of the grief, you also have humiliation and embarrassment to go along with it," said Bonnie Hilberer, founder of Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a West land-based support groups for adults with

incarcerated loved ones. Hilberer understands these feelings well. She started the group in 2008 after her son-in-law's father was convicted of murder, devastating not only the family of the victim, but Hilberer's family as well.

"The trauma for my son-in-law and daughter was overwhelming. I husband to a heart attack after 241/2 years of marriage, and used these as a model for her own group. which meets bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Pres-

"When I contacted the

to help him," she said. Grief support is model

searched for some type of

support group that could

provide an outlet for his

emotions and could not

find anything. There are

groups out there for the

children of prisoners, but

really nothing to help the

adults who are hurting as

Hilberer had prior experience working with grief support groups fol-

> trauma because it is not their fault and they are

ing more than one in 100 adults with numbers expected to rise.

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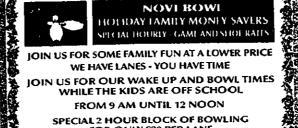
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Support groups help families with members in prison

behind are the forgotten

of Detroit, president of

Mothers of Inmates, a

support group serving

area, including South-

residents throughout the

"Having a loved one in

prison is like a dirty lit-

tle secret and you bear

the pain alone - it's not

something that you share

with others, because of

because you are not only

lonely from missing the

is no one you can share

Williams.

also lonely because there

your feelings with," said

Williams speaks from

self joined the group nine

vears when her own son

was incarcerated. Now

that her son has been

released from prison.

she remains committed

to the group in an effort

experience — she her-

the stigma. Christmas

is particularly difficult

ones," she said.

It is a sentiment

online at hometownlife.com

Group members meet bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland with Bonnie Hilberer (center)

> "Now we have a wones," she added. byterian Church in West-

state prison board and well. So I decided I had to asked for sources for supstart one myself in order port, they sent me back a etter with three words: seek private counseling. There are help groups for

smokers, drinkers and overeaters: but where does a family go for help when they have a loved one sent to prison? I knew I had to find a way to help the families through this

> suffering, too," she said No doubt there was need for such as support group - a 2010 study by the Pew Research Trust indicated that there were 2.3 million Americans behind bars, equal

Forgotten ones The holidays are made harder by that fact that you suffer these emotions alone. The families left

by association," Hilber-

pletely," she said.

to give back to others. derful network of people The group held its who can help each other sixth annual party for and help provide resource children of inmates on Dec. 15 at Fellow-The group was readying for their December ship Chapel Church in

Detroit. Their "Angel Christmas potluck, an annual event to provide a Tree" party served more than 200 area chillighter, festive mood dur dren with parents curing a tough time. rently in the prison sys "We try and make our Christmas gathering a littem with the help of 100 additional volunteers. tle more upbeat because there is no way to make

The party featured a magic show, face paint the pain go away coming and a light lunch. "When someone goes as the distribution of to prison, their loved ones are left behind and books, stuffed toys and it is the same grief — the hats and mittens. The children received a gift same feelings of loss but no one ever acknowlfrom their incarcerated parent, made possiedges it; no one ever ble through the genersays to them, 'I'm sor ous donations of individry for your loss.' It is uals and charitable orga almost like you are guilty

nizations alike. "Having a loved one in jail affects children tremendously. For some children, the present they receive at Christmas is the only connection with their loved

too young to understand exactly where their special person is or what they did, they are neve too young to understand that someone that they love very much is now gone. That is why this is so important," Williams

Bolster spirits

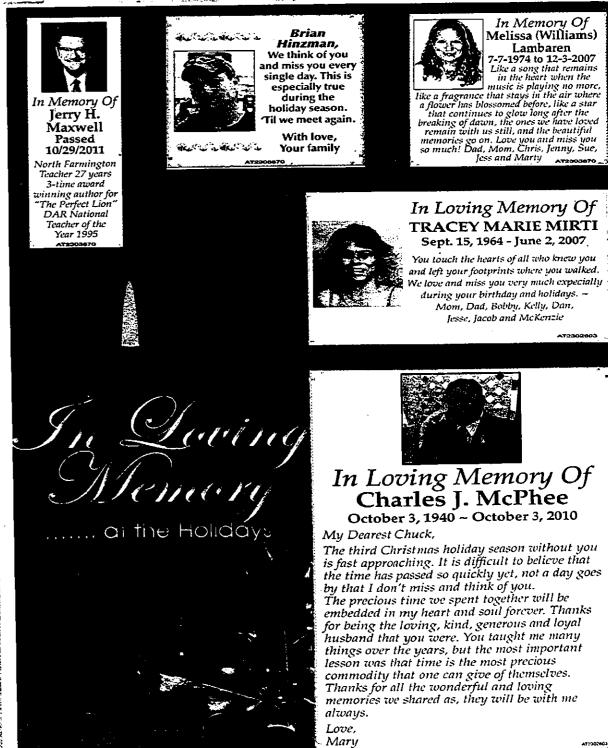
Williams is hopeful that the emotional support that the families receive from the Angel Tree celebration will help bolster their spirits up enough to help them get through the holiday season.

"These people are real ly hurting through no fault of their own: the mothers, the fathers, the wives and the husbands They are trying to keep it together financially, emotionally and spiritually for their families and they are doing it all alone. They need someone to embrace them and let them know they are loved, too," she said

Hilberer's group includes 6-12 people per meeting and she is hope ful that as others learn of the support available they will take advantage of it and join the group it they are in need.

"When someone is sentenced to prison, the surviving family mem bers receive the same sentence. We live by the Serenity Prayer. We can't fix it and make everything perfect but we can help try and heal a broken heart," she said, "Especially during the holidays.

Both of these nonprofit groups are welcoming nev members and/or contributions. If you are interested in contacting Help 4 Healing Hearts, contact Bonnie Hi berer at (734) 646-2237 or at: prettymonarch @comcast net. If you are interested in contacting Ora Williams, call her at (313) 531-2025.





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The City of Novi announced the promotions of Fire Protection Officers Todd Seog, Mark Theisen, Remo Oliverio and Joshua Bunse to lieutenant with the Novi Fire Department.

"This is a key leadership position within our Fire/EMS unit, and these four individuals have demonstrated a proven ability in advancing the mission, vision and values of the Novi Fire Department. stated Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David E. Molloy.

"Working in conjunction with our full-time and parttime personnel, these lieutenants will continue to enhance the quality services our community is known for delivering" Molloy add-

Seog has an associate's degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University and is certified as a firefighter, EMT, fire inspector, and CPR instrucfor and he's a member of







Oliverio

the Western Wayne Urban Search and Rescue Team. the City of Novi in 1996. Theisen completed his associate's degree from Spec Howards School of

Broadcast Arts and holds

certifications as a fire-

cialist, CPR instrucection Association (NFPA) fire inspector I and fire officer I II and III. He serves on the Western Wayn County Hazardous Material Response

Bunse completed his bachelor's degree in business from the Detroit College of Business and holds certification as a firefighter, EMT, NFPA I fire inspector, and fire

Oliverio attended the Macomb Community College Fire Acade my where he received his firefighter and HAZMAT operations certification. He is an EMT and NFPA fire inspector I. He

will complete his associate's degree in fire science from Macomb Community College in spring 2013.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

of Novi

Tires Stolen

· A set of rims and tires, totaling \$5,500, were stolen from a vehicle parked at the Mercedes Benz dealership of Novi. Sometime during the weekend of Dec. 1-3 the theft occurred. When employees arrived back to the location at 39500 Grand River the victimized vehicle was found up on bricks. There appeared to be no other

damage done to it. It was reported there have been four other Larceny from Auto incidents at the location. It doesn't have security cameras, but the dealership told police this will probably change. There are no suspects at this time.

Breaking and Entering

A Novi home was broken into and spraynainted with racial slurs. The incident, which happened at a residence on Scarborough Lane. was reported to Novi police on Dec. 6, but probably occurred some time in the weeks prior. The homeowner was in Indiana at the time and was planning on moving back to Novi. However, the homeowner's mother was there and informed her daughter of the situation

Reportedly, the door was kicked in and police did find some damage to the front door. Police also stated a number of racia slurs were found on the walls of the home. They were Asian derogatory

8 Mile Rd. 🚡 8 Mille Rd.

A mattress in the home was also damaged with a knife left stuck in it. The police were prints from the scene.

Marijuana Possession

3 A man was cited for marijuana possession after being observed rolling a joint in the Speedway gas station at Novi and 10 Mile roads. On Dec. 4, a call was placed to the Novi

police describing the

vehicle that left the

parking lot. Police

caught up with the man and stopped him at Dover Boulevard off of Taft Road. Upon making contact with the man the police reported smelling marijuana in the car and spotted it in the man's

lap. He later confessed to stuffing it down his pants as he was being pulled over.

15 Mile Rd

Larceny from Auto

A laptop was stolen

from a parked car at

stolen. Police report the

neatly cut and no prints

were found.

wires of the stereo were

Best Buy in Novi. On Dec. 2, a man parked his car at the rear of the location at 20151 Haggerty Road and went to the Friday's restaurant with a friend who works at Best Buy. He arrived back to it to find the driver's side rear window smashed in and the computer as well as stereo system

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman.

Passages Remembrances Qes View Online www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • htwobits@hometownlife.com Deadline: Tuesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BOWSER, DANIEL A. Of Novi, MI, formerly of Char-lotte, MI, age 46, died Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012 at his residence in the loving care of his family. Dan was born May 27, 1966 in Charlotte, Michigan the son of Charlotte, Michigan the Son of Ronald and Virginia (Shawi Bowser, He was a 1984 Graduate of Charlotte High School and had been employed as a Quality Assurance Manager of Techni-color Home Entertainment Service for 18 years. Surviving are: his wife of 24 years, Judith "Ju-dy" (Eckart) Bowser, 3 sons, Joel A. Bowser, Nicholas S. Bowser and Garrett S. Bowser all of Novi; his parents, Ronald and Virginia Bowser of Olivet; 2 sisters, Rhonda (Jamal) Mubar-akeh of East Lansing and Janice (Dave) Parker of New Jersey; his nother-in-law. Barbara Eckart of moiner-in-law, Barbait factari of Colorado Springs, CO: brothers-in-law, Chris Eckart of Wamego, KS and David (Diane) Eckart of Manhattan, KS; sister-in-law, Kellie Eckart of Colorado Springs, CO; 2 nephews and 4 pages Eugent Superal Services will be Springs, CO 2 nepnews and 4 neces, Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 at the Burkhead-Green Funeral Home, Charlotte with Pastor Marc Livingston officiating, Internent will be in the Bosworth Cemetery at Olivet. Bosworth Cemetery at Olivet, Visitation will be held from 2-4 & 6-8 P.M. Thursday at the Fu-neral Home, Memorial contribu-tions may go to the St. John Providence Hospite, 22255 Greenfield Road, Suite 330, Southfield, MI 48075.

burkhead-greenfuneralhome.com GERMAINE. Age 83, of Milford, passed away in the care of his family December 14, 2012, In addition to Helen his beloved wife, Earl is survived by Nancy (Jim) Trick. Scott (Lisa) Woosley, Elizabeth (Gerald) McCanley, and Stepha-(Geraid) McCanley, and Stepha mie (Steven) Patton; grandehil-dren Heather, Megan, Jason, Na-talie, Jennifer, Stephanie; great-grandehildren Madeline,Kristina, Sarah Jane; sister-in-law Rhea Carey, Bernard (Helen). Tyler,

also extended family and dear friends. Funeral Service was held Monday. December 17, 2012. Fr Thomas Hawkins officiated. Memorials encouraged to Disabled American Veterans enchFuneralDirectors.com

SMITH, GLADYS W. (nee Myers) Age 94, of Livonia, passed away 12/12/2012. Loving mother, grandmother and great-grand-mother. Online condolences at. eww.casterlinefuneralhome.com May

> you find comfort in Family and Friends



Age 83, passed away December 13, 2012. He was born on September 21, 1929, in Livonia, son of the late Edward and Helen Meining. Orville was a former Colonial Acres board member. Genning. Orelife was a former Colonial Acres board member. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He will always be remembered for his great sense of humor and his love for his family. He is survived by his loving children: Larry & Turi Meining, Cindy & Robby Williams and Terri & Allan McCardell; his three grandchildren: Nicole, Trent and Emily; two step-grandchildren: Ashley and Adam and two greatgrandchildren: Dawson and Braden. He is also survived by his sister Charlotte. Orville was preceded in death by his wife Catherine in 2007. Visitation was held on Monday, December 17, from 3:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME. 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, Funeral services was held on Tuesday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Online

> PENN. ENID L.

www.phillipsfuneral.com

Age 92, a longtime resident of Northville, passed away December 14, 2012. She was born Sep-tember 4, 1920 in Detroit; daughter of Henry and Ann (Bone) Whetter. She grew up in Detroit and was a graduate of McKenzie High School, class of 1938. She was united in marriage to Harold Penn on February 8, 1941; they spent over 52 loving years together until his death in 1993, Enid was a photo inspector with Guardian Photo in Novi for 19 years. She was a member and past matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, Orient Chapter 77. Eastern Star, Orient Chapter 7, She was also past president of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 147. Enid enjoyed watching classic movies and was an avid reader. She loved visiting her cabin in Cedarville in the UP. Enid was devoted to her family:

Enid was devoted to her family; she was a great, loving, and fun mother and grandmother. She is survived by her children, Gregg (Linda). Penn, finid (Richard). Comito, James (Averil). Penn, Stephen. Penn, and Margaret (Michael). Sleeb; her grandchil-dren, Megan. (Steven). Andrews, Sarah. Penn, Amy. Penn, Averil (Matthew). Mearnic, Richard. Comito. Stephen. (Tina). Comito. (Matthew) Mearme, Retender Comnto, Stephen (Tina) Counto, Emily (Claris) Scheer, Kevin (Stacey) Penn, Matthew (Marieke) Penn, and Kenneth Madden; and 6 great grandchil-dren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband formed converse was held. Times ieral service was held Tuesofficiated the service. I and was laid to rest at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit, Memorial contri-

butons would be appreciated to the First United Methodist Church, 777 West Eight Mile, Northville, MI 48167 or Arbor Hospice, 2306 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 Share online condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



SHERMAN.

of Farmington Hills and Mid-land, TX, passed away Decem-ber 1, 2012. He was born in Flora, Illinois, son of Ross and Various Shorman, Illinois and Nadean Sherman. He was a cor porate executive with Chevrolet Division of General Motors, and following his retirement in 1985, he was the owner of Jack Sher-man Chevrolet in Midland, TX for 18 years, Jack loved his famifor 18 years, Jack loved his fami-ly, and especially adored his grandchildren and great grand-children. He was a 32 Degree Mason and always active in sup-porting his local community. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was an extensive world traveler; visiting Asia, North Africa, and much of Europe. He is survived by his loving children, John by his loving children, John Sherman and Karen Sherman; his grandchildren, Matthew, Annic, Christina, Ashlee, Stefanie and Jack; and his great grand-children, Isaiah, Clara, and Zoe. He was preceded in death by his of Jack's file will be field sundary. January 13, 2013 at 1 p.m. at Table 5, 126 E. Main St., Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, 11, 23-67.

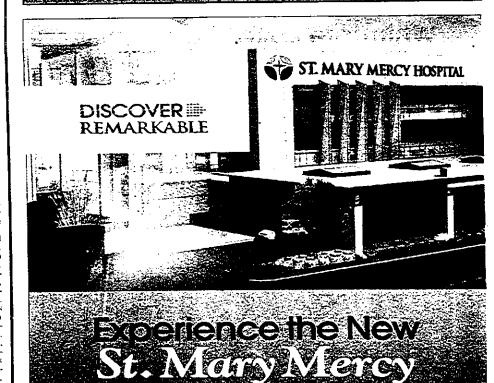
To express condolences or share a memory, please visit www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

Age 74, of Northville, MI, died December 11, 2012, Loving and caring wife, mother, and sister Ordine condolences at: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com ALBERT E.

Age 84, passed away Decembe 11, 2012. He was born on Feb mary 17, 1928, in Lansing, to the late John and Marsha Webster. Albert is survived by his children: Brian Ahern, Jerie Lou (Ken) Meier, Janet (Mike) Evans; grandchildren: Jeff Ahern, Tracy Ahern, Jason Ahem, Michelle (Michael) Lynn, Michael (Gretchen) Evans, Jeremy K. Meier, Michelle R. (Ryan)
Meier-Malloch; great-grandchildren: Stephanie Ahern, Ryan Breanna Ahern. He was preced Breama Arthern, lie was piecessed in death by his wife Betty Jean Webster in 2004, 2 sons: Bruce Ahern in 1964, and James Ahern in 1980. Visitation was held on Dec. 13, Thursday, from 400 + 800 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home. A Funeral service was held on Dec. 14, Friday, a 14:00 a.m. at the Fellowshi 11:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Evangeheal Presbyterian Church, South Lyon. Online guestbook

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ADULTS Continued from page A1

that will guide Novi over the next three vears in the pursuit to encourage healthy active lifestyles. It's broken down into sev eral strategic action items, according to Zagaroli:

The first is to engage a wider audience. One strategy toward this is to research and create

five new active recreation programs each vear for Older Adults in response to research to be collected and implemented. *Next is to offer a

monthly program on retirement, Social Security and financial sem-*Third, the city wants to encourage a sense

of community through volunteering opportunities. Novi will work to develop communica tion methods for volunteer opportunities with those seeking to volunteer their time and talents working with the Volunteer Novi program. It will also build and enhance the volunteer program by helping to place five new permanent volunteers per year throughout

city departments. fourth goal is to increase program awareness using a variety of methods including current technology and social media. Parts of this plan are to better educate res-

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idents on how to use the online option for program registration: increase the number social media interactions by 30 percent each year; and devise methods of promotional incentives.

"Next, providing and promoting social service focused programming will also be out at the forefront. There will be more resources for staff to attend three yearly workshops pertaining to social. services with focus on

implementing new programs and services. Lastly, Novi wants

to provide a safe transportation option for residents 55 and over. so they can stay active in the community, maintain their sense of independence and reach a variety of destinations. The plan is to better support this program through seeking grant funding assistance. An all-around enhancement of transportation is the end

"Older adults provide a stable housing market and economic base and they bring a wide range of talents, knowledge and abilities to a community," Mangum said. "These talents and abilities are as diverse as those that live here. and we look forward to working with those who have a desire to share their time and talents

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OUR VIEWS

Holiday spirit

More important to hold family close than to give, give, give presents

As we celebrate another Christmas and holiday season, it is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love.

However, not everyone has that luxury. Because of a gunman in Newtown, Conn., the families of some 26 victims including 20 first-graders from Sandy Hook Elementary School — are spending the holiday season grieving, planning and attending funerals. They're not opening presents or attending religious services or sitting down to the family

Those young lives snuffed out too soon aren't the only ones, just the most recent. It's also the first Christmas for the loved ones of shooting victims from Wisconsin to Portland, Ore.

And it isn't

only victims

of violence

who don't have

their families

with them at

this special

time of year,

a season built

around family

and love and

understanding

Many peo-

ple, for rea-

sons as varied

as medical and

financial, don't

have families

around them

with whom

to spend the

holidays

They crowd

into our food

pantries and

soup kitchens.

and our shel-

ters. Or, even

worse, have no

our churches

and peace.

Thankfully, there are heroes determined to ease the pain and suffering. There are people reaching out to the survivors in Connecticut, showing support in any small way possible. There are people standing at Salvation Army Kettles, ringing bells, and, of course there are those responding to the bells by dropping in their

place at all to go.

donations.

Thankfully, there are heroes determined to ease the pain and suffering. There are people reaching out to the survivors in Connecticut, showing support in any small way possible. There are people standing at Salvation Army Kettles, ringing bells, and, of course there are those responding to the bells by dropping in their donations. There are those who donate to the food

kitchens so there are meals to be provided, and those who work the food lines to make sure people are fed. Countless stories crop up every year

of these good-deed doers. And there are countless more about whom stories never see the light of day, folks who help simply because they want to, and can.

This is also not the season to focus solely on the down side, because there is so much good to go with it. The Newtown massacre is about the victims, but also about the heroes. The principal who flung herself at the gunman in an attempt to stop him. The teacher who shielded her students with her own body, and paid the price for her protection with her life. The students themselves, who found their way out of darkness and into the arms of those who love them the

Each year, we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. It doesn't always take a tragedy of the proportions of Newtown to make us feel the love.

But in the wake of that tragedy, it seems even more important than ever to remember what this season is all about.

Novi News

Cal Stone, mmunity Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Director of Advertising **COMMUNITY VOICE**

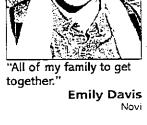
What do you want for Christmas?



Mandy Metz



Alexis. Christina and Nicholas Lindberg



house with babies and children and raise them to love and obey Jesus. Those children would be my gift to Him, since it is his birthday. I know that would put a big smile on

Terri Nicklaus

LETTERS

Gratitude from

Widzinskis Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to Northville, Novi and our surrounding communities for all of the support we received after the recent passing of our son, David Widzinski.

So many people have done so much for us - prayers, messages, food, flowers, cards, letters, memorials, Catholic Central scholarship contributions, etc. Unfortunately, in many cases we do not even know who provided for us in our need. If we fail to personally thank you, please forgive us — we simply do not have a complete list of who has provided support to us. But, we are

thankful for it all. We have been touched by how kind and thoughtful so many people have been during this heartbreaking time. You have reached out and

supported us in so many different

ways. The sense of community has

uplifted us. The sincerity and kindness of our young people has profoundly moved us. They have done so much - wearing blue to honor David, creating tributes, providing us with amazing keepsakes, reaching out to us, and remembering David in their classes, activities and sporting events. Their parents and community should look at them with great pride. They make the future look bright.

"Thank you" is inadequate, but we do thank you with all of our hearts! Paul, Barbara, Stephen and **Emily Widzinski**

Obamacare thoughts

In the days leading up to the Civil War some of the slave owners attempted to justify their evil deeds and perhaps ease their guilty conscience by saying that "slavery was actually a good thing for some people." To that, Abe Lincoln is said to have replied: "If that is really true, then it's the only good thing he had ever seen that no one sought for themselves."

We are presently faced with a

similar double standard regarding our new national health care program (Obamacare). It isn't any secret that nearly every Democratic politician in Washington from the president down keeps telling us what a great plan it is and how much better off we are all going to be because of it. Sounds like the greatest thing since sliced bread, and yet these same people have exempted themselves and their families from the plan. You have to ask yourself — why would a group of supposedly intelligent people do such a stupid thing? If Obamacare was anywhere near as good as they are hyping it to be, the line of politicians around the Capitol building waiting to sign up would make Black Friday look like a slow shopping day. After all, no one recognizes a good thing when they see it more than a bunch of politicians. It

certainly is food for thought. Ladmit that I haven't read the bill and wouldn't understand it if I had. Unfortunately, neither have most of the people who voted it into law. Wouldn't you feel a little more comfortable about the whole thing if the people who had it enacted would

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.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published Thursday. Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in print. However, all letters will be published online

have included themselves and their families in the plan? I know I would. Dave Shingler

each week at www.hometown-

Be thankful, giving

life.com.

Thanksgiving is one of America's favorite holidays. We celebrate this day with family, food, football games and more. We think about the things that we are thankful for, such as our warm homes, our families, lots of wonderful food, our friends, our clothing, our school, and the wonderful life that we have.

But there are many people who do not get to celebrate as we do. There are the people who are far less fortunate than us. These are the people we need to think about at this time. We need to remember the real meaning of Thanksgiving. Most of us are thankful for all that we have, but need to GIVE to those who are less fortunate than us and do not have warm homes and food on the table.

There are many organizations in our community that we can all donate to in order to help the needy at this time of year, such as the Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners Community Food Bank, the Salvation Army or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Just by donating \$1 to those in need, this can provide three full plates of Thanksgiving dinner. It does not take much of a contribution to go a long way in helping others to get a warm

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen, where my grandfather volunteered for many years, provides 2,000 meals every day to those who are hungry. My family donates money to all of these organizations to help feed hungry people every year. I hope that each person reading this will understand that a small donation will go a long way Be thankful and giving! Lauren DiPaola Novi High School student

Thank veterans every day

When you hear "Have you thanked a soldier today?" you automatically think of Veterans Day, right? This is a problem. Now don't get me wrong, I love Veterans Day. t's a special day for thanking the brave soldiers who have fought for our country. The problem is that we should have this kind of gratitude every day, not just once a year. These

heroic veterans have gone through things unimaginable to any other person, risking their lives for our freedom. We often take advantage of this. We neglect the fact that we are so fortunate for every day, living in a free country, where we have liberties. If it wasn't for these courageous soldiers we wouldn't have these great opportunities. Don't just thank a soldier on Veterans Day, thank a soldier every day. Soohia Hertrich

Start your holidays right

Novi High School sophomore

Each year around the holiday season, millions of volunteers come together to change the lives of numerous people. While some people are doing their holiday shopping, other individuals are cheerfully ringing a bell with a bright smile spread across their face. Helping to make others' Christmas brighter is the best way to get in the holiday spirit.

The coordinators of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Christmas Campaign are seeking individuals to help spread the Christmas cheer. The Salvation Army has been operating this campaign since 1891, and last year earned a total of \$135,000 nationwide. According to the brief "Salvation Army seeks bell ringers" (Novi News, 12/13/20), their goal this holiday season is to raise \$8.5 million. Despite the cold atmosphere many volunteers agree that spending a couple of hours in the cold is well worth knowing that you have improved a families Christmas.

To continue beloing the thousands of families in need at Christmas time. it is essential that people volunteer to help collect donations for the Salvation Army. Although the Salvation Army is willing to pay, many people volunteer out of the goodness of their heart. As you walk up to stores and see the volunteers grinning faces and bells jingling, don't forget to donate, even if it is just a penny, every little bit counts. Kaitlyn Berg

Novi High School student

Donate toys

After reading your article, "Toy Drive: Help area children have a happy holiday," I felt bad for these neglected children who are growing up without their parents looking after them, it pains me to know that children are living a life without any love from their parents. Even though Christmas is around the corner, these children are probably worried that they wouldn't get a holiday gift while everyone else receives one with a smile on their faces. But now knowing that there are

organizations with many years of exerience that are doing their best to help children getting their needs like shelter and education, it warms my heart, and I feel grateful to them for protecting and helping these children out. I also encourage everyone to donate toys to the children who have never felt what it is like to receive presents on Christmas. I want these children to live with hope, starting with a gift that they would never forget throughout their lives.

> Katsuhiro Hosovachi Novi High School student

Keep scale steady during the holidays

online at hometownlife.com

Every Christmas Mary Efimoff loves to bake cookies and make candy. She recently whipped up a sweet potato soufflé — an old family recipe.

It's not that Efimoff is careless about gaining weight. She's actually lost 80 pounds and managed to keep it off during the last three years. After going from a size 20 to a size 4, she will never let her self go back, even when eggnog and gingerbread beckon.

Share the season For Efimoff, losing weight started with sharing. The very first thing she did was walk into Curves, a fitness facility in South Lyon. She instantly made friends and gleaned a lot from the close-knit community there about healthy eating and exercise. She now works at Curves, supporting other women. So, it comes naturally to share all of the

baked goods she used to enjoy eating. Efimoff keeps a small Christmas tree in her kitchen, and puts the goodies she makes under the tree, to pass out whenever she can. As soon as a meal is finished, the same goes for leftovers - she gives them

"I might have a couple bites, but I am not going to eat a huge amount," said Efimoff, "When you make something, share it and enjoy it with your family and friends. There's nothing better during the

But the food she shares is just a bit more nutritious. She adds a few helpful touches to each recipe, like reducing salt, using egg whites, cutting sugar and



Mary Efimoff drinks extra water, adjusts food recipes and gives away her homemade Christmas goodies to keep from overindulging. She has worked the last three years to lose 80 pounds and keep the

spraying pans instead of buttering. 'You can't change too much because you still want it to taste good," said the slender cook. "I must have made my piscotti recipe 20 times before I got the changes just right.'

Plan ahead

The key to healthy eating at holiday events is planning ahead, said Shirley Kadoura of South Lyon, a registered dietician who educates patients at a nearby

"Think about what you are going to eat ahead of time so it is not mindless eating." she said. "You may decide to have one appetizer and one dessert. You will still

enjoy the food at a party if you eat in moderation, but not mindlessly. Kadoura suggested having a large veggie tray if you are a host, or bringing one

along to a party. "I encourage people to hang around the

but go easy on it." Those who want to stay away from the empty calories in soda or alcoholic drinks hould drink a glass of water before each

"If you have planned to have no more than two drinks you may not even want the second one because you won't be

veggie tray," said Kadoura. "Taste the dip,

Planning ahead also includes reducing holiday stress that can bring on overeating. Experts suggest decorating, shopping and running errands early in the season to lessen the last minute rush. I healthy snacks and meals are planned and prepped on busy days there is less chance of munching on candy or getting dinner from a drive-thru.

Make new traditions While watching football all day may

be a popular family tradition, it could be even more fun to play a game of catch during half-time, or take the family for a chilly hike after dinner. Youngsters may welcome an afternoon of ice skating, Christmas caroling or skiing. "Enjoy your family traditions but

also start new traditions," said Tylene Costello, fitness director at HealthStyles Rehab in South Lyon. "Do something that will get the family up and moving. Costello said that exercise is the perfect accompaniment to holiday meals

high in calories and fat. "If you increase your exercise during the holiday season you can eat more without gaining weight," she explained "Plus, you are more likely to eat better

since you just spent all that time work-

Tylene Costello suggests exercising more during the holidays to counteract extra food consumption. She helps clients keep the scale steady during the holidays at

She suggests that those watching their waistlines make time for extra exercise during the busy month, whether it is walking outside, working out at home or heading to the gym.

"This could be the perfect time to try out a new spinning class," said Costello. At HealthStyles, instructors offer classes on holidays such as Christmas Eve to start off the day well.

"Some people make sure that they

exercise on days that they have parties

so they are in the right frame of mind,"

she said. Making healthy choices during the holidays doesn't have to put a damper on the festivities. A spirited snowball

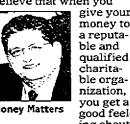
fight is probably going to bring out more

smiles than even the best cookies. "It can be just as fun," said Costello. "New holiday traditions could be even more fun than the old ones.

Do your homework before giving to charity sites and have testimonious Americans are and

t's that time of year /hen we are inundated with emails, letters and calls from charitable organizations looking for I give to charities and

believe that when you



Rick Bloom

ble orgagood feeling about yourself.

After all, good when you know that your money is going to help others less fortu-Americans are the

most generous people on earth. Unfortunately, the scam artists in our society and around the world

take advantage of our good nature — particularly at this time of the year. Because of that, it is important to do some investigation to make sure that your hardearned money goes for the charitable purpose you wish to accomplish.

Some people are surprised when they hear charities spend for noncharitable purposes. Some executive directors of charities are making more money than if they worked in the private sector. In addition. some charitable organizations spend more than half their money raising money. Of course, there are also charities that aren't real charities. They are just there to scam you out of your

What many low-lives in our society do is establish a charity with a name that sounds legitimate. They will set up web-

als on the site that tug at your heartstrings. What does all this mean for you and me? It means that we have to check out our charities before we turn over our hard-earned

One way to check out a charity is to research it on the internet. Sites like charity www.charitynavorg are great places to get independent information on a charity. I won't invest in anything I can't ly and the same thing applies to a charity. If I can't find independent information on a charity, I'm not going to give.

Another rule I have is I don't give through phone solicitations. I'm not giving my charge card information over the phone to someone who I have no clue about. In addition, even if I know the charity I generally don't like giving through phone solicitation. In many cases,

ey you donate through phone solicitation goes to the solicitor, not to the charity. I recognize that legit-

imate charities will tell you that that's what they have to do in order to raise money. That may be, however, that doesn't mean I have to give, nor will I through a phone

As we enter the holiday season it seems that people have a tendency to let their guard down. Unfortunately, it should be the exact opposite. The hol-

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before you donate your hard-earned money. Good

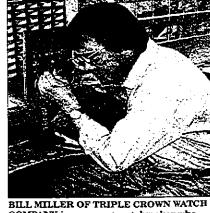
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanage ment.com. If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please e-mail him at rick@bloomassetmanage ment.com.





Local Horologist Repairs

Hard-to-Fix Timepieces



COMPANY is an expert watchmaker who

Have a watch, clock or timepiece you treasure and just can't figure out how to fix? Well, you're not alone. When many of the Detroit Area's jewelry stores can't seem to make a watch tick, they out source more complicated repair cases to Troy's own certified horologist (that's an expert watchmaker) Bill Miller of Triple Crown Watch

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

clock from the 1590's. The owner wanted it restored to working order, and rewired for battery operation," said Miller. "Another difficult request was hand-cutting a triangular crystal for a special-edition Masonic pocketwatch by Rolex, Miller continued. There's good reason over 172 jewelers in the area rely on Triple Crown and Miller for those hard-to-fix

share of unique cases. "One of the most interesting

cases I worked on was an English Grandfather

mechanics, and it is extremely rewarding to see these old pieces correctly keeping time again." Triple Crown is located at 1940 E. Maple Rd. (at John R.) in Troy. In addition to repairing watches, straps, batteries and winding boxes, Triple Crown has a large amount of battery

assignments, "I enjoy the challenge of restoring

unique timepieces to their original functioning

state. It is as much an artform as it is pure

operated and wind up pocket watches For more information, stop by Triple Crown at 1940 E. Maple (15 Mile) just west of John R., them a call at 248-585-2777. They will make si you stay on time in 2012!



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er is friendly and good

be giving wagon rides

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eyes, Peppermint is a

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The Kensington

nine piglets. Born Nov.

17, the piglets can be

With white fur and pink

ly what we needed." Yod-

with kids. He, along with

Charlie, are one of three

teams of horses that will



It's lunch time for the new piglets, the newest additions to

Horse, bunny, piglets all new at Kensington farm

giant to tiny pink piglets, there are new friendly faces to meet at Kensington Metropark's Farm

Yoder, a 10-year old dappled grey percheron gelding, now reigns as the biggest draft horse at the farm. Standing at 18 hands high, and weighing around 2,000 pounds. he is already teamed up with Charlie, the secondlargest horse at the farm. to give horse-drawn wag-

Ellie and Larry Bireta of Highland loaned Yoder to the farm for three months, and he's a perfect fit, according to Debbie Cavallaro, super-

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UNION Continued from page A1

Earlier that day, the Michigan House of Representatives sent Snyder two controversial right-to work bills as thousands of protesters demonstrated

The House first approved House Bill 4003. 58-51, establishing a rightto-work law for public sector unions with state Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi. voting yes. A second bill, Senate Bill 116, which applies to private sector unions, was approved 58-52 with state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, vot-

ing yes. Crawford said it was the right thing to do and that it needed to be done. "It gives workers the

right to choose and not be forced or intimidated into joining a union," said Crawford, "This doesn't bust unions or effect their right to organize. If anything, it could make some unions stronger because they will have to better address their custom ers — that's their current members and potential members.

Brenner said he made many efforts to communicate with Crawford and his office.

"I believe that he voted for this for political reasons, that there is little data to support this law, and that for the people who this affects most. there was absolutely no opportunities to solicit their feedback. In a larger sense, passage of this law was done in a fashion that gives me no confidence in the democratic process here in Michigan.'

The legislation will make the payment of union dues voluntary for private-sector unions and most public-sector unions. Police and firefighters are

"In the short term, to our local unit, we will lose some revenue," said Brenner. "The main problem I see is that while people will be free to join the union or not, they will continue to benefit from the services the union provides. That would primar ily be the negotiation of a contract and its enforcement. This is the free rider issue. How can it be in a market economy that a person can demand services and not be expected

to pay for them? None of the legislation will be effective until after current contracts expire, hut Brenner said that in the long term, this may serve as a wake-up call to citizens who demand fair treatment, expect a government that listens, and political parties that work together to solve our prob

"This is only the beginning," said Brenner. "I just wish that the policy makers would engender an environment where all we had to worry about was teaching our students." Steve Matthews, NCS

superintendent, said he

thinks the impact on negotiations will be hard to pre-"We are committed to

working with our groups to ensure that all of us create the very best environment for our students and was too early. for learning to occur in our district. This legisla-

tion will not impact that Matthews said they will continue to talk and to focus on working together. He said his goal is to creexecutive director. ate an environment where As for the city as an everyone understands that "our goal is to have a

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very best school system

January 2011, Snyder had described right-to-work as too divisive and not on his agenda, On Dec. 4, Snyder announced publicly that the controversial issue was "on the agenda" in Lansing. By Dec. Snyder bowed to pressure from the conservative members of his party and announced that the process was moving forward. Just five days later, the change was law, without a committee hearing and with little debate in the Legislature.

rammed through. "It wasn't," he said. "This has been discussed for months and everyone knows the issue. It's a step in the right direction. It will make Michigan a more inviting place to stay, and for those to come to and set up shop."

But Crawford says

he doesn't think it was

Whether that happens in Novi is hard to say. Ara Toupozian, the City of

Novi's economic development director, said he didn't have anything to say at this point because it

online at hometownlife.com

The Novi Chamber of Commerce, of which hundreds of local businesses belong, is not taking a stance on the right-towork issue, according to Sheryl Romzek, interim

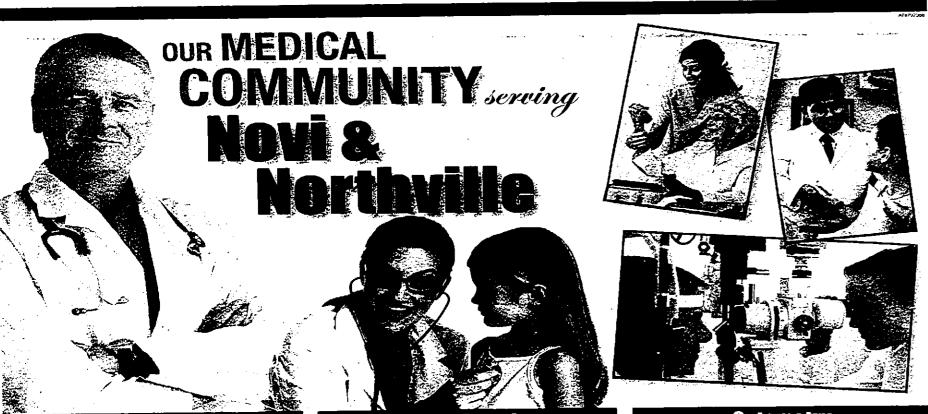
employer, approximate ly 200 of its 254 full-time employees are represented by five labor groups: full-time fire; police dispatchers/clerks; MAPE field services and support staff (Public Works field service workers, clerks and such in treasury and finance, secretaries/administration support, code enforcement officers, and community development inspectors): police officers, and police command officers. A sixth union covers part-time

"As I understand, the lame duck legislation exempted police and fire from the same requirements as other union groups across the State." said Clay Pearson, Novi city manager. "Although without the benefit of nor mal public hearings and discussion, and the flurry of action pushed through in those waning days, it is hard to get specific

Staff writer Ken Abramczyk contributed to this story.

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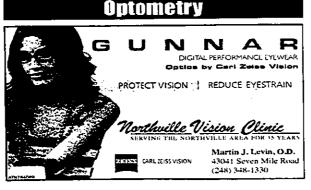
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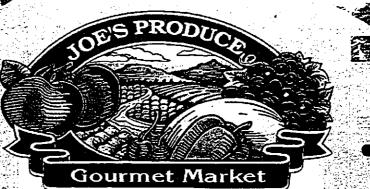
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HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

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Wildcat grapplers overpower Raiders, Falcons

Novi wrestling team 4-0 to start season

By Chris Jackett

It may be early in the season, but things are looking good so far for Novi's

wrestling squad. The Wildcat grapplers improved to 4-0 at a Dec. 12 quad meet, knocking off North Farmington 52-21 and then Farmington 36-33, who each also faced off

against Northville. Novi started the night off in a 15-0 hole against North Farmington due to two voided forfeits due to injuries and a 4-3 loss by decision at 145 pounds. However, the 'Cats won the next five matches and nine of the final 10 to outscore the Raiders 52-6 in the back end of the

Junior Carston Cook (152 pounds) got the streak started with a voided forfeit victory before senior Ben Landry (160) won 3-0 victory and junior John Hood (171) pinned his opponent to even the



bretson (189) grabbed a pinfall victory to put Novi up 21-15 before seniors Zac Roush (215) and Dan Denova (103) added two more pinfall victories. Junior

Wildcat Demare Mathis competes on Dec. 5.

Matt George (112) and senior Andrew Park (119) also picked up wins before sophomore Evan Davis (125) pinned his opponent to cap the team victory.

Novi's wrestlers (4-0) were set to return to action last night at Plymouth Salem against powerhouse Canton and resurgent Plymouth before heading into the Oakland County Championships Friday at Southfield and Saturday at Southfield-Lathrup.

The Falcons kept things closer in the econd match, starting with the 140ound void victory to go up 6-0. Junior Ben Wright (145) tied the match with a pinfall victory, which were mirrored in victories by Cook and Landry for a 15-

However, Farmington tied it at 15 with the next two victories before Roush won a 9-3 decision to regain a Novi lead at

The Falcons picked up a six-point pin at heavyweight for a 21-18 lead, but a void victory by Denova (103) was followed by Farmington's 103-pounder los ing at the 112-pound weight to George. Davis added a win for a 36-21 lead to secure the victory.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and for-

Catholic Central Shamrock Michael Babcock zips bet the assist on CC's first goal that night.

2 more big wins for Shamrocks Hockey team tops Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Trenton

By Sam Eggleston

It's definitely a sign of a strong Detroit Catholic Central hockey team when they skate away with a combined 11-1 showing against two teams over two games. It's even more telling, however, when one of those teams is Trenton.

The Shamrocks hockey team, coached by Todd Johnson, earned ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team will be back on the ice when they host University of Detroit Jesuit High School at 2:30 p.m.

he shutout their foes from his goalie position while a slew of Catho-lic Central skaters got in early and often on the scoring side of the

the game-winning goal despite the piling on that soon followed.
Brady Jones tacked on a goal

of his own to make it a 2-0 game, assisted by Max Wanko and Nick Daigneau, before Bobbie Carey increased the lead, 3-0, on an unassisted, short-handed goal just minutes later.

The scoring continued as Babcock, Andrew Kinney (2), Wanko and their own in the lopsided victory.

Railsplitters, **Zebras** trample past **Wildcats**

Two close losses came by a combined six points

By Chris Jackett

A pair of second-quarter deficits proved to be too much for Novi's boys basketball team last week, as they lost two games by a com-

bined six points The Wildcats (2-2) took to the road Dec. 12 at Lincoln Park and last Friday at Wayne Memorial, failing to complete a late comeback in a 60-59 loss to the Railsplitters before a late surge by the Zebras gave them a victory over

the 'Cats 56-51. Three Wildcats found themselves in triple figures against Lincoln Park, led by seniors Tre Cadwell (16 points, four steals), Charles McKinney (15 points, four steals,

four rebounds) and Jionni Ivy (10 points, six

"Cadwell had a solid game against Lincoln Park. Tough on defense

ON TAP

Novi's boys basket

hall team (2-2) was

set to host West-

land John Glenn

(1-1) two nights

ago before start-

ing league play 7

East (0-3).

p.m. Jan. 4 at home

against South Lyon

and made few mistakes offensively," Novi coach Brian Tass said. "Ivy was good on the boards for us and made a difference on defense. McKinney's defense contributed to our scoring."

However, the 'Cats were outscored 24-18 in the second quarter to fall behind 33-28 at halftime. Down 48-44 going into the final

quarter, Novi outscored the Railsplitters 15-12, but couldn't get the final two points needed for

"Our team kept focused on Tuesday and had a better second half," Tass said. "Made a good play and then two mistakes. Hard to get much

Please see HOOPS, B4

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Lady cagers steamroll competition 66-25

Novi outscores Wayne 28-4 in first quarter en route to victory

By Chris Jackett

The ride that is the Novi's girls basketball team continues to roll on with two more blowout victories

The Wildcats (5-0) defeated Pinckney 56-34 Dec. 11 and Wayne Memorial 66-25 last Friday by a combined 63-point difference, both at home.

Junior Kerri McMahan and senior Jade Antolec continued to be the driving force behind the Wildcats' offense. as each scored 17 points on Pinckney. Antolec shot 5-for-9 (55.6 per lent) with 11 rebounds, while McManan shot 7for-21 (33.3 percent) from the field with four assists and three steals.

Also contributing to the Novi offensive onslaught - which shot 19-for-54 (35.2 percent) as a team - were junior Amanda Geiger (seven points), four points apiece for sophomore Alex Felice (five rebound) and senior Kasey Lowney, and two points apiece for juniors Kristen Schubring and Maddy Marzonie. Junior Taylor Paylika added three points, five rebounds and three

Pinckney shot 10-for-25 (40 percent) from the field while getting outrebounded 40-15 by Novi, despite the Pirates winning the turnover battle 11-10. However, a 25-14 halftime deficit was too

LICENSED

Novi's girls basketball team (5-0) was set to visit Westland John Glenn (4-0) two nights ago before starting league play 7 p.m. Jan. 4 at South Lyon East (4-1).

much for Pinckney, as the 'Cats led 39-21 heading into the fourth quarter. The reserves got some extra minutes against Wayne after Novi took a 48-11 halftime lead following a 28-4 first quar-

ter. Wayne never scored in double digits in any quarter, although the score for only the second half would have been 18-15 Novi The 'Cats shot 28-for-52 (53.8 percent), compared to Wayne's 12-for-38 (31.6 percent), as Geiger and Dina Fawaz

each had 12 points apiece to lead the way. McMahan added 10 points, nine assists and six rebounds, while Pavlika dropped in seven points and Antolec six points, each in limited action due to the Also adding to the tally were Marzonie

(four points, four rebound), Felice (four points), three points for each Lowney and junior Mallory Daschke, two points each for Schurbing and junior Ally Iaco belli, and one point for senior Lena Bur-

Novi won the battle of the boards 29-17, steals 13-0, deflections 17-1 and the less than ideal turnovers category 7-6.

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

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CC stays undefeated Basketball team defeats Lincoln Park

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic

take on Ypsilanti Lincoln

at Romulus Saturday

came out to start the

second half with quite a

bit of intensity, outscor-

ing their foes, 16-10, to

34 and didn't look back.

fourth quarter just add-

ed icing to the cake as

they held Lincoln Park

Leading the way for

the Shamrocks was

Mitch Katkick, who

poured in 20 points to

to 21 points.

Their 24 points in the

increase their lead to 44-

Day on Dec. 26.

before playing Detroit

Cody at Detroit Country

By Sam Eggleston

When the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks climbed out to a 10-8 lead in the first quarter of their contest against Lincoln Park last week, they took the first step in the right direction

toward victory. The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, maintained a lead throughout the contest as they handed Lincoln Park their first loss of the season, 68-55.

The Shamrocks took

a 10-8 lead by the end

of the first stanza and increased their advantage to 28-24 by the time they headed into the locker room, but the big difference came in the third quarter when they continued to increase their lead. The squad

lead all scorers. Garrett Moores hit for 13 to help the Shamrocks to victory while Aus-Central Shamrocks will tin Beyer added 11. The be back on the hard-Shamrocks went 17-forwood floor when they 23 from the free-throw

> "Austin played a great floor game, and we got scoring from eight out of 11 players," noted

Leading Lincoln Park was Joe Decoster, who scored 11. His squad made just over half their free throws, scoring 16-for-30.

Catholic Central is now 2-0 on the season and Lincoln Park suffered their first loss for

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

Shamrocks dominate Davison

By Sam Egglestor

A quick glance at the schedule in the

beginning of the season and there was no doubt many Detroit Catholic Central and high school wrestling fans were circling Dec. 14 as a must-see date.

The reason was simple-Davison was coming to compete against the Shamrocks in the annual assembly meet. It was expected to be a showdown and a tightly contested dual meet. What is ended up being was a one-sided victory for the Shamrocks, who dominated Davison at home, 44-23, in front of the packed stands of their student body.

The Shamrocks, ranked No. 1 in Division I. defeated No. 2 Davison Cardinals last Friday afternoon despite losing the first match of the day, 2-1, when Mike Babicz fell in the 152-pound weight class. But the day quickly became that of the Shamrocks as they went on to win four of the following five weight classes and continued to showcase their ability to win tough matches to earn the vic-

Five of the Shamrocks' nine victories on the day came via pin--a very surprising number against a quality team like

ON TAP

wrestling team will hit the mat again when they wrestle in the Oakland Coun-

Also earning wins for the Shamrocks were Nicke Giese (189), Zack Prater (112), Ken Bade (135) and Malik Amine

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and

One-sided win was unexpected surprise

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks ty Tournament tomorrow and Saturday.

Davison. Logan Marcicki (160 pounds) pinned defending state champion Jordan Cooks while Drew Garcia, a defending state champ for Catholic Central at 171 pounds, earned a pin over Gabe Stuart. Bob Coe (285) pinned Dakota Powers and Jay Peterson (215) pinned Trevor Thomas, while Myles Amine (130) pinned Andrew Garten.

Catholic Central is now 8-0 on the season while Davison fell to 1-1 on the year. The shamrocks also earned wins over Rockford, 66-10, last week and over No. 5-ranked Rochester, 62-9.

former staff sports writer for the Northville

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Novi bowlers set records in win over Northville Wildcat girls off to 4-1 start heading into break

LOCAL SPORTS

With three meets in six days. Novi's bowling squads capped off their calendar year of competition with some solid oppo-

Although neither the boys (2-3) nor girls (4-1) were any match for Westland John Glenn Dec. 12, things went better against Northville last Friday and Wayne Memorial Monday.

After scoring just one oint against Glenn in a 29-1 loss, off a 169 game from Megan Engels, the lady bowlers dismantled rival Northville 27-3 and nandled Wayne 19-11.

"After struggling last Tuesday, both boys and girls came roaring back with some of the best scores in team history Novi coach John Osborne

The Wildcat girls won both baker games over Northville with games of 177-149 and 178-155 before pulling off regular games with wins of 785-743 and 830-737. Rebecca Rush (145, 135) won two points and Sara Schulz shot a two-game personal best of 444 with games of 213 and 231 to score two point of her own.

They kept things going by winning all 10 baker points in 181-125 and 179-148 fashions before winning the first regular game 782-756 ensure a victory. Wayne won the second game 756-754. Novi's Jessie Snider had high game of 186, while Evie Plaetinck (164), Megan Engels (147) and Abby Ranks (134) each added one point.

The boys won had a tougher battle with

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Novi High varsity bowling team member Sara Schultz rolls a frame or two on Dec. 11 as she and her teammates practice at Novi Bowl.

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Northville, but picked up an 18-12 win nonetheless despite losing both baker games 224-146 and 228-118. Howev-

lar games by a two-game team record score of 2,162 with games of 1,066-803 and 1,096-966, Corv. Brown led the way with two-game team record of



ON TAP

Novi's bowling squads (2-3 boys, 4-1 girls) are off until 12:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at Super Bowl in Canton against Livonia Lady-

523 behind games of 257 and 266, while Mat Kotowicz had a personal best two games of 247 and 220 Keegan O'Donnell shot a personal best 241 and Charlie Woods chipped is

The high scoring did not repeat against Wayne, who defeated Novi's boys 26-4 after taking the two baker games 208-149 and 212-202. Wayne took the two regular games 896-866 and 1,084-879. Morgan Wiley scored two points with games 190 and 184, while Kotowicz had high games of 213

and 211 for one point. The Wildcat boys lost 30-0 to Glenn. Chris Jackett is a freelance

writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability ben-efits. Money was taken

taxes to ensure that the penefits if they could no government denies approxiately 60% of those who apply Attorneys J.B. Bieske and

Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience represen clients. And they personally mee personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign case. And some of these firms away and only fly the attorney Attorneys Bieske and Alfons

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

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals And attorneys who specialize in In addition to practicing only

Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

elevision programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also een interviewed on radio programs and have Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi

iterviewed on various

offer free phone or office conthere will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive

clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road, Call them at sultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly ying for Social Security

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday**, **January 8**, **2013 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center **45175** W. Ten Mile Road to consider: CASE NO. PZ12-0053 40623 NINE MILE RD

The applicant is requesting a variance from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Signs, Section 28-5(2)d.3 to placement of a subdivision entrance sign within the public right of way. The proposed sign would be located south of 9 Mile Rd. and west of Haggerty Rd. in the R-3 gooing district. CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Signs, Section 28-5(2)d.3 ground signs be

located not less than 10 feet from the right-of-way. CASE NO. PZ12-0054 23925 EAST LEBOST

CASE NO. PZ12-0054 23925 EAST LEBOST
The applicant is requesting a variance from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 to allow construction of an attached carport with a reduced front setback of 25 ft. (30 ft. required) and an aggregate side setback of 19.5 ft. (25 ft. required) on an existing nonconforming residence. The property is located east of Meadowbrook Rd. and south of 10 Mile Rd. in the R-4 zoning district.
CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 requires that structures within a R-4 zoning district have a minimum front yard setback of 30 ft. and an aggregate side setback of 25 ft.

setback of 25 ft.

CASE NO. PZ12-0055 39595 TEN MILE RD.

The applicant is requesting a variance from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES,
Section 1102 to allow placement of a mobile medical diagnostic trailer on the site for 2
days (48 hours total) each week. The property is located west of Haggerty Rd. and south

of 10 Mile Rd. CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 requires that structures within a R-4 zoning district have a minimum front yard setback of 30 ft. and an aggregate side setback of 25 ft., in the OS-1 zoning district

CASE NO. PZ12-0051 25875 NOVIRD (PANERA BREAD)

The applicant is requesting variances from CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 and Section 2506.12.d. Parking setback requirements are stated in Section 2400. The minimum front yard parking setback in the TC-1 District is 20 ft. The proposed parking area is setback 10 ft. in the front (eastern) yard, 10 ft. short of the mandated minimum. Requirements for drive-through lanes are stated in Section 2506.12. All drive-through facilities shall have an 18 ft. bypass lane. No bypass lane has been proposed. The proposed trial party of Flipt St. and west of Novi Rd.

property is located north of Flint St. and west of Novi Rd.
CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2400 requires that parking in the front the TC-1 District be setback 20 ft. yard in the TC-1 District be setback 20 lt.
CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2506.12.d requires an 18 ft. bypass

team (1-1) are off until they host Brandon 6 p.m. Jan. 6 and Northville 6

Kyle Kilponen fin-

ished third in the 100 fly

in 56.26 seconds. He was

also part of the 200 med-

ley relay "B" team that

took fourth in 1:51.10.

alongside Toraki Mae-

hatsa, Nathan Louie and

John Heslop. Maehatsa

also finished fifth in the

Kim took second in

the 100 breaststroke in

1:03.84, behind Skyline's

1:02.27, while Louie took

third in 1:06.21. Kim was

also third in the 200 indi-

vidual medley in 1:07.57.

Gordy Williams added

Novi's only other top-five

finishes, landing fifth in

the 100 back in 1:00.27.

under their belt, Novi

With just one chance

qualified student-athletes

for the state meet in six

events, spread between

mers who achieved two

two relays and two swim-

individual qualifying fin-

ishes on their own. In all,

the six events, including

Vincent in four events,

Ao in three and Kim in

rebounds on combined 0-for-

9 shooting as a duo, while Bib-

erstein (four points) and Yan-

ke (two points) added some

six swimmers qualified in

50 free in 24.15.

p.m. Jan. 10.

Ao, Vincent, Onimura, Kim create successful Wildcat swimming core

A LOCAL SPORTS

Novi tankers split tri-meet with Skyline, Hartland

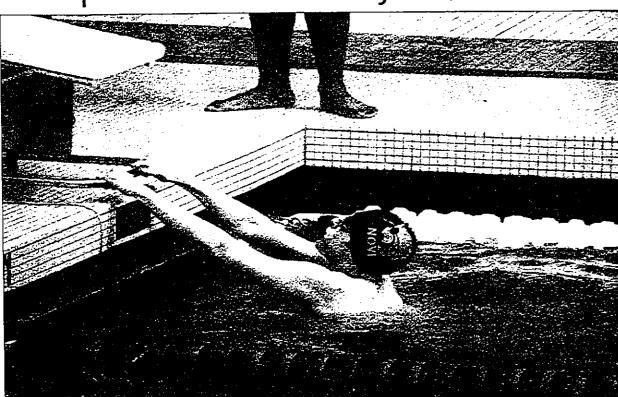
The Wildcats' swim and dive team got their first taste of competition in the pool this season with a relay-focused invitational and a tri-meet, both which showed promise for the next few months.

Novi (1-1) started with the Eagle Relays at the 38th Eastern Michigan University Classic Dec. 8, which consisted of nine different relay events. The Wildcats won the 800 free relay and 200 back relay en route to finishing third of six teams with 114 points. Livonia Stevenson won with 137 points, followed by Dexter at 131 and then Plymouth Salem was fourth at

Getting into regular set of events last Friday at Ann Arbor Skyline, Novi battled both Skyline (2-0) and Hartland (0-2), splitting the day with a 105-81 win over Hartland and 106-80 loss to Skyline. Although Skyline won

nine of 12 events, Novi won the other three with student-athletes in the top five of every event except for the 1-meter dive and 500 freestyle.

Novi's winners on the day began with Andrew Ao in the 100 free in 48.24 seconds and Tanner Vincent in the 100 back in 56.25 seconds, both which qualified them for the



Tanner Vincent prepares to start the 100 backstroke Dec. 14 at Ann Arbor Skyline. Vincent won the event in 56.25 seconds, qualifying him for the Division I state meet.

Division I state meet at the end of the season. The Wildcats also won the 200 free relay with the team of Gucci Onimura, Arthur Shi, Vinny Rosanali and Ao winning

Onimura proved to be

a force throughout the meet, finishing second to Vincent in the 100 back (57.16) and second in the 50 free (23.26) by 0.35 of a second, in addition to helping the 200 free relay win and the 200 med-

team also included Denley relay finish second in

nis Kim, Vincent and Rosanali, who qualified for the state meet as a relay team. Vincent and Ao also

HIGH SPEED

INTERNET

1:42.27 by 1.05 seconds.

The 200 medley relay

ifying that team for the state meet. Ao added a state-qualifying runner-up finish in the 200 free (1:46.80) and

to finish second in the 400

free relay in 3.22.99, qual-

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer Vincent did the same at for the Novi News. 53.42 seconds in the 100

offense

"Cagle struggled to get into victory in goal. the game in the first half, but contributed some scoring in the second half," Tass said. "McKinney did not get enough scoring opportunities in the game. He was in foul trouble the sec-

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

ond half. We did not do a good

job sharing the ball and turned

it over too much. Some poor

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

of a lead that way. We may have had the lead early on by a point or two, but we played from behind a few points all night. We had a couple missed shots and a couple critical turnovers in the fourth quarter that prevented us from taking the lead in the last minutes.'

The 'Cats also got offensive contributions from Nelson Cagle (seven points). Blake Brown (four points, 12 rebounds), Erik Biberstein (four points), and two points apiece from each Brandon

Macklin and Max Yanke. However, despite taking five more shots then their opponents, Novi scored four fewer baskets, going 21-for-42 (50 percent), while Lincoln Park went 25-for-37 (67.6 percent). Seven more made free throws, a 25-13 rebound advantage and 18-0 steal advantage all helped the Wildcats, despite a 20-6

turnover deficit. Two days later against Wayne, the turnover deficit was 13-5 despite a 20-3 Novi steal advantage, but the Zebras grabbed a 23-20 advantage on the boards.

"We play so hard on defense, we don't settle down enough

once we get the ball," Tass said of the turnover struggles. "We are young and still trying to figure out that tempo change. We are also working to play better as a team and less as individu-

From the field, Novi shot 16for-43 (37.2 percent) and Wayne 18-for-38 (47.4 percent).

"(We're) struggling with shot selection," Tass said. "We are forcing too man shots and forcing too much on offense. We have to learn how to read things and take advantage of defen-sive positioning. This takes time and we are making progress." Novi led 16-13 after the first

quarter, but a 18-11 second

would struggle to recover from. The Zebras trailed 43-42 heading into the final quarter, but rattled off a 14-8 advantage to "We made a good run at the

quarter deficit led to a 31-27

halftime deficit the Wildcats

end of the first half finishing with a post feed score." Tass said. "At the end of the second half, they scored twice on our missed shots." The 'Cats were led by Cadwell

(15 points, six steals) and Cagle (14 points, four assists), as Ivy dropped in nine points and sev en rebounds. Macklin was kept scoreless and McKinney was held to four points and four



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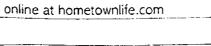
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hockey coverage

Above, Novi Wildcat Kyle Lash skates away from a Howell Highlander during the teams' Dec. 12 game in Novi. At left, Wildcat Jimmy Hole skates up ice during the game.

Continued from B1 Against St.

Mary's, the Catholic Central squad had a little bit more of a challenge on their hands, though it didn't slow them down too much Sorisho opened the scoring with an assist from Carter Cerretani and Luke Turner before Tuner added a goal of his own to secure the victory with Babcock and Green earning the assists.

The final goal of the night for the Shamrocks came off the stick of Jones, who was assisted on the play by Middleton. Moore earned the

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the North ville Record and Novi



Shamrock Charlie Green crashes the Trenton net during Catholic Central's Dec. 12 game against

WINTER VARSITY SPORTS **SCHEDULES** WRESTLING Novi Wildcats 12/21-12/22 County Tournament WRESTLING HOCKEY 12/21-22 TBD @ Oakland

County Championships (@ Southfield/Lathrup) **BOYS & GIRLS BOWL-**All meets at 3:30 p.m. un-

Catholic Central Shamrocks

less noted

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1 p.m. 12/26 Roundball Classic @Detroit Cody 2 p.m.

Oakland All games at 7 p.m. unless 12//22 University of De-2:30 p.m.

Northville **BOYS HOCKEY** All games at 7 p.m. unless

DNIMMING

All games at 7:30 p.m. un-12/22 @Ypsilanti Lincoln

12/21 @Milford WRESTLING Meets at 5:30 p.m. unless 12/22 @Pinckney Invitational TBA

12/21 Livonia Churchill

All meets at 6:30 p.m. un-

GYMNASTICS



NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

Cool holiday events at Novi Ice Arena

The Novi Ice Arena (42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive) will be hosting a Try Skating for Free clinic from 4:30-5:20 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28. Trained Learn to Skate instructors will be out on the ice giving lessons to boys and girls of all ages for no cost, and the rink will even provide rental skates for free. Pre-registration is required by visiting www.noviiceareana.com or calling the rink at (248) 347-1010.

For children looking for one final attempt to get on Santa's "Nice List" - Mom and Dad should grab a camera and bring the little ones out to the ice rink to Skate with Santa! From 3-4:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23. Admission is \$4 for Novi residents and \$5 for non-residents;

skate rental is \$3. Suburban Hockey School will also be hosting Holiday Clinics for youth hockey players ages 6-14 Dec. 26-28 and Jan. 2-4. Interested family members can visit www.suburbanhockey.com for more information or call our Suburban Hockey offices at (248) 478-1600.

Holiday Hoops Camp

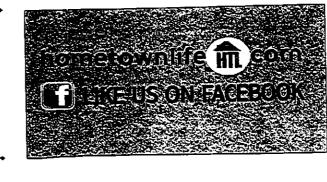
Boys in grades third through eighth are invited to attend a Holiday Hoops Camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 at Novi High School.

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 Var-

Attendees should bring gym shorts; T-shirt; a bag lunch; basketball shoes; enthusiasm and an eagerness

Cost is \$25; register online prior to the event at https:// www.totalgatesolutions.com/SelectEventTickets. aspx?eventId=31474

For further information, contact Brian Tass, Novi boys varsity coach, at (248) 408-2463 or btass@novi.k12.



Novi Community Schools Novi, MI

SECTION 00 11 13

Sealed bids for the Novi Community Schools' Bid Package #5,
Consisting of:
-Novi Meadows Remodeling Project
-District-Wide Sidewalk Replacement Project

will be received until 1:30 P.M. Local time on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at the Novi Community Schools' Educational Services Building located at: 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374 ATTN: Mr. Steve Barr, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operation

Bids received after this time and date will not be considered or accepted and will be returned to the bidder

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions

Bid Division Description Selective Demolition
Concrete Foundations & Flatwork Masonry

104: 106: 107: 108: Steel

Carpentry / General Trades
Roofing
Hollow Metal, Wood Doors, Finish Hardware

Aluminum Entrances; Glass & Glazing

Metal Studs / Drywall / Acoustical Treatments Hard Tile & Terrazzo Refinishing Carpet & Resilient Flooring

Painting Toilet Partitions 125: 140: 142: Plumbing HVAC Electrical

Bidding documents prepared by Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; the Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; and the Daily Construction

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents, beginning Thursday, December 27, 2012, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., at (248) 427-8400. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager. The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at the Novi Community Schools' Educational Services Building, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374. The meeting will be held in the Board of Education Meeting Room. The meeting is not mandatory, but is highly recommended. Attendees desiring to visit the buildings, will have the opportunity to do so after the meeting.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendent, or district executive must accompany each bid. The Board of Education will not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is provided on the Proposal Execution Form, Section 194200 of the Bidding Possiproports and Company Compa 004200, of the Bidding Requirements and General Conditions Manual for the project.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Novi Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment

Novi Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding, and to accept a bid other than the lowest bid.

Limit

committee

authority

By Robert Meisner

O: I am the president of the

ssociation and I want to form

anything specific that I should

A: Generally speaking,

a committee can exercise

all power delegated to it,

Directors. There is not a

general presumption that

the committee will merely

Robert Meisner

be advisory, so if that is how

establish procedures to be

followed by committees

by reference some of the

make those applicable to

committees. However, I

generally recommend to

the committee decisions

merely be advisory and

our association clients that

that the Board of Directors

make the final decision. The

scope of the board's powers

should be spelled out in the

resolution establishing the

the committee is to operate

committee as well as the

parameters under which

Q: I am on a board that is

always retain the right to

in the absence of other

procedural provisions

that are applicable to

the board itself and

the board

wants the

committee

to function

needs to say

provisions

that either

including powers otherwise

pelonging to the Board of

some committees. Is there

Helping businesses go green is a win-win for all

a stop in Northville recently to launch a new program to help Michigan businesses make changes to become more energy efficient

Snyder was at Hill er's Market on Center. Street on Nov. 30 to tout the new Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program. Hiller's is the first business to take advantage of the program, which offers Michigan businesses low-interest financing for energy efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems insulation, refrigeration. equipment, and more. Businesses make the upgrades with the help of authorized contractors and affordable financing

The program's advocates say participating businesses can lower operating costs and improved cash flow for a quick return on investment.

of \$2,000 to \$150,000.

"The Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program is a win-winwin for Michiganders." said Snyder, "It helps businesses save on costs creates good-paying jobs



Gov. Rick Snyder was at Hiller's Market to launch the new Michigan Saves Business Energy Financing Program. On hand were (from left) were Justin Hiller, vice president of Hiller's, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, Julie Metty Bennett, executive director of Michigan Saves, state Rep. Kurt Heise, Gov. Snyder, Greg White, MPSC commissioner, and Tom Conzelmann,

eener energy future." The financing is available through Michigan Saves and lending part capital provider Bank of Ann Arbor, Michigan Saves is a public-private partnership, which was seeded with public funds able financing to help homes and businesses save energy and money.

"We were proud to help thousands of homeowners across the state with the Michigan Saves Home Energy Loan Program and now we want to help local businesses lower their costs and improve on energy efficiencies," said Julie Metdirector of Michigan Saves, "When business es use inefficient ways to operate, they are losing money they could spend to hire more people or make more products."

gy Financing, subject to credit review by Ervin Leasing. Typical improve ments to the business could include: replac-Buildings and properties that are owned or

es or nonprofit organiza

tions located anywhere

in the state of Michigan

gan Saves Business Ener-

are eligible for Michi-

er controls; installing vertical night covers on open deck coolers and replacing door gaskets on walk-

Hiller's Vice President Justin Hiller said they will use the program to move to more efficient

"We are pleased to have a welcoming, light and bright presence at all of said. "But that signature business model comes at a price. We are always looking for advantageous opportunities for our business and our customers and this program will help us speed up our efforts to go green while saving money. We thank the governor for high-

Snyder said energy efficiency is "a progrowth strategy that aligns with the state's plan to provide local businesses with the tools they need to foster economic growth and grow new jobs."

lighting our efforts.

Businesses can get more information by visiting www.Michi-

Japanese Business Society doles out nearly \$72,000

The Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation has donated \$71,900 in financial ssistance to 42 cultural, artistic, educational, civic and charitable organizations in 21 cities within Michigan, said Eiji Kato. president of the foundation. Three Novi awardees were

among those receiving assis-

tance: Detroit Kendo Corpo-

ration, \$1,000; Detroit Ringo-

kai/Japanese School of Detroit, \$2,000, to be spent to maintain good conditions of the space in Novi Meadows the school is leasing: and the Novi Community Schools district, \$6,000.

The JBSD Foundation host ed the 21st annual Grants Award ceremony to celebrate these contributions on Dec. 7. at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, Novi. The Honorable

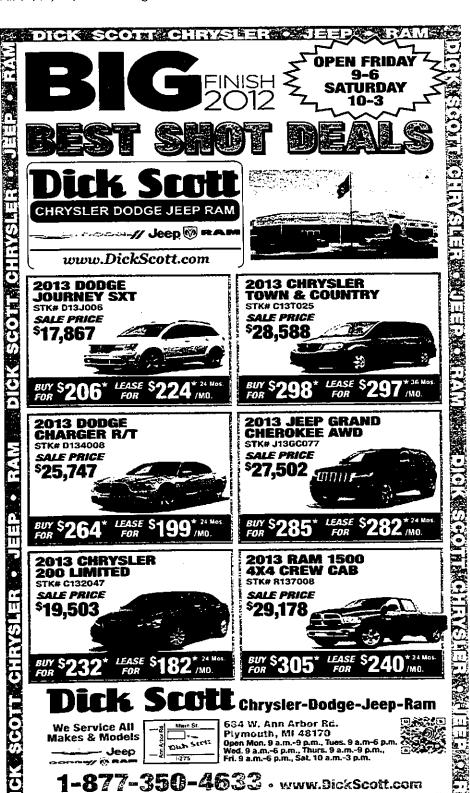
Kuninori Matsuda, Consul General of Japan at Detroit, and other dignitaries partic-

"JBSD Foundation is proud of our continued support of community organizations that promote community enhancement, education. and research as well as unity between the Japanese and American cultures. Many

of our recipients represent youth and nonprofit scholastic programs," said Kato.

The foundation was established in 1993 and \$1.6 million has been distributed during 21 years to organizations throughout Michigan, with an emphasis on the greater Detroit Metropolitan area. The JBSD Foundation is

Japan Business Society of Detroit, which oversees the largest group of global investors in Michigan, with more than 250 companies and 1,590 members. The JBSD enhances understanding and mutual cooperation between Japanese and Americans through community and business involvement.



CK SCOTT CHRYSLER . JEEP STRAM

Last-minute shopping help available online

ou waited until the last minute to do your holiday shopping, didn't you? Otherwise you wouldn't continue reading. Fortunately, there are plenty of app developers, retailers and online stores that are prepared for this exact dilemma: the last-minute holiday

Here are some shopping tips and advice to help you finish your shopping Take advantage of your Smartphone



or tablet by downloading any number of free apps that will help you through this hectic time The Black Friday Survival Guide app, for example, allows shoppers to view leaked and verified deals in real time and create personal shopping lists.

There's also the Shopp Savvy app, which can be downloaded, on your Verizon Smartphone. This app lets shoppers scan bar codes on items to check prices and compare the best in-store and online deals. It is available on Android and Apple devices.

If you need to crunch numbers, consider downloading a discount and tax calculator from your Smartphone's app store. Using an app like this will allow you to estimate how much items will cost and how much a sale will actual-

There are also apps such as the "Find My Car" app that can help you when you get outside of the store. The "Find My Car" app was named one of the "Top n Apps That Will Change Your Life' by the Wall Street Journal. It uses locations services to help you find your car in a crowded lot. You can also jot down a note in your phone's notepad, or record

a voice memo to help you remember what lot you parked in.

Even if you don't know what to buy for the person on your list, there are websites that can help. If the recipient is on Pinterest, visit their page and take a look at what items they are "pinning" or commenting about. Websites such as Amazon.com and

Sharperimage.com have comprehensive gift guides for anyone on your list. Gifts.com even has a personality test that buyers can fill out to help narrow est and hobbies.

Once you find the right gift, you might get lucky and not have to visit the store. Many large retailers such as Nordstrom.com and Zappos.com, and Sun glasshut.com offer free shipping and free exchanges every day. Amazon pro-

vides free shipping on orders over \$25. The eBay site, which also offers free shipping on certain purchases may even have gifts that are sold out elsewhere. It may cost a premium price, but if you're looking to snag a last-minute video game system or other such coveted gift, eBay will have it.

When dealing online, remember there are plenty of safe ways to pay. Use your online payment system such as PayPal, Square, or a gift certificate. You can even have your credit card company produce a one-time-use number to avoid fraudulent purchases in the future. Just be sure not to use your debit card as the fraud protection generally isn't as solid on those types of cards.

Lastly, if the holiday stress really hits you hard before, during or after your shopping is completed visit drinkmixer.com and find the quickest recipe for adult eggnog. If you've waited this long, you might need it.

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

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Signature leases in Wixom

Signature Associates

of 16,380 square feet of industrial space located at 28294 Beck Road, Wixom. Steve Kozak and Jim Montgomery of Signature

Associates represented the landlord, 28294 Beck Road, LLC. Jim Montgomery also represent ed the tenant, RM Motor-

REAL ESTATE

Plymouth Realtor fights good fight against diabetes, raises awareness

HOMETOWN WEEKLES

HOMETOWNLIFE COM-

Tony Schippa, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred. Plymouth, has pretty much con-Schippa, 47, a Plymouth resident hasn't cured the disease for all but has controlled his own Type II diabetes.

Schippa came down with what he thought was a cold in December 2011. "I thought it was just a typical cold," he recalled. "I wasn't getting any better.

His wife had lost her job and the family health insurance, but Tony saw the doctor and had blood work done. "He said, 'Congratulations and welcome to the club. It was a rough time. I took it seri-

Schippa rode last year in a benefit for the American Diabetes Association on Team Red. and this year has set a goal of \$5,0000 for himself on Team Schippa. This year's ADA benefit will be June 15 at Brighton High School, and is known as the Tour deCure, with other related events elsewhere in the country.

The American Diabetes Association has an office in Southfield which coordinates the local ben-

"It inspired me so I've got my own team together. We're going to be doing a lot of fundraising between now and June." Within the year, Schippa has

dropped 53 pounds through good food habits and exercise. 'I wanted to get off the medicine. That was my goal." It wasn't insulin, but he didn't like the side

"I still monitor my blood sugar twice a day." He's no longer tak-

'We'll see what happens when I go back in for my blood work." He usually walks around Plymouth in the evenings. "If I can't get out and ride, I'll walk." One night, his blood sugar had dropped down

With Team Schippa, he will do a

These are the area residential real

estate closings recorded the week

County Register of Deeds office.

and sales prices.

7010 Ardsley Dr 748 Burlington Rd

4089 Cornerstone I 44574 Danbury Rd

190 E Canford Park 44700 Heather Ln

1426 Heritage Dr

42674 Keystone Ln

7260 Kingsbridge Ct 43609 Lancelot Dr

45358 Lothrop Rd 1459 Morrison Blvd 407 N Willard Rd

1769 Orchard Dr

2852 Stanton St

43175 Londonderry Ct

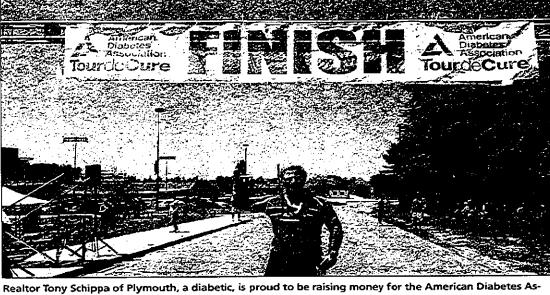
43357 Stonington Ct 44260 Suffolk Ct

6698 Whitehurst St GARDEN CITY

42148 Cherrylawn Ct 7615 Corbin Dr

Listed below are cities, addresses,

of Sept. 10-14, 2012, at the Wayne



He and friends will probably do other rides, as they did for a friend's mom with Alzheimer's For the Tour deCure, the goal is to have 354 participants by the

end of this year. In 2009, the event had 910 riders on 115 teams. For 2011, there were 1,025 riders with 128 teams and in 2012, 1,057 riders on 130

"I do it just to give back, I've had a lot of people help me through this," Schippa said. Close friends, especially one who's a massage therapist, have been a

"When I bike ride around town I wear my Diabetes shirt." It's a big silent killer of his generation, "If I can help one person, that's

One friend said you need to control disease. "And I decided to control it. I feel great. It's a completely different change. I'm eating healthier. I'm starting to

involve myself with people who Some people didn't know he was

7016 Belton St 5824 Deering St 420 E Rose Ave 6901 Hubbard St 33156 John Hauk St 30550 Pierce St

32146 Rosslyn Ave

33411 Rosslyn Ave

15344 Bainbridge St 18213 Brentwood St

28617 Dover St 9871 E Clements Cir 20345 Ellen Dr

36136 Fairway Dr

19375 Ingram St 18795 Lathers St

33321 Myrna Ct

18346 Myron St

\$183,000 \$310,000

\$152,000

\$24,000 \$137,000

\$243,000

\$215,000 \$187,000 \$157,000

35584 Leon St 32931 Middleboro St

31270 Pickford Ave

38808 Ross St 17712 Rougeway St 19296 Shadyside St

29490 Westfield St

14926 Sunbury St 18220 University Park Dr 8963 W Deborah Ct

16947 Renwick St 36610 Richland St

32911 Allen St

diabetic. Schippa knows people who've died or had amputations as a result of diabetes. "I was in the early days of denial, it can't

happen to me."
Diabetics can't just take medicine, he said, they also have to eat

He'll be starting to give Jan. 1 10 percent of his real estate commissions for those who sign exclusively to the ADA. Visit http:// main.diabetes.org/goto/tonyschip pa and www.adiabeticstory.com for more information.

Schippa's finishing up his term as president of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors ormed through the merger of the Western Wavne Oakland Counry Association of Realtors and the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors. It's been good to take in new members in merg-

"We're going great. If you don't set high goals to reach, you don't get anywhere." When he asked people for charitable donations, he heard times

are tough, "We have to deal with

er, he said.

NORTHVILLE

17041 Algonquin D 19612 Aqueduct Ct

8700 Napier Rd

608 Ann St

11669 Aspen Dr 12584 Belton Ct

11824 Lorenz Way 9166 Mayflower Dr

697 N Harvey St 51077 Northview 417 Pacific St 49912 Pointe Xing

48040 Saint Andrev 49141 Woodway D

REDFORD

9528 Brady 16754 Brady

17620 Fox

16055 Homestead Cir 17664 Lake View Cir 19366 Malvern Ct

19768 Scenic Harbour Di

364 Ann Arbor Trail Ct

17676 Stonebrook Ct

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

\$35,000

\$128,000

\$154,000

\$55,000

\$65,000 \$126,000

those issues as Realtors every day. It's basically lead by exam-

Schippa's wife and son have been with him on the journey. "She's proud of me. She's start ing to get healthier." Their son, 14

health habits. Teaching that younger gener ation is what's key," Tony Schip-

isn't overweight but learning good

He grew up in the country and was active, noting fewer young people are physically active now I had a pop." He uses apps to mon

He still gets out a few times a week for shorter rides.

"You do go at your own pace" for the benefit. "It's just a matter of going." His wife and son will do the 10-mile, he said, adding he made his own pace last year on

'I was just hustling to see how quickly I could go." On his mountain bike, he averages about 13 miles an hour, and will work on

16110 Kinlock

\$310,000

\$190,000 \$210,000

\$211,000

210 000

\$33,000 103,000 \$50,000 \$46,000

\$67,000 \$15,000 \$30,000

9224 Lucerne 18339 Macarthur 9348 Marion Cres

16035 Negaunee 11489 Rockland 11411 Royal Grand 13550 Royal Grand

19495 Woodworth WESTLAND

39197 Armstrong L 32246 Avondale St

2504 Bannister St

33514 Fernwood St

32984 Ford Rd 30644 Geraldine St

34347 Parkgrove Dr 265 S Byfield St 30759 Somerset St 34741 Somerset St

660 Superior Pkw

8037 Tom Brown Di

Westcott St

39089 Willow Creek Pkwy \$153,000

35750 Glen St 30517 Hiveley St

\$98,000 \$153,000

\$43,000 \$80,000

\$55,000

\$210,000

dealing with a disgruntled condominium unit owner who believes that the association has somehow committed fraud on the books, which is not true, and regularly distributes unsigned letters slipped under doormats asking for donation towards attorney fees to start a lawsuit against the association. He is also spreading unfounded fear about the condition of the buildings and other conspiracy theories. He also meets regularly with those who will talk about his

press conference.

concerns and threatens to hold a

A: You cannot bar an

owner from complaining or the association, regardless of whether the criticism is unjustified. In terms of potential defamation, of the association, he may have qualified immunity. Threatening him may only feed his suspicions and in his attacks unless the association is willing to go to court. The association cannot prevent other homeowners from meeting with him or organizing to oppose or question the association and board policies and practices. The way to respond is to communicate with all members in writing, particularly in response to his written complaints to them, setting forth the facts and informing the members that they inspect the books themselves, etc. You may even wish to call a membership meeting to enable all members, including the dissidents, to ask questions and obtain answers, possibly with the association's attorney accountant and any other staff necessary to deal with these complaints.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus §1 shipping/handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/ handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@ neisner-law.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 27-31, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, ad-

dresses, and sales prices	» .
BEVERLY HILLS	
16170 Beverly Rd	\$178,000
15625 Birwood Ave	S119,000
18160 Buckingham Ave	\$280,000
31065 Old Stage Rd	\$377,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
30845 Timberbrook Ln	\$280,000
BIRMINGHAM	
410 Bennaville Ave	\$237,000
150 Bird Ave # 22	\$84,000
1744 Derby Rd	\$151,000
1222 Emmons Ave	\$505,000
1540 Fairway Dr	\$318,000
1362 Hazel Št	\$182,000
1196 Lakeside Dr	\$1,225,000
421 Madison St	\$525,000
1380 Pierce St	\$334,000
411 S Old Woodward A	ve Unit
\$420,000	
1158 Saxon Dr	\$265,000
1899 Shipman Blvd	\$155,000
450 Southfield Rd	\$515,000
111 Willits St # 304	\$525,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	4222.404
5154 Kellen Ln	\$230,000

4517 Broughton Dr	\$300,000
172 E Hickory Grove Rd	\$193,000
2737 Hunters Way	\$415,000
4840 Wye Oak Rd	\$238,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1111 Ashover Dr	\$114,000
6600 Cathedral Dr	\$267,000
5383 Forest Way	\$430,000
4120 Golf Ridge Dr E	\$335,000
5641 Kingsmill Dr	\$315,000
1231 Northover Dr	\$335,000
2395 Rutherford Rd	\$105,000
3748 Thornbrier Way	\$333,000
4839 W Wickford	\$838,000
457 Whippers In Ct	\$400,000
1240 Whitmore Rd	\$180,000
5199 Woodlands Dr	\$307,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	6220.000
1851 Cheshire Ln	\$339,000
3594 Clark Cir	\$252,000
3398 Luanne Dr	\$190,000
FARMINGTON	£106 000
29971 Beacontree St	\$186,000 \$125,000
21110 Larkspur St	\$375,000
23240 Power Rd FARMINGTON HILLS	3375,000
	\$68,000
30235 Astor St	\$75,000
23833 Brookplace Ct 36799 Chesapeake Rd	\$245,000
29173 Chestnut Ct	\$250,000
24689 Creekside Or	\$130,000
31062 Evergreen Ct	\$266,000
37405 Glengrove Dr	\$195,000
29605 Highmeadow Rd	\$240,000
23003 inglittleadow no	4 ,

0,000 3,000 5,000 8,000	28740 Kendall 29648 Lochmo 24169 Lori Ct 30085 Minglet 35355 Muer C
4,000 7,000 0,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 3,000 8,000	21376 Mulber 30040 Old Bec 21335 Renssel 38288 Saratog 26224 Valhalla 32149 W 12 M 29890 W 12 M 34163 W Nine 29185 Welling 28448 Wildwe
0,000 0,000 7,000	38420 Windso LATHRUP VILL 18280 Wiltshir MILFORD
2,000 0,000	1495 Duff Ln 2845 General 612 Knollside 99 Peters
6,000 5,000 5,000	214 Ravinesid 1722 Washbu NOVI
8,000 (5,000 (5,000 (0,000 (6,000 (5,000 (10,000	41382 Beacor 22166 Edgew 45660 Galway 135 Henning 24560 Jamest 40317 Ladend 22279 Meridi 24955 Reeds

SACHONS-O	AKLA	ND COOM I	
28740 Kendallwood Dr	\$158.000	45767 Sheffield Dr	\$305,000
29648 Lochmoor St	\$140,000	45673 South Lake Dr	\$355,000
24169 Lori Ct	\$196,000	22726 Summer Ln	\$490,000
30085 Minglewood Ln	\$185,000	46893 Sunnybrook Ln	\$440,000
35355 Muer Cv	\$155,000	49669 Timber Trl	\$330,000
21376 Mulberry Ct	\$113,000	29436 Weston Dr	\$166,000
20040 Old Bedford St	\$135,000	28231 Wolcott Dr	\$84,000
21335 Rensselaer St	\$3,000	SOUTH LYON	
38288 Saratoga Cir	\$141,000	1153 Fountain View Cir	\$64,000
26224 Valhalla Dr	\$279,000	25855 Hunters Ln	\$316,000
32149 W 12 Mile Rd	\$94,000	54360 Meadow Ct	\$325,000
29890 W 12 Mile Rd # 905	\$27,000	20922 Parkwoods Dr	\$240,000
34163 W Nine Mile Rd	\$85,000	23736 Point O Woods Ct	\$150,000
29185 Wellington St	\$605,000	61603 Rambling Way	\$118,000
28448 Wildwood Trl	\$80,000	53887 Springwood Dr	\$25,000
38420 Windsor	\$125,000	53642 Valleywood Dr	\$25,000
ATHRUP VILLAGE		SOUTHFIELD	
18280 Wiltshire Blvd	\$137,000	30848 Fairfax St	\$43,000
/ILFORD		19080 Goldwin St	\$86,000
1495 Duff Ln	\$275,000	19751 Goldwin St	\$8,000
2845 General Motors Rd	\$200,000	27100 Harvard Rd	\$115,000
612 Knollside Ct	\$162,000	19425 Magnolia Pkwy	\$8,232,000
99 Peters	\$125,000	19151 Middlesex Ave	\$56,000
214 Ravineside Dr	\$400,000	18301 Midway Ave	\$100,000
1722 Washburn Dr	\$152,000	30841 Northgate Dr	\$105,000
10^t		20185 Rodeo Ct	\$66,000
41382 Beacon Rd	\$310,000	25660 Southfield Rd # A	
22166 Edgewater	\$112,000	18301 W 13 Mile Rd	\$40,000
45660 Galway Dr	\$275,000	18301 W 13 Mile Rd Uni	t A21
135 Henning St	\$253,000	\$40,000	
24560 Jamestowne Rd	\$213,000	29145 Wellington Rd E #	6100.000
40317 Ladene Ln	\$220,000	23873 Wendy Ln	\$100,000
22279 Meridian Ln	\$244,000	21191 Winchester St	\$156,000
24955 Reeds Pointe Dr	\$450,000	21765 Winchester St	\$90,000

UPRIGHT FREEZER, ou hauf Farmington Hill area, 248-982-2536

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HAIRS: by S. Bent, 6 chairs, 5 Mates & 1 Captain Excellent Condition, \$290, 313-565-2335

URNITURE- Microwave cabinet istorage, \$100 Dak round din-

ERVICES

lasement Waterproofing

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⇔ ∞ ∞ ≤

NET PLASTER & DRYWAI

Floor Service

HARMALA KARDWO

LAMINATE bamboo, vinyl, VC

Handyman Male - Female

Chuck's Handyman Service

_ ਜਾਂਦ ਵਾਲੇ UC. /

re you going to settle fo

dinary housekeeper (Il Paulette, Experienced ences, 810-229-2567

DETAILED CLEANING

ul areas. (734) 678-2967

Paint Decorating Paper

PAINTING BY ROBERT - Wallpaper Removal -III

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Pole Buildings

HomeFinde

Homes

Howell Lk. Chemung . 1,35 sq ft ranch, 4BR, 2 bath, great m. \$165,000, 517-540-1107 Manufactured Homes

HOWELL -Burkhart Ridge 3 br., 2 bath, well maintained home. Move in ready for only '\$29,900. 517-552-2300 NMLS#275116.#340904 'Some restrictions may apply

HOWELL - New, used, repo's Beautiful community w/country club amenities. NMLS#275116, #340904 517-652-2300. WE FINANCE! OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Marketing Your 'Hidden' Job Skills

Content provided by

OfficeTeam Mary is a recent college graduate who worked as a server at a local restaurant during the school year, and held an internship at a marketing firm the summer after her junior year. Now she's looking for a full-time job. But with her limited experience, she doubts many employers are interested in hiring her. She is a strong writer and has some knowledge of marketing strategy, but she possesses few other marketable job skills — or does she?

Millions of job seekers - including individuals new to the working world and those well past graduation - wrestle with the same doubts: They're unsure if they are skilled or experienced enough to land a job in today's employment market. If you are among this group, the good news is you likely have more to offer companies than you think. In fact, you may have dozens of "hidden" abilities that employers seek. The trick is to identify and successfully market them. Here's how:

Identifying your skills

The first step is distinguishing your duties from your skills. Duties are the activities you perform on the job: generating reports, coordinating an industry conference, providing desktop support.

Skills are the tools and techniques you use to accomplish these tasks: knowledge of certain software, communication abilities, and leadership.

For example, if you've worked

you may have arranged meetings, drafted correspondence and answered the phone. As a result, you likely developed strong planning skills to ensure meetings went smoothly, strong communication abilities to accurately convey your manager's messages to staff, and solid customer service skills to successfully interact with internal and external clients. And that says nothing of your technical skills, such as typing speed, research abilities and knowledge of Microsoft Office. The list goes on.

as an administrative assistant,

Before compiling your résumé, write down all of your previous duties. Then list the skills and abilities that were necessary to accomplish each task. Don't limit yourself to full-time jobs. Also include part-time work, volunteer positions and even your hobbies. Perhaps you served as the president of your homeowners association, thereby developing leadership skills, negotiation abilities and knowledge of budgeting processes. Chances are you'll un-

hadn't considered.

Marketing your skills Of course, identifying your skills is only half the battle. You also must successfully market them to interested companies if you are to eventually land a job. The key is to find out what skills prospective employers are looking for and ensure your résumé and cover letter high-

cover a number of talents you

Start by asking yourself what

light these abilities.

for: Is it large or small? A public or privately owned company? What industry is it in? What's the corporate culture like? Your answers can help you determine which of your many skills your ideal company may seek. For example, if you'd like to work for a large firm and speak Mandarin, consider targeting multinational companies that may be looking

to hire individuals with your language skills. If you are applying for a position within the advertising field, prospective employers may be intrigued to learn about the pop-culture blog you write. You can gain an idea of the skills companies seek by looking at the job descriptions they post. For instance, a medical firm may be in need of administrative analysts to help prepare and analyze

case reports. Although you have never held this specific role before, the knowledge of case report preparation you attained through volunteering for special projects with other research firms may help you get the job. Conducting informational interviews and consulting specialized publications like Robert Half International's "Glossary of Job Descriptions for Accounting and Finance" also can help you align the skills on your résumé

One note of caution: Although it may be tempting to include

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mé and cover letter, throwing everything against the wall in hopes that something will stick is rarely an effective strategy. Hiring managers are only interested in one thing: whether, based on what they read, you deserve serious consideration as a candidate. Information that does not contribute to a positive response -- such as your participation in a recent marathon or your expertise

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with outdated software should be omitted.

No matter how much or how little work experience you possess, you likely have a number of skills that will impress hiring managers. Before launching your next job search, take some time to uncover your hidden talents. Doing so will make you more attractive candidate and increase your chance of employment success.



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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Lincoln Motor Company brand revival finally kicks into high gear



By Date Buss

It's been years in the making, but finally Ford has launched the reinvention of the Lincoln brand in earnest with the unveiling of a new advertising campaign that "introduces" a revived entity it's calling

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 20, 2012

the Lincoln Motor Company.

Ford CEO Alan Mulally and other top executives announced the new campaign in (where else?) New York's Lincoln Center Plaza with supporting events on tap in Miami and Los Angeles as well.

"Today we are announcing a new beginning for a brand that has been part of our company and the American fabric for more than 90 years," Mulally said. "The new Lincoln brand will be defined by great new luxury vehicles, such as the new MKZ, that feature quality, unique style with substance and innovative technology. These elements, coupled with a new level of warm, personal and surprising experiences, will enable Lincoln to appeal to today's new luxury customer."

Jim Farley, Ford and Lincoln CMO, said that the way "for Lincoln to grow is to transform our conquest power," said Farlev. "The fact of the matter is for us to grow, we have to take share away from someone else. When you look on the coast, our competitors are gaining automatic loyalty every time a customer comes back to the dealership to return their lease."

With the introduction of four new Lincoln vehicles — the MKT, MKS, MKX and MKZ, which is about to arrive in showrooms - there is an opportunity to increase exposure, attract new customers and establish new affinities.

The first phase of Lincoln's brand relaunch was unveiled during Ford's appearance at the Los Angeles Auto Show, and will culminate in a Super Bowl TV ad on February 3. Interestingly, Ford has shunned advertising during the big game for the last few years. Heading back into the Big Game with Lincoln first is an interesting choice.

Lincoln plans to build on its new ads in the Super Bowl by focusing on its heritage as well as its new fleet of cars that are beginning with an overhauled MKZ. The Super Bowl ad, the brand said, will be consumer-generated via a social-marketing campaign in which fans are being invited to "co-create" the 60-second spot via tweets using the hashtag #steerthescript, in a fun effort that will be curated by TV host Jimmy Fallon. That whole effort began on December 5.

Lincoln originally was called the Lincoln Motor Company in 1922 when Edsel Ford signed the agreement purchasing the company from its founder, Henry Leland. By dusting off the old moniker, Ford hopes to begin to re-educate American

luxury buyers about a brand in which it is only now investing significant resources again, after essentially neglecting it for the last few years.

"The campaign captures the founding principles of the [Lincoln Motor] company and brings them forward to a new generation of progressive luxury buyers," Ford said in its press release. It also noted

that back in the day, Edsel Ford made Lincoln "one of the most distinctive luxury brands in the industry, with motorcars that were urbane, sleek and elegant the epitome of understated luxury."

For example, the three new TV spots weave together examples of Lincoln's past with those highlighting current design innovation. Dean Martin and Abraham Lincoln reportedly appear in the ads.

"Lincoln has been off the radar for

many people," Matt Van Dyke, Lincoln's global head of marketing, sales and service, told Automotive News. "What we want to do is establish it quickly We're going to have to use highprofile placements, use every tool in the toolbox."

The new Lincoln product line in the



The new 2013 Lincoln MKZ with three key figures for the brand: Emmitt Smith, Alan Mulally and Jim Farley.

U.S. begins with a substantially overhauled MKZ sedan - with its distinctive new "spread-eagle" grill — as the face of the reinvented brand. It already has gone on sale at Lincoln dealers, and three all-new models will join MKZ in Lincoln's completely overhauled lineup over the next four years. Lincoln also is paying homage to stellar past models by displaying a handful of them at the Los Angeles Auto Show this week.

"The [TV] spots evoke what has historically made Lincoln stand apart in the luxury category," the company's press release said, "while using the new MKZ as the face of the reinvented brand." The spots no longer use actor John Slattery, who helped Lincoln in its sparse marketing during its transition period of the last couple of years.

Starting to get ready for the Super Bowl, Lincoln also unveiled Emmitt Smith, former NFL star and Dancing with the Stars champion, as brand ambassador at its Lincoln Center press kick-off.

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The new Lincoln advertising campaign aims to set the brand apart.

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