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Winter taxes due

2012 winter property tax payments must be received by the City of Novi's treasurer's office on or before Thursday, Feb. 14 to avoid an automatic penalty. There is a drop box located at the curb behind the Civic Center for tax payments. Payments will be accepted in the drop box until midnight Feb. 14. Property taxes/water and sewer payments can also be paid on-line at www.cityofnovi.org by credit card or electronic check (no fee charged for electronic check). Please be careful when entering your bank account/routing numbers; payments returned after the due date will be assessed a penalty. Contact the treasurer at (248) 347-0440 if you have any questions.

Novi residents can offer input as CIP moves toward final approval

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Novi residents will begin to see the positive impact of last year's road millage vote this summer as the City of Novi moves forward with the Neighborhood Rehabilitation program as part of its annual Capital Improvement Plan. A big CIP project is the \$3.4 million estimated for the Crescent Boulevard Extension between Grand River Avenue and Novi Road. The plan is to construct a 1,300-foot long, four-lane boulevard connecting Novi

Road and Grand River Avenue in the northwest quadrant of the intersection and a 650-foot long industrial spur road. It will also include a bridge over the Rouge River, repaving of the existing portion of Crescent Boulevard west of Novi Road (or Fonda Street) and a new signal at the intersection with Grand River.

"The expanded Neighborhood Road Rehabilitation program is the direct result of the Novi voters support of the millage approved last year," said Victor Cardenas, assistant city manager.

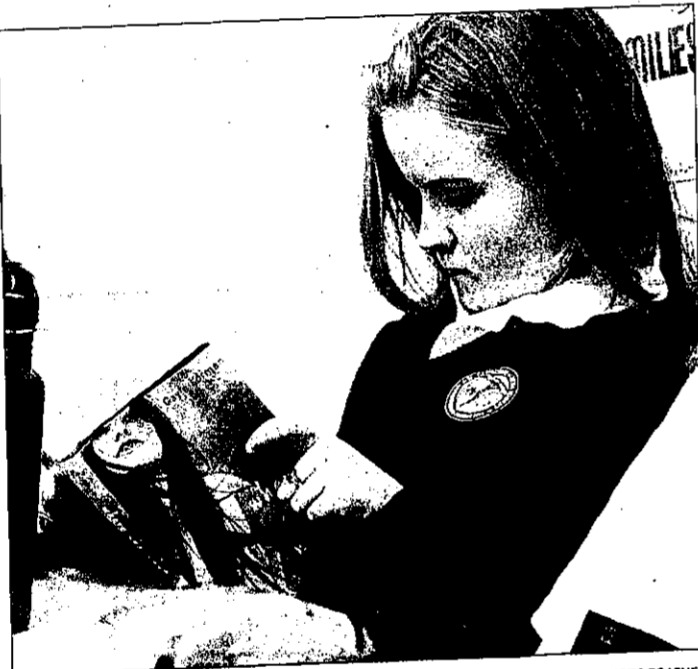
"Compared to years past, the available funds have been doubled, resulting in more road surfaces being improved with a variety of treatments each year of the CIP."

According to Cardenas, road projects in the city's six-year plan are funded from the dedicated road millage that was recently approved by voters to provide 1.5 mills, generating \$2.1 million dollars for neighborhood road rehabilitation and construction.



Please see INPUT, A2

A time to learn



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ugne Orentag of Novi reads in her English class at Wixom's St. Catherine of Siena Academy on Jan. 29. The Napier Road Catholic girls' school pulls a lot of students from Novi, Northville and points west.

Catholics 'shocked' by pope's resignation

By Kurt Kuban Staff Writer

Northville Township resident and lifelong Catholic Bryan Rizzo used the phrase "just shocked" to describe his feelings when he found out Pope Benedict XVI had announced his resignation Monday morning. Rizzo, who is the athletic director at Madonna University, a Catholic-run institution in Livonia, said it took him a moment to digest the announcement that sent shock waves throughout the Catholic Church. "I thought to myself, I don't think this has ever happened in my lifetime," Rizzo said. As it turns out, he was right. Benedict is the first Pope to step down from the Papacy in nearly six centuries. Benedict, who cited health reasons, said he would step down,

Please see POPE, A2

Novi's district MEAP results 'stable'

By Cal Stone Staff Writer

The best word to describe Novi schools' latest MEAP test results is "stable." The Michigan Department of Education Monday released the Fall 2012 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores for public schools, grades three-nine. "They display a steady

amount of growth in what we would expect," said RJ Webber, assistant superintendent of Academic Services for Novi Community Schools. "Our numbers are quite stable." Nick Kalakailo, Novi's director of Student Growth and Accountability, reiterated that the scores are what the district expected, and said that every year there is

SUPER'S THOUGHTS

Be sure to read reactions from Dr. Steve Matthews, Novi's superintendent, regarding MEAP results inside on the Education page.

some fluctuation. "A little off here, a little down here," said Kalakailo. "Being historically high performing, our challenge is — How do we grow? How do we get

better from here?" Both administrators said that Novi doesn't compare its results to other districts or the state standards and averages because it "isn't really helpful to us," said Kalakailo. "We keep thinking internally to make sure we're delivering a rich curriculum." Webber said the MEAP scores are a decent yardstick but the results aren't really useful for Novi. "We're creating a very robust, internal accountability system which

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Please see MEAP, A4

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Volume 27
Number 39

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POPE

Continued from page A1

effective 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, on Feb. 28. After that, the traditional conclave of cardinals will gather within 15 to 20 days to elect a successor.

Rizzo wasn't alone in his feelings of surprise. Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron also said he was "stunned" by the news.

"The Holy Father and I... we're not buds, but I do feel a bond and I've always felt a lot of support from him," said Vigneron, who was appointed by Benedict in 2009 to lead the six-county Detroit archdiocese.

Even though Vigneron was informed of the pope's resignation by e-mail Monday, he also was able to listen to an audio replay of the pope resigning before the gathering of cardinals.

"Hearing the Holy Father speak in his own

words, his own sense of declining health..." said Vigneron, was "very poignant to me.

Cardinals Edmund Szoka, 85, and Cardinal Adam Maida, 82, who are both previous leaders of the Detroit archdiocese, will not be able to vote in the next conclave because they are past the age of 80. Both Szoka and Maida participated in the conclave's secret voting in 2005, which elected Pope Benedict, then known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

Vigneron is not a cardinal, and thus not eligible to participate in the conclave. Vigneron said he expected the next pope will be in place by Easter, March 31, the holiest day of the Christian calendar and which marks Christianity's belief that Jesus rose from the dead.

Local Catholics were still processing the news on Tuesday. Many felt sadness.

"It was with heavy hearts that we read the news of our Holy

Father's resignation on Monday morning. Pope Benedict XVI has led the Body of Christ, the Church, with much faith, hope and love, as our fearless shepherd over the past almost eight years," said Marita Ladonszky, executive director of St. Catherine of Siena Academy Foundation in Wyom.

Officials at Our Lady of Victory Parish and School in Northville declined to comment on Benedict's decision. An assistant for the Rev. Denis Theroux directed all questions to the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Over at Catholic Central High School in Novi, Father John Huber read to students on Tuesday morning Vigneron's statement about the pope's resignation.

"The school then prayed the Our Father for Pope Benedict and the Church. We are grateful for the Holy Father's leadership and pray that the Spirit guide the College of Cardinals as they elect a new spiritual leader for us all," said Father Jefferson Thompson, president of Catholic Central.

Despite the uncertainty that lies ahead for the Church, Northville Township's Rizzo said he supports Benedict's decision.

"As surprising as this is, I think he made the right decision if he's not healthy enough to execute the responsibilities of the office," Rizzo said.

Reporter Cal Stone and Gannett News Service contributed to this story.

INPUT

Continued from page A1

The City of Novi is now in the process of updating its 2013-19 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). These road projects and many others are being prioritized in the plan. Residents will get the chance to voice their opinions regarding projects set out for the next six years in the coming weeks.

Currently, there are several projects Novi is in the process of being completed from last year's CIP:

- play structures at Lake Shore and Rotary parks
- a water main along Garfield Road
- replacing the original locker rooms for the city's police officers
- three new plow trucks to assist in snow removal
- a new fire apparatus.

Cardenas said besides the neighborhood road program, the standout CIP projects that rate high as needed in the near future include the proposed Ring Road from Novi Road to Grand River Avenue, development of David Barr's property into an art park and ITC Park corridor pathway.

This year's CIP, which is still in draft form, has \$2.97 million set aside for rehab of neighborhood roads. Novi currently main-

DETAILS

Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed projects when the City Council takes up budget deliberation beginning with their first budget session on April 15.

To learn more about the CIP, go to Novi's website at <http://www.cityofnovi.org>.

Approximately 171 miles of major roads and neighborhood streets.

The selection of streets is determined using the PASER surveys conducted annually. A mix of fixes (rehabilitation, repair, and reconstruction) will be applied to optimize the funds used to improve the overall condition of local roads as reflected by an increase in the overall PASER rating for the city. A road rated as a 10 is considered in excellent condition.

According to Novi's 2012 Paser ratings, some of the worst roads with ratings of 2 were Cattisford, Glenhaven Circle and Braydon Court.

Cardenas said the public pathway, substantially along the ITC corridor from ITC Sports Park at Napier and Eight Mile all the way to Providence Hospital at Grand River Avenue and Beck Road, "is another important project."

Another sidewalk project will be the

Haggerty Road and Nine Mile Road Pedestrian Improvements. The Nine Mile Road pathway project was completed in 2011 and completed a pedestrian connection for three of the four quadrants of the intersection of Nine Mile Road at Haggerty Road.

This CIP project would complete the east-west pedestrian crossing on the north side of Nine Mile Road at Haggerty.

A crucial sanitary project is also in the works that will aim to prevent sewer back-ups. A permanent stand-by generator would be added to the existing sanitary pump station at Knightsbridge Gate.

"A fixed generator at this location would better prevent sanitary sewer back-ups caused by power failures without relying on delivery of the portable generator by city personnel," according to the CIP draft.

Cardenas said city staff has identified and prioritized projects, estimated project costs, determined available resources, balanced project requests within the available resources, and, ultimately, submitted the recommended program/piece of infrastructure to the Capital Improvement Program subcommittee. Now it will move on.

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NOVI NEWS

Published Thursday by the Hometown Weeklies
866.887.2737 www.hometownlife.com
Publication Number USPS 389920
Periodical Postage Paid at South Lyon, MI 48176

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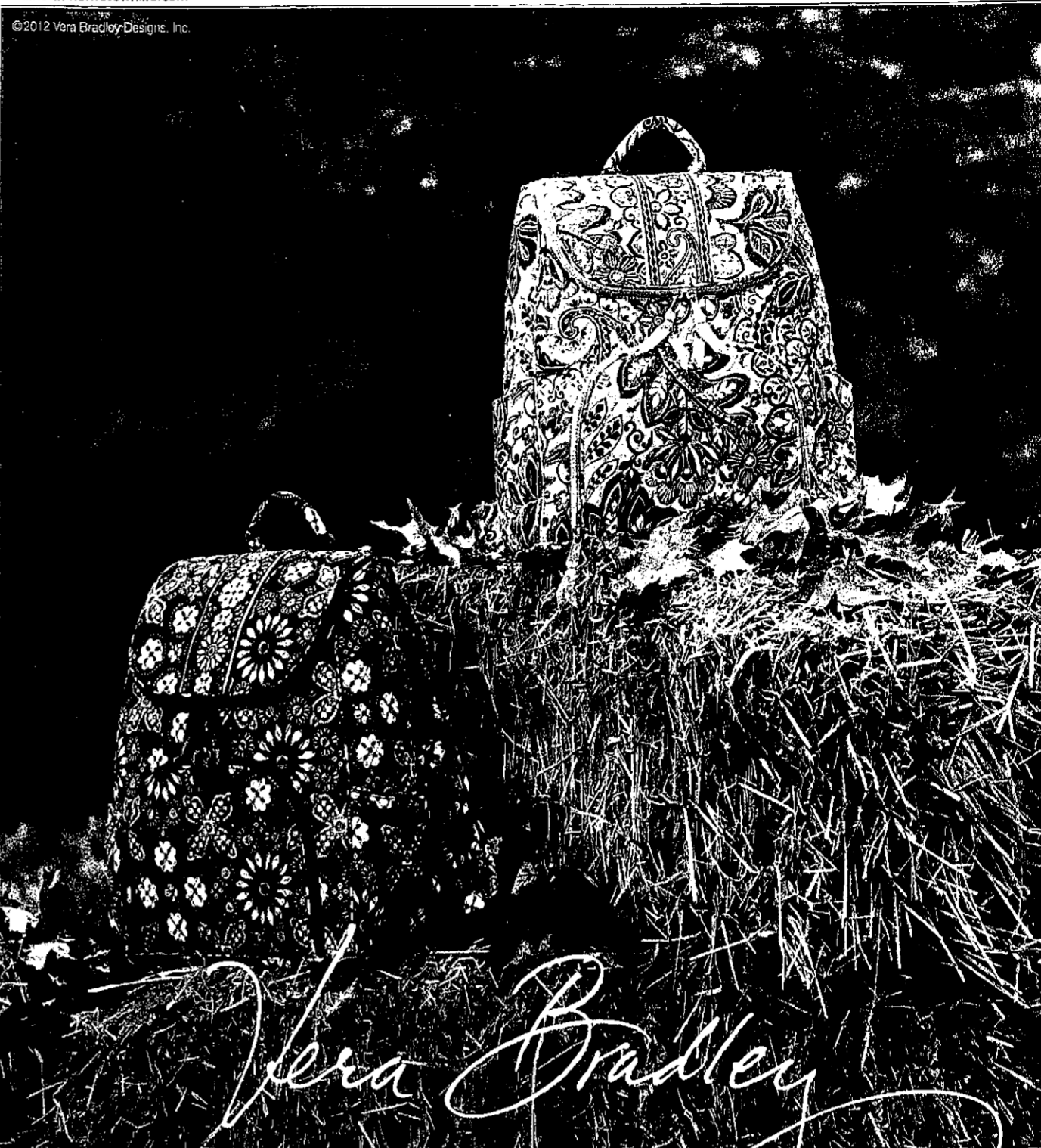
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MEAP: Comparisons aren't data's real power

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist

Many people love state assessment data because they can compare one district to another. In my mind, that is not the power of state assessments. The power of state assessment data is that it gives me a snapshot of a student. It doesn't tell me everything I need to know but it gives me one more piece of data that will help me as I try to make an impact on the life of each and every student in our district.

When state assessment data is made public, it is easy to compare our district and school results to other districts and schools. A natural reaction is to look for those districts that we can "beat." After all, the easiest way for a superintendent to look good is to show that we are better than someone else.

The truth is, I can find districts that we beat. We beat the state averages. But is that really the point?

Over time I have learned that the real benefit of state assessment data is that it gives a snapshot of where we are right now. Our results give us a perspective. The results allow us to determine what our strengths are and where we can improve.

This year's results certainly provide us with a lot to feel good about. In third grade 85.6 percent of our students were proficient in reading and another 9.1 percent were partially proficient. That left 5.3 percent of our students scoring as not proficient. That means out of 450 third grade students who took the MEAP in October 2012, only 24 students were not proficient in reading.

Our district scores justifiably make us proud. Yet, when I look at these results I see room for improvement. Two of our district goals focus on achievement. One states that every student will make a year's growth in a year's time. Our second goal states that all students will perform at a high level.

While MEAP averages are good for the newspaper to make comparisons, the real power is in digging deeper into the numbers. I take the MEAP data and ask how many students made a year's growth last

year? In 2012, we could match 411 students in from third grade to fourth grade. Of those 411 students, 295 maintained or improved their standing on the MEAP test. I could be said they made a year's growth in a year's time. Another way to calculate that is to say that 72 percent of our fourth graders made a year's growth in a year's time.

It also means that 116 students did not make a year's growth from third grade to fourth grade. Most interesting to me is that 56 of those 116 students who did not make a year's growth were students who scored at the advanced level in third grade but the proficient stage in fourth grade. Our goal is that every student will make a year's growth in a year's time. Clearly, we have room for improvement.

This is the power of state assessment data. It makes us ask questions. It does not provide THE answer but it provides information that I can begin to use to ask questions about how we do things in Novi. Our district created goals and is taking the time to measure them so that we can make a difference in the life of every student in the district.

Our job - our greatest responsibility - is to make sure that everyone of our students makes progress every year. We want them to grow and we want them to achieve. We want to do everything that we can to prepare our students so that when they graduate they will be ready to be successful.

Comparisons, while interesting, are not all that important. The real power of data is not in comparing groups to groups, it is using the data to identify how we make a difference for each student.

We don't need to beat every other district on state assessments. We need to ensure that every student is proficient (performs at a high level) and that every student makes a year's growth in a year's time.

Our goal is to use state assessment data to challenge ourselves to get better. We want to be the best school district we can be. In order to be that great district, we have to be the best for the every student every day.

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

NOVI 2012 MEAP RESULTS

Year	3RD GRADE		4TH GRADE		5TH GRADE		6TH GRADE		7TH GRADE		8TH GRADE		9TH GRADE	
	Met	Included	Met	Included	Met	Included	Met	Included	Met	Included	Met	Included	Met	Included
2009	75	471	84.9	469	79.6	450	73.5	464	69.5	524	68.9	482	58.1	58.1
2010	70.2	440	79.5	438	77.5	493	75.6	471	73.6	470	63.3	480	63.2	467
2011	71.6	429	80.7	424	75.1	441	73.6	478	70	503	63.3	480	58.1	487
2012	70.3	462	85.6	450	75.1	441	77.3	542	74.5	499	67.8	503	48.8	496

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Education

These results are for all buildings in the Novi Community School District. The report shows the percentage of students who passed - meaning they "met" or exceeded the standards - by grade and subject for the 2009 through 2012 school years. "Included" indicates the number of students tested.

MEAP

Continued from page A1

allows us to be far more adaptable for our kids," said Webber, noting that Novi teachers assess where in individual students are throughout the year and then tailor instruction to their

needs. "But the general trend is that Novi is top tier in the county and the state," said Webber. "We're happy, but we also feel we have a long way to go to be better. Keep pushing... to be an even better district." Kalakailo pointed out that fall 2013 is to be the final time the

MEAP test is given as the state moves to the Smarter Balance online assessment test in spring 2015. "We're really proud of our kids and really happy, but we're rarely satisfied," said Webber. cstone@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, Ext. 237 Twitter: @TheNoviNews

NCEP open house



Novi Community Education Preschool is hosting the second annual Preschool Open House for the 2013-2014 School Year from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19. This program is open to children who will be age 3, 4, or 5 by Nov. 1, 2013. Classes begin in Sept. 2013 and run until June 2013. Registration for new students begins on March 13. Meet teachers, view classrooms and learn about the Creative Curriculum. Open house locations are: Novi High School Preschool Room, 24062 Taft Road (3- and 4-year-old half-day classes); Novi Community Education Preschool Building, 25575 Taft Road (3- and 4-year-old half-day classes); and the Community Education (ITC) Building, 25425 Taft Road (3-, 4- and 5-year-old all day classes; 5-year-old half-day class). For more information, visit www.novi.k12.mi.us/communityed/preschool or call (248) 449-1206.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Novi Community Education Preschool Open House

Novi Community Education Preschool is hosting their 2nd Annual Preschool Open House for the 2013-2014 school year from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19. This program is open to children who will be age 3, 4, or 5 by Nov. 1. Classes begin in Septem-

ber and run until June 2014. Registration for new students begins on March 13.

Join for an evening and meet teachers, view classrooms, and learn about the Creative Curriculum. Open House locations are: Novi High School Preschool Room, 24062 Taft Road (3- and 4-year-old half-day classes); Novi Community Educa-

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For more information, visit www.novi.k12.mi.us/communityed/preschool or call (248) 449-1206.

Yen to learn

Japanese is a popular class at Novi High

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Denisse Flores, 15, a Novi High School ninth-grader, is well on her way to learning her fourth language, Japanese.

Flores took a break during a recent Japanese 2 class to talk. "It's not an ordinary language to learn," she said as teacher Noriko Rosen moved around the room helping classmates. "I wanted to make a challenge for myself."

Flores was born in Mexico, and moved to Germany. Her parents are Mexican and German, and the family came here four years ago.

"The teacher always inspires us and helps us to move forward," Flores said. "She makes it fun. She's really inspirational."

Flores has liked meeting new people in class. "It will also give me more job opportunities as well." Learning about Japanese culture is her

favorite. Teacher Rosen, who is Japanese-American and a Farmington Hills resident, said there are five levels of instruction in Japanese at Novi High, including Advanced Placement.

In the recent Japanese 2, she acted out, "It hurts" with motions for parts of the body, such as a headache or sore throat. The students sang an earlier song they'd learned on body parts.

A computer game showing correct answers for Japanese words on such things as aching teeth and other parts kept students learning. Rosen, who grew up in Japan and did her college work there, also has a Japanese Club at the school of some 40-50 students.

Counting her substitute time, she's been with the district 14 years. Her students are mainly American-born. "There are a few native Japanese speakers as well," she said.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Novi High students taking the Japanese language go over some in-class exercises on Feb. 4 from left: Corey Bui, Jacki Brown and Irene Kim.

enjoyment of teaching, noting one-on-one instruction helps. "It is really fun to teach students who are motivated."

Some students want to teach English overseas or study in Japanese universities. Anime has become popular with teens, she said. "Then they want to learn more about Japanese culture."

"Japanese is a difficult language," the teacher said. "Reading and writing is so different from European languages."

Her students learn a lot about Japanese culture and the language as well. "It depends on the student," she said of her

In class, students explore calligraphy as well as cooking and origami.

"Slang is difficult," Rosen agreed. She still has some difficulty in English with "I" and "it" sounds.

"Usually I can communicate with American people just fine," Ryan Katulski, 14, a ninth-grader who's American-born, was busy in class on a recent snowy day. "I wanted to learn it," Katulski said. "I just like Japanese. It's cool."

He likes best "being with my friends and

learning the language. I would say once you learn the alphabet it's very easy. I just like it."

Katulski agreed it will help with college and career plans.

The neighboring Northville Public Schools district does not offer Japanese instruction as part of its K-12 program.

However, "we do offer Japanese 1 and 2 via Michigan Virtual High School in our summer school program," said Bob Behnk, assistant superintendent for Instructional Services.

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Reaching out

Quartet helps Novi students hear new perspective

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Novi music students experienced a cool, interactive lecture from an award-winning string quartet, giving them the chance to learn from professional musicians.

The Aeolus String Quartet went to Novi High School last week to give orchestra students some tips as part of an outreach program sponsored by Chamber Music Society of Detroit.

This musical residency of the quartet reached almost 2,000 students and families in the one-week period in Novi alone, with visits also to the middle school and library.

For ninth-grader and violinist Alicia Desormeaux, the experience opened her eyes and ears to a new way of looking at her musical education.

"This was really cool. It gave some different perspectives on playing music," she said about the coaching session Aeolus did at Jim Van Eizenga's orchestra class on Feb. 7.

"Listening to them play really gave me an idea what I could work up to and what you could be as a professional," she added.

Violinists Nicholas Tavani and Rachel Shapiro, and violist Gregory Luce, and cellist Alan Richardson formed the Aeolus Quartet in 2008 at the Cleveland Institute of Music and are now based in Washington, D.C. Since its inception, the all-American quartet has been awarded prizes at nearly every major competition in the United States, and performed across the globe to great acclaim.

They enjoyed their time in Novi and couldn't say enough about the students. "This has been fantastic. It's really inspiring to be around students wanting to learn," said Richardson.

During the orchestra class, the quartet listened and played along with the



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nick Tavani, a member of the Washington D.C.-based Aeolus Quartet plays a section of a symphony that the Novi High string ensemble is working on during a Feb. 7 visit.



The Aeolus Quartet performs for Novi High students on Feb. 7 in the school's auditorium. From left are: Nick Tavani, Rachel Shapiro, Alan Richardson, and Gregory Luce.

students, stopping every once in a while to instruct them on a new approach. From breathing in unison to standing up to play their instruments, the students tried some new methods that really did positively impact their playing in a short time.

Van Eizenga also enjoyed the time spent with the quartet. Much of what he talked about is what he has been doing with the students as well.

"It was really good to have them. They reinforced a lot of good teaching points and also introduced some new things for us to keep in mind," he said. "It's nice for the students to see professional musicians in action."

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"It was really good to have them. They reinforced a lot of good teaching points and also introduced some new things for us to keep in mind," he said. "It's nice for the students to see professional musicians in action."

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

UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

Library offers free tech classes

If you are having trouble figuring out Microsoft word, want to learn more about your e-mail, or interested in Skype, the Novi Public Library has free training to help you.

Classes are offered throughout certain months and are held at different time slots. All classes will take place in the computer lab on the second floor at the library (45255 W. Ten Mile Road). Each class lasts anywhere from a half hour to an hour. Pre-registration is required.

PowerPoint Basics, Intermediate Word, Skype Essentials, and Excel Basics are a few of the computer classes; check out the library's website for more information on these courses and to sign up.

Registration is available online at novilibrary.org. For more information on these programs, call (248) 349-0720.

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 cityofnovi.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 Services office at (248) 347-0400.

Library patrons can pay late fines down, give to needy



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi library employee Christine Krieger assists Bonnie Howitz in checking out some material on Feb. 8. Beginning this week the library is sponsoring a Food for Fines promotion where for every \$1 of donated food patrons will receive \$10 off their library fines. Donated goods will go to local food banks.

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The Novi Public Library is introducing a new program to give patrons an opportunity to decrease their late fees while also helping out those in need.

"This is the first year for Food for Fines, and library director Julie Parkas thinks the effort is a 'win-win' for everyone involved.

"This effort will help those wanting to eliminate or pay down their late fines and will also help support the Novi Food Emergency Bank and Hospitality House," according to Parkas.

It's really quite simple for library card members with fines to donate food items and have a fine canceled. Parkas said one canned or dried non-perishable item equals \$1 in fines with a maximum of \$10

per library card, which must be present to verify accounts.

The effort is in partnership with Walmart of Novi, which is providing staff to help during the three days it's going on. The retailer helped the library previously with the event Light Up the Night.

Parkas said the main reason behind this effort is to help those in need. For the food banks, February and March are tough times with supplies low. It's the goal to help replenish the shelves at the Emergency Bank and Hospitality House.

Another goal is to help those patrons with late fees. The library understands fines happen for a variety of reasons, from forgetting to return an item to being out of town when something is due.

Parkas said this also gives those patrons a cool opportunity to help out.

DETAILS

Food for Fines will take place 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 15-16 inside the east meeting room. Staff and volunteers will be on hand with computers to be able to access the accounts.

The Novi library is located at 45255 W. 10 Mile Road.

"We want to give patrons a break," she said, "and we believe this is the best way to do that."

Food items particularly needed are canned meats, tuna, and similar foods which are not expired.

"We hope this works out and patrons participate," Parkas added. "Those without fines can also help out if they want to."

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

Local news on the go

Did you know that Hometownlife.com, the online home of the Novi News, has a mobile site that brings the latest news to your smart phone?

Just navigate to Hometownlife.com from a mobile device for updates throughout the day. The site brings you all the news as soon as it hits the web. Breaking crime stories, local prep sports scores and features about Novi that you won't read anywhere else are all available on your mobile device at Hometownlife.com.

Locals recycle better than the U.S. average

The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC) has tallied the disposal numbers from 2012, and they look very green.

Last year, residents of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wilcox recycled nearly 10,000 tons of paper, plastic, metal and glass. They also composted over 14,000 tons of grass and leaves at local compost facilities. Finally, RRRASOC residents safely disposed of nearly 300 tons of Household Hazardous Waste.

The U.S. recycling rate average is 34.10%. RRRASOC residents average a recycling rate of 38.55 percent.

For more information, please contact RRRASOC at (248) 208-2270 or online at www.rrrasoc.org.

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 percent
- two-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>.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 80% of those who apply for disability benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-5530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Valentine's Day sweet for local, family-owned chocolate shop

News: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature?

Emily Barker: Schakolad of Northville is a family-owned chocolate factory where products are made fresh in our store. Every day our chocolatiers produce handcrafted chocolates using only the finest ingredients. We manufacture in small batches, without wax or preservatives, to ensure quality and freshness.

We create custom truffles and molds for wedding favors, corporate logos and holiday gifts. We offer behind the scenes tours and birthday parties for children and a Sweet Night Out for

SCHAKOLAD CHOCOLATE FACTORY

- Address/City: 20450 Haggerty Road (southeast corner of 8 Mile and Haggerty roads — next to Trader Joe's), Northville MI 48167
- Your Name/Title: Jeff and Emily Barker, Owners
- Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska (Emily)
- Business opened when: 2005
- Number of Employees: 5
- Your Business Specialty: Handmade chocolate
- Hours of Operation: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday
- Special Hours: Open 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Valentine's Day
- Phone/Web site: (734) 464-7040 www.northvillechocolate.com

adults. Parties include a chocolate fountain and chocolate making. Some of the products we offer include:

- 70 different types of truffles and nut clusters
- Signature Barks

- Vegan chocolate
- Gelato (in the spring and summer we offer 10 flavors of handmade gelato trucked in from Palazzolos in Sauguttuck)

News: How did you get

started in this business?

Emily Barker: We were customers first and fell in love with the high quality chocolate. After receiving birthday, engagement and anniversary gifts from Schakolad we bought the store two and half years ago when the original owners were ready to move on. I love the creativity and that it's a family-oriented business (for us and our customers).

News: How important is Valentine's Day to your business?

Emily Barker: Valentine's Day is our single largest sales day of the year. We will dip by hand more than 1,000 chocolate covered strawberries and over 10,000 truffles



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emily Barker, owner of the Schakolad chocolatier on Haggerty near Eight Mile, decorates milk chocolate boxes for the Valentine's Day crush.

for the holiday.

News: Is chocolate really an aphrodisiac?

Emily Barker: Several components of chocolate (mainly phenyl-ethylamine and Tryptophan) have been linked to mood and potential

"aphrodisiac" effects. Eating chocolate may improve your mood and pleasure by boosting serotonin and endorphin levels in the brain.

News: If you had to recommend one of your products as a gift for Valentine's Day, what would it be?

Emily Barker: A chocolate high heel shoe for the ladies. Shoes and chocolate, what more could a woman want? We have chocolate covered potato chips and cayenne hot lips for the men, too.

To show appreciation to our hometown heroes, we are running a special Valentine's Day promotion. For every person who comes in the store to buy chocolates for Valentine's Day, we will add a piece of chocolate to boxes that will be sent to a currently deployed Michigan military unit.

Hearts, flowers

'Busiest day of the year' hectic for florists

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Lee Ann Adam, who owns Novi's The Flower Alley with husband Jeff, knows what sells come Valentine's Day.

"It's always roses," she said. "It's a very romantic flower and it signifies love, love and passion." They've been in Novi, on Novi Road, about seven years and in the business a total of 30.

"It seems to be getting bigger, in all honesty," she said of Valentine's Day and florists. "It's the busiest day of the year."

"They'll bring in extra staff, including designers and drivers. The Adams enjoy their work. Especially on Valentine's Day, you're dealing with everybody

who's happy and romantic," she said. "It's definitely a good feeling."

She's found the romantic roses in a beautiful presentation box the No. 1 seller. Girls and younger women like the Gerber daisies, as well as hydrangeas.

"As a business owner, you definitely look forward to it," said Lee Ann Adam. "Everybody's happy, so it definitely makes you feel good."

She has more male customers: "I think it kind of stems from tradition," in which boys and men give girlfriends and wives flowers.

The opposite's true for Rebecca Moore, floral designer at the Kroger at Six Mile and Haggerty in Northville Township.

"They have a tendency to spend more and trust in what you do," Northville Township resident Moore said of her mostly-female customers.

"I would say roses are the No. 1 seller for Valentine's Day," said Moore, adding older customers often opt for carnations.

"Every once in a while, someone has to get out of the doghouse," she said of customers.

For Valentine's Day, red and pink are big at Kroger, along with some neutrals.

"The younger generation doesn't really like the roses, probably because they're too traditional," said Moore, adding roses don't last as long as some other flowers.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kaila Adam, right, came up from her home in Orlando to help her mom, Lee Ann Adam, with her shop The Flower Alley on Novi Road for its annual Valentine's Day crush. Lee Ann mentioned that it's fun each year to watch all the men crowd in her shop looking for the just-right arrangement for their sweeties.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Beards or clean-shaven? Schoolcraft students asked for their preference

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

A national razor manufacturer recently conducted a little informal research at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"Kiss & Tell" was a chance for couples or friends to let Gillette know their preference — a kiss with someone with a beard or stubble or a clean-shaven face. While some couples participated, it didn't stop some young men from getting a free shave and a free razor to try during the promotion.

"It is part of a 15-city tour," said Stephen Smart, senior account executive with Ket-chum, a public relations firm handling the event for Gillette.

"We invited couples to come out and test whether his face is preferred with stubble or clean shaven."

Smart said research has shown that "two out of three women have avoided kissing a guy because he had facial hair."

The idea was for couples to kiss beforehand in one booth, then have the man's beard. The couple would kiss again in a second booth and participate in a short survey on the preference. The men

The idea was for couples to kiss beforehand in one booth, then have the man's beard. The couple would kiss again in a second booth and participate in a short survey on the preference. The men received free Gillette swag (a razor), while the women received a lip gloss balm.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jake Mulka and Tim Daul try out the blade. They are both from Livonia.

Hernandez called the experience "weird" as all eyes were on him as he shaved, as lenses were aimed by several photographers taking his picture. "I had to make sure I didn't mess up," he said.

Hernandez showed up with stubble that morning, but said he normally keeps a clean shaven look for his job at Abercrombie &

Fitch. "I use an electric razor, but I like this because it is really smooth," he said.

For Hernandez, he didn't have a preference for himself with the stubble or clean shaven look. "I got a kiss both times," he said.

Tim Daul of Livonia showed up to try

a razor and get a free razor. "It's pretty good," he said. "It didn't catch or drag."

Jake Mulka of Livonia didn't bring his girlfriend, but got a clean shave. "It didn't catch on my face," he said. "I like it a lot. My beard is like sandpaper, so it's nice."

Mulka said his girl-

friend prefers him without the beard. "She likes it neat, not the full beard," he said.

Gillette will announce results from its "survey" Valentine's Day.

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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 Zuelch, associate pastor
CROSSPOINT 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.crosspointmeadows.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.DWSC.org
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822
Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. (85 at 9:30 for all ages.) Ministry for Special Needs Adults contact judy@emmanuel-livonia.org
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or

Concert
The innovative sound of University of Michigan's G-Men, an a cappella company of 16 singers, will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. Known for their innovative, unique interpretation of popular songs, and humorous, confident stage presence, the G-Men impart strong music, energetic performance, and a musical brotherhood. Their wide repertoire includes contemporary, pop and "oldies." There is no admission, but a free-will donation will be accepted to sustain Meadowbrook's music series. Meadowbrook's sanctuary, the venue for a high-barreled vaulted ceiling and slate chancel floor. The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road between 8 Mile and 9 Mile roads. You can visit the church website at www.mbccc.org
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) 349-3847 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

CHURCH
Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible 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 METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: (248) 348-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m. Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m. Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.
Sunday School: Nursery - 8 a.m. Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m. Merry Widows Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. fourth

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Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@hometownlife.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.
Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.
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Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holyCROSSnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month.
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 39200 West 12 Mile Road (east of Haggerty Road), Farmington Hills
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Ker Road, Walled Lake
LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between 8 and 9 mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Church School: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
Merry Widows Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. fourth

Local reactions mixed to governor's proposed budget

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer
Novi's city manager doesn't agree with the way Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed state budget looks. Snyder's proposal also includes a one-time \$5 million investment for a new Regional Prosperity Program to encourage local communities to work together and develop and implement regional economic development models. Snyder earmarked an additional \$1.5 million, for a total of \$6.5 million, to support public health activities including obesity reduction, cancer screening, improved diabetes care and pregnancy prevention/family planning programs. There's also an additional \$2.5 million for the Infant Mortality Reduction Plan to reduce the number of infant deaths. Snyder's proposal is a "shell game" for education. "He (Snyder) contends it's an increase because he's putting some money towards preschool," said Barr. "If it passed today, it would actually be a reduction of \$36 per student, not an increase. That's about \$230,000 to us." Barr said the governor is reducing the "best practices" money to \$16 from \$52, and two years ago it was \$100. "And it's really what he determines to be best practices," said Barr. The Novi administrator said the biggest problem is that the governor keeps funneling K-12 money to colleges and universities, "and he gave a \$1 billion tax break to businesses." With the governor's proposed budget probably not finalized until June, Barr said that's already about two months too late for Novi's planning purposes. Ultimately, he said, the local district will continue to try and provide the best education possible and maintain one of the smallest class size averages anywhere in the state - currently at 22.5 students per K-4 class. "We've done a lot in terms of cost-cutting," said Barr. "At some point people will say enough is enough."



Novi Library worker Kathryn Baus, center, assists Aisa Narayan, left, and Sally Chouthai on Feb. 8 as they prepared bento box creations. Blown away: Novi resident Eric Waggy clears his Christina Lane walk of about six inches of snow on Feb. 8 after an early morning storm left the area dogged with the white stuff. Novi, Northville and Walled Lake schools were canceled for the day due to the snowstorm.

NEWSMAKERS
Punzal appointed
Andrew Punzal, of Novi, has been appointed to the position of senior event marketing manager at J.R. Thompson Company, and he will be responsible for event marketing management serving the SRT Motorsports account business. Prior to joining J.R. Thompson Company, Punzal was an account director at Big Fuel Communications working on Chevrolet advertising and social media business. Prior to Big Fuel, Punzal worked with both UPS and Ford Racing where he managed multiple motorsports marketing and public relations programs.

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OUR VIEWS

Our diverse community Japanese one of many cultures Novi embraces

As the Chinese New Year continues and we celebrate Black History Month, it's worth noting how the cultures in Novi are changing - dramatically - and how diversity is being embraced throughout this city.

According to data from SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments), the 2010 Census reports the population of Novi at 55,374. Of those residents, 8,761 (or 15.8 percent) are of Asian descent.

The census 10 years prior indicated less than half that number (4,098). Even more impressive, the African-American population has jumped in 10 years from 899 to 4,451 and the number of residents of Hispanic heritage nearly doubled from 855 to 1,640.

In the Novi school system, there are 2,066 Asian students. That's nearly 32 percent. Many of those are Japanese, although the district doesn't officially count.

Because of Novi's proximity to the 'auto industry,' many families land here. It doesn't hurt either that Novi has one of the finest school systems in the state. Some students come from Japan already with a handle on English; others learn quickly.

But what's really interesting to note is the number of students who choose to take Japanese as a language course. There are 56 high schools and elementary schools in this state offering Japanese (according to the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit).

But as Novi High student Denise Flores points out in our feature story in this edition - "It's not an ordinary language to learn." (It's worth noting, too, that she was born in Mexico and lived in Germany.)

The woman who teaches all five levels of the language at the school and runs its Japanese Club, Noriko Rosen, grew up in Japan. Of course, she noted that Spanish and French are still the top two foreign language classes, but it's impressive that so many students are willing to take on a language as challenging as Japanese. Not only are they exploring a totally different culture, they're also setting a course for the future.

"I have no doubt that when these students eventually graduate with a working knowledge of the Japanese language, they will have many career opportunities presented to them right here in the state," said Kunitomi Matsuda, Consul General of Japan.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you have any special plans for Valentine's Day?



"I don't have any."
Kalyin Siade
Wixom



"Nothing super special, but I'm glad we still have romance in this country despite all the craziness."
Ted Frith
Wixom



"I'm going to Virginia to see my grandson in a play. He's in 'Guys and Dolls.'"
Debbie Mayer
Novi



"Not at all."
Eric Berner
Novi

LETTERS

All should share in gas tax, fee increases

Regarding Gov. Snyder's budget proposal calling for big gas tax and fee increases - what happened to the long-standing claim that Republicans were the anti-tax party? I recall when the oil companies first pushed prices above \$3 and \$4 a gallon during the Bush years. The Republicans called on then-Gov. Granholm to suspend the gas tax whenever prices were above \$3. Now prices remain above \$3 all the time and this governor is calling for higher taxes. His "You use the roads you should pay for the roads" claim sounds to me like Snyder's making the average citizen pay the extra cost again. Oh, you might say businesses use the roads also and will pay these increases. However, some, who use the roads the most, no doubt will be able to write off the cost as operating expense against their income tax and come out even.

The governor says that business should have tax parity with the individual taxpayer. Why not a dedicated increase on the income tax (individual and corporate) to fund road and bridge repair only? This would lower the increase spreading it across a much wider area, not car and truck owners only. And as they are public roads open to all, more would help pay for them. Then if your income is low (say, by having your pension taxed or your tax deductions taken away) you don't pay as much. Also, we won't have some write it off and get a free ride. If you have income, you're in. That would be shared sacrifice. But this would mean Republicans saying, "Yes, we need the tax money" and not sneak it by when they think the people aren't watching. However, they would rather tax some more and divide us; setting us against each other as they claim Democrats will raise taxes without need.

If we will all share in the benefit, as Snyder says (through safer roads, more jobs and a better

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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future), we should all share in the cost - and that includes business.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Public deserves to know

In 2012, Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, researched 2012 Supreme Court television advertising and found that "of the \$15 million of documentable spending, just over 25 percent can be attributed to identifiable donors; 75 percent cannot." There are no spending records for the many millions more that were spent on direct mailings.

Now that the 2012 election is over, it is a relief not to have all those TV and radio ads and printed campaign literature besieging us. But if we forget what happened last year, we risk even more problems in the next election.

We don't know who paid for those ads and mailings. Current laws allow the majority of campaign donations to occur in secret. That's not right. Michigan voters

need the facts. The money behind campaigns must become public knowledge.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly and federal Judge James Ryan co-lead the bipartisan Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force which recommended improvements to the way that Michigan selects judges. One of the most important recommendations from the task force was that "All money spent to characterize candidates for the Michigan Supreme Court should be reported and ascribed to its sources, not just the committee whose name appears on the disclaimer of an advertisement." People in Michigan deserve to know who is paying to influence their votes. Knowing where a candidate gets his or her contributions is helpful for voters to make an informed decision.

As Justice Kelly and Judge Ryan have pointed out, "Michigan has gained a reputation for Supreme Court election campaigns that are among the most expensive, least transparent and most partisan in the country."

The League of Women Voters of Michigan has organized public forums titled: Dark Money in Judicial Selection: A Threat to Impartial Justice?

Oakland County: March 11, 7 p.m., Oakland University
Lansing: March 12, 7 p.m., Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Justice Kelly and Rich Robinson will present recommendations from the JSF report. Newly elected Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack will join the panel at the Ann Arbor forum.

These events give Michigan citizens an opportunity to learn more about the problems with our current system for selecting judges and begin thinking about what solutions might be most effective. You can obtain more information, including the full report of the JSF, at the League website: www.lwvmi.org and by attending one of the forums.

Angela Ryan, president
League of Women Voters,
Northwest Wayne County

NOVI NEWS

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GUEST COLUMN

DIA reaccreditation affirms commitment to excellence

By **Graham W.J. Beal**
Guest Columnist

As stakeholders in the Detroit Institute of Arts and in the well-being of our cultural community, I want to share some excellent news with the residents of Oakland County. After a two-year review and thorough evaluation of every aspect of DIA operations, the museum has again earned reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, the foremost professional organiza-

tion for museums in the United States. Accreditation is a high-profile, peer-based validation of the DIA's operations, accomplishments and impact, and affirms that we are fulfilling our obligation to the public trust. It certifies that the museum meets the highest professional standards of operation and public service, and brings national recognition of our commitment to excellence.

The reaccreditation process is a long and arduous one. We compiled a comprehensive self-study report, analyzing every operation from care of the art collection to accounting and investment policies to exhibition programs and evaluation methods. The report

was reviewed by an independent, autonomous accreditation commission consisting of museum professionals. An accreditation visiting committee then spent two days on site interviewing staff and board members. Accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of DIA staff and volunteers. Their efforts made the visiting committee's decision to grant reaccreditation easy - in their words, a "no-brainer." Here are some of the glowing accolades from the committee's report:

- The DIA is one of the nation's great museums, and a global resource for cultural and visual-arts education, with first-rate, compelling pro-

gramming that is varied and focused.

- The DIA is extremely well-run, and policies and procedures are carefully considered.

- The DIA has a cogent plan with clear direction based on sound museological practice and philosophy.
- Volunteers, supporters, patrons and audiences have a palpable pride in the museum.
- The DIA has the most elaborate demographic study of its diverse audiences that the visiting committee members have seen.
- Teaching is a paramount concern.
- The DIA's public areas are well-maintained, clean, inviting and helpful in assuring a good

visitor experience.

- The 12,000 visitors on school field trips and 42,562 other Oakland County residents who have enjoyed free admission since last year's millage vote can attest to the report's findings that the DIA has met its goal of "making its collection accessible to all who wish to visit and learn," with displays "geared to various learning styles as well as to multiple ages."

You can read the entire report at www.dia.org/support/newsletter.aspx. We hope you will experience the museum for yourself very soon.

Graham W.J. Beal has been director, president and CEO of the Detroit Institute of Arts since 1999.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Purses stolen

Two women had their purses stolen recently while visiting local businesses.

On Feb. 3, an employee of Bed, Bath and Beyond on West Oaks Drive had her purse stolen while it was left in the store's break room. The room was unlocked, and inside the purse were her bank cards, license and cell phone. This case is still under investigation.

The other purse went missing from Panera Bread on Novi Road on Jan. 31. The victim said she last saw her purse (with a number of valuables including house keys) hanging from her chair. However, she and her friend did not see anyone grab it. There are no suspects.

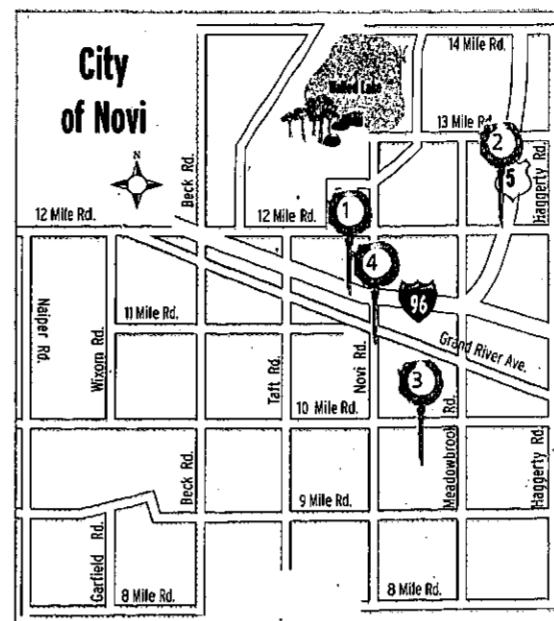
Driver ditches

A suspected drunken driver rear ended another vehicle and then crashed into a ditch.

The incident happened on Feb. 4 at M-5 and 12 Mile Road. The person hit by the suspect was on the scene when Novi Police arrived and he said the vehicle in the ditch had hit him before going off the road. At that time, there was no one in the suspect vehicle.

Using a K-9 unit the police eventually found the suspect driver hiding in the bushes. He said he was looking for his car, but didn't know where it was. Police reported smelling intoxicants on the man and were later unable to give him a breathalyzer test because he was vomiting in the back seat of the police vehicle.

He was arrested for OWI and was transported to Providence Park where blood



samples were taken. The case has been forwarded to the county prosecutor.

Possible home invasions

Three were two homes 3 in the Reindeer Drive neighborhood that incurred some damage on Jan. 30 in what appears to have been attempted break-ins.

In both cases the homeowner had an alarm system that was set off, which caused the homeowner to be called and police dispatched to the scene. In one case, a rear door was damaged and appeared to have pry marks. In the other, a dining room window also had pry marks. There was no entry into

either home.

Catalytic converter confiscated

A vehicle owner had her catalytic converter stolen from her car while it was parked at the Crown Plaza hotel on S. Karevich Drive.

The crucial auto part was cut off in the parking lot on Jan. 31. Crown Plaza does not have security cameras on the particular area, but nearby Genji restaurant does. The case remains open until that video can be reviewed for any possible leads.

Compiled by staff writer
Lonnie Huhman

Deadline Feb. 20 to register for Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy

DETAILS

The role of a police officer has always been of interest to the average citizen. The film industry has capitalized on this curiosity and television shows and movies about police officers are staples in the entertainment industry. But how accurate is the information they provide about law enforcement?

The creation of the Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy 19 years ago affords citizens the opportunity to learn about their local police department and take a behind-the-scenes look at what law enforcement work is all about. Participants also gain an insider's knowledge of the police agency, enabling them to make informed decisions on issues affecting the police and the community.

The Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy is a joint venture between the Novi, Milford, Walled Lake, South Lyon, and Wolverine Lake police departments.

Applications, available via cityofnovi.org, are currently being accepted for the free Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy, scheduled to begin on March 6. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of one of the participating jurisdictions.

"The Citizens Police Academy is a free program for our community that increases the understanding and coopera-

Classes are scheduled on Wednesdays from 6:30-9 p.m., March 6-May 15. The first class will meet at the Novi Police Training Center. The registration deadline is Feb. 20. For more information contact Matt Conquest, detective sergeant, at (248) 347-0530.

tion between the police and citizens through education," said Novi's Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David Molloy. "This education, along with the relationship established with members of the police department, assists in achieving the ultimate goal of community oriented policing - the reduction of crime through a stronger citizen commitment to the police department and the community."

The 30-hour program format includes practical demonstrations, hands-on exercises, as well as presentations. Participants will tour the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office, the Michigan State Police DNA Lab, and the S-2-1 District Court. They will also view a K-9 demonstration, take a turn using the Firearms Training System (FATS), and have the opportunity to participate in a ride-along with a police officer.

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'Where I want to be'

Catholic high school for girls puts emphasis on service, leadership

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Samantha Blewett, 16, transferred from Ladywood High School in Livonia to St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Wixom.

"I transferred mostly for spiritual reasons," said Blewett, a SCA sophomore from Farmington Hills. "I felt like I was at home."

The Catholic girls high school on Napier south of Grand River opened in 2010 in temporary quarters on Beck Road just north of I-96. Students and staff moved to the sparkling new building the next year, with 92 girls in ninth through 11th grades enrolled.

Next year will see SCA's first graduating class.

"I feel like I could count on anyone here," said Blewett, active in the Ambassadors Club which introduces new families to the school. The daughter of Kelly Campbell, Blewett's in volleyball, softball, the Gianna Molla (pro-life) Society, and Mass Music Choir. She'd like to be a physical therapist and is considering Wayne State University, Grand Valley State University, Northern Michigan University or Oakland University.

Haley Harris, 14, of Westland is a SCA freshman and daughter of Kim Harris and Tony Harris. She's involved in the recent production of *Cinderella*, the school's first play.

"I designed the shirts and designed the programs," said Harris, who also is working backstage. She too was at Ladywood.

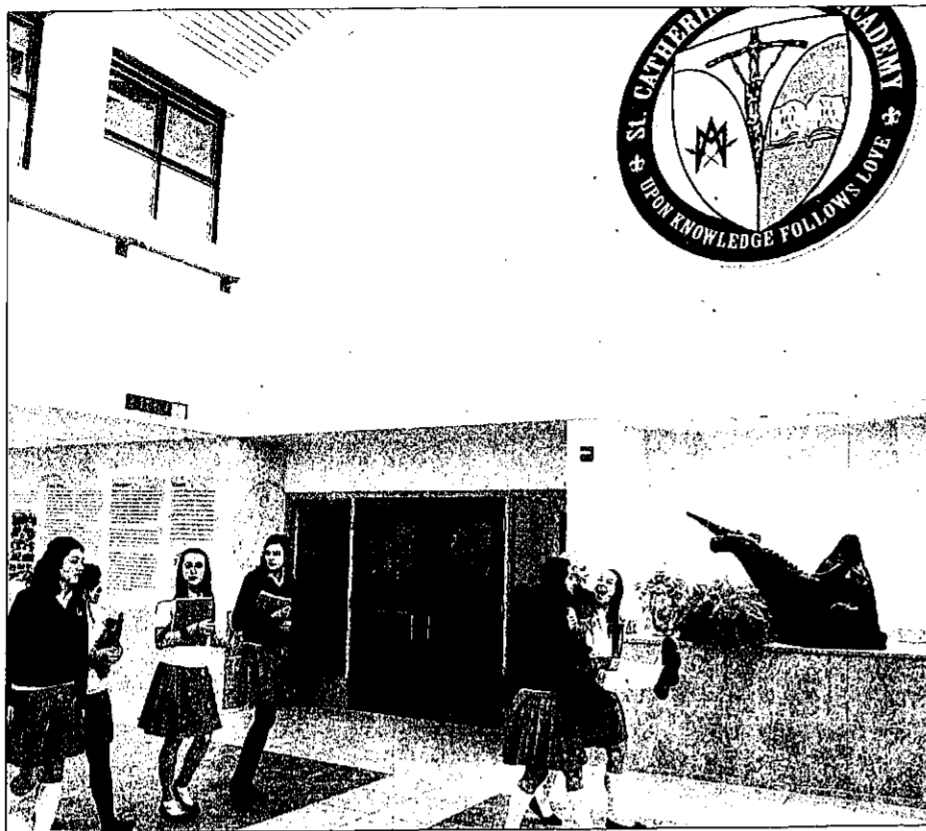
"We took a tour here and we really liked it," Harris said. "Everybody was so nice. Everyone was just so welcoming." She came back for a volleyball game and made up her mind.

"I think I want to do something in the medical field. I'm not so sure yet, though," said Harris. She's a pianist in Band who took a first rating at Solo and Ensemble Fest with Mary Peters.

"I really enjoy going here. I feel like this is where I want to be," and where God wants her, Harris said. "We'll be prepared and have the skills we need to be successful."

Headed to college

The school, at 28200 Napier, features a rigorous college prep curriculum, including mandatory Latin as well as many Advanced Placement classes. The school has a capacity for 700 girls.



St. Catherine of Siena students walk through the Napier Road Catholic girls' school lobby on Jan. 29 as they change classes.



St. Catherine of Siena Academy student Danielle Mersch gets some assistance from art teacher Mary Jane Samberg in a project at the Wixom school on Jan. 29. St. Catherine's opened in Wixom, just a few hundred feet from Novi's Catholic Central campus, in 2011. The 164,000-square-foot school currently has 92 students and should have a class of 190 next year. The school has enough room for almost 900 students and staff.

Kathy Tarnacki is in her second year as principal, and began by driving in from Jackson. Her family's moving to Brighton.

"The mission," the 31-year educator said of her job's appeal. "Just being together with other young women kinds of removes some of the challenges they face in co-ed situations."

The faith aspect matters a great deal to Tarnacki, a former Plymouth resident who taught in Plymouth-Canton schools and Plymouth's Our Lady of Good Counsel grade school.

"That's what drew me here," she said. The culture sends confusing messages on dignity and worth to young women, and the educators like to counteract that.

"This mission provides them with such a clear picture of what God intends for them as women," Tarnacki said. "It's so varied."

Some students will pursue law, medicine or other careers. "For some, it's going to be having a family and building a home," the principal said. Women learn to use their strengths to the fullest.

"These girls are going to be well-prepared for any avenue they might follow in their college careers," Tarnacki said.



Angela Mascari, a St. Catherine of Siena Academy 10th grader, hails from nearby Novi. Here she works in the Wixom school's art class on Jan. 29.

"There is a tremendous need," she said of that being identified by then-Cardinal Adam Maida. "We want them to come in and discover who God wants them to be."

During a recent Catholic Schools Week, girls and some faculty wore "crazy socks," and also donated socks for charity.

It was a really good opportunity to become a leader."

Mary Green, 16, a SCA junior and Brighton resident, also belongs to Future Doctors of America. The daughter of Bob and Jackie would like to be a physician.

Green's in volleyball, basketball, softball, yearbook, Student Council, Gianna Molla Society, and the Ambassadors Club. "I had narrowed it down to Ladywood and here," she said. Her heart told her SCA was right.

"My favorite part is the environment," said Green. "There's no pressure to be anyone but yourself." Green hopes for a softball scholarship for college.

Sophomore Erin Gries, 15, of West Bloomfield, is the daughter of Melissa and Raymond. She's in competitive cheer, softball and the Ambassadors Club.

Gries came from the West Bloomfield public district, drawn by the family environment. "It was just so different than what I could have gotten at West Bloomfield," said Gries, who'd like a career in business or journalism.

The girls agreed not having boys around helps with academics, although they do have guy friends. "We're able to be in the classroom and focus on school," said Blewett.

Novi resident Emily Awdisch, 14, is a freshman and daughter of Sam and Kris. She wants to start hockey there, and is a goalie.

Awdisch is in basketball and Future Doctors. She hopes to attend U-M to become a physician.

"I liked how small it was," she said. "It's a nice environment to come to school." Awdisch likes her teachers and the family environment. "You're kind of focused a little more," she said of the absence of boys. "I don't think there are as many distractions."

The school is available by phone at (248) 946-4848 or online at www.saintcatherineacademy.org.

A mission trip to the Dominican Republic was recently included in Epoch Week, which also featured many service projects closer to home. The school draws primarily from the I-96 corridor, Johnston said.

"There is a tremendous need," she said of that being identified by then-Cardinal Adam Maida. "We want them to come in and discover who God wants them to be."

During a recent Catholic Schools Week, girls and some faculty wore "crazy socks," and also donated socks for charity.



Kathy Tarnacki is principal of Wixom's St. Catherine of Siena Academy.

ty. Karen Rivard of Whitmore Lake, a math teacher and former biology teacher, wore crazy socks.

She's been at SCA since its opening in the temporary facility. She taught two years in Minnesota as a young woman, homeschooled her own children, then taught math to other homeschoolers before working for Sylvan Learning Centers and South Lyon Community Education.

She's had some 25 years in education, including about five recently full time. "The mission of it," agreed Rivard. "I feel very strongly about women and their opportunities in math, science and technology. Math really opens doors."

She noted some public high school girls hesitate to speak up in math class. "And all of my profs were guys except for one." Rivard said. She loves being at SCA: "It's just been a blessing." Rivard has an MSU bachelor's degree and is working on a master's there.

Colleague Mary Wilson teaches biology and AP chemistry and is a South Lyon resident. This is Wilson's first year teaching; she holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from U-M, as well as a U-M public health master's and a bachelor's in biochemistry from Texas A&M University.

"I've always been big in youth groups," Wilson said. She was doing infectious disease research when the SCA job opened.

"Girls are amazing." "It almost seemed like I was guided here," Wilson said. "Our girls are amazing."

She aims to give girls an understanding of science, including a recent trip to U-M labs by 13 girls. "I think that was something I missed out on," she said. "I try to bring that real-world perspective."

Many SCA girls are the oldest in their families, Rivard added, and the school helps them prepare for college testing and admissions.

Girls also go on a pilgrimage to Rome while at SCA, and a number went to the recent March for Life pro-life event in Washington, D.C.

"It's a beautiful facility," Johnston said, pointing out the 400-seat chapel visible from the main entrance where Mass is held daily. "We have phenomenal young ladies here. They're pioneers. Everything for us is brand new."

Pope John Paul II's "On the Dignity and Vocation of Women" is referenced outside the chapel, including his reference to "feminine genius."

The 27 classrooms have mostly smartboard technology. There are separate labs for biology, chemistry and physics.

The gym can seat about 1,100, Johnston said, and there's a batting cage nearby.

Clubs and sports enrich student life, with girls recently garnering a divisional championship in softball with essentially a pickup team.

"They had a need and they wanted to do something," Johnston said. "They put their minds together to be able to achieve it."



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SPORTS

Lucky number of 13 Wildcats sign on for collegiate athletic careers



Thirteen Novi seniors signed on to continue their athletic careers Feb. 6 during National Signing Day at Novi High School.

Novi High produces eight college soccer signees

By Chris Jackett
 Correspondent

As televisions throughout the nation tuned in to ESPN Feb. 6 to find out what college the top football recruits were headed to, several local student-athletes signed their national letters of intent to continue collegiate careers at various schools throughout the nation.

NCAA Signing Day is arguably one of the bigger moments in the high school career of any student-athlete lucky and skilled enough to get to that point. Last week, 13 Novi High School student-athletes made their decisions. Some had

already verbally committed, which has no official ties, while others were just deciding as the hours ticked away to signing the paperwork.

Soccer was the biggest sport that produced collegiate-caliber Wildcats.

On the girls side, Natalie Krygier signed with the University of Connecticut (Storrs-Mansfield, Conn.), Kaylin Hoomalan signed with Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant, Mich.), Lindsey Swope signed with Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne (Fort Wayne, Ind.) and Jade Antolec signed with Concordia

Please see SIGNING, B2

Lady cagers improve to 15-1, finish league play 10-0

Novi knocks off Salem, Stevenson despite issues with offense, turnovers

By Chris Jackett
 Correspondent

Although the scores were closer, the results were no different as Novi's girls basketball team continued rolling through their season.

The winning streak is extended to 10 games as the Wildcats (15-1, 10-0 KLA Central) wrapped up Central Division play with victories over both Plymouth Salem (6-9, 5-4 Central) and Livonia Stevenson (6-10, 2-8 Central).

ON TAP

Novi's girls basketball team (15-1, 10-0 KLA Central) was set to host Livonia Franklin (8-7, 4-5 South) in the first round of the KLA tournament two nights ago. The winner is set to play tonight for a spot in Monday's Kensington Conference championship game, which will lead into the KLA championship cross-over Feb. 21. Opponents and locations will depend on who wins, but games will tip off at 7 p.m. From there, the state playoffs begin Feb. 25 with Districts, which are ranked by Canton. Ranked No. 16 in Class A, Novi's lone loss came by one point to No. 5 Westland John Glenn (14-1, 9-0 South) nearly two months ago.

Junior Kerri McMahan (five points, five assists, four steals), junior Dina Fawaz (four points, four rebounds), junior Kristen Schubring (three points, three rebounds), junior Taylor Pavlika (two points, three rebounds) and sophomore Alex Felice (two points).

"When we share the ball and make extra pass, that's when we play well," Kelp said.

Although the Novi girls won the rebounding bat-

Please see GIRLS, B3



Novi's Tony Levy, right, wrestles on Feb. 6.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DeNova, Roush advance to Regionals

CC knocks out Novi wrestling team in district final

By Chris Jackett
 Correspondent

Hopes of a team title are done, but Novi's grapplers got some revenge on the way out the door and two individual wrestlers are still alive in the state tournaments.

The Wildcats (11-14) hosted Livonia Stevenson (8-10), Northville (12-8) and defending Division I state champion Detroit Catholic Central (20-3) for Team Districts Feb. 6 before the Novi wrestlers competed in Individual Districts Saturday at Southgate-Anderson.

The week started off well enough for Novi, who had lost to 39-30 to Stevenson Jan. 23 in a dual meet. The Wildcats got the upper hand last

Please see WRESTLE, B2



Novi Wildcat Ben Wright competes against a Livonia Stevenson Spartan opponent during a four-team meet at Novi High on Feb. 6.

ON TAP

Novi's grapplers' (11-14) season is done, but two individuals advanced to Regionals Saturday in Canton against others who advanced from the Garden City and Saline districts. If seniors Dan DeNova (25-11 at 103 pounds) and Zach Roush (23-10 at 215) can advance, they'll compete in the individual state meet Feb. 28-March 2 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

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CC grapplers advance

Team wins district and 13 individuals head to regional

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

A whopping baker's dozen from the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team earned the right to advance to the regional tournament last week at the MHSAA individual tournament following a team victory in the district.

The squad, coached by Mitch Hancock, earned a victory at the MHSAA Team District Tournament last week to advance to the regional tournament this week. Following that performance, the squad entered the MHSAA Individual District Tournament and advanced 13 wrestlers to the regional.

"These guys are healthy and confident," said Hancock. "We have a few small things to fix here and there, but overall I liked the way our guys competed."

In order to qualify for the team regional, a squad must win the district title. To qualify for the individual regional, a wrestler has to be in the



Mustang Spencer Compo goes up against CC's Myles Amine on Feb. 6 at Novi High.

top four in order to qualify for the next round.

The Shamrocks qualified Logan Marcicki, Drew Garcia, Nick Giese, Jay Peterson, Bob Coe, Parker O'Brien, Trevor Zdebski, Evan Toth, Myles Amine, Ken Bade, Malik Amine and Mike Babicz.

Marcicki won the title with a major decision over Dearborn Fordson's Yahya Yahya Talah, 9-0, at 160 pounds while Garcia won the 171-pound divi-

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team will be back in action when they wrestle Saturday in the individual regional. They were scheduled to wrestle in the team regional against Southgate yesterday, after the sports section went to print.

Giese took second at 189, falling to Allen Steele of Livonia Franklin, 3-2, while Myles Amine took second with a 1-0 decision going in favor of Southgate's Alex Molloy in the 130-pound division. At 215 pounds, Peterson took second place with a 6-3 loss against Wyandotte's Vincent Pizzo, while Mike Babicz lost via pin in 1:20 against Franklin's Jordan Atienza to take second place.

O'Brien took third with a pin over Abe Ajami of Dearborn Fordson at 112 pounds. The Shamrocks earned a 2-1 victory over Upper Canada College a day after handing Notre Dame Academy of Wisconsin their first loss since winning the state title last season, 6-3. Against UCC, the Shamrocks let Ryan Mulka keep out the majority of the shots he faced against our neighbors to the north, while Danny Middleton and Mitch Ossowski collected goals to help the Shamrocks secure the win.



The Catholic Central hockey team huddles up before a recent contest.

Shamrocks beat up two out of town teams

Hockey team defeats Upper Canada College, previously unbeaten Notre Dame Academy

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team will be back on the ice when they play Hill Academy tomorrow at 1:15 p.m. before playing Divine Child Sunday at 3:30 p.m. and University of Liggett at 7 p.m. next Wednesday.

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team proved to be welcoming and gracious to the visiting teams in the MIHL Showcase tournament last week before turning them out and sending them home with losses.

The Shamrocks earned a 2-1 victory over Upper Canada College a day after handing Notre Dame Academy of Wisconsin their first loss since winning the state title last season, 6-3.

Against UCC, the Shamrocks let Ryan Mulka keep out the majority of the shots he faced against our neighbors to the north, while Danny Middleton and Mitch Ossowski collected goals to help the Shamrocks secure the win.

The sweetest victory, however, was against the visitors from Wisconsin. The Shamrocks gave Notre Dame their first loss in over a year as they skated away with a 6-3 victory.

Leading the way was Ryan Burnett, who scored the first two goals for Catholic Central to give them a 2-0 advan-

tage. The first goal was unassisted, while the second goal found Burnett snagging a pass from Alex Kruezer before firing it home.

The Shamrocks made it a 3-0 game when Carter Cerretani took assistance from Luke Turner and Mike Babcock and found the back of the net.

Some penalties put the Shamrocks in a bad position in the second period and the Wisconsin squad took advantage of it, scoring a couple of goals to make it a 3-2 contest.

But the Shamrocks would have none of it, gaining more momentum off a goal by Bobbie Carney, assisted by Ossowski and Carson Gatt before Nick Daigneau capped the scoring in the final minutes on an empty-net goal.

Two more losses for Shamrocks

Basketball team falls to OLSM and University of Detroit-Jesuit

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central basketball team will be back on the court when they play Saturday and into next week in the CHSL tournament.

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks fell victim to back-to-back losses last week as they took lumps from two very competitive Catholic High School League foes.

The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, fell to Orchard Lake St. Mary's, 63-44, after taking a 60-30 loss to University of Detroit-Jesuit High School.

"We got beat soundly down the floor," said Dyer of the U-D game. "We were down six half-way through the second quarter and we didn't respond well late in the second quarter. We had problems guarding them in transition and we got beat down the floor a lot."

The Shamrocks trailed 20-8 after the first quarter of play but fought back to make it look as though they were going to make a game of it. Unfortunately, the squad couldn't keep up with the high-octane offense that University of Detroit has become known for this year and could only watch as they went up 36-20 by the end of the half. The Shamrocks were outscored, 24-10, throughout the remainder of the game.

U-D was led by freshman Cassius Winston, who poured in 16 points to lead all scorers, while senior A.J. Horde added 10. The Shamrocks were led by junior Noah Lee, who scored 10.

Against Orchard Lake St. Mary's, the Shamrocks trailed 17-11 after the first quarter before slipping behind, 33-22, at the half. The team did, however, play inspired defense in the third quarter as they outscored their foes, 10-9 and narrowed the Eagles' lead to just five points, 37-32. But OLSM was not about to be undone and came out to dominate the final stanza, 24-12, to finish the game.

Leading the way for the Eagles was Ted McCree, who put on clinic for 25 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter, while Matt Linehan scored 14 points. Garrett Moores and Lee scored nine each for the Shamrocks. Detroit Catholic Central is now 4-11 on the year.

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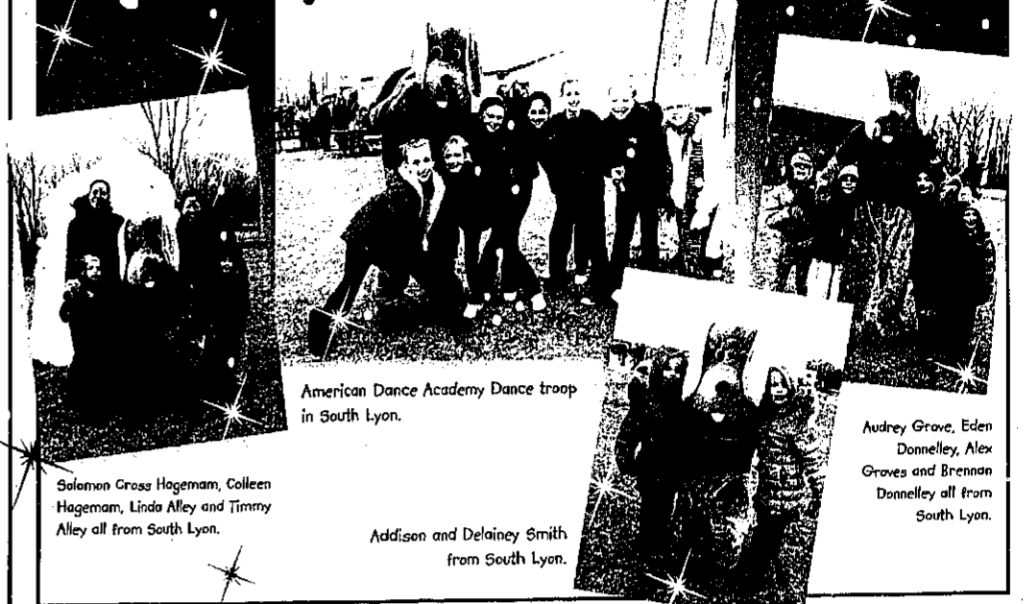
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Coordinator/Contributing Writer: Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager
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Answer: All of them

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OFFICE CLERK - FULL TIME
Phonics data entry, processing orders. Must have a valid driver's license. Salary commensurate with experience. 248-318-7637

Help Wanted - Medical

DIRECT CARE STAFF
No exp. needed, paid training available. All shifts available working with developmentally disabled adults in their homes. Must have a valid driver's license, reliable vehicle, high school diploma or GED. Starting \$8.75/hour. Call Between 9am - 5pm. Locations: Grand Rapids, MI 49506 or 49507. Email resume to: jobs@housecall.com

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2013 CRUZE LS - EVERYONE PRICING	\$44 with \$2945 down	\$85 with \$1999 down	\$129 with \$1999 down
2013 EQUINOX LS - EMPLOYEE SPECIALS	\$99 with \$2999 down	\$142 with \$1999 down	\$185 with \$1999 down
2013 TRAVERSE LS - EMPLOYEE SPECIALS	\$79 with \$2999 down	\$121 with \$1999 down	\$163 with \$1999 down

NO CREDIT APPLICATION DENIED!

2011 MALIBU... Low Miles... \$15,581	2011 SILVERADO LTZ... \$23,921
2009 IMPALA... Loaded... \$13,119	2010 SILVERADO... Best week... \$18,920
2010 CAMARO SS... Power... \$28,480	2010 EQUINOX... Just reduced... \$16,990
2009 TRAVERSE LT... Lots of toys... \$20,999	2012 SONIC... 4500 miles... \$15,482

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