

**3 MYTHS ABOUT OLDER JOB SEEKERS** 

CLASSIFIED, SECTION B

### Winning the sugar game

Are you trying your best to stick to your diet in the New Year. but a nagging sweet head? It's not completely all in your mind.



Your body craves some thing sweet to take the edge off but do you have a sugar addition? I know you're concerned you can't keep

this up and you silently wonder if your health issues could be related to your sweet tooth and occasional soda. Renee Heigel, Michigan's own holistic health guru, will offer

a free seminar at the Better Health Store at 42875 Grand River in Novi at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, to discuss how to quit sugar cravings, tips to help you kick your sugar addition and lose weight in this 60-minute chat

Food samples included. Reservations are (248-735-8100), web (www.thebetterhealth store.com) or visiting Facebook page.

with Q&A at the end.

### Novi Choralaires auditions

The Novi Choralaires, Novi's community chorus, will be holding open auditions for new members on Tuesday, Jan. 15. Potential members are asked to sit in on the group's rehearsal which begins at 7:30 p.m. Auditions will be held immediately following

rehearsal on those dates The group is looking for people who love to sing, enjoy performing in public and can rehearse once a week until Mother's Day weekend. All

voice parts are needed. Those wishing to audition are asked to contact the group at www. novichoralaires.org so director Liz Wolber may need not be residents of

### Novi News online

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated ofte 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."

# Mayor preparing a positive message in State of City address

He may not have it completely finished yet, but Novi Mayor Bob Gatt knows what the gist of his State of the City address will

be when he delivers it (twice) "I haven't come up with the term yet, but it will be a very positive message," Gatt said, "To be completely honest, it's not in the can yet. It's still a work in

He said that the 2012 message, his first as mayor, was "Novi is a healthy city."

The mayor's annual address is a review of the previous year and a look ahead to the new year, and is given in mid-JanSTATE OF THE CITY AND LUNCHEON

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17 Location: Baronette Renaissance

Details: The city of Novi, in partnership with the Novi Chamber of Commerce, invites you to join Mayor Bob Gatt and city council members for the State of the City address and luncheon. Cost is \$30 per

Reservations be made by sending a check made payable to: city of Novi, attention Sue Fodor, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375; or online at http://www.novichamber.com/. Seating is limited to the first 230

Contact: (248) 349-3743

uary. Gatt, who will repeat the address again at 7 p.m. in city council chambers at the Civic Center, will have much to boast

about from 2012. "Over last 12 months, there has been a lot of great busi-ness and home things happening in Novi," he said. "One of the things I'm most proud of in the

Please see MESSAGE, A2



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Novi Mayor Bob Gatt will deliver his State of the City address twice on Thursday, Jan. 17 - at a luncheon at Suburban Collection Showplace and at 7 p.m. at the

# Get up and move

# New Anytime Fitness offers workout options

Ruth Rickard of Novi was working out on a recent Monday morning at Anytime Fitness. She worked with personal trainer Larry Cobb at the new fitness club on Grand River just west of Beck in Novi.

"It's too easy to be sedentary - more so as one gets older," said Rickard, who worked with Cobb for the first time after getting a Novi News flier. "The body doesn't want to move as much as one ages."

She's focusing on endur-ance, better health and good weight for 2013 and beyond. "And flexibility's very important," Rickard said. "I like a hard workout. It was

She manages a RV campground business and found she sits and drives a lot at work. "I'm appreciative this place opened," Rickard said. "I don't have any excuses." Husband and wife David

and Karla Michael of Hartland opened the franchise business at 47980 Grand River Dec. 26, in the strip mall next to Medical Weight Loss and across from Providence Park Hospital.

The couple owns a plumbing and electrical company in Brighton, with David a plumber. Their business did well during the recession, so they decided to open the fitness center.

Karla, who grew up in Plymouth Township, is a physical therapist with a bachelor's degree from



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Anytime Fitness workers Larry Cobb and Karla Michael work out on some elliptical machines at their Grand River Avenue facility.

Grand Valley State University. She previously worked at Oakland Physical Therapy nearby in Novi and then at Advanced Physical Therapy in Hartland, focusing on sports medicine and orthoLots to see Patrick May, 25, of Brighton, is manager for their Anytime Fitness franchise and eager to show a visitor around the 5,500-square-foot

Please see WORKOUT, A2

# Councilmen say Novi's charter is 'antiquated'

Hasn't been updated for over 30 years

By Lonnie Huhman

Novi voters could be asked whether or not to amend the city's charter, which has not been updated in 35

Novi Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt and Councilman Wayne Wrobel put out the idea to amend the city's charter because they believe parts of it are outdated and need to be adjusted to the current way the city does business. Both men proposed starting the pro-

cess to amend the cha

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"I just want to put this out there for consideration," Wrobel said, "Obviously, things have changed since 1978 in ways of doing business. The city has changed quite a

ter in the coming year

during the City Coun-

cil's early input budget

ession held on Jan. 5.

Number 34

bit since then." He said it might be time to start discussions to see how it can be updated, which Staudt concurred with.

According to City Manager Clay Pearson, a city exists in a framework that is part of a larger structure involving state and federal laws. And while a city's charter is always subject

Please see CHARTER, A2



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### CHARTER

to differing rules found in state and local law, it is the document that establishes the local rules, specific to the city, under which the govern-

"The Novi City Charter has served us well and follows the same basic outline from when the city was incorporated in 1969 " Pearson said. "What's been contemplated by the Novi City Council, similar to what cities have done such as Farmington, is a look for potential amendments to the existing charter, not wholesale revisions, to update and modernize operations."

Staudt said he thinks it's time to fully delve into the charter, adding that "long-term there are some extremely antiquated provisions in our charter that we need to deal

Neither council member would speak to anything specific at this

"The charter was adopted more than 35 years ago and does not reflect a growing city of nearly 60,000 residents," Staudt said. There is much to review and con sider prior to specific changes to being proposed, if any."

(248) 437-2011, Ext. 255

MESSAGE

Continued from page A1

last year, Novi is, to my

knowledge, the only city

in the region that actual-

ly lowered taxes without

a reduction in any servic-

es. We're looking maybe

to do it again if we can.

We haven't seen budget

sible, we will,"

figures yet, but if it's pos-

He'll also touch on the

fact that Novi passed a

new road millage, which

he says will lead to dra-

The All New

matic improvements.

### **PROCESS DETAILS**

Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said a charter revision can be initiated by resolution adopted by three-fifths of the City Council. The decision whether to revise is not a matter subject to vote of the people; rather, a ballot

ments might be appropriate. Pearson said realistically, given the length and complexity of the charter, the task is initially delegated to a smaller group.

the council or some other committee created by the council for the purpose of conducting a review. It can also be members of the city administration. It can also be some combina tion of the above," Pearson said. "Once the specific question has been crafted and infor mally vetted, it goes to the City Council for

is then formally sent to the state through the governor's office for review of the language. Then the city clerk would then work with appropriate election ballot to before the vot-

Pearson said this would be typically for a gen-

sage next Thursday as

many in attendance will

be business leaders who

no doubt have struggled

to just retain employees

during the Great Reces-

er than most of our

neighboring communi

ties," Gatt said. "Most

would be very envious

or said his address will

include "a surprise."

question is created for each separate amendment to the charter. The process may begin and end with the City Council, which could meet to review the charter and determine what proposed amend-

"That group can be either a committee of

He further said if the council approves the language and proposed change, the matter the county clerk to have any ballot questions approved by the City Council placed on the

eral election, not a special election

ter so the millage went,

because of some other

to do." he said.

but our taxes didn't go up

reductions we were able

He'll also note how the

city did not have to resort

hopes is the case again in

to any staff layoffs last

budget year, which he

"And some of our

ees got a small bump

in salaries, as did our

contracts," Gatt said.

That should grab the

attention of those hear-

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unions because of their

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anytime Fitness co-owners Karla and David Michael, left, and employees Patrick May and Larry Cobb, far right

### WORKOUT

Continued from page A1

At the treadmills, you can connect your iPod change songs from a touch screen. You can pick your TV channel,

"I think watching TV makes working out less painful," said Karla Michael, adding there's also Internet access for checking e-mail and

The facility, with state-"Novi's future is bright of-the-art security, is open 24 hours, seven days a week via key fob for ness has over 2,000 franchise locations, May not-Indeed ... and the mayed, and is growing rap-

idly.
"It appeals to people's busyness. I think it's a niche that hadn't been explored before," Karla Michael, 47, said. "We want everybody to reach

Husband David, 46, is diabetic and insulindependent, so working in a fitness facility will be helpful. The couple has two sons, ages 14 and 17, who attend Hartland

"We want people to feel comfortable," said May. Every time you come

a good experience." The owners and staff empha size knowing members'

The Michaels had worked out a few years at an Anytime Fitness and met May. They liked Anytime Fitness for its convenience and clean-Karla noted she could

> minutes in her busy day. The facility has showers helpful if you're on your way to work. "I think the more convenient it is, the more people are going to opt

work out for 30 or 45

becomes too much. 'Nice customers'

"People quit because it

They've been pleased with response to date: "We've got a lot of nice cus tomers already," she said adding they're more conworkouts than very large numbers of members,

equipment for cardio workouts and circuit training for arms, legs and abdominals There are free weights in

May trained as a personal trainer at different Anytime Fitness locations. "I umped at the opportunity' with the Michaels in Novi,

Cobb, 33, of Southfield,

dietetics and nutrition from Central Michigan University. He's also certified through the National Academy of Sports Medicine as well as a corrective exercise specialist. With the latter; he can help to address problems in people's move-ment even before they

become a problem. "You're changing peo-ple's lives," C.bb said. "They have a better quality of life"

The facility has people in their mid-30s through mid-50s, along with those vounger and older. It draws mainly from a three- to Novia good location for drawing customers

May shows medicine balls, kettle balls, resistance bands and TRX suspension training. The lat ter works all your body, he said, but especially your core: "All fitness levels can do it," he added.

There's a group room with instruction focusing on cardio and strength. Anytime Fitness also offers

Cobb and May agree should start with a visit to the doctor. At Anytime Fitness, they offer "Fit for Life" with a trainer, assess ing base measurements and any limits. They go from there, checking periodically on "what's going to be the best approach to get them where they want to

be." Mav said. Anytime Fitness on Grand River in Novi can be reached at (248) 348-8080. Its website is www.anytimefitness.com, then enter Novi, from which you can get staffing hours information. It's also on Facebook



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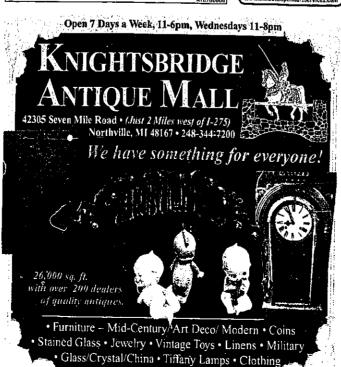
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# New FIRST Robotics season kicks off

As the clock ticked towards 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 5. the antic-Novi High School was on the rise among members of team 548, the Robostangs, and other local teams.

When the NASA-broadcasted video stream played across the screen, hundreds of students sat transfixed as the "game"

Competition was revealed via a video animation.

Two metal towers and open ings around the ends of the sides defined the field. This year's task is to develop a robot that would not only have Frisbee shooting capabilities but would also need to be able to climb a tower. After the international broadcast ended. young minds across the world began brainstorming and read ing through the official rule-

just one

everyone

with such

after

great

commit

Robotics has sought to challenge young people in the fields of science and technolo gv. Every year a new "game' is released which introduces several engineering difficulties which students overcome Throughout the season, teams compete against each other at regional level competitions and then state level. The culmination of the season is the World Championship event

black boards in every open the Robostangs reconvened room were filled with ideas to discuss strategy. In small and sketches. This all-hands meeting symbolized the official season had begun and marked the beginning of the robot pick up a plastic Frisbee off of a carpet? What is build season needed to propel a robot up

(248) 437-2011, EXT. 237

Team 548 looks forward to a wonderful season and hopes to continue involvement with the community. We would also like to thank the community for all of

# This year, resolve to make things better

held in St. Louis, Missouri.

he New Year brings new resolve to change. Lose weight. Exercise more. Be a better husband or wife or parent. The change in the calendar identifies an imaginary line in the sand. We see the start of a new year and say to ourselves, That's the day I'll start to be better."

The history for resolutions is not very positive. A University of Scranton study indicates that only 8 percent achieve their New Year's resolutions. The abandonment quite remarkable. By the Super Talk

and high hopes, half of the people who

made New Year's reso lutions have already given up. And who can blame

ic turn in the real world.

Friday Night Live!

Frank Pahl and Little Bang Theory join traditional

Japanese silent film narrator Ichiro Kataoka to provide

live musical accompaniment and commentary for a special

performance of an early film by Japan's great Yasujiro Ozo. 7 p.m., Detroit Film Theater.

> **Puppet Performances** Heather Henson's Ibex Puppetry returns with

its Endangered Species Parade, featuring animal

puppets, kites, flags, dancers and musicians.

Saturday & Sunday, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Great Hall.

Sunday Music Bar Metro Jazz Voices renders jazz standards and popularfavorites in sophisticated four-part harmony. 1 and 3 p.m., Kresge Court.

Now on View Fabergé: The Rise and Fall, through January 21. FINAL WEEKS! Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now,

through June 16.

Residents of Macomb, Qakland and Wayne countles

receive-free general museum admission.

us. After all, while the New Year marks a turn on the calendar, there

Year, the alarm clock stills goes off early, it as still cold outside, and the drivers on our roads are still nuts. But that is really where resolutions come in Instead of accepting that our world will always be the way it has been, New Year's resolutions connect to the part of us that wants the world to be different and

Even though it is a New

better. So every year, despite the odds. I make reso lutions. But this year, I have resolved that things would be different. To help, my first resolution is to focus on hope and

not focus on failure. If I

take a step back instead

nent failure I am going to begin again. It will be my own little resolu tion revolution. I'll fight the good fight even when giving up would appear to be the better course of

So, I started my resolu-

tion process by making a

resolution knowing that at times I would fail. But. I resolved to start again without spending too much time telling myself that I am a failure. My second resolution was the obligatory resolution to lose weight.

me, will be to achieve

**Auditions for** 

Jan. 15-16

to become a better person. While one might argue that this is a vague resolution, in my mind at least, it involves some Being healthy is imporvery specific actions. tant. One of the keys, for I am resolving to think the best of people. I am resolving to help peo-

student led groups, team

possibilities. How does a

members examined design

a tower? What happens if the

flew, suggestions were made

and desired capabilities dis-

it is a good idea. My wife

So, of course, I think it is

So far, one week into

the New Year, I'm down

two pounds. Not a huge

leap forward but defi-

nitely on the right track

eating less. The trick of

course will be to keep it

My final resolution was

over the long haul

thinks it is a good idea.

a good idea.

cussed as nuances in guide-

Frisbees enter the launch-

er upside down? Ouestions

ing to listen more and to solve problems and not just identify the problem.

The New Year provides an opportunity to think about who and what we want to be. My hope is that each of us will resolve to work together to continue to create a wonderful school system

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

### ON CAMPUS

### **Hope College**

The following is a list of student named to the Dean's List for the second semester of the 2012-13 school year. To be named, a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Novi: Evan Thomas, Anthony Gasparotto, Conrad Mahr, Jonathan Ponte, Courtney Laux, Kelsey Masserant and William Chew. Commerce Township: Alexis Sears, Walled Lake: Jessica Hulteen. Wixom: Sarah Krueger and Kath-

Matthew A. Sims, of Novi, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semes ter 2012-13. He is a senior majoring in pharmaceutical business. The list includes students who attain a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 grading system.

Ohio Northern University

The Schoolcraft College Theatre Department's winter production is Hamlet. Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednes day, Jan. 15 and 16 in the Liberal Arts Theatre on the college's main campus in Livonia. No previ ous theatre experience

> Saturday evenings, Mar. 22-23, Apr. 5-6 and 12-13, For more information about the auditions contact the Theatre Departext. 5270. Tickets for the performances in March and April are on sale now and can be purchased at the Schoolcraft College Bookstore on the main campus in Livonia or by calling

performances of Hamlet will be on Friday and

Free ESL Hamlet to be held workshops in January

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATES

The Learning Assistance Center at School craft College is offering four preparation/refresh er workshops in January for students planning to take one or more English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The workshops are free and open to anyone planning on is required and the auditaking a college-level ESL tions are open to all stucourse at Schoolcraft Coldents, faculty, staff, and lege or any college or unithe general public. The

On Wed., Jan. 16, from 5-7 p.m. two Jump Start ESL preparation sessions will be held: Level 4-ESL 102 and Level 3-ESL 101. On Thurs., Jan. 17, from 5-7 p.m. Level 2-ESL 100 and Level 1 ESL 51 & ESL 52 Jump Start ESL prep-

"We want to give our all of the tools they need to be successful in their college courses," said Niran Kheder, coordinator of the Jump Start ESL sessions at School-

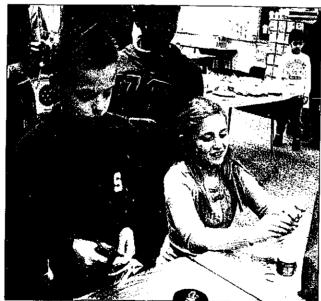
craft College. "For some students these workshops can serve as a time ly refresher for the skills and knowledge they need just before the start of the semester. For other students, the Jump Star sessions will provide an extra boost of confidence walking into their next

The Jump Start sessions are free and open to anyone, however registration is necessary. For more information or to register call (734) 462 4436 or email nkheder@ schoolcraft.edu. Space is limited. The workshops will be held on the college's main campus in Livonia. Jump Start is made possible through craft College Foundation.

Schoolcraft College is a public, two-year college offering classes on the main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between 5ix and Seven Mile roads; the Public Safety Training Complex in Livonia; Garden City; and online at www.schoolcraft.edu

### Snowflakes

(734) 462-4596.



Novi Woods Elementary's PTA organized a snowflake project for the children at Sandy Hook Elementary School after a gunman struck down 20 students and staff at the Newtown, Conn., school. It was accepting snowflake donations from schools all over to help transform their new school into a winter wonderland (see http:// www.ctpta.org/SANDY-HOOK-FUND.html for more details). Shown are fourth graders Bryan Kaempfer and Riley MacDonald busy working on creating snowflakes

### Six Novi business lauded at Toast of the

The City of Novi, The Novi Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club announce the winners of the Novi Business Recognition Awards.

Town on Jan. 25

The large business winners are: Community Builder - Bright House Networks; Best Place to Work - Suburban Collection; Customer Service Excellence - Novi Pub-

The small business winners are: Community Builder - Cherry Blossom; Best Place to Work - Preh, Inc.; Customer Service Excellence - Howard I. Bleiwas and Associates, CPA.

"The city of Novi's business community continues to grow and flourish," said Sheryl Romzek, interim executive director of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. "There are so many wonderful businesses that make up our fantastic community and deserving of these awards.

Join and celebrate the winners at the "Toast of the Town" gala on Friday, Jan. 25 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, where each of the recipients will receive their award presented by Mayor Bob Gart.

The evening will feature a live band, dinner and dancing, and a live auction. Among the items to be auctioned are a stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island; Carrabba's Italian Grill Wine Dir ner for six; Family fun package at Kalahari Resort: Tiger Tickets donated by Michigan CAT with transportation provided by Millennium Limousines; a stunning piece of jewelry donated by Larson Jewelers; and a gift card donated by Tap-

A unique item that will be auctioned at the event is the opportunity to host a house within the Toll Brothers communi ty with hors d'oeuvres provided by Steve

There will also be raffle prizes to win. The proceeds from the live auction and raffle will benefit the American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Region. This event is sponsored by Lotus Bank

and Varsity Automotive Group and is open to the public. Visit The Novi Chamber of Commerce website (www.novichamber.com) for more information and

# VanDam, Zona to entertain, educate crowds at big fishing show this weekend in Novi

names in bass fishing, Michigan natives Mark Zona, will make special appearances at the 2013 Ultimate Fishing Show -Detroit (UFD), Jan.

10-13 at the Suburba

Collection Showplace

**DETAILS** 

Dates: Jan. 10-13

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 800-328-6550

key, the first female

Angler Insight Mar-

keting (AIM) Angler

of the Year; Mark

Martin, "The Orig-

inal Champ" of the

Trail (PWT) Cham-

pionship; Jonathon

bass-fishing star and

VanDam, a rising

the second young-

Professional Walleye

ever to win the

Event: 2013 Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit

Grand River between Taft and Beck roads, Nov

Hours: Thursday, 3-9:30 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to

9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday,

Admission: \$10 for adults and \$4 for children

6 to 14. There is no charge for children 5 and

under. Discount coupons are available at Wen-

dy's Restaurants and on-line at www.Ultimate-

FishingShow.com Free on Thursday for patrons

who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of

non-perishable food items to donate to the

annual Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger

donated to the Red Cross & area food banks.

food drive. The food will be collected by volun-

teers from local conservation organizations and

Location: Suburban Collection Showplace,

in Novi. VanDam is one of the world's most accomplished fishermen with four Bassmaster Classic cham nionships and seven B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year titles on his resume. His seminar at past UFD events have been both entertaining and educational and attended

by beginner anglers and seasoned pros alike. KVD; as fans know him, will make a special appearance on Thursday, Jan. 10,

at the show. Zona is well known as a passionate and opinionated angler and expert on bass tournament fishing. He made a reputation for himself in the industry with a rod and reel, and now hosts his own show on the Outdoor Chan nel - Zona's Awesome Fishing Show. He has appeared as a host on several ESPN Outdoors shows.

by some of the top

anglers in the coun

try are scheduled

during the four-day

inspires fans with his high-powered seminars and will make a special appearance at UFD on Friday, Jan. More than 75 other free fishing seminars

est angler ever to win fishing boats and a Bassmaster Elite Series title (Saturday dozens of outfitters and Sunday only); and guides; directand Hall-of-Fame factory exhibits staffed with design muskie guide Bob Brunner are some of ers, technicians and the other big names other manufacturscheduled to appear. ers' experts as well "I don't know of as specialty bait vendors from across the any other show in country, this truly is

the country with a powerhouse linehave assembled for the Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit," says UFD show manager Adam Starr. "Mark

Parking: \$5 per entry parking rate for on-site Web: www.UltimateFishingShow.com er representatives Mark Martin and Jonathon VanDam are all big names and are all

Michigan guys. We've

unprecedented.

the Ultimate Fishing

The fact that ice

ed until sometime

in January here in

fishing season often

also got a ton of local guides and captains who are experts on seminar schedule is With hundreds of exhibitors bringing the latest tackle, gear, accessories to town: and Angler Point

> for the first time Weekend super trout/salmon. The two-hour-long clinsteroids packed with insider information

Check out the newest fishing gear at the Ultimate Fishing Show at Suburban Collection Showplace

hasn't been overlooked. This year's Ultimate Fishing Show - Detroit will feature more ice fishing gear than any other show in Manufactur

from Clam, Shappell, Otter Outdoors, Frabill, Eskimo, Normark, Marcum, Strikemaster, and many more have committed to attend. Multiple retailers, including Frank's Great Outdoors, will be present at UFD and promise to bring tons of ice fishing tackle and gear. Daily seminars will be given by some of the best ice anglers in

the business Normark's "Ice Force" Marine Ice Fishing Series both appear clinics are scheduled for bass, walleye and

es to go. Taught by the industry's top professionals, the ed to 100 attendees each and charge a is returned via spon sor goody bags. Sign up early at the show and receive a free pass for the Saturday or Sunday super

niques and top plac-

### Special features

The Hawg Trough a mobile 5,000 gallon fish tank that is transportaround the country as an attraction and seminar platform, returns after an absence of several years. Once on location, the tank is stocked with fish. and angling experts provide seminars and demon strations throughence participation by both seasoned anglers and freckle faced kids keeps the crowd entertained

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# Culinary awards

### OCC and Schoolcraft among the top international winners

College and Schoolcraft College are among the winners in the 23rd International Culinary Art Exhibition - "The Culinary Olympics" in Ger-

The American Culinary Federation's Michigan Chefs De Cuisine Asso ciation announced that the Michigan Culinary Olympic Team (MCOT) returned home with more medals than any other state in the United

This year's award-winning team included Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute College (gold and bronze medal winner) and Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, School craft College (bronze

medal winner). Held in Erfurt, Germany, the Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA) in Octo ber featured more than

more than 50 countries to showcase their respective culinary skills and innovation in a competitive format.

people attended the competition. The world-class event is similar to the traditional athletic Olympics. Every four years, the IKA serves as the single most elite competitive culinary event globally. This culinary Mecca highlights the best in both professional and student culinary teams from around

Medals in multiple cate-Overall, the 2012 MCOT, sponsored by the ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine (MCCA), brought home three gold medals, one silver medal and three bronze medals from this year's competition. This year's competition resulted in Michigan winning more medals than

the world to compete for

Gold, Silver, and Bronze

ing beef, pork, poultry, seafood, fruits, vegetables, beer, wine, liquors and hand crafted service Approximately 25,000

ware, platters and plates. "Our mission was simple," said Randy Smith, manager of the 2012 MCOT and executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club. "We represented the Detroit metro area. Michigan and the entire United States on an international stage, using products grown, raised, processed and manufactured

in our Great Lakes state.

greatest products and

emphasizing that Mich-

chefs in the world." In addition to Ganhs and Loving, this year's awardwinning team included Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club (silver medal winner), Chef Gabriel Vera, executive chef. Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor bronze medal winner),

medal winner), and Brian Beland, executive chef/ director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit (gold medal winner).

Michigan is home to nearly 1,000 American Culinary Federation members statewide and has had great success in previous World Culinary Olympics winning 12 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals in international competitions over The ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine hosted sever-

two years to help raise money for the MCOT to send the team, supplies and equipment to the competition. Through these fundraising efforts and also through contributions of many local businesses MCOT was able to raise nearly \$60,000. Businesses that spon-

al fundraisers these past

versity; Deni Smiljanovski; Doug Ganhs, team captain and chef instructor at The Culinary Studies Institute of Oakland munity College; Brian Beland, executive chef/director of food and beverage at the Country Club of Detroit; Steve Valenti; Shawn Loving, culinary arts department chair, Schoolcraft College; and Gabriel Vera, executive chef, Lena & Habana restaurants in Ann Arbor. From left bottom, Karen Hoffman; Randy Smith, manage of the 2012 MCOT and the executive chef of the Walnut Creek Country Club; and Sarah Rougeau, banquet chef at the Oakland Hills Country Club.

The 2012 Michigan Culinary Olympic Team members fro

John Miller, executive chef, Chartwells at Oakland Uni-

online at hometownlife.com

LLC, Gordon Food Service, Northern Lakes Seafood & Meats, Mark's **Quality Meats & Culinary** Specialties, Coastal Produce, Churchill China, Lorge Marketing Servic-, LLC, Graphikitchen, LLC. Fairway Packing. Red Goose Spice Company, Assimacopoulos Supreme Baking Compa ny, Fortune Fish Company, Leonardo's Produce,

es, Michigan Restaurant Association, Miceli & Oldfield, Advantage Waypoint, Del Bene Produce. King Coffee and Tea Ser Pasta, Sunburst Chemicals, R. Hirt Jr. Co., West land Car Care Automotive, Gold Star Products, Michaels & Associates, Gass Centennial Farms, its, North Star Produce. Rav's Ice Cream, and

### sored this year's team include: US Foods, Sysco MCOT's goal was to John Miller, executive Elegance Distributors 1,600 talented chefs from chef, Chartwells at Oak

Are you using a New Year's resolution to treat a medical condition?

National Institute of Health, obesity is a serious, chronic medical condition and a national enidemic. About twothirds of U.S. adults are overweight and nearly one-third are obese.

"Obesity is associated with life-threatening conditions that reduce quality of life and lifespan, including diabetes, high blood pres-

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sure, heart disease. stroke, arthritis, cer-

tain cancers and sleep apnea" said Dr. Gary

Katz, medical director of the bariatric surgical team at St. John Providence Weight Loss Center. "Research shows that 66 percent of all U.S. adults and 18 percent of U.S. children are at risk for these health conditions due to their

According to the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and

DK), weight loss surgery is an option for people who are severely obese and cannot lose weight by traditional means or those who suffer from serious obesity-related health problems. You may be a can-

didate for surgery if

(BMI) of 40 or more-

about 100 pounds over-

A body mass index

you have:

during sleep) · An understanding of the bariatric operation and the lifestyle changes you will need to

and 39.9 along with a

serious obesity-relat-

ed health problem such

as type 2 diabetes, heart

disease, or severe sleep

apnea (when breathing

stops for short periods

SOCIAL SECURITY

wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability ben-efits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security laxes to ensure that the

benefits if they could no longer work fulf-time. Sadly, the mately 60% of those who apply Attorneys J.B. Bleske and

ned experience represent with all clients and appear ings. Many large firms assign case. And some of these firms nevs Bieske and Alfonsi lichigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning differ-ence at the application stage.

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

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

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office conuntil after the case is won. The

interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on

Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road, Call them at ultation if you have been denied or if you are thinking of possibly



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# Ford Pension

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Newspapers. Rick has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal and other national publications on financial planning and the Stock Market. He is also a frequent Asset spokesperson on financial matters on

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Last year we helped so many people lose weight and regain their health. This year we can make it happen for you. Our patients not only lose weight they keep it off. Listen to what some of them have to say. Patients from Last year:

I lost 40 lbs last year and kept every pound off, I can do things now that would leave me exhausted be-Ellen S., Oxford

I've tried every program, I gained weight on weight watchers program, this is the first time in years that I was able to lose weight. We discovered the reason and I feel great. - Anne Marie B., Waterford I attended your weight loss seminar and was worried that my fibromyalgia was a problem. I've lost 25 lbs and more importantly my fibromyalgia symptoms are gone. No more pain no more Cymbalta.

When I started your program I was 300lbs, I had no energy to anything I was constantly tired. I have lost 60 lbs and am now able to take care of my house and family. Thank-you. K ayer I lost a total of 70lbs, my blood sugar improved so much that my doctor took me off my medication.

–Barb M.

I came to you because I felt horrible and could never lose any weight. We discovered that I had an autoimmune thyroid problem. I finally started losing weight and feel the best I've ever felt.

### Buyer of most of Ford's plant site envisions mixed-use development

Ford has sold three-quarters of its giant former Wixom Assembly plant property to an industrial site redevelop er and may sell most of the rest to home improvement retailer

The automaker's real estate arm announced Jan. 4 that it closed the land deal in late December for 239 acres of the 317-acre factory site near I-96 off Wixom Road.

Brian Wilson, the lead partner of the new property owner, Trinity Barrow Development, said he will start demolishing what remains of the 4.3 million-square-foot complex in late March. He envisions replacing the plant with a mixed-use development of commercial. industrial and retail, and perhaps even a park or recreation

Ford shuttered the factory in May 2007, dealing a major blow to the City of Wixom's tax base. Highly publicized plans by Ford and then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm to transform the

idled property into a \$725-million renewable energy park unraveled in 2011 when an outof-state battery maker and a solar energy company couldn't obtain enough financing from the U.S. Energy Department.

Trident Barrow Managemen is a subsidiary of New Yorkbased Barrow Development, ing obsolete real estate.

The selling price was not disclosed, although Wilson said he naid Ford in cash

Wilson, co-founder of Barrow Development, said there is interest in the development from several commercial and industrial businesses. But his firm has yet to draw up site plans or agree to prospective tenants. The next step after demolition, he said, is to choose the right anchor for the project while remaining flexible about what goes there.

Too many unsuccessful redevelopment projects made the mistake of getting locked in to

a certain concept, he said. "We just don't know what's going to go there," said Wilson,

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ects include the redevelop-

ment of an industrial center in

ing redevelopment of a former

"That's been the key to our

success -- that we don't commit

to anything," Wilson said. "To

be quite frank, we just work

Ford Land, which handled

the sale, remains in talks with

Menards to buy a separate 45-

acre section of the property

that is nearest to I-96. Under

one scenario, the retailer could

place its store on 15 acres and

hard and it works itself out."

Fairfield, Ohio, and the ongo-

Bell Laboratories building in

The Wixom Ford plant has begun to be torn down beginning with its north-facing buildings. The last car rolled off the 4.7 million square

bought a residence in Royal-Oak so he can monitor the site. "We have 50 different scenar-

ios that are floating." Wilson said his project may not need the tax credits that come with the propertv. although they could come in handy for his future end users. The Michigan Economic Growth Authority board has approved a \$6.3-million tax credit and two, \$10-million

Brownfield tax credits. For Barrow Development, the Wixom site's redevelopment will be its largest undertaking in its 12-year history. Bar-

Ford will retain ownership of a 32-acre parcel near the back of the property that was

The massive production complex opened in 1957 and last made Lincoln Town Cars. It employed nearly 5,500 workers at its 1970s peak but only 1 100 when it closed. Wixom City Manager Tony

Nowicki said he is scheduled to meet Monday with Wilson to discuss future possibilities for the land. Also Monday, the city's Planning Commission is to consider design guidelines for a newly approved zoning overlay district that would expand the variety of uses permitted at the Ford site.

"We've been encouraged by what Mr. Wilson has said, and he seems to have a firm grasp of what we believe the community expects out of that site," Nowicki said Friday. "We just have to work closely with him to make sure that both his

ty's expectations are met."

**ABOUT THE** 

The Oakland Pet Adop

tion Center is the largest

nublic shelter in Oakland

CENTER

# Novi's mayor named manager of county's Animal Control Division

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt has been promoted to manager of Oakland County's Animal Control Division which oversees the Oakland Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills. Gatt succeeds Lawrence Obrecht who retired after nine years of service.

bar high as manager of

the shelter." Gatt said.

established " A resident and curhas served as chief of "Larry Obrecht set the

standard of excellence and work closely with the talented and dedicated staff at the shelter to build upon the strong foundation Larry has

rent mayor of Novi, Gatt field operations for Oakland County's Community Corrections Division since 2002. He began his

ment in 1975 as a patrol officer for the Novi Police Department. In 1988, Gatt was promoted to detective of the crime prevention unit. He attained the rank of sergeant in 1993 and supervised the Novi Police

Department's Patrol "Bob Gatt brings a wealth of talent and managerial experience to his new job," said L.

Brooks Patterson, county executive "We are lucky to have him on Prior to being elected mayor of Novi in 2011,

> year terms on the Novi City Council beginning "We interviewed 24 people for the manager's position, and Bob was

fied candidate for the

Gatt served two four

job," said Mike Zehnder, director of Oakland County Public Services whose department oversees Animal Control

Division. Gatt received his bachelor of science degree in business administration from Wayne State University and his master's degree in interdisciplinary technology from Eastern Michigan Uni-

County with nearly 6,500 animals taken in on an annual basis. Since 1980, it has provided loving care and compassionate treatment for literally thousands of stray dogs

to reunite lost pets with their owners and pair adoptable dogs and cats with owners who will provide a warm and ronment. The Center educates residents about how to be responsible pet owners. For more information, go to OakGov.com/PetAdop

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**UPDATES** FROM YOUR

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New fitness classes starting

Have you committed to a healthy, active 2013? The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is excited to offer 18 fitness opportunities with classes for the novice to guru.

With classes being and weekends, there is every opportunity to improve cardio health, weight, and gain muscle. Classes include BollyFit. House of Fitness raining, Z-Box Fitness, Pilates, Cardio Express, Yin Yoga & Meditation. Yoga Fusion, Total Body "BARRE", Fitness Kickboxing, 45-Minute Zum-, Zumbatomic - Arms-Abs-Legs, "No Sweat" Lunch Time Work-Out.

and Standing Strong - For

Men Only. New classes for the younger crowd include Parent & Baby Yoga, Babies on the Move, Wee it. Ohm'azing Teens Yoga, and Teen Extreme Training. With the exception of Teen Extreme Training, the classes are offered in partnership with One Training, located on Grand River in Novi. Teen Extreme Training is offered in conjunction with Mike Rice, a Certified Personal Trainer, who will push the students to

Classes begin the week of Jan. 15 and registration is going on now via cityofnovi.org. For more information, see the January April edition of Engage! (available at cityofno vi.org or coming soon to Novi mailboxes). Call the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at (248) 347-0400.

Seven-week Congressman ends stint with historic vote

By Ken Abramczyk

online at hometownlife.com

David Curson ended his seven-week stint in U.S. Congress with an historic vote on Jan. 1.

His vote to prevent the so-called "fiscal cliff" was one of seven by Demo-crats and five by Republicans from Michigan supporting the extension of tax cuts for middle-income Americans, but the action also ended a tax cut of 2 percent on Social Security, which will impact paychecks for Americans.

The fiscal cliff was the primary order of business for the Democrat during his Congressional term. "I'm done as of noon tomorrow," Curson said Wednesday.

Curson, 64, a UAW activist who has spent several years in contract negotiations as an executive assistant to two UAW presidents and worked with the auto task force representing the UAW on the GM and Chrysler bailouts, won the special election Nov. 6 to finish the unexpired term of Thaddeus McCot-

McCotter resigned after petition signatures were deemed to be photocopies by the Secretary of State's office. Attorney General Bill Schuette's investigation eventually led to charges against four McCotter staffers, alleging that they were involved in a delib-erate fraud involving a pattern of copying and altering petitions in order to qualify the five-term congressman for the 2012 primary ballot.

Gov. Rick Snyder's office scheduled a special primary election on Sept. 5, followed by a spot on the Nov. 6 gener al election ballot, to complete McCotter's unexpired term.

Curson served from Nov. 8 until Thursday, On Thursday, Republican Nov. 6 to a two-year term in the redis

'You realize that there are truly a lot of people on both sides who believe in this

country.

**DAVID CURSON** 

tricted 11th Congressional District,

Curson returned to his Belleville

"I loved the experience. It was seven

"You realize that there are truly a lot of people on both sides who believe in this country. It's kind of the same thing that I'm doing for the UAW, working for the things I believe in,"

Curson said he will return to his job with the UAW.

Curson does not see himself running for elective office again. "The constant campaigning and always asking for money, I just don't think I could stomach that," Curson said. "I will probably not run in any election in my future, but I think I will be helping out someone else down the road." The redistricted 11th Congressional

District includes Livonia, as did the previous 11th Congressional District represented by McCotter.

(313) 222-2591 Twitter: @KenAbramcz

began his term.

home Wednesday and, as his term ended, expected to make sure his district office was closed that afternoon.

weeks of non-stop, very hard work," Curson said. "I had to do a lot of prep-

wait?



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# On the upswing: Holiday shopping season a success in Novi

ber sales figures from stores to

al, the merchants have been posi-

tive when comparing their expe-

Many of Twelve Oaks' stores

busiest day of the season from a

sales perspective, said Jones.

"Prior to that date, custom-

compare to 2011, but in gener-

rience to last year.

Official results of the holiday shopping season won't be released by the Michigan Retailers Association until Jan. 23, but shopping plazas in Novi are saying it was a good one.

Jim Clear is general manager of Novi Town Center, which added 16 new stores last year, including a WalMart, as part of its planned redevelopment. "We experienced very good

holiday traffic as a result," said Clear, "Our existing tenants, and especially our restaurants, were pleased with the additional traffic to the center.'

The center, on the northeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road, is home to 41 businesses. It opened 25 years ago and is managed by Simon

'Our Black Friday (Nov. 23) sales were better than planned at several stores," said Clear. We expect, as customers find our new stores, even better sales going forward."

Twelve Oaks On the other side of I-96 sits Twelve Oaks, the mall that aunched Novi as a retail mecca back in 1977. The Taubman-

owned mall is anchored by Nor-

would have preferred a colder

dstorm, Macy's, Lord & Taylor, ers seemed to be taking a more JCPenney and Sears. relaxed approach to their shop-"Generally speaking, the stores ping," he added. "The realizaat Twelve Oaks Mall were position that it was the last weekend tive when discussing their sales before the Christmas holiday defperformance throughout the holinitely created a greater sense of Twelve Oaks' general manager still plays a big part in starting The weather was cooperative . . . although some apparel stores

Twelve Oaks Mall had over 100 stores, including three anchors

Thanksgiving. The Mall parking Jones said they're still in the lot was approximately 90 percent process of collecting the Decemfull during the first several hours

that night/morning. "The vast majority of stores that opened the additional hours were very pleased with their and specifically during the first reported Saturday, Dec. 22 as the few hours after midnight," said

> Twelve Mile Crossing On the west side of Novi Road, south of 12 Mile Road and north of I-96, sits Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk. Although there are shopping opportunities, it is considered more of an entertainment complex with business

es like Emagine Theatre, Lucky's, Hooters and Bar Louie. Kelly Kaurman, general man-

ager of the sprawling complex,

good ... Business is up from last ear, for sure!"

The newest addition, Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery, recently opened and is doing "phenomenal." according to Kaufman, She also reports that JD Racing has just opened and is doing "fantastic". Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk opened in 2002 is anchored by Sears Outlet and Dick's Sporting Goods.

The mall also has several tenants currently working on their build-outs: Black Rock Bar & Grill, Main Financial Group, Unlimited Nails, Tenpenny Furni ture and Mynt Martini.

"2013," said Kaufman, "is going

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### Super sledding



Phil Hacman and his son Tristan, 5, plunge down the slope at Novi's Lakeshore Park on Dec. 27. Dozens of people were enjoying perfect sledding conditions at the park that day after the area was blanketed with

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# **Grand Ball**

online at hometownlife.com



Novi resident Tina Wheeler and Troy resident Paul Kolpasky, both from Event Cor-



Nearly 1,000 guests came in their glitziest holiday attire to help raise nearly \$450,000 for Henry Ford's clinical programs at the Henry Ford Hospital Grand Ball that was held at the MGM Grand. Henry Ford Hospital closes out 2012 with many successes, including the launch of the \$12 million Innovation Institute which will focus on helping to shape the future of health care. Novi residents Morgan, Madeline, David and Tammy Egner. David Egner, president and CEO of the Hudson-Webber Foundation, were awarded the Ford Family Honors of Outstanding Leadership for the New Economy Initiative at the Henry Ford Hospital Grand Ball

### CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISION OF THE SNOW EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, a snow emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever: (1) freezing rain, sleet or four (4) or more inches of snow has per circulated in the city, or by a radio or to station with a normal operating range covering the city; or (2) freezing rain or sleet has fallen or four (4) or more inches of snow have accumulated in the city.

Whenever any vehicle without an operator is found parked or left in violation of any provision of this Division, the Director of the Department of Public Services, or his designee, or the Police Department may immediately remove the vehicle or cause the vehicle to be removed to a place of safekeeping at the expense of the registered owner of the vehicle

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.



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### NEWSMAKERS

### Fannon elected CMU chairman

Brian W. Fannon, president, Strategic Operational Solutions of Novi, has been elected chairman of

Universi-

in 2007 expiring Dec. 31, 2014, by Governor Jennifer Gra-

The Central Michigan University Board of Irustees is responsible for the governance of the university including all academic and financial

"I am honored to be elected to this position and it will not be taken lightly," said Fannon "I intend to continue to represent the people of Michigan with honesty and integrity while I exe-Fannon and his wife Jan

have resided in Novi for Dale honored by

Kettering Nine women students were honored Saturday, Nov. 3 at the 16th Annual Kettering University Woman of the Year Ban quet, a program of the Clara Elizabeth Davidson Women's Resource Center, Honorees were selected (by a committee comprised of students, faculty and staff) for their contributions to women and girls within the Kettering community, month at Erickson Liv-

communities.

sell and Ayse Buke Woman of the Year Award for A and B Sec-B-Section finalist was Katherine Sarah Dale, an industrial engineering major from Novi. Her co-op employer is Magna

Referred to as "A-Section" and "B-Section," the student body is divided in half, with A-Section students attending classes are at work, and vice ver-

Seating in Novi.

The Woman of the Year award at Kettering University recognizes senior female students who have made a difference during their college tenure Academic achievement is only 20 percent of a rating system that includes service, dedication, men toring, role modeling and

Cunningham named Fox Run's Leader of Year

leadership.

Director of Dining Services Kevin Cunningham

> retirecommuni-

Fox Run

Cunis known at Fox Run for his passionate customer service. In 2012 he implement-

ed a number of important upgrades in dining which esulted in higher resident satisfaction. Cunningham motivates his staff to continuously improve and achieve higher service levels.

Cunningham was hired as Fox Run's restaurant manager in 2005 and promoted to Dining Services director in 2006. His many years of experience try include Food and Beverage manager for the Hyatt Corporation.

He also held positions of Food and Beverage director and director of ment Players Club on the PGA tours.

Prior to coming to Fox Run, he was general man ager of Damon's while ing functions at University of Michigan's Big

### Pawlicki earns Distinguished Service Award

department.

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) honored Novi resident Kathleen S. Pawlicki, M.S., FASHP administrative director of Professional Servic es and director of Phar maceutical Services at tem, at the 47th ASHP Midvear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Las

Vegas on Dec. 4.

Pawlicki was one of six individuals, and only Michigan resident selected by ASHP to receive the 2012 Distinguished Service Award hers for the section of Pharmacy Practice Manrecipients were recognized for their paractivities and continued support for the misand the New Practitio ners Forum (NPF). The awards, which recognize the best that ASHF and the profession have to offer, are presented

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ing's annual meeting in Baltimore, Md.

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# **Passages**

Living her 83rd year, A Keweenaw Peninsula native and Highland resident, left this tem-

porary home to enter an eternal kingdom on January 4, 2013 af-ter an extended illness. She was

ter an extended illness. She was an avid Detroit Tigers fan and her love of the game brought family together for great mo-ments and memories. She show-ered her family with tove, great food, an appreciation of nature and her keen artistic touch. She will be deeply missed by her be-loved husband of 58 years, Bob McDonnell: daughter, Jeanne

McDonnell; daughter, Jeanne (John) Caswell; sons, Rob (Col-leen) McDonnell, Patrick (Lori

McDonnell; grandchildren, Holli (Brian) Berner, Jennifer (Clay) Hendrixson, Heather Wieder-hold, Robbie McDonnell, Jessie

Sanders, Julie McDonnell, Tom

sanders, Julie Accidental, States my (Buffy) McDonnell, States McDonnell; great-grandchildren, Tyler Sweeney, Hannah, Katelynn, Grace and Genevieve Berner, Weslee and Trever Wiederhold, Haille McDonnell,

Nolan McDonnell, Lilyang an

Nolan McDonnell, Lilyann and Faithe Sanders, Weston, Hosea and Elia Hendrixson; sisters, Connie Thomas and Emily Spadaro; nicee, Vicki (Donn) Thorson and many nicees, nephews, extended family and friends. She joins those who have gone before her: son, Robert Patrick McDonnell; grandson, Christopher Caswell; parents, Ludwig and Marie Mibelich. Louise's wishes were lawe a private family memoria-

to have a private family memori-al. Her family is grateful for the many prayers on her behalf and Odyssey Hospice for their caring

and compassion.

For further information phone

248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com

MEHILL, JOHN P.

Age 91, of New Hudson, passed away 1/1/13. Funeral mass held 1/5/13 at St. James.

MORGAN, LISA

Age 49, passed away January 2013. A private family service was held. Online guestbook

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

ALLEN, MARY JEAN BESCO.

KEVIN May 18, 1970 - Dec. 29, 2012

BOYES, CARROLL I. passed away December 23,
 Survived by her children, Sheryl (William) Richardson David T. Boyes, Lois (Norm)
Martin, Susan Boyes, eight
grandchildren and many great
grandchildren. Preceded in death grantendient - Preceded in dearly by her parents and daughter Lynda. Memorial service to be held January 12, 2013 at West Highland Baptist Church, 1116 S. Hickory Ridge Road, Milford at Hans vielts for one beau prior. Ham; visitation one hour prior.

MONTY JOSEPH nter date. On line condolences: briensullivanfuneralhome.com DEVLIN, MILDRED Age 91, passed away Dec. 28, 012. Visitation Dec. 30, Phil-

1, St. Joseph Catholic Church. GORDON, JEAN F. Age 90, of Northville died Janu-ary 6, 2013 on her 90th birthday. Beloved sister and aunt. www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

ns Funeral Home, Funeral Dec.

### HALLMANN. BRUNO J.

BRUNO J.
Age 89; born March 23, 1923
The Free City of Danzig, Germany; and died in White Lake,
Michigan on January 6, 2013.
Beloved husband of Elizabeth
"Betty" Hallmann for 56 years;
Loving father of William "Bill"
(Suzette) Hallmann and John
(Dorothy Macha) Hallmann;
Cherished wandfather of Amber Cherished grandfather of Amber Christina and Sterling Hallmann; Bruno will be missed by many family and friends; Funeral Serv-ice will be held at the Highland Chapel of the Elton Black & Son Funcral Home 3295 East High-land Road Highland, MI, Mon-day January 14, 2013, at 10 AM. Family Will Receive Friends Saturday January 12, 2013 from 5(10.3-900m, and Sunday January ary 13, 2013 from 1:00-8:00 pm.

eltonblackandsonhighland.com HAMILTON, LLOYD Age 98, passed away December 27, 2012. He was born on Jan. 27, 2012. He was born on Jan. 22, 1914, in Sawyer, KY, to the late Arthur and Minnie (Logan) Hamilton. He had been em-ployed with Michigan Seamless ployed with Michigan Seamless Tube for 40+ prior to his retirement. Lloyd is survived by his children: Pany (Robert) Cohen, Joann (Jack) Frandeka; stepsons: Carsey Cogar, Amold (Lyne) Cogar; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and seven stepgrandchildren, was held on Wednesday, January 2nd from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with a funeral service at 12:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, South

HAMMON, JACK Age 71, passed away December 25, 2012. He was born on Octo-25, 2012. Its was soon on Octo-ber 20, 1941, in Diana, West Virginia, son of the late Elzic and Artie (Cutlip) Hammon. He loved to watch the movies Shawshank Redemption and his favorite was the Green Mile. Jack was a very accepting and generous man who was funny and loved to joke. He was em-ployed for 45 years at Michigan Seamless Tube Mill. He enjoyed a corny joke. Jack is survived by is loving children: Judy (Art Wilson, Christina (Sean) Cashen, Jack (Darrin Fetters) Hammon, Kelly (Dave) Karns and Laura ilbson. He is also survived by is grandchildren: Heather, Ste ic. Taylor, Matthew, Billy kennedy and Jacob. He was pre-ceded in death by his son, Mat-thew, in 1976; and on the same day, Dec. 25. 2012, his wife. Maryann and her sister Judith Maryann and her sister Juddh Shedell, Visitation was held on Dec. 30, Sunday, from 1.00 -9:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. A funeral mass was celebrated Dec. 31, Monday, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Memorial contribution nay be made to the Hammon family Memorial Trust at any amily Memorial Bank of America. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

### PARTA, DONALD L.

Age 89, previously of Echo Valley in Novi: passed away quietly at home in Bradenton, FL on Dec. 30, 2012. Served with L/393 during the Battle of the Bulge and later worked at GM. Survivors include 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and 3 greatwith his late wife. Barbara Jean,

## HAMMON, MARYANN

Age 68, passed away December 25, 2012. She was born on June 16, 1944, in Detroit, daughter of the late Beryl and Margaret Shedell, Maryann had a great sense of humor and loved going to the movies. She was an avid Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy watcher. She will always be re-membered for her strong faith membered for her strong faith and her love for her grandchildren. She is survived by her loving children: Judy (Art) Wilson, Christina (Sean) Cashen, Jack (Darrin Fetters) Hammon, Kelly (Dave) Karns and Laura Gibson. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Heather, Stephanie, Taylor, Matthew, Billy, Kennedy and Jacob. She was preceded in death by her son, Matthew, in 1976; and on the same day. Dec. 25, 2012, her husband, Jack and her sister Judith Shedell, Visitation was held dith Shedell. Visitation was held on Dec. 30, Sunday, from 1:00-9:00p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. A funeral mass was celebrated Dec. 31, Monday, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Jo-comb Cestellia. Chrys. South.

ISABELL JEAN JEFFERY Age 82, of Milford, 12/30/12. Lynch & Sons, 248.684.6645 or LynchFuneralDirectors.com

seph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



KAVANAUGH, HELEN CECILIA 2013. She was 101 years, months, 3 weeks, and 2 days old. Born on August 12, 1911 in Loogootee, Indiana, she was the third eldest and last surviving of Ira and Maude (Clements) Webeleven Her beloved "Bernie" preceded her in death in 1980 after 44 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by her daugh-ter, Sharon (Mrs. Jack) Adams, and Helen is survived by her sons and daughters: Patrick (Lin-da) Kavanaugh, Nancy (David) Van Derworp, Maureen (George) Raab and Michael (Irenaanna) Kavanaugh. Also surviving are 17 grandchildren and 39 greatgrandchildren and a host of nie-

or visit www.

LynchFuneralDirectors.com

SHEDELL.

JUDITH

Age 66, passed away December 25, 2012. She was born on Feb-ruary 13, 1946, in Detroit, daughter of the late Beryl and Margaret Shedell. She was easy

to talk to and loved to help peoto talk to and loved to help peo-ple. She was very generous and loved animals and crafts. She was known for her very unique laugh. She had a strong abiding faith and a strong relationship

with her nieces and nephews. Jo

and nephews: Judy (Art) Wilson Christina (Sean) Cashen, Jack (Darrin Fetters) Hammon, Kelly

(Dave) Kams and Laura Gibson

great nieces and nephews: Heather, Stephanie, Taylor, Mat-

thew, Billy, Kennedy and Jacob

She was preceded in death by her nephew. Matthew, in 1976; and

on the same day, Dec. 25, 2012,

her sister Maryann Hammon and

Hammon. Visitation was held on Dec. 30. Sunday, from 1:00 -9:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. A funeral mass was celebrated Dec. 31, Monday, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Jo-

brother-in-law

ces, nephews, and their families who join together in mourning the death of a dear woman giving thanks to God for the life of a loving wife, mother, grandmoth-er and friend. Mostly Helen Kavanaugh was deeply devoted to her faith and family. A long time member of St. Mary's Church, her trust in God's good-ness made her grateful and hope-ful for every new day of her long

she could count on her large and extended family for company and care. Funeral services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic home in the care of her family on January 1, 2013 after a two-year battle with breast cancer. She was 50 years old. She leaves her husband, Greg; her son, Daniel, her daughter, Nicole; parents. Church, 1955 E. Commerce Rd., her daugnter, Fred & Rosemary siblings, Fred (1) Milford, on Wednesday, January 9, at 10AM. Burial will follow at 9, at 10AM. Burial will follow at Milford Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be held at Lyach & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford, on Monday 5-9PM and Tuesday 2-9PM. Vigil Service Tuesday 7PM. siblings, Fred (Marylynn) Verville, Vickie Mootz, Rory (Diane) Verville, Tod (Grace) Verville, Christine Gomez; in-laws, Lee & Rose Roach; brothers-in-law, Gary (Barb) Roach, Jeff (Debbie) Edwards and many nices methows and Memorials may be made in her name to Community Sharing. For further information please phone 248-684-6645

and many nieces, nephews and paraprofessional in the office at Dodson Elementary and paraprotessional in the structure of the Dodson Elementary and Plymouth-Canton Schools for many years. A Funeral Service was held at Immanuel Bapkist Church in Ypsilanti, on Saturday, January 5th, 2013. Burial followed at Knollwood Memorital Park in Canton. Visitation. al Park in Canton. Visitation was held at 1 yeeh & Sons Fu

phone 248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com FREDICK

STANDO. PATRICIA A.

March 27, 1925 - Dec. 30, 2012 obriensullivanfuneralhome.com WOOD, LOIS IRENE Age 91, passed away December 30, 2012. Funeral Jan. 5, 12 p.m. Phillips Funeral Home, Online

ZIEGLER, ANN E Age 79, of Nonhville died December 29, 2012. A memoria service was held Sat. 1/5/2013.

# Novi pediatrician charged with criminal sexual conduct

Novi pediatrician Dr. Jeffrey Dembs has been charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct - one first degree and two second degree — with a child younger than age 13.

He was to appear in the courtroom of Oakland County Circuit Judge Daniel P. O'Brien on Jan. 7 but opted to be "We categorically deny the charges,"

said Dembs' attorney, Gerald J. Gleeson II, of the firm Miller Canfield, "and I look forward to vindicating him at tri-Court records at www.oakgov.com

indicate a pretrial is set for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 4. The doctor, a resident of West Bloomfield, was arrested in November by West Bloomfield police. Novi police are

not involved in the case. Dembs works at My Kid's Doc at 41935 W. 12 Mile, Suite 102, Novi, and is on leave of absence, according to the office. The business' website indicates it was formerly known as Woodland Medical Center or DMC Health Care Center and has been My Kid's Doc since 2003.

West Bloomfield police are not commenting on the case due to the sensitivity of the charges, but WXYZ TV is reporting that the incidents allegedly occurred between spring 2009 and summer 2010.

First-degree CSC involves penetration and is punishable by as long as life in prison. Second-degree CSC is intentional touching of intimate parts or clothing covering intimate parts, for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification and is punishable by as long as 15 years in prison.

A court order for HIV testing was filed Dec. 21.

Dembs was born in 1951 and graduated from Wayne State University in 1976. The doctor is free on bond after paying a \$150,000 cash bond, and he has a

cstone@gannett.com [ (248) 437-2011, Ext. 237

# Road rage leads to shooting in Novi

By Lonnie Huhman

An altercation between two motorists on New Year's Eve in Novi ended with a Sterling Heights man shot in the face. Novi's Assistant Police

Chief Jerrod Hart said no one was taken into custody at the time of the incident. The other who did the shooting was the one who called 911 According to Novi Police, at approximate ly 10:15 pm on Dec 31,

police responded to the Novi Square Plaza, near Park Drive, on a 911 call stating a vehicle had crashed into the Dollar Tree store. Officers found a 35-

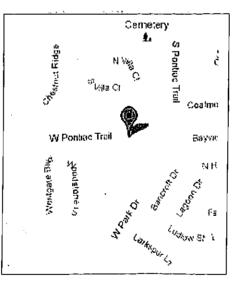
year-old Sterling Heights man suffering from a gunshot wound to the face sitting in his Cadillac Escalade, which had crashed into the storefront. Officers also located a 30-year-old Wolverine Lake man near a pick up truck at the scene. Novi Police said the preliminary investigation ndicated the two men had engaged in a traffic altercation in Wixom which ended in a confron-

tation in the Novi Square Hart said the incident began when one of the been cut off near a Beck Road business. Things escalated and "gestures" were exchanged between the drivers as they contiac Trail. It was then both drivers pulled into

the parking lot at Novi Square Plaza and parked side by side. Hart said more than one shot was fired, but would not be any more specifman was struck and then

CAL STONE | NOVI NEWS

A Sterling Heights man crashed his vehicle into this store after being shot in the face on New Year's Eve.



the building. He was later transported to an area hospital

with serious injuries, but is expected to survive. According to Hart, both men were armed with handguns and are proper ly licensed to carry a concealed pistol. Police now have the guns in their

Hart said the Wolverine Lake man has been cooperative and provided a statement. He said once backed up his vehicle into the wounded man is able

to provide his own statement, they will then move the case forward to the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, which will determine if any charges are filed.

The incident remains under investigation and anyone with information related to this case is asked to call Sergeant Matt Conquest at (248) 348-7100.

(248) 437-2011, Ext. 255

### **NOVI POLICE BRIEFS**

### **Hunting Violation**

iust east of the park. They

informed the man it was

be doing what he was doing.

The man said it was unin-

A man visiting Novi was cited for a hunting violation and possession of a Novi Police found him in a tree near ITC Community

On Dec. 28, the a person called police to report seeing the man with a bow and arrow go into some woods near the ITC Park. Police later found the man in a tree on private property

However, police still cited Vehide Theft

tentional and apologetic.

2A Chevy Monte Car-lo was stolen from the parking lot at Best Buy on

The car was reported stolen on Dec. 28 to Novi he's an employee of Best Buy, and when he went to retrieve some carts in the lot he had discovered his keys were missing from his coat and the car was gone. The keys and coat were left in the store's break room.

It was later discovered on

the keys then. Larceny from Auto Two bags were stolen 5 from a car parked at a lot

led to the bags later being

found near Emagine The

security camera that two

suspects had entered the

store and may have taken

On Dec. 30, Novi Police were told by the vehicle owner that the car was parked in the lot while the ate. Upon arrival back to it the driver found the passenger side window was hroken in and the bags missing. Further investigation

# Thornton Creek on general alert after an anonymous phone call

Staff writer

online at hometownlife.com

An anonymous telephone call on Tuesday morning led Thornton Creek Elementary School to issue a general alert and go into secure

However, it was later dis-

covered the source of the anonymous call was mixed up. Thornton Creek officials located and had it confirmed by the parent of the ndividual who made the According to the district,

the call was not intended

for Thornton Creek at all, but rather it was in reference to a meeting in another

Novi's Assistant Police Chief Jerrod Hart said the school's principal, Allison Epler, had received an anonvmous call late in the morning that left her concerned. She called Novi Police, which has jurisdiction over

source, the district stated through an email alert that, 'While there was no specific threat made, the caller would not identify himself.

Prior to finding out the

the school.

As a result, the information was reported to the Novi Police Department, and the building went into a General Alert mode, which is a heightened level of securi-

The incident was under investigation, but now the caller is known. "Right now we are sorting through the content of the

afternoon before the caller was found.

Hart said as a precaution ary measure, Novi police officers remained on-site throughout the day, including a uniformed investigator. The morning dismissal of the kindergarten and preschool classes was closely monitored and recess was held indoors.

As part of the secure mode, Hart said the school had staff monitoring the school and making sure the windows and doors were secured.

"We take any suspicall," Hart said on Tuesday cious activity seriously while weighing the ongoing impact of over-reacting to anonymous calls. The source of the call is under investigation by the police

received from staff and/or parents or community members will be followed up on accordingly," school officials also said before later

issuing another statement The district further reassured parents and community members that it will work collaboratively with the police to evaluate any suspicious circumstances and act in the interest of the safety and well-being of our students.

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Fr. Bob LaCrow, Pastor

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Friends of Unity Plymouth, MI The Commonity Arts Burthing 734.454.0015

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unday Worship 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.

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Methodist Church

248-684-2798 millordums.net MILEORO PRESBYTERIAN 38 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-28 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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Msgr John Kasza, Pastor Parish Office: 347-7778

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"Children, Youth and Adult Ministries

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURC awbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 % 248-348-7757 · WWW.FEDCC.010 Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Arthur Ritler, Senior Minister

OAK POINTE CHURCH Saturday Worship 5:15 pm., iunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.n Casual, contemporary service Phone (248) 912-0043

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Fellowship Evangelical

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Rob Callicott, Pastor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. ildren's Church for Grades K torus Nursery Care Provided Mid-Week Study Thursday 7:00 p.ii Rex. Michael Hollocker, Pastor www.lpcsoulnlyoii.crg

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN at Liberty St.

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH rietay Worship 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m Grief Sharo: Mon. at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School (ages 5-12) at 10 AM Adult Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM Souday Service at 11 AM Bible Study, Wednesdays at 7 00 PM For more information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011, ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

### **OUR VIEWS**

# Speak up

# Add your voice to school boards' cry

A lot of people were rattled by the flurry of bills passed by the Michigan Legislature in its lame-duck session late last month. But the one that seemed to shake up the most people locally was a proposed sweeping restructuring of the state's public education system.

Like blind dogs, legislators can lead us but they may not know where they're going," said Steve Matthews, superintendent of Novi schools, "We think (this) will be potentially damaging to all public schools in Michigan."

Among its provisions was the expansion of the Education Achievement Authority, essentially creating one statewide school district under control of the governor, not the state superintendent of education. It also would allow for the broad expansion of charter schools and even would have allowed the state to take vacant school district buildings to be used for charter schools, which could operate in direct competition to the local public

The governor and state legislators who supported the concept made the point that something has to be done to help the failing and

It's a valid argument - but not when it comes to the Novi Community Schools district or any of the other fine, quality school districts across the state that are in no sense failing.

Novi has taken heat because seven of the district's schools are listed by the state as "Focus" schools based on the gap between the top 30 percent and bottom 30 percent of its students. (The list of Michigan's 358 Focus schools also includes schools in districts like Bloomfield Hills, Grosse Pointe and Troy.)

"It means we have a whole lot of high achieving students, so the state is going to spend resources to help close the gaps," said Steve Matthews, Novi's superintendent. "We think it's wrong. It's not a good way to mea-

The Novi Board of Education assembled a three-person committee to deal with the proposed restructuring legislation. George Kortlandt, Dennis O'Connor and Shari Lebo have met with State Rep. Hugh Crawford and State Sen. Mike Kowall to discuss the impact on our local district

'They don't have all the answers either. That's obvious," said Kortlandt, adding that the bills have changed so much that he's not

even sure what the exact language is now. Local educators have raised a ruckus over what the state was proposing and bombarded their legislators to oppose the plan. They went public, urging residents to speak out against

School boards passed resolutions opposing the changes and urged Congress to overhaul the No Child Left Behind legislation. They also asked Congress to amend the federal Budget Control Act to mitigate any cuts to education that would have resulted from sequestration if the so-called "fiscal cliff" had not been

It was, and that became moot - for now. But the point is that the districts finally have stood up and said no to what they think is wrong. It's about time.

Such resolutions do carry weight. They let the legislators know that they are not happy with what they are doing and they assure parents and other district residents they are looking out for their interests. But even more important, the school boards informed parents and taxpayers at large about what was at

Over the years - decades even - schools have been saddled with a variety of unfunded mandates and ill-conceived programs like No Child Left Behind and the onerous, and point-

Most of this has been met with begrudging acceptance. Now, at last, our school boards have found a voice and have spoken up.

In response, the Legislature has stripped much of the features of the bills that would have been most detrimental to the local schools. The matter is expected to be taken up again in the new legislative session.

No doubt, our local educators will keep an eye on and speak out about the action. But they can't keep up the full court press alone. Our school boards need the help of parents,

grandparents, the business community and the average taxpayer out there to say, "We've got your back," and then go one step further. Tell legislators that making education a priority in 2013 will earn them your vote in future elections.



Cal Stone Community Editor Susan Rosiek.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

### What do you think was the biggest story of 2012?



"The bipartisanship of our government. The election and fiscal cliff are just two of many things impacted by it.' Louis Mascolo



Umesh Rohatgi (left) "Gun control. The prob-

lems with our violence and

mental illness have been ongoing issues." Rashmi Rohatqi



shows the Congress is further destroyed this not working together country." for the country.

Robert White



Our fundamental purposes are to enhance

hometowns we serve and contribute to

the lives of our readers, nurture the

### LETTERS

### Lame duck feeding

A couple of weeks have now nassed since the far-right lame duck feeding frenzy in Lansing. At least the governor had the good sense, or political sawy in the wake of Sandy Hook, to veto the concealed carry legislation, but he rubber stamped every other bill, from the so-called right-to-work legislation to the bill that protects him and his legislative co-conspirators from recall. Dick DeVos and the Koch brothers won this one, and the citizens of Michigan lost. Big, special interest money failed at the federal election level this year, but it is still, unfortunately, quite effective at the state level.

There was a time when I was a registered Republican. I might have changed a little over the years, but the Republicans have changed a lot. In the years since I changed my party affiliation the gulf between my beliefs and values and the beliefs and values displayed by the Republican Party has grown increasingly wide, They have become the party of greed and special interests. The zealous Tea Party faction, some of whom might actually imagine themselves to be the spiritual descendants of the Boston patriots of 1776, out on a mission to right the wrongs in this country, are just the unwitting pawns of the big money faction. If this were 1776, King George III would be right

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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 our print edition. However, all letters will be pub-

lished online each week at www

ometownlife.com.

behind them, cheering them on. Our recourse to the offenses committed by our representatives is in the voting booth. Unfortunately, it is almost two years until we can exercise our franchise, and the collective memory of the voting public tends to be much shorter than that. I, for one, vow that I will not forget what has been done in this legislative session, and will do whatever I can to quarantee that Messrs, Kowall, Crawford Heise, and Snyder have served their last term in Lansing

John D. Webste

### Make democracy survive

On Dec. 6, the Michigan lame-duck state Legislature disregarded tenets of democracy. Without open hearings and discussions, right-to-work legisla tion was passed quickly and signed by Gov. Snyder. Soon, anti-women bills will be introduced regarding women's health choices. Now the Michigan Legislature has introduced a bill which would require the Education Achievement Authority be part of our educational system

The three main agendas for extreme conservative Republicans are destroy unions, remove women's right to choose health issues, dismantle public education --- and to

achieve these goals state by state. Democracy depends on these elements as well as voting rights for all. There was voter suppression recent-

ly. To help democracy survive, citizens

must protest, support protestors, write representatives, make phone calls, and join groups to try to make More to do amends where possible. Voters must be aware of House Bills 5711, 5712, 5713, 975 which deal with women's health. Citizens must learn about the Education Achievement Authority, which was created to operate 15 Detroit public schools that are among the lowest 5-percent achiev ing schools in Michigan. Local school districts will not receive desperately needed funding Hannah Provence Donigar

# AG was right not to accept plea deals in McCotter petition fraud case

Attorneys for two of four staffers charged in the petition signature fraud scandal involving for-mer Congressman Thaddeus McCotter are disappointed Attorney General Bill Schuette didn't go easier on their clients.

Tim Dinan, the attorney for Don Yowchuang, 33, of Farmington Hills, who worked as deputy district director for the former congressman, said he was very surprised Yowchuang was not offered any plea bargain based on his cooperation with the investigation. Yowchuang pleaded no contest to 10 counts of forgery, a five-year felony, and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail.

Mark Mandell, the attorney for Paul Seewald, 47, of Livonia, who worked as district director for the former congressman, said justice was not served. He said drug offenders and domestic abusers who commit far worse crimes than misdemeanors are allowed to complete probation to clean their records, yet Seewald is not - even though he has never had a traffic ticket and has dedicated his whole life to Livonia youth football and public service.

Seewald pleaded guilty to nine counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Yowchuang is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Jan.

The remaining charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony, remains pending against both Yowchuang and Seewald. Judge Margie Braxton of Wayne County's 3rd Circuit Court was to hold a hearing Jan. 9 to consider a motion filed by the defendants to quash the charge. The attorney general's office has indicated it will oppose the motion in court.

McCotter was not charged, as investigators said there was no direct evidence of his involve-

We applaud Schuette for not accepting plea ousness it deserved.

deals and find Mandell's comment inappropriate. Yes, no person was abused, but the public's trust certainly was.

Since being elected Schuette has sent mixed nessages when it comes to enforcing election laws. We are still puzzled his office didn't even give current House Speaker Jase Bolger a slap on the wrist for his role in an election-rigging scheme in which he helped Democrat Rep. Roy Schmidt switch to the Republican Party at the last minute, all the while recruiting a fake Democrat candidate to keep any real Democrat from competing against Schmidt.

Schuette, a Republican, said there was no basis to charge Bolger with any crimes, despite overwhelming evidence he played a role in trying to rig the election. And in fact, Bolger has since apologized for his role. The scheme ultimately backfired and voters chose a write-in Democrat, Winnie Brinks, to represent the 76th District on the west side of the state.

So we are pleased Schuette seems to have developed some newfound concern for the integrity of our elections. Better late than never.

The bottom line is we must protect the integrity of elections in this country. They are the foundation of our democracy. If we can't trust that our elections are free of corruption — and that our A sentencing hearing for Seewald and officials are in office because the majority of voters wanted them there -- we are no different from countries run by dictators or the select few already in power.

> Seewald's attorney had a point that his client had no criminal record, but it's important that elected officials - and their staffs - are above board and maintain integrity in all of their professional and personal conduct.

We expect them to follow the law, not act as thought they are above it.

Schuette had to send a message to prevent cases of petition fraud in the future. We're glad he treated this case with the seri-

# Voices heard

# One rewrite completed, more to do for public education

iring the last two weeks I had the pleasure of meeting with parents, grandparents, educators and students from all corners of Oakland County and beyond. I met with thousands of interested and concerned citizens - well on our way to a million Michigan voices. The topic of these



Oakland Schools, Oak land County's Intermediate School District, I felt a respon sibility to share the information and con-

meetings was the leg-

islation on education

pending in Lansing's

As superintendent of

ame duck session.

### Voices help

cerns I have on these issues.

First, I want to thank all who came to the meetings and then followed up by making contact with legislators and sharing what was learned with others who care about our system of public education. I also want to thank the legislators who listened to these voices and heeded the concerns. The voices worked. A substitute bill has been submitted to both the House and Senate, rewriting the bills that reauthorize the Educational Achieve ment Authority (EAA) This is evidence that when Michigan residents speak, their representatives listen.

If the EAA bill as rewritten should pass, it is now restricted to only the lowest achieving 5 percent of schools who have failed to make progress for three consecutive years; it will be under the supervision of the State Superintendent and State Board of Education: it cannot take over school buildings in local communities; it must abide by school regulations including state testing; and is no longer tied to HB 5923, the "new forms

However, our work is not done, and we still need your voice. The EAA bill was part one of a three-part plan. Part two is still on the docket and will probably be brought forward in January. That is HB 5923, which creates new forms of char ter and cyber schools that would be allowed to select their student populations on things like test scores, special talents, gender - just about any thing except religion. In my opinion this will absolutely lead to greater segregation of our students, based on ability and socio-economic status, as well as segregate opportunities for

Perhaps our greatest work will be around part three of the governor's "any" plan: the Oxford Foundation rewrite of school funding. This is now in draft form and we have some preliminary concerns.

First, it is interesting to note the person the governor selected to head this rewrite effort is Richard McLei lan, an attorney, lobbyist, adviser to dent, Oakland Schools.

former Gov. Engler, founder of the interesting, author of the voucher legislation that failed in Michigan in 2002. It is no wonder the Oxford rewrite on school funding looks much like a voucher proposal.

have with the Oxford rewrite, I will say there are some good things in the draft. For example scholarships for early graduates (although I'd ask why not scholarships for all graduates - what is so special about moving forward early?), year-round school incentives, and incentives for electronic, growth-based assessments. It does seem that these things could be incentivized without a full rewrite on funding.

### **Continued worry**

There is much to worry about in this rewrite. Proficiency funding, in which schools will receive greater funding with higher test scores will heighten the influence of highstakes tests, making classroom instruction more test-driven than it is now. Paired with the new forms of schools to be created under HB5923, which allows charters to select their students based on test scores, it seems obvious these nev schools are designed to profit from the Oxford funding proposal

Of grave concern is how this rewrite (under the governor's direction) ignores special education funding. Is it because charter schools typically enroll few special education students and those they do enroll need less support than the special education students attending community governed public schools? One cannot rewrite school funding and ignore special education costs. Although some state and federal money helps fund special education programs, that funding does not cover all the costs. In Oak land County, special education costs exceed funding by 30-40 percent.

Then there is the \$6,900-plus "voucher" that parents could spend anywhere they want as they select from an "unbundled" education system. Issues of accountability, quality of programs, funding requities, and transparency for the use of public money, are just some of the concerns and unanswered questions in this portion of the rewrite.

The types of legislation still pending under the guise of reform and choice are not based on research or best practices for improved student learning. This type of legislation has been unsuccessful in the few places it has been tried and is often described as radical, dangerous, untested and unproven. I agree. Our legislators will once again be considering these proposals in January. We continue to need a million Michigan voices in Lansing. Please let your voice be one of them. For more information, visit www.millionmichiganvoices.com.

# **Education funding**

# Creating a 21st century public education funding model

ichigan's public school finance act predates the Internet by at least two

Michigan's public education system must continue to improve and advance to position our children to compete globally in a knowledge-based

economy. Gov. Rick Snyder invited Rich ard McLellan, Marv Kay Shields and myself to propose a new Michigan Public Education Finance

Peter Ruddell

Act to replace the School Aid Act of 1979. Our goal is to ensure Michigan's \$14 billion annual investment in education produces citizens who can thrive in a new econ-

Michigan's school calendar. based on a 19th century agrarian society when children were needed to harvest crops and an early 20th century industrial factory model, must move to a 21st century model that reflects our global information age.

### Jobs available

There are 60,000 job postings on Michigan's Pure Talent Connect (www.mitalent.org). But many of these job postings cannot be filled because too many Michigan students are not college or career ready when they exit our public education system. Michigan's third grade reading proficiency level is an abysmal 62 percent. More than 60 percent of community college students require remediation classes because high school did not adequately prepare them for success in college. Gov. Snyder has proposed a new

"Any Time. Any Place, Any Way, Any Pace" public education system to put Michigan students first. Achieving that goal will require devising a robust funding structure that allows for flexibility while maintaining accountability.

Two major goals of the draft are to create a framework to better utilize advanced teaching methods and create more consumers of education

### **Key concepts** The draft contains five key con-

1. Remove District "ownership" of a student. A student will be allowed to take one course, multiple courses or the student's entire bundled education package from any public education district in the Michigan. Local school districts will decide whether to participate in open enrollment.

2. Create online learning options with performance funding. A student will be allowed to access instruction from across the state The district providing the online

course will immediately receive public funding, based on performance measures. 3. Funding will truly follow the

student. Fifteen other states are already using a new method for allocating funds. Currently, a school receives 90 percent of its state general education funding based on a student count on the first Wednesday in October. This proposal creates a dynamic system where the funding will actually follow the student to the public school district or districts that provide education to each student. 4. Framework for performancebased funding for all courses. We full implementation of computer-adaptive student growth and

5. Early graduation scholarships. As an incentive for early graduation, \$2,500 will be available for each semester a student graduates

The proposal has been criticized for not providing anything for eco-nomically disadvantaged students. I could not disagree more. Three key changes target students who are economically disadvantaged or who may have fallen behind

1.Incentive for year-round schools. The evidence is over whelming. "Summer loss" affects economically disadvantaged students at a far greater rate. By encouraging year-round schooling, this proposal has a direct impact on improving the education of economically disadvantaged students.

2. More online learning options. States like Florida and Minnesota with online learning options for students, have found students are using these options for credit recovery and to graduate on time in higher numbers than students trying to graduate early.

3. Funding following the student. Many times, economically disadvantaged students relocate at a fairly high rate as compared to other students. By allowing public funding to follow the student to the public school providing their education, resources can be coor dinated to better help that student Any judgments on this proposal are premature and frequently come from organizations that

want to protect the status quo at any costs. We welcome constructive proposals and suggestions that move Michigan public education to a performance-based funding approach rather than the current

seat time funding. We will submit a final report to Gov. Snyder before Christmas. The first draft has been posted

Peter Ruddell is the principal drafter of the proposed Michigan Public Education Finance Act of 2013

http://oxfordfoundationmi.com/

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is it right to make some-

one pay for something, that

### Make public safety a priority

Public safety is a huge issue in Michigan, and it has been for a long time. Even though Oakland County itself is near the nation's average for violent crimes, the state as a whole is cast in a very negative light when taking a look at public safety - or lack

Gov. Rick Snyder said that it's unacceptable that Flint, Detroit, Saginaw and Pontiac are among the USA's Top 10 in violent crime. Nearly half of the most violent cities are in Michigan alone. In Detroit, there has actually been an 18-percent decrease in the notice budget. Two years ago, Flint city laid off 20 of its 140 police officers, despite the fact that violent crimes have been a problem for a long time. Clearly, this reduces the presence of police on the streets and delays response times, making the opposite of

A key to reducing violent

crime is community cooperation and engagement. Citizens need to report crime. serve as witnesses and report tips. The costs of crimes, both financial and emotional, are

too overwhelming for citizens to continue putting up with. Crime rates affect the sense of security people have about where they live, and everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes and communities.

Sandra Bajc-Dimitrov

### Why sports fee?

I recently joined the Novi High School ski team, a sport not funded by Novi athletic boosters, and part of joining the team means paying the athletic boosters a \$30 fee, I don't really understand why I have to pay a fee to the boosters if I don't get anything in return. Where does this money go? To other sports? I don't want to be paying for sports I'm not participating in. Or maybe I'm paying a fee just so my team can exist.

doesn't bother or hurt anyone, just to exist? The sheet that we receive that goes along with our money to athletic boosters had no information explaining why I have to pay this fee, only that the fee is cheaper for non-funded

### Novi High student Bad bills

Gov. Rick Snyder plans to reform public education and taxes. These bills should NOT be passed. If these bills are passed, they will cut support to public schools, the education system will be changed for the worse, taxes will increase and taxpayers will lose

even more money. Due to the last recession, all citizens have been affected by financial loss. Because of Congress failing to resolve major party differences on \$1.2 trillion in savings over a decade, this will cause taxes, such as payroll and income

taxes, to rise if the Bush tax cuts expire Dec. 31 and President Obama's Social Security payroll tax ends. Lawmakers propose to

change the education system to their liking, able to change it to any way they wish. Also, the personal property tax would be eliminated, which would affect the education Vanessa Wolstencroft system negatively.

Please support the opposition of these bills by contacting Rep. Hugh Crawford at (517) 373-0827 or (hughcrawford@house. mi gov) and Sen. Mike Kowall at (517) 373-1758 or (SenMKowall@senate.michigan.gov) and request them to vote no on House Bills 6004 and its twin, Senate Bill 1358, along with House Bill 5923 and Senate Bill 620.

### **Brandon Dills** Novi High School student

### Obamacare benefits

I believe it is time that middle- and upper-class Americans stop paying for the flaws

in our healthcare system. The way this problem will be fixed is through the policies of Obamacare, I read Daniel Hoops' article "Obamacare: Is it a tax?" (Novi News, 11-6-12). I agree with his viewpoint

expressed in the article. There is a penalty that must be paid by a citizen if he/she does not have health care by a designated date under Obamacare.

A major discussion point is whether or not this "penalty" is a tax. According to the article. "Congress has used its taxing authority in the past to 'encourage behavior'... to encourage people to save money for their retirement or pay for health insurance and medical care," therefore justifying the penalty as Constitutional.

Obamacare will save money

for people who already have health insurance because we will no longer need to pay for people who are either uninsured or abuse the local ER.

Krystina Giroux

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

### **HOLY FAMILY**

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org

Mass Schedule Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday: 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and

9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment Priests: Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and Rev. Michael

Zuelch, associate pastor CROSSPOINTE **MEADOWS CHURCH** Location: 29000 Meadow brook Road, south of 13

Mile Road Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.

Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages Details: Nursery and older children programs available Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements

resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience. **Destiny Worship Center** Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville

Contact: DestinyW3C@ Gmail.com or visit www. DW3C.org. EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia Contact: (248) 442-8822 FAITH COMMUNITY

### **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GET LISTED!** OF NOVI-FAMILY INTE-

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/ Northville-Novi. 101 N. Lafavette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon or Monday to be included

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile

in Thursday's newspaper

Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunitynovi.org Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. **Book of Revelation Study** Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tues-

days and 9:30 a.m. Wednes-Details: Come and learn what John is writing about, what the symbolism means, and how this book still

speaks to us today. Faith Journeys Date: Third Sundays **Details:** Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have

FIRST BAPTIST

VILLE

**CHURCH OF NORTH-**

Location: 217 N. Wing

Contact: (248) 348-1020

Sunday Worship: 10:45

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study: 9:30

a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays

Men's Bible Study: 9

a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

experienced God in their life and the difference that has Fellowship: 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth

Worship Service Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. \$15 per family;

Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Currently on Wednesday Contact: (248) 349-3647 or nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Family Bible Hour: 9:45 Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group Thursday: 6 a.m. Men of

Road, Northville

Sunday Worship:

Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School:

Nursery - 8 a.m.

Traditional - Held in the

Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15

Nursery - 6th grade/Special

GOOD SHEPHERD

**LUTHERAN CHURCH** 

Location: 41415 9 Mile

Road, corner of Meadow brook Road, Novi

Contact: (248) 349-0565

a.m. Worship

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday

Chapel - 8 a.m.

Contact: (248) 349-1144 or

Contemporary - Held in the

visit www.fumcnorthville.org

Family Worship: 11 a.m. Bible Study: 6 p.m. FIRST UNITED METHOD-Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every IST CHURCH OF NORTH-Location: 777 West 8 Mile

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH-Location: 200 E. Main Street

GRATED CHURCH

Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www. fpcnorthville.org Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Location: 205 East Lake

Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon Contact: (248) 437-2875 FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road

Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible

**HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Contact: (248) 427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holyCROSSnovi.org Sunday Worship: 7:45 and

Family Meal, \$5 per person, 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nurs-**Currently on Wednesday** ery Care: 10 a.m. Worship nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56,

Alzheimer's Support Group 10 a.m. second Saturday of **HOPE LUTHERAN** CHURCH

Location: 39200 West 12 Mile Road (east of Haggert Road), Farmington Hills LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH Location: 309 ker Road, Walled Lake

> LIVONIA CHURCH OF Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. MEADOWBROOK CON-**GREGATIONAL CHURCH** Location: 21355 Meadow brook Road, between 8 and 9 Mile roads

Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org. Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Church School: 10-11 a.m. Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m. Merry Widows Luncheon 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month Pilgrim Fellowship: 6 p.m

**NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN** ASSEMBLY Location: 41355 6 Mile Contact: (248) 348-9030

Sundays 9-10 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / 9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose

1015 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210) Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.; Adult elective classes;

junior and senior high student ministries; children's Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care: preschool through eighth grade); call (248) 348-9031.

NOVI - NORTHVILLE CENTER FOR JEWISH

Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year school adult lewish classes. youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events. Contact: Rabbi Avrohhom

& Leah Susskind at (248) 790-6075 or rabbi@noviiewishcenter.com; www. noviiewishcenter.com NOVI UNITED METHODIST

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m. **Healing Service and Holy** nion: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month Peace Vigil: noon, first

Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace. Advent Service: 9:45 a.m.

OAK POINTE CHURCH

Details: Overseen by True

Sunday of every month

Location: In front of the

Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi Contact: (248) 912-0043 or Worship Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday ReNew Life Group Ministries: 7:15-9 p.m. every

North Christian Counseling. offering a variety of suppor vorce Care: Grief Share: Life Disrupted (Doing Well At Reing Sick): Restarting: Setting Boundaries with Teen & Adult Children; Single and Single Again; Men's ntegrity; Cross Current; He Story-Partner Care: Growing two new groups are Care-

(Adoption/Foster Care) Contact: (248) 912-0043; org/lifegroups/renew/index. Women's Life Groups

Ministries: 7 p.m. even Men's Life Groups Ministries: 6 a.m. every Friday morning at various locations For both Women's and

Men's Life Groups Ministries,

please contact the church nity Church Location: 850 Ladd Road Contact: (248) 926-6584; **ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH** 

Location: 23455 Novi Road Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665 Preschool/Kids Chair: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday Details: for ages three to six; ongoing event; no

need to pre-register; all are **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC** CHURCH Location: 47650 N. Territo-

rial Road, Plymouth Contact: (734) 453-0326, **OUR LADY OF VICTORY** CATHOLIC CHURCH Location: 770 Thayer,

Contact: (248) 349-2621 or Saturday Worship: 5 p.m. Sunday Worship: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. **OUR SHEPHERD PRES-BYTERIAN CHURCH** Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth Contact: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891 Wednesday Bible Study: Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

# RETIREMENT COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING Independence

### **Bunyan & Banjos** Friday, January 18 2:00 p.m.

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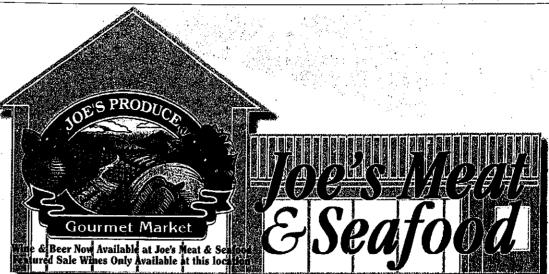
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# **SPORTS**

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# Icers earn program's first ever win over Marquette

Calumet, Houghton power past Novi

SECTION B. (NN

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

HOMETOWNLIFE COM

By Chris Jackett

The annual trip to the Upper Peninsula didn't end with the results Novi's hockey team was was able to snap a losing streak on the final day

> Ranked No. 31 prior to the trip, Novi (5-8-1, 2-3-1 KLAA Kensington) start ed all three games competitively, but things lost 6-2 at No. 19 Calumet (7-5-0) Jan. 4 and 5-

Novi's No. 38-ranked hockey team (5-8-1, 2-3-1 KLAA Kensington) is off 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 when they host No. 23 East Kentwood (8-2-1).

ing No. 33 Marquette (2-9-

"Overall, we had a good trip and improved as a team but did not get the results I expect," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "Furthermore, while we have a long way to go with our demonstration of competing, we made good for pucks, blocking shots, protecting the puck, possessing the puck and mov ing the puck. Our intensity, focus and grit have got to get better for us to have any type of success in the state playoffs." Novi junior netmind

er Austin Petty (24 saves) and senior Patrick Carney (10 saves) combined for 34 saves against Calumet as the teams battled to a scoreless first period, but the Copper Kings scored four unanswered on Pet ty in the second period and the Wildcats couldn't

catch up.



Wildcat Alex Turner tries to keep the puck away from a Howell Highlander during the teams' Dec. 12 game at the

goaltenders, but each are giving up one to two soft

moments of brilliance this weekend, but the incon-

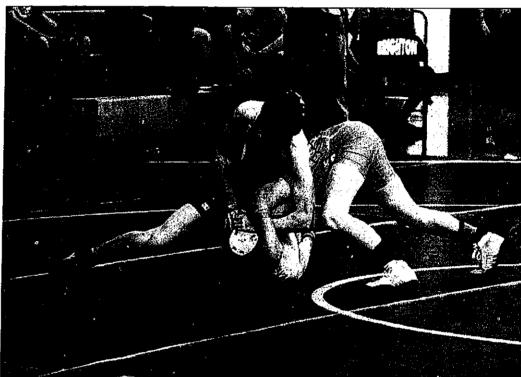
in the games affected our

we need to continue to

Senior Luke Bageris and junior Christopher Kennedy tallied a goal apiece for Novi, but two more goals by Calumet ол Carney gave the Cop per Kings the 6-2 victory as Troy Pierce made 3 Bageris and juniors Mark Czapski and Joshua Ward in the loss.

Things stayed close longer the next day against Houghton, as each team scored one goal per peri od through the first two

Please see HOCKEY, 83



# Novi grapplers eighth at Manning Vieau

DeNova goes 4-1 as team drops four of ON TAP five dual meets at Brighton tournament

Last Saturday's Manning Vieau Invitational at Brighton gave Novi's grapplers another taste of some of the tougher competition in southeast

The Wildcats finished eighth of 10 teams after going 1-4 in head-to-head dual match-ups. The first battle of the day pitted

Novi against Battle Creek Lakeview. Although senior Dan DeNova (103 pounds) won a 4-3 decision to start things off, Lakeview would rattle off 11 straight victories until Novi senior Zach Roush (215) won an 8-5 decision to make the score 62-6. The 'Cats evened their ledger on

the day in their second match-up, against Brighton's "B" team. DeNo va, sophomore Kyle Benkarski (135). freshman Griffin Sparling (140), unior John Hood (160) and senior Mitchell Boston (heavyweight) all pinned their opponents, with fresh-man Cooper Smith (171) also earning

his first varsity pinfall. Sophomore Jared Engebretson (189, Roush (215), junior Carsten Cook (152) and sophomore Evan Davis (125) also picked up victories as Novi rolled to a 54-16

The rest of the day was a struggle for the Wildcats, Tournament cham-pion Macomb Dakota was next and a 2-1 decision by Davis was the lone points scored by Novi, who lost 70-3. DeNova, junior Ben Wright (145)

Novi's grapplers were set to visit Livonia Stevenson yesterday for a quad meet against Plymouth Salem, South Lyon East and the Spartans before heading to the South Ivon Invitational 10 a.m. Saturday From there, the 'Cats visit Northville for a quad against Stevenson, South Lyon and the Mustangs 5 p.m. Wednesday.

and Hood posted victories in the fourth match-up against Clarkston, but it wasn't enough as the Wolves rolled to a 55-13 win.

The 'Cats ended the day in the seventh-place match against DeWitt. Despite victories by DeNova, Hood, away with a 47-21 victory, pushing Novi into eighth place.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and

# Novi girls knock off Cougars

East puts up fight, but fall to Wildcats

**By Chris Jackett** 

Despite missing their top forward, South Lyon East's girls bas ketball squad was no match for

The Wildcats (6-1, 1-0 KLAA Central) rolled out to a 20-9 halftime lead en route to a 40-27 victory Jan 4 on the road against the Cougars

ON TAP senior Jade Novi's girls basketball team (6-1, 1-0 KLAA Central) was set to host South Lyon (6-1, 1-0 Central) two nights ago and Northville (6-1, 1-0 Central) 5:30 p.m. tomorrow before visiting

ing, Novi ri McMahon led the way with a 16 points (0-6, 0-1 Central) 7

go without some help though, points) and Taylor Pavlika (fou points, seven rebounds, three

assists) kept the Wildcats rolling Novi shot 17-for-49 (34.7 percent) from the field, compared to East's 8-for-40 (20 percent) shooting. The rebounding battle was a bit closer, as Novi led 23-22 despite the Cougars grabbing more offensive boards 11-4.

The Wildcats kept the turnovers in check despite an 8-4 disadvantage, but also nabbed an 11-0 advantage in steals despite committing 17 fouls. Also chipping in offensively

for Novi were junior Dina Fawaz (six points), senior Kasey Lowney (three points) and sophomore Alex Felice (two points) as 12 different student-athletes got some playing

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

Novi's boys baskethall team (3)

# First-half surge beats East Wildcats claw up Cougars 36-22 after 24-0 opening run

By Chris Jackett

Novi's two halves of basketball was like night and day last week, but the good half was all it took to take care of South Lyon Behind a 24-0 run to start the

game, the Wildcats (3-3, 1-0

2 victory Jan. 4 at home. "We had some lofty goals for this game," Novi coach Brian Tass said. "Looked very good on things we wanted to improve. The second half was somewhat

KLAA Central) held on for a 36-

disappointing as we did not play well in any of those areas." Novi started the game off in

dominant fashion, leading 14-0 after the first quarter. The Cougars (0-6, 0-1 Central) wouldn't get on the board until nailing ands left in the first half, leading to a 24-2 halftime deficit.

"I thought we played pretty hard on defense and focused on making the extra pass on

offense. Those worked well for us," Tass said. "We were simply more athletic than them and or defense puts us in the right spots vinced we are a good rebounding team yet by any means."

er Cougars, including 11 offen-

The Wildcats won the rebounding battle 31-4 against the small-

3. 1-0 KLAA Central! was scheduled to visit South Lyon (5-1, 1-0 Central) two nights ago before hosting Northville (3-4 0-1 Central) Friday and Plymouth Salem (5-2, 1-0 Central) Tuesday, both at 7 p.m.

**ON TAP** 

sive rebounds. "I thought Blake Brown helped us in the first half with "(Naji) Ozier had a solid night on

Please see HOOPS, B3



The Waza FC West 95 Black under-18 boys soccer team won the Disney Showcase championship in Florida Dec. 30. Pictured (I to r, front) are Dom Hajdu (Farmington Hills), Mussa Ibrahim (Ann Arbor), Hussain Sandifer (Ann Arbor), Aaron Krupa (Ann Arbor), Dalton Amez (Macomb Township), Dylan Knott (Rochester), Donald Payne (Farmington Hills), Alex Isaevski (Westland); (back) Matt Wilson (Novi), Tyler Simpson (Westland), Joe Trombly (Farmington), Troy Dolmetsch (Northville), Ryan Goike (Shelby Township), Ronnie Basin (Farmington Hills), Trevor Nessel (Novi), Bryan Maxwell (Com-

### NOVI SPORTS ROUND-UP

By Chris Jackett

### Wildcat bowlers struggle at Ladywood tourney

Novi's bowlers headed to a Livonia Ladywood-hosted tournament Jan. 5 at Super Bowl in Canton and had a tough time.

"Tough scoring conditions held scoring down," Novi coach John Osborne said The girls (4-1, 2-1 KLAA Central) finished 14th with a score of 2,494.

Megan Engles led the way with a three-game score of 441. The boys (2-3, 1-2 Central) ended the day in 17th. However, Mor-

gan Wiley was a highlight by making the All-Tournament team with games of 187, 200 and 243 for a 630 Both teams were set to be back in action two days ago against Canton

(3-2, 1-2 Central boys; 3-2, 2-1 Central girls) at Vision Lanes and last night at Super Bowl against Plym-2 Central girls). The Wildcats will compete in the Plymouth-Canton Schools Tournament 1 p.m. Saturday at Super Bowl before returning to Super Bowl yet again to face Plymouth Salem (4-1, 2-1 Central boys; 3-2, 1-2 Central girls) 3:30 p.m. Monday before hosting South Lyon East (3-2, 3-0 West boys; 1-4,

1-2 West girls) 3:30 p.m. Tucsday at the Disney Showcase champion-

Blaszczyk named All-American harrier as USF wins NAIA national title

A 2010 graduate of Novi High School, Michael Blaszczyk led the Wildcats to plenty of success in years past. On Nov. 17, 2012, he helped lead the Fighting Saints of the University of St. Francis (Joliet, Ill.) to a NAIA national title while earning himself All-American honors in the process by finishing 23rd overall in a field of 309 with a time of 25:10. Along with teammates Phil Rizzo (eighth in 24:44) and Brandon Carson (24th in 25:11), Blaszczyk and the Fighting Saints tallied 138 points, which was good enough to beat runners-up

Southern Oregon's 153 points and 30 other schools For full results, visit www. gofightingsaints.com/stats/2012-13/ mCC/mcc-naia-ind.pdf.

### Wilson helps club team to Disney Showcase title

Novi resident Matt Wilson led his premier soccer team in points as the Waza FC West 95 Black under 18 boys squad went 3-0-1 Dec. 27-30 in Florida en route to winning

ship. In the previous three years of competing at the Disney Showcase. the squad had never finished better than third place despite winning three State Cups in Michigan, How-Novi varsity bowling team member Megan Engles prac-

two State Cups in their home state

Prior to the championship match.

Waza had tied Ottawa South Unit-

ed OSU Force Academy 95 (Cana-

da) 1-1, beat Dallas Texans 95 Red

Throughout the tournament.

Wilson had three goals and three

assists. Coached by Dan Diac, oth-

Farmington Hills' Donald Payne

(one goal, three assists), Roches-

ter's Dylan Knott (one goal, three

assists), Westland's Alex Isaevs-

ki (one goal, one assist), Macomb

Township's Dalton Amez (one goal), Shelby Township's Ryan Goike (one

goal), Novi's Trevor Nessel (one

goal) and Commerce Township's

Bryan Maxwell (one goal). Ann

Arbor's Aaron Krupa held down

including one penalty shot, over

the goal with 16 saves on 21 shots,

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and

former staff writer for the Novi News.

er offensive contributors were

Dragons Green (Md.) 3-1.

Dallas (Tex.) 2-1 and then Pachuca

by 1-0 and 3-2 scores.

ever, they finished first Dec. 30 with a 4-2 victory over Grand Rapids Crew Juniors 95 Gold (Mich.), who Waza had defeated for the past



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Varsity bowler Corey Brown.

# susan a. komen 🗙

3-Day

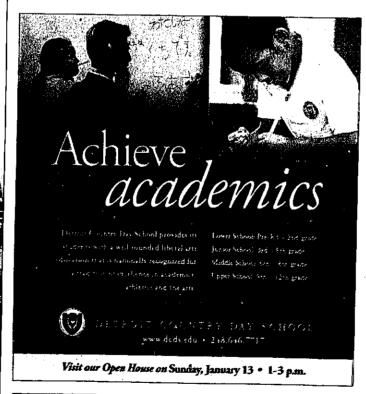
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The MPB Memorial Fieldhouse in Novi has been a busy, but hidden, place for local volleyball and futsal players since 2010. The facility offers a full-sized futsal field that can be transformed into three volleyball courts.

# MPB Memorial Fieldhouse offers home to volleyball, futsal

There are several athletic facilities in the area, but one two-yearold facility in Novi has quietly for both local volleyball and fut-

The Michael Patrick Barnett Memorial Fieldhouse, 42350 Grand River Ave., opened in Dec. 2010 behind Cort Furniture and serves as a home to both Legacy Volleyball Club and East Michigan Futsal, each which were limited on space for training and competition before the MPB Fieldhouse opened.

"Legacy, up until this year, had been running out of just one space in Rochester," said Greg Newton, owner of the MPB Fieldhouse and one of Legacy VC's club directors. 'It used to be a vollevball facility for a different club. They kind of lost occupancy for whatever rea-

Newton, a Livonia resident and 1987 Northville graduate who now coaches the Walled Lake Western varsity volleyball team, got the idea for the fieldhouse in Septem-

the facility's namesake, passed away. "My wife and I were kind of

grieving at the time," Newton

With a "you only live once" mentality, Newton decided to develop the vacant 10,500-square-feet facility for volleyball use. It now features three Sport Court-surfaced volleyball courts that total a 116-by-76-feet space that can be converted into a single 110-by-60feet futsal court, which is a form of turf-free, boardless indoor soccer. The ceilings are 32-feet high.

"I had never even heard of futsal." Newton said. "I think it's the only regulation futsal court in the The former Cort warehouse had been used by the prior volley-

ball club for three or four years before they vacated it and Newton moved in. Two months and \$40,000 in renovations later, Skill Ignition Volleyball Club - which has since merged with Legacy VC and now has more than 300 players - started training there.

The Sport Court tiles are 1-by

rubber lining, creating a surface ing on athletes' joints

"Its full. I have people all the time asking if they can rent courts," Newton said of his constantly booked courts, "We rent out for birthday parties."

The fieldhouse has helped many Legacy VC players, such as New-ton's daughter, develop into quality high school student-athletes. A 15-year-old sophomore at Livenia Franklin, Kelly Newton is an All-"My daughter started playing

volleyball years ago and was play ing at Total Roller Hockey up the road." Newton said. "A lot of volleyball clubs run out of elementary school gyms. We're fortunate to be able to use my courts."

For more information on MPB Memorial Fieldhouse, including rental information pending avail ability and an event calendar, visit www.memorialfieldhouse.shutterfly.com or email memorialfieldhouse@gmail.com.

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

### HOCKEY Continued from page B1

egments, Bageris and Ward scored Novi's goals, with Ward adding an assist and sophomore Brad-ley Hofelich notching two

Despite Carnev's efforts in goal with 33 saves, the Gremlins rattled off three a 5-2 victory behind 19 saves from netminder Mar-

"Two poor periods of hockey this weektwo games: Calumet and Houghton," Krygier said. The team played well for two-thirds of each of the losses, but lost the game with four goals against in one period versus Calumet and three goals against in third period versus Hough-

The Wildcats snapped a five-game losing streak Sunday at Marquette.

Senior Mark Baker gave Novi a 1-0 lead in the secand neriod and added a second goal in the third period off assists from Kennedy and Hofelich before the Redmen scored one on Petty (29 saves) to cut the final score to 2-1.

"The win against Marquette was our first ever as a program and I thought we did a better job of competing for a full 51 minutes, Krygier said. "Offensively there have been very few players with any determination, commitment or willingness to pay the price to score goals. The stats speak very clearly to this.

"I like this team and I enjoy coaching these guys. They are great sportsmen and very coachable. For us to be successful I need to see passion, heart and the willingness to compete more consistently.'

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer

### **HOOPS**

Continued from page B1 both ends. He is showing he is capable of playing more minutes."

Brown, a senior, and freshman Ozeir, along with junior Nelson Cagle, paced the Wildcats with eight points apiece. Brown added six rebounds and Ozeir three rebounds.

Seniors Charles McKinney (one point) and Brandon Macklin (two points) added six rebounds apiece, while McKinney also grabbed three steals. Senior Tre Cadwell added six points.

Despite shooting 14-for 37 (37.8 percent) from the field, the Wildcats were 4for-14 (28.6 percent) from three-point land. East shot 8-for-22 (36.4 percent) overall and 3-for-7 (42.9 percent) from distance.

DICK SCOTT CHRYSLER . JEEP . RAM

"We lack a shooter on this a couple guys in Cagle and Cadwell that can hit one

now and then, but for the most part, we are missing a pure shooter to go to. We have to keep working on getting guys better in the

Following an impressive first half, Novi was outscored 20-12 in the second half en route to the 14point victory. The Cougars clawed their way into the box score by capitalizing on 13 Wildcat turnovers. compared with two from

"We turn it over an unbelievable amount, even after six games," Tass said. "We are going to continue working on making decisions, strength with the pass and dribble and composure. It's killing our offense. Teams like Salem and South Lyon don't make mistakes and will take advantage of the

Chris Jackett is a freelance for the Novi News.



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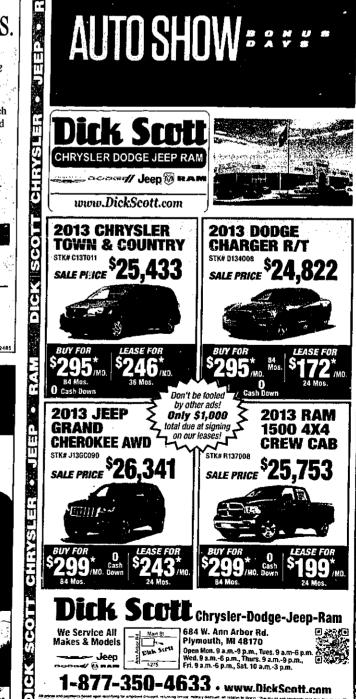
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### Wolfpack perfect in Saline tourney



On Saturday, Dec. 15, the Northville Wolfpack 6th grade girls basketball team competed in the Saline Maximum Potential Holiday Hoopfest Tournament, The girls compiled a perfect 4-0 record, playing teams from Jackson, Saline, Livonia, and Hartland, and won the tournament championship. The girls are looking forward to playing in many more tournaments including the Grass Lake Girls Basketball. Tournament to be held Jan. 19-20, and the Northville Invitational Tournament on Feb. 9. The team is coached by Steve Grant and assistant coach Steve Thallman. The team consists of (back row from left) Assistant Coach Steve Thallman, Coach Steve Grant, (middle row from left) Karina Moore, Jenna Lauderback, Connie Krizmanich, Jane Berry, Nicole Martin, (front row from left) Ellie Thallman, Hannah Grant, Tara Beason, and Chloe Zulcosky.

# Shamrocks skate to victory

Team edges Wyandotte with Brady Jones' score

hosting Cranbrook Satur

Middleton for the score

out to a 2-1 lead at the

period, thanks to a pow

er play goal by Carson

Max Wanko and Jones on

the play. But Wyandotte

ing minutes of the third

period to tie it up again.

this time on a power play

of their own as John Cal-

houn took a pass from Joe

Smellie and fired it home

came back in the open-

day at 2:30 p.m.

ON TAP

By Sam Eggleston

The Shamrocks' hockey team found itself in the rare position of being tied in the third period with time expiring and a must score scenario on the ice in order to obtain the vic-

But, in true Detroit Catholic Central fashion. the pressure didn't seem one bit as they skated away with a 3-2 victory over Wyandotte thanks to Brady Jones' goal in the final period of play.

The Shamrocks start ed the day off trailing the Wyandotte skaters, 1-0, with just nine minutes off the clock in the first period as Griffin Majani assisted by Aaron Robinson, scored for the Bears. But the Catholic Central squad didn't let that lead

flinch, however, and just went back to work, even-The Detroit Catholic tually earning the game-Central hockey team will winning goal off Jones' be on the ice again when stick with 6:08 off the they play today at 7 p.m. clock in the final period at home against Port to earn the win. Wanko Huron Northern before was credited with the

The game was rather off the stick of Jones. er tame in terms of penalties, as the Shamrocks who took assistance from earned two calls totaling Tyler Payne and Danny four minutes in the box The Shamrocks edged and Wyandotte was whis tled for four penalties, 6:52 mark in the second including a 10-minute major for checking from behind that was called on Gatt, who was assisted by Vinnie Jelsomeno mid-

assist on the winning

period. Ryan Mulka earned the win in goal for the Shamrocks, stopping 11 shots on goal, while Wyandotte's Justin Armatis didn't fare so well, facing 44 shots and stopping

way through the third

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULES

1/16 Quad Meet

1/11 Northville

WRESTLING

Super Bowl)

**BOYS BASKETBALL** 

All games 7 p.m. unless

**GIRLS BASKETBALL** 

All games at 7 p.m. unles:

1/11 5:30 p.m. Northville

1/16 5 p.m. @ Northville

Quad (Northville, Livonia

Stevenson, South Lyon)

**BOYS & GIRLS BOWL-**

All meets at 3:30 p.m. unless

noted 1/12 1 p.m. @ Plymouth-Can-

1/14@ Plymouth Salem (@

Novi

Northville **BOYS HOCKEY** 

All games at 7 p.m. unless noted 1/11-1/12 @Ann Arbor Pio-

**BOYS BOWLING** All events at 3:30 p.m. uness noted 1/14 @Wayne Memorial 1/15 Waterford Mott **GIRLS BOWLING** All events at 3:30 p.m. un-

less noted 1/14 @Wayne Memorial 1/15 Waterford Mott **BOYS BASKETBALL** All games at 7 p.m. unless

1/15 @South Lyon **GIRLS BASKETBALL** 1/11 @ Novi 5:30 p.m.

**BOYS SWIMMING** All meets at 6:30 p.m. unless 1/10 @Novi 6 p.m. 1/12 Northville Quad Noon 1/15 @Walled Lake Western 1/17 North Farmington

Super Bowl) /15 South Lyon East (@ Novi CHEERLEADING All events at 6 p.m. unless COMPETITIVE CHEER 1/12 @Stoney Creek Invitational TBA 1/16 6 p.m. @ South Lyon

WRESTLING Meets at 5:30 p.m. unless 1/12 @Livonia Stevensor Invitational TBA

Catholic

Central SWIMMING

BOWLING 1 p..m. 1/17 DeLaSalle 3:30 p.m. 1/12 10 a.m. @ South Lyon

> BASKETBALL 1/11@DeLaSalle WRESTLING HOCKEY

1/10 Farmington 1/15 Howell 5 p.m.

Stevenson, South Lyon) **BOYS & GIRLS SKIING** All dual races 4 p.m. @ Alpine Valley unless noted 1/10 Hartland, Milford

1/17 Ladywood, West Bloom-

1/10 @Livonia Stevensor

1/11 Notre Dame Prep 3:30 1/12 Plymouth Tournament

All games at 7:30 p.m. un-1/12 CC Super Duais 10 a.m.

1/10 Port Huron Northern 1/12 Cranbrook 2:30 p.m. Events at 6 p.m. at Mt. Brighton unless noted

# CC suffers two tough losses

Cagers fall to Dearborn and Detroit Loyola

By Sam Eggleston

Two tough losses greet-ed the Detroit Catholic

Central Shamrocks as the welcomed 2013. The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, took a 55-50 loss to Dearborn on January 2, just two day: before suffering a 62-42 loss against Detroit

Lovola. Against Dearborn, the Shamrocks jumped out to a 12-6 lead and maintained an edge as they entered the locker room at halftime leading 24-But Dearborn was rocks in the third quarter with each team scoring 12 points, before simhaving an outstanding performance in the final stanza and outscor-

ing Catholic Central 23-14 to earn the win. The Shamrocks were leading by one point late in the game when they took a poor shot with less

"We fouled on the

**ON TAP** The Shamrocks basketball team will be back

play tomorrow at DeLaS alle at 7:30 p.m. by one," said Dyer. "They blocked a shot on our next possession and we had to four again and

on the court when they

we ended up losing by There was a bright side to the game - Charlie Ryan had his first start of the season and the junior led the Shamrocks in scoring with 13 points while Nick Malzone, a senior, added 11 and junior Noah Lee add

ed nine in the loss. Dearborn was led by Ali Farhat, who scored an impressive 37 points to help keep his team undefeated with a 6-0 record. Against Loyola, the amrocks had trouble converting at the freethrow line, shooting just 13-for-27, and couldn't capitalize on their oppor-tunities as they fell, 62-42. Detroit Catholic Central led, 13-2, after the first quarter but trailed, 31-19, "We missed seven free throws in the first half."

Those seven points were glaring at the Shamrocks in the third quarter as they trailed Loyola by seven, but the Catholic Central cagers missed stumbled into the fourth quarter where they were outscored, 21-8, by their

noted Dyer.

We weren't able to convert at the free throw line and that took away any chance we had to keep the game close," Dyer

Lovola went 6-for-10 from the charity stripe and was led in scoring by James Stewart and Tob Sharpe, who each had 15 points to lead all scorers. Catholic Central was led by Lee, who put in 12

The Shamrocks, now 3-2 on the season, had 27 13-for-42 from the floor

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# Shamrocks dominate at CC Invitational

Wrestling team gets four tourney champions

By Sam Eggleston

The Catholic Central Invitational is always an event that high school wrestling fans look forward to, as it tends to bring some extremely talented teams to the area for a day of quality grap-

pling.
The most talented team at the 2013 Catholic Central Invitational, it just so happens, was the host school as the Shamrocks earned themselves a victory with 241 team points. They simply ran away from the competition, with Toledo Central Cath-

olic earning second place with 127 points. "I think our young men competed hard and wrestled well," said Detroit Mitch Hancock. "We have

Central wrestling team will be back in action when they host the CC Super Duals at 10 a.m. Saturday.

and I think we showed that this weekend. We take pride in winning our own tournament and our guys like competing at The Shamrocks had

placing wrestlers in the invite. Winning titles for the Catholic Central grappling team were Logan Marcicki, Drew Garcia, Nick Giese and Ken Bade while Myles Amine and Bob Coe finished second



ON TAP The Detroit Catholic

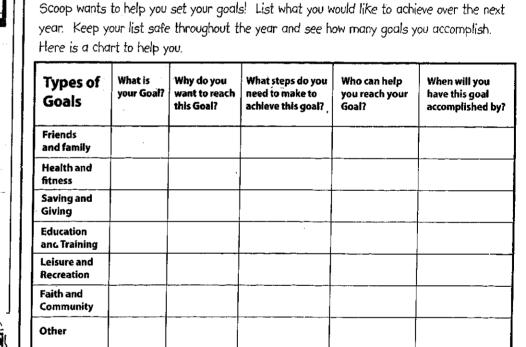
a lot of depth on this team

four tournament cham-





create your own drawing of winter fun. You could win an Angry Birds 'Knock on Wood' Board Game. To obtain Scoop's coloring page go to facebook.com/ScoopTheNewsHound and look for Scoop's coloring contest. Submit your drawings to cbjordan@hometownlife.com or mail to Scoop The Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive, Plym-



Example: For Scoop's Faith & Community Goal...Scoops wants to make someone smile!

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WINTER **HOMETURNWORK** 



Winter Break ве нарру Game Over Վոււծ Ոք



HEXAGONAL. MEANING THEY HAVE SIX SIDES.

Courtesy of Metro Creative

Find your way through the maze. START **GYWE** FINISH Courtesy of Metro Creative

Maze Craze

Mail all entry forms to: Scoop the Newshound, 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth, Mi 48170 for submissions:

All entries need to be received at the observer a Eccentric media by close of the basilions or email your form to: objordan@hometownlife.com Winners to be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights

Market your business for

success in 2013

Start the new year with a plan to market for suc-

cess. Reach your customwork. The O&E Media Marketing Seminar on

set for 8:30-10 a.m. in

the VisTaTech Center at

gerty Road between Six

and Seven Mile in Livo-

Speakers include Jim

Ryan, executive direc-

tor for development and

at Schoolcraft College;

ations for the Detroit

Media Partnership, and advertising and publish-

ing executives from O&E

Ryan will offer recent

examples of successful

marketing campaigns

used by the college and

discuss the importance

of marketing in building

and sustaining an effec-

tive and trusted brand.

importance of having a

digital component in any

marketing campaign. A

O&A session and one on

one consultations will be

The session also

includes a continental

breakfast, raffle prizes

Krol will focus on the

Nick Krol, senior manag-

Schoolcraft College (Hag-

# Ten Thousand

Shown (I to r) are Bright House Networks' Leigh Byrd; and Sweet Dreamzzz's Nancy Max-

# **Bright House Networks donates** \$10,000 to Sweet Dreamzzz

day at hometownlife.com

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As part of its 12 Days of Giving campaign, a commitment to making the holidays happier this season for those in need, Bright House Networks presented a \$10,000 donation to Sweet Dreamzzz on Dec. 18. The donation will assist in the purchase of needed supplies for the sleep kit which provides a child with practical materials that their families may not otherwise be able to afford - a sleeping bag, nightshirt, and socks for warmth, a toothbrush and toothpaste for hygiene, and a stuffed animal, activity book, crayons, and reading book to aid in bedtim

Bright House Networks' 12 Days of Giving campaign was designed to sup-

port charitable organizations in its local communities that are focused on helping the military, homeless, hungry and children. During the 12 days, which ran from Dec. 1-12, Bright House Networks posted a different picture of an item in need on its Facebook page. The items ranged from razors for military personnel to baby formula and diapers for children. For every person who shared the photo of the day. Bright House Networks committed to donate that same number of items to a charity in each of its local communi ties. The charity with the most shares received an additional \$10,000 donation

on behalf of Bright House Networks and its giving customers.

and more Space is limited. To register e-mail your contact name, business name, phone number and email address to cbjorby Tuesday, Jan. 15. An e-Check us out on the Web every mail will be sent confirm-

available.

### Signature sells Wixom space

Signature Associates has negotiated the sale of 31,152 square feet of industrial space located at 46925 West Road, Wix-

Bruce Morrison and Steve Gordon of Signature Associates represented the seller. Bank of America. Jim Montgomery, also of Signature, represented the purchas er, West Tech Development LLC.

The Michigan Econom-

ic Development Corpora-

ments and add 295 new

OPS Solutions, LLC.

based in Northville, is

launching a new visu-

al guiding system that

jobs in Michigan.

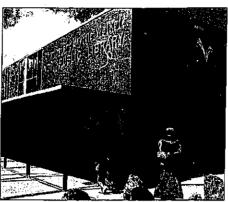
**OPS Solutions** Westland one of six Business companies to Person invest \$117 of the Year million, add 295 jobs in Michigan

FREE Clean and Check tion announced Michigan Strategic Fund approvof your current hearing aids al of Michigan Business With coupon. Expires 2/28/13 Development and Community Revitalization program incentives to Westland six companies planning 35337 West Warren Road expansions in the state. 734-467-5100 The projects are expect ed to generate nearly South Lyon \$117 million in invest-

321 Pettibone Street, Suite 105 248-437-5505

www.personalizedhearingcare.com

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**



The new Novi Public Library opens its doors to the public on June 1, 2010. Julie Farkas, library director, spoke Jan. 9 on the library's future.

Trusted

Award

**Improvement** 

**Granite earns** 

Super Service

Trusted Improvement

Granite, a Novi-based

installer, has earned the

2012 Angie's List Super

Service Award, an hon-

approximately 5 percent

of all the companies rat-

granite counter top

visual display features anywhere on a work station surface, improving quality, productivity, and training efficiency for nearly any manual process. The company is planning to expand into office and workshop space and start operation in the City of Novi investing approximately \$268,000 and creating 25 new jobs. As a result OPS has been awarded a Michigan Business Development performance-based grant of \$400,000. Michigan was chosen over a com-

on Angie's List, a provider of consumer reviews on local service peting site in Wisconsin "We're pleased to have The City of Novi is offer ing support to the project the outstanding craftsincluding city and coun manship of our employ ty staff time, use of pubees and superior quality

lic facilities for meetings of our granite recognized and other support. Andrew LaDuke, presi-The Michigan Business Development Prodent of Trusted Improvegram provides grants, Angie's List Super Serloans and other econom ic assistance to qualified vice Award 2012 winners businesses that make have met strict eligibility requirements, including investments or create jobs in Michigan, with earning a minimum preference given to businumber of reports, an

nesses that need addi-

deal-closing and for sec-

ond stage gap financing

"The Future of

the Novi Public

The Novi Oaks Char-

ter Chapter of American

Business Women's Asso

ciation (ABWA) hosted

Julie Farkas, director of

the Novi Public Library

Tree Hotel in Novi, Far-

Future of the Novi Pub-

lic Library," a program

that highlights the amaz

ing resources the library

lic Library recently com-

has to offer. Novi Pub-

pleted a 10-month stra-

tegic planning process.

The new five-year plan

Novi Oaks holds din-

ner meetings on the sec-

ond Wednesday of every

required. For more infor-

month at the Double

Tree Hotel in Novi -

paid reservations are

mation about the Novi

Oaks Charter Chapter

of ABWA and how you

can join ABWA, attend

www.abwa-novi.org.

a meeting, or communi-

cate with members, visit

2013.

will go into effect in July

on Jan. 9 at the Double

kas presented "The

Library"

tional assistance for

their customers and abiding by Angie's List operational

excellent rating from

### Signature leases. sells spaces in Novi

Signature Associates has negotiated the sale of 16,224 square feet of industrial space located at 41123 Jo Drive in

Paul Hoge of Signature Associates represented the purchaser, Jo Drive Ventures, LLC. Joe Drive Ventures is a company owned by Kemp & Sherman Company, a real estate development and investment firm with 40 vears of experience in Signature Associates

also negotiated the lease industrial space located at that same location. Hoge represent ed both the landlord. Jo Drive Ventures, LLC and the tenant, Froude Hofmann, Inc. Froude Hofmann designs and manufactures test systems fo engines that are some of the best in the industry. bling of the size of their

Realtors decry home lending standards, urge reform

New survey findings, combined with an analysis of historic credit scores and loan performance, show home sales could be notably high er by returning to reasonably safe and sound lending standards, which also would create new jobs. That's according to the National Association of Realtors.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said there would be enormous benefits to the U.S. economy if mortgage lending conditions return to normal. "Sensible lending standards would permit 500,000 to 700,000 additional home sales in the coming year," he said in a statement.

The economic activity created through these additiona home sales would add 250,000 to 350,000 jobs in related trades and services almost immediately, and without a cost impact.'

A monthly survey of Realtors shows widespread concern over unreasonably tight credit conditions for residential mortgages, Respondents indicate that tight conditions are continuing, lenders are taking too long in approving applications, and that the information lenders require from borrowers is excessive. Some respondents expressed frustration that lenders appear to be focusing only on loans to individuals with the

Tony Schippa, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred of Plymouth, said there has been talk of lowering credit scores for buyers. "I'm dealing with that right now with a client," who had a foreclosure several years ago. The client's had to reap-

highest credit scores.

ply through the FHA. "If they lowered the scores, it would definitely free up buvers." Plymouth resident Schippa said. "Making it harder to get loans, there goes the business '

Buyers buy furniture, paint Realtor said, "That definite ly brings jobs to Michigan, I

est-only loans, Schippa said. Some consumers weren't edu cated on interest-only loans, sitting on homes they can't Schippa, president of the Greater Metropolitan Assocates rules we can abide by and still get a decent mortgage. Twenty percent down isn't realistic, especially for first-time buyers, he said. "If

you're a first-time homebuy ing our economic recover, you might wan to get off Interest rates may rise. Schippa said, in 2013, "You Yun said. can definitely buy a lot of house now and inventory's

Even though profits in the financial industry have climbed back strongly to pre-recession levels, lending standards still remain unreasonably tight.

a good thing. With anything,

you've got to look out for the

Buyers should put decent

money down: In the Clinton

years, some people weren't

doing that, taking on inter-

he said. "When it tanked,

you've got all these people

ciation of Realfors, advo-

abuse.'

the fence."

"As an industry, we'd like to see the credit scores loosened up," said Schippa. The average young buyer has too low of a score to buy, he added.

"The first-time homebuyer's really the one who boosts the economy." Schippa noted new residents like to spruce up their homes, which encourages neighbors to also do so. He cited an example in Detroit, highlighted in a TV broadcast, of neighbors taking pride and fixing up their homes together as a commu-

The NAR's Yun said all it takes is a willingness to recognize that market conditions have turned in the wake of an over-correction in home price es, with all of the price measures now showing sustained gains. "There is an unnecessarily high level of risk aversion among mortgage lenders and regulators, although many are sitting on large vol umes of cash which could go a long way toward speed-

ery. A loosening of the overy restrictive lending standards is very much in order," Respondents to the NAR survey report that 53 percent of loans in August went to borrowers with cred-

it scores above 740. In com parison, only 41 percent of loans backed by Fannie Mae had FICO scores above 740 during the 2001 to 2004 time period, while 43 percent of Freddie Mac-backed loans were above 740.

In 2011, about 75 percent of total loans purchased by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which are now a smaller mar ket share, had credit scores

the Comptroller of the Currency has defined a prime loan as having a FICO score of 660 and above. However, the average FICO score for denied applications on FHA loans was 669 in May of this year, well above the 656 aver age for loans actually originated in 2001.

Loan performance c. or the past decade shows the 12-month default rate averaged just under 0.4 percent of nortgages in 2002 and 2003. which is considered normal Twelve-month default rates peaked in 2007 at 3.0 percent for Fannie Mae loans and 2.5 percent for Freddie Mac oans, clearly showing the devastating impact of risky

mortgages. Yun said homebuyers in recent years have been highly successful. Since 2009, the 12-month default rates have been abnormally low. Fannie Mae default rates have averaged 0.2 percent while Freddie Mac's averaged 0.1 percent, which are notable given higher unemployment in the timeframe.

Under normal conditions existing-home sales should be in the range of 5.0 to 5.5 million. "Sales this year are proiected to rise 8 to 10 percent. Although welcoming, this still represents a sub-par per formance of about 4.6 million sales," Yun said. "These findto the sound underwriting standards that existed before the aberrations of the housing boom and bust cycle, and thoroughly re-examine current and impending regulatory rules that may cause excessively tight standards.

The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing one million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

The NAR website contributed

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

estate closings recorded	the week	2896 Wakefield Dr	\$238,000	NORTHVILLE	7127,000	11313 Kinloch	\$28,000
of Sept. 17-21, 2012, at		1430 Whittier Dr	\$125,000	48260 Binghampton Dr	\$500,000	17651 Lennane	\$48,000
		GARDEN CITY		48414 Binghampton Dr	\$504,000	8963 Mercedes	\$70,000
County Register of Deed		33223 Alvin St	\$80,000	16643 Brooklane Blvd	\$465,000	13959 Mercedes	\$33,000
Listed below are cities, a	iddresses,	434 Belton St	\$70,000	318 Buchner Hill Dr	\$290,000	26900 Minock Cir	\$72,000
and sales prices.		961 Belton St	\$50,000	20573 Clement Rd	\$252,000	20427 Norborne	\$30,000
		250 Helen St	\$46,000	44280 Deep Hollow Cir	\$547,000	19151 Olympia	\$24,000
		32237 Marquette St	\$60,000	40300 Fairway tii Rd	\$1,200,000	15413 Pomona Dr	\$15,000
CANTON		921 Raddiff St	\$57,000	17542 Hilltop View Dr	\$495,000	8919 Sarasota	\$40,000
43648 Amber Ct	\$141,000	LIVONIA		40822 N Northville Trl	\$312,000	9601 Sarasota	\$42,000
2250 Arcadia Dr	\$70,000	38651 Eight Mile Rd	\$245,000	44573 Spring Hill Rd	\$538,000	15168 Sumner	\$26,000
6639 Ardsley Ct	\$192,000	35934 Ann Arbor Trl	\$38,000	18993 Stonewater Blvd	\$532,000	18458 Sumner	\$25,000
2460 Barkhill Rd	\$77,000	27680 Bennett St	\$90,000	46043 Sunset St	\$125,000	12015 Telegraph Rd	\$50,000
4011 Brighton Ln	\$170,000	11025 Berwick St	\$50,000	19313 Surrey Ln	\$76,000	26727 W Chicago	\$50,000
1475 Centennial Ct	\$455,000	11787 Cavell St	\$68,000	17206 Tall Pines Ct	\$425,000	WESTLAND ~	
291 Cherry Hili Pointe Dr		36257 Club Dr	\$30,000	530 W Main St	\$459,000	2150 Ackley Ave	\$13,000
41964 Coventry Way	\$133,000	17379 Doris St	\$119,000	44590 White Pine Cir E	\$508,000	37155 Bakér Dr	\$227,000
7137 E Spring Or	\$145,000	35681 Elmira St	\$130,000	17948 Winchester Dr	\$315,000	32422 Birchwood St	\$62,000
4260 Forest Bridge Dr	\$202,000	18421 Filmore St	\$100,000	PLYMOUTH		29132 Brody Ave	\$80,000
44954 Glengarry Rd	\$258,000	29620 Grandon St	\$104,000	47145 Beechcrest Dr	\$234,000	34138 Florence St	\$80,000
48251 Gyde Rd	\$375,000	31544 Haldane St	\$100,000	371 Blunk St	\$332,000	32429 Hazelwood St	\$63,000
50050 Harding St	\$288,000	9235 Harrison St	\$100,000	1160 Fairground St	\$195,000	7833 Hillcrest Blvd	\$125,000
50076 Harding St	\$226,000	29433 Lori St	\$140,000	623 Jener Pl	\$177,000	33657 Hunter Ave	\$70,000
50088 Harding St	\$239,000	36313 Meadowbrook St	\$168,000	11422 Maple Ridge Dr	\$488,000	7414 Manor Cir	\$28,000
7748 Kaiser St	\$121,000	37656 N Laurel Park Dr	\$168,000	12154 Wildwing Rd	\$253,000	7599 Manor Cir	\$30,000
7851 Kaiser St	\$110,000	29583 Nottingham Cir	\$99,000	15167 Willowbrook Ln	\$237,000	33031 Meiton St	\$81,000
6451 Kennesaw Rd	\$395,000	29823 Oakley St	\$123,000	REDFORD		32666 Merritt Dr	\$81,000
1587 Liberty St N	\$401,000	14305 Richfield St	\$153,000	19145 Beech Daly Rd	\$87,000	32119 Parkwood St	\$73,000
43550 Lyme Ct	\$194,000	31103 Roycroft St	\$125,000	14221 Breakfast Dr	\$152,000	34768 Stacy 5t	\$70,000
2152 Premier Ln	\$77,000	16722 Ryan Rd	\$340,000	25020 Doris Ct	\$60,000	8221 Terri Dr	\$91,000
2103 S Brookhill Ln	\$77,000	34699 Saint Martins St	\$285,000	25751 Dover	\$66,000	2230 W Miller Cir	\$78,000
4548 Sherwood Cir	\$195,000	18221 University Park Dr 30169 Vassar St	\$70,000	14201 Farley	\$75,000		
4745 Sherwood Cir	\$220,000	JUIUS Vessal St	\$135,000	14435 Fenton	\$37,000		
	-						

### OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

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

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

### **Fundamentals of Writing** a Business Plan

Jan. 16, 9 a.m. to noon A business plan is a document that serves your needs and the needs of others (investors, bankers, etc.) who may require information from you about

your business. Workshop participants will learn what elements are commonly found in effective plans and will work on developing each of these for their own business. Assistance in the process as well as information on resources will be provided. Fee: \$40

### Legal and Financial Basics for Small Business

Jan. 29, 9 a.m. to noon Legal & Financial Basics outlines the key legal considerations for entrepreneurs operating Michigan businesses. Learn how to select the best legal entity given your management structure, potential liability and tax consequenc es; safeguard your proprietary interests while serving customers, and working with suppliers and contractors; and establish short and long term succession plans. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

	These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of Sept. 4-7, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.			
	BEVERLY HILLS			
	16116 Buckingham Ave	\$233,000		
,	19129 Chelton Dr	\$296,000		
	22020 Orchard May	\$250,000		

and sales prices.		
BEVERLY HILLS 16116 Buckingham Ave	\$233,000	
19129 Chelton Dr 22020 Orchard Way BIRMINGHAM	\$296,000 \$360,000	
1008 Ann St 537 Bird Ave	\$325,000 \$150,000	
1700 Bowers St 1860 Bowers St 612 Brookside Ave	\$276,000 \$139,000 \$690,000	
1444 Chesterfield Ave 530 Fairfax St	\$490,000 \$500,000	
359 Ferndale Ave 737 Greenwood St 1731 Hazel St	\$280,000 \$1,020,000 \$135,000	

1039 Stanley Blvd	\$159,000
1274 Westwood Dr	\$820,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
4459 Barchester Dr	\$408,000
926 Dowling Rd	\$230,000
3279 E Breckenridge Ln	\$320,000
217 Hillboro Dr	\$163,000
4207 Ramsgate Ln	\$335,000
1725 Tiverton Rd Unit 2	\$136,000
6190 W Surrey Rd	\$250,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
4271 Covered Bridge Rd	\$265,000
454 Fox Hills Dr N # A-3	\$39,000
4891 Haddington Dr	\$264,000
1866 Hunters Ridge Dr	\$165,000
2865 Lahser Rd	\$135,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
2860 Augusta Dr	\$245,000
4310 Forest Dr	\$405,000
3933 Heatherwood Dr	\$209,000
3556 Moberly Rd	\$380,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
21990 Cass St	\$170,000

29186 Glenbrook Dr

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00	28454 Wellington St	\$190.0
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00	32635 Franklin Rd	\$225,00
	17023 Marguerite St	\$201.00
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45039 Cobblestone	\$325,000
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40435 Oak Tree	\$185,000
21730 Picadilly Cir.	\$465,000

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26260 Daria Cir W	\$319,000
54818 Glenwood Ct	\$308,000
901 Hidden Creek Dr	\$245,000
22542 Lazy K	\$332,000
59594 Mary Ln	\$50,000
53870 Springwood Dr	\$205,000
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52312 Trailwood Dr	\$105,000
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8985 Lakeview Dr	\$160,000
938 Sloane Ct	\$162,000

# Heed Fair Housing Act

By Robert Meisner

Q: I am wondering whethe the Fair Housing Act only applies to sales and rentals o residential property. Can you elaborate?

A: 42 USC 3604 of the Federal Code applies not only to sales and rentals of residential property, but also to the provision of services and facilities Accordingly, HUD can obtain jurisdiction over a condominium association not involved in the sale or rental regarding alleged discrimination in the provision of services



status or national origin, or status. With respect to a handicap, the failure to allow a reasonable modification

of premises or to grant a reasonable accommodation in rules and policies constitutes a violation The association should always be mindful of this potential risk in establishing rules and regulations and other forms of conduct.

Q: I am thinking about buying a condominium in San Francisco along the waterfron near the baseball stadium Do you have any information

A: You are a little bit late in getting a bargain, since that area is in the center of a redevelopment undertaking by private developers along the pier, as well as the construction of many new condominiums which have been successfully marketed Obviously, there is reasonable rapid transit to and from the ballpark area with a number of restaurants and boutiques. You consult with a real estate professional vno nas expertisc in condominium development to ensure that you are not buying a pig in the poke, so to speak, particularly in a newly constructed which could result in substantial additional assessments being levied.

Robert M. Meisner i 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/ hanor visit bmeisner@meisner law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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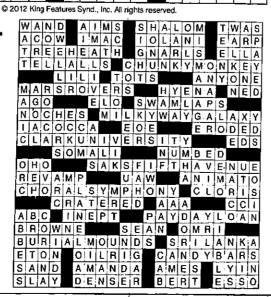
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**Answer** to Last Week's **Puzzle** 



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# Three myths about hiring older job seekers

CareerBuilder Write

Big Foot roams the woods of North America. The Loch Ness Monster lurks below the water's surface in Scotland. Hiring younger workers makes more sense than hiring mature ones. Which one of these myths is most widely believed?

Big Foot and "Nessie" may be out in the wild somewhere, but mature job seekers are just as attractive job candidates as their younger counterparts. More experienced, more mature, more reliable - mature job seekers are the total package when it comes to hiring. So why do employers buy into the notion that their age is a drawback? Learn how to bust three common myths about older workers and get hired.

Myth No. 1: You're out of touch

Perhaps the most common myth is that mature job seekers struggle to keep up with technology and industry trends. The truth is that it's every job seeker's responsibility, regardless of age, to ensure he has the experience and skills needed for the job he wants.

While younger job seekers may receive the most current education, mature job seekers can take advantage of this opportunity, too. If your job search isn't yielding much interest, it may be time to consider attending a workshop or seminar in your field. Tailor your résumé to the job posting's re-

pany and mention specifics in your cover letter. Also note your skills and experience, including your technology capabilities. You can beat this myth and market yourself as the total package. You have experience, judgment and dependability on

Myth No. 2: You'll expect a leadership

The experience, judgment and dependability that make you the total package may also make you appear to be a highmaintenance job seeker or somebody who expects a leadership position.

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Combat this assumption in your cover letter by explaining that you're interested in the specific position and that you look forward to joining the team. You may be moved into a leadership position soon after starting, but don't expect a warm reception if you mention a leadership position as a requirement to being hired. Instead, explain your leadership qualities and how they apply to the job for which you're interviewing, as well as how you'll

Myth No. 3: You'll retire soon anyway

fit into the company culture.

The classic "Where do you see yourself in five years?" ques-

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tion makes an appearance at most job interviews, though for mature job seekers, this guestion may sound loaded. Will you still want to work in five years? While younger job seekers

may respond with a positive answer about how they hope to still be working with their team, mature job seekers may need a more specific answer. Hiring managers may worry that more mature job seekers are looking for a pastime before retiring. Make it clear that the age of etirement is rising and you're looking at this position as an important part of your career.

to your other goals. Then, tranand how you're a great match. No matter your age, you can

bust these three myths and present yourself as the total package. Prove that you're keeping up with industry trends, make it clear that you want to be a part of the team, and share your career goals to show your workplace commitment.

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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### Car Report

# Fiat begins showing their brand's feisty side to the U.S. market



Fiat has been going to war, on a number of market fronts.

In the U.S. market, there has been Fiat's

new initiative, shared

with Chrysler brands, to specifically target Volkswagen owners with special sales incentives to switch brands. Fiat recently went further than any other car brand in utilizing the unique locationbased capabilities of gas-pump-side TV advertising. Fiat executives also have gloated over the fact that their all-electric vehicle is a version of the classically designed 500 — and have taken many shots at the prosaic design of the allelectric Nissan Leaf.

And, of course, these things have unfolded even before Fiat gets to Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans. It's expected to shine there once again, with a racy TV ad chosen from among several that brand executives have been teasing - including one involving a supermodel, her bikini top and the pincers of a scorpion. Expect a rapt audience for the likely Fiat ad in this Super Bowl, on CBS on February 3, after the brand ran a seductive spot for the Abarth version of its 500 during the last Big Game.

For now, Fiat has been getting chippy in a new arena for the brand: the highprofile, low-sales world of electric vehicles, where it is launching the 500e allelectric vehicle.

Apparently unprovoked, a Fiat execu-

Forget the traditional tive took a none-too-veiled shot at Nis- much fun. "Let's peaceable sensibilities san for the styling of its Leaf. And with face it, Fiat has not of the holiday season. the Los Angeles Auto Show as a backdrop, shied away from Nissan quickly shot right back at some of Fiat's own design executions.

The spat began unfolding at the show's media preview when Matt Davis, head of Fiat product marketing in the United States, was talking about the coming allelectric version of the Fiat 500 and told Bloomberg News, "Let's be honest, ugliness is probably one of the worst forms of pollution. The Fiat 500e proves that you do not have to give up on good looks to deliver an electric car."

Perhaps stepping up a bit too quickly to confirm its identity as the offending brand — Nissan shot right back. Unlike the Fiat EV, said Simon Sproule, head of Nissan's global marketing communications, to Automotive News, "Leaf is a "fully functioning" car for families and daily use. And he called the Fiat 500e a me-too car to appease regulators, as contrasted with Leaf, which was designed as an all-electric from the ground up and has bravely led the EV charge.

Sproule also made an addendum that some might view as gratuitous, but without which this tussle wouldn't be as



Flat wants to create a bette

controversial | styling themselves," Sproule told the magazine. "Many viewers would describe many of their products as visual pollution. Take a long, hard look at

If you do, you'll note that the Doblo, for the European market, indeed looks like the unfortunate result of a mating of a compact pickup truck, a shrunken Chevrolet Suburban and some sort of contrac-

Fiat's director of brand communications, Casey Hurbis, was happy to continue the dust-up, at a low level, in his conversation with me. "Doblo," he snorted, "isn't even in the U.S. market."

Meanwhile, Fiat has come up with an advertisement that is specific only to Gas Station TV, a Birmingham-based company that operates pump-top screens at nearly 1,900 gas stations across the country. The ad for the 2013 Fiat 500 features to qualify. a character who literally appears to be abiding in the gas pump just so he can get a peek at the 40-mpg Fiat 500.

The ad - initially running only on GSTV at California gas stations — is the most "environmentally relevant" ad yet created for the network by any automaker, GSTV CEO David Leider told me. It ends with a listing of the three Fiat dealers closest to each particular gas station.

"We like to do fun, innovative, breakthrough creative, and this provided a unique venue," Hurbis told me. The ad on GSTV "certainly provides a captive audience" while they fill their cars, he said. "I'm a little surprised that more advertisers haven't used this space already to create contextually relevant marketing."

In his most aggressive move, CEO Sergio Marchionne lately has been offering \$1,000 rebates to current VW owners in the U.S. to buy a Fiat or Chrysler vehicle. The offer was only for buyers who currently owned or leased a VW vehicle, and customers didn't have to give up their VW

The Volkswagen Conquest Bonus Cash incentive was announced December 4 and expired on January 2, available on all 2012 and 2013 models except the Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT, the SRT Viper, and non-Aero Dodge Dart SE models. Chrysler similarly targeted Toyota models in 2010, a Chrysler spokeswoman noted, and does this "on occasion," she said.



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