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2013 EASTER DIRECTORY
SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



Bill Compton Run

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will hold its fifth annual Bill Compton Support Our Troops 5K-Run and 1M-Fun Walk at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 26. This event raises funds for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Lawrence A. Sims Wagon Post 2369 and Operation Hug-A-Hero.

This non-timed event will start at the corner of East Walled Lake Drive and Ferland Street in Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District.

The event is open to individuals and groups of all ages. Pre-registration entry fees are \$15 for individuals, \$100 for families (up to five members); and \$25 per person for groups or clubs with more than 10 members. After March 30, registration fees will increase by \$5 per person and \$25 per group.

For more information about the event, go to www.WalledLakeRun.org or contact Jennifer Stuart at (248) 926-9004 or jstuart@walledlake.com.

Egg Scramble

Northville Recreation, along with Friends of Maybury and Maybury State Park, will put on their annual Egg Scramble event beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 30 at Maybury State Park. The free event will feature crafts, games, face painting, seed planting and of course an egg hunt. The Easter Bunny and Smokey the Bear will also be on hand, and mingling with the crowd.

There will be plenty of prizes, including candy, toys, patches, and gift certificates. The Egg Scramble will begin after the games and crafts, which begin at 11 a.m. at the concession building.

The event will be held rain or shine. Enter the park on Eight Mile Road. Each vehicle entering the park must have a recreation passport.

For more information, visit www.friendsofmaybury.org.

Novi NEWS

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Novi detective shoots scam suspect in Detroit

Joint operation to bust fraudulent auto parts scheme

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

A Novi police detective fired his gun and wounded a 37-year-old man during a joint operation March 21 with the United States Secret Service that was aimed at apprehending that man along with another involved in

a scam to defraud local auto dealers of auto parts.

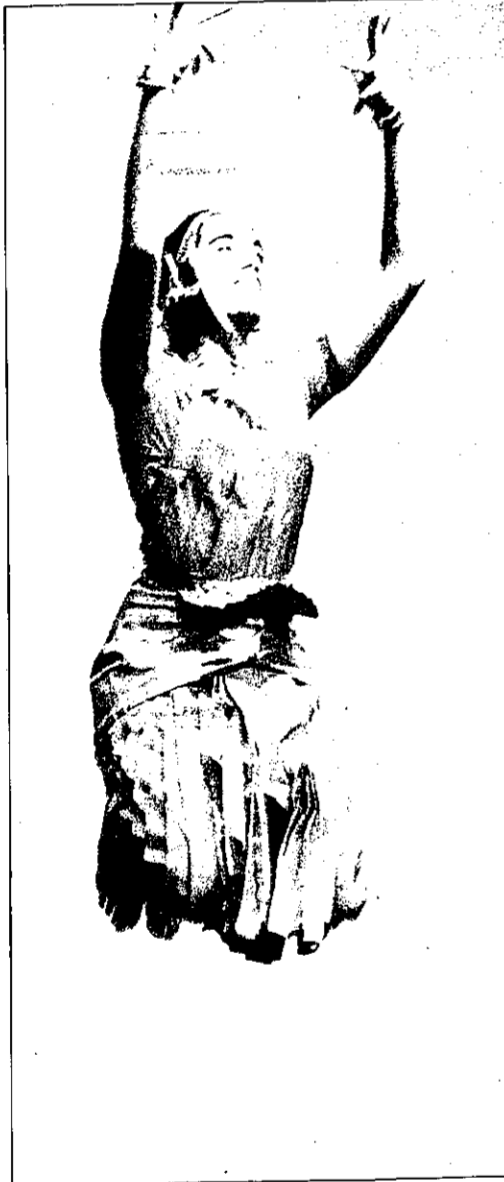
The 37-year-old man was attempting to flee police when he drove his vehicle at the Novi officer, and that's when shots were fired. The man was wounded while in the car and is currently in a Detroit hospital being treated for his wounds.

No other injuries were reported during the incident.

According to David Molloy, Novi's director of public safety/chief of police, for the last several weeks, investigators from the Novi Police Department have been working on a joint investigation with the U.S. Secret Service regarding the fraudulent purchase of several thousand dollars of auto parts from metro Detroit car dealerships.

Please see **SHOOTS, A5**

Around the globe



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Krithika Swaminathan performs a traditional Indian dance at the March 22 third annual International Talent Show at Novi High. The show, a fundraiser for The Hunger Project, featured Novi High students performing song and dance and skits that celebrated the cultures of China, Korea, Japan, Germany, France, Spain, Austria, India and the United States. See page A8 for more photos.

State fair back with new name, sponsor

By **Cal Stone**
Staff Writer

Michigan's state fair, revived last year as the Great Lakes State Fair after then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm pulled funding in 2009, will be back again this year under another new name — the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair.

The announcement of the title sponsor came at today's press conference at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi where the event will again be held Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 through Sept. 2.

Although the fair is now produced by a private entity — Michigan State Fair LLC — organizers say it will continue to offer all of the great traditions of the event that started in Detroit in 1919.

"When we asked the public what they missed most about summer in Michigan, they overwhelmingly said, 'the state fair,'" said Blair Bowman, owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace. "They missed the atmosphere of being close to nature, the excitement of

DETAILS

Event: Fifth Third Michigan State Fair
Dates: Friday, Aug. 30, through Monday, Sept. 3
Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
Livestock Exhibits: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Sunday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday
Agriculture and Indoor Vendor Booths: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday-Sunday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday
Midway: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Sunday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday
Circus: noon, 2:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. daily (no 7:30 performance on Monday)
Entertainment Stage, Beer Garden, Outdoor Vendors: pending
Exhibit Space: Andrea Pickolo, (248) 348-5600, Ext. 208
Displays, Sponsorships, Vending Information: Mike Watts, (734) 459-6969, info@michiganstatefairllc.com

Please see **FAIR, A2**

CSC: Trial set for Novi pediatrician

By **Cal Stone**
Staff Writer

A trial was set for May 20 for Novi pediatrician Dr. Jeffrey Dembs, charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct — one first degree and two second degree — with a child younger than age 13.

A motion hearing was held before Oakland County Circuit Judge Daniel P. O'Brien on March 20.



Dembs

The judge will be looking at records in the near future, according to Dembs' attorney, Gerald J. Gleason II, of the firm Miller Canfield.

Please see **TRIAL, A5**

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FAIR

Continued from page A1

a child seeing his first goat, cow or baby lamb, and the celebration of Michigan's agricultural heritage."

Along with the agriculture, tourism and livestock products, this year's state fair will again have the Detroit Shrine Circus—presented by Bright House Networks—along with the world's largest circus tent.

"We have added the one and only Detroit Shrine Circus to the festivities, and seeing a performance of this great event is included in one low price admission," said Bowman. Circus performances will be held daily at noon, 2:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. (no 7:30 performance on Monday).

One-third of the admission price will go toward the Shriner's annual breeding and indirectly helps the organization's effort to fund their nonprofit and philanthropic efforts through the Shriner Hospitals for Children.



D. KINCH/ELC

The midway returns to the state fair, now called the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair, in Novi over Labor Day weekend.

The midway, presented by Walmart, is expanding, and live entertainment and a beer tent return as well.

One of the big changes from last year, due to the sponsorship of Fifth Third Bank, will be the Youth Scholarship Program, offering \$10,000 in competitive scholarship programs. The scholarships will recognize excellence in breeding programs, showmanship and

TICKETS

Will be available at outlets throughout the area and online in the near future. Visit www.michiganstatefairinc.com for the announcement.

For all exhibits, entertainment, one circus performance (based on availability, first-come-first-serve) and unlimited midway riders:

IN ADVANCE
\$25 Ultimate Wristband (adults, and all children 36" tall or above)

AT THE GATE
\$30 Ultimate Wristband (adults and all children 36" tall or above)

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Advance: \$6 (adults and children 12 and older; \$5 children 11 and under)

At the gate: \$8 (adults and children 12 and older; \$6 children 11 and under)

academics to advance the postsecondary effort of outreach through county fairs,

and their 4-H clubs. "Fifth Third Bank recognizes the state fair as

not only a destination for fun and entertainment for families across the state of Michigan, but as the declaration of agriculture as an economic force within the state," said Dave Girodat, president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank Eastern Michigan. "We are proud to be the title sponsor of this event and are committed to supporting the revival of this Michigan tradition."

Tickets for the state fair will be available in the near future and more information will be available on the web at www.michiganstatefairinc.com.

"We are so proud to partner with the great financial institution, Fifth Third Bank, which has strong roots in the community, and provides significant support to charitable efforts across the state," said Bowman. "We promise to make the Fifth Third Michigan State Fair bigger, better and more fun for a long time."

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CORRECTIONS

• Anthony Shaw was the co-author of one of the Rest. Althea Brown's books, not another man as reported in last week's Novi News.

• An editorial that appeared in the March 14 Observer Newspapers, the March 14 Hometown Newspapers and the March 17 Eccentric newspapers

should have said that the "Friends of Jim Ellison" were holding a "campaign kick-off event," not the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce.

The eBlast sent out by the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce publicizing the event was a paid advertisement. It contained a disclaimer that read, in part: "The Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce does not

endorse any single candidate or political party. Only those members in good standing with the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce are able to utilize the eBlast services from the Chamber. The Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to refuse an eBlast request if management and/or the Board of Directors feel it violates our bylaws and/or standing rules."

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Down to business



Tollgate Farm volunteer Merle Baker feeds the farm's sap evaporator with some logs on March 1 as he and others get to the business of making maple syrup.

Novi voters could be asked to update city charter soon

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Novi voters will most likely see ballot questions relating to changes in the city's charter in the coming year.

City Council on March 11 approved putting together a committee to look at updating some specific areas in the 36-year-old charter. Changes could come with things like a new penalty structure for delinquent taxes as well as the streamlining and modernization of the city's financial practices.

Pearson said the charter is best described as the "local constitution" for the city, so the process for changing it is intentionally careful. He emphasized this will not be a charter revision, but rather just some amendments. "A revision contemplates a fundamental or 'wholesale' re-examination of the entire charter document so that it can be re-enacted or recreated without having to maintain the general form, scheme and structure of the former charter," he said. "An amendment, on the other hand, is a narrower concept that implies that the general plan and scope of the charter and city will be maintained, but with corrections that relate to details, rather than fundamentals."

The suggested amendments will need at least five out of the seven votes of the council to be forwarded on for a local vote. According to Pearson, there is no legal or formal limit on the number of ballot questions that can be submitted at any one election, but usually the length of the ballot itself limits the number to no more than six questions.

Typically, questions like this are

placed on a general election ballot.

Committee members

Mayor Bob Gatt made a recommendation on who should comprise the committee, and this was approved as well by a 7-0 vote.

It will be made up of council members Wayne Wrobel and Laura Marie Casey, former mayor David Landry, long-time Novi resident and local businessman Fil Superfisky, city manager Clay Pearson, city clerk Maryanne Cornelius and Gatt.

"I believe that group represents a good mix of expertise, experience, and perspective that can review different options and prioritize them back to us," Gatt said in his recommendation. The committee will also review any outdated language. Wording around millage rates will probably be updated to reflect current specifics. Gatt said the rates have changed over the year so the reference in the charter could change accordingly. This does not mean rates will go up.

In his recommendation, Gatt also referenced City Council compensation. He stated the fixed rates for elected officials from 1969 are not commensurate with the duties and responsibilities today and can be adjusted while still keeping the essentially-volunteer community service.

Council member Terry Margolis said she would like to see the council's pay stay at its current rate. She sees their duties as a volunteer board. The mayor receives \$20 per meeting and council members get \$15 a meeting.

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Deputy charged with scheme to falsify court reports

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Criminal charges were filed against a deputy and a probationer for their alleged roles in a scheme to avoid breathalyzer tests mandated by the 52-1 District Court in Novi, Macomb County Sheriff Deputy Joseph Andrew Cada, 45, of Chesterfield, and Trista Leigh-An Caswell, 28, of New Baltimore, both face one charge of obstruction of justice, a five-year felony.



Cada

Detroit Public Corruption Task Force led to the charges.

"Det. Randy Mince was our lead investigator and did an outstanding job in his relentless pursuit of these charges."

The District Court ordered Caswell on March 24, 2011, to take in-home alcohol breathalyzer tests as a condition of her probation for a disorderly person charge.

After missing multiple breathalyzer tests and failing one, it is Caswell allegedly met Cada where she worked, the Traffic Light, an adult entertainment establishment in Mt. Clemens, to concoct a scheme to avoid future tests.

The charges allege that the two conspired to mislead the Court and its probation agents by filing fraudulent statements attesting that Caswell passed five breathalyzer tests administered by Cada.

Five fraudulent statements bearing the insignia of the Macomb County Sheriff Department were allegedly drafted and signed by Cada; three of the fraudulent statements listed his badge number on them.

The statements allegedly declared that Cada administered the breathalyzer tests, and that Cas-

well "blew .000" on all of them. It is alleged the statements were submitted to the Court's probation agent on Oct. 24, 2012.

Caswell admitted Cada's statements were fraudulent when called before District Court Judge Robert Bondy on Nov. 6, 2012. Bondy sentenced her to 90 days in the Oakland County Jail for violating the conditions of her parole. Arrangements are being made for Caswell to surrender to authorities for arraignment.

Cada surrendered to authorities today and was arraigned before Magis-

trate Andra Dudley. He was released on a \$10,000 personal bond.

Since the formation of the Public Integrity Unit in 2011, Schuette has filed 227 charges and secured 99 convictions against 18 defendants.

"We are very disappointed that this law enforcement officer would compromise his integrity and the integrity of our honorable profession," said Molloy. "He should face significant consequences for his actions."

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Novi-based Lotus Bank executives bashed Indians, lawsuit says

By L.L. Brasier
Garrett News Service

Executives at Lotus Bank in Novi are accused of berating two Indian customers and exchanging e-mails calling Indians by derogatory names, according to a lawsuit filed in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The lawsuit, naming bank president Neal Searle and executive vice presidents Richard Bauer and John Westerheide, says the bank violated the civil rights of Jasit Takhar and Anil Gupta by creating a hostile business environment.

Lotus, with a branch in Farmington Hills, was incorporated in 2007 to serve metro Detroit's growing Indian community. Fourteen of its 17 board members are of Indian ethnicity, as are about 30% of its customers.

The lawsuit stems from a dispute over a \$1.4-million mortgage that Takhar and Gupta obtained from Lotus in 2008 to buy a Travelodge in Jackson.

According to the lawsuit, the men told the bank in the spring of 2010 that business was down, and they likely would have trouble making timely payments. A loan officer told them they could remain up to 90 days foreclosure.

A few months later, according to the lawsuit, Searle threatened foreclosure and said, "I don't care what your Indian buddies told you, I make the decisions. Do you understand English?"

Takhar and Gupta allege the bank continued to threaten foreclosure, even after they became current in their payments, and demand-

ed \$300,000 in security. In March 2012, the men received an anonymous envelope in the mail, containing hard copies of e-mails exchanged between Searle, Bauer and Westerheide in 2010 and 2011.

In one e-mail, Bauer wrote, "Any of the chimp from Lotus call?" in reference to the Lotus bank board of directors, the lawsuit said. In another, an employee asked whether Bauer could obtain Silverdome concert tickets for any of his "Indian peeps." Bauer responded, "Only interested if someone is going to detonate an incendiary device. If so, I will get tickets for all of them."

"When the board learned of it, they were reprimanded, and they felt bad about it," Malempati said, noting he was acting as the bank's spokesman

I will leave you with this sage advice from George Custer and most Pakistanis ... the only good Indian is a dead Indian."

Searle, in an e-mail, suggested renaming Lotus bank to "Bank United Mumbai, or BUM for short," according to the lawsuit.

The Free Press was unable to reach the bank president and vice presidents.

Krishna Malempati, chairman of the bank's board of directors, said the board became aware of the e-mails and disciplined the men. Malempati did not disclose the discipline, but the executives still work at the bank.

that some of our management had made racially insensitive comments via e-mail about certain board members," the letter reads, according to a copy obtained by the Free Press. "We were deeply troubled and took immediate action with the employees involved. The employees apologized for their lack of sensitivity to the board both verbally and in writing. They were reprimanded and insensitive comments."

The letter says the men were penalized financially, and the board took steps to increase "understanding of the importance of diversity, the value of the culturally rich community of southeast Michigan."

The lawsuit has been assigned to Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford Morris.

remains free on bond after paying a \$150,000 cash bond, and has remained on a GPS tether.

"We have no objection," said Gleason. "He's not going to do anything wrong."

The doctor, a resident of West Bloomfield, was arrested in November 2012 by West Bloomfield police.

Dembs works at My Kid's Doc at 41935 W. 12 Mile, Suite 102, Novi, and is on leave of absence, according to the office. The business' website indicates it was

formerly known as Woodland Medical Center or DMC Health Care Center and has been My Kid's Doc since 2003.

The incidents allegedly occurred between spring 2009 and summer 2010.

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

Dembs was born in 1951 and graduated from Wayne State University in 1976.

New drivers must park their cell phones

By Christopher Behman
Garrett News Service

Teenagers learning the rules of the road will face fines for talking on their cell phones while driving under a law that takes effect today.

Michigan's Levels 1-2 drivers will face up to a \$100 civil infraction fine if found talking on their phones while driving under the new law.

Level 1 licenses have completed at least six hours of driving time, have been observed driving for at least four hours and can only drive with a parent or licensed adult.

Level 2 licenses have had their learner's permits for at least six months. They can only drive unsupervised before 10 p.m. and after 5 a.m. unless driving to or from work.

The law allows police to cite those teen drivers solely for talking on their phones, but in

many cases, citations will happen in conjunction with other moving violations.

Exceptions to the cellphone ban will be made for young drivers reporting traffic accidents, medical emergencies, road hazards or criminal activity, or if drivers feel that they're in danger.

The ban doesn't apply to hands-free telephone services in vehicles.

The new law, Kelsey's Law, named for Kelsey Raffaele, a 17-year-old Sault Ste. Marie girl who died in a cell phone-related, distracted driving crash in 2010.

State Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi, and state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, voted in favor of the measure.

Thirty-three representatives and 10 senators voted against it. Some lawmakers said the measure doesn't fully address the problem because it only bans cell phone use for one group of drivers.

The incidents allegedly occurred between spring 2009 and summer 2010.

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SHOOTS

Continued from page A1

He said there are three dealerships in Novi that have been defrauded in this scheme, including Marty Feldman Chevrolet and Kia. The dealership was called by the two men on March 20, reportedly in the attempt to pull another scam. The dealership had informed the investigators of the call and order, which led to the operation.

Molloy said at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning, investigators participated in a coordinated operation involving the delivery of auto parts to the suspects in the vicinity of Warren Road and Grandville Street in northwestern Detroit.

Once the transaction was completed and officers announced their presence and intent to arrest, one of the suspects, a 40-year-old man, surrendered immediately and was taken into custody. Molloy said the second suspect, the 37-year-old man, entered his vehicle and attempted to run over the Novi detective who was on an adjacent sidewalk abutting a building.

Molloy said police attempted to box the man in but he suspected to get through. The suspect driver had an opportunity to go down a clear street, but instead pointed his vehicle in the direction of the Novi officer, who has not been named yet.

"In fear for his life, the detective discharged his duty weapon to stop the threat," Molloy said.

After the shooting, the 37-year-old suspect remained in the vehicle, fled the scene, and was pursued by assisting marked patrol units from the Michigan State Police. The suspect ultimately crashed his vehicle in the area of Piedmont Street and Plymouth Road. He then fled on foot, but was eventually apprehended by the Michigan State Police troopers.

According to police, the scam reportedly involved the two suspects calling local auto dealers to order \$3,000-\$5,000 in parts at a time. They would ask that the parts be delivered to a predetermined location. They paid for the parts with fraudu-

TECHNOLOGY USED TO IDENTIFY SUSPECT

The suspect who was shot while trying to run down a Novi police officer in Detroit March 21 was identified at the hospital using leading-edge law enforcement technology called CLEMIS Blue Check. It is a portable fingerprint scanner and identification device that ties into the fingerprint and electronic criminal records managed by Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS).

When police scanned the suspect's thumbprint on CLEMIS Blue Check's electronic screen, police were able to retrieve his name, image, birthdate and extensive criminal history within 30 seconds. It identified the suspect as a 37-year-old man whose criminal record includes fraud, breaking and entering, and receiving and concealing stolen property.

Police are not releasing the suspect's name prior to arraignment on any charges that may come in this case. CLEMIS links about 100 public safety agencies in five counties in southeast Michigan using innovative computer technology and public safety applications.

CLEMIS Blue Check is about the size of a mobile phone. It uses Bluetooth technology to connect with the Mobile Data Computer (MDC) in a nearby police car. A police officer places the suspect's thumb on the CLEMIS Blue Check screen; it scans the thumbprint electronically; then relays the information to the MDC which is tied into CLEMIS' fingerprint and criminal records database. If it gets a hit, the suspect's information appears on the MDC screen within seconds.

There are approximately 150 CLEMIS Blue Check devices deployed in the field among CLEMIS agencies in southeast Michigan.

lent checks or credit cards, and they would then sell the parts on the street to make a full profit.

Molloy would not say what fake company's name the suspects would operate under, but it is believed they have done this many times before.

It was reported the suspects scammed dealerships out of at least \$33,000 in parts in at least 10 different occasions. Molloy said six or seven dealerships in southeastern Michigan had been defrauded.

"We believe the two suspects in our custody today are most likely responsible for all these incidents," Molloy said. "They fit the physical description as does the suspect vehicle."

Novi PD expects to pursue state and federal charges against the two men.



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

The ongoing criminal investigation is being pursued by the Novi Police Department and the Secret Service. The officer-involved shooting is being investigated by the Detroit Police Department.

"When I first heard the news that a Novi police officer was involved in a shooting today, my thoughts immediately turned towards the brave men and women that protect us against harm," said Bob Gatt, Novi's mayor and a former Novi police officer. "I said a prayer that the officer involved was not hurt in any way. I was elated to hear later that he was not injured. All too often we take for granted the safety net that our emergency responders provide for us and our families."

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remains free on bond after paying a \$150,000 cash bond, and has remained on a GPS tether.

"We have no objection," said Gleason. "He's not going to do anything wrong."

The doctor, a resident of West Bloomfield, was arrested in November 2012 by West Bloomfield police.

Dembs works at My Kid's Doc at 41935 W. 12 Mile, Suite 102, Novi, and is on leave of absence, according to the office. The business' website indicates it was

formerly known as Woodland Medical Center or DMC Health Care Center and has been My Kid's Doc since 2003.

The incidents allegedly occurred between spring 2009 and summer 2010.

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

Dembs was born in 1951 and graduated from Wayne State University in 1976.

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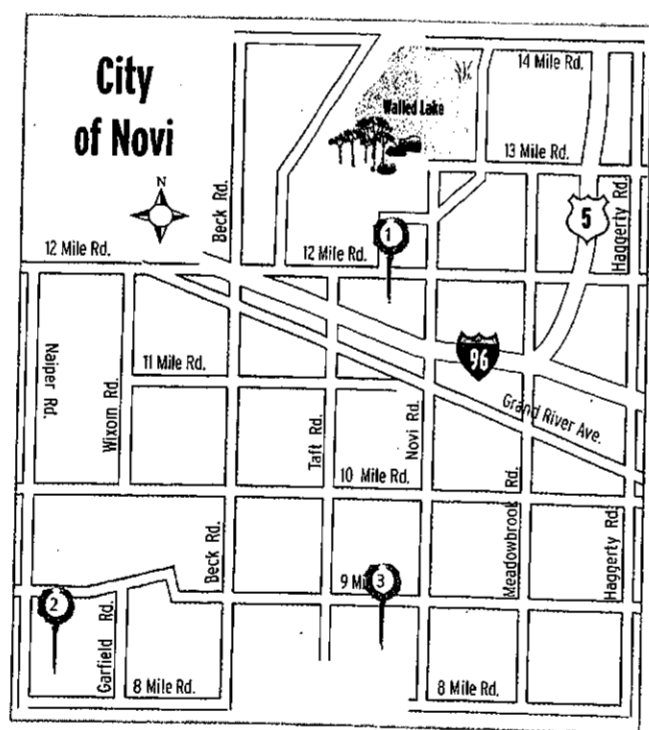
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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Shoplifters caught at Kohl's

1 A man and woman were arrested March 14 for stealing \$150 in merchandise from the Kohl's department store on West Oaks Drive.

Store security observed the couple walking around the store and selecting items. The woman reportedly went into a change room and then walked out with a noticeably bulkier purse. The man was spotted grabbing a pair of shoes and stuffing them in his jacket.

They attempted to get away by walking by the registers and not paying. They were stopped by store staff outside and were found to have the items on them.

Windows smashed at ITC Park

2 A vehicle parked by ITC Park on March 13 was badly damaged by an unknown person possibly wielding a baseball bat to smash windows.

Novi Police took a report from a man who said he parked his vehicle at the Community Sports Park while he was at work. He later came back to it and found several of the windows smashed out and some dings on the windshield. There are no suspects at this time.

Home invasion

3 A Novi woman said \$150 in cash was stolen from her North Hills Village Apartment sometime during the last few weeks.

She told police on March 13 that she went to put more money into the envelope that was in her dresser drawer when she found all of it was missing. The last time she opened it was March 1. There were no signs of a forced entry into her residence.

The woman told police she believes someone may have copied her key. The case remains open for further investigation.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Hulman.

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Major film with local origins at Emagine in Novi tomorrow

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A major independent film with deep Michigan roots opened on the big screen in New York, Los Angeles — and downtown Plymouth — on March 22 before heading into wider release tomorrow.

Love and Honor, a romantic drama co-written by Plymouth Township resident Jim Burnstein, and co-produced by Plymouth resident Patrick Olson, made its Michigan theatrical debut last Friday at the Penn Theatre in a sold-out fundraiser for the Friends of the Penn.

Burnstein, Olson, director Danny Mooney and executive producer Eddie Rubin were introduced for a question-and-answer session as part of the event.

The film, co-written with Garrett Schiff, stars Liam Hemsworth (best known for *The Hunger Games*) and Austin Stowell as U.S. soldiers in 1969 Vietnam who head to Michigan — not their assigned leave destination, meaning they go absent without leave, or AWOL — as Stowell's character tries to win back the woman who has dumped him, played by Aimee Teegarden. Hemsworth's Mickey Wright,

"LOVE AND HONOR"

"Love and Honor" opens March 29 at the Emagine 18 in Novi and the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor as it goes to 10 major markets around the country. It has been available as a video-on-demand for several weeks.

Eddie Rubin, a 2005 Walled Lake Western High School graduate, is the executive producer of the new movie "Love and Honor".

He will visit Walled Lake Western High (600 Beck Road) at 1:30 p.m. March 28 to talk with students about his experience in the film industry.

Rubin attended the former Maple Elementary School, Geisler Middle School, formerly Walled Lake Middle School, and then graduated from Western High School in 2005. He went on to study film and psychology at the University of Michigan.

along for the ride, ends up finding romance amid rolling protests, based on actual events, in the Ann Arbor area and at the University of Michigan.

'Beautiful story'
"They're living through all the emotions that young people at that time lived through," said Burnstein over coffee at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

"They're returning to a place that's changed," said Olson, a first-time movie producer.

Olson, who has a background in educational publishing, is part of the group that owns the Penn, and so has a good relationship with the nonprofit Friends of the Penn, which maintains and runs the theater. Moviemaking has long interested him, he said, and he "fell in love with" Burnstein's script.

"I think it's a beautiful story and I was interested in making a product that could be seen around the world that would move people," Olson said.

Burnstein, who has several films among his screenwriting credits, including *Renaissance Man* and *D3: The Mighty Ducks*, said the "spark" for the plot came from a story about Mike Wright, the Plymouth City Commission member who was

in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, going AWOL for a week. The name of Hemsworth's character is a nod to his friend, Burnstein said, though he added: "Never in his wildest dreams was he ever as cool as Liam Hemsworth."

Wright, in a phone interview Tuesday, said he and an Army buddy, assigned to a week's leave in Honolulu, decided they couldn't afford that high-priced city and jumped on a plane — soldiers could fly for free — to San Diego.

There, they hung out with his buddy's family and friends and visited the beach and local drinking establishments, he said.

"Everybody was quite intrigued, of course, about what the whole experience was like," and his buddy's friends asked questions about Vietnam, Wright said.

Burnstein, who protested the war around the time Wright was in Vietnam, said idea of going AWOL intrigued him, and that he wanted to end the tension that would come with soldiers exploring two very different experiences — fighting in a war abroad and protesting the war at home — within a week.

Burnstein, who runs UM's screenwriting program, said he is pleased with the way *Love and Honor* turned out. Its settings, including for a complex battle scene and scenes of riots in Ann Arbor, are sweeping for an independent film, he said.

"Most independents don't attempt what we attempted," he said. "It's hard as hell. It's really, really challenging."



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pat Olson and Jim Burnstein's film will be shown at Emagine Novi on Friday.

'Challenging' film shoot

Love and Honor was filmed entirely in Michigan in the summer of 2011; scenes were shot in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Saline, Inkster and, closer to Plymouth, at Plymouth Orchards in Superior Township, where the battle scene that opens the movie was staged.

"They had to do a little set dressing, but not much," Burnstein said.

Burnstein, who runs UM's screenwriting program, said he is pleased with the way *Love and Honor* turned out. Its settings, including for a complex battle scene and scenes of riots in Ann Arbor, are sweeping for an independent film, he said.

"Most independents don't attempt what we attempted," he said. "It's hard as hell. It's really, really challenging."

Olson, Burnstein said, was a hands-on producer, helping organize and plan in the weeks before shooting, and on the set every day.

"It was really fantastic to work with such a great group of people," Olson said. "All the planets lined up in a very unique way."

Wright, who was wounded by shrapnel in the war and awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, was a technical advisor for *Love and Honor*, choreographing the battle scene and offering tips on soldiers' language and other details of their day-to-day lives.

He said he was on the set for most of the filming of the battle scene and was impressed with how hard the cast and crew worked.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, no question about it," said Wright.

He said he was on the set for most of the filming of the battle scene and was impressed with how hard the cast and crew worked.

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Livonia to host 10th annual Tartan Day Ceilidh

The Scottish American Society of Michigan is set to host Michigan's 10th annual official statewide Tartan Day Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee) 5:30-10 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, in Livonia.

This year's entertainment line up includes:

- The Alma College Pipe Band
- Michigan Scottish Pipe Band
- Raegle Taggle Band
- Highland Dancers

A full meal featuring Ackroyd's Scotch pies and breads, plus sides, will be served. There will also be raffles, 50/50 and more. Tickets are \$25 each for adults, \$15 for kids under 10, and are now available for purchase at www.scotsofrnca.com or by sending a check to Tartan Day, 826 Edgewood Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48067. This is Michigan's "official" Tartan Day Ceilidh as decreed by the Governor's office in 2010 and funds raised will go to provide a fine arts scholarship for a student at Alma College. No tickets at the door.

Tartan Day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims, and which was an influence on the American Declaration of Independence. Meet-

ings of the Scottish American Society of Michigan, or subscribing to the group's newsletter can visit www.scotsofrnca.com or www.michiganscots.com.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU 13-0001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Marty Feldman Chevrolet is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 3004.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary exterior storage of new stock vehicles at 42850 Grand River, parcel # 50-22-23-226-023 north of Grand River Ave. west of Meadowbrook Road, a developed parcel, for a 12 month period. The property is zoned I-1 and the use is contrary to 1905(1) of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

This request will be considered at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 12th, 2013 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Angie Pawlowski and must be received prior to April 11, 2013.

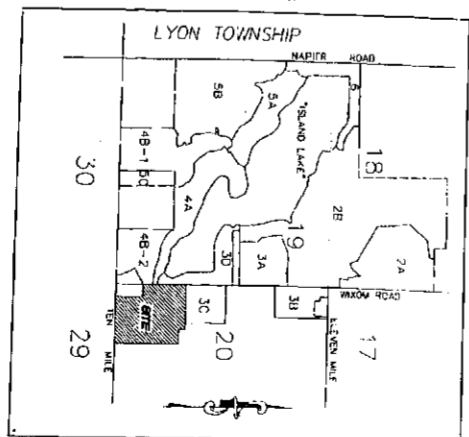
Angie Pawlowski
Senior Customer Service Rep.
(248) 347-0459

Published: March 28, 2013

02069008-343

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, April 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ISLAND LAND OF NOVI SITE PLAN NUMBER 12-65, LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF TEN MILE ROAD AND WIXOM ROAD FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. The applicant is proposing 75 single-family detached homes with associated infrastructure. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

David Greco, Secretary
Novi Planning Commission

Published: March 28, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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Harrison Halley and Katherine Hamilton perform an exuberant variety of swing dances during the March 22 Talent Show.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Diverse & Talented

Novi High students show their international pride

Novi High School's third annual International Talent Show was held March 23, and it raised \$1500 for the international charity The Hunger Project. More than 300 people attended the event in Fuerst Auditorium.

The show featured 15 student acts representing various countries. The program included several dances (Japanese, Chinese, Indian), many songs in different languages (Spanish, Chinese, German and Indian), a South Korean traditional drum team performance, and a Japanese band comprised of five students. German teacher David Baldwin brought a group with four instruments and several of his students singing a song in German.

The show highlighted the diversity of Novi. Senior Terrell Couch who has been involved in the

Social Justice group at the high school, spoke about the diversity of Novi and tolerance to all. Near the end of the show, Ib Shamsheer and Noah Boland wrote and performed a song/rap entitled "We're Changing the World Today".

The production was organized by Novi's IB diploma candidates from the junior and senior classes under the supervision of Volunteer CAS Coordinator Barbara Clift. It was followed by an international food court with samples of foods from many countries.

"The show was a celebration of Novi's diverse cultures and people. It highlighted the theme that although we are all unique, we are also the same," said Clift. "The IB students did a wonderful job of planning a successful show that raised money for The Hunger Project."



A group of students perform on drums during the March 22 talent show.

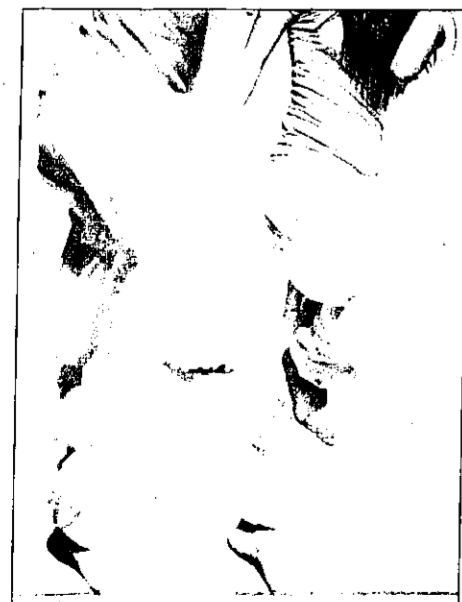


Audience members enjoy the March 22 International Talent Show at Novi High.

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase by contacting Web Editor Larry Ruelhen at lruelhen@hometownlife.com.

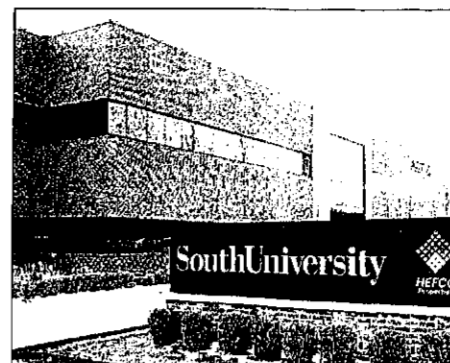


Ayesha Shamsheer, center, and friends perform to a Japanese pop tune at the March 22 International Talent Show at Novi High.



Dancers perform a Spanish/Indian fusion of dance styles at Novi High on March 22.

South University adds bachelor of science degree to nursing program



South University is located on the southwest corner of Meadowbrook and 12 Mile roads in Novi.

Novi's South University has added a new bachelor of science in nursing program to the offerings of the Twelve Mile Road campus. The program is designed to prepare students for careers in the nursing field.

"This is a great time to add a nursing program in this area. There are a growing number of students seeking education and training in nursing and health care programs," said Ted Blashak, president of South University, Novi. "The curriculum is comprehensive, and I expect students accepted into the

program will find it engaging and challenging."

Rosalind Woodson, South University's Nursing Program director, said the program is designed for the non-registered nurse student seeking a career in the nursing profession. "South University already offers advanced practice graduate programs in nurse practitioner specializations and an RN to bachelor of science in nursing program for nurses with current registration. This is our first program for undergraduates that want to pursue nursing."

Students accepted into the program may complete prerequisite courses in as few as six quarters and then apply for admission to the nursing program, which is taught over seven quarters. The program allows highly motivated full-time students to complete the program of study in nursing in a concentrated period of time.

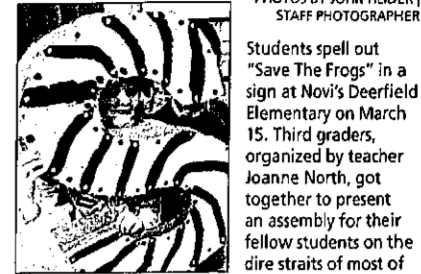
After successful completion of the nursing program, the graduate must pass the National Council Licensure Examination Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) in order to obtain licensure and begin practice as a registered nurse.

Save the Frogs

Parker Simmons is the "S" in a Save The Frogs sign at Novi's Deerfield Elementary on March 15.

Students spell out "Save The Frogs" in a sign at Novi's Deerfield Elementary on March 15. Third graders, organized by teacher Joanne North, got together to present an assembly for their fellow students on the dire straits of most of the world's frogs and how human behavior is impacting their lives. The students, who also presented a video, suggested ways to the assembly that people can lessen their impact on the frog's ecosystem.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Education creates lessons to last a lifetime

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist

As I sat around the kitchen table trying to decide what to take in ninth grade, my dad suggested wood shop. Why, I will never know. Looking back, I think he suggested I take the class because he thought it might help me. I think he wanted me to get better using tools, know how to be productive. I think he also understood that part of life is knowing how to create something for others. He thought wood shop might help out.

I remember two things about wood shop. First, I was initially very uncomfortable in that class. My father was a handy man, but I wasn't. I did not know tools and there seemed to be a lot of students in that class who did. They got started right away on projects that I wondered if I would ever learn how to do.

The other thing I remember about wood shop is making wooden bowls on the lathe. The first block of wood that I tried to make into a bowl flew off the lathe when I was working on it. I had not used enough glue or pressure to attach the wood to the wheel of the lathe. The wood survived, although the student on the lathe next to me was sure surprised when the wood clattered to the floor at his feet.

By the time that class was over I had made three wooden bowls. I carved them on the lathe, sanded them smooth, and used a good lacquer to seal them. They were not identical. Each had its own shape. They were really the first things I had made by myself in my fourteen years of life. I was proud of them. My parents were proud of them.

In the end the bowls were donated to our small church to be used to collect the offering. I thought that was a good use for them. They had a purpose. I was allowed to collect the offering each Sunday and it felt good to see the bowls that I had made being used.

As I have visited my parents over the years those bowls are still being used at church. I made those bowls 40 years ago. The wood has been smoothed over time by thousands of hands. They have some nicks here and there from being dropped,

but overall they are in great shape. I think of those bowls every now and then. A memory gets sparked and I can see the classroom, the teacher, and the lathe. I can't remember the teacher's name but I can see him helping me figure out how to make those bowls.

That teacher had thousands of students pass through his class. Many of them were like me. We did not know anything. We were almost dangerous. He took us from knowing nothing to creating something. Not only have those bowls lasted, they have had a purpose; they have meant something.

That class really was not the most important class in my life. It did not push me to become a woodworker. I do not own a lathe today. Yet, I can still see that teacher taking the time to teach me something that to him was very important.

Sure, it was his job. He made a good living working with 13-, 14- and 15-year-old junior high school students, but he took pride in his work. He did not have any preconceived notions that he would turn us into master craftsmen. But he was able to pass along, to me at least, the idea that creating something for others is a good thing.

And that was one thing my parents wanted me to learn. I doubt that they knew my wood shop teacher. What they had was confidence that this teacher would help me learn lessons that they were trying to teach me. They had the belief that the school system was a partner with them in helping a gangly, awkward, and shy 14-year-old turn into someone who would have the ability to think and help others.

And I hope that's what the parents and community members in our district think. I hope that you consider us partners in helping teach lessons that you try to teach your children, grandchildren and neighbors.

Sure it is our job to be in school every day. Yet, I hope that you believe, and that you see, that we take our jobs seriously. I hope that we communicate that your child is important to us and that we are going to take the time and make the effort to help that child learn lessons that will last a lifetime.

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

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Winners!

Dustin Loynes of Walled Lake won second place in the full-sized dragster class at this year's Autorama. "It was a very successful weekend," said dad Ken, also proud of son Nick, who won third place in the junior dragster class. "The boys had a good time."



Nick Loynes of Novi won third place in the junior dragster class at this year's Autorama.

Passages

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CATTIN, DORIS

Age 94, passed away March 22, 2013. Graveside service March 30, Acacia Park Cemetery. Guest book, www.phillipsfuneral.com.

DOTSON, KATHERINE

Age 83, of South Lyon, passed away March 22, 2013, at St. Mary's Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers: Jesse, Louis, Ernest, Harry, and Wayne; and her sister Henrietta. Kate will be greatly missed by her dear friend, Barbara Runarava, brother Floyd Dotson of Tennessee, many nieces and nephews, and close friends. Kate retired from AT&T in management and then drove school bus for South Lyon and Northville schools. She was a lifetime member of the Telephone Pioneers. Kate's hobbies included gardening and traveling in her earlier years, puzzles, reading and watching sports. Kate was well known for her sense of humor, teasing, and many funny stories. She was a very caring and generous person with a big heart. Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Noon) with a funeral service to be held at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

HORNE, IAIN G.

Age 60, passed away March 22, 2013. He was born on June 30, 1952, in Dunbarton, Scotland, and was a graduate of Strathclyde University in Glasgow, Scotland and was a member of the Grand Lodge FAAM Howell #28. He is survived by his son, John (Lisa) Horne; his father, John (Ruth) Horne; his brother, Stuart (Kathy) Horne and their children, Chuck (Judy) Kenney, Patrick (Valerie) Kenney; and by 4 nieces and 5 nephews. She was preceded in death by her father John "Jack" Kenney. Visitation was held on March 25, Monday, from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. and March 26, Tuesday, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. with a Rosary prayed at 7:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake Street, South Lyon. A funeral mass was celebrated on March 27, Wednesday, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 711 Ricken Rd., Brighton, MI 48116. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Katherine Kenney Seaser Memorial Scholarship Fund at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

SEASER, KATHERINE 'KAY'

Age 60, entered Heavens gate on March 22, 2013. Kay began her life on February 18, 1953, in Detroit. Kay's active and loving lifestyle kept her surrounded by many loving and devoted friends and family members. Kay is survived by her loving husband of 25 years, Paul Seaser, her mother-in-law, Dorothy "Sister" Kenney, her siblings, Chuck (Judy) Kenney, Patrick (Valerie) Kenney; and by 4 nieces and 5 nephews. She was preceded in death by her father John "Jack" Kenney. Visitation was held on March 25, Monday, from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. and March 26, Tuesday, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. with a Rosary prayed at 7:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake Street, South Lyon. A funeral mass was celebrated on March 27, Wednesday, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 711 Ricken Rd., Brighton, MI 48116. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Katherine Kenney Seaser Memorial Scholarship Fund at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

JOHNSON, ALBERT W.

Age 77, of Northville, passed away March 24, 2013. Full obit and online condolences at: castertinefuneralhome.com

NANTAU, EILEEN M.

Age 80, of Milford, passed away peacefully on March 22, 2013. For info, Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, 248-684-6645. LynchFuneralDirectors.com

PRICE, WILLIAM EDWARD

Age 88, passed away March 23, 2013. A private family service was held. Phillips Funeral Home.

SCHMIDT, WESLENE ANN

Age 77, of South Lyon, died on Thursday, March 21, 2013, from pneumonia. She was born on July 8th, 1935, in Detroit MI. She grew up a working farm girl, graduated high school, and enjoyed her life in her home town of South Lyon. She finished high school and married Donald Schmidt at age 21. Together they adopted two newborn babies to raise and love. She worked in many of the local businesses as an accountant and finally settled into banking. She enjoyed gardening with friends, playing cards, and in her golden years, supporting her children and their families had unending love and nursing. She was widowed in March of 2009, and had a very strong Faith and love for God. She was nothing shy of a prayer warrior for a life's worth of friends and family. She demonstrated a loving grace, a generous care and thoughtfulness for others, and helped as all understanding the meaning of long-suffering trials, both in spirit and physical health. She worked a lot of good, and she secured a large devoted group of friends. We had the very best of a hometown community always checking in on her, and she was grateful. Weslene is survived by daughter Nancy Schmidt and son Brian Schmidt, grandsons Shava Chouinard and Gabriel Schmidt, a nephew Steven (Trina) Labors and a niece Linda Neumann-Thomas, and is a great aunt for their children. A Memorial will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, Michigan at 10AM. Service: 11:42AM. Direct cremation/reception/pickup at the VFW Hall 125 E. McTear St., South Lyon, Michigan. Contributions may be made to the Weslene Schmidt family, c/o Phillips Funeral Home. Please make checks payable to Phillips Funeral Home. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

WOLF, KAY D'LYNN

Passed away quietly, leaving a caring mother, Lou Wolf, wonderful brother and sister-in-law Curt and Anna Wolf, two loving nephews, Marcel and Arna, a precious niece, Maria; three adorable and spoiled nieces and many, many friends throughout the country to mourn her. Born October 7, 1963 in Detroit, Michigan, Kay was a proud and accomplished graduate of Michigan State University. She began her career in advertising working with several small firms in Michigan and Chicago. She later joined Konami, working in the recent online gaming industry where her creativity and out-of-the-box thinking did not go unnoticed. Buoyed by her success she moved to the San Jose area where she put her marketing skills to great use. Her early endeavors included work with one of the first photo-sharing companies in the world. A natural entrepreneur and gifted creative person, Kay left corporate life to become a florist as the owner of Posey Garden. Her latest work, and possibly her most rewarding, had been working with adults with developmental disabilities at Mainstream Support where she felt like she was truly making a difference in many people's lives as well as enhancing her own. Regardless of where she lived or worked, Kay made friends easily. Her good nature, quick wit and enthusiasm for life were a beacon to the many people in her world. She loved music, dancing, learning, laughter and the Price is Right. Her natural wisdom and curiosity for all subjects; be it sports, world events or people, kept her friendships alive with conversation filled with laughter and love. Her warmth was a constant with every small and big she freely relaxed. The memory and light of her smile will always illuminate our hearts and her hugs will warm our souls forever. Friends and family will gather to celebrate Kay's life on April 6th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Los Gatos United Methodist Church with a short service followed by a reception at the church. Please RSVP if you are able to come to the celebration at celebratorylife@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Kay to The American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org or the Humane Society at www.hsv.org

QUILLEN, KEVIN

Age 81, died March 22, 2013. Contributions to Last Chance Animal Rescue, PO Box 1208, Howell, MI 48844. Guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com

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SUTTON, ALFRED

Age 79, passed away March 23, 2013. A private family service was held. Arrangement by Phillips Funeral Home.

Oakland one of state's healthiest counties

Oakland County ranks third for health behaviors and sixth for health factors among Michigan's 83 counties, according to the County Health Rankings Report released March 20. The report is produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson credited the county's Health Division and its administration's quality of life initiatives for the impressive scores. "A vigorous public health program combined with our quality of life initiatives that promote active and healthy lifestyles such as The Brookside Way, Count Your Steps and OakFit are working together to make Oakland County a healthier place to live, work, and play," Patterson said. Oakland County has improved and/or maintained its position in 20 areas such as health factors, health behaviors, adult smoking, adult obesity, residents attending college, and violent crime rate. In addition, the county measures up well for overall health outcomes, ranking 22nd in Michigan. Oakland County ranks ahead of neighboring Wayne and Macomb counties. "We are pleased with our overall health ranking," said Kathy Forzley, Oakland County Health Division manager/health officer. "The county continues to either improve or maintain in key measures of health." The report - based on multiple factors that influence health - is the only tool of its kind that measures the overall health of the nation's more than 3,100 counties. New measures this year include dentist visit, daily fine particulate, and drinking water safety. For more information about the health rankings or to review the report, go to oakgov.com/health. Oakland County Health Division has a variety of programs and services that support healthy lifestyles by promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors; improving infant health; increasing accessibility of health services; ensuring a safe and clean environment; preparing for emergencies; and reducing the threat and preventing the spread of diseases.

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Novi committed to transparency in government

By Lonnie Hulman Staff Writer

Novi citizens rate their public information services very favorably, according to a 2012 survey. From its fiscal fitness newsletters to its extensive website, the City of Novi has worked to improve the awareness and information available to its citizens. In recognition of open government, March 10-16 was proclaimed Sunshine Week by the city.

"The protection of every person's right of access to public records and government meetings is a high priority of the City of Novi," Mayor Bob Gatt read from the resolution proclaiming Sunshine Week. This happens each year in mid-March, coinciding with James Madison's birthday and National Freedom of Information Day on March 16. Madison was the fourth president of the United States. As part of Sunshine Week, Novi pledged

to work diligently to enhance the public's access to government records and information, to increase information provided electronically and online. In addition, it will work to ensure all meetings of deliberative bodies under its jurisdiction, and their committees, are fully noticed and open to the public. This serves as another example of the city's goal to be transparent and always ready with assistance for Novi residents wanting to know what's

going on in their community. Gatt said the city is, "Committed to openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations and seeks to set a standard in this regard." In the 2012 Citizens Survey, 84 percent of respondents said these services were excellent or good. This is up from 77 percent in 2010 and 65 in 2006. This has helped increase public trust, which Novi leaders said will help cultivate an

environment of cooperation in all of its decisions. In 2012, 69 percent of survey respondents gave an excellent rating to the value of services for the taxes paid to Novi. This is up from 56 percent in 2006. 91 percent also rate Novi's overall image as excellent or good. In the recent fiscal fitness letter, the city gives a great update to the latest happenings as well as a variety of financial details. One

answers the question: Where does your property tax dollar go? The City of Novi receives 26.5¢ for every property tax dollar paid (winter and summer combined) for a typical homestead taxpayer in the Novi Community School District. "I'm sure Mr. Madison didn't know anything about being online," said Gatt, "but we take great pride in our transparency." hulman@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, Ext. 255

Your Invitation to Worship

Worship directory listing churches in Brighton, Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, Whitmore Lake, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, Highland, and South Lyon. Includes church names, addresses, and service times.

OUR VIEWS

Michigan gets what it deserves — a state fair

It's a mouthful — The Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair — but to its organizers, it's worth every penny.

The title sponsor was officially announced Monday at a press conference launching this year's event, which is a renaming of last year's Great Lakes State Fair, which was a take on the original Michigan State Fair.

Confused? Don't be — regardless of the name, it's designed to be the same great fair many of us grew up with, the one that debuted in Detroit in 1849 and is one of our country's oldest state fairs.

The event bounced around early on before landing in 1905 at the fairgrounds on Woodward, where it stayed for more than 100 years. But we've been without a state fair since 2009. That's when Gov. Jennifer Granholm ended any funding for the annual Labor Day weekend event.

Thankfully, Blair Bowman stepped up to the plate because, as he puts it, "Michigan deserves a

state fair."

The owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace rolled the dice big time last year, creating and hosting the Great Lakes State Fair at his Novi venue. It could've flopped, as many predicted. Organizers were cautious, figuring that 50,000 attendees would be good for their first try.

Let's just say the number of folks who showed up over the four-day Labor Day weekend exceeded expectations. It was a hit, and that's saying something when you're competing against two of this state's biggest events — Arts Beats & Eats and the Detroit Jazz Festival — the same weekend.

So it was no surprise that Bowman took that success, literally, to the bank. Now he's got a major stake in this state's biggest event — Arts Beats & Eats and the Detroit Jazz Festival — the same weekend. So it was no surprise that Bowman took that success, literally, to the bank. Now he's got a major stake in this state's biggest event — Arts Beats & Eats and the Detroit Jazz Festival — the same weekend.

Fifth Third Bank for its commitment to supporting the revival of this tradition in Michigan.

Bright House Networks and Walmart have also seen the potential for the "new" Michigan State Fair and have come on board. And, of course, the Detroit Shriners will bring the circus to town. In fact, Bowman said that every single organization he approached has stepped up in some fashion to support this fair.

And with Gov. Rick Snyder proclaiming March as Food & Agriculture Month, recognizing the contribution of the state's \$91.4 billion industry, it was fitting that an event that showcases Michigan's agriculture and livestock was unveiled Monday. The tradition of a state fair serving as the culminating annual event for the state's farm community will continue now, too.

What's truly unique about this state fair, however, is that it will be produced entirely by a private entity (Michigan State Fair LLC). Not one single dollar will come from the state, and it will drive dollars back into the economy (there will also be a competitive scholarship program for youth exhibitors this year).

Bowman pointed out that Michigan deserves a state fair mostly for the memories and traditions that many of us have from attending in years past. And he's intent on creating new memories, like last year's endless chocolate milk by Guernsey's, which will be bigger and better this year. Or the Thursday VIP night which, again, will be free of charge for all families of active military members and for the families of children in Shriners Hospitals for Children.

After last year's fair, Bowman remarked: "Take a chance and try something new — and if you put your best effort out there, then success should come." Indeed, he has proven just that.

GUEST COLUMN

Arts play key role in state's economic future

By Jennifer Goulet
Guest Columnist

Collaborate. Create. Connect. These themes set the stage at the Governor's Economic Summit in mid-March that strategically engaged business, education and emerging leaders to define approaches aligning Michigan's rich talent supply with the work force needs of Michigan's employers. As Michigan continues on a strategic pathway of reinvention, we have important decisions to make.

How can we maximize our state's assets in innovation and creativity to equip emerging talent to possess the skills needed by employers today and in the future? What must we do to ensure talent is attracted to live and work in Michigan communities?

Studies abound documenting the critical role the arts play in educating our children: not only through arts programs like music, theater or dance but also by incorporating the arts throughout academic curriculum. With inclusion of the arts in education, students gain valuable skills in creative and innovative problem-solving; critical thinking and reasoning; teamwork; and communication. Results for increased academic achievement overall, and especially in subjects like science, math, engineering and technology, a mastery of which is in high demand, have been a proven benefit of integrated arts.

Many of these skills were directly detailed as "projected demand" skills by 2018 at the Governor's Economic Summit. The arts prepare our students to gain these top-ranked skills employers need and ensure a talented work force for our future. And yet, there's much work ahead to guarantee Michigan's students have access to the arts in their schools and educational experience. The Michigan Arts Education Census, released in September 2012 by ArtServe Michigan and Michigan Youth Arts, confirmed the grim reality that at least 108,000 K thru 12 students in Michigan schools have no access to the arts. None. This is in sobering contrast to the notion of equipping our

future talent to meet the needs of Michigan's employers for continued economic growth statewide. We must bring this number to "zero" by embracing strategic and collective efforts across public, private and non-profit sectors to secure a future of equitable access to the arts and creativity for all Michigan students.

We also can't lose sight of the importance placemaking plays in attracting and retaining talent in Michigan communities. The Summit referenced a study from the Michigan Colleges Foundation indicating placemaking as an important factor in keeping college graduates in Michigan, with 42 percent of graduates citing vibrant communities as a necessity for post-graduate life. The arts contribute significantly to generating that communi-

ty vibe where the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship is valued and nurtured and where creative minds seek to locate and be inspired by their peers.

We urge support of the Governor's recommended \$1 million increase in the state's investment in its arts and cultural assets for FY 2014 — an important step in rebuilding funding to levels more closely aligned with the creative sector's significant return on investment for Michigan. The creative industries must be engaged in the "heavy-lifting" of Michigan's economic development strategies, or we miss the strategic advantage that could lie ahead.

Jennifer Goulet is the president and CEO of ArtServe Michigan. She can be reached at jennifer@artserve-michigan.org.

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Dan Gruenwald was still enjoying his star status a few days after a whirlwind few days celebrating his roles in *Oz The Great and Powerful*, a prequel to the 1939 classic *The Wizard of Oz*.

The Livonia resident, who manages the shipping and receiving department for a pair of related engineering and manufacturing companies in Plymouth Township, played three different Munchkins in the new *Oz*, and his employer rented a theater at the Emagine complex in Novi on opening night, March 8, so he could enjoy the movie with more than 200 colleagues and their family members.

"It was definitely overwhelming," said Gruenwald. "I'm still on Cloud Nine as we speak."

The event was supposed to be a surprise for Gruenwald — ostensibly a date night with fiancée Pam Trujillo — but it "heated a little bit," Gruenwald admits. "If it hadn't gotten leaked, I probably would've fainted," he said.

Boss as Wizard
"I didn't expect the turnout," Gruenwald said of the packed theater. "I

didn't know the owner of the company would dress up as the Wizard of Oz."

That would be Randy Brodzik, principal owner of the companies, Superior Controls and Red Viking, which share space in a business park on Five Mile west of Sheldon.

"I decided to just have a little fun with it," said Brodzik, who wore a frock coat and a top hat for the occasion. Brodzik and Gruenwald see their companies' story in one of the themes of *Oz The Great and Powerful*: the residents of the movie's Emerald City, they said, succeeded when they worked together.

"We succeed as a group because we cooperate as a group, as a team," Brodzik said.

Superior Controls' engineering employees are setting into new digs across the lobby from their Red Viking counterparts, in a building Red Viking has occupied for two years, and Brodzik said the night at the theater proved "a great opportunity to bring both sides of the organization together" to socialize in conjunction with the movie.

Gruenwald wasn't done celebrating on Friday. Later in the weekend, he gathered with family members and friends

at another theater, this one in Canton Township, to watch the movie again. There was also a house party for 90-some people. "That was pretty overwhelming, too," he said.

'Pretty magical'

Gruenwald, who had acted before on the radio, plays a "hero" Munchkin, a "barber" Munchkin and a "rebel" Munchkin in the new *Oz*; he has no lines, he said, but is on the screen for a good bit of time.

Filming was done in summer 2011, and Gruenwald was given a two-month leave so he could get to the set in Pontiac every day. But he didn't even know until recently that his work "escaped the cutting-room floor (or its digital equivalent)."

"The paychecks I got, but I didn't know what was in the movie until the trailers came out," he said. During filming, Gru-



Dan Gruenwald, who played three different Munchkins in the new movie, "Oz The Great and Powerful," with "Wizard" Randy Brodzik at the Emagine complex in Novi on the movie's opening night.

enwald said, he got to meet several of the stars, including James Franco and Michelle Williams, and the director, Sam Rai-

mi, a Hollywood veteran who grew up in the Detroit area. "I had a few conversations. You could see how

he works," Gruenwald said, explaining that Rai-mi gets his vision of a scene in front of the camera. "It's pretty magical."

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COMMUNITY VOICE

The Tigers open the 2013 season in Minnesota on April 1. How do you think Detroit will do this year?



"They'll do good and go to the playoffs for sure. And it would be nice to see another World Series."



"I think they'll do alright and will go to the playoffs, and probably have a shot at the World Series."



"If they solve the closer situation, get another reserve outfielder and a second left-handed reliever then I see them going far."



"I think the Tigers will do better than last year in the standings. My prediction is 98 wins and a divisional title, but not a World Series."

LETTERS

Guns and families

The most recent young man's suicide is another horrifying example of easy access to a loaded gun resulting in tragedy. According to the Detroit Free Press, by all accounts he was a normal 13-year-old with all of the emotions of that age group. Also consider Mrs. Layne, who was just convicted of killing her grandson with a firearm. Her gun didn't protect her, her husband or her grandson.

A few years ago, the Rochester and Troy communities were devastated by a brother killing his sister, followed by a high school junior who killed herself with a shotgun right before Thanksgiving. I asked a family member, who was a high school teacher in Rochester at the time, what made these kids different from the other kids he sees every day. His response? "They have guns in their homes."

There were 19,392 suicides by firearm in 2010. Recent studies show that the risk of suicide by firearm is 17 times greater if you keep a weapon in your home. It is 22 times more likely that a firearm will be used in suicide, accidental shooting or criminal assault than it will be used to protect you in self-defense. Just because you can keep a firearm in your home, doesn't mean it's a good decision to do so.

Gwen Markham
Novi

Education attacked

Two depressing things happened last week in Michigan's public education environment. They're both indicative of the

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relentless pursuit by a small group of billionaires to destroy public education in Michigan. The DeVoses couldn't do it through the voters, so they're doing through their servants in the legislature. First, Lansing Schools succumbed to outrageous and unnecessary school funding cuts and fired all of its art, music, and physical education teachers to cut \$6 million from its budget. What kind of state are we that says it can't afford to support the arts?

There are no do-over years for children. Once they miss out on the experience of developing imagination through art, music, and physical movement, it's not something that can be "caught up."

The second event was the passage in the Michigan House of Representatives of the re-introduced bill expanding the Education Achievement Authority (HB4369). Lisa Posthumus Lyons, the bill's author, made a few changes to make it more palat-

able for some representatives, so it narrowly passed on a near party line vote. (Novi's own Hugh Crawford was a co-sponsor and voted for it.) This law expands the EAA, a parallel state bureaucracy to run its assigned schools. It is not required to hold public meetings, is not held to the same testing standards as public schools, and it is allowed to convert public schools to for-profit charters. The EAA is new and its "strategies" haven't yet been proven to be effective. In fact, some students from Mumford High School in Detroit (an EAA school) say they're afraid to come to school and describe Mumford as a "hostile environment."

"We are getting half an education in a complete correctional facility," one student said. It's interesting, but not surprising, that Ms. Posthumus included a section effectively exempting her local Grand Rapids School District from this EAA program. If our legislators were actually interested in "improving schools" they would address the real reasons kids fail — poverty. If we think our local suburban schools are immune to this takeover, don't be so sure. That's where the tax money is and Wall Street investors want it. Their first step is the continued undermining of public schools. Public schools are not failing.

The state Senate will be voting on this bill after spring break. Please contact your state senator and ask them to oppose this EAA expansion, as Gov. Snyder will sign it if it gets to him.

Kathleen Hood
Novi

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Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holylfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Friday, 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and Rev. Michael Zuehl, associate pastor
CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH
Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10

a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.
Destiny Worship Center
Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822
Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. (\$5 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-novi.org

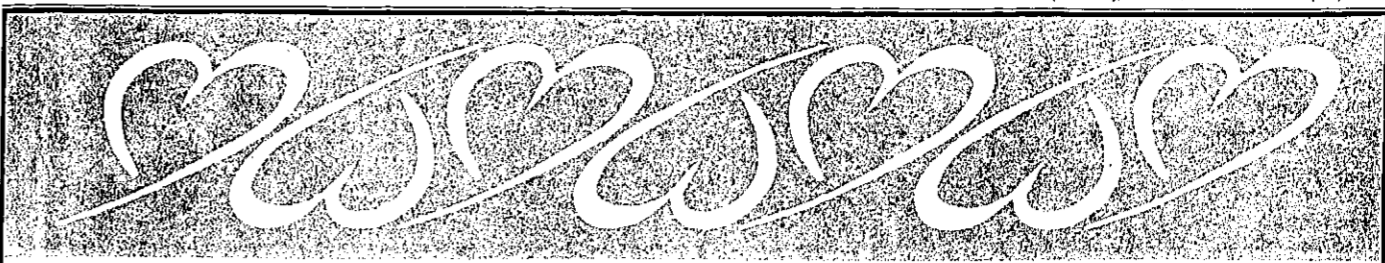
novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Worship with Easter Cantata
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 24
Maundy Thursday Service
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28
New Visitor Luncheon following service
Date: Sunday, April 14
Rummage Sale
Times/Dates: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 18 and 9 a.m. to noon April 19
Women's Bible Study
Time/Date: 9:15-10:30 a.m. Saturdays
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 217 N. Wing Road
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9

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Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to ctone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/ Northville-Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.
 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
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) 348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person,

\$15 per family;
Currently on Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group
Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group
Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family;
Currently on Wednesday nights: 6:30 p.m. Children's VBS/Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Group
Thursday: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m. Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m. Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.
Sunday School: Nursery - 8 a.m. Nursery - 12th grade - 9:15 a.m. Nursery - 6th grade/Special Needs - 11 a.m.
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit www.holycrossnovi.org
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month.
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Location: 39200 West 12

Mile Road (east of Haggerty Road), Farmington Hills
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH
Location: 309 Ker Road, Walled Lake
LIVONIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between 8 and 9 Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Church School: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
Merry Widows Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Pilgrim Fellowship: 6 p.m. Sundays
Good Friday Cross Walk
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, March 29
Details: The traditional Cross Walk will begin at Novi United Methodist Church (10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads) and continue to Meadowbrook Church. This is a somber remembrance of Christ's final walk and there are many opportunities for those who wish to carry the large wooden cross.
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
Location: 41355 6 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-9030
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SPORTS

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Top players return to squad

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

After starting last season with three consecutive ties, Novi's girls soccer team kept to their powerhouse reputation by finishing the season with an 11-3-2 push.

Despite a final record that featured more losses than ties at 11-3-5 (8-1-1 KLAAs Central), things ended early with an unlucky post-season draw that put Novi against rival powerhouse and KLAAs champion Northville in a district semifinal, which the Mustangs won 3-1. In match-ups against teams other than Northville, Novi went 11-1-4 last season.

With eight student-athletes graduating, including goalkeeper Sam Pavlika among three now-collegiate players that also included midfielder Kelli Timar and forward Jessica Jarvis, the Wildcats will have their work cut out for them as they reshape their lineup.

"We obviously have some huge voids to fill," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "We have 12 returning players. Our biggest internal challenge will be gelling as a team because we have so many new players."

Entering his 13th season at the helm, O'Leary has led the Wildcats to five Division I state titles in the past eight years, most recently in both 2010 and 2011.

Despite the long list of graduates, the Wildcats do return their offensive and defensive leaders in seniors Natalie Krygier and Kaylin Hoomaian. Krygier is a three-year letter winner who was All-State last year, while Hoomaian earned All-Conference honors while anchoring the defense that allowed just six goals in 18 regular season games in 2012.

Juniors Taylor Pavlika and Kendall Kramer also had strong seasons last year, and are expected to mix with returning seniors Kelly Cauchi, Erin Dircks, Aubrey Soave, Jade Antolec, Caterina Nussio and returning juniors Natalie Greenhalgh, Karissa Koomen and Jessie Parvina to keep Novi in good shape. O'Leary said new additions include juniors Meg Bruce, Rachel Russ and Haley Notarantonio, sophomores Christina MacMillan and Amanda Minissale, and a slew of freshmen in Katrina Koomen, Chloe Allen, Sydney O'Donnell,

Please see SOCCER, B4



Novi Wildcat goalie Jade Antolec works on defending some high shots during a March 15 workout at Wixom's Total Soccer with her varsity teammates.

ON TAP

Novi's girls soccer team (11-3-5, 8-1-1 KLAAs Central last year) was slated to start the season last night at Plymouth (11-2-3, 9-0-1 South in 2012) before visiting Canton (11-2-3, 8-2-0 South)

7:30 p.m. tonight. They're then off from competition until 1 p.m. April 13 in their home opener against Saline and a 7 p.m. division kickoff April 16 at South Lyon (5-15-0, 0-10-0).

Strong core of golfers returns for Wildcats

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

After laying claim to both the KLAAs Kensington Conference and Central Division crowns, as well as the Oakland County championship, last season, Novi's boys golf team has high hopes this season as only one leading student-athlete graduated.

Novi coach Brad

Huss enters his 18th season at the helm with an experienced core made up of Brad Kozinski, Garrett Buckley, Mike Wenzl, Jason Carless and Bryan Fegert.

"We will be ranked in the top 10 this season because we are returning the (aforementioned) starters from last year," Huss said. "A very solid group of returning upper-classmen."

Despite their successes, the Wildcats fell short in the post-season, finishing fifth at Districts in Howell, ending their season earlier than they had hoped.

Before they can get another shot at Districts, Huss said Novi's golfers will have to deal with some stiff Central Division competition from Northville and South Lyon, who had finished fourth and third, respectively, at last year's conference tournament. Plymouth, who had finished second at the conference tournament, behind Novi, advanced through their district and regional meets to finish 10th at the Division I state meet.

"(We have) no major outside teams to be concerned with until Districts," Huss said of the non-league portion of the schedule.

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

Pitching staff to start season on DL for Novi sluggers

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Eleven seniors should help take the sting away from a few key graduations from last season's Novi baseball squad.

Finishing 21-14 (10-6 KLAAs Kensington) in 2012, the Wildcats have an uphill battle to start the season as their top three pitchers are all sidelined from competition with injuries.

Seniors Ryan Davis, Matt Forche and Ryan Caputo were slated to take the top three pitcher roles for the Wildcats this spring, respectively, but each is recovering from one long-term injury or another.

"We're a little banged up already," Novi coach Rick Green said. "(Davis) would probably be our No. 1 pitcher. He's doing light throwing and a little running."

Senior captain Mario Ferrini, who was slated for the No. 4 pitching spot, will handle the top duties until his teammates recover from their injuries. Luckily, the Wildcats still have 10

ON TAP

Novi's baseball team (21-14 in 2012) starts the season with back-to-back games 11 a.m. April 6 against Grosse Pointe North and Gabriel Richard before hosting Walled Lake Western for a 3:30 p.m. doubleheader April 8 and then Canton 4 p.m. April 10.

days until their first game.

Junior Tyler Whitehead, senior Grant Wheeler, junior Blair Myers and senior Mike Beaton will also help with pitching until Davis, Forche and Caputo are healthy.

"We have some kids that have stepped up," Green said. "It's really up in the air who's No. 3 with those three starters out."

The regular infield lineup on defense is expected to feature senior Kyle Matel as catcher, Wheeler on first, senior Blake Boron on second, junior Andrew Turk at shortstop and junior

Please see BASEBALL, B4

Wildcat netters return eight of 12 starters

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Although their top singles player and three-quarters of their top two doubles teams graduated, Novi's girls tennis team still has the majority of the pieces returning from a squad that finished 11th in Division I last season.

In his 29th year at the helm, Novi coach Jim Hanson's team will be young at the top, but experienced in the middle.

Sophomores Erin Day and Dhivya Sridar will move up into the one and two singles spots, respectively, after playing two and three singles as freshmen last year. Both were only one match above 500 last season, often against girls three years older than them, but Day won her regional title and Sridar made it to the KLAAs championship match before losing at the association tournament.

Senior Caitlin O'Brien will move up from four singles, where she was 15-11 last spring as a runner-up in both the

ON TAP

Novi's girls tennis team (8-3-1, 8-1 KLAAs Central in 2012) was slated to start the season two nights ago at Rochester before visiting South Lyon East (5-4, 1-4 Central) 4 p.m. April 9 and then opening the home season 4 p.m. April 11 against Plymouth Salem (4-5, 2-3 Central).

KLAAs and regional meets, to take over the three singles position.

Junior Amy Zhou, who went 11-6 as one half of the Wildcats' one double team last season, will round out the singles flights as this year's four singles option. She was an All-State honorable mention last year after finishing second at Regionals.

With the rest of the top four doubles student-athletes gone, senior Rebecca Chen and junior Aswari Kanitkara are slated to move up to one doubles from

Please see TENNIS, B4

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NOVI SPORTS ROUND-UP

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Girls Basketball

Novi junior Kerri McMahan was named to the "BCAM's Best" girls Class A All-State team earlier this week by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, while Novi senior Amanda Geiger earned a Class A All-State honorable mention.

No other KLAAs student-athletes earned the All-State honor, although Canton junior Paige Aresco, Northville senior Kendra Brenner, White Lake Lakeland sophomore Amanda Lock, South Lyon junior Jessica Mehr and Brighton junior Natalie Peterson all earned Class A honorable mentions alongside Geiger.

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

ON TAP

Novi's boys and girls track and field teams were scheduled to start the season yesterday at Walled Lake Central before heading to Livonia Stevenson 3:45 p.m. April 9.

lika) was a constant point scorer for the throwing events.

The boys also lost two four-year contributors that will be tough to replace from last year's conference-championship squad.

"All ladies had All-State honors in multiple events and at one point were state champions in their events; 4x100 and shot put," Novi coach Marsha Reid said. "They were a large component of our sprint core and Sam (Pav-

expects juniors Taylor Pavlika, Kerri McMahan, senior Jackie Mullins, sophomore Hannah Loneragan, and seniors McKenna Burr, Taylor Mosley and Lina Davis to be the top contributors this spring.

"The ladies still have some strong leadership and experience with Taylor Pavlika, Kerri McMahan, Jackie Mullins and Taylor Mosley having All-State honors in their careers," Reid said. "Additionally, with McKenna Burr getting pole vault state experience."

The boys look to continue their upward trend over recent seasons, with juniors Ali Taha, Jordan Love, senior DaRon Turner, junior Brian Barnes, senior

student-athletes also add depth to the lineup as the Wildcats look to defend their conference crown against the likes of Northville and Livonia Stevenson within the Central Division. Novi's girls are also defending an overall KLAAs crown.

"I am excited about a couple of incoming newcomers being able to come in and make an impact on the team immediately," Reid said. "We have had a couple of coaching changes this past year, along with our key graduates, so it should be interesting to see how our teams respond."

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

Increased participation could provide Wildcats a spark

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

With a larger pool of student-athletes to draw from, Novi softball coach Bob Lulek is hoping the wins will follow.

The Wildcats feature a core of upperclassmen that are expected to help the team to improve on last season's injury-ridden, and sometimes shorthanded, 7-21-1 record.

"We will be fielding almost a total different team than last year," said Lulek, who enters his seventh season at the helm. "Last year we had a number of injuries to key players that really hurt. I honestly feel the only thing that I accomplished last year was I had a chance to see a number of our young players on the varsity

ON TAP

Novi's softball team (7-22-1, 2-14 KLAAs Central in 2012) start the season by hosting Canton (18-10, 12-4 South in 2012) at 4 p.m. April 10 before visiting Walled Lake Western (2-17, 1-14 North) for a noon doubleheader April 13 and then hosting Livonia Franklin (21-13, 11-5 South) 4 p.m. April 15.

and junior varsity get a chance to play in varsity games."

Returning seniors Casey Lowney and Christina Oakley will lead the Wildcats, with Lowney offering an outfield spark while Oakley covers third base.

The teams' three primary pitchers will be juniors Natalie Tarrant, Mallory Daschke and senior Kailey Oppat. Tarrant while also see time at first base, while Oppat and Daschke will put their strong arms to use in the outfield.

Junior Laura Oakley will see a large chunk of time at first base, as well; while senior Miranda Hanby and junior Lola Teran split the catcher job.

Others expected to fill the remaining infield spots that include shortstop and second base will be sophomores Casey Lawler, Jenna Lowney and Sam Trober.

Seniors Brook Embley and Anna Greulich will also see time in the outfield for the Wildcats.

"I like this team because of the attitude they have," Lulek said.

"They were all part of last year's team and they didn't like what happened during the course of the season. We will be young at number of positions and it might take a little while for us to put it all together, but I think, when we do, we will be a very good team."

Lulek said the Wildcats, who finished 2-14 in the KLAAs Central last year, will have their work cut out for them against the likes of Northville (14-2 Central last year) and South Lyon East (0-7 Central) if they hope to make moves in the division, as well as Canton (12-4 South) across the Kensington Conference in the South Division.

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

Second-year program looking to improve with year of experience

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In just their second year as a program, Novi girls lacrosse coach Caitlin Warda is optimistic.

Although the team lost the majority of their games in their inaugural campaign, they return a handful of student-athletes who now have some experience under their belts.

"Accomplishments were having wins in general," Warda said. "Being able to pull together as a team fundamentally and competitively. The biggest internal challenge for our team this year will be similar to last years and that will be advancing the girls' overall play and progressing to be able to keep up with our competitors. We have a lot of inexperienced girls that have a lot of potential."

Seniors Lauren Brown, Morgan Egner and Jordan Howard are set to

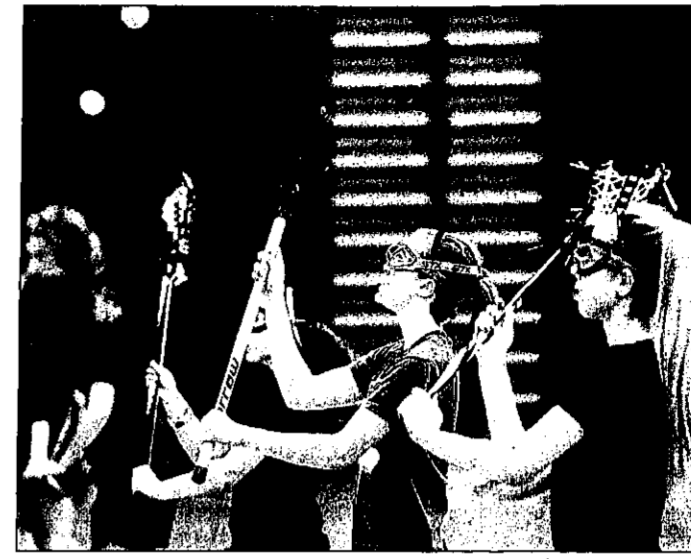
lead the team this season, with Brown and Howard as captains and Egner as the team's net-minder.

"They are constantly trying to help me in any way that they can and are excellent right hand men," Warda said.

Also returning are a slew of promising juniors, including Haley Parker, Megan Paul (29 goals in 2012), Nicole Lazzara and Georgia Freeman.

"All of these girls have developed so much passion for this sport and have put a significant amount of effort into their own personal play and performance with the team overall," Warda said. "I look forward to working with them for the second year in a row and being my second set of roll models for the new girls on the team."

Warda said tryouts were also promising with a few former junior varsity girls stepping up and



Members of Novi High's girls varsity lacrosse team warm up in the school's gym on March 19.

a pair of transfer students - junior Julia Clark and sophomore Alana Clark - looking to add depth to the varsity lineup.

"We have a lot of great talent that has been shown in tryouts and am looking forward to finalizing the roster," Warda said.

Brighton, Hartland and South Lyon are expected to present the Wildcats with their biggest hurdles within the KLAAs, while Troy, Rochester

ON TAP

Novi's girls lacrosse team was scheduled to start the season off Monday at Rochester Adams before a 7 p.m. April 8 home opener against Plymouth, which will be followed by trips April 10 to Northville and April 12 to Farmington, both for 7 p.m. starts.

Adams and Saline loom at the district level.

"This sport is one of the fastest growing in the country," Warda said. "I am so excited for what this season has to offer and what we will be able to bring to the table in comparison to last year. It is only getting more and more competitive and we are growing in the best way that we can."

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

Wildcat LAX returns defensive core despite losing top two scorers

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent



Novi High's varsity boys lacrosse team practices in the school's gym on March 19. They were inside instead of out as it was twenty-six degrees and snowing on the Wildcats' exterior field.

The Novi boys lacrosse team graduated their two top scorers from a 15-5 campaign last season, but the bulk of the defense and midfield are back for another go at it.

First-year head coach Eric Hoffman will have his hands full replacing the offensive onslaught created by All-State graduates Kent Burnett and Curtis Herzog, but a core of returning student-athletes should help ease that transition.

Senior Justin Danks and junior Mark Ghanman are slated to lead the attack with South Lyon's Chris Kennedy, Keith Pruvato, Alex Caprara and senior Lucas Buck providing a solid backing in the midfield.

"(Burnett and Herzog) scored a lot of goals for Novi last year," said Hoffman, Novi's third coach in three seasons. "The loss of a lot of scoring from a year ago will be a challenge at the beginning of the season. Once we get our offense in, we will be fine. Having a young offense will take a little time to get going. We have the talent to get it done."

On the defensive end senior Scott Sch-

ON TAP

Novi's boys lacrosse team (15-5 last year) was set to start the season Monday at Forest Hills Eastern before visiting Farmington tonight, Milford April 10 and hosting Brighton April 12, all at 7 p.m.

ramm, junior Travis Sparling and sophomore Tommy McMaster will anchor the back line as senior Mitch Adams returns as goalkeeper.

After finishing as the KLAAs Kensington Conference runners-up in 2012, the Wildcats will again be in a battle with South Lyon Unified and defending champion Brighton for the KLAAs title, Hoffman said.

"Brighton and South Lyon played in the association championship last year," Hoffman said. "We hope to be there this year."

Hoffman said the Wildcats would also be testing themselves with non-league match-ups against Troy, Troy Athens, Notre Dame Prep and Rochester Adams this season.

Novi finished the season with a No. 17 state ranking last year, whereas KLAAs champ Brighton was No. 6.

SPRING VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES



GIRLS SOCCER

All games 7 p.m. unless noted
3/21 5:30 p.m. @ Ann Arbor Pioneer
3/27 7:30 p.m. @ Plymouth (@ Canton)
3/28 7:30 p.m. @ Canton
4/13 1 p.m. Saline
4/16 @ South Lyon
4/18 6 p.m. @ South Lyon East
4/23 @ Northville
4/25 @ Plymouth Salem (@ Canton)
4/20 @ Livonia Stevenson
5/2 South Lyon
5/3 @ Okemos
5/9 Northville
5/11 1 p.m. Rochester Adams
5/14 Plymouth Salem
5/16 4 p.m. Livonia Stevenson
5/20 KLAAs Crossover
5/22 KLAAs Crossover

GIRLS TENNIS

All meets 4 p.m. unless noted
3/26 3:30 p.m. @ Rochester
4/9 @ South Lyon East
4/11 Plymouth Salem
4/13 8 a.m. @ Saline Invite
4/16 3:30 p.m. @ South Lyon
4/18 Livonia Stevenson
4/20 8 a.m. @ Ann Arbor Pioneer Invite

4/23 Northville
4/25 3:30 p.m. @ Saline
4/27 8 a.m. @ Bloomfield
Lahser Invite
4/30 @ KLAAs North Crossover
5/1 @ West Bloomfield
5/2 KLAAs West Crossover
5/7 KLAAs South Crossover
5/8 3:30 p.m. Grosse Pointe
South
5/11 8 a.m. KLAAs Kensington Conference Meet (@ Novi)
5/13 3:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Huron
5/17 8 a.m. Regionals (@ Novi)

BASEBALL

All games 4 p.m. unless noted
4/1 11 a.m. Grosse Pointe North, Gabriel Richard (Doubleheader)
4/8 3:30 p.m. Walled Lake Western (Doubleheader)
4/10 Canton
4/15 Livonia Franklin
4/17 @ Northville (Doubleheader)
4/19 @ Walled Lake Central
4/22 @ Plymouth
4/24 South Lyon East (Doubleheader)
4/26 Brighton (Doubleheader)
4/29 @ Livonia Churchill
5/20 KLAAs Kensington Conference Crossover (@ Novi) (Doubleheader)
5/3 @ Livonia Stevenson (Doubleheader)
5/6 Westland John Glenn
5/8 Plymouth Salem (Doubleheader)
5/11 10 a.m. Novi Invite (Country Day, Rochester)
5/13 @ Wayne Memorial
5/15 @ South Lyon (Doubleheader)
5/18 11 a.m. Wyandotte Roosevelt
5/18 2 p.m. Lakeland

5/20 TBA KLAAs Kensington Conference Crossover (@ Novi)
5/22 TBA KLAAs Crossover (@ Novi)
5/25 10 a.m. University of Detroit-Jesuit
5/25 3 p.m. Marysville
SOFTBALL
All games 4 p.m. unless noted
4/10 Canton
4/13 12 p.m. @ Walled Lake Western (Doubleheader)
4/15 Livonia Franklin
4/17 @ Northville (Doubleheader)
4/22 @ Plymouth
4/24 South Lyon East (Doubleheader)
4/29 @ Livonia Churchill
5/1 @ Livonia Stevenson (Doubleheader)
5/2 4:30 p.m. Royal Oak (Doubleheader)
5/6 Westland John Glenn
5/8 Plymouth Salem (Doubleheader)
5/11 8 a.m. @ Royal Oak Tournament
5/13 @ Wayne Memorial
5/15 @ South Lyon (Doubleheader)
5/18-19 9 a.m. Novi Tournament
5/20 KLAAs Kensington Conference Crossover (@ Novi)
5/22 KLAAs Crossover (@ Novi)

BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK

3/27 4 p.m. @ Walled Lake Central
4/9 3:45 p.m. @ Livonia Stevenson
4/13 9 a.m. @ Patriot Relays (@ Livonia Franklin)
5/15 3:45 p.m. South Lyon East
5/21 9 a.m. @ Balawadger Reays (@ Milford)

4/23 3:45 p.m. @ Plymouth Salem
4/26 4 p.m. @ Raider Relays (@ North Farmington)
4/30 3:45 p.m. @ Northville
5/3 3 p.m. @ Sterling Invite (@ Sterling Heights)
5/4 9 a.m. @ Sunshine Relays (@ South Lyon)
5/7 3:45 p.m. South Lyon
5/11 9 a.m. KLAAs Kensington Conference Meet @ TBA
5/17 TBD @ Regionals (@ Milford)
5/21 3 p.m. KLAAs Crossover @ TBA
5/24 9 a.m. Oakland County Championships @ Holly
6/1 TBD @ States (@ East Kentwood)

BOYS GOLF

All meets 3 p.m. unless noted
4/22 12 p.m. @ Seaholm Invite (@ Red Run CC)
4/23 @ Northville
4/25 South Lyon East (@ Walnut Creek CC)
4/29 12 p.m. @ Seaholm Invite (@ Birmingham CC)
4/30 @ Plymouth Salem
5/2 South Lyon (@ Walnut Creek CC)
5/6 12 p.m. @ Seaholm Invite (@ Oakland Hills CC)
5/7 @ Livonia Stevenson
5/9 Northville (@ Walnut Creek CC)
5/6 12 p.m. @ Seaholm Invite (@ Oakland Hills CC)
5/16 Plymouth Salem (@ Walnut Creek CC)
5/15 9 a.m. @ Oakland County Championships (@ Pontiac CC)
5/17 @ Livonia Stevenson
5/18 12:30 p.m. @ Huron Valley Invite (@ Milford)
5/14 @ South Lyon East
5/15 9 a.m. @ Oakland County Championships (@ Pontiac CC)
5/16 @ Livonia Stevenson
5/21 @ South Lyon
5/23 Livonia Stevenson (@ Walnut Creek CC)

5/27 9 a.m. @ KLAAs Kensington Conference Meet (@ Pheasant Run GC)
BOYS LACROSSE
All games 7 p.m. unless noted
3/25 @ Forest Hills Eastern (@ Forest Hills Northern)
3/27 @ Farmington
4/10 @ Milford
4/12 Brighton
4/13 3 p.m. @ Rochester Adams
4/17 @ Northville
4/20 12 p.m. @ Troy
4/24 Plymouth
4/25 Notre Dame Preparatory
4/27 12 p.m. South Lyon
4/28 @ Walled Lake Western
5/1 @ Troy Athens
5/2 Plymouth Salem
5/7 @ North Farmington
5/8 @ Canton
5/10 KLAAs Crossover
5/16 Flint Powers

GIRLS LACROSSE

All games 7 p.m. unless noted
3/25 @ Rochester Adams
4/8 Plymouth
4/10 @ Northville
4/12 @ Farmington
4/15 Plymouth Salem
4/17 @ Canton
4/19 @ Rochester
4/24 @ Plymouth
4/29 Northville
4/30 Saline
5/1 @ Plymouth Salem
5/4 9 a.m. @ Ladywood Tournament
5/6 Canton
5/8 @ South Lyon
5/10 @ Farmington Hills Har-

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M **Lakeland Eagles** **CG** **Mustangs**

Shamrocks look to run at title

Squad hopes to use quality nucleus to make it to state finals

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks lacrosse team bowed out in the regional tournament last year to a tough Northville Mustangs squad, but this year coach Dave Wilson doesn't plan on seeing the season come to a close quite so early.

Wilson, who is in his eighth year at the helm of the lacrosse program, will be looking to his returning players to help lead a talented group of juniors in their hunt for a state title shot. Leading the team will be captains Stephen Jarzynski, Alec Gilhooley and Jon Con-

ley. All three of those players have committed themselves to collegiate lacrosse with Jarzynski headed to Lynchburg, Gilhooley signed with University of Detroit Mercy and Conley going to Tufts.

But it's not just the seniors who will be leading the team. Returning seniors Nate Cantin, the team's face-off specialist, and Antonio Colucci, a midfielder, will be relied upon as well, as will returning juniors Sean Birney (midfield), Connor Holton (face-off), and Connor Cooper (defense).

"We need our juniors to step up and play a solid role for us and not just come along for the ride," said Wilson. "They need to contribute

early and often." The team will have a few challenges to overcome in the early weeks of the season. There are new faces at unfamiliar positions, to start.

"They need to accept their roles and, of course, start to excel at them," said Wilson, who added the team has responded well so far. "I'm very pleased because there's been no griping about changes, etc. These young men have great attitudes and are placing the teams of the team ahead of any individual."

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

CC golf team isn't backing down

Team has high goals, talent to achieve them

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It's not everyday that a high school golf team in Michigan has a player who will be headed off to a Division I university to ply their trade on the links.

It's far, far rarer when a team—such as Detroit Catholic Central this season—has two of them.

First-year head coach Mike Anderson will be looking to lead his team to an improved finish over last year's fifth-place showing at the states. Helping him achieve that goal will be none other than seniors Charlie Green and Corey Smadzinski, who are

both captains, will be playing college golf for Michigan State University and the University of Dayton, respectively.

What's more is they aren't the only talent on the squad this spring. "We have several players who have the ability to start in our top five," said Anderson. "The trick will be to have the right five for tournament play."

Anderson said his team has some work to do, especially to be ready for their first event of the season thanks to the late arrival of spring as compared to years past. He did say, however, that the team's goals are quite simple.

"Our goal is to win every time we

play an event," he said. "We have a veteran team with a lot of experience and have very high expectations."

The Shamrocks will rely on their experience and depth this season to lead them to their goals, and with a dozen players—all of which are capable of starting in the top five, Anderson said—they have the ability to compete within their own ranks as well.

As of press time, the final roster was not ready, due to a late spring tryout because of the weather.

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

TENNIS

Continued from page B1

three doubles, where they won both KLAAs and regional titles with a 19-5 record.

Similarly, juniors Rachel Bailey and Dina Fawaz are slated to move up to two doubles from four doubles, where they went 16-7 in 2012 while winning the KLAAs title and finishing second at Regionals.

"Our biggest internal challenge will be establishing a singles and doubles line-up that will be competitive and give Novi its best chance to win or place high in the KLAAs and regional," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Development of the new players on the team is needed to add depth at tournament time."

With their five doubles pairing also graduated from a year ago, seniors Melanie Murphy and Abigail Swain return and will have to improve their doubles roles for the remaining flights on the roster, but face competition from three

freshmen and a quartet of student-athletes who have been promoted from the junior varsity squad.

Freshmen Youna Lee, Allison Lollo and Carolyn Zhang all look to make their mark on the Wildcats' program early, while former JV stars that include junior Harika Boliniemi, sophomore Melissa Bunio and Pransanti Ravipati look to break into the varsity lineup.

The Wildcats (8-3-1, 8-1 KLAAs Central) were runners-up in each the Central Division, KLAAs and at the regional meet last year. In each case, Northville, who finished tied for eighth in Division I last season, was the major roadblock.

"KLAAs Central, KLAAs tournament and regional is going to be contested again by Novi and Northville with an improving Brighton, (Plymouth) Salem and Livonia Stevenson teams also in the mix," Hanson said.

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

BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

Kenon Figurski and senior Nick Shelar battling it out for the third baseman role.

"Those guys will be battling it out," Green said. "I kind of like the way our defense has been surprising me."

Ferrini will handle centerfield, Caputo right field and then junior Jared Casaccia will round out the outfield. Sophomore southpaw Michael Mitchell will also see some time in left field and at third base, while Whitehead will help in the outfield, as well as at first base, as will junior Bryan Klosterma.

Junior Mark Czapski and senior Luke Bageris will serve as role players, as needed.

"He got a lot stronger and a lot more confident," Green said of Bageris, who was on varsity last year. "I think we're going to be able to put the bat on the ball. Everyone seems to really like each other."

With more than a week to figure out his line-

up card before the first contest, Green said he expects either Boron or Mated to his first, followed by Caputo, Ferrini and Wheeler as the top four.

Entering his 14th season as Novi's coach, and having amassed a 306-135 record, Green said the team's biggest challenge will be to play as a unit as the team looks to improve on their runner-up finish in the KLAAs Central Division behind Northville.

"I know Northville is always going to be tough," Green said. "I think Livonia Stevenson is coming back with a lot of their players. I think (Plymouth) Salem is going to be real senior loaded. There's definitely some tough competition, so we've got things cut out for us."

Green added that his program would again host Breast Cancer Awareness and Armed Forces Day games this year. "I think we're going to raise \$2,200 for the two causes last year."

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

AccessPoint acquires Florida-based firm

Novi-based AccessPoint, a human resource management company, is expanding through its recent acquisition of Bonita Springs, Fla.-based hospitality human resource company, Veritas Employer Services, in an asset purchase transaction.

Former Veritas CEO Charles Ingram, who founded the company five years ago, will also be a minority shareholder in AccessPoint. The new company, AP Veritas, and its 10 employees, will continue to be based in Bonita Springs and serve clients in all AccessPoint markets.

"The acquisition of Veritas is strategic and timely," says Greg Packer, chairman and CEO of AccessPoint. "We see a substantial near-term need for efficiency and regulatory compliance



Packer

support in the country club, resort, and hospitality sectors, not only here in Michigan, but across the country. AP Veritas has a strong platform in a market that we have been eager to develop. As one company, we

can bring those greater efficiencies to a wider market with expanded offerings from which everyone can benefit."

"We are excited to be able to offer our country club, hotel and hospitality clients new services, including staffing, recruiting, and executive search capabilities," says AP Veritas Executive Vice President Charles Ingram. "This will definitely enhance our existing professional employer services and allow for future growth opportunities for both companies."

DETAILS

AccessPoint is a professional employer services organization (PEO) with locations in Novi, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City, Mich., as well as Alexandria, Va., and now Bonita Springs, which specializes in workplace safety and risk management, employee benefits and administration. The company has 55 total employees spread throughout its five locations and is expecting a 30-percent increase in revenues in 2013 over 2012. The company is based in a 13,000 square foot location at 42400 Grand River Avenue in Novi. AccessPoint has more than 300 established client relationships with companies in over 20 states across the U.S., and this acquisition means that clients in the country club, hotel, and hospitality sectors will receive expanded and improved human resource management services for their facilities. Further, the acquisition will allow AccessPoint to expand its services to the Florida market.

Neurologist opens Novi practice

Harvard-trained neurologist Dr. Randall R. Benson has set up his neurological practice at the Center for Integrated Neurology in Novi (43000 W. Nine Mile Road).

"The Center is a general neurological practice located on the west-side of Metro Detroit, but we're certain we'll see patients from across Michigan because of our specialty in brain injury and sports-related brain trauma," said Benson.

Benson's interest in sports-related concussions was established early in his career when he participated in two studies of National Football League (NFL) players. His work led him to testify in 2010 before a U.S. Congressional committee on concussions in pro-football. As many as 4,000 former NFL players now claim lasting injuries from concussions they suffered during their football careers.

Benson's work also extends to individuals suffering brain injury from accidents, especially motor vehicle accidents.

"Statistics show that fatalities related to car accidents are down over the past 20 years," he said. "Cars are definitely safer, and that's a positive. But an accident still jolts the head and the impact may cause mild to moderate brain damage. The work we do at the center can help to identify that fact."

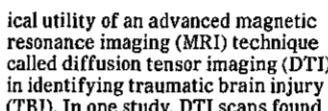
Work in this area led Benson to file a patent application for a method to increase the reliability and clinical utility of an advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technique called diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) in identifying traumatic brain injury (TBI). In one study, DTI scans found tumors, hemorrhages and obstructions in 63 of 179 patients that were undetected using traditional MRI scans.

Benson uses another advanced MRI technique—susceptibility-weighted imaging—which has been shown to be three to six times more sensitive than traditional MRI scans.

A board-certified neurologist, Benson also serves as medical director of the Center for Neurological Studies (CNS) located in Dearborn. John D. Russell, executive director of the non-profit CNS, said the opening of Benson's practice will be certain to benefit patients and, by extension, their loved ones.

"Traumatic brain injury is more prevalent than most people think. To have someone of Dr. Benson's education and caliber, with his knowledge of mild to moderate TBI, this is welcome news," said Russell.

Benson holds a dual fellowship in behavioral neurology and functional neuroimaging from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He has authored or co-authored numerous research articles in juried publications, has spoken on the topic of brain injury/disorder around the world, and has been involved in significant research projects for the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, among others.



Benson

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Novi's new Cell Phone Repair business was held on March 15 with a grand opening the next day. Shown (l to r) are Michael Shepard, Diane Di Sebastian, Dan Di Sebastian, Ara Topouzian, John Di Sebastian, Joann Di Sebastian and Dan Detrick.

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SOCCER

Continued from page B1

Megan Riley and Bela Schultz, Fresh off a pair of ACL injuries, Antolew will handle gooskeeping duties.

"She has missed the past couple of seasons because of injury, but now she is back and healthy," O'Leary said.

Other than Northville, the rest of the Kensington Conference also boasts plenty of strong competition for Novi with the likes of

SPORTS BRIEFS

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 Gabbear, Northville Recreation, (248) 449-9947; Tori Heglin, Novi Recreation, (248) 347-0422; Chris Galatis, Howell Recreation, (517) 404-3323.

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This notice is to inform our Bright House Networks customers of upcoming changes to their cable programming service.

From time to time our agreements with cable channels and television stations come up for renewal. While we strive to negotiate any terms or distribution of services, regulations require us to notify you of the possibility of service changes. Therefore, please be advised that our agreements with Channel 800 Russia, E. Entice, Entice Action, Entice Beauty, Entice Family, Entice Family West, Entice Live, Entice Soccer, Entice West, Entice Western, GOLF TV PC, Inertia, iFC, iFC2, iFC3, iFC4, iFC5, iFC6, iFC7, iFC8, iFC9, iFC10, iFC11, iFC12, iFC13, iFC14, iFC15, iFC16, iFC17, iFC18, iFC19, iFC20, iFC21, iFC22, iFC23, iFC24, iFC25, iFC26, iFC27, iFC28, iFC29, iFC30, iFC31, iFC32, iFC33, iFC34, iFC35, iFC36, iFC37, iFC38, iFC39, iFC40, iFC41, iFC42, iFC43, iFC44, iFC45, iFC46, iFC47, iFC48, iFC49, iFC50, iFC51, iFC52, iFC53, iFC54, iFC55, iFC56, iFC57, iFC58, iFC59, iFC60, iFC61, iFC62, iFC63, iFC64, iFC65, iFC66, iFC67, iFC68, iFC69, iFC70, iFC71, iFC72, iFC73, iFC74, iFC75, iFC76, iFC77, iFC78, iFC79, iFC80, iFC81, iFC82, iFC83, iFC84, iFC85, iFC86, iFC87, iFC88, iFC89, iFC90, iFC91, iFC92, iFC93, iFC94, iFC95, iFC96, iFC97, iFC98, iFC99, iFC100, iFC101, iFC102, iFC103, iFC104, iFC105, iFC106, iFC107, iFC108, iFC109, iFC110, iFC111, iFC112, iFC113, iFC114, iFC115, iFC116, iFC117, iFC118, iFC119, 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In-law suites, storage space among abode buyers' top picks

Purchasing a home is an important life decision, and many factors can influence the home choice buyers make.

The National Association of Realtors' 2013 Profile of Buyers' Home Feature Preferences examines the features buyers prefer when it comes to purchasing a home, as well as the differences in preferences when it comes to factors such as region, demographics and household composition.

The survey captures buyers who purchased a home between 2010 and 2012. "Deciding where to live comes with a lot of options, but buyers quickly realize that some features are more important than others when it comes to choosing the right house for them," said NAR President Gary Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "Buyers need to have a clear idea of what features are important to them and know where they are willing to compromise; in this respect, Realtors can bring buyers home. Realtors visit hundreds of homes with buyers each year and have a unique understanding of what buyers value in their local markets."

Geography and demography strongly influence what buyers value in a home. The typical recently purchased home was 1,860 square feet and was built in 1996. Repeat buyers, buyers of new homes, married couples and families with children typically purchased larger homes. First-time buyers and single women tended to buy older homes. The typical buyer purchased a home with three bedrooms and two full bathrooms. Slightly over half of the homes purchased were on a single level.

Southerners tend to buy newer homes; they were more likely to want a home less than five years old and in a wooded lot with trees when compared to other regions. Not surprisingly, buyers in the South also placed a higher importance on central air conditioning. While more than three-fourths — 78 percent — of all buyers purchased a home with a garage, garages were more popular among new-home buyers, Mid-

westerners, and suburbanites. Forty-one percent of homes purchased had a basement, but this feature was more popular among buyers in the Midwest and Northeast. Northeastern buyers also value hardwood floors more than people in other regions. Southerners typically bought the largest home at 2,000 square feet. Those in the Northeast followed closely behind with a typical home purchase of 1,850 square feet.

Among buyers 55 and older, 42 percent considered finding a single-level home very important, compared to just 11 percent of buyers under age 35. Single women also placed higher importance on single-level homes, while single men wanted finished basements. Both single men and married couples placed higher importance on new kitchen appliances.

Among all 33 home features in the survey, central air conditioning was the most important to the most buyers; 65 percent of buyers considered it this feature very important. The next most important feature was a walk-in closet in the master bedroom; 39 percent of buyers considered this feature very important. Closely behind was having a home that was cable, satellite TV, and/or Internet ready, as well as an en-suite master bathroom.

When it came to actually buying a home, among buyers who considered central AC and cable, satellite TV, and/or Internet ready very important, 94 percent bought a home with these features. The next most common feature was an eat-in kitchen; 89 percent of buyers who thought this was important purchased a home with an eat-in kitchen.

Buyers value some features so much that they are willing to spend more money to have them. Sixty-nine percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with central AC would be willing to pay \$2,520 more for a home with this feature. Sixty-nine percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with new kitchen appliances would be willing to pay \$1,590 more for a home with this feature. A walk-in closet in the master bedroom was the third most common feature on



Robert Meisner, Guest Columnist

which buyers would spend more. Sixty percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a walk-in closet would be willing to pay \$1,350 more for a home with this feature.

The features on which buyers were water-front properties and homes that were less than five years old. Thirty-two percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$5,420 more for a home on the waterfront, and 40 percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$5,020 more for a home that was less than five years old.

The rooms that buyers were willing to pay the most for were a basement and an in-law suite. Thirty-three percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$3,200 more for a home with a basement, and 20 percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$2,920 more for a home with an in-law suite.

When it came to rooms that buyers want in a home, 55 percent of buyers thought it was very important to have a living room, although buyers in the North-east placed more importance on a home with a dining room. Buyers aged 55 and older placed more importance on a bedroom on the main level of the house. Buyers aged 35 to 54 placed more importance on a laundry room, while those with children placed more importance on a family room.

The two most common rooms buyers were willing to spend more for were a laundry room and a den/study/home office/library. Sixty-three percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a laundry room would be willing to pay \$1,590 more for a home with this room. Forty-four percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a den/study/home office/library would

Co-op has legal status

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: Does the co-op have a right to decide who is buying the cooperative shares unlike a condominium?

A: So long as the co-op is not violating any laws such as human rights violations, they have the right to determine who will be shareholders with them. Remember that Barbara Streisand and Richard Nixon were denied co-op membership in New York because the co-op was concerned about the paparazzi that would be hanging around trying to take pictures.

Of course, the co-op board must exercise judgment and must weigh the fact that the shareholder that is trying to sell will be upset if they nix the sale. On the other hand, the co-op might have a right of first refusal as well.

Q: I am wondering if, as a homeowner, have an obligation to disclose that there was a murder/suicide in the home which we have purchased, assuming we want to sell it. I know that it is of concern to some prospective purchasers. What do you think?

A: While each case has to be decided on its facts, and depending upon the individual state's law, in a recent case out of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, the court basically said that the fact that a murder occurred in a house falls into the category of homeowner-buyer concerns best left to the term caveat emptor, i.e., let the buyer beware. The decision went beyond considering whether a combined murder/suicide should be disclosed, essentially holding no psychological defects need to be disclosed because they are not considered under the state law. It has also been argued that this court's opinion could apply to such diverse circumstances as a past rape on the property, a sex offender living next door, or even a high crime rate in the neighborhood. In any event, caution being the better part of valor, you may want to consider discussing it with your lawyer before issuing a disclosure statement.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

| Address | Sale Price | Address | Sale Price | Address | Sale Price |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| 378 Sylvan Dr | \$415,000 | 15645 Fitzgerald St | \$124,000 | 44727 Erik Pass | \$200,000 |
| 6820 Tiffany Cir | \$258,000 | 23033 Grandon St | \$95,000 | 1100 Fairground St | \$185,000 |
| 46993 Torrey Hills Ct | \$257,000 | 18703 Hillcrest St | \$235,000 | 9420 Hillcrest St | \$300,000 |
| 48989 Torrey Hills Ct | \$258,000 | 16533 Levan Rd | \$190,000 | 656 Jener Pl | \$405,000 |
| 822 Torrey Hills Dr | \$260,000 | 8954 Melvin St | \$72,000 | 575 Keillogg St | \$245,000 |
| 46856 Worcham GARDEN CITY | \$380,000 | 9735 Newburgh Rd | \$125,000 | 575 N Evergreen St | \$166,000 |
| 32711 Alvin St | \$66,000 | 36657 Parkview St | \$123,000 | 11798 Parkview St | \$193,000 |
| 2049 Deering St | \$136,000 | 40325 River Bend Dr | \$180,000 | 986 Roosevelt Dr | \$124,000 |
| 31454 DuPont St | \$36,000 | 30919 Robert Dr | \$110,000 | 10064 Rowswater St | \$130,000 |
| 29135 Hennepin St | \$30,000 | 14119 Livonia Cres | \$156,000 | 2001 Southampton Dr | \$275,000 |
| 31904 Hennepin St | \$140,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$37,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 |
| 6161 Lathrup St | \$28,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 | 14119 Livonia Cres | \$156,000 |
| 24252 Maplewood St | \$42,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 |
| 28955 Marquette St | \$35,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 |
| 33746 Marquette St | \$125,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$37,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 |
| 6736 Schaller St | \$110,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 |
| 20005 Angling St | \$159,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 |
| 28713 Bayberry Park Dr | \$130,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 |
| 8968 Beatrice St | \$59,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 |
| 14012 Blackburn St | \$184,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$37,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$37,000 |
| 32904 Bobrich Ct | \$170,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 |
| 11861 Cavell St | \$120,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 |
| 16256 Fairway St | \$220,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 |
| 376 Parkside Ridge Dr | \$291,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$37,000 | 10289 Wayne Rd | \$37,000 |
| 2006 L Riley Rd | \$255,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 | 10333 Wayne Rd | \$110,000 |
| 43930 Salt Rd | \$75,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 | 18411 Westmore St | \$135,000 |
| 302 Selkirk St | \$132,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 | 18203 Southamptn Dr | \$275,000 |

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

| Address | Sale Price | Address | Sale Price | Address | Sale Price |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| 4518 Brightmore Rd | \$540,000 | 29747 Sierra Point Cir | \$125,000 | 25317 Sutton Ct | \$50,000 |
| 199 Barrington Rd | \$190,000 | 29970 Southbrook St | \$171,000 | 39847 Village Wood Ln | \$42,000 |
| 3741 Thornstream Way | \$370,000 | 30901 Woodstream Dr | \$189,000 | 24874 White Plains Dr | \$319,000 |
| 1245 Whitmore Rd | \$145,000 | Lathrup Village | \$94,000 | 28194 Wolfcreek Dr | \$87,000 |
| 2493 Wilburton Blvd | \$269,000 | 18720 Hospital Blvd | \$160,000 | 25800 Belladonna | \$218,000 |
| COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP | | 18720 Hospital Blvd | \$160,000 | 1021 Fountain View Cir | \$84,000 |
| 6117 Birchcrest Ln | \$381,000 | MILFORD | | 24351 Glenwood Dr | \$40,000 |
| 3252 Edgemere St | \$186,000 | 30782 Artesian Dr | \$200,000 | 1313 Glenwood Dr | \$313,000 |
| 1912 Hampshire Ct | \$295,000 | 1220 Old Millford Farms | \$257,000 | 6115 Serene Ct | \$195,000 |
| 4051 Heatherwood Dr | \$250,000 | 1220 Old Millford Farms | \$257,000 | 22950 Valerie St | \$140,000 |
| 5958 Lockwood Dr | \$210,000 | 176 Turnberry Ct | \$226,000 | 24790 Woodworth Dr | \$328,000 |
| FARMINGTON | | 4239 Woodhill Farms | \$465,000 | SCOTTSDALE | |
| 2378 Lake Way | \$55,000 | NOVI | | 23311 Comerstone Village Dr | \$57,000 |
| 22738 Parkside Dr | \$80,000 | 42615 Bristol Cir | \$232,000 | 29295 Murray Crescent Dr | \$125,000 |
| FARMINGTON HILLS | | 43120 Emerson Way | \$267,000 | 30291 Redox Ct | \$40,000 |
| 30646 Charleston Ct | \$121,000 | 21810 Greendale Dr | \$300,000 | 19776 W Nine Mile Rd | \$40,000 |
| 30823 Country Ridge Cir | \$230,000 | 40521 Gwinnett Loop | \$180,000 | WHYTE LAKE | |
| 38451 Bryn Mawr | \$123,000 | 45423 Gwinnett Loop | \$171,000 | 620 Farmsworth Dr | \$86,000 |
| 28900 Drake Rd | \$155,000 | 27552 Harrington Way | \$45,000 | 9498 Huron River Dr | \$104,000 |
| 30055 Kimberley Ct | \$230,000 | 27552 Harrington Way | \$45,000 | 668 Red Bank Dr | \$270,000 |
| 1027 Quanton Rd | \$52,000 | 41617 Monterey Dr | \$180,000 | | |
| 1150 Wagonwheel St | \$417,000 | 22854 Penton Rise Ct | \$290,000 | | |
| BLOOMFIELD HILLS | | 21770 Ruth St | \$49,000 | | |
| 884 Woodlea St | \$425,000 | 21785 S Brantwood St | \$90,000 | | |
| 21785 S Brantwood St | \$90,000 | 27468 Sloan St | \$235,000 | | |

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

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Chevy Volt needs ads that are as advanced as the car



By Dale Buss

Now that the other shoe has dropped for Chevy advertising — the end of its relationship with Goodby Silverstein, not long after the brand shucked the ineffective slogan conceived by the agency — the next move by McCann should be this: a fresh, significant new campaign for Volt.

And that may be just what Chevy's new chief marketing officer, Tim Mahoney, orders up upon taking the reins of his new job after a highly regarded two-year stint as CMO of Volkswagen of America.

Sales-wise, Volt has continued tacking to and fro depending on how many of the car GM is manufacturing and, especially, how well the company is doing in meeting the strong demand for a California-specific, car-pool-lane-eligible version of the plug-in hybrid that was introduced last year.

In February, for example, Volt sales were 43 percent ahead of January, but that was mainly because GM was short of stock for a while, not because of a huge surge in underlying demand for the car.

GM plans to build as many as 36,000 Volts and other plug-in hybrids (including the start of production of the sibling new Cadillac ELR) this year, or about 1,500 to 3,000 a month, according to Bloomberg, while it sold about 30,000 Volts and similar Opel Ampera models last year.

That would represent an output increase of as much as 20 percent, but in a U.S. market where electrified vehicles of all sorts continue to face a short-term

acceptability challenge, don't expect demand for Volt genuinely to mushroom anytime soon, no matter how good its advertising might become.

And yet, Volt's inconsistent sales performance masks the much more formidable reality of the car itself.

Plug-in hybrids remain the type of electrified vehicle that makes the most sense because they release the driver from dependence only on a battery-fed powertrain.

And while competing makes have been introducing their own plug-ins, Chevrolet Volt remains not only the pioneer for this technology but also very much the face of it. Just as Toyota's Prius brand still dominates conventional hybrids, there's no reason Volt shouldn't continue to be the best-selling plug-in hybrid by far.

But from the very launch of Volt three years ago, GM arguably has done a poor overall job of communicating that identity and has failed to mainstream the vehicle perceptually among American consumers so that Volt would have a shot at joining the mainstream of U.S. auto sales.

One of GM's first mistakes was assigning Volt a status not very much unlike all

the other Chevy models under the "Chevy Runs Deep" tag line and positioning. Clearly, the idea was for the acknowledged cutting-edge technology of Volt to provide a halo to the rest of the Chevy lineup.

But while the GM will be boosting production of Chevy Volt by up to 20 percent this year, brand re-dressing conceived by then-GM Chief Marketing Officer Joel Ewanick didn't do much for the entire Chevrolet lineup, it did a particular disservice to Volt. This was a car that Chevy should have set apart unequivocally from the rest of its brand, right out of the chute, instead of largely subsuming Volt's unique identity into a re-branding of the entire marque that unfortunately went very awry.

Chevy's more recent Volt-only TV-ad campaign featuring testimonials about the car from real owners was more effective and got closer to communicating the passion that many Volt owners feel for their plug-in.

But, now helmed by Mahoney and with McCann as the only creative agency involved, Chevy advertising should do more and better by Volt. What, exactly?

For one thing, the Mahoney-McCann team should be able to figure out a way to drive home the huge advantage that Volt, as a plug-in hybrid, enjoys over the all-electric wanna-bes. It has a



GM will be boosting production of Chevy Volt by up to 20 percent this year.

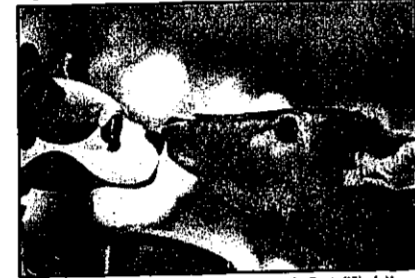
highly fuel-efficient gasoline engine that gives Volt drivers a peace of mind and a confidence about not being stranded that drivers of Nissan Leaf and other EVs can only envy — coupled with most of the advantages of being able to drive Volt in electric-only mode when desired.

With the reputation he built for fielding effectively humorous advertising while helming Volkswagen's marketing, such as the masterful "Little Darth Vader" spot during the Super Bowl a couple of years ago, Mahoney certainly seems like a guy who could make such an approach work.

Chevy's new uber "Find New Roads" positioning for the overall brand and product line has yet to really unfurl. The first ad the brand showed, during the Oscars telecast last month, gave Volt a largely superfluous cameo.

The existence of such an interval before Chevrolet presumably begins seriously redefining the brand is one more reason — and opportunity — for Mahoney and McCann to give Volt a quick, new, effective moment in the sun alone.

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Volt made a cameo appearance in Chevy's first "Find New Roads" TV ad.

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