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Daddy Daughter Dances Feb. 15-16

The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, in partnership with Sweet and Sassy, will host the annual Daddy Daughter Dances from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 and Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Novi Civic Center. Dads and daughters will spend the evening in Oz with some special guests from the popular production making appearances. Sid Zack Entertainment will have everyone on their feet with today's hits and some old-time favorites. Refreshments will be served including breadsticks provided by Aubree's of Northville, a giant chocolate fountain, and a sno-cone machine. At the end of the evening, 800 balloons will drop from the ceiling. The price is \$14 per person for residents and \$17 for non-residents. Wrist corsages and charms are both available for pre-order for \$8 each and will be available for pick up at the dance. Photos will be available at an additional cost during the dance. Each child will receive a special gift when they leave. To register for either night, visit cityof-novi.org or stop by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office located inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. The dances are popular and tickets sell quickly. Registration will be \$5 additional dollars at the door, if space is available. For questions about the event, contact the Novi Parks, Recreation, and Cultural

City of Novi, schools explore more park space

Potential area on Bosco property

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

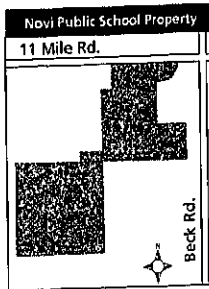
Although rejected by Novi voters in a 2009 special election, the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Beck roads may be get-

ting another chance to become a park as the City of Novi and Novi Schools explore a mutual agreement for its development. According to Novi's director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Jason Mangum, the

city is currently discussing with the school district a memorandum of understanding (MOU) relating to this property, which is owned by the schools. "We are just in the early stages of this process and there are no

designs or plans," Mangum said. He explained that the memorandum of understanding would be an agreement between the city and school district that

Please see SPACE, A2



Contract for full-time firefighters a 'win-win'

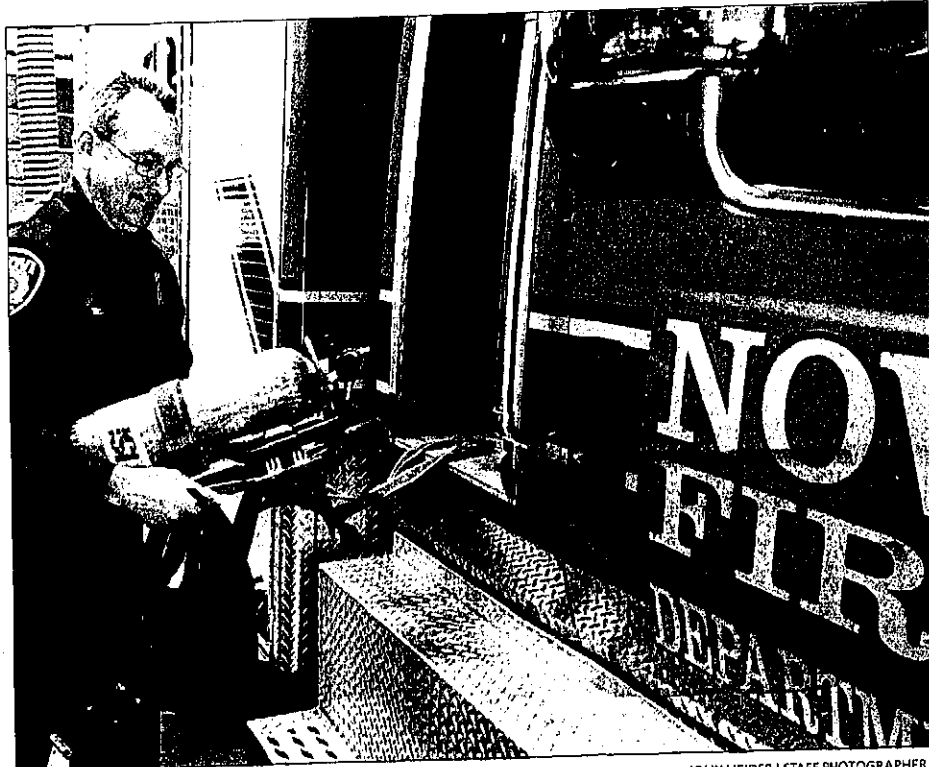
Personnel will receive a 2-percent wage increase under 3-year pact

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The new contract between the City of Novi and its full-time firefighter personnel was described as a win-win for both sides. Under the new three-year agreement Novi Professional Fire Fighters Union new contract that includes a 2-percent raise, which is the first one in three years.

The Novi City Council approved the contract by a unanimous vote at the Jan. 28 meeting. "Like any negotiations, the process took some time, but in the end we see it as a win-win for the City of Novi as well as the

Please see PACT, A16



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi firefighter Jeff Lachman gets out a breathing unit from one of Station 1's trucks on Feb. 1. Novi and its full-time union firefighters recently agreed upon a new contract.

Accused I-96 shooter competent for trial, judge rules

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Accused I-96 corridor shooter Raulie Casteel is competent to stand trial, a district court judge ruled Jan. 31, but he will be undergoing additional forensic evaluation regarding the question of criminal responsibility for the string of incidents in a four county area last October. Judge Brian MacKenzie of 52-1 District Court in Novi based his decision to deem Casteel competent after reviewing an evaluation from the Michigan Department of Community Health's Center for Foren-



Casteel

Further evaluation, however, could show Casteel is not criminally responsible for the shootings because he's legally insane. Casteel, a 43-year-old Wixom resident, faces 60 felony charges including assault with intent to murder for a string of shootings in Wixom and Commerce

Township last October.

He also faces terrorism charges and felony weapons charges for shootings in Livingston, Shiawassee and Ingham counties, filed by the state attorney general. On Jan. 30, a Livingston County deemed Casteel competent for trial in those cases, based on the same forensic evaluation. Most of the 24 shootings linked to Casteel and a 9mm handgun were at motorists. One victim was injured. On Feb. 4, MacKenzie ordered Casteel's competency reports sealed until the trial concludes. Both Assistant Prosecutor Jef-

frey Hall and Casteel's defense attorney Charles Groh stated in court last week that the report is privileged communication, protected by the mental health code. At that time, MacKenzie had said he wasn't convinced the record shouldn't be made public and was "very troubled" by the concept of suppressing information that was already admitted in court.

Casteel is in the Oakland County Jail. He's scheduled for a preliminary exam in 52-1 District Court on March 1 at 9 a.m.

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Marking the Novi Youth Assistance's donation to the Novi Public Library are (l to r) April Stevenson, head of the library's Information Services; Jessica Wallace, Novi Youth Assistance caseworker; Margi Karp-Oppere, library assistant director for Public Services; Jennifer Preston, Teen Services librarian; and Tom Swiebeda, Novi Youth Assistance caseworker.

Novi Youth Assistance donates \$200 to help library's afterschool program

Novi Youth Assistance recently made a generous donation of \$200 to the Novi Public Library's Teen Space for the purchase of furniture and games, according to Julie Farakas, library director.

The library started its Teen Space program Oct. 1, 2012. The library's Meeting Room is open from 2-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for students in grades seventh through 12th to relax and unwind from their school day. Card and board games are available for the teens, as well as craft supplies, and they also have access to the room's state-of-the-art sound system to play their MP3 players.

The library has formed a community partnership with Novi Community Schools, Novi Parks & Recreation and Youth Assistance to monitor the space.

"We just want the kids to have a spot in the library to be able to unwind and hang out, and not worry about disturbing other patrons," said Teen Services Librarian Jennifer Preston. "We greatly appreciate this donation by Novi Youth Assistance. The working relationship between the four partners has really been something special."

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SPACE

Continued from page A1

would basically get the two parties on the same page as to how this property might be developed.

The property is 73 acres, but only an unspecified portion of it would be developed into park land. It's zoned for this use and probably would be used for multi-purpose fields.

It's referred to as the Bosco property because it was owned by that family for a long time. The Boscos own the farmhouse and barn next to the MOU-related property.

In 2009, this same area was proposed to become Signature Park and was a city-led initiative, but the bond proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by voters. The plan was a much bigger and would have had a community recreation center, which would have included teen activities, an older adult center, theatre, gymnasium, and various community programs.

But Mangum said that isn't what's being discussed now. Rather, he said, the location is perfect to have fields that support some of the new sports, like lacrosse and field hockey. Those have grown in popularity throughout the community in the last few years, but are competing with other sports for time at other fields.

"I wasn't here then (for the Signature vote), but I think economically things were more tight for voters and they may have been hesitant to move forward on the park," Mangum said.

The property has been vacant ever since. However, now it's a joint initiative with the two parties exploring an effort that aims to benefit both. Mangum said any final plans would be approved by both as well.

None of the financials have been specified, but the city does have money set aside to help with conducting a development study for the property — if an MOU is approved.

The MOU draft will be reviewed by the City Council and Board of Education, and both are expected to issue a decision.

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



The City of Novi and the Novi Community School District are working on coming to an agreement so that the city can use this parcel of land, at the southwest corner of Beck and 11 Mile roads and currently owned by the district, for parks.

8 Mile pothole relief on the way

Oakland, Wayne planning repair work

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Potholes. Craters. Chuckholes.

Whatever you call them, they're in full effect right now, and they're especially bad along sections of Eight Mile Road.

But relief is on the way.

One of Oakland County's big projects will be the rehabilitation of Eight Mile between Taft and Napier roads, which is expected to cost \$4.6 million. A big chunk of this, nearly \$3 million, will be funded through a federal grant.

According to Novi's Public Services Rob Hayes, Novi's share will be approximately \$400,000. It will be funded through a combination of banked Tri-Party funds and the city's Municipal Road Fund, which will be \$95,805.

This project is expected to begin in June, and be completed in November. As part of this project, Novi city staff is working with the Road Commission of Oakland County, the City of Northville and Northville Township to arrange for the placement of sidewalk/pedestrian paths along this roadway, at least to the Beck Road intersection.

This will lead to an eventual connection to Maybury State Park. However, the big challenge is finding the funding to cover it.

In 2013, Novi will also



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Drivers should be able to look forward to a smoother commute along Eight Mile Road as some of its worst sections will be reconstructed in 2013. Some of Eight Mile, like this spot near Griswold, has been patched and re-patched many times and features deep, tire-killing potholes.

plan and undertake other road projects, including establishing a priority list of roads to be reworked through the road millage and some general road work maintenance. Projects for the road millage have not been announced yet, but the city is currently identifying the roads and what category they will fall in.

The section of Eight Mile near Griswold got a 3 on Novi's rating system for road work. A score of 10 means the road is in good condition. And the holes and ill-repaired pavement con-

tinues to be an issue driving west toward Maybury and ITC parks, leaving drivers shaking their heads.

Wayne County is planning improvements to the Eight Mile Road and Center Street intersection along with improvements to it from the railroad bridge near Novi Street east to Meadowbrook Road, which includes the treacherous area near Griswold. This project is expected to begin this spring or summer.

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UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

Auditions for "Mermaid"

The Novi Civic Theatre is seeking actors in first grade through college to be a part of a musical production of Disney's "Little Mermaid Jr." Auditions will be 6-8 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Novi roads. The production provides the opportunity to learn about costume, lighting, and sound as well.

If cast, participants are expected to pay the \$80 (\$95 for nonresidents) registration fee, which includes an authentic script book. This will be a competitively cast show. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with possible Saturday rehearsals as needed. A mandatory family registration meeting will take place from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 12. Tech week will be from 6-9 p.m. Monday, April 29 through Thursday, May 2.

Performance dates and times: 7 p.m. Fridays, May 3 and 10; 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4; 2 p.m. Sundays, May 5 and 12; 10 a.m. Monday, May 6.

The audition packet is available online at cityofnovi.org and at the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office. It is suggested that actors sign up for an audition time via cityofnovi.org or calling (248) 347-0400. Walk-ins will be taken on a first come first

serve basis.

Tech Talk

Tech Talk classes, offered by the City of Novi Older Adult Services, are designed for those ages 50 and above who are interested in becoming more tech savvy. The classes, offered in a series, will introduce e-readers, Apple products, and the expansive world of apps (applications). Classes are held from 6-8 p.m. Mondays at Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile.

Cost per class is \$15 per resident and \$18 per non-resident, per class. Pre-registration required for each class.

Feb. 11 - iPods, iPhones, and iTunes
Feb. 25 - All about Apps (Applications) and Tablets

Registration is available at cityofnovi.org or at the Older Adult Services office located inside the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call (248) 347-0414.

Super Saturdays beat winter blues

Super Saturdays, presented by City of Novi Older Adult Services, fills the prescription of much needed fun with themed activities taking place on Saturdays between 4-6 p.m.

Dinner, entertainment and friendship are on the menu at the Meadowbrook Activity Cen-

ter (Novi Senior Center), 25075 Meadowbrook Road. Participants must be 55 or older and the cost is \$7.50 per resident or \$9 per non-resident, per event. Tickets may be purchased at the Older Adult Services office located inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road.

Saturday, Feb. 23, Oscar Celebration - Join the excitement of the 85th Academy Awards. Cast your vote for the greatest movies and performances while celebrating in Novi style. Ticket deadline is Feb. 20.

Saturday, March 23, Disney Celebration - "M.I.C.K.E.Y. M.O.U.S.E." and "It's a Small World After All" are two of many songs that bring smiles and special memories of one's childhood. Come reminisce and share fun stories. Ticket deadline is March 20.

Saturday, May 5, Kentucky Derby - Hear the roar of the crowd and the high energy announcers at Churchill Downs during the most exciting two minutes in sports! Have fun watching the race and "horsing around" doing Derby Day activities. Ticket deadline is May 1.

Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. Registration deadline is the Wednesday prior to the Saturday event or until sold out. Transportation to the events is available for \$1 each way. Please call to reserve a ride by calling (248) 735-5617.

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MEAP results just one piece of the tapestry

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist

Several years ago, my youngest son told us at the dinner table that he had finished first in school today. I asked what the race was, and he proudly announced that it was the social studies MEAP race.

A bit puzzled, I asked how that could be considered a race. He said that before the test was given several of his friends and he had decided to see who could finish the test first. He had finished first. He had won the race. And he was proud!



Super Talk

Steve Matthews

What was I, as the parent, to make of this proclamation? Should I be concerned? Should I contact the school and ask them why they did not monitor the work of the students more carefully? Should I lecture my son and the importance of these assessments and why he should try his hardest all the time? Should I ask that he be allowed to retake the exam?

I did none of these things. I casually mentioned that tests should not be races and left it at that. When the results came home my son predictably had not done as well as one would expect on his social studies MEAP exam. I briefly had a conversation with him to point out how that particular assessment did not align with his other assessments and reminded him that he had raced through that exam. But that was it.

Within the next few days the state of Michigan will release the results of this year's MEAP assessment. Students in grades third-ninth took the exams last October. Evidently the state likes to take its time getting the results back to us.

A test whose results are released in February but was given in October does little to provide administrators and teachers with new information. Our teachers know, and have known for months, which students struggle and need extra help, which students are right on track, and which students are well beyond our grade level curriculum.

So one may reasonably ask, what good is the MEAP assessment? For schools, the MEAP assessment provides us with a broad look at what we do. We look for trends. We look at each student's results to try and determine if the outcome reveals something about the student that we may have missed.

We also look to see if what we are teaching matches up well with what questions the exam was asking. The exam technicaly asks questions that try and assess the state's curriculum standards for a particular grade. Teachers and administrators look to see if the results give us information that would reveal holes in what we are teaching to our students.

As a parent the MEAP results will be one more piece of evidence that we could use to monitor our child's development. As a parent we could look to see if the results fit with the feedback that we have received from other assessments. If the teacher has indicated that my son has strength in reading I can look to see if the MEAP assessment generally fits that pattern. If it does not I might want to have a chat with the teacher to see if I should be concerned.

The MEAP assessment provides one piece of evidence in a larger tapestry. The scores need to be seen in that larger context. If I fixate on one particular piece of the tapestry I may miss the larger picture. In our district we are trying to provide teachers, administrators, parents, and students with a variety of check points that will allow a more fully developed picture to emerge of each student and of the school. State assessments, national assessments, classroom tests, homework projects, and in class participation are some of the pieces of evidence that we collect on each student to create a more fully developed picture of student performance.

There will be times when a student may not do as well as expected. It may be because they raced through the exam. Or it may be that there is a need to be concerned.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community Schools district. He can be reached at smathews@novi.k12.mi.us; (248) 449-1204; www.twitter.com/k12cmathews; or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

Listen @ The Library



The Chamber Music Society of Detroit (CMSD) continues its popular Listen @ The Library series this spring at the Novi Public Library. The hour-long concerts are informal and interactive, introducing audiences to chamber music in an entertaining and engaging way and providing an opportunity to meet and speak with the artists. Piffaro: the Renaissance Band will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 24, bringing alive the rustic music of the peasantry as well as the elegant sounds of the official, professional wind bands of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. There are no advance reservations and seating is first-come, first-served. For more information, call (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ChamberMusicDetroit.org. Listen @ The Library is made possible with support from Nordstrom, PNC Bank, Friends of the Novi Public Library, the Reuter Foundation and the Ponting Foundation.



The Chamber Music Society of Detroit (CMSD) continues its popular Listen @ The Library series this spring at the Novi Public Library. The hour-long concerts are informal and interactive, introducing audiences to chamber music in an entertaining and engaging way and providing an opportunity to meet and speak with the artists. Gryphon Trio will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 7 with a repertoire that ranges from European classicism to modern-day multimedia. There are no advance reservations and seating is first-come, first-served.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

O'Connor elected trustee

Dennis (DOC) O'Connor, president of the Novi Board of Education, was elected to a three-year term as a trustee on the

Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA) Board of Directors at last month's organizational meeting.

O'Connor has served as an OCSBA trustee since March 2012 when he was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Berkeley's Marc Katz.

O'Connor has served for more than four years on the Novi school board. He was first elected as a trustee in November 2008, and was re-elected to a second term last November.

Added to Games Not Drugs

The Novi Youth Association, along with the Novi Police and Fire departments, are presenting Added to Games Not Drugs from 9 a.m. to noon

Thursday, Feb. 21 at Lucky Strike Lanes (Twelve Mile Road Crossing at Fountain Walk).

Cost is \$10 per student and is limited to the first 600 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Make checks payable to City of Novi. Permission slips were emailed Jan. 29 via Listserv.

A confirmation email will be sent Feb. 18 to serve as admission to the event. Proceeds will benefit drug education in the school district.

Green Gala set for March 23

NEF's annual fundraiser helps to enhance student programs.

The Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) is hosting the 7th Annual Green Gala fundraising event at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 23 at the Lyon Oaks County Park on Pontiac Trail in Wixom.

The annual extravaganza has grown in attendance over the years. Approximately 300 people come and enjoy casino games, silent auctions and raffles, dancing, food and drinks. Participants include parents, sponsors, community members, businesses, Novi Board of Education

trustees, Novi City Council members, NEF Board members, Novi education staff, Novi alumni and friends of Novi schools.

Pre-sale ticket prices are \$75 before Feb. 15 and \$90 after. Tickets may be purchased at all Novi public school buildings. Checks should be made payable to: Novi Educational Foundation-Green Gala (mail to 25345 Tft Road, Novi, MI 48374-2423).

Tickets also can be purchased electronically on the NEF website at www.novieducationalfoundation.org.

Funds generated from the Green Gala event will be earmarked to district-wide program grants and student scholarship opportunities, in addition to the NEF's fundraising campaign for Leader in Me — an innovative, personal growth process that is woven into Novi's elementary curriculum. Leader in Me is based on For more information about the Green Gala, Green Gala sponsorship opportunities and other NEF fundraising activities, please contact Ellen Hulverson, NEF's administrative coordinator, at (248) 449-1211 or e-mail her at nef@novi.k12.mi.us.

ON CAMPUS

Albion College

The following local students were named to Albion College's Dean's List for the fall 2012 semester. Students named must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Bowling Green State University

Kristen Kilger, of Novi, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2012 semester. To be eligible for the list, a student

must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

The University of Toledo

Aaron Gallogly, a Law major and a resident of Novi, was among the 3,000 students who were named to the fall 2012 Dean's List.

Attorney Mosher's vision helped bring OCC to life

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

It's been said that he was the right man for the job at the time. While history will eventually make that decision, George Mosher certainly was the man who put Oakland Community College on the map.

It wasn't like he had any great dreams of creating a community college — now the largest in Michigan. "I knew nothing about it all," said the 91-year-old Birmingham resident.

But one day in the early 1960s, the then-General Motors attorney was lunching with a friend who was asked by another man in the restaurant if he wanted to run for a new board. Former Gov. George Romney had just signed a bill allowing the creation of a community college in Oakland County.

"I perked up on that idea," said Mosher, who still retains his spunky sense of humor. "It sounded like an interesting project.

When he got home that night, he asked his wife, Doris, what she thought. "Nobody knows about this so nobody will run, right?" he asked Ruth.

Wrong. Very Wrong. But out of 45 people who sought a post on the new Oakland Community College governing board, Mosher grabbed a seat.

He credits Doris, who died five years ago, with so much of his success and that of the college. "She was a dynamo."

As it turned out, so was Mosher, who insisted on excellence every step of the way in creating a popular and highly successful community college.

Lots of stories

Still a practicing attorney, Mosher is full of stories about the people — allies and foes — who dot the history of OCC. Though with every story told, Mosher waves his hand laughing and adds, "oh, you don't want to put that one in the paper."

But he likes telling the stories. His quick wit, perseve-

ance and knack for pulling resources together to fulfill needs will long go down in the history of OCC.

Born and raised on a ranch in South Dakota, Mosher's family moved to Oregon during the infamous Dust Bowl era in the 1930s. "At one time I was going to win the state milk contest," Mosher said.

He graduated from high school in Oregon and wanted to be a lawyer. When World War II started, he joined the Navy and trained as an officer. Mosher served on a destroyer escort in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

While serving in the Navy he just happened to mention to the ship captain that he wanted to go to Yale Law School. No, the captain said. Go to Columbia, which he did. Eventually, Mosher landed at General Motors and retired in 1984.

In retirement, Mosher joined a private law firm. "I have an office. I really don't work anymore, but they let me come in. I was the 12th lawyer when I joined the firm, now they have more than 70 lawyers."

Successful and well-known, Mosher is also a man who is honest with himself. When elected to the new OCC board, he didn't really know how to create a community college.

Thankfully, a man in Royal Oak had already completed a study of what a good community college should be and the board's first attempt to secure a tax levy from county residents failed.

The following year, it passed and the college was on its way. "It passed by 200 votes. The year before I lost by 200 votes. I give Doris the credit for that. She never stopped calling people."

How it works
Meanwhile, Mosher spoke with a top official at the Macomb Community College who just happened to mention that he really should be in Lansing when the state Legislature

doles out money. "I went to Lansing. I guess that's how it worked," Mosher added.

He came home with \$1 million for OCC. That plus the tax levy meant that OCC could be more than a dream.

But the next step was to find someone to run the place. Mosher contacted a University of Michigan professor he had heard about and asked him to contact some top college leaders to see if any of them wanted a new job.

"He did it. Once you looked at Oakland County and the \$1 million we got, we had a lot to offer," Mosher said.

The board interviewed 10-12 people. A man named John Tirrel, however, was written about in a Time magazine article. He was originally from Michigan and Mosher wanted to meet him. Within a month, Tirrel became OCC's first president.

The board realized it was great to have a president and money for OCC. But where would the college be? OCC had to have a number of campuses to serve the county's residents. "Our campuses just fell into our laps."

Original campuses

By the end of 1964, property was purchased for all of the original campuses. "We insisted that we would build really great campuses," Mosher said.

The first was the Auburn Hills campus on a guided missile site used by the U.S. Army. "I was told that if we were to buy the property, the Army will give you everything that is there." The 160 acres was purchased for \$150,000.

The Orchard Ridge campus — named because it was a former Quaker orchard — was a bit more expensive, but came in at less than \$1 million. "It was at an intersection we really wanted."

The Union Lake campus was the site of an old tuberculosis treatment center. "We were told OCC could have it — buildings and all — for \$1 mil-



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

George Mosher, founder of Oakland Community College.

lion."

The Royal Oak/Southfield campus came later in the 1980s. "We kicked off Royal Oak's renaissance by being there," said George Cartsonis, OCC college communications marketing department director.

When OCC opened, it had 4,000 students enrolled. "We had the largest student population at opening in the state," Mosher said.

As word of the new college spread, Mosher and other board members set up visits for people around the country to visit the campuses and check out the classes.

Mosher said he knew OCC would be successful. Students who didn't do well at larger universities came home and

enrolled at OCC. "Once they were in a class of 20-25 students, they caught on."

Today, the college has about 70,000 students enrolled. To Mosher, the enrollment shows that the need in Oakland County remains. In particular, Mosher is proud of OCC's nursing program, which graduates more students than any other college in the state.

After seven years on the OCC board, six as chairman, Mosher decided to step down. "Maybe that was a selfish thing to do in a way. But I was no longer interested in going to board meetings. I said, 'I've accomplished everything I wanted to.'"

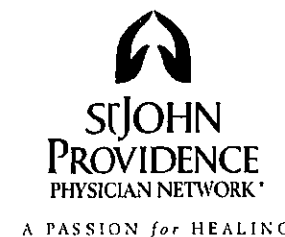
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Recognition: Cadillac of Novi repeats as Top Dealer

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer



Cadillac of Novi repeated as the nation's No. 1 dealer in 2012.

How sweet to repeat for Cadillac of Novi. This local dealer again grabs the top spot amongst national Cadillac dealerships.

"This is a testament to our location, which is spectacular, and the partnership we have here between our ownership and staff. We've stuck to our motto, and that is to make deals with those wanting a quality vehicle," said Ed Pobur, general manager.

Cadillac of Novi won the 2012 National Sales Title for selling or leasing 2,035 vehicles. Pobur said that's nearly a 15-percent increase from 2011 when

ly with 943 units sold last year.

Pobur attributes the success for this local new and used car dealer to a number of factors.

He said the sales team and staff all work in unison toward the same goal and that's customer satisfaction.

This team includes Mike Pasquino, the No. 1 salesman in the country, according to Pobur. He said he closed 299 sales alone last year.

Pobur also pointed to their service staff, which is composed of certified and trained technicians capable of doing expert repair and maintenance work.

"Our whole dealership has had the high-

est ratings for customer satisfaction," he added.

Situated on the northeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road, the dealership has customers from all around the metro Detroit area. Pobur said it's a great spot to be in, so they try to get the word out as much as possible on their deals.

Pobur said none of this would be possible without the support of the ownership team of Dan Frost and Gary Wood. Pobur believes their understanding of the business makes their dealership what it is today.

Going forward, Pobur expects to set new



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Edward Pobur, general manager of Cadillac of Novi, is proud that his dealership repeated as the nation's No. 1 seller in 2012.

goals, which he said sets the standard for their work throughout the year. He said getting to 2,500 units is not impossible and he fully expects to do that in the next year or so.

"Setting such high goals could make you feel skeptical at first, but if we put our plan in

place we should be able to work our way toward it," he said.

Cadillac of Novi is located at 41350 Grand River Ave. and at www.cadillacofnovi.com. It can be reached by telephone at (248) 476-4466.

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

How does that house look?

Novi's Chameleon Power lets you see home in a new light, look

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer



Dan Dempsey is founder, president and CEO of Chameleon Power.

Dan Dempsey of Novi's a survivor of the dot.com bust.

Dempsey is president, CEO and founder of Novi-based Chameleon Power, which started in 1997 as a technology company. He saw an opportunity in 1998 with another software business that made kiosks for paint stores.

"We liked the idea," he said. "We wanted it to be a Web product." He hired their developers and did a building show launch in 1999.

"The business survived, and it now offers Web links that allow both contractors and consumers to see different looks for home interiors and exteriors. If you'd like to try one out, Dempsey recommended Designed Exterior by Ply Gem http://plygem.chameleonpower.com (named a Top 100 new product by This Old House and also garnered other press attention). For interiors, there's Just Imagine by Arizona Tile, http://arizonatile.chameleonpower.com, or Dal-Tile, http://daltille.chameleonpower.com, among others.

Dempsey, 53, recalled the dot.com bust. "We had a unique product that made sense for the

market. I'll admit, we had our tough times. We hung in there."

He's now at 22 staffers, with revenue up 50 percent from 2011 to 2012. The firm is privately owned, said Dempsey, who owns the Novi Tech Center with an investment arm.

Chameleon Power is at 42400 Nine Mile, between Meadowbrook and Novi roads, with a phone of (248) 390-9080. Its website is www.chameleonpower.com, with a wealth of company information and links found there.

On the grow
Their building is around 15,000 square feet, and they use 10,000 of that. "We will be adding a bunch of people this year," said Dempsey, citing graph-

ics, customer service and software development as hiring areas.

Dempsey has an accounting degree from Wayne State University and worked five-six years in accounting, followed by time in technology sales.

"I'm technical enough to be dangerous but I'm a sales guy," he said.

Hiring in the past locally has been challenging for his business. He cites the fallout of the auto industry, and engineers leaving the area.

His latest hire is a Michigan native who was living in California. Three developers for the business work out of Fort Wayne, Ind.

"Graphics has been a little easier," the CEO said of hiring.

Chameleon Power hosts all services it provides, and offers local IT services. Business leaders at the firm found small and medium-sized businesses needed that to move "into the cloud."

"We are definitely going in the direction of building mobile tools," he said. The early versions of iPads are for contractors and designers who often wish to close a deal with a quick quote.

"It's all looking up right now," he said of his business. "We're adding new clients."

Consumers front and center

Down the road, they'll work on solutions to come to the Web and get a consumer quote directly, essentially eliminating the middleman.

"We see the future being more transactional," Dempsey said. You could, for example, order a door directly online, not through a manufacturer.

"We're constantly tweaking the technology so it's more intelligent for the user," said Dempsey, who's married and has three daughters in Northville schools. His family's in the part of Novi with a Northville address.

"It's a nice community, a nice place to set up shop," he said of Novi for business. "We'd like the taxes to be a little lower, but it comes with the territory." He's been able to hire good people in Novi, and also likes his own short commute.

Dempsey and colleagues have insight on home building. "I am seeing some companies suggesting their business is picking up," he said.

He talks to bellwethers in the building industry, who aren't seeing a lot of upswing. "So there's a lot of concern in the market still," Dempsey said.

jcrown@hometownlife.com

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

National Diabetes Prevention Program comes to Novi next month

Michigan State University Extension is bringing the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) to Novi for 16 weeks beginning March 6.

The NDPP will meet regularly from 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Tollgate MSU Extension Conference Center (28115 Meadowbrook, north of 12 Mile Road).

Topics include healthier eating, getting started with physical activity, overcoming stress, staying motivated and more. The group helps to motivate and encourage each other. After the initial 16 core sessions, participants meet monthly for

additional support to help maintain their progress. To participate in the NDPP, a person must be overweight and have prediabetes or be at high risk. Prediabetes is determined by one of the one of the following blood test results:

- Fasting plasma glucose between 100-125 mg/dl
- A1c between 5.7% and 6.4%
- 2-hour plasma glucose between 140 to 199 mg/dl

In addition, a combination of risk factors such as family history, being overweight or obese, gestational diabetes and inactivity may also put a person at risk and therefore make them eligible for the NDPP.

To register for NDPP or learn more about the program, contact Cathy Newkirk at (248) 858-0888, or newkirk@msu.edu.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention/index.htm>.

Healthy aging seminar

Nationally acclaimed and Certified Nutritionist for MegaFood, Buddy Ojeda will talk about a more seamless aging process and how to enjoy your life to the fullest at 55 years of age and beyond in a free seminar at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Better Health Market at 42875 Grand River, Novi.

Reservations are suggested. Please visit www.thebetterhealthstore.com or call (248) 735-8100.

Artists needed

The Great Lakes Art Fair is seeking for artists to participate in its spring

juried fine arts fair April 12-14 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. It will feature 15 different mediums ranging from painting, photography, sculpture, fiber, two- and three-dimensional mixed media and specialty items.

All entries are juried for acceptance into the Art Fair, and the application deadline is Feb. 10. Artists who are interested in participating in this bi-annual event will be required to send four images of their artwork and booth shot by mail to Great Lakes Art Fair, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48374 or on-line at www.GreatLakesArtFair.com.

Jurying will be held the week of Feb. 18, and jurors consisting of gallery owners, professional artists and art professors will be looking for

unique, high-quality, one-of-a-kind, handmade pieces. Notifications will be sent Feb. 25 to the artists who have been selected to showcase their artwork.

For additional information or questions on exhibiting or qualifying art, visit www.GreatLakesArtFair.com; e-mail info@GreatLakesArtFair.com; or call Andrea Picklo, event manager, at (248) 348-5600, Ext. 208.

Flu shots available

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

The Health Division offices are located at the following addresses:

- North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac
- South Oakland Health Center, 2725 Greenfield Road, Southfield

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

"Be Fit for Life" at Ladies Night Out

Ladies' Night Out, a community event hosted by St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will feature a presentation focusing on women's cardiovascular health on Thursday, Feb. 21, in the St. Mary Mer-

Please see BRIEFS, A7

ENTRY BLANK

Hey, Novi! It's Time to Pick Your PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...Best Places To Eat... Best Place For Great Service. This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll. Join in on the Balloting!

Drop Off or Mail In to: People's Choice Awards - Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178

Only one entry per person per week, 18 years or older. Ballot Box stuffing will not be allowed. Only original newspaper ballots, NO COPIES ACCEPTED. Please fill out form completely. Partial Ballots may be disqualified.

BEST FOOD OUTLETS

- Best place for donuts/bagels/baked goods
- Best coffee
- Best place for breakfast
- Best steaks
- Best deli
- Best fast food restaurant
- Best family restaurant
- Best place for soup
- Best place for salad
- Best place for burgers
- Best place for hot dogs/cones
- Best place for subs
- Best place for desserts
- Best Sushi restaurant
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best Asian restaurant
- Best Mexican restaurant
- Best Greek restaurant
- Best place for pizza
- Best martini
- Best wine selection (store)
- Best wine selection (restaurant)
- Best beer selection (store)
- Best beer selection (restaurant)
- Best place for romantic dinner
- Best after work meeting place
- Best sports bar
- Best place for dancing
- Best framing shop
- Best financial planner
- Best massage
- Best sporting goods store

BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES

- Best physician
- Best bank
- Best consignment store
- Best eyecare
- Best funeral home
- Best salon
- Best nail salon
- Best tanning salon
- Best jewelry store
- Best real estate company
- Best real estate agent
- Best mortgage provider
- Best accountant
- Best auto dealer
- Best auto service
- Best oil change shop
- Best collision shop
- Best tire store
- Best veterinary service
- Best travel agency
- Best video store
- Best landscaping business
- Best health/fitness club
- Best car wash
- Best flower shop
- Best garden center
- Best dance studio
- Best orthodontist
- Best dentist
- Best custom home builder
- Best apartment complex
- Best insurance agency

All Entries Must Be Received By February 15th

BRIEFS

Continued from page A6

cy Hospital South Auditorium. Know Your Numbers screenings – blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index – as well as massages will be offered from 4-6:45 p.m., and the lecture will be from 7-8:30 p.m. St. Mary Mercy physician Delair Gardi, MD, medical director, Endovascular Services and interventional cardiologist, will be the guest speaker.

Learn everything you need to know about women's cardiovascular health, with an emphasis on:

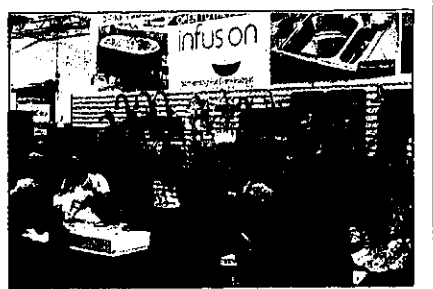
- Reducing your risk for heart disease
- Heart conditions including coronary artery disease, abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia), aortic valve disease, cardiomyopathy, aortic aneurysm, stroke and heart attack
- Light refreshments, prizes and communi-

ty vendors will be provided. Registration for this event is required. There is no charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs. Please contact the Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1182 to register, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

Novi News online

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

Home sweet home



THE SUBURBAN COLLECTION SHOWPLACE IN NOVI WAS PACKED SATURDAY AFTERNOON FOR THE HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW. THE THREE-DAY EVENT, SPONSORED BY THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, BOASTS "ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME," INCLUDING THIS DISPLAY BY INFUSION KITCHEN & BATH, WHICH HAS A SHOWROOM ON BECK ROAD IN WIXOM.

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*Independent Living only. See community for complete details.

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NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR


CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
 Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
 Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
 Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Friday, 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor; and Rev. Michael Zuehl, associate pastor

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH
 Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
 Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center
 Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville
 Contact: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
 Contact: (248) 442-8822
Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. (SS at 9:30 for all ages). Ministry for special needs. Adults contact judy@emmanuel-livonia.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
 Location: 217 N. Wing Road
 Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH
 Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
 Contact: (248) 349-3647 or familybaptistchurchofnovi.org
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
 Location: 200 E. Main Street
 Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
 Contact: (248) 437-2875
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
 Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Book of Revelation Study
 Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays
Details: Come and learn what John is writing about, what the symbolism means, and how this book still speaks to us today.
Faith Journeys
 Date: Third Sundays
Details: Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have experienced God in their life and the difference that has made.

SNOW DAY!

 JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Sisters Rebecca, 12, left, and Mikayla Briskey, 15 share a laugh after a sled down the hill at Novi's North Lakeshore Park on Jan. 28. Most area schools were out that day due to snow and ice, and the sisters took advantage of the time off and the sledding conditions for some afternoon fun.

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit www.fcnorthville.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family;
Currently on Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group
Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family;
Currently on Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group
Thursday: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group
FIRST UNITED METH-ODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
 Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville
 Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.
 Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.
 Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit www.fcnorthville.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
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Currently on Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group
Thursday: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit www.fcnorthville.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
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Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
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Contact: (248) 912-0043; <http://www.oakpointe.org/lifegroups/renew/index.html>
Women's Life Groups
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Orchard Grove Community Church
Location: 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 926-6584; www.orchardgrove.org
ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Preschool/Kids Choir: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday
Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Location: 770 Thayer, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olnorthville.org

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ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
Location

How to do your taxes for free

Going to college. Getting your first job. Moving into your own place. To these rites of passage, add one more: doing your own taxes. And it's not as scary as you might think.

It's not scary because there's help available. It's called Free File, and it's offered exclusively from the IRS in partnership with nearly 15 leading tax software companies. About 3 million people use it every year.

Free File lets you choose brand-name software that does the hard work for you — all for free. And it offers a fast, safe and free option for everyone. Brand-name tax software is available to those who made \$37,000 or less in 2012 — which is about 70 percent of us. Earned more? Try Free File's online fillable forms, the electronic alternative to IRS paper forms.

Three simple steps
Step 1: Gather your tax information. Collect your tax information and log on to Free File through the IRS website www.irs.gov/

Step 2: Choose an option. The "Help Me Choose A Company" option helps you pick the brand-name software that will guide you through the tax process.

Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic documents, perform basic math calculations and are for people who are comfortable preparing their own paper tax returns.

Step 3: Prepare and e-file your return. No matter what option you choose, IRS and brand-name software providers use the most current technology to ensure tax information is encrypted, so it's safe and secure when it's transmitted.

Free File is also available online at 24/7, giving you the freedom to choose when and how you do your taxes.

Checklist of materials

Keep this list as a checklist of the items you will need to do your taxes. The

IRS recommends keeping all tax-related documents for three years, in case of an audit. Tracking income-related documents can help you take full advantage of deductions available to you.

- A copy of last year's tax return
- Valid Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and children
- All income statements, i.e. W-2 forms, from all employers
- Interest/dividend statements, i.e. 1099 forms
- Form 1099-G showing any state refunds
- Unemployment compensation amount
- Social Security benefits
- Expense receipts for deductions
- Day care provider's identifying number

Earned Income Tax Credit

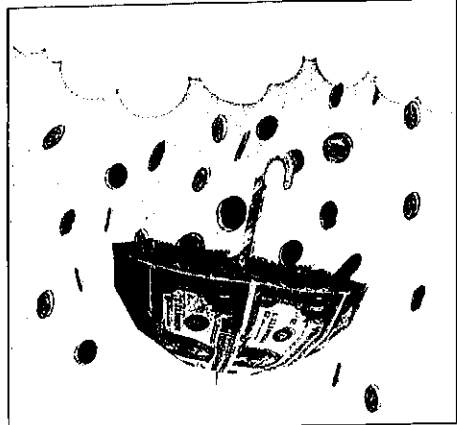
No tax benefit offers a greater lifeline to working families than EITC. Yet one out of every five eligible taxpayers fails to claim it, according to the

IRS. Because of the economy, even more people may be eligible if they have had changes in their earned income. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The maximum credit for 2012 tax returns is \$5,891 for workers with three or more qualifying children.
- Eligibility for the EITC is determined based on a number of factors, including earnings, filing status and eligible children.

Workers without qualifying children may be eligible for a smaller credit amount.

Learn more at www.irs.gov/efile and use the EITC Assistant, or ask your tax professional. If you are eligible for EITC, you also are eligible for free tax help at VITA sites nationwide or to use Free File at www.irs.gov/efile.



Did you know?
• Most refunds are issued in less than 21 days.
• Combining e-file with direct deposit is still the fastest way to get your

refund.
• Use "Where's My Refund?" to get personalized refund information based on the processing of your tax return.

• You can also use the IRS app, IRS2Go, to check the status of your refund.
• Can't meet April 15 deadline? Use Free File for a free extension; then use Free File to do your taxes by October 15.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

There are thousands of Volunteer Income Tax

Assistance sites nationwide that offer free help to those earning around \$51,000 or less. To locate the nearest VITA site, search for "VITA" on www.irs.gov.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly, which is supported by AARP, offers free tax help to people who are age 60 and older. Locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site at AARP.org or call (888) 227-7669. Some VITA/TCE sites even offer Free File. You can do it yourself on their computers.

— Family Features

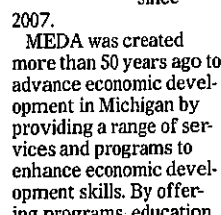
Roumayah-Evans



Lesley Roumayah and Joseph Evans, both of Northville, are engaged to be married. The bride to be is the daughter of Steve and Paula Roumayah of Northville. She is currently attending Oakland University and is a registered nurse at Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. Evans is the son of Joe and Zandra Evans of Northville. He is currently attending a transfer program to Eastern Michigan University and is employed at Jogue Inc. as an account manager. An October 2013 wedding is planned at Shenandoah Country Club.

Topouzian appointed MEDA vice president

The City of Novi announced the appointment of Ara Topouzian, Economic Development director, as vice president of the Michigan Economic



Topouzian

Developers Association (MEDA). Topouzian previously served as the treasurer for MEDA since

Girodat joins Walsh College Board of Trustees

David Girodat has been elected to the Walsh College Board of Trustees. President and CEO of Fifth Third Bank, Eastern Michigan, Girodat is responsible for the growth and strategic direction of the four lines of business including:



Girodat

Commercial Banking, Branch Banking, Consumer Lending and Investment Advisors for the affiliate.

A Clinton Township resident, Girodat has been in banking since 1981. Prior to his current position as president and CEO, Girodat served as senior commercial executive for Fifth Third Bank, Eastern Michigan. Experienced

Crawford named chair of regulatory reform committee

State Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Nowi, will continue to chair the House Regulatory Reform Committee for the 2013-2014 legislative term. This is Crawford's second term as chair of this committee.

"I am looking forward to my second term as chair of the Regulatory Reform Committee," said Crawford, R-Nowi. "Regulatory issues play a big part in the success of our state's economy, and it is important to continue looking for ways to remove obstacles and help residents of our state succeed."

Crawford says the committee will focus on continuing to eliminate and reform regulations where possible to help make Michigan's economy even healthier.

In addition to chairing the Regulatory Reform Committee, Crawford will serve on the Education, Health Policy, and Tourism Committees.

Novi Newsmakers

Novi's Economic Development director since 2007, Topouzian works with a diverse group of businesses and organizations to maximize Novi's tax base. To manage growth and contin-

ing: Commercial Banking, Branch Banking, Consumer Lending and Investment Advisors for the affiliate.

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Crawford represents the 38th House District. Residents may contact Crawford at his Lansing office by calling (517) 373-0827 or by e-mailing him at hughcrawford@house.mi.gov.

Ramsey-Lay



Janna Elizabeth Ramsey, formerly of Novi, and David William Lay, formerly of Northville, are engaged to be married. The bride to be is the daughter of Laura and Phil Ramsey of Novi. She is a graduate of Novi High School, and got her nursing degree at Mercy College of Northwest Ohio in Toledo. She is currently employed as an RN (labor and delivery) in Wilkesboro, N.C. The groom to be is the son of Julie Lay and Bill Lay of White Lake. He is a graduate of Northville High School, and recently received a degree for paramedics while working at Sherwin Williams. An April 2013 wedding is planned in Huntersville, N.C.

IN THE SERVICE

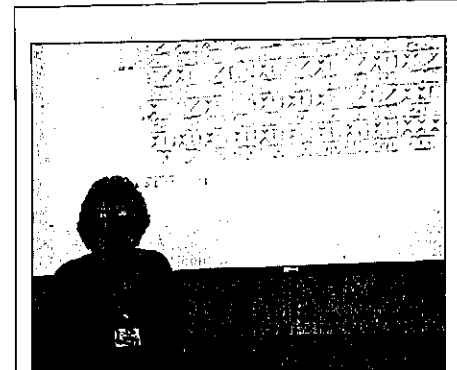
Michael Schloss
Marine Corps Pvt. Michael D. Schloss — son of Audra L. Kimbel of Dearborn Heights and Kenneth B. Schloss, of Novi — earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. For 13 weeks, Schloss stayed committed during some of the world's most demanding entry-level military training in order to be transformed from civilian to Marine instilled with pride, discipline and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Training subjects included close-order drill, marksmanship with an M-16A4 rifle, physical fitness, martial arts, swimming, military history, customs and courtesies.

One week prior to graduation, Schloss endured The Crucible, a 54-hour final test of recruits' minds and bodies. Upon completion, recruits are presented the Marine Corps emblem and called Marines for the first time.

Schloss is a 2012 graduate of Crestwood High School of Dearborn Heights.



Karissa Dahring, 4, left, leaps off her feet as she joins a few other kids during a Jan. 3 Dance 'Til You Drop activity at the Novi Library.



Nan Wiegand recently became the first person to bowl a perfect 300 game in VITA bowling at Fox Run retirement community in Novi. She bowled the game during residents' weekly competition in the campus' Ascot Living Room.

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Local Events

NORTHVILLE & NOVI GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Feb. 11
Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady
Details: Three mini presentations - Making Lip Balm by Beverly Raub, Flower Arranging by Sandy Tomlinson and Garden Photography by David Raub.

HEALTH SEMINAR

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16
Location: The Better Health Market 42875 Grand River, In Novi
Details: Do you often think how great it would be to get your weight and energy in better balance?

Medical Columbus Center, Novi

Details: The Red Cross Nationally needs 17,000 blood donations each day for patients in need. Feb. 11 Location: Winchester Elementary, Northville Time/Date: 2:30-8:15 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVES

Time/Date: 2:30-8:15 p.m. Feb. 11 Location: Winchester Elementary, Northville Time/Date: 2:30-8:15 p.m. Feb. 12

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar information via e-mail to csubmit@hometownlife.com; or by fax to (248) 685-2892; or mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178.

CALENDAR

Continued from page A12 second Wednesdays Location: DoubleTree Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi

LOCAL NEWS

NORTHVILLE-NOVI BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays (except Nov. and Dec., which are just the first Tuesdays)

CALENDAR

through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition. Guests are always welcome; advance registration is required. Visit www.abwnovi.org.

LOCAL NEWS

The International Motorcycle Show was held at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi Feb. 1-3. The event included the J&P Cycles Ultimate Builder Custom Bike Show featuring the world's leading customized bikes and offering the largest prize purse of any builder competition.

CALENDAR

Fun First Fridays Time/Date: first Friday of the month (March 1) Location: 27300 Wixom Road at Grand River Avenue (large retail building next to Varsity Lincoln)

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Passages: Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances. How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • htwb@hometownlife.com. Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper.

Your Invitation to Worship. Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Whitmore Lake, Livonia, New Hudson, Plymouth, Northville, Highland. Includes church names, addresses, and service times for various denominations.

For more information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sore at 248-240-2000 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssore@hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS

Prioritize projects

City's key: attract, grow and retain

Success can almost always be traced back to a plan. Unless you intend to win the lottery or are blessed with blind luck, you better have a road map to figure out where you're going and how to get there. Establishing goals and strategies -- and reviewing previous ones -- is a method that helps get your whole team on board and focused. It works for individuals, families and businesses. It also works for the city.

Look around Novi. Look at all the businesses that have decided to call this city home. From the mom-and-pop store on the corner to Twelve Oaks Mall, there is a reason Novi was chosen.

Many already realized the advantages of being here while others were recruited and shown. But retention and continued growth are two areas your city is focused on, as evidenced by the 2013 Economic Goals and Strategies report just approved by City Council.

The 22-page document, compiled by Ara Topouzian, economic development director, is a detailed look at the city's game plan, but there are several highlights to note.

- There are several key properties the city is focusing on developing or redeveloping. The most obvious would be the southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road. The former Novi Expo Center land is a prime chunk of real estate with remarkable visibility and it's right off the freeway. Just to the east, Main Street remains a gold mine that has yet to see its full potential developed. Other properties include the former Rainbow Cutting land (where the Indy Special water tower is located) and the former Husky building on 12 Mile.

- The recently approved Regional Transit Authority will coordinate public transit in the counties of Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne -- which could be major tool to bring people to Novi.

- The city is developing a broadband strategy, knowing full well that high-speed/low-cost access to the Internet is a must-have for success.

- Novi is diversifying more and more, as evidenced by the numerous cultures that live and do business here. The city is looking to develop an international networking event that embraces each of those and ensures that they are part of this community.

These are just four of the highlights of the 2013 City of Novi Economic Development Goals and Objectives Report. It is a thorough plan to continue this city's success, and one that should instill confidence in residents. We encourage readers to view it in its entirety online at www.hometownlife.com (click on Novi News;

COMMUNITY VOICE

What local road or section needs to be repaired?



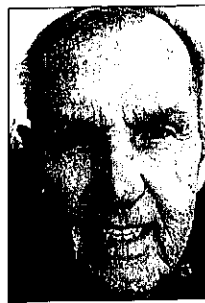
"Along Eight Mile near Hillside Middle School."
Beth Bradley
Novi



"I live in Glen Haven Condos and we have a road called Broquet Road that has some horrible chuck holes."
Gerald Wallace
Novi



"Sections of Grand River need work and I-96 is horrid in spots. I say concentrate on fixing the major thoroughfares and freeways first."
Alain Richard
Farmington Hills



"I live in the Maples of Novi and our street, Seneca Lane, has some deep potholes right now."
Al Nadratowski
Novi

GUEST COLUMN

U.S. is built on cultural strengths, differences of many of us

By Tom Watkins
Guest Columnist

It's the Year of the Snake -- Happy New Year!

No, the "year of the snake" is not a reference to politics. Most Michiganders welcomed the New Year several weeks ago. But the tradition of our Chinese friends and neighbors celebrates the new year beginning on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Michigan, two beautiful peninsulas surrounded by 20 percent of the world's fresh water, does not make us an island. As a bellwether state, leading the way on social and political issues of the day, we have historically embraced new cultures and traditions of people who make Michigan their home.



Tom Watkins

I am proud to say that Gov. Rick Snyder grasps the importance of being open to the peoples of the world and has dubbed himself, "the most immigrant-friendly governor in America." Considering all the anti-immigration rhetoric that permeates in some political quarters, here is one aspect of the governor we should all respect. Michigan's diversity has been and will remain a core strength of our state and nation.

This great state has been built on the diversity of people who came from all across the globe -- Germany, Italy, Poland, England, Ireland, Norway, Wales, Italy, Spain and Africa. Those from

nearly all corners of the planet have been absorbed into our tapestry of strength. Some arrived in America in search of a better life while some were ripped from their ancestral homes and forced to make this new world their home.

Celebrating differences

The Chinese New Year 4711 begins on Feb. 10. The Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration on the Chinese calendar. This year -- 2013 -- is an especially auspicious year -- ushering in the Year of the Snake.

Handed down since ancient times, legend has it that Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve different animals came and Buddha declared that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that creature's personality.

The characteristics of the snake are tempered by one of the five Chinese elements of earth, fire, metal, water and wood overlaying a five-year cycle of characteristics on the original 12-year cycle. This year is the year of the water snake.

While dragon is considered the most powerful and lucky among the 12 Chinese zodiac creatures, the snake most resembles the dragon in appearance and is sometimes called the "Little Dragon." It is likely that some of the aura of the powerful dragon rubbed off onto the person born in the Year of the Snake and considered likely that suc-

cess follows the person born in the Year of the Snake during "their" year. Great opportunities may be presented in the Year of the Snake so persons born in these years (1929, 1941, 1953, 1966, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013) might maximize their considerable skills, guarding against complacency and indifference. Those born in snake years are acute, aware, wise, charming, cunning, gregarious, generous, and smart. Water Snakes are influential and insightful. They manage others well to help achieve their aims and goals. Good in organizations, they are generally motivated and intellectual, very determined and resolute about success. Did I mention I was born in the Year of the Snake? Others who share the honor include: Brad Pitt, Bob Dylan, Oprah Winfrey, Virginia Woolf, Greta Garbo and Mao.

Here in a state surrounded by the waters of the Great Lakes, let the Chinese New Year create another reminder that with diversity, comes strength. So as they say in Chinese -- Xinnian kuaile -- Happy New Year. Congratulations and be prosperous!

Tom Watkins, a former Michigan state superintendent of schools, is a U.S./China business and educational consultant. His interest in China was sparked by his fourth grade teacher. He has been working to build two-way educational, cultural and economic bridges with China his entire adult life. He can be reached at: tdwatkins88@gmail.com.

Central Michigan and Michigan State universities.

The Wayne Public Library is presenting a Black History Family Film Night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, to watch the PBS film series, *Slavery and the Making of America: The Challenge of Freedom*, which examines the transformation of the Civil War from a struggle for union to a battle over slavery and the Reconstruction Years.

History is a living document, each day a new page is written, and as our country continues to evolve, more and more of the pages are being filled with the successes of all Americans. We look forward to the day when it's not black history or white history, but our history, where we identified with those who have shaped our country not by the color of their skin, but by their deeds and accomplishments.

Even Woodson looked forward to that day, when he wrote: "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in History. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

Nation's first statewide Social Entrepreneurship Challenge launched

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Corps and Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest announced the Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge, the nation's first statewide social entrepreneurship competition.

"We are thrilled to propel Michigan forward as the nation's first state to launch a public-private partnership-driven effort focused specifically on advancing social entrepreneurs," said Michigan Corps Board Chair Rishi Jaitly.

The Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge invites individuals and teams to submit plans for an emerging entrepreneurial idea or replicable model from an existing organization

LEARN MORE

The Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge aims to harness the collective power of today's entrepreneurs to address the challenges of our state. To learn more about the Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge visit <http://michigan.org/Challenge>. For more information contact Michigan Corps Director Elizabeth Garlow at egarlow@michigan.org.

For sustainable social change in a wide range of areas including but not limited to urban revitalization, environment,

health, and education.

"This challenge really captures what is special about our state -- we discover things, we make things, and we make things work," said Michael A. Finney, MEDC president and CEO. "These strengths make us a great location for social innovators to do their good work and help reinvent Michigan."

Participants in the new 'Social Entrepreneurship Challenge' track offered through GLEQ.org will benefit from financial support, including more than \$50,000 in potential cash prizes, access to impact investors, and consideration for special program opportunities including cash awards for Community Ventures-eligible companies.

Participants will also have access to mentorship, networking, and resources tailored to social entrepreneurs. The Challenge will help advance ideas, ventures, and solutions to address pressing social challenges in Michigan.

Beginning Feb. 4, social entrepreneurs are invited to complete an application at GLEQ.org to begin their participation in the Challenge. Applicants will then have immediate access to coaches and special events to support the preparation of their submission before the May 20 deadline.

A special Social Entrepreneurship Showcase and Pitch event will take place on June 18 at GLEQ's Entrepreneur Connect event in Lansing

American Business Women's Association offer scholarships

The mission of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), a national non-profit organization, is in part to provide opportunities for women to help themselves grow personally and professionally through education. As a testament to their collective mission, the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the ABWA will offer one grant and two scholarships this year for the education of local students. (The Bettie Archer Johnson Scholarship is offered to students of Madonna University, and interested students should contact the financial aid office at Madonna for more information.)

Two other opportunities include the \$1,500 Novi Oaks' Outright Grant and the \$1,000 Novi Oaks' Impact Scholarship.

The local ABWA chapter is offering a \$1,500 grant through the national ABWA's Stephen Buf-ton Memorial Education Fund (SBMEF). Eligible applicants must (1) be a female U.S. citizen; (2)

TO APPLY

Interested parties should send name, e-mail address and phone number to Education Chair Sandy Schrah at Education@abwa-novi.org, with the subject line: "Outright Grant" or "Impact Scholarship" no later than Feb. 15. The recipients will be notified before July. Each one-time grant or scholarship is not renewable. Checks will be issued jointly to the educational institution and the recipients. Funds are limited to tuition, books and fees. SBMEF offers National Scholarships for women specific to Nursing, Business, and Information Technology. For more information on these scholarship opportunities visit www.sbmef.org. For more info about the SBMEF, visit www.sbmef.org and for more information about ABWA and Novi Oaks Charter Chapter, visit www.abwa-novi.org.

have completed 45 credit hours or more when applying for funds. Funds may be used when the applicant has completed 60 credit hours; (3) have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale; (4) be seeking a baccalaureate degree or higher; (5) be attending a Michigan institution authorized to confer degrees at the baccalaureate level or higher in the United States; (6) be sponsored by an eligible ABWA chapter/network.

Best technology of 2013

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

The new year is under way, but a host of new innovative devices and technologies have already been unveiled at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

More than 3,000 exhibitors packed halls and conference rooms to showcase approximately 20,000 new products. Among those products are much of what you would expect: new cell phones, computers, televisions and cameras. But the CES show also providing a glimpse to the future in areas that many wouldn't expect, such as health and fitness, sports and even gadgets for children.

The products shown at the convention will impact every aspect of our lives and even the sports world. During the first day of the conference, for example, Major League Baseball and T-Mobile announced a multi-year deal to put T-Mobile cell phones in bullpens and dugouts.

The mobile phones will plug into wall units that serve as their own cell phone tower to ensure coaches in bullpens and dugouts don't experience communication problems as they have in years past.

T-Mobile also used the event to announce some new service offerings. The cell phone service provider said it will soon move all cell phone plans to new value-based plans. T-Mobile subscribers will no longer pay high costs for new phones up front. Instead, T-Mobile plans to allow subscribers to pay for the device in short loans over the duration of owning the device. As soon as a phone is paid off, users will be eligible for new devices.

Fisher Price hit the show floor with products for the youngest tech fans. Their new "Aptivity" products for users up to 5 years old are essentially

interactive tablet toys for youngsters. Tablets and mobile applications were also a big part of the CES 2013, as many manufacturers showcased faster, sleeker and more durable offerings.

Panasonic introduced two new "rugged" Toughpad tablets -- one that runs on Windows 8 and one using the Android operating system. The Toughpads are resistant to fluids, extreme temperatures and, of course, being dropped. They have between 8GB and 16GB of memory and come with Bluetooth and WiFi connectivity. Of course, these durable machines come at a price -- the smaller Android version starts at \$1,300, while the Windows 8 version will cost about \$2,900.

Panasonic also made headlines with a 56-inch 4K OLED TV prototype after Sony unveiled a similar television of its own. An OLED TV is said to have a crisper and broader spectrum of colors because the screen is made using a red, blue, green printing technology. (I won't pretend I know what that means, but we can all agree it sounds impressive.)

An electronics expo wouldn't truly be complete without a flurry of new technology that you would never have thought possible. One of the most mind-bending displays to come out of the CES 2013 is a mind-controlled helicopter.

The PuzzleBox Orbit by NuersSky is operated through a Bluetooth enabled headset. The user, or the pilot, sends brainwaves to the Bluetooth sensors, which make the PuzzleBox Orbit maneuver. Not exactly the flying car we expected in this digital age, but a mind-control device is not a bad start, especially for only \$189.

One other cool gadget from the show: A Bluetooth-enabled refrigerator from a company called Coolvox. The device will keep your milk cold, your vegetables fresh and even stream your music.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? E-mail: jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.

New look



Patrons of the former Second City Comedy Theatre space upstairs at Andiamo Novi might not recognize it. The theatre troupe left the state of Michigan a few years ago, and the room was recently renovated and converted to a banquet center. Combined with the adjoining Ditz Martini, the facility is enjoying successful bookings of corporate events, weddings, mitzvahs and more.

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Mardi Gras Birthday Party
Wednesday, February 6
1:00 p.m.

Come to the party as we celebrate with the Bayou River Band! Delicious birthday cake and refreshments will be provided.

Professional Speaker
Tuesday, February 19
6:00 p.m.

Local Health Professional will be here to talk with you about various health concerns during the winter and will be wanting to hear any challenging questions you may have! Coffee and cookies will be provided.

RSVP by February 15.

Valentine's Day Party
Friday, February 15
2:00 p.m.

Join us as we dance our hearts out this Valentine's Day with the Dance DJ's. Chocolate covered Strawberries, Pink Champagne, & punch will be served.



Independence Village of Plymouth
14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI
South of 5 Mile Road
www.SeniorVillages.com
734-453-2600

Novi, Northville pharmacists get prison for fraud

A 50-year-old Canton pharmacist who owned and operated 26 pharmacies in the metro-Detroit area was sentenced last week to 17 years in prison, according to U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade via www.fbi.gov.

Earlier last week, Judge Tarnow sentenced several of the other pharmacists who were convicted at trial. Brijesh Rawal, 36, of Canton; Ashwini Sharma, 36, of Novi; and Lakesh Taya, 36, of Northville, were each sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 68 months for their participation as pharmacists in these criminal offenses.

These three pharmacists were non-U.S. citizens who entered the United States under a visa program for certain skilled workers, and each will be deported to the country of their citizenship upon the completion of their sentences. Defendant Rawal is a citizen of Canada, while defendants Sharma and Taya are citizens of India.

U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Tarnow sentenced Babubhai "Bob" Patel on 26 convictions for a health care fraud conspiracy, a drug conspiracy, and related fraud and drug violations.

Evidence presented at a six-

week jury trial concluding in August 2012 showed between 2006 and 2011, the pharmacies billed Medicare and Medicaid more than \$57 million. At least 25 percent of those billings were for drugs that were either medically unnecessary never dispensed. Additional amounts were fraudulently billed to private insurers such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. The pharmacies operated on a business model that paid kickbacks to physicians in exchange for writing prescriptions for expensive medications. The affiliated doctors would also write prescriptions

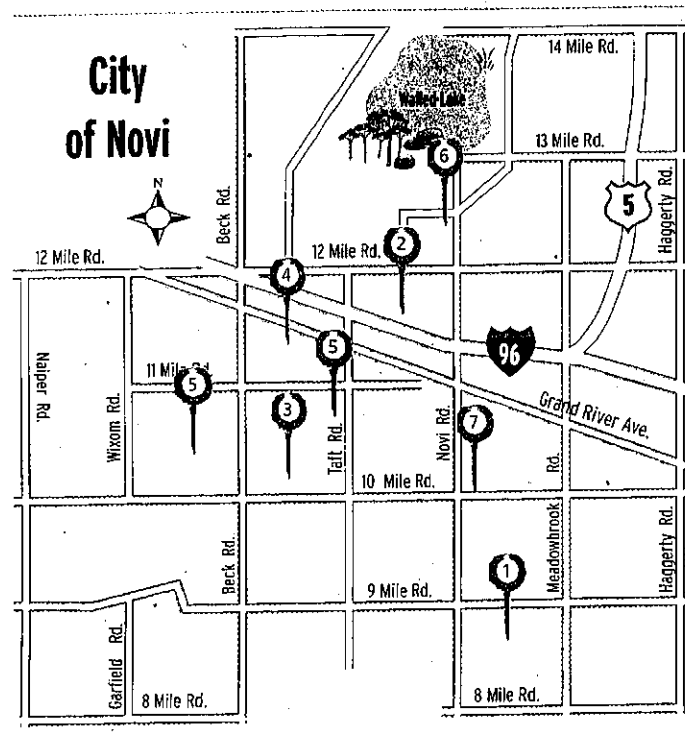
for controlled substances, without regard to medical necessity, which would be filled at the pharmacies and distributed to paid "patients" and patient recruiters. The expensive, non-controlled medications would be billed but not dispensed.

Of the 26 defendants charged in the original indictment in this case, 20 defendants have either pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial. Six defendants are scheduled for trial in June. Out of 12 pharmacists charged, 11 have been convicted at trial or pleaded guilty, with one waiting to be tried. Out of four doctors charged,

two have pleaded guilty, with two waiting to be tried.

In sentencing the defendant, the court told the defendant that "what you have done is reprehensible." The criminal conduct engaged in by other health care fraud violators sentenced by the court was "small scale compared to this."

In addition to the prison sentence, defendant Babubhai Patel was ordered to pay restitution to the Medicaid and Medicare programs in the amount of \$17.3 million and restitution to Blue Cross Blue Shield in the amount of \$1.5 million.



NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Motorcycle stolen from apartment complex

1 Sometime during the last month a motorcycle was stolen from a carport at the Woodland Glen Apartments.

A Novi man reported the theft of his 2006 black Kawasaki motorcycle on Jan. 28 to the Novi Police after finding it missing upon his return from Florida, where he had been since Dec. 29. He told police he had locked the handlebars and took out the battery prior to leaving.

According to the police report, the bike did have some outstanding debts on it, but it has been reported as stolen.

Checks stolen from hotel

2 Three \$500 Western Union checks were stolen from a hotel room, located on Cabaret Drive. The man staying in the room reported to Novi Police on Jan. 26 that the unendorsed checks were missing. Police spoke with the housekeeper, who denied taking the checks. The police reportedly believe her at this time.

The checks have not yet been recovered.

Money stolen on tour bus

3 A woman had over \$300 stolen while on her way to a casino in Windsor, Canada.

The incident happened while she was riding a Lakefront bus that was going from Novi to Cassius in Windsor. The Novi pickup location is at the Civic Center parking lot on 10 Mile Road. The woman said she left her purse at her seat while going to bathroom at a stop in Southfield.

Her purse was later found under a seat, but over \$100 in Canadian currency and \$280 in U.S. cash was also taken.

Leaving scene of an accident

4 A man involved in a two-car crash was later found walking away from the scene with a bloody face.

On Jan. 23, Novi Police responded to a traffic crash along east I-96, in front of the Suburban Collection Showplace. A Saturn struck an Alero that was parked on the side of the road. It was later discovered the unoccupied Alero had blown a tire and had been left there until it could be fixed.

A witness was on hand and said she spoke with the Saturn driver, but he later left the scene. Police caught up with the man as he was walking near the Showplace. His head was bleeding due to broken shards of glass in his forehead. He told police he did not know about the accident.

Thefts from unlocked vehicles

5 On Jan. 18, a Novi neighborhood saw two larceny from autos with vehicles parked in their driveways.

Novi Police said both cases involved an unlocked vehicle. The first theft happened on Picara Drive. Two gift cards were stolen from the vehicle. The other incident occurred in a driveway on Venice Drive. The vehicle owner went outside the next morning to find

his passenger side door ajar. Sunglasses and headphones were taken, but a GPS was left behind.

Larceny

6 A woman's wallet goes missing at a twelve Oaks Mall restaurant and a street sign was taken.

On Jan. 13, two separate incidents of theft were reported to the Novi Police. The woman said she paid for her meal at Max and Erma's restaurant inside the mall, but accidentally left her wallet behind. She later returned after realizing it was missing, but there was no sign of it.

The street sign was taken from the intersection at Queens Pointe and Kings Pointe roads, which is located off of 10 Mile Road.

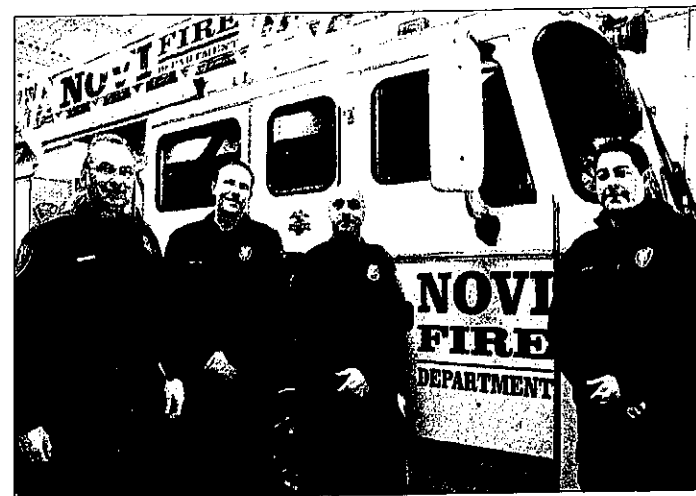
Drunken Driving

7 A 27-year-old Northville woman was arrested for drunken driving after refusing to take a breathalyzer test.

On Jan. 19, Novi Police stopped the woman at 10 Mile and Novi roads for going 60 mph in a 40 speed zone. The police reported the woman was swerving just before she came to a stop, and upon making contact with her the police stated the odor of alcohol was detected within the vehicle. She told police she had a couple of beers.

After having trouble with the field sobriety tests, which included stopping halfway through the alphabet to say "I mean really" to the officer and then losing balance during the walk and turn. She refused the PBT, but police were able to obtain a warrant and have blood drawn. She was later released pending these results and after sobering up.

Compiled by staff writer Lorie Huhman.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi firefighters pause in the bay of Fire Station 1 on Feb. 1. From left: Jeff Lachman, Andy Copeland, Bechara Takla, and Zahl Kassab. The City of Novi and its full-time firefighters recently agreed upon a new contract.

PACT

Continued from page A1

union (Local 3232)," said Novi Public Safety Director/Chief of Police David Molloy.

NPPFU president David McLeod agreed and said, "We're very pleased with the length of the contract and extra training that comes with it."

According to the agreement, the contract is effective July 2012 through June 2015. Molloy said among some new additions in the contract there is updated promotional language, enhanced training standards and minimum test scores required to earn a step up in pay. There is also a two-year eligibility list in effect for a promotional opportunity.

Including estimated average overtime, the annual salary for firefighters having four or more years of experience is approximately \$70,000.

In keeping with state law, fire department personnel will pay 20 percent of

their health care costs and a small part of the city's contribution to the state pension system for their retirement. They will also have to pay 20 percent of their health care in retirement.

Time-off benefits have also been updated. Full-time officers with 10 or more years experience work four 12-hour weekday shifts per week, and get 30 days off per year, which equates to seven and a half weeks of vacation per year. They also get 13 paid holidays (over three weeks off), with an eight-hour bonus over their regular pay for not working a holiday.

"A little work went into negotiating the contract, but overall it went smoothly," McLeod said. "The city and union have a history of working well together."

The NPPFU was chartered in 1988 and has 25 members. Novi's fire department also has about 60 paid on-call firefighters.

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Gun charges against ex-House Speaker Craig DeRoche dropped

People can't be charged with a crime simply for possessing a firearm while intoxicated inside their home, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled in a case arising from an incident involving former state House Speaker Craig DeRoche.

Novi police charged DeRoche with possessing a firearm while intoxicated in 2010 after they were called to his home following a dispute with a neighbor.

A district court dismissed the charge, based on DeRoche's Second Amendment rights. The prosecutor appealed to the circuit court, which upheld the dismissal on the basis of an unlawful search.

In a unanimous ruling released Wednesday, a three-judge panel of the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal, citing the Second Amendment.

"While Second Amendment rights are not unlimited, this conduct is protected," the panel said.

"Aside from the statute at issue, defendant was not engaging in an unlawful behavior, nor were there any facts to suggest that defendant possessed the handgun for any

unlawful purposes."

The panel said preventing people who are intoxicated from committing crimes with handguns is important, but the infringement on DeRoche's rights in this case "was not substantially related to that objective."

DeRoche, a Republican who was House speaker in 2005 and 2006, battled alcoholism and was convicted of a drunken driving-related charge in 2010.

He says he has been sober since 2010 and now works for the prison reform group Justice Fellowship.

The neighbor told police DeRoche was inside DeRoche's home with a gun. When police went inside, his mother-in-law said DeRoche no longer had the gun and showed them where she had hidden it, inside a garbage can.

The panel consisted of Judges Kathleen Jensen, David Sawyer and Karen Fort Hood.

Gannett News Service

Food for Fines at the Novi Library

If you have a Novi Public Library fine that is weighing on your mind, why not pay

it off while participating in a great cause at the same time? Food for Fines is an opportunity for library patrons to donate canned and / or dried goods and receive up to \$10 in overdue fines (\$1 per item

donated,) removed from their library cards (billed items not included).

This event is for all ages and is free of charge. Please drop off any items in the library's east meeting room. In or-

der for fines to be removed, library cards are required from each individual.

Times are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 14; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 15-16.

In a partnership with

Walmart, this event supports the Novi Food Emergency Bank and Hospitality House. For more information on the Novi Public Library and the Food for Fines event visit www.novilibrary.org



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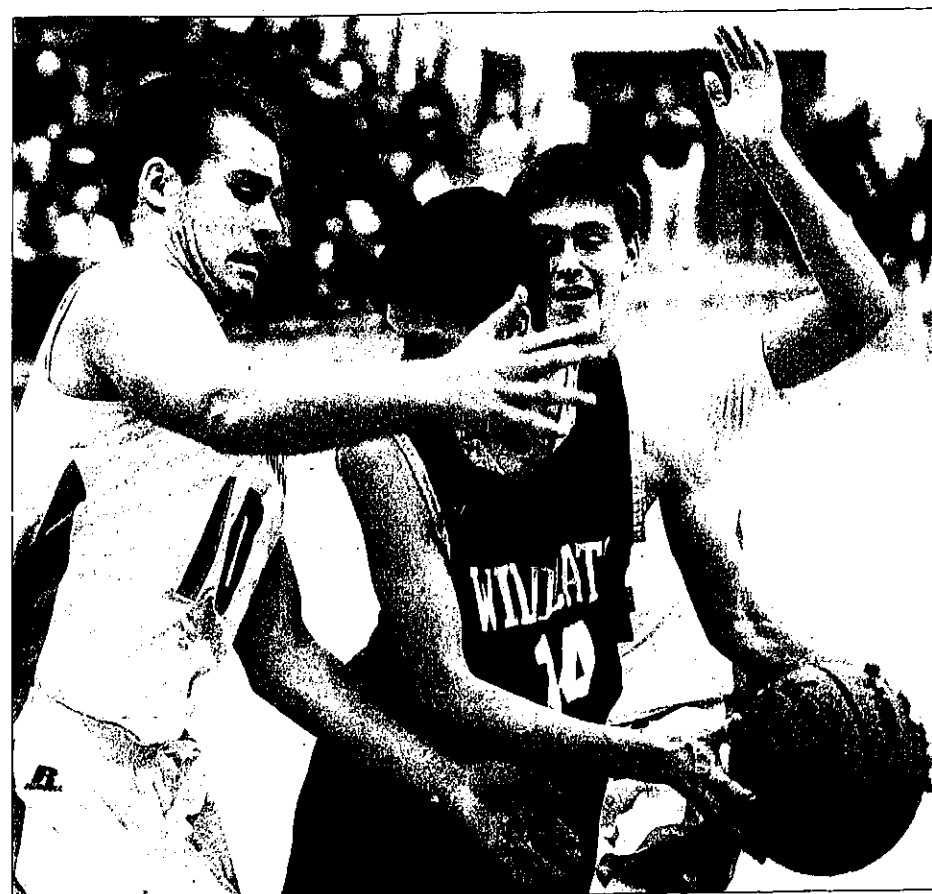
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INSIDE: WILDCATS CLINCH FOURTH-STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLE, B2

SECTION B (NIV)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013
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SPORTS

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Mustang Joe Hewlett, left, and a teammate try to force a turnover from Wildcat Max Yanke on Feb. 1.

Varsity gets rained out, JV struggles at invite

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Mother Nature had plans other than competition for Novi's ski teams last week. Both the Wildcats boys (3-3) and girls (1-5) were unable to hit the slopes at Alpine Valley on Jan. 28 and Jan. 31 due to melting snow and flooding caused by the warmer-than-usual weather and rain. Rather than facing Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, Bloomfield Hills Marian, Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Northern last week, Novi's only competition was in the junior varsity Don Thomas Cup last Saturday.

Both fields were limited, but Novi's best finish came from the girls. The Wildcats finished fourth with 73 points in a field of the four teams had at least four skiers qualify for team scoring. Grand Blanc won with 12 points, followed by Northern (33 points) and Milford (41 points). Marian only had two skiers, so no team score. Individually, the Novi girls got 14th of 29 skiers from Unie Gu in a two-run time of 48.16 seconds. She was followed by Rachel Casaccia (15th in 48.33), Adeline Zamora (21st in 51.53) and Claire Krueger (23rd in 53.04).

With just three boys skiers, the Wildcats were one of three teams not participating in the team scoring, which was won by Northern with 33 points. In the field of 31 skiers who finished both runs, Novi's Brett DuBois finished 20th in 51.08 seconds, followed by Eric Braeuner (27th in 53.42) and Takoto Kamiya (30th in 56.30).

Novi cagers drop pair of league contests

Mustangs even season series 1-1

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Following an 18-point loss to South Lyon on their home court and a seven-point loss on the road to baseline rival Northville, who they had beaten earlier this season, Novi's boys basketball season took a hit from

division title aspirations last week. The Wildcats' (6-8, 4-4 KLA Central) dropped a 57-39 contest Jan. 29 to visiting South Lyon (11-2, 7-1 Central) before falling 52-45 at Northville (7-7, 4-4 Central) last Friday. "We are struggling with self-

ON TAP

Novi's boys basketball team (6-8, 4-4 KLA Central) was set to visit Plymouth Salem (10-3, 6-1 Central) two nights ago before hosting Livonia Stevenson (6-6, 2-5 Central) 7 p.m. tomorrow and heading into the KLA tournament Feb. 15, after standings are finalized. In the first half of the season, Novi beat Salem 64-60, but lost 52-50 to Stevenson.

Please see HOOPS, B2

Wildcat tankers finish fourth in county

Novi breaks 23-year-old school record in 100-yard freestyle

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

If the depth of the swim and dive programs in the KLA Central Division wasn't evident before, the impressive showing by Novi's team highlighted that this week.

The Wildcats are .500 in dual meets at 3-3 (2-2 Central) after defeating South Lyon Unified (0-3, 0-3 Central) 116-70 Jan. 31. That same Novi team also finished fourth of 28 schools at the Oakland County Championships Feb. 12 in Lake Orion's pool. Held at bay by the likes of Ann Arbor Skyline, Northville (7-2, 2-1 Central) and Livonia Stevenson (3-0, 3-0 Central) earlier in the season, it was only powerful programs from Bloomfield Hills



Novi's swim and dive team finished fourth of 28 teams at the Oakland County Championships Feb. 1-2 at Lake Orion.

Brother Rice (347 points), Birmingham Seaholm (316) and Detroit Catholic Central (229) that would place ahead of the Wildcats' 155

points at last weekend's county meet. South Lyon finished 15th with 58 points. Among the week's high-lights was senior Andrew

breaking the Novi school record in the 100 freestyle. Set at 47.64 seconds in 1990, Ao swam it in 47.58 seconds at the county

ON TAP

Novi's swim and dive team (3-3, 2-2 KLA Central) is off from competition until Feb. 15-16 for the KLA Central Division meet at South Lyon East.

ty meet, finishing fourth behind Brother Rice's time of 46.81.

Ao had a strong day, also finishing fifth in the 200 free (1:54.77) and helping two relay teams to top-six finishes.

He teamed with seniors Kenta Onimura, Vinny Rosanali and Dennis Kim to finish fourth in the 200 free relay (1:29.82) and then with juniors Tanner Vincent, Jake Robbins and Kim to finish sixth in the 400 free relay (3:18.55). Brother Rice won 200 free relay in 1:26.62 and also won the 400 free relay in 3:12.73.

Novi's third relay team of

Onimura, Kim, Vincent and Rosanali finished eighth in 1:41.14, behind Detroit Catholic Central's winning 1:38.00 time.

Vincent also had success in his individual races, finishing fourth in the 100 butterfly (53.82) and sixth in the 200 individual medley (1:59.76). Troy won the 100 fly in 52.46 and CC won the 200 IM in 1:53.01.

Onimura had the highest individual finish for a Wildcat, taking second in the 100 backstroke in 53.89, behind CC's winning time of 52.11.

Novi won nine of 12 events in their dual meet victory at South Lyon East. Full Oakland County Championship results are available at www.korswin.weebly.com/results.html or www.oaklandcountyclampionships.com.

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

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Wildcats clinch fourth-straight division title, improve to 13-1

Novi girls undefeated in 2013, 8-0 in league

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The victories continue to pile up for Novi's lady cagers as they outscored two league rivals 102-63 last week.

In the midst of an eight-game winning streak, the Wildcats (13-1, 8-0 Central) picked up all of those wins within their division after a one-point loss to close out 2012. Most recently, Novi the girls dribbled into South Lyon (7-7, 2-6 Central) for a 51-34 victory Jan. 29 and then visited Northville (10-4, 5-3 Central) for a 51-29 win last Friday to clinch the division title. Two teams are 5-3 and the other three are all 2-6 in the division.

"Great week for Novi basketball," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "Two wins on the road in our division is very tough to do. And to win our fourth consecutive Central Division title against one of our rivals made it a little extra special. Very proud of our players and all the credit goes to them."

The Wildcats' week started off with 20-for-43 shooting (46.5 percent) against South Lyon. Novi led 24-18 at halftime and 36-28 heading into the final quarter before closing on a 15-6 run. Junior Kerri McMahan led the way with 13 points, three assists and two steals as the 'Cats held the Lions to 11-for-32 shooting (34.4 percent).

South Lyon had a 26-23 advantage on the boards, but a 10-0 steals advantage by Novi made up for that.

McMahan had plenty of help on offense, as juniors Amanda Geiger (nine points, four rebounds, four assists, three steals), Taylor Pavlika (eight points, five rebounds, four assists) and senior Jade Antolec (eight points, seven rebounds)



Mustang Emily Maresh blocks the shot of Wildcat Kerri McMahan during the teams' Feb. 1 meeting.

all saw significant action. Also chipping in were juniors Kristen Schubring (six points, two steals), Dina Pawaz (four points),

Maddy Marzonia (two points) and senior Kasey Lowney (one point, four assists). "I think the team is realizing

ON TAP

Novi's girls basketball team (13-1, 8-0 KLA Central) was set to host Plymouth Salem (6-8, 5-3 Central) two nights ago before visiting Livonia Stevenson (6-8, 2-6 Central) tomorrow for the regular season finale, both at 7 p.m. The KLA tournament will be based on final standings and scheduled to start Tuesday.

that, if they share the ball like they have been doing, the greater the chance of success," Kelp said.

Things continued to roll against the Mustangs. Novi trailed 9-6 after the first quarter, but a 17-2 run in the second quarter led to a 23-11 half-time lead, which kept up with a 18-8 third quarter to create a 41-19 gap heading into the fourth quarter.

Pavlika had a game-high 16 points to go with three rebounds and four assists, while McMahan had 10 points, five rebounds, five assists and two steals. Geiger also dropped in a well-filled state line with seven points, three rebounds, four assists and three steals, while Antolec grabbed 10 rebounds and two steals to go with six points.

Novi shot 20-for-40 (50 percent) from the field, compared to Northville's 11-for-31 (35.5 percent) shooting. The Wildcats also won the battle of the boards 25-11, in addition to advantages in steals, 11-1, and turnovers, 8-17. Senior Kendra Brenner (13 points, six rebounds) led the Mustangs.

Also chipping in for Novi were Schubring (five points, two steals), Lowney (three points), Marzonia (two points) and junior Ally Jacobelli (two points).

"We just need to keep getting better each practice and game to help prepare us for Districts," Kelp said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Round Up At The Rink

The Arctic Edge in Canton has graciously offered Ryan Rabinowitz's Round Up At The Rink event from 5:30-7:20 p.m. Feb. 9, donating all admission fees from open skating to Make A Wish Foundation. Plans are to have a silent auction and a DJ.

Crafters sought

The Novi Athletic Boosters Holiday Kick-off Art & Craft Show will be held at Novi High School on Saturday Oct. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a juried show, more than 250 booths are available at \$60 each. The show will be spread out in the school's atrium, cafeteria, performance gym and fieldhouse, allowing ample space for all exhibitors.

To download the exhibitors application, visit www.noviathleticboosters.com/craft-show/. The application deadline is March 1.

Recreational softball

Now in its second year, the Kensington Valley Senior Softball League is recruiting players age 55 and up from Northville, Novi, Brighton, Howell and the surrounding areas to form new teams. Season will begin May 28; games will be played at 10 a.m. Tuesdays.

Interested players/teams, please contact one of the following for additional info: Charlie Gabbard, Northville Recreation, (248) 449-9947; Tori Heglin, Novi Recreation, (248) 347-0422; Chris Galatis, Howell Recreation, (517) 404-3323.

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

ness and undisciplined play," Novi coach Brian Tass said.

Novi was outscored in six of eight quarters last week, only getting the edge in both fourth quarters after facing double-digit deficits. In both games, Novi took more shots, but made fewer, as well. "We are taking selfish shots. Not moving the ball well," Tass said. "We got points off of our defense."

Against South Lyon, the Wildcats trailed 24-14 at halftime and 45-25 going into the final quarter. Despite winning the rebounding battle 25-7, Novi had a 15-1 turnover disadvantage as Luke Short led the Lions with 24 points on 9-for-12 shooting (75 percent), including 3-for-3 from behind the arch.

"Good player. Can shoot and strong driver," Tass said of Short. "Tough to guard when other players also do well."

The Lions shot 17-for-30 (56.7 percent) as Novi went 14-for-35 (40 percent), led by sophomore Max Yanke (seven points). Senior Jonni Ivy (six points, nine rebounds) hit the most field goals for the Wildcats, with three.

Seniors Tre Cadwell, Charles McK-

inney (four rebounds) and junior Nelson Cagle each added five points apiece, while senior Blake Brown and junior Erik Biberstein both had four points.

Naji Ozier added three points and senior Brandon Macklin had four rebounds. Things improved slightly for Novi against the baseline rivals a few days later, but the Wildcats still trailed Northville 23-17 at halftime. Down 38-26 going into the fourth quarter, Novi pushed for a comeback, but couldn't get there despite a 16-point effort from Cagle.

Novi shot 12-for-30 (40 percent) and Northville went 19-for-20 (95 percent) as junior Andrew Meacham (14 points) and senior Stewart Henzi (13 points) led the way for the Mustangs.

Despite winning the rebounding battle 18-4, Novi lost the turnover battle 19-2. "Our turnovers are killing us since they are undisciplined mistakes, not caused by defense," Tass said. "We are rebounding better than before, but we still give up a few that cost us the game eventually."

Cagle, who also had a big game the first time around against Northville, got some help from McKinney (nine points), Yanke (six points), Biberstein (six points), Cadwell (five points), Ivy (two points, seven rebounds) and Macklin (one point).

Novi grapplers finish 12th in 24-team KLA Landry, DeNova place at individual association tournament

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In a battle for fifth in the KLA Kensington Conference, Novi's grapplers fell short and didn't improve much in the battle for 11th in the association moments later.

The Wildcats (10-13, 3-2 Central) had finished third in their division, pitting them against the South Division's Wayne Memorial (16-3, 3-2 South) for fifth in the conference Jan. 30. Wayne rolled to a 58-12 victory, setting up a same-day match-up against the Lakes Conference's sixth-place Grand Blanc (13-10, 3-2 West), but the Bobcats prevailed 40-27 to take the KLA's 11th-place finish among 24 teams and putting Novi at 12th in the KLA.

Senior Dan DeNova (103 pounds) got things started with an 11-4 victory and senior Andrew Park (119) picked up a tough 9-7 decision to help Novi to a 6-4 lead, but the Zebras would go on to win the next six matches to take a 34-6 lead. Senior Ben Landry (160) pinned his opponent, but Wayne would roll the rest of the



Novi senior Dan DeNova (top) attempts to roll over his 103-pound Wayne Memorial opponent Jan. 30 en route to an 11-4 victory. It was one of Novi's few victories, as Wayne won 58-12 to finish fifth in the KLA Kensington Conference.

way for a 58-12 victory.

With both teams coming off of losses in their respective conference finales, Grand Blanc rebounded from their loss to Walled Lake Northern by taking the

first six matches against

Novi. Junior Ben Wright (145) got the Wildcats on the board with a pin to reduce the deficit to 27-6, but two more Novi losses equaled a 36-6 deficit. Landry picked up a pin-

fall victory while wrestling

up a weight class at 171 and sophomore Jared Engbretson (189) followed with a pin of his own to cut the deficit to 36-18. Senior Zach Roush (215) picked up a pin

and sophomore Dorean

Haney (heavyweight) won to bring the score to 36-27, but that would be the end of the rally for the Wildcats, as the Bobcats picked up the final match to win 40-27.

ON TAP

Novi's grapplers (10-13) were set to host defending Division I state champion Detroit Catholic Central (18-3), Northville (12-7) and Livonia Stevenson (8-9) yesterday for Districts, starting against Stevenson. The winner advances to Regionals Wednesday at Garden City.

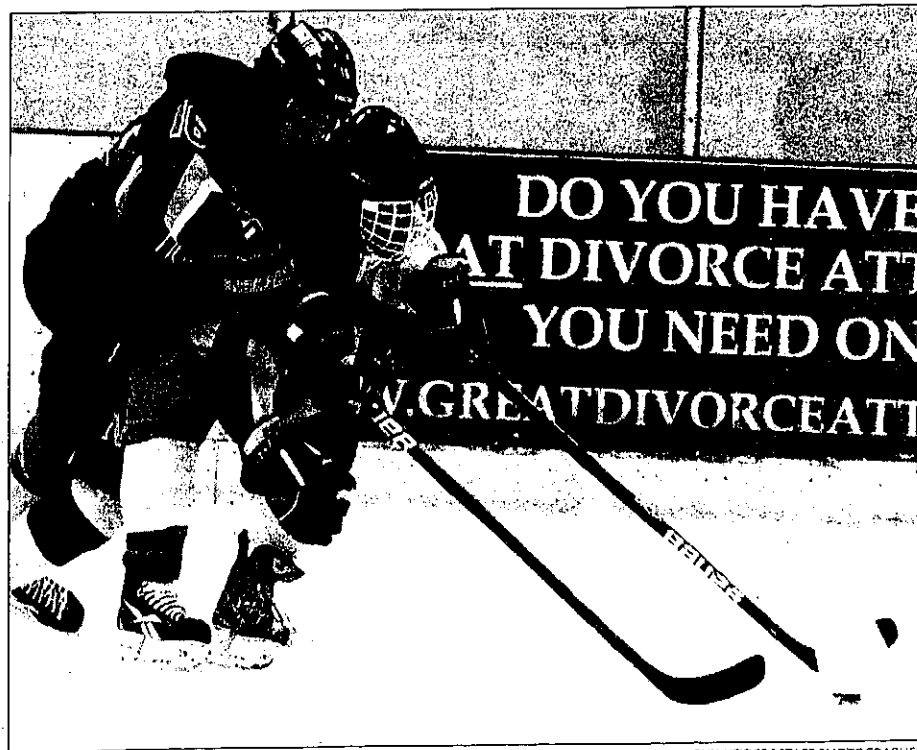
Against the entire

of KLA opposition Saturday, the Wildcats saw limited success at the Eastern Michigan University fieldhouse during the KLA individual championships. Landry (160) went 3-2 to finish sixth, losing to the eventual fourth- and fifth-place grapplers in his weight class. DeNova (103) was the only other Wildcat to place, finishing eighth with a 2-3 record.

Hartland (28-1, 5-0 West) had four individual championships at the 119, 130, 135 and 171 weight classes after winning the overall KLA crown 66-6 against Waterford Kettering.

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

NOVI SPORTS ROUND-UP



Novi Wildcat Luke Bageris, right, tries to out-race a Brighton Bulldog on Jan. 23.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Bulldogs bite through Wildcat icers

A Jan. 28 hockey game against No. 73 Livonia Franklin was canceled, but the No. 31 Wildcats (7-11, 3-6-1 KLA Kensington) couldn't use the tune up before heading to Kensington Valley Ice House to take on No. 4 Brighton (18-2-1, 9-1-1 Kensington) last Friday. The Bulldogs decimated the Wildcats 8-1 with three second-period and four third-period goals, only one of which came on the power play. Senior Patrick Carney had 35 saves in net for Novi, who got their lone goal from Isaiah Crawford at the

11:20 mark of the third period off an assist from Chris Kennedy.

The 'Cats were set to visit Chelsea's Arctic Coliseum for the Public School Showcase, taking on No. 46 Rochester Hills Stoney Creek (8-7-3) last Monday and No. 41 Ann Arbor Pioneer Metro (13-5-1) 3:45 p.m. today before moving closer to home and visiting No. 39 Farmington (8-8-1) 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena prior to a Feb. 15 KLA crossover.

Wildcat cheerleaders fourth in KLA

Novi's competitive cheer team headed to Walled Lake Northern last Saturday for the KLA Cham-

ionship meet and finished fourth

of 24 teams with 708.76 points. The Wildcats (4-1 Central) were once again edged by Livonia Stevenson (5-0 Central), who finished third with 727.28 points. But it was the West Division that took the top two spots, as Hartland (4-1 West) averaged a dual meet loss to Brighton (5-0 West) and won the association title 740.4-731.44. South Lyon was 11th with 664.68, Northville 14th with 644.32, South Lyon East 15th with 611.48 and Plymouth Salem 24th with 494.60.

The team won't be back in action until Districts 6:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Hartland.

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

WINTER VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

Novi Wildcats

2/8 MISCA TBA
2/14 @Cranbrook
5:30 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY

2/9 TBD @ TBA (Public School Showcase @ Arctic Coliseum)
2/12 7 p.m. @ Farmington (@ Farmington Hills Ice Arena)

BOYS BASKETBALL

All games at 7 p.m. unless noted
2/8 Orchard Lake St. Mary's
2/12 Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

All games at 7 p.m. unless noted
2/8 @ Livonia Stevenson
2/12 @ KLA Crossover
2/14

BOYS SWIMMING

All meets at 6 p.m. unless noted
2/15-16 6 p.m./12 p.m. @ KLA Central Division Meet (@ South Lyon East)

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

All meets at 3:30 p.m. unless noted
2/10 1 p.m. @ Valentine Tournament (@ Novi Bowl)
2/12 Plymouth Salem (@ Novi Bowl)

COMPETITIVE CHEER

2/15 6:30 a.m. @ Districts (@ Hartland)

BOYS & GIRLS SKIING

All dual meets at 4 p.m. @ Alpine Valley unless noted
2/7 8:45 a.m. KLA Division Meet
2/11 8:45 a.m. KLA Conference Meet
2/14 Regionals

FIGURE SKATING

2/13 4 p.m. @ Farmington Invitational (@ Farmington Hills Ice Arena)

CC Shamrocks

SWIMMING
2/7 Brother Rice 7 p.m.

Northville

BOYS HOCKEY
All games at 7 p.m. unless noted
2/13 KLA Crossover

BOYS BOWLING

All events at 3:30 p.m. unless noted
2/12 Wayne Memorial
2/15 @KLA Association Meet TBA

GIRLS BOWLING

All events at 3:30 p.m. unless noted
2/12 Wayne Memorial
2/15 @KLA Association Meet TBA

BOYS BASKETBALL

All games at 7 p.m. unless noted
2/8 @South Lyon East
2/15 @Conference Tournament

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Zebras bite Wildcats; Novi boys bowlers finish as runners-up at Mercy tourney

ON TAP

Both Novi bowling teams (2-10, 1-8 KLA Central boys; 7-5, 4-5 Central girls) were scheduled to face Plymouth (6-7, 4-6 Central boys; 5-7, 4-5 Central girls) and Canton (8-3, 5-3 Central girls; 5-6, 4-4 Central girls) earlier this week before the 1 p.m. Feb. 10 Valentine Tournament at Novi Bowl. The teams then resume action 3:30 p.m. Tuesday against Plymouth Salem (10-2, 7-2 Central boys; 6-6, 4-5 Central girls) at Novi Bowl before a Feb. 15 KLA crossover.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Novi rolled down to Wayne last Friday to take on Wayne Memorial last Friday, but it was the Zebras who bowled over the Wildcats.

Novi's girls (7-5, 4-5 KLA Central) fell 22-8 to the Zebras (6-5, 5-4 Central) at Town N Country Lanes, further compacting the division standing as five of seven teams are within a game of .500 in league play, although the Wildcats have the best overall record of the five. Wayne's victory put them in second place, while Novi is in

a three-way tie with Plymouth

Salem and Plymouth. The Zebras took both baker games from Novi 177-139 and 225-167 before winning the first game 864-833 to secure the match. The Wildcats won the second game 854-836, but it wasn't enough.

"Sara Schulz shot lights out with games of 245 and 237," Novi coach John Osborne said. "The Novi boys (2-10, 1-8 Central) didn't fare much better, as Wayne (6-5, 4-5 Central) won 23-7, pounding the Wildcats into seventh place in the division. As it happened for the girls, the guys also lost both

baker games 226-198 and 200-

203 before Wayne clinched the match by winning the first game 1,024-888. Novi won the second game 939-910 with Mat Kotowicz rolling out games of 243 and 204.

Things were a bit brighter Saturday at the Mercy Tournament hosted by Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington. Novi's boys finished in second place, 33 pins behind champion North Farmington.

"It was Novi's highest finish ever in a regular season tournament," Osborne said. The Wildcat boys shot 4,333 over 21 games for an aver-

age of 206 pins per game, earning

three bowlers spots on the All-Tournament team. Those were Morgan Wiley with a 717 series (237, 212, 268), Keegan O'Donnell with a 679 series (240, 217, 222) and Kotowicz with a 641 series (games of 234, 186, 221).

Novi's girls didn't have quite as good of luck. Finishing eighth with 3,138 pins over 21 games for a 149-pin-per-game average. Leading the way for Novi were Schulz with a 524 series (167, 221, 136) and Megan Engels with a 509 series (159, 157, 193).

Catholic Central has slew of signings

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks athletic family has plenty to be proud of this week as 15 athletes signed their National Letter of Intent to announce which colleges they will be continuing their athletic endeavors and studies at.

Of all the sports, lacrosse led the pack with five players earning scholarships to the collegiate level. Alex Gillooly announced that he will be playing locally for the University of Detroit Mercy Titans, while Steven Longue will play for Northwood University. John Conley will be on the Jumbos roster as he will play for Tufts University and teammates Nat Cantin and Steve Jarzynski will be playing for the Aquinas College Saints and the Lynchburg College Hornets, respectively.

The Shamrocks' football team will be sending four to the next level, as Wyatt Stallman committed to the University of Michigan and Der-

Shamrocks split week on the hardwood

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It's been a difficult run for the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks basketball team this season, but even in the toughest of seasons the cagers under coach Bill Dyer's direction end up finding a way to win.

Last week against Notre Dame Prep, they used a great second-half performance to stop a recent skid of losses as they earned a 52-42 victory.

The difference may have had something to do with the return of junior Mitch Katkic, who returned for his first game since injuring his foot on December 26 against Detroit Cody.

Katkic put in 13 points to lead the Shamrocks and tie for the top performance in the game with Notre Dame Prep stand-

out Mitchell Ojls, who was held scoreless in the entire second half.

The Shamrocks fell behind, 17-15, in the first quarter and still trailed by the time the half-time buzzer sounded, 30-29.

But in the second half, the squad came out with a renewed energy, bucking down on defense and controlling the game tempo.

"We didn't play well defensively, but we got better as the game went along," said Dyer. "We played with more energy in the second half."

Notably was the play of Austin Beyer, who was key defensively as the team held all three of Notre Dame Prep's guards scoreless in the second half. Noah Lee was also crucial, getting to the ball all night and keeping plays alive for the Shamrocks.

"It was a nice win," said Dyer.

Seniors Garrett Moores and Nick Malone added 10 each in the victory.

The Shamrocks are now 3-9 on the season.

DeLaSalle 59, CC 52

A tough loss to the 10-2 DeLaSalle squad last week found the Shamrocks having victory's grasp in the last minute of the game.

The Shamrocks led by one point with less than 60 seconds remaining

Stevenson goalie blanks Shamrocks

By Brad Emms
Observer Staff Writer

There probably were not enough superlatives to go around regarding Connor Humitz following Livonia Stevenson's 1-0 hockey win Saturday afternoon over Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

The senior goaltender was certainly the straw that stirred the drink as he made 37 saves to pre-

pel the Spartans to a signature victory host Shamrocks on their home ice at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

"He (Humitz) is playing inspired hockey right now," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose team improved to 14-5-1 overall. "Any time you have a third-year senior back there, he knows what it takes. He's really stepped up his preparation, you can tell. He's dialed in right now. I'm very proud of him and happy for him."

It wasn't easy by any stretch as Humitz was under heavy pressure, especially in the second period when he made 17 stops against the second-ranked team in Division 1.

Although outshot 29-10 through the first two

Shamrocks win CHSL title

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks decided to make convincing run for the Catholic High School League title is a good way to prepare for the post-season tournament.

The squad earned the team title with 297 points—more than 100 points ahead of second-place DeLaSalle, which scored 192.5 points.

The team put a record-setting 13 individual wrestlers in the finals of their respective weight classes with Tommy Herremann, Parker O'Brien, Cole Moscovici, Greg Johnson, Tim McCotter and Jimmy Russell earning championships.

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks were scheduled to wrestle Wednesday in the Team District tournament, after the sports section went to print. The team will compete this weekend in the individual district and next week, if they win, in the individual and team regional tournaments.

David Lilley, Dom Devine, Ryan O'Connor, Jake Filban, Joe Jabour, J. T. Ayette and Christian Minor all captured second-place finishes while Mike Mott finished third in the tournament.

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REAL ESTATE

Housing affordability favors Midwest, including the Detroit region

With 11 months of data reported, 2012 will clearly go down as a record year for favorable housing affordability conditions, and a great year for buyers who could get a mortgage, according to the National Association of Realtors.

NAR's national Housing Affordability Index stood at 198.2 in November, based on the relationship between median home price, median family income and average mortgage interest rate. The higher the index, the greater the household purchasing power; record-keeping began in 1970.

An index of 100 is defined as the point where a median-income household has exactly enough income to qualify for the purchase of a median-priced existing single-family home, assuming a 20 percent down payment and 25 percent of gross income devoted to mortgage principal and interest payments. For first-time buyers making small down payments, the affordability levels are relatively lower.

For all of 2012, NAR projects the housing affordability index to be a record high 194, up from 186 in 2011, which was the previous record. November's reading was 2.5 index points below October, but up 1.5 index points from a year earlier.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said home buyers are able to stay well within their budgets. "Although 2012 was highest on record, the excessively tight underwriting precluded many would-be homebuyers from locking-in generational low interest rates," he said. "Rising home prices



and a gradual uptrend in mortgage interest rates will offset improvements in family income, but 2013 likely will be the third best on record in terms of household buying power. A window of opportunity remains open for buyers who can qualify for a mortgage."

Tony Schippa, Coldwell Banker Preferred of Plymouth Realtor and past president of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, said, "I think because the market is turning around, people are excited. I think people are realizing now is the time to go out and buy a house."

"Right now, we have a shortage of inventory," Plymouth resident Schippa said. He cited a condo in Northville at \$130,000 that sold recently within 48 hours.

"Even in the \$300, \$400s, you're getting multiple offers. I think you're going to continue to see that growth in mortgage interest rates on home loans may rise. "As we know, things don't stay low

mate in Michigan, Schippa added.

NAR projects the housing affordability index to average 160 during 2013, which means on a national basis that a median-income family would have 160 percent of the income needed to purchase a median-priced existing single-family home. Conditions vary widely, with the highest buying power in the Midwest. Even in the West, where the regional index is lower, they typical family is well positioned in most markets.

NAR President Gary Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty in Villa Park, Calif., said the minor erosion in affordability conditions moving forward could be mitigated by bank and regulatory policies.

"Clearer rules from the government regarding future lawsuits and buybacks of Fannie and Freddie loans could encourage banks to use their massive cash holdings to originate more loans," he said.

"A more sensible lending environment that makes it easier for other financially qualified buyers to get a mortgage would allow many more households to enter the market, boosting home sales as much as 10 to 15 percent," Thomas said.

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.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Downtown Minneapolis on the grow

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am in the commercial real estate business with respect to large skyscrapers. I am wondering if you have any information about Minneapolis in terms of its investment potential.

A: I am advised that a major California real estate company has invested over \$200 million dollars in buying a 50-story tower in downtown Minneapolis.

Basically, most of the buildings in the downtown area are occupied in the high 90 percentile being a secondary market. Minneapolis, based upon my recent analysis and visit, is thriving in the downtown area, particularly because of the Target Center. It may well be a growing commercial center because of the rapid transit.

Q: I am finding it difficult to find a good Realtor who is willing to give me the time I need to look at various homes in the community in which I strive to live. Do you have any recommendations on how to find a good Realtor?

A: Like finding a good lawyer, the best way to find a good Realtor is by word of mouth from someone who has had an opportunity to work with that Realtor. Of course, not everyone gets along with someone else the same way, and that is not an absolute guarantee. Obviously, the major firms have websites that provide the credentials for their real estate agents. You are best advised to have a real estate broker, who is affiliated with a company that has a good record of accomplishment and does not have any complaints filed against it with the state regulatory body.

In any event, once you find a prospective Realtor, you should ask for references from that Realtor in order to check out their experience and ability to give you the service to which you are entitled.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit meisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 8-12, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

4359 W Arbor Way Dr	\$60,000	14243 Sunset St	\$111,000	40164 Newport Dr	\$68,000
4850 Wilshire Dr	\$355,000	15346 Sunset St	\$132,000	40852 Newport Dr	\$60,000
GARDEN CITY		18059 University Park Dr	\$60,000	8285 Northern Ave	\$135,000
21333 Alvin St	\$100,000	9049 W Deborah Ct	\$128,000	9275 Tavistock Dr	\$103,000
27559 Cambridge St	\$15,000	30423 Washington St	\$130,000	REDFORD	
30423 Dawson St	\$160,000	19972 Weyher St	\$84,000	16583 Beech Daly Rd	\$37,000
6431 Golfview St	\$100,000	9918 Woodring St	\$65,000	18636 Brady	\$10,000
5834 Helen St	\$40,000	NORTHVILLE		14242 Breakfast Dr	\$147,000
7139 Middlebelt Rd	\$274,000	18871 Briarway Way	\$498,000	12075 Colebrook	\$35,000
28515 Pardo St	\$260,000	41822 Briarhampton Ct	\$550,000	11356 Crosby	\$89,000
33645 Rosslyn Ave	\$73,000	44406 Broadmoor Blvd	\$453,000	25251 E Deborah	\$70,000
30513 Sheridan St	\$39,000	44426 Broadmoor Blvd	\$63,000	17334 Garfield	\$18,000
6548 Crystal Downs E	\$41,000	44426 Broadmoor Blvd	\$465,000	34255 Galesburg	\$45,000
46543 Crystal Downs W	\$493,000	48282 Horseshoe Dr	\$151,000	20039 Indian	\$70,000
19373 Crystal Lake Dr	\$85,000	16093 Homestead Cir	\$340,000	19996 Inkster Rd	\$15,000
39771 Dun Robin Dr	\$277,000	16147 Homestead Cir	\$427,000	14211 Mason Dr	\$145,000
41822 Eagle Trace Dr	\$240,000	16025 Newport Ave	\$35,000	16225 Newport Ave	\$35,000
735 Grandview St	\$465,000	13949 Royal Grand	\$47,000	15134 Salem Ct	\$40,000
16093 Homestead Cir	\$340,000	25457 Westgate Dr	\$40,000	30047 Akron St	\$50,000
16828 Horseshoe Dr	\$427,000	WESTLAND		30492 Birchwood St	\$60,000
19548 Mann Ct	\$30,000	34127 Birchwood St	\$41,000	6278 Birchwood St	\$25,000
48277 Manorwood Dr	\$477,000	32240 Harvard St	\$41,000	34870 Fairchild St	\$48,000
16406 Mulberry Way	\$277,000	16256 Downing St	\$42,000	31025 Fernwood St	\$30,000
41822 Pen Meadow Dr	\$295,000	32648 Harvard St	\$41,000	32648 Harvard St	\$41,000
15361 Prestwick Cir N	\$477,000	16256 Downing St	\$42,000	8330 Liberty Blvd	\$22,000
43977 Prestwick Cir S	\$474,000	7806 Manor Cir	\$23,000	30149 Mathew St	\$45,000
5166 Rouse St	\$185,000	30149 Mathew St	\$45,000	31023 Merritt Ct	\$90,000
327 Saint Lawrence Blvd	\$225,000	5826 N Globe St	\$60,000	32561 Palmer Rd	\$7,000
26300 Spring Ln	\$800,000	825 Patricia Place Dr	\$156,000	16256 Downing St	\$42,000
41899 Waterfall Rd	\$287,000	16256 Downing St	\$42,000	38588 Scott Dr	\$45,000
16147 Westminister Dr	\$273,000	786 Summerfield Dr	\$65,000	33513 Unicorn Ct	\$97,000
PLYMOUTH					
11524 Aspen Dr	\$142,000				
11344 Bellwood Dr	\$315,000				
693 Burroughs St	\$285,000				
41822 Pen Meadow Dr	\$295,000				
48080 Colony Farms Cir	\$132,000				
14805 Farnbrook Dr	\$193,000				
41059 Greenbrook Ln	\$153,000				
13346 Hidden Creek Dr	\$254,000				

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the weeks of Sept. 24-28, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

1939 Eagle Pointe	\$165,000	28890 Hidden Trl	\$315,000	28254 Wolcott Dr	\$84,000
4751 Haddington Dr	\$249,000	32318 Old Forge Ln	\$180,000	SOUTH LYON	
20 Haddell Dr	\$202,000	28770 Rockledge Dr	\$175,000	24731 Brompton Way	\$40,000
135 W Hickory Grove Rd	\$486,000	29404 Windmill Ct	\$290,000	59086 Carnegie Ln	\$233,000
5291 Woodview Dr	\$248,000	FRANKLIN		1081 Coli Dr	\$271,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP		32535 Scottsdale	\$728,000	23865 Copperwood Dr W	\$50,000
4057 Hidden Woods Dr	\$282,000	Lathrup Village		57680 Deere Ct	\$50,000
1892 Pine Ridge Ln	\$215,000	2745 Lathrup Blvd	\$150,000	53752 Edgewood Dr	\$215,000
820 S Pemberton Rd	\$175,000	19292 W 11 Mile Rd	\$60,000	24092 Glenwood Dr	\$40,000
100 W Hickory Grove Rd # HZ	\$30,000	MILFORD		59008 Peters Barn Dr	\$76,000
3236 Hanover Dr	\$357,000	NOVI		940 S Parkway Dr	\$171,000
3836 Wedgewood Dr	\$10,000	43073 Ashbury Dr	\$425,000	53815 Springfield Dr	\$210,000
COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP		45224 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000	53850 Springfield Dr	\$16,000
626 Andrews St	\$252,000	27652 Belgrave Pl	\$45,000	23343 Spoglians Hill Dr	\$35,000
2313 Briarantine	\$374,000	30165 Brightwood Dr	\$286,000	54581 Villagewood Dr	\$40,000
8215 Cooley Lake Rd	\$374,000	41905 Canterbury Dr	\$116,000	SOUTHFIELD	
2207 Palmetto	\$40,000	27866 Declaration Rd	\$92,000	27590 Bradford Ln	\$111,000
FARMINGTON		21200 Edgewater	\$66,000	23734 Plumbrook Dr	\$75,000
23885 Beacon Dr	\$40,000	23977 Maude Lea St	\$152,000	28810 Tavistock Tr	\$145,000
21056 Birchwood St	\$110,000	21571 Meridian Ln	\$250,000	25428 Woodville Pl	\$74,000
32318 Shawnee Rd	\$110,000	151 Revell St	\$77,000	600 Kent Ln	\$285,000
35564 Tall Pine Rd	\$70,000	47284 Robin Ct	\$275,000	158 McCarty Dr	\$162,000
FARMINGTON HILLS		28248 Wolcott Dr	\$91,000	8679 Morro Ct	\$120,000
28601 Glenbrook Dr	\$272,000				
4594 Kiltspate Blvd	\$569,000				
27 S Barkshire Rd	\$200,000				
2729 Aldgate Dr	\$220,000				
150 E Long Lake Rd # 5	\$95,000				

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Howard Hanna

In the New Year, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services has confirmed its commitment to the state of Michigan and specifically Ann Arbor with improved services.

Howard Hanna has solidified the management team in Michigan. This change means that the managers will no longer be listing or selling properties. The sole purpose of this full-time team will be to dedicate support to the locations and agents they serve.

President of Howard Hanna Ohio & Michigan, Howard W. "Hob" Hanna IV looks forward to 2013 and the pending opportunity in the Southeast Michigan market. "We are pleased to have such a capable management staff who will help with the growth we foresee in 2013," he said.

"Through local offices, we will be offering the Howard Hanna income advantage, incentive trips, 100 percent Money Back Guarantee and Homes of Distinction program. Additionally, Howard Hanna has achieved the well-respected Christie's International Real Estate designation in Michigan. This is an achievement enjoyed in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York."

For more information about Howard Hanna's Michigan properties or a career in real estate, visit: http://www.howardhanna.com/real_estate/michigan/. To learn more, visit www.howardhanna.com or www.facebook.com/howardhanna. Nick Lacey is the Northville office manager.

Car Report

Advertising Feature

Lincoln is aiming to re-set its brand with a larger audience



By Dale Buss

Lincoln's brand revival bid slammed into top gear for Super Bowl Sunday with TV advertising that highlights the new MKZ sedan and the fresh positioning Ford is trying to give a marque that has been sleeping for decades. Under Jimmy Fallon's Twitter-fed and crowdsourced creative influence, Lincoln's effort generated perhaps more curiosity about what any auto brand was doing in the Big Game.

In a last twist, the automaker decided to break its presence in Super Bowl XLVII on February 3 into two 30-second spots instead of its originally planned single, minute-long commercial.

"The last [few days] have seen the creative process unfold, and what we witnessed was that we're having a hard time containing the content even in a rich 60-second spot," Andrew Frick, Lincoln group marketing manager, said in late January. So, one of the spots focused more intently on the wonders of the re-designed MKZ sedan, while the other 30 seconds gave sway to Fallon's imaginings.

It's little wonder that Lincoln decided to go a bifurcated direction, even so late in the pre-game. Under Lincoln's #SteertheScript promotion launched last fall, it was the job of TV host and comic Fallon to curate the best contributions from 6,117 tweets to create an ad for the third quarter of the game that highlighted contributors' most intriguing road trips.

In the creative mix — as chronicled in the dubs and drabs of YouTube videos that Lincoln posted all along — were 20

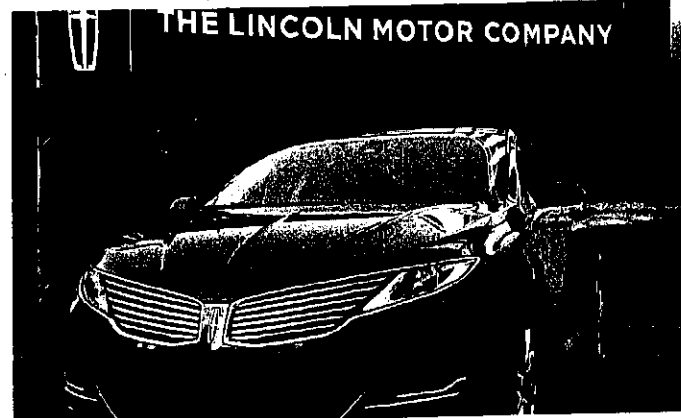
alpacas, 10 turtles, several bikers and a hokey-looking spaceship in a desert setting. Indulging Fallon's vision in such a way would seem to leave relatively little room to extol MKZ, which is only the first of the four new vehicles Lincoln has promised over the next few years.

Frick said that breaking its ad buy into two chunks became the most obvious way for Ford to succeed in promoting both the new vehicle and its "new" brand.

"You want to show your vehicle; the car is always the star, in some ways," he said. "But you also want to strike the balance of not becoming too rational, and showing the more emotional side of the vehicle and how it relates to people individually and how the vehicle becomes a mechanism for their real-life experiences."

"We're trying to connect the vehicle and the experiences in everyday life and how important the vehicle is to them."

In an event, for a brand that has suffered from glaring corporate neglect over the last several years, the attempted turnaround is an ambitious as well as jarring one. Ford has tried to set the marketing stage over the last few months



Lincoln MKZ is the car star of the brand's Super Bowl efforts.

by renaming the brand "Lincoln Motor Company," by relying on touches of heritage (even including President Lincoln) in new advertising, and by talking up hopes that the new Lincoln will land the sort of young, "progressive luxury" customer who wasn't on the agenda of the Lincoln of Town Car days.

Lincoln truly planned to throw the long ball in the Super Bowl. Its intended receiver is an upscale Gen X-er who previously wouldn't have considered the brand or its relatively staid cars and instead would be pondering an Audi, BMW or maybe Infiniti or Buick for his or her next purchase. Thus the emphasis in the Big Game commercial on "experiences."

"The progressive luxury customer we're targeting is very much about personal experiences and understanding the story behind the story,"

Frick explained. "And we found there was a good amount of overlap between them and Fallon in terms of their following, based on the way he communicates and the brand around him."

"And we'll surprise a lot of people in terms of how progressive we've become." Lincoln also is aiming to re-set its brand with a larger audience than those who might be in the market right now for an MKZ. "Any time you advertise on the Super Bowl, it's going to extend to a far greater audience, and these spots will give everyone an idea of where the brand is going," Frick said.

To help create a broader and ongoing conversation about Lincoln, social media is key. That's clear from how the brand chose crowdsourcing from the start and in the lead-up to the game.

"We already received over 100 million impressions for the brand through social media before the ads even ran," Frick noted. "We're getting the message out."

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