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NOVI NEWS

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Meet Easter Bunny

All signs point to spring at Twelve Oaks Mall this April as the Easter Bunny hops into the lush, colorful Central Park Garden display March 8-30. Photos with the Easter Bunny are available for purchase, and each child who visits receives a free gift. Central Park Garden is located in the Lower Level Center Court. Twelve Oaks will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 31. Photo operation hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Easter Bunny takes brief carrot breaks throughout the day. A complete list of photo packages and prices is available on www.shoptwelveaks.com.

Oscar winners

The winner of the O&E Media Oscar contest is Anna Sharples of Northville, and she'll receive an annual movie pass for two for use at any Imagine Theatre. Second prize of four movie passes went to Jackie Hengtgen of Dearborn. Sharples and Hengtgen were the only two entries out of more than 150 who answered all but two categories correctly. The first place winner was selected in a random drawing. Look for more contests and chances to win tickets and prizes at hometownlife.com.

Bowl-a-Thon

Novi Youth Assistance will hold its 31st annual Bowl-a-Thon from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at Novi Bowl (21700 Novi Road). It's the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year, and they're looking for bowlers. Sponsored by Providence Park Hospital, the goal is to raise \$25,000. For pledge sheets or information regarding

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Novi awarded \$741,000 for Phase I of connector trail

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The City of Novi received its largest nonmotorized grant to date after being awarded a \$741,200 grant that will go toward completing Phase I of the Metro Connector Trail.

"We're really excited to be the recipients of that significant grant funding," said Rob Hayes, city engineer and Public Services director. "It's by far the largest

nonmotorized grant we've received and one of the largest overall transportation grants we've gotten at the city."

Hayes said the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments recently notified DPS's Engineering Division that Novi was one of 12 communities in southeast Michigan to be awarded Transportation Alternative Program grants. Novi's award is the third highest amount awarded of the \$6.3 million disbursed to

SEMCOG communities for FY 12-13.

He said Phase I is being designed now and will entail the construction of a 0.7-mile-long, 10-foot-wide pathway along the east side of Meadowbrook Road from the existing terminus of the I-275 pathway (just south of 1-96) to the north side of 12 Mile.

Phase II of the project will consist of a 1.6-mile-long, 10-foot-wide pathway on the east side of Meadowbrook from 12 Mile to 13

Mile, and on the south side of 13 Mile from Meadowbrook to M-5. Novi's Capital Improvement Plan lists Phase II as a FY 15-16 project.

With the \$741,200 in federal funds, Hayes said the City of Novi will provide a local match amount of \$185,300 to fund Phase I, which has an overall construction budget of \$926,500. "The award of this TAP grant

Please see TRAIL, A5

Chop chop



JOHN HEIDER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Novi High junior Charlie Smith-Firman tries to cool down a portion of his dish as he and other members of the Japanese Club prepare to begin their annual ramen noodle eating contest on Feb. 26. Fellow junior Louiza Kotchmareva won in the chopsticks division. A video of the event is posted at novinews.com.

Board of review hearing assessment appeals next week

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Novi's Board of Review will be listening to appeals next week from homeowners who feel their recent assessment is inaccurate. The deadline to schedule an appointment is tomorrow at 5 p.m. (see sidebar for details).

The average residential in the city was 4.08 percent, while the commercial class saw an average decrease of 3.92. Industrial lagged behind at an average of -6.98 percent.

"Any property owner wishing to appeal their assessment should be objective about the process," said D. Glenn Lemmon, the city's assessor. "The first question they need to ask themselves is: Could I sell my property for double the assessed value that is



Lemmon

proposed? If the answer is yes, don't appeal. If the answer is no or I don't know, the property owner needs to do some research."

Lemmon said the Novi Assessing Department is a good source of information for sales history, and it has books available with the previously mentioned sales. A list of all the sales used by the Assessing Department is also online at cityofnovi.org. Follow the links to the assessing information.

"Realtors are another source of information," said Lemmon.

Please see APPEALS, A5

Accused I-96 shooter bound over for trial after waiving exam



HAL GOULD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Raulie Casteel appeared briefly in 52-1 District Court March 1. The case has been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court.

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Accused I-96 corridor shooter Raulie Casteel was bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court after waiving his right to a preliminary exam March 1 in 52-1 District Court.

Casteel, who appeared briefly in the Novi court to voluntarily waive the exam, will be arraigned by Circuit Judge Denise Langford Morris March 14, with a pretrial hearing scheduled for the same day.

Casteel's attorneys, Doug Mullkoff and

Charles Groh, said they are awaiting results from a second forensic evaluation, noting it has already been determined that Casteel is mentally ill. "We had a forensic evaluation done. There's been a conclusion that he suffers from a mental disorder — delusion-

al disorder," Mullkoff said. "We're going to see where we go when we get a result from the (state) forensic center."

The 43-year-old Wixom resident faces 60 felony charges in Oakland County including assault with

Please see CASTEEL, A6



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POLICE, FIRE AWARDS: Novi honors its best

The Novi Police and Fire Departments held their annual awards ceremony at the Civic Center to celebrate accomplishments and recognize professional development achievements of those who protect and serve the community.

Both departments additionally recognized employees of the year, including Police Officer of the Year, Police Department Civilian Employee of the Year, and Fire Fighter of the Year for 2012.

"It is with great honor and pride that we recognize Fire Protection Officer Andrew J. Copeland, Police Officer Anthony Avant and Dispatcher Kelly Mesh for the honorable work they have done for the Novi Fire and Police Departments and in dedicated service to the entire Novi community," said Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David E. Molloy. "In addition to carrying out their

work assignments at peak performance, all three individuals embrace the highest public safety values and serve as outstanding role models for their colleagues, the City of Novi, and the community."

Fire Fighter of the Year - Fire Protection Officer Andrew J. Copeland

Copeland began his career with the Novi Fire Department in 1994 as a paid-on-call fire-fighter and was hired as a full-time fire protection officer in 2001. Copeland prides himself on providing excellent customer service and assisting the fire preven-



Copeland

tion duties. He also took the initiative to obtain the qualifications necessary to assist with fire suppression plan reviews and has served in the capacity of acting fire marshal. In addition to his regular duties, Copeland serves on the Public Safety Implementation Committee, providing valuable insight into the day to day operations from the fire service perspective and was instrumental in developing the Novi Fire Department Awards Policy. He has received several letters of commendation, several company citations and a merit citation in recognition of his professional service.

Mesh started her career as a dispatcher in the United States Army. In her 12-year career as a dispatcher, Mesh has consistently demonstrated a willingness to "take the initiative" and do what needs to be done, even if it's not in her job description. Since joining the Novi Police Department, she has received three letters of commendation for meritorious service, five merit citations for dedicated service during unique and stressful circumstances and, numerous thank-you letters from grateful citizens for whom she provided excellent customer service. Additionally, in September 2008, Mesh was the Novi Police

Department's employee of the month, and in 2010 she was nominated by her shift leader for Civilian Employee of the Year. She is an excellent example of what it means to be a team player and quickly provide solutions to issues concerning the dispatch center.



Mesh

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Police Officer of the Year - Officer Anthony Avant

Avant has been a member of the Novi Police Department since 2000. During his 12-year law enforcement career, he has repeatedly demonstrated a capacity to succeed at accomplishing the mission of the orga-



Avant

nization and that of the law enforcement profession. Avant is currently assigned as a traffic officer, a position he has served in for nearly 10 years where he is responsible for traffic enforcement and reducing traffic crashes at high accident intersections. He frequently receives thank-you letters from community members who have been fortunate to experience his professionalism and kindness. Avant has also been instrumental in training other police officers and possesses an energetic and positive attitude. Throughout his career, he has been nominated and recognized as Public Safety Employee of the Month on multiple occasions and received several merit and unit citations.

For a complete list of all the award recipients, please see this story at www.hometownlife.com.

CORRECTION

In last week's Novi News, a photo that appeared with the story "Napier residents concerned about road's safety" should have read Oliver Daniel is Joe Daniel's son.

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March For Meals campaign includes breakfast

Western Oakland Meals on Wheels will be participating in the national 2013 March For Meals campaign, and the event will include a Volunteer Breakfast at the Novi Senior Center at 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 12.

"We are excited about our March For Meals campaign. Our goal is to recruit as many people as we can in Western Oakland to join us by taking the pledge to end senior hunger in America by 2020," said Margaret Davey, executive director of Western Oakland Meals on Wheels. "We have invited all of our local officials to join us as we recognize all the men and women who give their heart and soul to see that no senior

teers who make this program a blessing for the area's needy seniors.

\$1 million giveaway
For the 16th consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among anti-hunger agencies nationwide using it as a spur to raise funds during March and April.

The Western Oakland Meals on Wheels Program is participating in the challenge once again. All potential donors (and their local churches, schools and businesses) have been notified that the more donations made to the local agency, the more of the Feinstein money the Western Oak-

land Meals on Wheels Program will get.

According to Davey, many agencies featuring this in their mailings and telephone solicitations in past years have increased their donations two or three times their usual returns.

Only donations or pledges received from March 1 to April 30, from use of the Feinstein Challenge, can be counted.

If you have a senior loved one or neighbor who is homebound and could benefit from this program, and/or if you are willing to donate your time or money to keep this program rolling throughout your community, call (888) 886-8971.

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Civic Theatre stages 'Wizard of Oz'

Get ready to join the creative cast of characters and follow along with Dorothy as she travels down the yellow brick road! Tickets are on sale for *The Wizard of Oz* presented by the Novi Civic Theatre. The show opened Friday, March 1, and tickets may be purchased online at cityofnovi.org.



PRINCETON STUDIOS

In *The Wizard of Oz*, little Dorothy Gale of Kansas, like so many girls her age, dreams of what lies over the rainbow. One day a twister hits her farm and carries her away over the rainbow to another world. Come join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion and Toto as they travel the universe of Dorothy's imagination. Sing along to classic songs *Over The Rainbow*, *Munchkinland (Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead)*, and *We're Off To*

Austin DuBois (Scarecrow, from left), Ellie Oegema (Dorothy), Connor Betts (Lion) and Trey Richman (Tin Man) star in the Novi Civic Theatre production.

See *The Wizard (Follow the Yellow Brick Road)*. The musical production involves 79 cast members, ranging in age from 4 to 68 and stars Novi residents Austin DuBois (Scarecrow), Ellie Oegema (Dorothy), Connor Betts (Lion) and Trey

Richman (Tin Man). The story is based on L. Frank Baum's book.

Remaining performance dates and times are: 7 p.m. Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

Tickets are \$10 for adults / \$5 children (ages 3-17) and seniors (age 60 and up). All seats are reserved. For more information, call the Novi Parks office at (248) 347-0400. For more information regarding the Novi Civic Theatre, including summer camps and auditions, visit cityofnovi.org.

Other cast members are: Maureen Frasure (Auntie Em), Doug Zawisza (Uncle Henry), Emerald City Guard, Lindsey Scheidter (Glinda), Zachary Scheidter (Munchkin Mayor), and Karis Kennedy (Munchkin).

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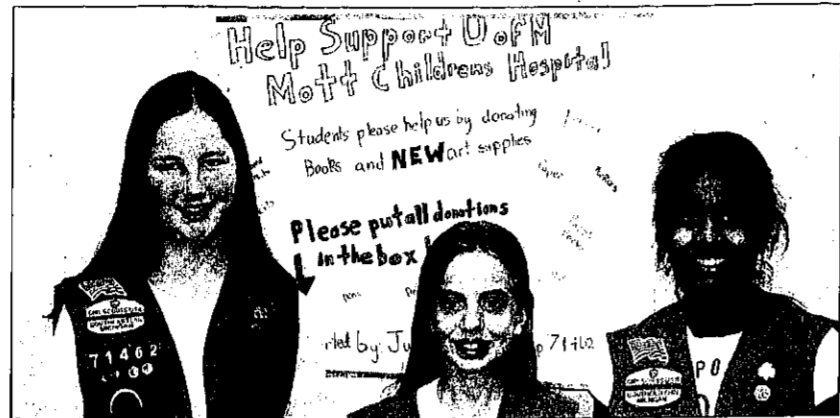
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Trio of Scouts go for the bronze

Caitlin Fokken, Mary Grace Piotrowski and Eesha Aytha are members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 71462 and they have been working hard on their Bronze Award over the last several months. The Bronze Award is the highest leveled award a Junior Girl Scout can obtain and requires the development of a project idea that will "take action" and change the world around them. Ideally, it will be a sustainable project that will continue on after the girls have completed their portion, truly making it something that will provide long-term change. These girls spent almost 40

hours each developing a project to collect new art supplies and books for U of M Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. For the main part of their project, they worked with Parkview Elementary and principal Jen Michos to apply The Leader in Me and 7-Habits principles to their project by thinking win-win, synergizing and sharpening their saw to develop a project that met their project goals and the goals of the school. Over 400 items were collected by Parkview staff and students, and the girls created an outline that can be used by future groups to keep the project alive for U of M Mott.



Shown (l to r) are Caitlin Fokken, Mary Grace Piotrowski and Eesha Aytha.



PHOTOS BY JULIE YOLLES

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women event was held at MGM in Detroit. Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by Macy's — which has raised \$40,000 for the fight against heart disease these past 10 years. The 10th Anniversary of the event was attended by 800 women — and a few good men. Shown are Marci Schwartz of Farmington Hills, and Sara Gutowski of Novi in front of Presenting Sponsor Chevrolet's Camaro.



Motown was nine days early with its red carpet roll-out at a special Detroit Loves Cinema event on Valentine's Day. Shown (l to r) are Jason Zogg of Detroit, Philip Rivera of Farmdale, Todd Erickson of Ferndale and Novi librarian Bryce Gampner who works for Orchard Hills School.

Parents welcome twin girls



John and Megan Kovalik of South Lyon welcomed new twins Sarah Mulloy and Emily Mary on Jan. 17, 2013. The girls were born at Providence Park Hospital in Novi. The girls have one older sister, Allison, 2. Grandparents are John and Laurie Kovalik of Northville, and the late John and Janet Mulloy.

Hansen-Bigalke

Megan Leigh Bigalke and Daniel Ray Hansen of Northville were married Feb. 9, 2013 at St. Mary Student Parish, in Ann Arbor. Father Daniel Reim presided over the marriage. Bride attendants were Whitney Roberts, Kristi Trombley, Jenny Hansen, Erin Reiss, and Roni Newman. Groom attendants were Rick Hansen, Russ Hansen, Ben Bigalke, Jeremy Reiss, and Joe Newman. A reception was held at Travis Pointe Country Club. The bride is the daughter of Janet and David Bigalke of Saline. She is a graduate of both Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University, and is currently employed by Plymouth-Canton Schools. The groom is the son of Pat and Russ Hansen of Greenwood, Ind. He is a graduate of Indiana University and is currently employed with Ford Motor Credit Company. The couple honeymooned in Maui. They will make their home in Northville.



Old oak tree



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gary and Patty Lounsbury, along with their twin grandkids Luke and Colin Herman, 7, approach a large red oak tree near their Wixom Rd. property. Gary measured the tree's girth at more than 15 feet and hopes that it can be preserved in the area northwest of Beck and 11 Mile. The tree is probably well over 200 years old.

Novi re-commits to the cause of the Alliance of Rouge Communities

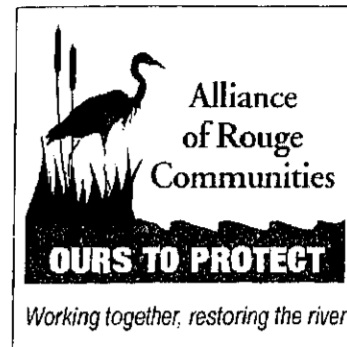
By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The City Council unanimously approved adoption of a resolution for acceptance of membership and adoption of bylaws for the Alliance of Rouge Communities. This watershed is located in the most densely populated and urbanized area in the state.

"I spent about 10 years on the Clinton River Watershed Council and thought it to be a valuable organization for the region," said David Staudt, mayor pro tem. "And I believe this group (Alliance of Rouge Communities) has done that also... a very good job of keeping our watershed clean and keeping our watershed protected."

The Rouge watershed encompasses approximately 438 square miles in size and a population of over 1.4 million people. The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of 41 municipal governments (cities, townships, and villages) and three counties (Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw).

According to Novi officials, the purpose of the ARC is to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage watershed-wide cooperation and mutual support to meet water quality permit requirements and to restore beneficial uses of the river to area residents. The Mission and



the member communities for meeting storm water permit requirements through cooperative efforts and provide a state and national model for local-

ly driven watershed approaches that minimize the need for State/Federal mandates.

This is done through following the goals and objectives to improve water quality, reduce runoff impacts, inform and educate the public, protect, restore and/or enhance natural features, maximize community assets, support institutional relationships and obtain grant funding.

In order to tackle this large cooperative effort and objectives, the ARC annually collects dues from each community/county. The amount of dues collected is based on the prorated area and population of the community or county within the Rouge River Watershed. These dues have voluntarily contributed nearly \$1.2 million (since 2006) toward cooperative watershed management activities - all of which has been matched with state and federal funding, according to Coburn.

NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Local Events

THE GREAT AMERICAN TREASURE HUNT

Times/Dates: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7-9.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. N, Livonia

Details: The Great American Treasure Hunt, which is free to the public, is a touring road show event which travels the North American continent. While the Great American Treasure Hunt will buy anything that is old, the focus will be on gold and silver jewelry, coins made before 1965, military items, toys and trains, musical instruments, pocket and wrist watches, costume jewelry, old U.S. currency printed prior to 1964, and foreign coins.

BLOOD DRIVES

Details: March is Red Cross Month and anyone who comes to the drives in March will receive a commemorative Red Cross pin.

HUD Counseling

Time/Dates: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Sunday, March 10

ART EXPLORATION

Time/Dates: 12:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Location: 45255 W. 10 Mile Road

Book Discussion Group

Time/Dates: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays

BEREAVEMENT MEETINGS

Time/Dates: 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesdays

WOMENHEART OF NOVI

Time/Dates: 10:15-11:45 a.m. Every Friday-March 29

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY

Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Library Lines

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WOMENHEART OF NOVI

Time/Dates: 10:15-11:45 a.m. Every Friday-March 29

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY

Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Library Lines

Time/Dates: 11:15-11:45 a.m. Every Friday-March 29

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY

Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Location: 45255 W. 10 Mile Road

Book Discussion Group

Time/Dates: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays

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Book Discussion Group

OUR VIEWS

Assessed correctly?

Appeal your property's value next week

Most Novi homeowners should have received in the mail their latest property tax assessments. Reactions likely have varied from surprised, sad or angry to elated or dumbfounded. As metro Detroit's housing market recovers, two out of three communities reported rising values.

In Novi, values rose 4.08 percent. Yours may have not; or it may have climbed even more. Next week homeowners will have an opportunity to appeal the new assessment in person before the Board of Review. But if you decide to do that, you better hurry — the deadline to make an appointment is 5 p.m. tomorrow.

And you can't make an appointment without completing a petition form, which is available at the Assessor's Office in the Novi Civic Center (south side of Ten Mile Road, just east of Taft Road).

If you don't want to appear in person before the Board of Review, you can submit a written appeal — but those most to be received by the Assessor's Office by 5 p.m. next Wednesday.

But, first things first. If you believe your assessment is out of line, stop at the Assessing Department and have it reviewed. Here's a simple way to determine when NOT to appeal: If you could sell your property for double the new assessed value.

If the answer is no, then you've got some research to do (see the front page story for tips) before you make your case to the Board of Review. Three individuals sit on the board — Ernie Aruffo, James Staschke and Debra Blashfield — and they'll be more than happy to hear appeals next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Women's history: Celebrate those who dared to dream

Women's History Month sheds light on the many contributions women have made to life in the U.S.

Abolitionist and suffragist Sojourner Truth delivered her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech December 1851 at a Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio.

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man — when I could get it — and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne 13 children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?" Truth asked her audience.

Truth has ties to Michigan, having lived the final 27 years of her life here. She died at age 86 in 1883 and is buried in a Battle Creek cemetery. The National

Congress of Black Women was instrumental in having a bust of Truth placed in the U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall in April 2009. At the dedication, first lady Michelle Obama honored Truth in her role as the first black first lady.

During World War II, many Michigan women went to work in defense plants as "Rosie the Riveter." Women also served with distinction in the military, and just



Sojourner Truth — taken from the cartes-de-visite which she sold to earn her living, saying, "I sell the shadow to support the substance."

recently the combat ban for most military women has been lifted.

Obstacles remain, but it's hard to imagine a time when girls thought their options after graduation were limited to teaching, nursing or being a secretary. Such work remains valuable, but women have broken through many barriers, entering law, medical and engineering schools in record numbers.

Some children and

teens, in fact, don't recall a time when the U.S. Secretary of State wasn't female, up until just recently.

Barriers have fallen, but some remain. There's a notable pay gap between men and women, even adjusting for family responsibilities. Many women are breadwinners, and our nation as a whole suffers when women face pay discrimination.

New career opportunities are emerging for young people of both genders, especially in STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. We need to guarantee our young people have these skills and take courses that will prepare them for the future, which will have technology likely barely dreamed of today.

Celebrating Women's History Month allows the community to collectively shed light on the impact women have had on our society, culture and economy. The stories of women who have had an incredible impact can provide excellent role models for today's teens and children.

Stop by the Novi Public Library and read about women in history and encourage children and teens to do the same.

Explore women's history — it's an interesting journey.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Should Michigan's .08 blood alcohol content law be raised to .10?



"I'm not against it if it means it factors out to less than two drinks, but it should go no higher than .10."
Doug Breckenridge
Novi



"I think it should remain where it is to keep the roads safer."
Roy Henriksson
Wixom



"Absolutely, I think raising it might make people try to stay below that (.10 BAC)."
Fady Fareed
Novi



"It's hard to say. A lot of people have different tolerances, so it may benefit the frequent drinker but we could see more first-time offenders."
Merle Keith
Novi

NOVI NEWS

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

LETTERS

Curriculum changes

Many students at many schools around the state are in need of desperate help. As the school years pass, more and more students are finding it hard to survive in school. As curriculum becomes more complex, students are finding it harder to compete with their grades.

Students in many schools in Michigan have realized that it's not like the old days anymore. In the past, much curriculum was based on textbooks. Now, teachers rely on the Internet to teach their students. The outcome to this experiment is that grades are sinking. Government is trying to make changes to the curriculum and trying to come up with a better plan for the education of America's next generation.

To come up with the solution, members of Michigan's Senate and House are debating on creating an Education Achievement Authority. By creating this body, they can focus on the issues and concerns specifically towards school districts and education in Michigan. This "project" will involve lots of communication and cooperation. The amount of money that will be needed will also be a debatable subject in this process. Some people are also speaking out against this legislation.

I believe that proper education for every student should be mandatory. With the way that things are being handled now, the school curriculum needs as much revision as it can get. I feel like this may be one solution to the problem. By changing and revising the education standards, many students can learn proper material to succeed into college and future jobs. The failures and dropouts are increasing, and if we don't do something about this issue, the next generation won't stand a chance in the real world. The main goal is to realize that many kids are in need of help, and

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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

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

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

we need to help the failing school districts

Lyan Mathews
Novi High School student

Bad time for cuts

Speaker John Boehner and many other Republican politicians are as changeable as the weather when it comes to taking ownership of the sequester. On some days, Boehner claims that sequestration will save millions of jobs, while at other times, Boehner condemns the sequester, referring to it as the Obamaquester.

When Republican legislators voted for the sequester, Boehner insisted that he got 98 percent of what he wanted. Boehner and his caucus have refused three times to allow the House to take up a Democratic sequester replacement bill while also refusing to offer their own sequester alternative. When the sequester goes into effect, draconian federal budget cuts will cause great pain for millions of Americans. At least 750,000

Americans will lose their jobs. As many as 600,000 children and their mothers will lose nutritional food assistance and other services that promote good health. Seventy-thousand children will not be able to attend Head Start and Early Start educational programs.

There will be five million fewer low-income families receiving prenatal health care and other services which assist in reducing infant mortality as well as improving maternal health... when our economy is in the midst of a recovery, our country does not need drastic cuts to social programs.

Jill Farber-Bramson
West Bloomfield

Fix intersection problems

I started to drive a few months ago, and what I see is that is some of the lanes when people turn at intersections aren't the biggest for big vehicles. At some intersections, it's hard for big vehicles to stay in the same lane without going into the other lane.

Lawyer J. Price McNamara said that one of the most common types of car accidents is when people turn right and end up in a collision. When I take the bus home from the high school, at the intersection at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, my bus driver would run over the curb when turning so she doesn't hit anyone in the other lane who is turning left.

There's a thing that can be done about this. We can stop some of the car collisions in Novi. We can extend the curb or, to make it better, add an extra lane for cars to merge if it's only a one lane. That's what I feel is what's best to do. Don't you agree? If we don't, there just might be more and more collisions waiting to happen.

Chris Fadanello
Novi High School freshman

Library to require cards beginning Sept. 1

Novi Public Library will require all patrons who present a library card to check out materials, place items on hold, access online resources, and more.

Library cards are free of charge and are available in key tag and wallet options to make having your library card readily accessible when needed. Having the card in hand will provide patrons with not only a fast and easy check out service, but it will also eliminate the possibility of checking out an item to the wrong patron. Also, it will help to drive more self-check

usage and fewer guest passes will be needed which helps reduce the library's paper costs.

Cards are already a requirement for the self-check stations and drive-up window, so by having this policy become effective on Sept. 1 it will provide a more consistent environment for patrons.

"We want patrons to understand the importance of their library card and all of the great opportunities available when having the card in hand," said Julie Farkas, library director. "We feel a library card

is the smartest card on your key chain or in your wallet. The smartest card concept is a national campaign by the American Library Association that helps libraries promote the importance of using a library card to enjoy the many programs, services and resources that are available to library patrons."

The library will be actively promoting this policy change over the next six months in order to give patrons plenty of time to prepare for needing a library card for service beginning on Sept. 1.



Library Director Julie Farkas shows the cards.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

Tech classes for 50 and up

Tech Talk classes, offered by the City of Novi Older Adult Services, are designed for those 50 and above who are interested in becoming more tech savvy. The classes will introduce smart phones, buying and selling on the Internet, and using technology to remain independent.

Each class will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, between 6:15-8:15 p.m. and \$15 per resident and \$18 per non-resident. Pre-registration required for each class.

Monday, March 11 Buying and Selling on eBay and Craigslist

Monday, April 15 Using Technology to maintain your Independence Register is available online or at the Older Adult Services office located inside the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call (248)347-0414. To learn more about older adult programs in Novi, visit cityofnovi.org.

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 Center (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, 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) 735-5677.

For more information about Older Adult Services in Novi including upcoming events and classes, visit cityofnovi.org or call Novi Older Adult Services at (248) 347-0414.

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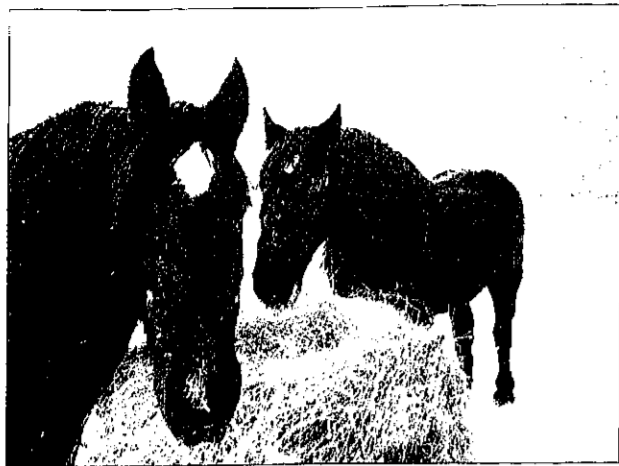


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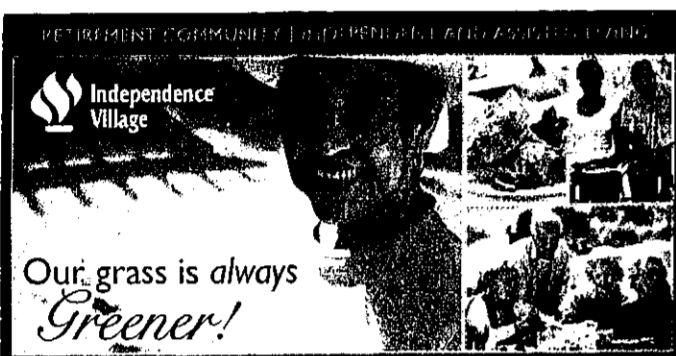
www.Waltonwood.com

All the pretty horses



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A pair of percherons enjoy a snack of some sweet grass on Feb. 28 at Novi's Tollgate Farm. Percherons are usually used as plow horses on farms and originate from France. The MSU educational facility is open for visitors everyday and hosts a few gatherings through the year like its spring garden tours and fall festival.



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The grass is always greener on our side of the fence!

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St. Patrick's Day Party
Thursday, March 14
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Wishing all Lads and Ladies a bit of luck while they enjoy a delicious Irish dinner prepared by our gourmet chefs.
RSVP by March 12.

Professional Roundtable
Tuesday, March 19
6:00 p.m.

Join a professional occupational therapist, social worker, downsizing expert, and our resident advocate as we discuss important topics about senior living.
RSVP by March 15.

Easter Bonnet Hat Show
Thursday, March 28
1:00 p.m.

Come see elegant vintage hats from the 1860's. Join us for a cup of tea and a scrumptious scene.
RSVP by March 26.

Stay & Play
Speak with a Leasing Representative about joining us for a one week complimentary stay. Then pack your bags for a week full of food, fun and friendship!



Independence Village of Plymouth

14707 Northville Road, Plymouth, MI
South of 5 Mile Road

www.SeniorVillages.com
734-453-2600

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NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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

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

Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and Rev. Michael Zuelch, associate pastor

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH

Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.

Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center
Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822
Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. (55 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 visit www.faithcommunity.org

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2852; or by mail to Church Events/Northville-Nov, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

novi.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Book of Revelation Study

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Details: Come and learn what John is writing about, what the symbolism means, and how this book still speaks to us today.

Faith Journeys

Date: Third Sundays
Details: Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have experienced God in their life and the difference that has made.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH

Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.

Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 200 E. Main Street
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org

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

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7500 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

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Thursday: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org

Food pantry makes helping Jewish families a priority

Yad Ezra gave out one million pounds of groceries in 2012

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Nancy Kleinfeldt has not been donating her time and money for the last 12-plus years to the Jewish food organization Yad Ezra because of how it makes her feel.

The Huntington Woods and president of Yad Ezra's board of directors does it because it's her "obligation." "It's something I feel has to be done," she said. "I've been blessed to be able to provide for my family and they never have to worry about going hungry. But it's also my obligation to take care of everyone else that doesn't have those luxuries."

It's volunteers like Kleinfeldt, her fellow board members, and the hundreds of others who show up regularly to help clients or drop off food that make the 22-year-old independent organization run.

More than 1,400 Jewish families, making up 5 percent of the Jewish population in metro Detroit, use Yad Ezra to get kosher food, personal hygiene and household items they cannot otherwise afford. More than one million pounds of groceries were distributed last year from the organization's Berkeley warehouse.

Lea Luger, executive director of Yad Ezra, said the organization just doesn't care about Jewish people who are hungry but they care about everyone.

If a non-Jewish person comes, they will receive assistance at least once, while a Jewish family who meets the financial guidelines, can pick up items once a month. "There is enough food in this country to feed everyone it's not the priority it needs to be," Luger said about the hunger problem in the United States. "It's a priority for Yad Ezra, which also makes it a point to make the clients feel as comfortable as possible. The clients aren't just given a box with items in it, they get a choice. Everything is based on points system, and the families with multiple members receive more points. The organization also delivers food to those who cannot pick it up, and they recently installed a drive-through window for those who feel uneasy being seen by others. The volunteers also play a big role in the atmosphere at Yad Ezra.

"Our volunteers bend over backwards to be compassionate and understanding," Luger said. "Because you don't know what side of that shopping cart you could be on."

Kleinfeldt said it's amazing to see what goes on during distribution days. "The clients and volunteers have formed a lot of friendships and there is so much respect for each other," she said. "It's real-



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MUELLER

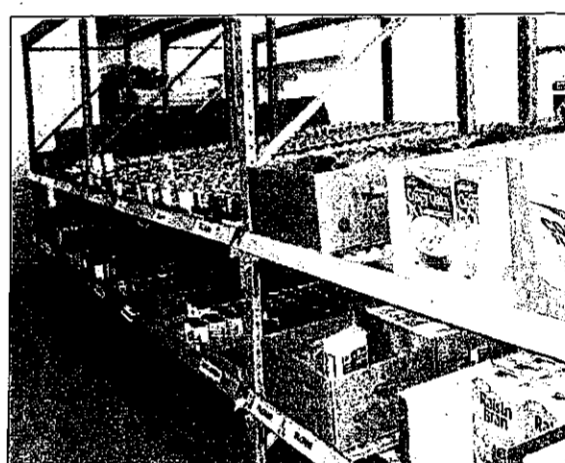
Yad Ezra warehouse manager David Jaffee unloads a box of bananas at the nonprofit organization's warehouse in Berkeley. Yad Ezra provides free kosher food, toiletries and household cleaning items to low income Jewish families in southeast Michigan.

ly beautiful to see how they interact with each other and how appreciative the clients are to the volunteers."

Yad Ezra will again be hosting a "hunger seder" at 7:30 p.m. on March 19 in its warehouse to raise hunger awareness and share the message of Passover.

For more information about Yad Ezra or to volunteer or donate, visit www.yadezra.org or call (248) 548-3663.

nmueller@hometownlife.com (813) 222-2343 Twitter: @50Kccentric



Yad Ezra distributed more than one million pounds of food to the 1,400 Jewish families it served last year. The organization helps roughly 5 percent of the Jewish population in metro Detroit.

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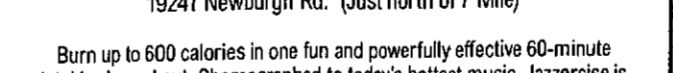
- How to avoid a probate estate
- How to simplify current plans based on new laws
- How the new Estate Tax Law affects estate plans
- How to protect and preserve children's inheritance

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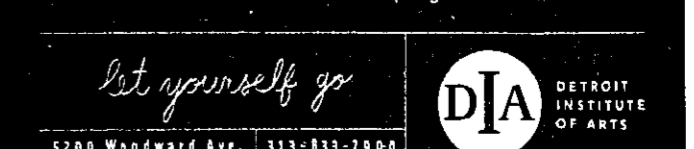
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SPORTS

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WLN gets last laugh on Carney

Knights knock out Noviciers 4-3 in fifth overtime

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

On paper, Novi's ice hockey team should have won their Division II regional quarterfinal contest Feb. 25, but that's why they play the game.

Ranked No. 30 in the state and No. 8 in Division II heading into the game, the Wildcats (11-14-1) hosted Walled Lake Northern (10-15-3), who was ranked No. 90 in the state and No. 32 in Div. II, in a battle that took five overtimes to complete. Nearly four hours after the game began, the Knights prevailed 4-3 on a putback from the right side by junior Austin Sansom with 24.2 seconds remaining in the eighth period.

"I thought it was a fantastic hockey game," Novi coach Todd Kryger said. "It's not like we didn't have a penalty shot, three breakaways, a crossbar. We had plenty of chances to win the



Walled Lake Northern junior Keegan Brown (left) sprays up a mist of ice as he slides to block a shot by Novi senior Carl Faraon Feb. 25. Northern senior netminder Grant Luzynski (51 saves) also comes out of his crease on the play en route to a 4-3 Knights victory.

game. I thought both goaltenders played fantastic. We played almost two hockey games. Good for Walled Lake Northern, they worked hard. We worked hard and we didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

Despite the final result, the Wildcats had several golden chances to clinch the game after falling behind early. The Knights had started the game with a deflection goal from senior Joe Rozek 2:59 into the game off assists from

freshman Ben Grudzien and Sansom. Novi avenged the goal with 8:09 to go in the second period when senior Carl Faraon knocked home a goal with one second remaining on a power play, off assists from sophomore

Bryan Fegert and senior Connor Kenrick. The Wildcats took a 2-1 lead 1:58 into the third period with a baseline flick over Northern netminder Grant Luzynski from the right side by sophomore Ryan Baxter, with junior Isaiah

Crawford and Fegert assisting.

A wrist shot by Rozek from the near left side with 8:20 left in regulation beat Novi senior netminder Patrick Carney and tied the game at 2-2 with assists from senior Eric Woolf and junior Nick Goldman.

Just 3:05 later, Fegert notched his third point of the game with a wrist shot from the top of the right circle that went through traffic in front of the net before hitting Luzynski and trickling between his legs and into the goal for a 3-2 Wildcat lead. Crawford assisted.

Fearing their play-off run was ending in the first game, Sansom answered back with 2:07 left in regular with a shot from the right side, tying the contest 3-3 with assists from Goldman and Rozek.

Carney (45 saves) made two big saves for Novi with 18.7 seconds remaining and Luzynski (51 saves) was able to corral a flick by Baxter with 12.5 seconds to go, sending the game into overtime.

Please see HOCKEY, B2

Mustangs stomp Novi lady cagers in playoff overtime

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The record-setting season for Novi's girls basketball team came to an early ending in their first postseason contest. The Wildcats (18-3, 10-0 KLA Central) lost a 49-41 overtime battle in a district semifinal against Northville (16-4, 7-3 Central) on Canton's court Feb. 27.

Novi coach Bill Kelp has regularly said how tough it is to beat any team three times in a single season, but the Mustangs proved him right last week with a 10-4 fourth-quarter run to tie the game 37-37 at the end of regulation. Northville kept the pace going, outscoring the Wildcats 12-4 in overtime, successfully averaging losses of 35-28 and 51-29 during the regular season.

"Too many turnovers," Novi coach Bill Kelp said of what put the Wildcats under in the latest contest. "We didn't rebound and turned the ball over too much. Ultimately, that's where we lost the game - on the boards.

"They played a 1-2-2 zone. I thought we settled for too many outside shots rather than trying to penetrate against it."

Northville won the rebounding battle 25-12, including 12 offensive rebounds. Additionally, Novi had 12 turnovers picking up eight steals and the Mustangs committing 10 turnovers of their own.

Novi junior Kerri McMahan led the way for the Wildcats with a game-high 16 points on 7-for-13 (53.8 percent) shooting,



Novi Wildcat Kristin Schubring steps in front of and steals a pass intended for Northville Mustang Emily Mareh, rear, during the teams' Feb. 28 match at Canton High. Northville won the game in overtime.

along with five assists and two steals, but it wasn't enough. "Kerri played great - one of her best games," Kelp said. Down 14-13 at halftime, the Mustangs trailed 33-27 after three quarters before turning up the pressure for the victorious overtime comeback. Northville juniors Gabby Mennotti (14 points, nine rebounds) and Heather Randall (12 points, five rebounds) led the charge with a combined 14-for-17 (82.4 percent) performance at the free throw line.

As a team, the Mustangs shot 14-for-33 (42.4 percent) from the field, which was enough to

dismantle the Central Division champion Wildcats, who shot a similar 17-for-40 (42.5 percent). Chipping in for the Mustangs' offense were senior Kendra Bremner (eight points, five rebounds), senior Brittany Berehulka (seven points) and two points apiece from sophomore Emily Mareh and senior Diane Myers. McMahan's offensive efforts for the Wildcats was assisted by senior Jade Antolec (eight points, four steals), junior Kristen Schubring (six points), senior Amanda Gei-

Please see GIRLS, B3

Wildcat cagers test Highlanders

Novi boys 'buy in' in time for playoffs

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Although the final score may not show it, one of Novi's closest boys basketball games of the season took place in their KLA Central crossover finale last week.

Trading baskets with Howell (11-9, 6-4 West) throughout the first three quarters, the Wildcats (8-12, 5-5 Central) were tied 8-8 after the first quarter, 22-22 at halftime and trailed just 37-35 after three quarters.

"I really liked the way we played Tuesday; unselfish," Novi coach Brian Tass said. "Made a couple mistakes early, but it didn't cost us. Played a good half on both ends."

Novi foul trouble and the Highlanders' increased pressure in the fourth quarter proved to tilt the scale late in the game, as Howell finished on a 19-10 run to win 56-45.

"I thought it was a pretty lopsided affair with them shooting 26 free throws and us only six," Tass said. "You don't get calls there, you have to play through it and it hurt us having guys like (senior point guard) Tre Cadwell on the bench. We got frazzled for a bit in the third quarter when they put some pressure on us, but we worked past it. Just never cut into the six-point lead in the fourth quarter."

As a team, the Wildcats shot 18-for-39 (46.2 percent) from the field, compared to Howell's 19-for-29 (65.5 percent), led

Please see BOYS, B3

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NOVI SPORTS ROUND-UP



Novi's 200 free relay team of Kenta Onimura, Vinny Rosaneli, Dennis Kim and Andrew Ao pose after breaking the school record by 00.02 seconds in 1:28.52. The time also won the group the KLAAs Kensington Conference title in the event.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

of 16 and Baur in the semifinals. For full results, visit www.mhsaa.com.

Novi bowler Schulz finishes 25th in Division I

As the lone Novi bowler qualifier for the Division I state finals March 2, junior Sara Schulz battled to a 25th-place finish among 60 bowlers at Northway Lanes in Muskegon. The group competed through six qualifying games before the field was cut to the top 16. With games of 190, 175, 200, 211, 191 and 182 for a total of 1,150, Schulz finished 24 pins short of the 16th spot.

Grand Ledger's Barbara Lawson, who finished 12th in the qualifying round with 1,183 pins, went on to win the state title over Macomb L'Anse Creuse North's Alyssa Meade 419-323 in two games. Lawson shot games of 200 and 219, compared to Meade's 121 and 202. Davison's Brooke Wood and Heather Baur had finished first and second, respectively, in qualifying play with six-game series of 1,256 and 1,255, but Wood lost in the round

Dupessey takes 15th in giant slalom at state ski meet

As the second Wildcat ever to make the trip, Novi's Bastien Dupessey had a solid showing in one of two events at the state ski meet Feb. 25 at Boyne Mountain. With runs of 30.18 and 31.27 in the giant slalom, Dupessey finished 15th with a two-run time of 1:01.45. However, he did not finish the slalom run, which defaulted him to a 60th-place finish.

The Wildcats also had some fun at the Feb. 18 Milford Invitational at Alpine Valley, where the team won team costume participation for the third year in a row and Harrison Halley won best costume, dressed as Carl, the old man from "Up."

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



Novi's Harrison Halley shows off his costume of Carl from "Up," which won him the best costume award at the Feb. 18 Milford Invitational. The Wildcats won the ski meet's team costume participation award for the third-straight year.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

"I thought Carney played fantastic," Krygier said. "I think we out-shot them 54-49. He had some point-blank shots. We didn't start out the game well at all. He just kept us in the game and gave us a chance to stay in it. I thought he did a great job."

With the two teams combining for four goals in the third period, a quick overtime ending was not in the books. Although each overtime lasted eight minutes instead of a typical 17-minute period, each netminder came up with save after save to extend the game.

Novi had the best opportunity in the third period when a pile-up against the left post led to a penalty shot for senior Mark Baker, but Luzynski charged forward out of his crease as Baker approached from center ice, forcing the Wildcat to make a quick shot that Luzynski knocked away off his pads on the stick side.

"Baker, Fegert, they played fantastic," Krygier said. "Our (defense) worked real hard. There's nothing to be ashamed of. Both teams played really hard and Walled Lake did a great job."

When Sansom's shot found the back of the net in the fifth overtime, the Northern bench rushed the ice. After 90 minutes and 35.8 seconds of action had elapsed on the game clock, the game ended about three hours and 38 minutes of real time after the puck had dropped. Not to mention the other regional quarterfinal's puck drop was therefore delayed until about 10 p.m. that Monday night.

"Twice we had a one-

goal lead in the third period," Krygier said. "So you can't expect to be successful and give up one-goal leads in the third period in the playoffs. We continue to hang on and continued to create scoring chances, but Walled Lake got basically one chance and they buried it."

The Wildcats finished the season ranked No. 32 overall and No. 9 in Div. II, as of March 2, while Northern went on to defeat Walled Lake Western 7-2 before falling 3-2 to Hartland in the regional final. The Knights capped their season ranked No. 85 and No. 31, respectively.

Novi's squad graduates eight seniors, including Carney, Baker, Faron, Kenrick, Collin Pew, Luke Bageris, Kyle Lash and Alexander Turner. However, the Wildcats had seven juniors and six sophomores rostered this season, many of which carried a large bulk of the offensive load.

"This has been a great team to coach," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "I thoroughly enjoyed the season although we didn't have the success we've had in past years. I thoroughly enjoyed coaching these guys and they've worked hard for me. They were real coachable."

"I always feel bad, there's got to be a team throughout the whole playoffs who gets knocked off and seniors are going to be disappointed. We've had some big successes over the last couple years and I thought we'd have another one tonight, but Walled Lake Northern figured out a way to get it done."

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

Franklin Road Christian junior sets state record for single-season free throws made

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

While much of the local basketball focus this winter was on Novi High School's program-best 18-3 record in girls basketball, Kristen Massey was just up the road setting records of her own.

A junior point guard at Franklin Road Christian School in Novi - at 13 Mile and M-5 - the 16-year-old Southfield resident set the state record for the most free throws made in a single season.

Massey nearly broke Whittemore-Prescott's Jessie Miller's 2002 record of 199 free throws (of 308 for 64.6 percent) as a sophomore last year when Massey finished at 195-for-270 (72.6 percent) from the line.

Already with the second-most single-season free throws in school history, Massey was just focused on helping her team this season. The Warriors went 13-9, losing 53-45 in a Class D district final to Plymouth Christian Academy at PCA last Friday despite a 38-point effort from Massey, who averaged 29 points, 4.5 assists, 5.5 rebounds and 5.5 steals per game this season.

Massey didn't even know until Friday, but she was two free throws away from setting the new state record with 200 made in a single season. So she made 15 that night.

"It wasn't really in my mind at all. I just kind of went out and played and came upon it," Massey said. "I really wasn't shooting. I was just playing and trying to get points for my team."

Finishing her junior season at 213-for-270 (78.9 percent) from the line, Massey is now 488-for-665 (73.4 percent) in her career at FRCS, plus 52 more as an eighth-grader on the varsity squad that will not count toward her career total in the record books.

With 488 made over three seasons, Massey is already fifth all-time in the state. She would need to make 210 as a senior to set the career state record, breaking Miller's 697-for-1,014 (68.7 percent) pace from 1999-2002. The others above her on the list are Dansville's Lindsay Bowen (610-for-740 from 1998-2001), St. Joseph's Kim Knuth (552-for-716 from 1991-94) and Traverse City West's Kalya McPherson (509-for-751



Junior Kristen Massey of Franklin Road Christian School in Novi set the state single-season record last Friday for most made free throws in a season with 213. She finished three shy of tying the old record of 199 as a sophomore last year.

from 2002-05). "Just aggressive play, being assertive getting to the basket," Massey said of how she gets to the line so often. "I started off being an OK free throw shooter. I really spent a lot of time at a gym in Livonia. I started off as a natural shooting guard."

Massey said she switched to point guard two years ago, which helped improve her shooting, which helped her free throw percentage jump from 63.2 percent as a freshman to 72.6 percent as a sophomore and 78.9 percent as a junior.

Having played basketball for seven or eight years after starting at Faith Christian Academy in Southfield and transitioning into AAU, Massey - who carries a 3.7 grade point average - said she is now being scouted by the University of Cincinnati, Coastal Carolina University, Cornell University, Evanston University, Ashley University, Harvard University and others that have yet to see her play.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Walled Lake Western hosting volleyball marathon fundraiser

Walled Lake Western High School (600 Beck Road) is hosting a volleyball marathon fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 22 and ending at 7 a.m. Saturday, March 23. All funds raised will go directly to Friendship Circle, an organization that provides assistance to families with special needs.

The event will include volleyball, inflatable games, a DJ, dancing, games, hypnotists, comedians, food, prizes, and more. It is open to any student who raises a minimum of \$100.

Prizes will be given to the top five student fundraisers. In order to raise money, students need to complete and sign a contract and pick up a volleyball marathon packet. Packets will be available during all lunches starting Monday, Feb. 25 and must be turned in by the end of school on Wednesday, March 20.

Every person who donates to the volleyball marathon will be entered in a raffle for a \$200 Amazon gift card. Online donations are accepted at www.wlvwm.com. Every student who attends the fundraiser will be entered in a raffle win prize.

For more information on the volleyball marathon, visit www.wlvwm.com. For more information on Friendship Circle, visit www.friendshipcircle.org.

Crafters sought

The Novi Athletic Boosters Holiday Kickoff 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, 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.noviatleticboosters.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 Gabbeart, Northville Recreation, (248) 449-9947; Tori Heglin, Novi Recreation, (248) 347-0422; Chris Galatis, Howell Recreation, (517) 404-3323.

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NEF sponsors Masters golf raffle

The Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) is sponsoring a premiere raffle that offers one lucky winner four tickets to the 2014 Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Ga. But you have to hurry - raffle ticket sales are limited to the first 100 people.

This year's Masters Raffle is one of many highlights at 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 Green Gala extravaganza has grown in attendance over the years. Approximately 300 people come and enjoy casino games, silent auctions and raffles, dancing, food and drinks.

Raffle Ticket prices are \$250 each. You don't need to be present at the Green Gala to win. Tickets 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 "Leader in Me" fundraising campaign.

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 email her at NEF@NOVI.K12.MI.US.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **DETROIT METROPOLITAN CREDIT UNION, SITE PLAN NUMBER 14289, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT, AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 23, ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND NOVI ROAD IN THE T-1, TOWN CENTER DISTRICT.** The applicant is proposing to construct a 3,000 sq. ft. financial institution. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

VICINITY MAP
1" = 400'

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

David Green, Secretary
Novi Planning Commission
Published March 7, 2013

GIRLS
Continued from page B1

ger (five points, three assists), junior Taylor Pavlika (four points, four rebounds, four assists) and junior Dina Fawaz (two points).

With Jade Antolec, Amanda Geiger, Kasey Lowney and Lena Burgess all graduating in the spring, the Wildcats - who finished the year with the fewest losses in a single season in program history - have nine juniors and one sophomore slated to return next season.

"Well, you would like to think they all move up four spots with the four seniors leaving, but it's ultimately up to them," Kelp said of the underclassmen. "The experience they gained this year is invaluable and I hope they are willingly ready to put the time and effort in to continue what has been established before them."

"All four (seniors) will truly be missed and I personally want to thank them for what they have given to this program. Lena knew her role coming into the season and showed up every day working hard - she never complained about playing time. Kasey improved as she worked her way up the traditional way through the program.

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Record-setting season Catholic Central gets four individual titles

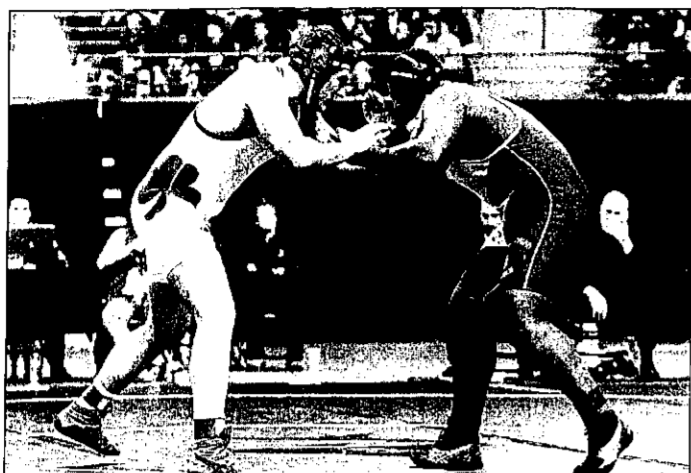
By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team has not disappointed the blue and white faithful this season, not only bringing them to their feet two weeks ago with a last-second team state championship, but setting an all-time team record last week as well.

In the MHSAA Individual State Wrestling Finals, held at the Palace of Auburn Hills last weekend, the Shamrocks made history by earning four individual championships. Previously, the Shamrocks had just three individual champions in the same year—a feat that was accomplished three times.

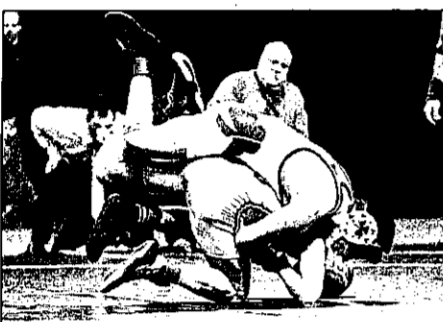
If that wasn't enough, the Shamrocks also had four other All-State wrestlers who finished in the top three of their respective weight classes. "I'm happy for our state champions," said Catholic Central coach Mitch Hancock. "Not many individuals can walk away at the end of the team as team champions and individual champions. They did it and wrestled incredibly sharp the past two weeks. For them to be the first (to capture four titles in the same season) in our program—with the history that we have—is simply remarkable."

The first state champion to be crowned this year for the Shamrocks was none other than Bob Coe, a senior captain who has dominated the heavyweight division all season long. He took the title with a 3-0 victory over Forest Hills Central's Parker Tillman. Coe ended the season with a 47-1 record. Not to be outdone, Ken



PHOTOS BY DENNIS BARNES

CC's Bob Coe earned a 3-0 decision over Parker Tillman of Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central in the heavyweight division.



Ken Bade (top) earned a win for the Shamrocks by toppling Matt Miller of Davison 4-3 in overtime.

Bade won his third state title with a win over Davison's Matt Miller in overtime, 4-3. Bade was dominant most of the season, earning himself a 40-7 record. Malik Amine captured the 140-pound weight class crown when he put on an impressive performance against Anchor Bay scrap-

per Eric Rybars. Amine controlled the match from the start and walked away with a convincing 11-6 victory. Amine's final record stands at 40-6 on the year. Drew Garcia rounded out the titles with an 8-2 victory over Mitchell Thomas of Hartland. The state championship is Garcia's second of his career. Garcia was perfect on the season, going 37-0. The Shamrocks also had a second-place finish from Logan Marzocchi, a junior, who fell in his second appearance in an individual state title match to defending champion Jordan Cooks of Davison, 8-5.

Marzocchi ended the season with a 35-6 record. "I'm proud of Logan and the year that he had," said Hancock. "For him to rebound from a disappointing 2011 and get back into the finals says a lot about his work ethic and determination. He is one of the most determined individuals that I've had the pleasure of coaching. This loss will drive him."

Sophomore Myles Amine took third at 130 pounds while sophomore Trevor Zdebski captured third at 119 pounds. Nick Giese, also a sophomore, took third at 189 pounds. All of them earned All-State status thanks to their performances. Jimmy Russell, Evan Toth, Parker O'Brien and Mike Babicz all qualified for the state championship tournament but did not place in the event.

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



JOHN PAWLOSKI

Northville's Alex Stuart corals the puck in front of goalie Chance Boulton in last week's game against Catholic Central.

CC knocks off Northville, Brother Rice for regional title

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks were slated to continue their playoff run Wednesday, after the sports section went to press. Results will be in next week's edition.

The Shamrocks, coached by Todd Johnson, scored nine goals in the two games while allowing just two to capture the regional title. They upended Northville, 6-1, before defeating rival Brother Rice, 3-1, for the title.

Against Northville, the Shamrocks scored two goals in the first period, three in the second and one more in the third while allowing just one goal against them in the final stanza. Carson Gatt started the night off for the Shamrocks, scoring at the 6:24 mark to make it a 1-0 game with assistance from Nick Daigneau and Dominic Mancinelli. Just two minutes later, Charlie Green scored his first goal of the game on a powerplay, with Daigneau and Gatt getting assists on the play for the 2-0 lead.

The Shamrocks made it 3-0 at the 7:45 mark in the second period off the stick of Ryan Burnett and three minutes later Green tallied his second goal of the contest. At 15:21, Northville found themselves trailing 5-0 off the shot by Mancinelli that found the back of the net. Earning assists

in the second were Carter Cerretani, Luke Turner, Matt Sorisho, Danny Middleton, Brady Jones and Gatt. The final period found the Shamrocks scoring just 25 seconds in as Michael Babcock fired home a shot to make it a 6-0 contest with assistance from Sorisho and Gatt. Northville tallied their lone goal in the game 30 seconds later as Jack Meacham and PJ Schnepf led the puck to Buddy DeBrabander, who capped a strong year with the team's last goal of the season for the 6-1 finale.

Northville picked up five penalties for 10 minutes in the game while the Shamrocks were whistled eight times for 16 minutes. Earning the win in goal was Ryan Mulka, who stopped 13 shots for Catholic Central while Chance Boulton stopped 43-of-49 in the losing effort.

Northville's victory over South Lyon moved them into the second round of the state tournament to take on Catholic Central in front of a packed house at Canton's Arctic Arena. Both teams moved the puck well in the opening minutes and generated shots.

Catholic Central takes two lumps to end regular season

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central basketball team was slated to play Plymouth in the district tournament Wednesday, after the sports section went to press. Results will be available in next week's edition.

The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, took a loss to No. 7-ranked Detroit Douglass, 53-42, before bowing to Detroit Mumford, 55-43. Against Douglass, the Shamrocks showed signs of competing with the top-ranked Douglass squad, staying even with them throughout the first quarter and ending the opening stanza knotted up, 12-12. Unfortunately, the second quarter made all the difference in the game as Douglass came out and ran the floor, outscoring the Shamrocks, 18-5, to take a commanding 30-17 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Shamrocks couldn't overcome the deficit despite outscoring their foes in the third, 12-9, and playing almost even in the final stanza as they scored 13 to Douglass' 14 points. Douglass was led by Darrell Davis, who poured in 21 to lead all scorers,

while teammate Doavi Bradley added 12. Catholic Central's Nick Malone led his team with 17, while Garrett Moores added eight points, eight rebounds and four assists in the losing effort. Mumford 55, CC 43 The Shamrocks kept the game even throughout the first half of play, forcing a 24-24 knot by the end of the second quarter on the road at Mumford. The second half, however, proved to be their undoing as they fell behind, 37-30, by the end of the third and could only watch as Mumford outscored them, 18-13, in the final quarter. Leading the way for Mumford was Jamal Hall, who scored 15 points, while Arshon Parker added 11 and Darius Tate scored 10.

Beginner's guide to Twitter: Yes, you can learn this

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

One of the most common rants I'm subject to as a social media professional is that people don't like or understand Twitter. I liken this to someone saying "I don't like or understand words on the Internet."

Without this column, it would be none of my concern whether readers or nonreaders like Twitter or any other social site. But as an ambassador to the local technological-challenged (and it's OK to be technologically challenged), I feel it is my duty to explain

Twitter. Twitter is a social network designed in 2007 that asks one question: what's happening?

Users who sign up for the free service have 140 characters to answer Twitter's question from a computer or mobile device. Why 140 characters? Because in 2007, smartphones weren't so smart — and 140 characters was the maximum length of a text message. In its infancy, mobile Twitter users sent their 140 character messages to the Twitter servers by texting a unique Twitter number.

With the rise of mobile applications, sending Twitter messages via text has fallen out of practice. Most people who complain to me about Twitter also point out they don't care to hear about "when others are brushing their teeth or eating a bagel." I couldn't agree more. While some use Twitter to tell follow-

ers about toothpaste and strawberry cream cheese others provide much more valuable content.

I use my personal Twitter account (@Jungun) to share information about digital media, talk about sports, share funny photos and quickly message friends. Some of those topics may interest you, some may bore you, but everyone is different.

Each Twitter user can choose who he or she follows. If you follow me on Twitter (and some of you already do) that's cool. If you don't follow me on Twitter — I won't cry — and neither will others.

One of the greatest benefits of Twitter is finding new users that share your interests and being exposed to new information that creates new interests. Some Twitter users follow celebrities, gossip blogs, news sites, comedians or strangers. Some users only follow friends, some users protect their Tweets so only friends can see them.

Twitter's protected Tweets is a great security feature for folks that don't want to have their content seen. Additionally, private messages called "direct messages" can be sent, and users can be blocked.

So why is the site called Twitter? I can't actually say, but Twitter does have a noticeable avian theme. The Twitter logo is a bird, the message are called Tweets (birds Tweet) and the homepage on Twitter's mobile app is a bird house.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? E-mail jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com or follow him on Twitter at @Jungun5how

Building business relations

WELCOME TO MICHIGAN NSUI GENERAL ZHAO



Zhao Wei-Ping (second from left), of the People's Republic of China and newly appointed to his post as Consul General in Chicago, was invited to Michigan by Northville resident Lisa Gray (second from right), president of the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit to meet with business and governmental leaders. The meeting took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Novi. Zhao spoke of the passion and enthusiasm he witnessed from the business and government officials he met in Michigan in building cultural, educational and economic ties between Michigan and China. Mike Finney (left), president of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, welcomed Zhao to Michigan on behalf of Governor Rick Snyder. He, too, spoke of building bridges between Michigan and China in ways that create jobs and build wealth on both sides of the ocean. On the right is Northville resident Tom Watkins, former Michigan superintendent of schools and a U.S./China business and educational consultant.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Club Pilates leases in Novi

Signature Associates has negotiated the lease of 1,300 square feet of retail space located at 39799 Grand River Avenue, Novi. Abraham Leon and Bruce Baja of Signature Associates represented the tenant, Club Pilates. Club Pilates is a franchise based out of San Diego and Novi will be home to the first Michigan Club Pilates franchise.

Novi's ITC and Entergy Texas file transaction request

Entergy Texas, Inc. in conjunction with ITC Holdings Corp. (NYSE: ITC) and ITC Midwest LLC, filed a request Feb. 19 at the Public Utility Commission of Texas to spin off Entergy Texas' electric transmission business and merge it into a subsidiary of ITC. The Texas filing is the final in a series of local and federal regulatory applications seeking approval for the transaction announced in December 2011 by Entergy

Corporation (NYSE: ETR) and ITC. The transaction is a significant step toward meeting the challenges facing the electric industry in Texas and across the country — challenges driven by the need to upgrade infrastructure, modernize equipment and meet growing environmental and compliance requirements.

Entergy is seeking approval to transfer its transmission business, including approximately 15,400 circuit miles of interconnected transmission lines at voltages of 69kV and above and the associated substations, to ITC. ITC will then be one of the largest electric transmission companies in the U.S., with more than 30,000 miles of transmission lines spanning from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, Entergy's operating companies will continue to own and operate their respective distribution and generation businesses and will provide customer service, billing, outage reporting and restoration services to homes and businesses in the region.

Lotus expands



The Novi-based Lotus Bank celebrated the grand opening of their new branch in Farmington Hills, on the northeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Halsted, on Feb. 28. Lotus Bank is an institution that has minority ownership by the Asian Indian community. This is their first expansion since their founding in 2007, and they are looking forward to continued growth and success. Shown (l to r) are Farmington Hills Mayor Barry Brickner, Krishna Malempati (Lotus Bank chairman) and Neal Searle (Lotus Bank president and CEO).

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months. Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit www.advantageoakland.com/expand, or call (248) 858-0783.

Advanced Legal Series: Hiring Personnel

March 12, 9 a.m. to noon
Hiring Personnel: The Pros and Cons of Employees and Independent Contractors. Business owners will learn how to establish solid employment practices, from hiring to termination, when to classify a new hire as an employee or independent contractor and what needs to be in the employment or contract agreement. The cost is \$40 per person.

CEED Microloan Orientation

March 13, 9-11 a.m.
Many small businesses face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the Microloan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan. Free.

Writing a Business Plan

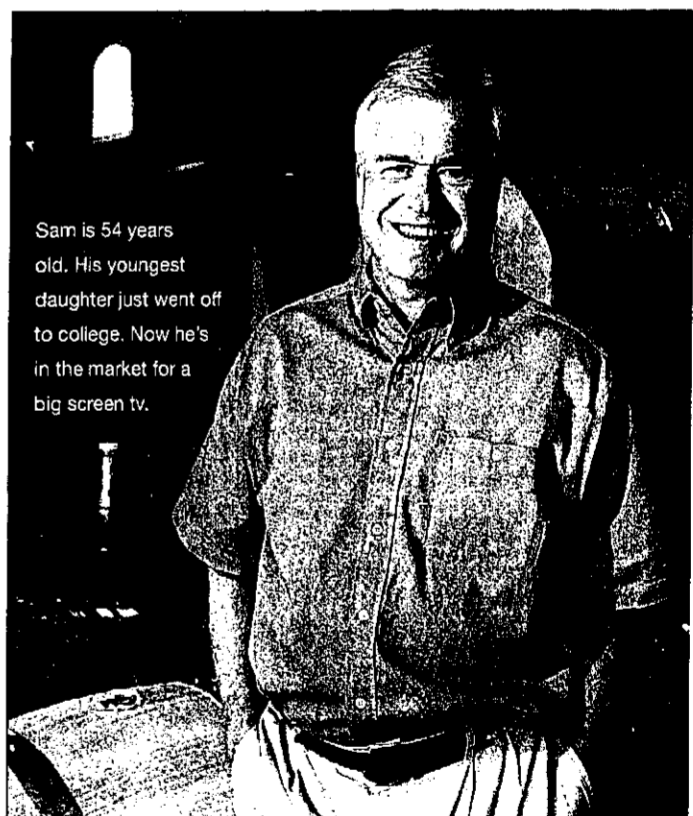
March 14, 9 a.m. to noon
Designed for individuals who want to increase their chances for successful self-employment, the course covers business planning in detail. Specifics of marketing and finance, legal and regulatory issues, operations and information based planning and management are key components of the workshop. The first steps for creating a business plan draft will be included along with a demonstration of the MI-SBTDC online business plan tool. The cost is \$40 per person.

QuickBooks Essentials, Part 1

March 28, 9-11:30 a.m.
This introduction to small business financial management provides an overview of accurate record keeping and report interpretation and utilization. Part 1 will cover basic accounting terminology, new company file setup, customizing forms and letters and working with bank accounts. The cost is \$40 per person.

QuickBooks Essentials, Part 2

March 28, 12:30-3 p.m.
Learn about the variety of tools provided in the QuickBooks system. Part 2 will cover invoicing customers, receiving payments and making deposits, entering and paying vendor bills, and more. Attend both sessions for \$75 per person.



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REAL ESTATE

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Sign of spring: Home Expo in Canton great place to get spruce-up ideas

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Annette and Michael Pops of Canton came to the right place Saturday, March 2.

"We come pretty much every year to see what's new," she said of their attendance at the 12th annual Canton Home Expo at the Summit. They just did some waterproofing with a business at a previous Expo.

"We're starting to paint stuff," Michael said of their home. The Pops like to get new ideas. "It doesn't hurt being free," he said. "There are a lot of vendors here."

That will help them freshen up their home interior.

John Weyer of Canton, Canton's building official, was busy at the Saturday-Sunday event, but took a moment to talk. It draws some 5,000-6,000 people, he said. This year, there were about 20 new vendors for a total of around 130.

"The workshops are really popular," Weyer said. "Home Depot does a lot with the kids." "People enjoy the entertainment of it, too. It's really a one-stop shop."

There are exhibitors from Ohio, Weyer said, as well as Chelsea and Brighton. "Geographically, we're pulling from a bigger audience. It truly has grown to a Southeast Michigan venue."

It helps Canton Township staff with issues of permits, inspections and code compliance, working with contractors, Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," broadcasts from the event each year, and was instrumental in getting it going.

N.A. Mans Lumber and Mill Work, in Canton and Trenton, has been in business since 1900. It was represented Saturday by Chris Degliuglio of Dearborn, who works in the kitchen department, and Dottie Kelly of Canton, in inside sales support.

"A great company to work for," she said. "We've been coming to this (Expo) since it started." Owner Doug Mans is active with the Canton Chamber of Commerce, which with the Observer & Eccentric and



This is the 12th year for the Canton Home Expo, held at the Summit.



Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," broadcasts live from the Canton event.

others helps bring the show to town.

Kelly is a cancer survivor and recalled the support her employer gave. "It was my family. My family lives in Philly." "And they take care of their customers the same way," Degliuglio added.

"They've been busy with kitchen and bath work. People are coming in because they're rethinking of spring," he said.

"We're seeing a big interest in interior remodeling," especially in the last six months, he said. "The economy, we feel, has turned the corner." Consumers are more confident.

"This is an exciting venue," he added of the Home Expo. "It's a hometown feeling." Younger people are also visiting, along with older familiar faces.

John Sarnecky of Canton is owner of Canton Construction. He's been busy following last year's March 15 and July 1 hailstorms, and noted approaching insurance industry deadlines. "It's a win-win for the customers as well as us," he said of the exterior damage repair work.

"This show is wonderful," Sarnecky said. "We've been with this show since day one." Outside the Summit doors, the company's apprentices were building cedar furniture, done with the township building department's help. One company staffer uses a chainsaw for carving.

"It's good exposure and it's very reasonable," Sarnecky said of the Expo. His firm had a busy winter. They do additions, basements, kitchens, baths and exterior work including roofing, siding and gutters. Company president is his wife, Marissa, and they've been in business 16 years.

Also busy was Susan Glessner of Livonia, with Baldwin Landscape Group in Plymouth. She does landscape design construction. "I'd like to get some business in the Canton area," said Glessner, who's also doing her own home landscaping.

"We're right next to it." Baldwin Landscape Group has been busy. "They're enjoying their homes more," she

Be leery on home offer

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am looking to sell my house and have been approached by someone who guarantees the sale of my home within a certain period of time. What do you think?

A: Make sure that the company you are dealing with is reputable by asking for references. Be sure you get a written listing agreement outlining the nature and extent of the guarantee, and, before you sign it, have an experienced real estate lawyer review it to be sure that you are adequately protected with respect to the sales price, among other things. If it sounds too good to be true, it may well be!

Robert Meisner

Q: I am the landlord of an apartment building and require carpeting in each of the units. However, one of my tenants has a wheelchair and indicates that they cannot navigate the carpeting. They want me to allow the installation of a wood floor. What do you think?

A: There are obviously disability discrimination issues involved in this request and your response. While each case has to be evaluated on its facts, I would allow the installation of the wood floor with two provisos: (1) appropriate cork noise-attenuating underlayment is required; and (2) the handicapped owner agrees to minimize any noise within the unit that might disturb the unit owner below. Typically, wheelchairs have rubber wheels that will not generate noise on a wood floor, but if that is a concern, it can be a requirement of approval. Finally, I would facilitate a conversation between the handicapped tenant and the tenant in the unit below so that they can address any problems that may arise in an amicable fashion. If there is still a concern about noise transmission, there could be a requirement that the wood floor be carpeted over when the handicapped tenant departs as part of your lease.

Wittner joined "so I could meet more people so I could socialize." She's the interest group leader, and likes the exposure the Home Expo gives.

Her group has around 96 members. "There's something for everybody," said Wittner, noting it's mostly women, and also has lots to do for couples and families.

"Whatever you're interested in," she said.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 5-9, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds Office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

43538 W Arbor Way Dr \$56,000	34649 Navin Ave \$250,000	18201 Fox \$30,000
2785 Newdorn Dr E \$180,000	14151 Newburgh Rd \$145,000	13486 Garfield \$71,000
GARDEN CITY	29659 Oakley St \$128,000	19615 Hemingway \$65,000
31324 Florence St \$31,000	34655 Pembroke Ave \$270,000	17403 Indian \$80,000
572 Harrison St \$35,000	34825 Rayburn St \$160,000	18257 Indian \$35,000
2750 Chestnut Rd \$95,000	37582 Schoolcraft Rd \$74,000	17341 Lennox Ave \$64,000
44732 Crestmont Dr \$155,000	17327 Stanwinch St \$130,000	19957 Lennane \$14,000
1736 Delaney Cir \$405,000	37080 Vargo St \$165,000	11356 Lennox \$66,000
48996 Fifth Ave \$243,000	32411 Pardo St \$170,000	32458 Washington St \$64,000
29059 Lynn St \$121,000	38201 Wooding St \$170,000	14209 Mackinac Dr \$90,000
6999 Foxrock Dr \$243,000	32117 Rush St \$30,000	14155 Woodside St \$131,000
46882 Hendrie Ct \$315,000	28527 Sheridan St \$26,000	NORTHVILLE
8636 Holly Dr \$125,000	1987 Brookfield St \$170,000	18994 Abby Cir \$400,000
2210 Preserve Cir E \$143,000	36686 Ann Arbor Trl \$110,000	44676 Brookmoor Cir N \$420,000
3759 Cherry Stone Dr \$222,000	31675 Bretton St \$112,000	11000 Brookwood Ct \$275,000
2510 Chestnut Rd \$155,000	10055 Camden St \$131,000	19647 Dartmouth Pl \$105,000
44732 Crestmont Dr \$155,000	3951 Doris St \$88,000	831 East St \$315,000
1736 Delaney Cir \$405,000	28564 Elmira St \$60,000	36237 Abbey Dr \$128,000
48996 Fifth Ave \$243,000	18072 Curtis Ct \$101,000	17892 Maple Hill Dr \$343,000
29059 Lynn St \$121,000	12006 Curtis Ct \$206,000	34454 Cherry Hill Rd \$224,000
6999 Foxrock Dr \$243,000	18221 Deering St \$45,000	15496 Preston Cir N \$502,000
46882 Hendrie Ct \$315,000	3951 Doris St \$88,000	14209 Mackinac Dr \$90,000
8636 Holly Dr \$125,000	28564 Elmira St \$60,000	2203 Emerson St \$4,000
2210 Preserve Cir E \$143,000	11848 Farmington Rd \$85,000	31015 Fernwood St \$25,000
3759 Cherry Stone Dr \$222,000	17006 Farmington Rd \$113,000	33624 Glen St \$42,000
2510 Chestnut Rd \$155,000	14346 Garden St \$170,000	29128 Manchester St \$22,000
44732 Crestmont Dr \$155,000	31171 Hillbrook St \$170,000	7627 Melvin Ave \$29,000
1736 Delaney Cir \$405,000	37708 Howell St \$134,000	142 N Parent St \$79,000
48996 Fifth Ave \$243,000	37954 Jamison St \$146,000	643 N Willowood St \$113,000
29059 Lynn St \$121,000	3951 Doris St \$88,000	30355 Nelson Cir \$135,000
6999 Foxrock Dr \$243,000	18072 Curtis Ct \$101,000	26309 W Seven Mile Rd \$15,000
46882 Hendrie Ct \$315,000	12006 Curtis Ct \$206,000	15918 Wakenden \$37,000
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8636 Holly Dr \$125,000	18221 Deering St \$45,000	33624 Glen St \$42,000
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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Ford makes sales a bigger goal in new 'Fiesta Movement'



By Dale Buss

Ford wrote a new playbook for social-media marketing with its first "Fiesta Movement" in 2009, but it didn't help sell the new Fiesta for very long.

So with the just-launched Fiesta Movement "Remix," Ford seems determined to use its social-media skills to sell significantly more Fiesta subcompacts as well as to stay ahead of the fastest-moving game in marketing.

This time, Ford plans to use the online content generated by 100 social-media influencers, in their unscripted experiences with the car over the next several weeks, as the entire palette of creative for a paid-media campaign around the launch of the 2014 Fiesta later this year.

"We're returning to our 100 Fiesta agents and saying, 'We're going to use only your content for our ad campaign for the new Fiesta,'" Scott Monty, global head of social media for Ford, told me. "That's never been done before in the auto industry."

Fiesta Movement: A Social Remix also will include ties with prominent TV, entertainment and sports programming including American Idol and the X Games as well as the Bonnaroo music festival in Tennessee. And Ford will curate all the content generated by the bloggers and other Fiesta-driving digerati on a new web site.

Ford's original Fiesta Movement in 2009 was hailed for raising awareness of the Fiesta — which was coming off a new global platform to the U.S. market for the

first time — to sky-high levels and setting a new, high bar for big brands' social-media marketing programs. It essentially kicked off a new era of digital marketing for the car business.

Propelled by the "Movement," Fiesta enjoyed a steep takeoff, selling more than 23,000 units in just the second half of 2010, and soon skyrocketing by nearly 300 percent for all of 2011, to a total of more than 69,000 sales for the year.

Problem was, the initial burst of attention didn't create a long-term boom in sales for Fiesta. By last spring, Fiesta sales had begun slumping badly. For all of 2012, Fiesta sold 17 percent fewer units than a year earlier, sliding to under 57,000 sales overall (though in December they rose by more than 50 percent versus a weak year-earlier month, and ticked up by more than 20 percent last month).

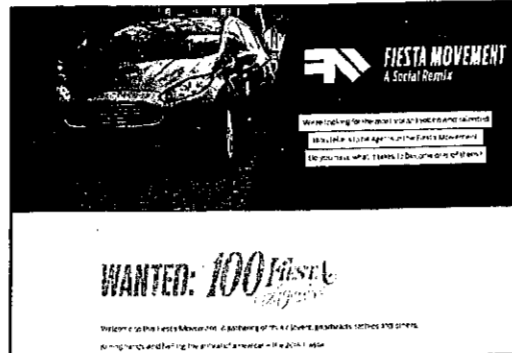
At least a couple of factors were to blame for Fiesta's flame-out from social-media star to showroom bust. One was the introduction about a year ago of the new Ford Focus, a little bigger than Fiesta but not all that much more expensive; Focus's appeal and Ford's promotion of its bread-and-butter small sedan surely sapped

thousands of sales from Ford's Fiesta.

Secondly, the Fiesta began facing more competition in the subcompact sector, as \$3-a-gallon-and-up gasoline became a staple of the American scene. Chevrolet's new Sonic, for instance, proved to be a worthy alternative.

Which brings us to the 2014 Fiesta. Monty told me that the Movement "Remix" and eventual ads will generate content "about a lifestyle and everything in concert and in particular being able to get the value with Fiesta that we can prove to customers." Ford will do that by tasking the influencers "to say whatever they're going to say" based on monthly themes that each will be related to different aspects of the car's appeal and personality, including travel, adventure, entertainment, technology, a "healthy lifestyle" and "social activism."

From what it learned during the first Fiesta Movement, Monty explained, the brand needs to be careful to emphasize such "lifestyle" elements "rather than be in your face about product features. We think it's a more powerful approach because, ultimately, when someone buys a car — and particularly someone in the target Fiesta demographic — they're interested in what it can do to support their



Ford launched Fiesta Movement: A Social Remix online.

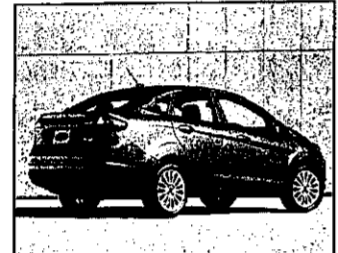
lifestyle, not whether it has this or that product feature.

"So by designing missions" for the influencers, and their content, "around these broad themes, we'll be much more authentic and in line with what [target consumers] are interested in learning about and sharing."

Nevertheless, Monty recognizes that Ford is in business to sell cars, not just social-media-marketing platforms, and to that end the company is counting on at least two significant differences with the 2014 Fiesta from its effort of three years ago.

First, it will tie a program of paid TV spots and other advertising directly to Fiesta Movement content — and derived only from it.

Second, the new Fiesta will have some significant advantages over the version three years ago. Primarily, it'll offer as an option a 1-liter EcoBoost engine, and Ford has been very good at promoting the capabilities of its EcoBoost engine line.



The 2014 Ford Fiesta.

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