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Blood Drive
 A blood drive will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at Gardner White/Best Buy in West Oaks shopping center (west side of Novi Road between I-96 and 12 Mile Road). All presenting donors will be entered into a raffle for a 51" HD TV to be given away at that drive. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code gardnerwhite or call (313) 549-7052 for an appointment.

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Expo land to tower

Hotel, medical facility targeted



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 With a blueprint of the proposed Adell Towers hotel and office location nearby, developer Peter Burton answers questions during an April 3 press conference at the former Novi Expo Center grounds.

By Lonnie Huhman
 Staff Writer

The old Novi Expo Center property is an ideal spot for the \$100 million plans property owner Kevin Adell and Peter Burton have for the 25 acres of vacant land at I-96 and Novi Road.

On April 3, Adell and Burton along with their partners and an assortment of state and local government officials convened at the location to unveil the project called the Adell Towers. Burton, of the Burton-Katzman firm, said it is in the preliminary planning stages, but once it's completed there should be twin tower — both state-of-the-art, eight-story, mixed-use facilities.

"We find this location to be at the crossroads of one of the most significant commercial locations in southeastern Michigan," he said. "And the same vision the Adell family had over 50 years ago, they have decided to start all over again by developing the site to meet the commercial needs that exist in the City of Novi and southeast Michigan."

The Adells originally developed the location in 1952 when it became an automotive factory. It later was turned into the Novi Expo Center and stood until 2012 when it was torn down. The water tower with the Adell name on it remains.

Kevin Adell said this new opportunity is

Please see FACILITY, A2



Creations like this table by Mike Schroeder will be featured throughout the art fair.

Great Lakes Art Fair

The Great Lakes Art Fair returns April 12-14 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. Over 150 talented artists will be in attendance.

Hours are 1-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Patrons will enjoy complimentary parking. Admission for adults will be \$7, and children 12 years of age and under are admitted for free. The sponsors for this event include Andiamo Novi, The Landscape Group, Visions Spa Salon, WXYZ Detroit, HealthQuest of Farmington, Bright House Networks, 104.3 WQMC, DSN Satellite and Leaf Filter Gutter Protection.

Visit www.GreatLakesArtFair.com or e-mail info@GreatLakesArtFair.com.

Open house

Novi Co-Op Preschool, 41671 W. 10 Mile, is hosting an open house from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 21. The free event includes ice cream sundaes, children's entertainment, raffle prizes, and a silent auction.

Call (248) 349-3223 or visit www.novipreschool.com for more information.

Protesters picket Novi's Lotus Bank

Response to lawsuit over alleged racist comments made by bank staff

By Lonnie Huhman
 Staff Writer

A group of people gathered outside the Lotus Bank in Novi on Thursday to protest alleged derogatory comments made by bank employees that they say, if true, are racist and verge on being "terrorist."

The protest comes in reaction to a lawsuit filed in Oakland County Circuit Court pertaining to executives at Lotus Bank's Novi branch accused of berating two Indian customers and exchanging e-mails calling Indians by derogatory names.

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

Lotus, with another location in Farmington Hills, has been around since 2007 and was set up to serve metro Detroit's growing Indian community.

Please see LOTUS, A3

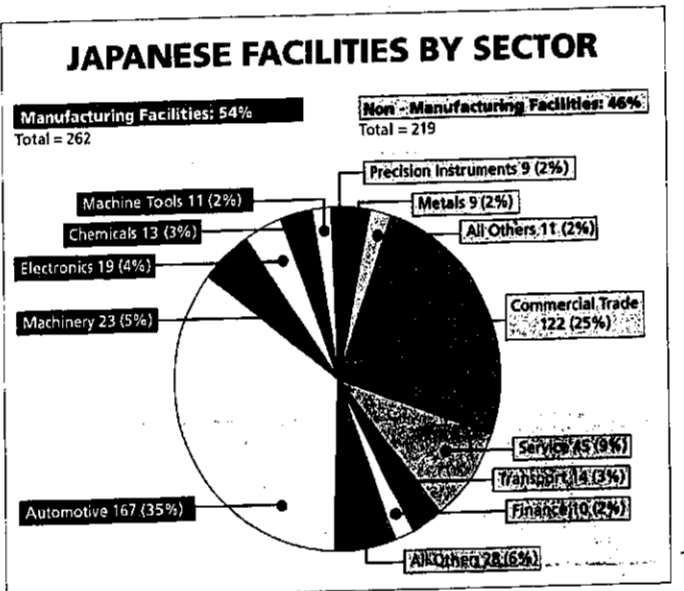
BANK'S RESPONSE

The following is a portion of a letter to the Community from Lotus Bank's Board of Directors, posted April 4 on Lotus Bank's Facebook page:

Recently, sensationalized reports in the media have attempted to tarnish the name of Lotus Bank and its connection to our community. Nothing can be further from the truth. Our success is rooted in our community, and it would be silly to think we would abandon the vision that has made us successful.

We built this institution to serve the Indian Community, we support the Indian Community, and we are part of the Indian Community. The Indian community comprises over 80% of our directors, and over 80 percent of our shareholders and approximately 25% of our commercial and personal banking customers.

Above all, we built this bank to last and we will defend our reputation vigorously.



State's Japanese employees increasing

Novi leads the way with highest concentration

By Cal Stone
 Staff Writer

Despite a decline in Michigan-based Japanese facilities, the number of Japanese residents employed in Michigan has climbed by more than 2,000 — and that's good news for the 2,666 who live in Novi, the state's largest Japanese population.

According to Ara Topoguzian, the city's economic development director, Novi is home to approximately 65 Japanese businesses.

Toyota Boshoku America has been in Novi since 2002. When the company located here, it had about 10 employees. Now there are two buildings with 210 employees, and approximately 30 of those are Japanese assignees.

"We chose Novi due to its proximity to GM, Toyota and the International airport," said Ted Schafer, vice president, Technical Center. "In addition, the Japanese-friendly schools and community were also big factors in the decision."

American Mitsuba Corp. located to Novi in December 2009, and the number of employees has increased to 32 currently. David Martin Stevens, senior vice president, said his firm chose this city for its proximity to its customers and the fact it was a good building with a reasonable lease cost.

"We at American Mitsuba have had a great relationship with Novi, the

Please see JAPANESE, A3

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Ron Loyd, "the Bubbleman," creates a man-sized bubble during his April 4 visit to the Novi Library. Loyd was entertaining a large group of parents and their kids during a busy spring break week at the library.

Bubbly personality



A group enjoys the bubble-making abilities of Ron Loyd during his April 4 visit to the Novi Library.

FACILITY

Continued from page A1

a collaborative effort that aims to reinvent the property. "This is a very exciting day for us," Adell said. He envisions occupants of the site to be a hotel, offices for hi-tech firms and possibly a medical facility. He pointed to the Cleveland Clinic as an example of what they might work toward, which would be a hotel supporting a medical clinic.

However, everything is preliminary, and as far as potential occupants, they are open to talk with anyone interested. Burton said they are in talks with several major

hotel chains and medical institutions, but added nothing is final at this point. He gave a time line of six to 12 months before the project could get underway.

Other ideas for the location include street level retail and restaurants. Accessibility will be enhanced with a planned ring road adjacent to the location that provides a better connection with Grand River Avenue. Adell said the location is more than ideal with its access to the freeway, great visibility as well as being surrounded by other great commercial businesses.

He also said even though their plans didn't always match up, they now have the full support from the City of Novi, which is important for the effort. "It's better when you've listened to what the city and community want," he said. "They have, and Novi officials couldn't be happier about this new prospect. Mayor Bob Gatt said the location is a showcase into the city, so he's hoping the development will make a statement as to what kind of community Novi is. He said the city is ready to help in any way it can. According to the preliminary plan, tax abatement up to 10 years is available. "This is one of the most important parcels in the city, so we're excited to see this," Gatt said. "We want to see a first class development here in the near future."

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CORRECTIONS

• The March 28 story "CSC: Trial set for Novi pediatrician charged with criminal sexual conduct" should have indicated the alleged crimes did not take place at the doctor's medical practice in Novi but rather involve the teenage

son of a family friend and incidents at Dr. Jeffrey Dembs' West Bloomfield home.

• The names of the second and third place teams were reversed in last

week's letter to the editor regarding the Novi Public Library's Battle of the Books. Inevitable Bookworms won second and the Rockin' Readers took third.

JAPANESE

Continued from page A1

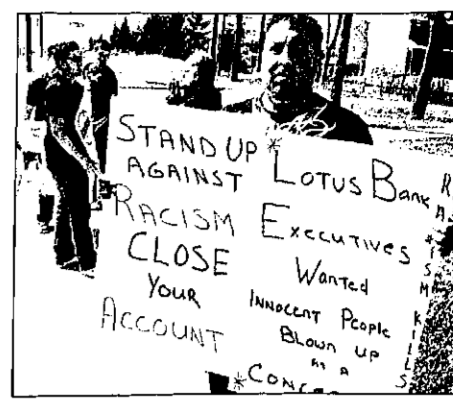
Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, JBSD and JAPIA," Stevens said.

Survey says
After Novi, Ann Arbor has 1,541 Japanese residents, followed by West Bloomfield, 1,047; Farmington Hills, 589; and Battle Creek, 358. As of Oct. 1, 2012, the

Japanese Direct Investment Survey data shows that there are now 481 Michigan-based Japanese facilities which provide 35,554 local jobs. The survey by the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit indicates 2,208 more residents were employed in the state than in 2011. Consul General Kuninori Matsuda, Japan's chief diplomat in Detroit, greeted the results with enthusiasm.

"Japanese automakers and their suppliers continue to boost investments in their R&D, sales, as well as manufacturing operations in the great state of Michigan, resulting in an impressive 7-percent gain in year-over-year hiring," Matsuda said. "These companies have rebounded admirably from the challenges of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, and as Michigan's economy and business climate continue to strengthen, so too does their commitment to producing, employing and investing locally."

Investment is heavily concentrated in Michigan's automotive sector, with manufacturing jobs accounting for 43 percent of total employment. In 2012, there was a net gain of 728 manufacturing positions in Michigan, representing a 5-percent increase over the previous year. Japanese investment is concentrated in the



Jack Singh is part of a group of protesters demonstrating outside Novi's Lotus Bank on 12 Mile. The group was concerned about what they deemed were racially offensive remarks allegedly made by some of the bank's executives.

LOTUS

Continued from page A1

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.

One protester was Jack Singh, of West Bloomfield. He said he saw the news story and wanted to support the protest because, if the accusations are true, then more should have been done.

"It really irks me that somebody could say these things and still be working here," Singh said.

According to the lawsuit, Bauer wrote in an e-mail, "Any of the chumps from Lotus call?" in reference to the Lotus bank board of directors.

In another e-mail, an employee reportedly 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." It was this reported com-

ment that caught the attention of Singh and some of the other protesters. Singh said this sounded almost like a terrorist attack and it was ridiculous more hasn't been done.

"I'm Indian, so when I saw the comments about blowing something up, I was shocked," said Onkar Sandhu, also of W. Bloomfield.

As of Thursday evening, Krishna Malampati, chairman of the bank's board of directors, had not returned the Novi News' phone calls for comment regarding the protests.

Previously, Malampati said the board became aware of the e-mails and disciplined the men, but he would not disclose the discipline. However, it's been reported the executives still work at the bank.

Although not a client, Singh said he has heard of some of his friends closely following their accounts in reaction to the suit. He said Indian people may be perceived as weak because some are quiet. But, he added, don't confuse kindness with weakness. He said they will not put up with these types of comments.

EMPLOYMENT

Japanese facilities provide 35,554 jobs in Michigan, 95% of which are held by Michiganders.

Long-Term Japanese Investment Trends

Year	Facilities	Employees	Employee Breakdown		Manufacturing Employees
			Japanese	Local	
2012	481	35,554	35,554	33,815	15,331
2011	486	33,346	33,346	31,674	14,603
2007	545	39,771	39,771	37,357	17,662
2002	476	38,998	38,998	36,908	19,447

Year	Percent Change				
	Facilities	Employees	Japanese	Local	Manufacturing
1 Year	-1.0%	6.6%	4.0%	6.8%	5.0%
5 Year	-11.7%	-10.6%	-28.0%	-13.2%	-13.2%
10 Year	1.1%	-8.8%	-16.8%	-8.4%	-21.2%

NOTE: Japanese facilities are defined as non-franchised operations with at least a 10% share of Japanese ownership. Past years' data are periodically revised.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

There are 391 facilities in southeast Michigan which provide 20,816 jobs. The 90 facilities in other regions provide 14,738 jobs. Southeastern Michigan facilities are primarily R&D, engineering and sales offices, while there is a high concentration of manufacturing facilities in the southwest region of the state.

Japanese Investment by Region

Region	Facilities	Total Employees	Manufacturing Employees
Southeast	391	20,816	4,831
Oakland County	237	9,682	973
Wayne County	102	5,923	2,193
Washtenaw County	25	3,136	374
Macomb County	13	612	349
Southwest	48	3,926	7,027
Central	34	4,177	2,999
Northern	8	635	474

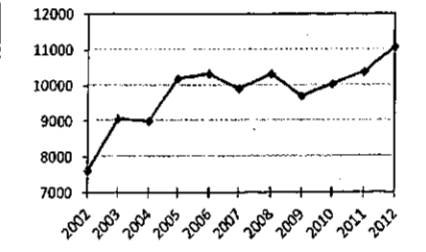
JAPANESE POPULATION

There are 11,048 Japanese nationals residing in Michigan, a 46% increase over the past ten years.

Top 5 Cities with Japanese Population

- 1 Novi 2,666
- 2 Ann Arbor 1,541
- 3 West Bloomfield 1,047
- 4 Farmington Hills 589
- 5 Battle Creek 358

Japanese Population in Michigan



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RSVP
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Enjoy free food, music and prizes — including our drawing for an Elvis Presley slot machine. Plus, you'll receive a free CD* of great 50's music just for touring our property.

More Great Events:
The Third Leg
Saturday, April 13
1:30 p.m.
Kurt Kinde, veteran drama coach & teacher from Northville High School, will be presenting his inspiring tale of his most unusual family.
RSVP by April 12.

"Motown" Happy Hour
Friday, April 26
2:00 p.m.
Come listen to the tunes of Motown Live Music. Drinks & lite snacks will be provided.
RSVP by April 25.

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Walled Lake Schools PTSA lauds 10 state 'Reflections' winners

More than 400 Walled Lake Schools' students, staff and parents participated in the 2013 PTSA Reflections Celebration at Clifford Smart Middle School recently.

The purpose of the PTSA Reflections program is to encourage artistic expression through Film/Video Production, Dance Choreography, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts and Literature.

This year's creative expression prompt was: "The Magic of a Moment..." The 10 state winners include:

Literature - Robert Westropp, WL Northern HS and Delaney Thibodeau, Walled Lake Elementary

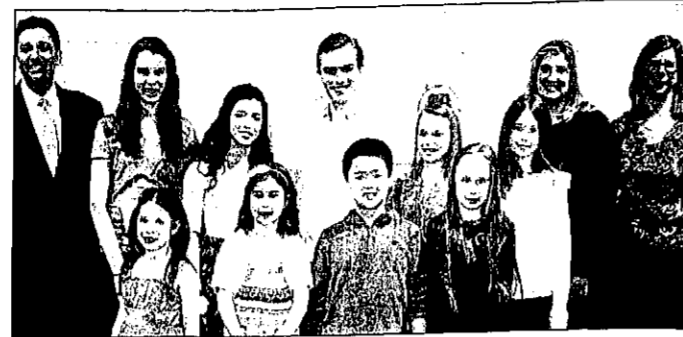
Musical Composition - Patrick Halim, Oakley Park Elementary and Cara Dolan, MH Guest Elementary

Photography - Katherine Weber, Sarah Banks Middle School

Visual Arts - Emma Snyder, Commerce Elementary; Emily Albright, Sarah Banks MS; Nathan Kinckowski, Hickory Woods Elementary and Anna Gruzas, Walnut Creek

Dance Choreography - Leah Capuano, Clifford Smart Middle School

Superintendent Kenneth Gutman said: "The Magic of a Moment" is this moment: watching our children excel at expressing themselves," said Kenneth Gutman, superintendent. "They may have written a special piece, taken a unique photograph or created another artistic expression. Congratulations to each of our students who participated and gave us the gift of their



Pictured with Ken Gutman, superintendent (left, back), Peggy Casagrande, board president (second from right, back) and Nancy Scott, PTSA Council president (far right, back), are the State Reflections winners (back row, l to r) Leah Capuano, Emily Albright, Robert Westropp, Anna Gruzas and Katherine Weber; (front) Emma Snyder, Delaney Thibodeau, Patrick Halim and Cara Dolan. Missing from the photo is Nathan Kinckowski.

fine work."

At the recent district event, four students representing the Walled Lake Schools' state award-winning literature pieces in the 2013 Reflections Program recited their pieces. These students are: Haley Wurst, Commerce

Elementary; Madeline Brown, Geisler MS; Julia Friedenstab, Clifford Smart MS and Kylie Hoef, WL Central HS.

NOVI ON CAMPUS

Northwood University

For the fall semester, Melanie Bunio, a freshman from Novi, was named to the President's List.

The following Novi students were named to the Dean's List: Jessica Cingel, Allison Hoomaian, Erin Hoomaian, Alexander King, Joseph Murphy and Colton Pagano.

Katherine Betty Rudzinski, of Novi, was named to the Dean's List. Students who ranked in the top 20 percent of undergraduate students within each division for first semester 2012-2013 have been named to the dean's list recognizing academic performance.

Northwood's Style Show

Novi's Ashley Bush (senior) and Caitlin

McEachran (junior) are two of the 18 executive board members for the Northwood University (NU) Style Show.

It will be held 8 p.m. Friday, April 19 in the Hach Student Life Center on the Northwood Campus located at 4000 Whiting Drive in Midland.

The public is welcome to attend the show as well as the gala reception directly following the event. For more information, visit www.northwood.edu/



Bush



McEachran

style-show. For ticket information, contact Jill Quillet at (989) 837-4260 or Elise Brotebeck at (989) 965-5321 (brotebeck@northwood.edu).

The Style Show is celebrating its 12th year by bringing the big screen to the runway through some of the most treasured childhood films.

The event is completely constructed by the student executive board, each bringing their own unique interpretation of the overall theme.

Bush, co-events chair, is the daughter of Russ and Beth Bush of Novi and a senior majoring in fashion marketing and management.

She is a member of Delta Zeta sorority, Order of Omega and is the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity Sweetheart.

McEachran, collections chair, is a junior majoring in fashion marketing and management with a minor in automotive marketing.

She is the daughter of John and Jennifer McEachran of Novi, and is a member of Delta Zeta Sorority and Order of Omega.

Career Day



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Middle School student Anieya Herman is wired up to an acoustic neuromuscular gauge by physiologist Greg Gage during the school's March 13 Career Day. Gage, a scientist who studies human movement and neural impulses, and other professionals shared what they do for a living with the students to possibly spark an interest in a future career.



Trial lawyer Mark Dolin shares with Novi Middle School students what his job consists of during the March 13 Career Day seminar.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Beaumont offering free student heart checks April 13

High school students and parents beware; the typical school sports physical may fall short in assessing heart health. Because sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in young athletes, Beaumont Health System cardiologists and partners WXYZ-TV and 97.1 The Ticket continue to offer free Healthy Heart Check screenings to area high school students.

The next Healthy Heart Check screening is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road (at Ten Mile) in Novi.

The student heart screening will include a medical history, blood pressure check, an electrocardiogram or ECG, and a quick-look echocardiogram (an ultrasound image of the heart).

Although there is no charge to participate, registration is required. Call toll-free 800-328-8542 or visit <http://heart.beaumont.edu/upcoming-student-heart-screenings> to register online.

Walled Lake Central to host College Fair

Walled Lake Central High School (1600 Oakley Park Road) is hosting a College Fair from 6:30-8 p.m. April 30 in Central's gymnasium. All Walled Lake Schools students are welcome to attend this very informative event. College representatives from all over Michigan as well as several out of state representatives will be here to answer questions about their university and programs offered.

Over 50 colleges and universities will have representatives in attendance for students and parents at this event. In state schools include: Michigan State, Wayne State, Oakland University and the University of Michigan. Out of state schools include: Penn State, the University of Alabama, the University of Toledo and Ohio State University.

For more information, please visit www.wlcsd.org or contact Ann Marie Rutherford at annmarierutherford@wlcsd.org or (248) 956-4829.

Money lessons valuable during budgeting, kids can start learning early

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist

SUPER TALK

My parents taught me the value of money.

Many years ago, when I was in elementary school, I had a savings account at the bank. Twice a month I was expected to contribute to my account. I participated in the bank's Christmas Club savings account as well, saving money throughout the year so that I would have money to buy gifts at Christmas time. I received an allowance but was expected to do certain chores to receive it.



Super Talk

Steve Matthews

I tried to get my parents to buy extravagant things for me, but they rarely did. I wanted a Nehru suit in high school. I would have looked so good. But they made me buy a traditional suit instead. I did talk them into letting me buy a yellow sports coat and wear a bow tie. Whether or not that was a good decision is still an open question in my family.

I wanted a car for my 16th birthday but instead I was told that I would get to share one of their cars. If I wanted spending money in high school I was expected to get a job, so I worked at McDonald's. Managing money was important to my family and I learned the value of it.

As superintendent, one of my primary jobs is to understand the value of money. What I know is that the Novi Community School District is able to operate because of the support that we receive from our community. Every homeowner and business pays taxes to support the state's School Aid Fund, which in turn supports our schools. Every shopper pays sales tax that helps support the School Aid Fund, which in turn supports our schools. Our community has approved bonds for construction and a

sinking fund for building projects. I am grateful for this support.

We have booster and parent groups that raise significant sums of money to support school activities, assemblies, field trips, athletics, and fine art programs. Community members donate items for raffles. Just as important many parents and community members donate time and do a number of important things so that we do not have to spend money. I am grateful and thankful for the support that everyone provides to help our schools.

Each spring we spend time planning and preparing budgets for the upcoming school year. We look at our revenue and our expenses. It is a delicate dance trying to balance our budget and continue to provide the quality schools that our community expects.

We continue to face financial pressures. Costs rise. Revenues remain flat.

In our district we understand the need to be as efficient as possible and to spend our money wisely. We look for ways to save money. We collaborate with the city and other school districts when we can. We look for cost and time saving solutions to issues that we face. We ask staff to contribute more to insurance and retirement programs.

Information on our budget is available on the district website. I would invite you to stay informed and to communicate with me your thoughts on our budget.

Many years ago my parents taught me the value of money. Those lessons continue to guide me today as I work to manage the budget in our school district.

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

WLN presents 'The Wizard of Oz'



Walled Lake Northern High School Performing Arts Department presents "The Wizard of Oz" April 18-21 at the school (6000 Bogie Lake Road, Commerce 48382). Evening performances will start at 7:30 p.m. with two afternoon matinees on April 20-21 starting at 2 p.m. Shows (l to r) are Lucas Stringer, Morgan Barnett, Alex Watson and Logan Hein rehearsing scenes. Tickets are available now and can be purchased online through the secure Walled Lake Consolidated Schools ticket website, www.wlcsdtkts.com, or by calling (248) 956-5465. Prices are \$14 for adults, \$12 for students and senior citizens.

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Carrier turn to the experts

Novi Library to expand hours

Facility open later beginning Sept. 1

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Patrons have called for it and now with a little extra funding help in reserve, the Novi Library Board gave the go-ahead to expand library hours starting this fall.

According to Novi Public Library Director Julie Farkas, starting on Sept. 1, the library's hours will be extended an extra hour on Friday-Saturdays to 6 p.m. Sundays will change from 1-5 to noon-6 p.m. and will be open year-round.

"This is really exciting for us," Farkas said. "For some time, many of our patrons have been asking for this. So in an effort to offer more access to them, we will be changing the library's hours."

After taking a look at its budget for the upcoming year, Farkas said the Novi

Library Board decided during its recent budget discussions that it had enough in reserve to be able to cover compensating the staff for working additional hours. This decision comes after years of acting fiscally responsible in order to bolster its fund balance.

The board also looked at the recent surveys filled out by patrons that listed more Sunday hours as a big want. In addition, it listened to focus groups during its recent strategic planning session, who said an expansion of hours was a main desire. It was on March 20 the board made the budget decision.

"To be able to do this says a lot about the Library Board's decision making in building up the fund balance," said Farkas. "We've received a lot of help from the community's tax revenue, so now we can give

back to them by extending our hours and giving them more access to the different resources they want to use."

And usage is up, especially access to computers and the Internet, she said. Library regulars, from students using the computers to families coming in Sundays to enjoy the different activities, will benefit from this eventual change.

The library expects to add to its offered programming after its goes into effect, especially during summer 2014. It's then Farkas said the full impact of this change will be noticeable.

"This is a big deal for Novi because many libraries aren't able to do something like this right now," she said.

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



As his mom Mary and sister Alexis, 7, look on Adam Cielinski, 5, checks out some reading material on April 1 at the Novi Library. The library has just announced that it will expand its weekend hours beginning this September.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New development coming to downtown

Credit union proposed at Main, Novi Road

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Main Street is traditionally where a town began its development, but in Novi it's an ongoing puzzle that will be getting a new piece - Detroit Metropolitan Credit Union.

It's a piece that all on the City Council are happy to see.

Mayor Pro Tem Dave Staudt said he was pleased, "To finally see

a development on Main Street that is part of the new direction we're going in there."

The property is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Novi Road in the Town Center District. Proposed to be on 0.83 acres, the development is planned to be an approximately 3,000 square foot Detroit Metropolitan Credit Union, which will have an ATM lane and

two additional drive-thru lanes.

Mike Blaneck, project representative from Stucky-Vitale Architects, said the council's decision will move forward the purchase of the property. He said they've been working on this project a long time but have no construction schedule just yet.

"We're excited about getting this project going," he added. The last decision Novi

made in regard to Main Street planning was last summer. Council approved the final site plan for a part of that area to divide up to 20 acres of land into three separately owned parcels to allow an easier path for development. It's zoned for commercial.

But for some, this new project isn't exactly what they had in mind when thinking about the future development of Main Street. Council member Wayne Wrobel said

he would support the development, but with a heavy heart. He said Novi has developed several versions of what Main Street development could look like, and some of it was really forward thinking.

However, he added, something is needed at this location.

"We had the grandiose plan of what Main Street was going to be," he said. "Now it seems like that plan has all gone away, and I understand the reasons why. It's a shame it's hap-

pened, but I will support this. We need progress at that location."

Council member Andrew Mutch said he hoped this was the start of some additional development in this area, and Mayor Bob Gatt said it's definitely welcomed.

"My heart is filled with joy and gladness," he said. "This is something I have been looking forward to for a long time."

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Hearing postponed for accused highway shooter

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

A pretrial hearing scheduled for April 4 for accused I-96 corridor shooter Raulie Casteel in Oakland County Circuit Court has been adjourned until May 30 while an independent psychiatric evaluation is conducted.

Circuit Judge Denise Langford-Morris postponed the pretrial hearing at the request of defense attorney Douglas

Mullkoff, who is representing Casteel along with attorney Charles Groh.

"We are in the process of arranging a psychiatric evaluation — an independent evaluation," Mullkoff said.

Mullkoff said the psychiatrist he intends to employ believes six weeks is needed for the "necessary interviews and evaluation." Casteel, he said, "understands that and concurs."

Assistant Prosecutor Jeff

Hall had no objection to the May date, noting that Casteel's psychiatric evaluation conducted by the state forensic center took approximately two months.

Casteel, a 43-year-old married father from Wixom, has been found competent to stand trial. According to Mullkoff, however, the state forensic psychological exam revealed that Casteel suffers from delusional disorder. The courts have not yet determined if Casteel is criminally responsible.

Casteel, who did not appear in court last Thursday, is suspected of randomly firing a 9mm handgun at motorists and one resident during a string of shootings last October in Wixom and Commerce Township, as well as along the I-96 corridor in Livingston, Shiawassee and Ingham counties. One person was injured.

For the Oakland County cases, he faces 60 counts including assault with intent to murder and felony weapons charges. He faces additional charges, including terrorism, for the other counties' incidents which are being prosecuted by Attorney General Bill Schuette.

If convicted, Casteel faces up to life in prison.

Mullkoff declined comment following the April 4 proceedings.

avwnglad@hometownlife.com
(248) 685-1407, Ext. 251
Twitter@awwnglad

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Heroin possession

Novi Police stopped a Howell man on April 1 for driving on a suspended license and later found a baggie of powder, which tested positive for heroin.

Police reported being behind the man's vehicle on Novi Road when his license plate was checked. It came back that the registered owner of the vehicle not only had a suspension, but also a warrant out from the Michigan State Police. He was stopped at the Denny's restaurant parking lot, and he told police that he was on his way home from his girlfriend's residence in Ypsilanti. Police reported the man was acting nervous.

The 31-year-old man was placed into custody for a DWLS and the warrant. A search of his vehicle turned up a makeshift straw and shredded baggies. A further search of his pockets was where the baggie, which was inside a cigarette pack, was found. He said it was not his; however, he was cited with possession because it was in his pocket. There was 0.5 grams of powder in the bag. The case has been forwarded to the Oakland County Prosecutor.

Tires stolen

A Chevy Trailblazer had its rims and tires, valued at \$3,000, stolen while it was parked in front of a residence on Springlake Boulevard.

The vehicle was found on April 3 near building 19 in the Springs Apartments complex up on landscaping bricks with its tires missing. Police attempted to locate fingerprints on the vehicle, but could only find smudges, and it appeared the suspect was wearing gloves.

Drunken Driving

A 64-year-old man was cited for OWI after being stopped for speeding on April 1.

Novi Police clocked the man going 38 mph in a 25 mph speed zone near Novi and 13 Mile roads. Driving a Chevy Equinox, the man at first did not notice the police lights, but later pulled over at the entrance of the Wexford Town Homes. After having trouble with his wallet, the man was asked to do the field sobriety tests. He had trouble reciting the alphabet and maintaining his balance.

He was arrested after he blew a 145 percent blood-alcohol content.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman.

Novi's upcoming budget seeks to 'Inspire Talent' in city

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Taking a cue from Gov. Rick Snyder, the City of Novi's message for its upcoming fiscal year budget is "Inspiring Talent."

To do this, Novi is planning on continuing and expanding its long-view perspective of cultivating, offering and providing great services and opportunities.

A balanced budget of \$56,176,628 has been presented to the City Council for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget. The council will be reviewing the budget during the next month or so, and any revisions will be finalized on May 20.

According to the budget, 52 percent of revenues (just more than \$27,000,000) are expected to come from property taxes while 46 percent of the costs (again, more than \$27 million) will be for personnel services. It's projecting a healthy fund balance by June 2014 of \$6.3 million.

Novi City Manager Clay

Pearson said "a sense of cautious optimism wisely pervades policymakers and is echoed in this budget."

But he emphasizes that Novi has the economic development, planning, transportation, public safety and cultural/recreational tools to help make it a place second to none. Because of these, talented people have come to Novi to live, work and play, making it a great community.

City officials want this to continue.

"Novi is a great place for talented people of all walks of interest," Pearson said in his budget message. "The community works hard and our City government strives to maintain that tradition. We do the hard work with talented staff and partners."

He said the budget balances a variety of needs and wants, focuses both short- and long-term, and reflects strategic potential and tactical results.

Services such as Public Safety, Parks, Recreation and Cultural, and the Novi Public

Library will continue to provide a high quality of service. Police and fire will strive to be more effective and efficient, new park land improvements are coming and the library is expanding its hours are just a few of the plans detailed in the budget.

As far as values, the budget states Novi's 2013 Taxable Value is 83 percent of its high in 2008, which was \$3.58 billion. For the 2012 tax year, the last year which comparison data was available, Novi is faring relatively well in the recovery. It's second in Oakland County to Royal Oak in returning value level, and has a slightly higher percentage than Troy, Farmington Hills, Southfield and Rochester Hills.

This is just an introduction to the budget. As the city council moves forward, the Novi News will continue to report on the budget and its specifics.

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Memorial dinner to honor victims and benefit park

By Lisa Roose-Church
Gannett News Service

Former Brighton resident Chris Woodard died of sense of the 2011 murders of his older sister and her two young sons.

As the Ann Arbor man grieved, he found his way to First Step, a Wayne County organization that provides services and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence. There he found an organization that could help others in situations similar to his sister, Jennifer Woodard Schons, a 1990 Brighton High School graduate who was found fatally stabbed at her Novi home in January 2011.

Her sons, 4-year-old Camden Schons and 6-year-old Tynan Schons, were suffocated and police say it was the Schons' family patriarch who killed them before taking his own life.

"As Jen battled through the adversity of a pending divorce, she made every effort to shelter Ty and Cam from the situation," Woodard said. "She wanted them to continue to do what they did best: Run, laugh and smile ear to ear."

"I got involved in First Step to do something positive in their memory ... and it certainly has helped me help me heal along the way," he added. "The days we help at First Step bring me closer to Ty, Cam and Jen, which is something that certainly helps me as time brings us further apart."

Woodard and his family

are hosting the Woodard Family Memorial Dinner in honor of Jennifer Schons, 38, and her two young sons. Proceeds will help fund the infrastructure to a playground and park project for families served by First Step.

"I'm hoping this playground will help other mothers facing adversity by providing a safe place to go to and let their kids do what they do best: Run, laugh and smile ear to ear," Woodard said. "I've watched the project blossom from a playground into what I call a peaceful park. It will provide a secure and much needed get-away for families at the shelter, allow them to get fresh air and let the children simply be children."

The dinner is 6 p.m. April 13 at Lakelands Golf & Country Club at 8760 Chilson Road in Brighton. Cost is \$50 per person or \$100 per person for patron sponsors, who will receive special seating and recognition.

Reservations are needed because there is limited seating. To make a reservation, call First Step at (734) 722-1772 or questions to christwoodard@yahoo.com.

A saxophone player will be on hand during the cocktail hour and silent auction, which includes tickets to a Michigan State University football game and Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum. There also will be "beautiful baskets" raffles, according to a flyer on the event.

Theresa Bizoe of First Step said the playground equipment to be installed was removed from the

Henry Ford Community College School of Nursing and it belonged to the Oakwood Healthcare System. First Step learned about its availability through the healthcare system's foundation.

The playground area also will feature seating areas, healing gardens, a pavilion and half-court basketball. Organizers also hope to include a fitness path for walking, biking and "ride on" toys, Bizoe said.

Woodard described his sister as someone who was "protective" of him and his twin. He said his sister, who worked as an industrial engineer for General Motors Corp., enjoyed spending time with her family.

"She liked bringing everyone together and spending time together," he said, allowing the tears to fall.

Camden Schons was a pre-schooler and Tynan Schons was in first grade at Thornton Creek Elementary School in Novi when they were killed.

The older son loved to build things with scrap pieces and Legos while the younger son was happy-go-lucky, their paternal grandparents said.

ing, "Thank you" with a smile from ear to ear on his face."

Police said Jennifer Schons and her sons were found dead Jan. 14, 2011, in their beds in the family's home in Novi, about 30 miles west of Detroit.

Authorities believed 39-year-old Mark Schons, who owned a now-defunct Howell-area party-supply store, Party Central, killed his family before inhaling the fumes from a charcoal grill inside his leased GMC Acadia, which was parked in the Walmart parking lot at Interstate 96 and Milford Road in Lyon Township. His

cause of death was listed as carbon monoxide poisoning.

Police say they also found a knife they believed was used to kill

Jennifer Schons inside the SUV.

Lisa Roose-Church (517) 552-2846
lchurch@gannett.com
@LisaRooseChurch on Twitter



Tynan Schons and Camden Schons, whom police say were killed by their father in January 2011, will be remembered at a dinner April 13 to raise funds for a domestic violence prevention group.

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Made in America Roadshow coming to Novi's Showplace

Rick and Lisa Detkowskis are not only fulfilling their own American dream but are trying to help others to showcase their own.

The Detkowskis are lifelong self-made entrepreneurs who wanted to help make America strong, so they created the Made in America Roadshows, a highland-based company that will launch its first show in the spring.

While supporting their other two businesses — Rick's Huron Valley Rustics and Lisa's Plum Dear Tea Co. — the Highland couple frequent trade shows around the country. "As we traveled the country exhibiting our businesses at trade shows, we noticed a large amount of the products displayed are imported," said Lisa Detkowski. "We found it very hard to find true American-made companies in any trade. So we decided to start Made in America Roadshows to change that."

Detkowski said the Made in America Roadshows is designed to create a sense of patriotism, pride and awareness so that the consumer can have the opportunity to buy American on future purchases and, which ultimately can help bolster America's current and future economic climate. More jobs will be created as a result since 65 percent of new jobs are created by small business, Detkowski said.

This show will be made up of five categories that will include: ROUTE 66

DETAILS

* The show is slated for Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14, at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. Hours are 4-8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

* Tickets for adults are \$10, senior citizens 65 and older will be admitted for \$8 and children 12 and younger are free. Veterans and active military personnel will be admitted to the Made in America Roadshows for free with a valid I.D.

* Vendor spaces for the spring Made in America Roadshows are still available. Vendors space starts at \$450, which includes a 10-foot by 10-foot booth space for all three days.

* The Made in America Roadshows can be reached by calling (248) 714-6281 or visit www.miaroadshows.com. Its office is located at 2330 South Milford Road, Suite 102, in Highland.

with vintage memorabilia and automotive; AMERICAN GOURMET with food, wine and specialties; THE WIDE OPEN RANGE with outdoor and western; AMERICANA with folk art, furniture and wares; and RODEO DRIVE with fine arts, clothing and crafts. Plans also call for a business services section to allow companies to exhibit in the areas of fitness, chi-



Lisa and Rick Detkowski are excited for the spring Made in America Roadshow, coming next month to the Suburban Showcase in Novi.

ropoactic, holistic wellness, landscaping, insurance and others.

Special guest at the April Made in America Roadshows is Cari Cucksey from the HGTV's television show, *Cash & Cari*. You're invited to shop her booth as she features American-inspired vintage products and her amazing repurposed items.

Veterans and active military personnel will

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

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

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

Writing a Business Plan

April 17, 6-9 p.m.
Designed for individuals who want to increase their chances for successful self-employment, the course covers business planning in detail. Specifics of marketing and finance, legal and regulatory issues, operations, and information based planning and management are key components of the workshop. The first steps for creating a business plan draft will be included along with a demonstration of the MI-SB'DDC online business plan tool.

Fee: \$40 per person
Legal, Financial Basics for Small Business
April 23, 9 a.m. to noon
This workshop provides new and existing Michigan entrepreneurs an understanding of the "key" legal

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

May 1: Business Research - Feasibility to Expansion
May 8: Writing a Business Plan
May 8: CEED Microloan Orientation
May 10: Venture Forward

May 14: Advanced Legal Series: Protecting Your Intellectual Property
May 22: Women's Business Enterprise Certification Orientation
May 30: Team SBA Financing Roundtable
June 5: Marketing Your Business

June 6: Business Research - Feasibility to Expansion
June 6: QuickBooks Essentials (Parts 1 and 2)
June 12: CEED Microloan Orientation
June 12: Facebook for Business (Beginner)
June 13: Starting a Business
June 19: Facebook for Business (Intermediate)
June 20: Writing a Business Plan
June 26: Facebook for Business (Advanced)

and financial considerations when starting and operating a business in Michigan. The program addresses "how to" select the best legal entity for your business, "how to" protect your business interests when dealing with customers, suppliers or independent contractors and important information and guidelines for establishing short and long term succession plans for your business. Fee: This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

Tips for small businesses about using social media

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

Volunteers, marketing managers and small-business owners are always asking me how to find important data about their Facebook fans or simply how to use social networks to drive sales. With so many social networks and large volumes of data, uncovering insights about your company or organization's fans may seem daunting, but it is actually easier than you think.

1. Find Where Your Targets Are — With more than a billion users, it is safe to assume your key demographic is on Facebook. The problem is, your key demographics may not use Facebook to get information about what you're selling. This is especially true if you are, say, a business-to-business wholesaler of widgets to regional retailers. Find where your target is whether on major networks like Twitter or niche message boards and blogs and work from there.

2. Don't Focus on Fan Counts — The most common mistake brands small and large make is putting too much importance on fans and followers. Large communities are great, but if those fans aren't engaging with your brand, they aren't helping your bottom line. Make it a priority to increase interaction among a core group of followers. It will build loyalty for your brand or product and prove more important, even if your competitor has a few more likes.

3. Start Small With Metrics — We are in an age of big data and social media data is something even professionals can get lost in. When looking at YouTube insights, Facebook insights or measuring conversation volumes, pick a few key numbers to look at. My favorites are impressions, reach and engagement metrics such as comments, video views, or replies. After understanding these key metrics, expand using common sense. Do you need to understand day-to-day increases in video views? Probably

not. But it might make sense to look at month-to-month increases in Facebook likes, or the best time to post content.

4. Have A Plan — This might be the most important tip for any small business or non-profit on the social web. If you don't have a set posting schedule or time to engage with your key demographics on message boards or blogs just stop. With social media you are either in or out — there is no halfway. A Twitter account or Facebook page with no new content is like a website with outdated contact information.

5. Use Resources Wisely — There's a reason big companies don't have marketing managers and CEOs running their social presence: Social is time-consuming. Small companies may not have the luxury of dedicated social staff — and if that's the case, do your research on Google. Instead of spending a day's time to find the best time to post for your brand, look for research or white papers on Facebook's peak activity time, or key information on your industry.

6. Don't Overwhelm Fans — When considering what and when to post content remember not to overload fans with information they don't need. If you post too much, fans will hide your content making your fan count even less important. Additionally, you can look into Facebook's post level data (by clicking and exporting insights) to see if any specific content has driven fans to unlike or unsubscribe for your page.

7. Have Fun — Social media is a two-way street. Followers and potential followers want to have fun, not listen to constant sales pitches. Try applying the 80-20 rule when posting content. Eighty percent should be topical, conversational, helpful and of added value. The other 20 percent can be what I refer to as "shameless self promotion."

While these tips won't make your brand the next Red Bull or Taco Bell, they will make your social presence more effective and efficient.

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



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Trade Secrets

In a sea of over 300 women, a few good men stood out to support the JVS Women-to-Work program at the 5th Annual Trade Secrets fundraiser at the Townsend Hotel, including Novi resident Steve Christensen who came with his wife, Lisa.



Work it Out

Daniala Karmanos' Work it Out (DKWO), a partner of DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan, held its Fourth Annual Evening Out for Work It Out at Goodnite Gracie and D'Amato's in downtown Royal Oak. Owners Lisa and Paul Jackman once again hosted the event pro bono at their restaurant and jazz and martini bar. Money raised goes towards DKWO's mission of teaching elementary-aged children, year-round, nutrition and self-esteem-building through its yoga-based 10-week program. Shown are attendees Gilda Hauser and Steve St. James of the Novi Department of Public Services.

PHOTOS BY JULIE VOLLES



Women-to-Work

JVS Board Secretary Beth Gotthelf (left) of Birmingham and Novi resident Laurie Kuhlman, singer with the band Random Family, helped raise more than \$120,000 for the JVS Women-to-Work benefit.

Dog Scout troop donates canine masks

Julie Benson heard the statistics: Every year approximately 4,000 humans die in house fires and 40,000 family pets are killed, the leading cause of death from fire being asphyxiation.

When Benson, the leader to a local Dog Scout troop, heard this, she knew she wanted to do something with her troop members to take action and help save as many animals as possible.

So, with the help of troop 217 members Melissa Perez of Wayne, Michelle Neu of Taylor and Vickie Lomas of Walled Lake, Benson helped collect more than \$500 in return-able cans and bottles in

order to purchase six full canine oxygen mask kits.

"Pets are members of our families, they aren't just pets to the people of my Dog Scouts of America troop," said Benson, a Novi resident who leads Troop 217. "What better way to serve the community than to help pets, throughout the metro Detroit area, that may not have a chance of surviving without the aid of these masks?"

The kits (which contain a large, medium, and small mask) will be distributed to Huron Valley Ambulance, who in turn will issue to EMS and local fire houses in Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties.

Benson and fellow troop members presented the canine oxygen mask kits to Eric Fields April 6 at HVA's Plymouth station. Dog Scouts of America is a non-profit organization that promotes positive reinforcement

training and responsible pet ownership. For more information on Dog Scouts of America visit www.dogscouts.org. Any-one interested in joining the local troop can contact Benson at bensonjulie@earthlink.net.

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RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY (RRRASCOC)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, a public authority and body corporate, shall hold a public hearing on its proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013 on Thursday, April 25th, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the office of the Authority, 20000 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, 48075. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the Authority.

This notice is given on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Authority pursuant to the provisions of Act 43, Public Acts of Michigan, 1965 (Second Extra Session).

MICHAEL J. CSAPO
General Manager

Published April 7, 2013

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OUR VIEWS



Prime project

Adell's vision for former expo center will enhance Novi

"It's better when you've listened to what the city and community want."
That may have been the most important and revealing statement Kevin Adell made last Wednesday when he announced plans for his property known locally as the former Novi Expo Center.

Go back six years, when Adell was battling with the City of Novi to open the Novi Trade Center, similar to the Gibraltar Trade Center on the state's east side.
He was also up against a \$5 million lawsuit by Blair Bowman, who managed the Expo Center from 1992-2005 before building the \$18 million Rock Financial Showplace (now the Suburban Collection Showplace). Bowman claimed Adell's flea market plans violated a non-compete agreement between the two. Bowman also alleged acts of interference and harassment that forced him to give up his rights to the Expo Center.

There was even brief talk of turning the property — which was at one time also home of the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the Motorsports Hall of Fame — into an auto mall, but that was barely a hiccup.

The city flat out said its ordinances did not allow a flea market there, and Adell gave up the pursuit, saying he realized "it was a lost fight." So, the property sat empty until demolition began last summer and was completed earlier this year.

In 2008, the city paid off Adell Brothers Children's Trust, completing a land deal to eventually construct a ring road extending Fonda Drive from Novi Road to Grand River Avenue. But for the most part, from 2005 until last week, most folks looked at that prime chunk of real estate on the southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road with endless possibilities in mind.

The 300,000-square-foot structure was built as an auto parts factory in 1966 by Adell's father and manufactured door guards. It was a former warehouse for Mohawk liquor when Bowman took it over. Flash forward. Adell and developer Peter Burton are now investing \$100,000 into the 25-acre in a project to be named Adell Towers with a pair of eight-story structures for mixed-used: hotel, medical, retail or restaurants.

Adell fortunately realizes just how significant his property is in this region, especially with its freeway access, visibility and surrounding businesses.

For a city that rarely does out tax abatements, don't be surprised if Adell's project is on the fast track for approval.

Adell is finally ready to continue the vision his family originally had more than 50 years ago, and that's going to be a good thing for the City of Novi.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Individual 2012 tax returns are due April 15. Are yours done yet?



"I did about two or three weeks ago, so I'm now waiting on my return."
Keith Sampieri
Novi



"I've done them, but haven't filed yet. I will by deadline though."
Steve Mims
Novi



"The 1st of March and I've received my return already."
Joe Rudy
Novi



"I haven't just yet, but I expect to do them this weekend."
Evan Blanchard
Novi

LETTERS

School bus system needs work

The temperature in Novi is declining every day now as we head into the season of winter, and students from the Novi Community Schools district have to walk just as long in the cold as they did when it was warm. The problems with bus-ing in the district have reached an all-time high, overcrowding, and route problems cause a significant inconvenience for the students who rely on a bus to get to and from school.

Year after year, the district has been suffering from budget cuts and financial problems. Often, to help balance the budget, the transportation program must be cut, but the changes made for this school year have really changed the game. Prior to the 2012-13 school year, buses have been carrying more and more students each year, but now they have become extremely cramped. Many students complain about having to sit three to a seat every day. Although three elementary school students can fit comfortably in one seat, that is not the case for those who go to high school. Diseases can pass quickly, and it's often a safety risk if the third student doesn't fit fully behind the seat in front of them.

Not only has overcrowding reached an all-time high, the routes have been cut in order to get students home on time. Buses now drop students off at one entrance to their subdivision. On my bus, some students have to walk over half a mile to reach home. This might not seem like such a problem when the weather is pleasant, but when the wind blows and the snow falls, walking this distance can be troublesome for students who simply want to get home without being exposed to the elements. This walk even causes some students to stop riding the bus all together. One student who I talked to had ACL surgery and can no longer walk home from the bus ride and now require getting a ride from a friend to get home.

Conditions like this are quite frankly unacceptable for a district of Novi's caliber and can be solved with some quick changes of bus schedules and routes for next year.

Stefan Santrach
Novi High School student

Bentivolio not walking the walk

In your recent article, "Bentivolio: Government spending out of control," you neglected one key fact: like most politicians, Congressman Kerry Bentivolio talks the talk but doesn't walk the walk.

Early in 2012, I joined Kerry Bentivolio's campaign as a volunteer and eventually became his volunteer coordinator for Livonia. I put in countless hours of legwork for him, gathering petition signatures to put him on the ballot, knocking on strangers' doors and calling likely voters encouraging them to go out and vote for Bentivolio.

Normally I am not enthusiastic about politicians — but Bentivolio

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats:
Web: www.hometownlife.com
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Fax: (248) 437-3386
E-mail: cstone@hometownlife.com
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.
Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.
Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

Fight school bills

Our schools are in danger? The government wants to take money away from regular schools and give that money to schools that can select students on anything but religion. Didn't we ban that years ago? And taking over schools that are doing the best, well, that's just wrong. As the article says, a million voices need to be heard for this to be rejected. I know I don't want those three bills passed.

There are three current bills that are trying to do those things that I mentioned. They are HB6004, SB1358 and HB5923. The main bill, HB5923, is the one that will allow charter schools to be special designation schools. That means they can select people based on ethnicity, or grades or gender. This is not a step forward; it's a step backwards. We made all schools accessible for everyone, so why go back to split up schools?

Also, these bills will allow the Legislature to take over school districts, even ones that are doing perfectly fine. One such district has special education, ESL, and other such programs. Those will and if these bills pass, leaving those students to struggle in normal classes. These bills will effectively break our schools.

As the article says, if we can just join together in chorus of "This is wrong," we can keep these bills from passing. I'm going to be part of the "Million Voices," because I think that the system is fine the way it is. Join me, to save our schools.

Zach Woolston
Novi High School student

Kids need to exercise

The lack of exercise in children is resulting in the rise of overweight and obese kids in America today. One in three kids in the United States are considered overweight. They are spending too much time indoors and playing video games instead of the physical activity that they need. Kids need to have at least 60 minutes of vigorous, playful activity each day.

Kids in elementary school should be required to have gym class every day along with their outdoor recess. By encouraging physical activities at younger ages, this will help improve the chances of these kids to maintain a healthier lifestyle in the future. Whether it is running, playing sports, or dancing, kids who exercise regularly will help keep them in shape and help lower the risks of diseases.

We need to help promote kids to exercise and stop this epidemic in America today. Instead of telling them to play video games, tell them to get some friends and play a sport. If we don't motivate kids to start exercising, they may have bigger health problems to worry about in the future.

Morgan Statetzny
Novi High student

Alex Witoslawski
Wayne 11th District coordinator
Michigan Campaign for Liberty

Carl Levin updates Fox Run residents

Visit sponsored by the community's Political Awareness Committee

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin made a special visit to Fox Run in Novi on April 3 to give residents an update from Washington D.C. as well as answering their questions about some of today's most pressing issues, including the budget, gun control and health care.

The Democrat's visit was organized by the senior community's Political Awareness Committee, and was held at the Belmont Clubhouse with around 200 residents attending. Committee chair Doreen Poupard introduced Levin by giving some background on his long career as a Michigan politician, which will come to an end in 2014 when he retires his seat.

"These visits are a good way for us to stay informed. We've had Debbie Stabenow and Pete Hoekstra here previously," Poupard said. "We want to be as fair and unbiased as we can, so we want to get views from both sides."

She said she thought Levin was really honest with them, and that's what they want.

"We are very political here and involved, so we want to hear the facts," she said.

Levin stressed bipartisanship during his talk, but also highlighted the differences between the Democrats and Republicans. He said the budget was a prime example

NEXT

The next event like this at Fox Run — Meet our Michigan Legislators — will feature State Sen. Mike Kowall and State Rep. Hugh Crawford making a visit on April 25.



Michigan Sen. Carl Levin addresses a gathering of Fox Run residents April 3.

and pointed to the recent approvals of two different budget plans by the House of Representatives and Senate.

"The good news is that after about three years, the United States Senate has adopted a budget," he said.

But he added, "The bad news is that the House of Representatives has also adopted a budget."

He said they both agree that reductions are needed, but because the Senate is controlled by the Democrats with a Republican-controlled House, the plans are different.

Republicans are looking to cut spending on domestic programs, except for Social Security, while on the other hand his party, or the Senate, is looking to plug loopholes that exist in the tax code by seeking to eliminate rules that allow corporations to

place money in overseas accounts in an effort to not pay the taxes on it. He emphasized that this plan is not about raising taxes, but rather it's "about collecting taxes that should have been paid."

Health care, gun control

During the question-and-answer session, Levin took a variety of inquiries from residents.

Resident Les Ostrand asked Levin about the health care bill and whether or not it should have been voted on considering many politicians did not read it.

Levin assured him that they did know what was in the bill prior to the vote, but said because these documents are so long, it takes a team to do the analysis on them.

In regard to health care and its costs, Levin pointed out Medicare's important value and its future as being crucial.

"We have to find a way

to put Medicare on solid standing. We have to try to rein in costs," he said. Claire Glasser asked him about gun control and where it's headed. He said there were some areas being looked at: background checks, magazine clip size and semi-automatic weapons along with a look at school security.

He said further regulation on background checks will probably move forward. However, he believes there might not be enough votes to move the large clip or assault weapon bans forward. As far as school security, he said plans like the National Rifle Association's recent idea to have armed guards or teachers might not be financially feasible, or desired by many schools.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michigan Senator Carl Levin gets a friendly pat on the shoulder by Fox Run resident Mary Sorah during his April 3 visit to the Novi community. Sorah was asking Levin to help her with some benefit issues she was having to deal with. The senator also addressed the residence of Fox Run that day.

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NOVI NEWS

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Adult day care program a 'godsend,' families say

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Five days a week, Mario Merucci drops his 91-year-old mother, Benedetta (Betty), off at the Adult Day Ministry program at Fireside Church of God in Livonia, where she plays games, dances, listens to music and does chair exercises with others suffering from dementia.

"I had her at home (during the day)," the Livonia resident explained. "All she would do is sit and watch TV all day long. We came here and tried it out. She loved it from the first (day)."

Betty Merucci is one of 32 "members" of the adult day care program, or "social club" as the members like to call it, operated as an outreach ministry by the non-

denominational church. Last week, the program received a first-time grant of \$1,000 from the Livonia Community Foundation to expand its handicap-accessible ballroom facilities.

The program, which started in 2009, is "the best-kept secret around," according to Katharine McEvoy, a retired special education teacher from Northville Public Schools. She said she was having a hard time finding a day program for her foster daughter, Felicia Stegall, 43, who aged out of the public school system for special education students at 16.

She tried having a caregiver come to her home. "It was flat — no stimulation really," McEvoy said.

A caseworker noticed the sign saying "Adult Day Ministry" at the church,

located on the corner of Newburgh and Plymouth roads. The sign still has the church's former name, Riverside Park Church of God.

Stegall isn't the typical club member, but McEvoy had her try it anyway, since, cognitively, she is on the same level as many of the members with dementia.

McEvoy now calls the program a "god-send." "She has her own little 'peeps' (people) here. There's such a gentleness to this place. Everyone is so warm."

McEvoy said the cost is "worth every penny."

Donna Buchanan of Livonia has a similar story. Her "significant other," Joe Buchanan, 65, got confused and agitated when their grandchildren, ages 3 and 6, were over. Since Donna baby-sits the grandchildren,



Staff and clients swing out when it's time to dance. In foreground, staffer Gina Schwemle and member Henry Zylk.

she needed a place where Joe would be safe, stay active and be stimulated, but not get agitated. "This is the place," she said.

"He loves it. He dances. He plays games. He tells me the ladies like him."

Senior Pastor Debra Klein said the church started the ministry after HelpSource, a private not-for-profit agency based in Ann Arbor that also offered adult day care, folded. HelpSource had rented a room from the church for its program.

Klein said the church board had been looking for a vital ministry with which to impact the community. "The church board decided that they wanted to offer something, in addition to our regular church services, where we can express the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to people in our community," she said.

"By creating a ministry that reaches out in such a vital way, we have been able to impact over 300 families."

The church board was also able to save the jobs of most of the HelpSource employees by hiring them. Currently, the program has three full-time and

FIRESIDE ADULT DAY MINISTRY

What: Adult day care program for people with dementia
Where: Fireside Church of God, formerly Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road, Livonia
When: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Cost: \$6 to \$9 an hour, depending on the number of hours the service is used each week. Insurance is not accepted, as it is a church ministry. Lunch may be purchased for \$4 or brought from home.
How: The program offers daily dementia programming in the areas of cognitive, physical, therapeutic and social activities; respite time for caregivers; dementia awareness and support groups for caregivers and spiritual support when needed. Transportation can be arranged with the city of Livonia or Plymouth senior transport.

For more information: (734) 855-4056

three part-time staffers, both men and women, all experienced, trained or in training in the specialty of caring for people with dementia. Klein said.

All are CPR and AED-certified. The staff to member ratio varies from 1-3 to 1-5.

Susan Nielejewski, the program's dementia care consultant, said inactivity can hasten a person's decline from dementia whereas productive

activities can maintain or enhance a person's abilities and counter the effects of dementia.

For confused and memory-impaired people, productive activity also provides a vibrant sense of belonging and builds their self-esteem, Klein said.

Members must meet certain criteria, including not being prone to wandering or exhibiting disruptive or abusive behaviors under normal circumstances.

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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

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

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia
Contact: (248) 442-8822
Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30

Priests: Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and Rev. Michael Zuelch, associate pastor

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH

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

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

Worship with Easter Cantata

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 24

Maudy Thursday Service

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28

New Visitor Luncheon following service

Date: Sunday, April 21

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
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Sunday School

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays

Men's Bible Study

Time/Date: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH

Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptistchurchof-novi.org

Family Bible Hour

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Family 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

Time/Date: 10 a.m.

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 885-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Novi-Ville/Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

Family Bible Hour

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Family 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

Time/Date: 10 a.m.

Sign of spring



Leo Okonkowski is all smiles as he totes around a tray full of milk during the April 5 Novi Senior Center Tigers' Opening Day celebration. The festivities included a hotdog and baked beans lunch, trivia contests, lots of Tigers' decor and musician Joel Palmer who strummed a few baseball classics on guitar.

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- Stand up to Neck & Back Pain HealthQuest
- Getting More Returns on Your Investments Without Taking Risks Bloom Asset Management
- Strength Training for Seniors American Health and Fitness Schoolcraft College
- Hearing Loss & Associated Issues Michigan Hearing
- Is Grief Really Good Charlie Brown? Angela Hospice
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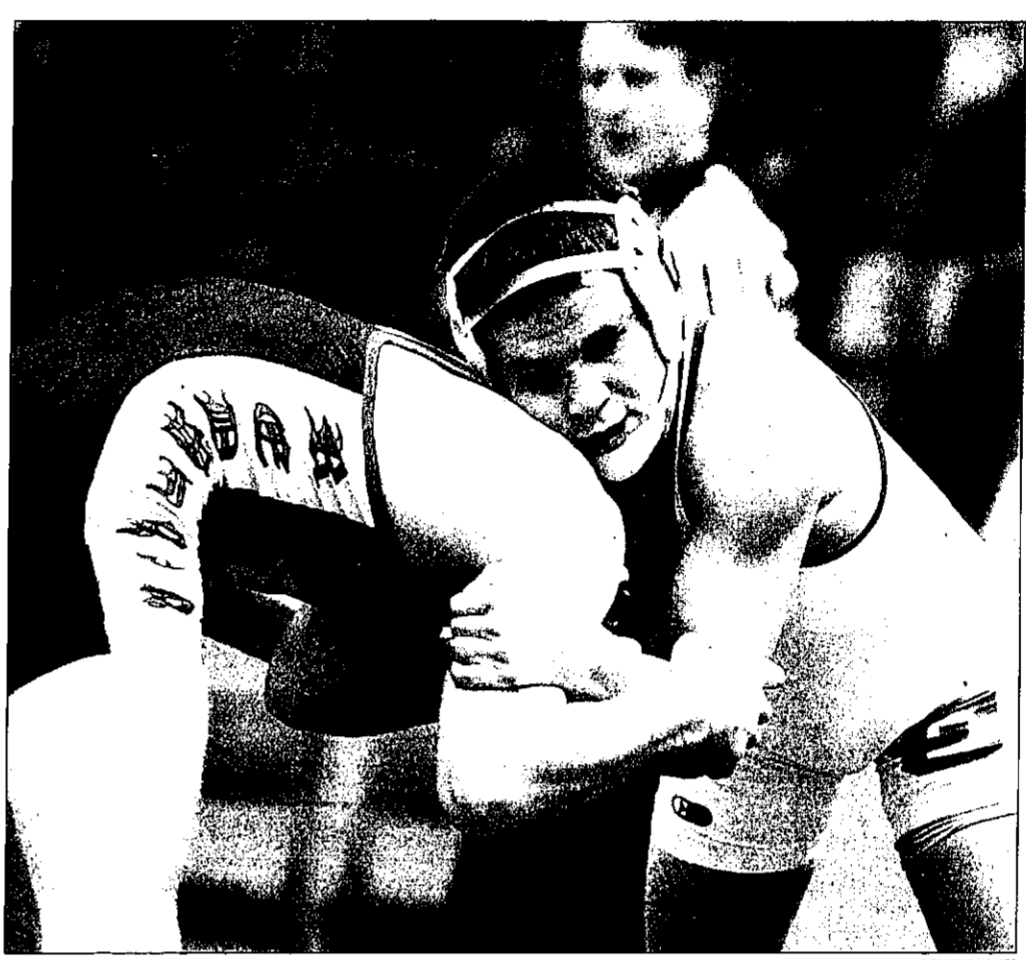
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SPORTS



Catholic Central's Ken Bade helped the Shamrocks to a second consecutive Team Title while also winning his third individual State Championship. He is the 2013 All-Area Wrestler of the Year.

CC's Bade wins third state title, top honors

By Jeff Theisen Sports Writer

Winning one state title in any sport is impressive. Winning three puts a person in some very elite company. Catholic Central's Ken Bade accomplished that goal this year with his third individual State Championship, this one coming at 135 pounds and finishing off a 40-5 season.

Bade also helped the Shamrocks win a second consecutive Team Championship as well.

"Ken Bade is the most aggressive, forward-paced, offensive wrestler CC has seen in decades," said coach Mitch Hancock. "He joins elite history as only two wrestlers before him have won three titles at CC. "Ken will go on to do great things as a student and wres-

ters at the University of Pennsylvania."

Bade finished the season ranked No. 12 in the country by www.intermatwrestle.com.

First team
Drew Garcia, CC

On any other season, Garcia would be a shoe-in for the Wrestler of the Year. The junior finished a perfect 52-0 at 171 pounds on his way to a second individual State Title.

"Drew Garcia accomplished something this year that I didn't think could be done, he went undefeated," said Hancock. "In creating our schedule, I always try to schedule a loss for each member of our team to make them stronger, better and to expose weaknesses. Drew's ability to impose his will and break down opponents is remarkable. His GPA and abilities make him one of the top college prospects in the country."

Bob Coe, CC
Heavyweight was the starting weight at this year's finals, so Coe was the first Shamrock to nail down a championship this year. The senior finished the year 45-4.

"Bob Coe is one of the smartest wrestlers I've had the pleasure of coaching," said Hancock. "His ability to analyze match situations is incredible. He will go on to Boston U. to wrestle for Coach Carl Adams and the Terriers. He plans on pursuing a degree in medicine."

Malik Amine, CC
Amine was yet another outstanding wrestler for the Shamrocks. Besides being a huge part of the Team Championship, Amine also collected an individual State Championship at 140 pounds. The junior finished the season 40-6.

"Malik has a will not to lose that is unmatched by any other wrestler I've had the pleasure of coaching," said Hancock. "His unorthodox style makes him dangerous and very exciting to watch."

Logan Marcicki, CC
The Shamrock junior reached the finals at 160 before finishing runner-up. Marcicki ran up a 35-6 record on the year.

"Marcicki's determination and drive is the main reason why he's so successful," said Hancock. "He is fine young man who is highly respected and looked upon by his teachers, peers and coaches."

Nick Giese, CC
Another strong big man for the Shamrocks, Giese amassed a 113-65-16 record with the Wildcats.

"I remember each team I had for all seven years. They were great kids, great years," Krygier said. "Because we accomplished more one year, it doesn't mean it wasn't the greatest year of coaching. We didn't have the best season this year, but it was probably my most enjoyable season."

Wanting to move up to the collegiate coaching ranks, Krygier is no stranger to the higher levels of the game. Having spent nine seasons in the NHL from 1989-98, Krygier was a defender on the Washington Capitals squad that the Detroit Red Wings defeated for the Stanley Cup in 1998. Krygier also played with the Hartford Whalers and Mighty Ducks of Anaheim in the NHL before ending his career with the IHL's Orlando Solar Bears in 2000.

The now-vacant Novi varsity hockey coach position was posted March 26 on www.novi.k12.mi.us and Krygier said he would be helping the Athletics Department with the selection process, which could begin as soon as this week.

Novi hockey coach resigns from position

Krygier has hopes of coaching at collegiate level

By Chris Jackett Correspondent

After seven years at the helm and helping the ice hockey program to its first-ever state title back in 2011, Novi head coach Todd Krygier is stepping down.

Krygier said he would be taking over Compuware Arena's midget major program, which include under-18 and under-16 teams, while also keeping an eye out for next-level coaching opportunities at the collegiate level.

"I've been coaching my twins since they've been mite," Krygier said. "If I don't make a transition now before I get old, I wouldn't."

A Novi resident and father of five, Krygier's children are as heavily involved in sports as he is. His son, Brock, was a junior defender on the 2011 state title team and is now a red-shirted freshman on Michigan State University's squad. His oldest daughter, Natalie, is a star senior on Novi's girls soccer team. And then Grace, Cole and Christian are all paced to become future Wildcat student-athletes.

Between watching his children compete and expanding on his own coaching endeavors, Krygier said it was a tough decision to step back from the Novi ice hockey program.

"It was a hard decision for me because I still enjoy coaching high school," Krygier said. "I just had a great seven years and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I live in Novi and I'll always support Novi hockey."

Over the past seven years, Krygier amassed a 113-65-16 record with the Wildcats.

"I remember each team I had for all seven years. They were great kids, great years," Krygier said. "Because we accomplished more one year, it doesn't mean it wasn't the greatest year of coaching. We didn't have the best season this year, but it was probably my most enjoyable season."

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Northville girls lacrosse still on a tear

Wet conditions don't slow down Mustangs as they topple Salem

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

Someone should just start calling Erin Vogel the mailman. Seriously, it doesn't matter if it's sunny, if it's windy or if it's rainy and wet, she seems to be determined to deliver this season.

Vogel put up three goals to lead the Mustangs to victory over Salem Monday night, 7-5. She tallied the first two goals of the game, the first one opening up the scoring at the 22:43 mark in the first half. Of course, that goal was the most interesting of the entire game as Vogel made her way behind the Salem net and fired a pass to a teammate, who was in the crease. A Salem defender stepped in front of the pass, deflected it and ricocheted past the Salem goalie and into the net for the score and the 1-0 lead.

Salem answered, scoring a goal of their own just one minute later to knot the game, but Vogel took an assist from Erica MacDonald, who ended the day with four total points, and put Northville up 2-1 about two minutes later.

Northville scored again at 16:04, this time with MacDonald finding the back of the net on a hard shot and getting an assist from the scrappy Rylee Donovan. MacDonald scored again to make it a 4-1 game when she took a pass from Alex Sheremeta — in her first starting role of the season — and fired home a shot past the Rocks' netminder.

Salem tallied two more goals to end the first half, scoring at 6:55 and again with 1:17 left in the stanza, to cut the Northville lead to 4-3.

Despite Salem's refusal to go away quietly, the Mustangs continued their offensive pressure, led by senior captains McDonald and Donovan and supported in the midfield by senior captain Tenley Mustonen. Northville tallied their fifth goal of the night off the stick of Vogel.

Please see LACROSSE, B4



Novi hockey head coach Todd Krygier (right) hugs then-junior son Brock Krygier on March 12, 2011, after the Wildcats won the Division 1 state title. Todd Krygier stepped down from his position last month to pursue collegiate coaching options.

Novi sluggers sweep pair on Opening Day

Wildcats shut out Grosse Pointe North

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Spring break didn't provide any rust for Novi's sluggers as they enjoyed a clean sweep on their Opening Day.

Taking on both Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard and Grosse Pointe North in back-to-back games April 5, the Wildcats (2-0) were down 7-1 in the first game before outscoring their two opponents by a combined 17-1 for the rest of the day to claim a pair of victories.

"Most of the guys had just gotten back from vacation," Novi coach Rick Green said. "The first impression (was good) to see the way we could come back in the ball game after going down 7-1."

Gabriel Richard started things off with a 7-1 lead midway through the second inning of Novi's first game, but the Wildcats tied six runs in the bottom of the second to tie the game at 7-7 before notching four runs in the fourth en route to an 11-8 victory. Junior Tyler White-

ON TAP

Novi's baseball team (2-0) hosted Walled Lake Western in a doubleheader Monday before heading to Canton yesterday. The 'Cats are back at it 4 p.m. Monday when Livonia Franklin comes to town before heading to Northville 4 p.m. Wednesday for a doubleheader.

head got the victory on the mound with three and one-third innings of action, allowing three runs (one earned), two hits, two walks and notching three strikeouts. Senior Luke Bagaris closed the game out with two innings pitched, allowing one run (zero earned), two hits, one walk and one strikeout.

The Wildcats' offense was on full display, led by multi-hit days from juniors Bryan Klosterman (3-for-5, two runs, two RBIs) and Keaton Figriski (2-for-3, one run, three RBIs)

and senior Mitchell Hall (2-for-4, three runs, two RBIs).

Adding to the offensive flurry with one hit apiece were seniors Kyle Matel (four runs), Grant Wheeler (two runs), Nick Shelar (one run, two RBIs) and Blake Brown (two runs).

Novi's baseball team kept things together in the second game, shutting out Grosse Pointe North 7-0. Senior Mario Ferrini picked up the victory on the mound, allowing zero runs in six innings of action. He allowed two hits, zero walks, hit one batter and had four strikeouts before Hall came in for the final inning, where he walked the first batter before striking out the next three to end the game.

Sophomore Michael Mitchell went 2-for-3 with one run, while four other Wildcats tallied one hit apiece. Senior Ryan Caputo (three runs, one RBI), Ferrini (one RBI), Wheeler (two RBIs) and junior Jared Casaccia piled on that offense.



PHOTOS BY TOM BOHLAND

Big Cats

Congratulations to Coach Kevin Hankerson's seventh (top) and Coach Dan Welch's eighth (bottom) Novi Cats basketball teams for winning their divisions in the 2013 Big Cat 'Rumble in the Jungle' season-ending tournament. To learn more about the Big Cat, visit <http://bigcatbasketball.com/article.php?id=164>.



NOVI ROUNDUP

McMahan chooses next stop in athletic career

Novi girls basketball coach Bill Kelp said on April 3 that Novi junior Kerri McMahan has verbally committed to continue her basketball career at the collegiate level in fall 2014 with the University of Akron in Ohio — best known to some as NBA all-star LeBron James' hometown. McMahan has been the Wildcats' starting point guard since she was a freshman and has regularly reeled in All-State and All-Area honors over the past three seasons, all which the Wildcats won the KLAAC Central Division title.

Shelar sets WVU pole vault record

Novi alum Katlyn Shelar was recently named Varsity Sports Report Athlete of the Week Monday at West Virginia University after setting a new school record for WVU pole-vaulters by jumping 4.08 meters (13.3 feet) Saturday at the Ohio Team Challenge and Sunset Classic in Athens, Ohio. The mark was a personal best for the Mountaineer junior, who broke a 2002 record of 4.00 meters by Erin Nett.

—By Chris Jackett

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.

Crafters sought

The Novi Athletic Boosters Holiday Kickoff Art & Craft Show will be held at Novi High School on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a juried show, more than 250 booths are available at \$60 each, as NBA all-star LeBron James' hometown. McMahan has been the Wildcats' starting point guard since she was a freshman and has regularly reeled in All-State and All-Area honors over the past three seasons, all which the Wildcats won the KLAAC Central Division title.

Shamrocks net two triumphs

Lacrosse team upends Brighton, DeLaSalle

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

As the season was preparing to start for the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks lacrosse team will be back in action when they visit St. Michaels College tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. before visiting Upper Canada College at 3 p.m. Saturday. The team will then play Wednesday at Brother Rice at 6 p.m.

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks lacrosse team will be back in action when they visit St. Michaels College tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. before visiting Upper Canada College at 3 p.m. Saturday. The team will then play Wednesday at Brother Rice at 6 p.m.

Even though the team hadn't played a single game yet, Wilson said his squad had multiple players able to score consistently, and a defense capable of keeping tough teams from running away with the game.

The Shamrocks did their best to prove those statements true in the early days of the regular season, cruising past a solid Brighton Bulldogs team, 11-5, before edging a much-improved DeLaSalle squad.

Against Brighton, the Shamrocks simply let their offense take control of the game while the defense kept the Bulldogs

Van Acker, who tallied four goals and an assist to start the year off strong, while Junior Ben Senkowski and senior Antonio Colucci each collected two goals and an assist in the winning effort.

Naubert picked up eight saves in the win. A few days later, the Shamrocks started the Catholic High School League competition with a showdown against DeLaSalle.

"We did not play particularly well or motivated," said Wilson. "DeLaSalle showed up not only motivated, but much improved over last year." Thankfully the Shamrocks were able to hold off their league rivals, earning the 13-11 victory behind the play of senior attackman Alec Gilbrun, who notched an impressive six goals. Van Acker had another strong day as well, picking up three goals and an assist in the victory while Andrew Pointkowski added four goals.

Thunderous



The St. James Thunder Girls JV basketball team completed a perfect 23-0 season by winning the St. Valentine All Metro Tournament on March 16. During the three games of play, the Thunder generated 100 points of offense, while only giving up 53 points to the competition. The girls won games against St. Robert of Redford (31-11), St. Patrick of Brighton (38-21), and Our Lady of Sorrows of Farmington (31-21). Georgia Carlson of St. James was named tournament MVP. In addition to a perfect season, the Thunder were also crowned champs of the OLS Thanksgiving, and the St. Genevieve Christmas tournaments. This strong record is the result of a speedy and effective offense, a stifling defense, and selfless team play. Pictured are (from left, front) Autumn Grant, Hayden Garguilo, Georgia Carlson, Jessica Bandyk; (middle) Julia Stadther, Maggie Clark, Erin Twomey, Anna Biberstein, Olivia Skown; (back) Assistant Coach Tom Clark, Head Coach Dave Skown and Assistant Coach Willy Biberstein.

Hillside Raiders complete perfect season



The Northville Hillside Raiders 7th grade girls basketball team defeated their cross-town rival, Northville Meads Mill, on March 20 at Northville High School. The victory capped Hillside's perfect season with a 10-0 record. The team consists of (bottom row from left) MEGAN GRON, AVA TIPPAN, WIKKI SKINNER, DEBBIE HEINONEN, JESSICA HOGAN, KATIE ROBINSON, Assistant coaches Emily Ekmanroth and Jenna Lauderback; (top row from left) Brianna Carr, Rachel Holmes, Morgan Rogers, Roan Haines, Gasia Okrayan, team manager Amanda Malpede, and Coach Roy Hall.

Shamrocks have good beginning to season

Squad takes two from Utica Ford, splits with Brother Rice

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks baseball team will be back on the diamond when they host DeLaSalle at 2 p.m. Saturday before hosting Detroit Western at 4 p.m. Tuesday. They will then visit Rockford next Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and then they will play at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Thursday at 4 p.m.

When it comes to the start of a season, baseball coaches know that it's a lot less about which teams are more talented and a lot more about which teams are more prepared for the early-season trials.

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks, under the guidance of coach Bill Lis, proved to be plenty prepared as they played four games last weekend and walked away with three victories. The squad swept Utica Ford and split against Catholic High School League rival Brother Rice.

Against Ford, the Shamrocks started the game off on a tear and didn't look back as they picked up an 11-1 victory. Earning a nod in the game was captain Evan Chavis, who cranked

everyone knew it would be a competitive matchup. Wierzag helped his team in the opening game, slapping a three-run homer in the top of the seventh to put his squad ahead, 10-7, for the victory.

"Our second game, we were not so successful," said Lis. "We could not get our offense going." That proved to be the deciding factor, as the Shamrocks' defense held strong but the bats couldn't put any points on the board. The end result was a 3-0 loss to the Warriors.

out a solo home run to add an exclamation point to the opening game victory. In the closing game of the doubleheader, the Shamrocks followed captain Nate Wierzag as he went 2-for-3 at the plate and led his team to a 9-0 shutout.

When the Shamrocks took on Brother Rice in a twinbill showdown,

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Car Report

Acura launches all-new RDX as spearhead of brand revival



By Dale Buss

Honda is trying to address the woes of its Acura brand with a one-two punch: better vehicles, and better advertising. But so far it isn't clear if either is landing with the kind of authority necessary for Acura to close the sales and perception gaps with U.S. luxury-market leaders in those areas such as a resurgent Lexus and a rising Audi.

Acura demonstrated its two-part strategy during March Madness telecasts on CBS with advertisements for the new 2014 RLX sedan, an important, all-new nameplate taking the lead in an all-new advertising campaign created by an all-new agency relationship for the brand.

"We're refreshing the whole brand, and started with entry-level vehicles last year," Gary Robinson, manager of Acura advertising and brand, told me about the 2012 introductions of the TLX sedan and a new version of the RDX crossover.

"This year, it's all about filling in the prestige market, beginning with the RLX. And a couple of months from now, a new MDX [crossover] comes out. With both of them you're talking about price points in the \$40,000s and into the \$50,000s and all of our newest technology."

Also, as it replaces the old RL model, RLX is getting a boost from a new tag line — "Luxury, taken to a whole new level" — that is the first effort by its new agency, Mullen, part of Interpublic Group. The idea is to get American upscale consumers to take notice of Acura like they haven't before and even to get emotional

about a brand that remains sort of mushy to most of them.

At first glance, Acura would seem to be on a roll already. Sales in 2012 were up by nearly 27 percent over 2011, to more than 156,000 vehicles, keeping the Honda-owned marque ahead of both Audi and Infiniti, which it considers the primary competition for Acura.

But the truth is that the huge year-over-year increase mostly reflected an easy comparison with a disastrous 2011, when deep supply woes resulted from the tsunami and earthquake in Japan in March and flooding in Thailand in the fall. For 2013 through February, Acura sales were up only by about 6 percent over a year ago.

And what's more, the condition of the Acura brand might have been even worse. Many Americans consider Toyotas and Hondas, not Infinitis and Audis, to be Acura's true equivalents. At one point last year, about 21 percent of people who considered an Acura also looked at a Toyota, while fewer than 13 percent of people looking at an Audi also considered Acura, according to Edmunds.com data.

"We have these great, luxurious prod-



Acura is counting on the new RLX sedan in the heart of the luxury market.

ucts, but there's a gap between the customer perception of what Acura is, and the luxury that is in our cars," Mike Accavitti, American Honda's CMO, told Advertising Age.

Robinson said that ILX and the new RDX were meant to be just a start to refreshing the Acura brand and vehicle line, and that this year's salvos — the RLX and MDX introductions, and the new advertising campaign — will do some heavier lifting.

And while the expressed point of the first TV ads is that RLX is so luxurious, it makes the owner forget about other luxury goods — an emotional appeal — the campaign is largely unfolding around boasting about the product itself and particular attributes: "Jewel Eye" LED headlights, the next generation of the AcuraLink connected-car system, and Acura's proprietary Precision All-Wheel Steer system.

Every major competitor to RLX is a rear-wheel-drive sedan or has available all-wheel drive, which traditionally have been associated with luxury performance cars because of handling characteristics that are generally perceived as superior to front-wheel drive. But RLX is going it alone in the sedan segment with front-wheel drive even though the RL it replaces



A prototype of the soon-to-be-launched new MDX.

was all-wheel drive.

Robinson noted the "inherent benefit" of front-wheel drive such as lighter weight and the ability to put together a smaller exterior footprint with greater interior space. "It's roughly the same exterior size even as [RL] was, and as its mid-size competitors, but it has noticeably more interior space."

And while Robinson conceded that conventional wisdom in the upscale market is suspicious of front-wheel drive, he maintained that the new Acura Precision All-Wheel Steering system allows RLX to "handle better in most situations than rear- or all-wheel drive, and in extreme situations as well as them."

The handling-countermeasure system allows the rear wheels to be pointed, independently, up to 2 degrees of toe-angle adjustment in either direction, for 4 degrees of articulation.

"So the wheels can turn together or in different directions," Robinson explained. "And if you're braking, both wheels will turn a bit to create a wedge and slow down in a stable way, or they'll turn together for cornering situations."

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