

2013 Spring EXPO  
 Sunday, April 22, 2013  
 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 HomeTownLife.com

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE  
**INSPIRE**  
*Home & Garden*  
 edition

2013 COMMUNITY DIRECTORY  
 SPECIAL SECTION

# NOVI NEWS

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## Cleanse, heal, prevent

Weight loss expert, board-certified holistic health and nutrition practitioner and life coach Renee Heigel will host a free seminar



Heigel

Your Emotions, Prevent Disease - at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at The Better Health Market (42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi). Reservations are suggested by phone (248-735-8100); online (www.thebetterhealthstore.com); or by visiting The Better Health Store Facebook page.

## Special woman

Salute the special woman in your life during the month of May. Send us a photo of you and your mom, grandmother, step-mom, aunt, god-mother or that special "mom-like" woman who has made a difference in your life. Send the photo (jpeg format only, as large as possible) to cstone@hometownlife.com. Be sure to identify (first and last names please) you and your mom and where you live (i.e. Novi, Birmingham, Milford, Plymouth). And tell us in two sentences or less why your mom, grandmother, aunt or other person is special to you. Look for a photo gallery of all submissions during May at hometownlife.com. This gallery is sponsored by Indigo Salon and Day Spa of Canton. Five lucky winners will receive a \$20 gift card to Kohl's or Meijer in a random drawing of all names and photos submitted.

## New playgrounds set for parks

\$150,000 OK'd for Lakeshore and Rotary upgrades

By Lonnie Huhman  
 Staff Writer

The playground structures at Lakeshore and Rotary parks are being upgraded this month and will be ready for the fun summer days ahead. Work is scheduled to begin this spring and is expected to be completed by the end of April 2013, weather permitting.

According to Novi's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Department, the current structures at Lakeshore and Rotary Park have exceeded their useful lives of 10 to 15 years. The City Council on April 8 awarded a construction contract for the purchase and installation of playgrounds at Lakeshore Park and Rotary Park to Superior Play LLC, in the amount of \$150,000. "This is very exciting to have fur-

ther improvements to those two parks," said City Manager Clay Pearson. "Both of them are going to be well received, I think." The projects are in this year's budget. Both playground structures are noncompliant with requirements set out in the Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications.

**Lakeshore Park**  
 At Lakeshore, 601 S. Lake Drive,  
 Please see PARKS, A2

## Novi principal arrested

By Cal Stone  
 Staff Writer

Kim Warren, principal of Deerfield Elementary, was taken into custody by the Novi police on April 8 after she was found in her car on school property



Warren

and suspected of being intoxicated.

Police received two separate calls from concerned motorists regarding her driv-

Please see PRINCIPAL, A2

## Park it here!



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Hess, a project consultant at Novi's Pavilion Shore Park development strolls near its breakwall as work continues on the Walled Lake park. The project has been somewhat delayed due to the winter's harsh conditions, but still should be ready to go later this summer.

## Programs, exhibits target active adults

The Observer & Eccentric Media presents the 10th annual Spring Expo (formerly known as the Senior Expo) with a special lineup of guest speakers, more than 50 exhibits and entertainment by award-winning gospel artist Vickie Winans from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Doors will open at 8:45 a.m. to accommodate expo guests attending programs and workshops that begin at 9 and 9:15 a.m.

This annual tradition for active adults features valuable information and resources from local experts on all things from healthy eating, exercise and financial planning. Free admission, free parking, free entertainment and complimentary morning refreshments by McDonald's and Awrey Bakery are part of the expo experience.

The first 100 attendees through the door will receive a pass for two to any Imagine Theatre and a Buddy's coupon for a four-square cheese pizza courtesy of O&E Media. In addition, there will also be a drawing every

hour for prizes and gift cards.

Returning for the second year as the expo's exclusive gold level sponsor is Comfort Dental Spa of Farmington Hills. Featured speaker is Dr. Aziza Askari, who will discuss "Your Mouth, Your Body."

Askari holds an advanced degree from the University of Michigan and a mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry. Come hear about how oral health and whole-body health are uniquely related.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital joins the Expo as the entertainment sponsor. The Livonia-based hospital, part of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, has been serving the community for more than 50 years. The entertainment segment this year features Winans, a Grammy-nominated, Stellar Award and NAACP Award winning artist.

Known as the "hardest-working woman in gospel music," Winans has 13 gospel and comedy albums. Her honors include Stellar Award Winner Female Vocalist of the Year, Music Video of the Year for *How I Got Over*, a Grammy nomination and more.

Rick Bloom, O&E Media guest columnist and frequent metro Detroit radio and television guest, will be a guest speaker again this year. Bloom will discuss "Getting More Returns on Your Investments Without Taking Risks." Schoolcraft College will sponsor several demonstrations, including the popular "Zumba Gold" and "Strength Training for Seniors" presented by American Health and Fitness.

Larry Ruehlen of O&E Media will offer up Facebook tips, strategies for social media users. In addition, come take your photo with the Pitchhead Wall Graphics of Detroit Tigers ace Justin Verlander and first baseman Prince Fielder. Take your photo and we will post it on a special photo gallery at hometownlife.com for your friends and family to see.

See the complete list of speakers and topics in today's Spring Expo section.

Schoolcraft College VisTaTech Center is at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads. For more information, visit www.hometownlife.com.

## Locals ran in Boston

"It doesn't make sense to me," said one participant in the Boston Marathon to a reporter, following two explosions that caused multiple casualties on Monday, Patriot's Day. And he wasn't the only one feeling like that.

Lori Jones Guthrie, manager of the Novi Running Fit store, posted the following on Facebook shortly after explosions rocked the finish line at the Boston Marathon Monday afternoon.

"Something just happened in Boston!!! Giant boom and police everywhere!! Anyone text me if you know! Omfg" Shortly after, she posted again: "Everyone that we know is safe."

According to the website http://www.baa.org/, there were five Novi residents signed up as entrants in this year's Boston Marathon: Anthony A. Hobart, 58; Shogo Ito, 39; Robert Lee, 42; Brian Sparks, 52; and Emily Valentine, 39.

Cell phone service in Boston was shut down,

Please see BOSTON, A2



### INDEX

Business.....A9  
 Crossword Puzzle.....B8  
 Education.....A4  
 Homes.....B8

Jobs.....B9  
 Obituaries.....A12  
 Opinion.....A14  
 Public Safety.....A10

Services.....B8  
 Sports.....B1  
 Wheels.....B10

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NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

**"The Embrace of Aging"**

A movie on the male perspective of growing old, "The Embrace of Aging", will be shown at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the Imagine Novi Theater.

Director/producer Keith Farnie will speak briefly about the making of the documentary and the entire series.

The event will support the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter. Cost is \$10. To reserve six or more tickets, call (248) 869-0096.

**ITC conducting aerial patrols**

Novi-based ITC Michigan is conducting its semi-annual aerial patrols of high-voltage transmission towers and lines in southeastern Michigan during the second half of April. The helicopter

patrols are conducted to provide an overall status of the overhead transmission system that is operated by ITC Michigan utilities, ITC Transmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC (METC).

During the period April 15-24, aerial inspections of transmission lines will be conducted in areas including all or parts of the following counties: Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Wayne, Monroe, Lenawee, Washtenaw and Livingston.

These twice-a-year patrols are a North American Electrical Reliability Corporation (NERC) requirement for ITC Michigan's operations, maintenance and vegetation management functions and are in line with ITC Michigan's model for operational excellence. They include inspections of steel towers, wood poles, conduc-

tors (wires), insulators and other equipment. Crews check for damaged or worn equipment and vegetation hazards.

The inspection flights are often conducted at low altitudes to allow accurate visual inspection of equipment for lightning damage, wear or other potential problems. This is normal procedure, so there is no cause for alarm if a low-flying helicopter is sighted near transmission lines.

**Recycling center open house**

Residents of the RRRASOC communities will be able to see on April 20 where their recyclables go after they're picked up at the curb. The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC) and ReCommunity will host an open house

at the Southfield materials recovery facility, 20000 West Eight Mile Road. The open house will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday April 20. (Please note the HHW event only runs until 2 p.m.)

Guided tours will allow guests to see the single-stream sorting facility, and employees will be on hand to answer questions.

The open house is timed to coordinate with Earth Day, and is the same date and location as the spring Southfield Household Hazardous Waste event. The hazardous waste event and open house events are open to residents of Farmington Hills, Southfield, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

Guests must wear flat-bottom, closed toe shoes for their safety. For more information, visit [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org) or call (248) 208-2270.

**PARKS**

Continued from page A1

the current structure is tucked back into the woods, so planners think a nature-inspired playground collection is a natural fit. According to the proposal, the new structure "will combine the adventure and wonder of nature with the durability, safety and low maintenance of high-quality play equipment."

Work at Lakeshore will include removal of the existing play structure, sign and bench currently located at the site. Once that is done workers will excavate the area and then begin to put in the different structures. The dis-

turbed ground and area will be re-turfed.

**Rotary Park**

At Rotary Park, 22220 Roethel Drive, the play structure will be in a different area of the park when it's completed. The current location is too close to a gravel path in a drainage swale, which makes it difficult to maintain the safety of the surface.

The new playground will be relocated to the east side of the park's pavilion, which is currently on site. Workers will be installing a concrete sidewalk from the pavilion to the playground and ADA access wedge.

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**PRINCIPAL**

Continued from page A1

ing while on Wixom Road, according to David Molloy, Novi's director of Public Safety/Chief of Police. She was arrested shortly after 2 p.m. in the school parking lot and released that evening.

"At no time did Ms. Warren enter the building, or come in contact with the children or staff of Deerfield Elementary while intoxicated," said Steve Matthews, superintendent of Novi Community School District. "This is an unfortunate set of circumstances and out of character for Ms. Warren. Up until this event, Ms. Warren has served the Deerfield community and our district well."

Although Molloy could

not go into details of her sobriety tests, he did say she could face charges under the city's "super drunk" ordinance due to a high blood alcohol content.

"Next steps involve preparing the case for review by our city prosecutor Phil Seymour," said Molloy.

He added that when charges are issued, Warren will have to surrender for arraignment at the 52-1 District Court in Novi.

Pending resolution of her employment status, Ms. Warren has been placed on paid administrative leave. Effective immediately, Lisa Penchel, longtime principal at Novi Meadows, will serve as interim principal at Deerfield Elementary.

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**BOSTON**

Continued from page A1

according to one report, out of concern that explosive devices may be detected by their use. Heightened security was also being reported at a Boston medical center.

For more local stories relating to Monday's bombings, visit [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

**Street repairs getting more funds**

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

Funding for neighborhood street improvements in Novi will get another boost as the City Council reviews the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

On Monday, the City Council was officially presented with the proposed budget from City Manager Clay Pearson and the various department heads as part of its annual review session. The budget has not been finalized yet, but some slight changes were discussed and agreed to that will be added to the document before the final approval.

Last summer, voters approved an increase in the Municipal Street Fund Millage from 1.0 mills to 1.5, which Pearson said essentially doubled the funding for the Municipal Street Fund.

The new millage capacity will generate \$2.1 million in additional revenue to be invested annually in Novi's major roads and neighborhood streets, as well as in pathways and sidewalks.

Council members suggested the budget be revised a bit to allow \$839,000 (which had been planned for the Crescent Boulevard project) to be transferred in the proposed Major Street Fund for neighborhood street improvements. This will make an immediate, positive impact to the roads at the end of many residents' driveways.

Councilman Justin Fischer said when they took the millage increase to the voters, he told residents that a big part of it is for neighborhood streets. He put out the idea of placing more funding into neighborhood roads, which the council agreed to by a 7-0 vote.

"When they increased their own taxes, by my mind and when I pushed yes at the ballot box, I was talking about the road right in front of my house," he said in regard to shifting some funds in the proposed budget.

To give more understanding to this budget revision, Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas said the Municipal Street Fund transfers dollars to both the Local and Major Street Funds each year.

Regarding the Crescent Boulevard project, which will be postponed, Cardenas said council didn't really transfer it from Major Street — it simply eliminated the \$839,000 transfer to the Major Street Fund that would, essentially, finance the Crescent Boulevard project.

The council instead voted to divert that \$839,000 to Neighborhood Street repairs, rehabilitation and reconstruction, which is funded out of the Municipal Street Fund. The council expects to approve the budget on May 20 with a public hearing on it May 6.

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**Get down to the farm**

**Maybury Farm officially opens for a new season**

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

The birds are chirping and the temperatures are warming up, which means Maybury Farm is getting into the full swing of things.

The Northville Community Foundation (NCF), which operates the farm, announced that the farm is officially open for a new season.

Stuart Peters, of the NCF, said Maybury Farm is a great place for families to bring the kids out for a day to see the animals and play on the expanded playground. She also said picnic tables are perfect for a packed lunch or a snack picked up in the farm's Welcome Center.

For the new season, she said mark the calendars for Saturday, May 18 for Farm Fest.

"This is the unofficial kick-off to summer at the farm," she said. "Baby animals will be introduced and there will be a variety of demonstrations, kiddie games, sheep shearing and more."

The farm is also available for a child's special party with the animals always ready to please. There's also spring/summer tours for schools, day

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Trevor Gilbert, 3, gets up close and personal with a llama at Northville's Maybury Farm. The farm, open every day of the week except Mondays, is now officially open for a new season.



Maybury Farm volunteer Scott Szukatis tends the maple sap evaporator as he prepares to show visitors how maple syrup's made.

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**Joyful sounds**

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Village Oaks Elementary School kids perform their musical The Grinnys on March 28 in a matinee performance. The musical, a play-pun on The Grinnys - featured lots of songs and silly sketches with characters from kids' books and movies.

ing while on Wixom Road, according to David Molloy, Novi's director of Public Safety/Chief of Police. She was arrested shortly after 2 p.m. in the school parking lot and released that evening.

"At no time did Ms. Warren enter the building, or come in contact with the children or staff of Deerfield Elementary while intoxicated," said Steve Matthews, superintendent of Novi Community School District. "This is an unfortunate set of circumstances and out of character for Ms. Warren. Up until this event, Ms. Warren has served the Deerfield community and our district well."

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Pending resolution of her employment status, Ms. Warren has been placed on paid administrative leave. Effective immediately, Lisa Penchel, longtime principal at Novi Meadows, will serve as interim principal at Deerfield Elementary.

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A4 (NN)  
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# EDUCATION

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GLEN FLOWERS

Novi Winter Percussion members with their championship banner following the Michigan Color Guard Circuit State Percussion Championships April 7 at Saginaw Valley State University (l to r, back): Michael Werth, Jennifer Hepp, Jordan Moran, Akshay Kariakar, Connor Yergin, Evan Leffert, Geoff Gamm, Parker Hayward, Evan Thomas, Harrison Halley, Dan Larson, Garrett Flowers, Stevie Jecmen, technicians Tiffany Baker and Jackson Landry, director Brian Woodcox; (middle) Peyton Del Toro, Steffan Werth, Austin Brandenstein, Ryan Fernandes, Lauren Carroll, Tanvi Prabhakar, Nathan Flowers; Vicki Qiao; (front) Robbie Hadley.

## Percussion ensemble earns top honors

For the second year in a row, Novi High School's Winter Percussion Ensemble won first place in the state-wide competition sponsored by the Michigan Color Guard Circuit. The Novi group took top honors in the Scholastic A category held April 7 at Saginaw Valley State University. The winter drumline ensemble competed against percussion teams from across the state including Walled Lake, Farmington, South Lyon and Lake Orion. Novi finished with the highest score to become the MCGC's 2013 state champions.

This year's show is called "Piecing it Together," a six-minute, puzzle-themed production under the direction of Brian Woodcox. The ensemble travels next to the World Guard International Percussion World Championships April 18-19 in Dayton, Ohio, where they will compete against more than 60 other high school percussion groups from around the country. They will give a final performance of their show for family, friends and the community at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at Novi High School which is open to the public and is free of charge.

While attending Walled Lake North-

### NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

#### 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 gymnasiums. 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](http://www.wlcsd.org) or contact Ann Marie Rutherford at [annmarierutherford@wlcsd.org](mailto:annmarierutherford@wlcsd.org) or (248) 956-4829.

#### Walled Lake students earn high scores on ACT

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District recognized Kelsey Schultz for earning a perfect score of 36 on her ACT.

Schultz, who attends Walled Lake Northern, is the daughter of Bill and Margie Schultz. She is undecided on her choice of colleges but currently she plans to explore the University of Michigan, Northwestern University and Stanford University. Schultz is considering either pre-med or biomedical engineering as her focus of study after high school.

While attending Walled Lake North-



Schultz

ern, Schultz has enrolled in three Advanced Placement (US History, World History, and Biology) courses and plans to take three more next year (Calculus, AP English Language, and Chemistry).

Outside the classroom, Schultz is a member of the swim team where she competes in the 100, 200, 500 freestyle as vice president for her class in student government.

Greg Diamond, principal at WLN, said: "We are extremely proud of Kelsey and all of her accomplishments here at Northern. Kelsey is involved in many extra-curricular activities, including Class Council, where she has demonstrated leadership skills, and extraordinary volunteerism and community service. We wish Kelsey the very best as she begins planning for what will most assuredly be a bright and promising future."

Walled Lake Schools also had five students earn a score of 35 on the ACT: Lauren Barlass, Walled Lake Northern; Arin Amin and Michelle Sheng, Walled Lake Central; and Umang Lathia and Perry Lee, Walled Lake Western.

#### "Pippin"

The Novi Middle School Theater Company will present "Pippin" at 7:30 p.m. May 3 in the auditorium.

The play was originally produced on Broadway by Stuart Ostrow and directed by Bob Fosse from the book by Roger O. Hirson. Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz.

### Tennis, anyone?



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madison Heatherman takes aim at a ball during a tennis lesson at the Sports Club of Novi on April 5. Heatherman and other youngsters were enrolled in a spring break week-long athletics camp held at the Novi facility off Novi Rd.

Sports Club of Novi tennis instructor John Hale, right, gives his marching orders to spring break athletic campers, from left: Brian Anderson, Morgan Gauchey, and Madison Heatherman during an April 5 meeting.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With a fun Rock and Roller pose, musician Jeff Rutler brought some excitement to Village Oak's March 25 assembly as they celebrated the end of March is Reading Month.

### Shake, rattle and roll



Village Oaks Elementary School students crack up as they try their best to do some disco dancing during the March 25 visit of Rock and Roll Reading's Jeff Rutler. The guitarist, celebrating the end of March is Reading Month, entertained the students with a wide variety of music styles and even got the kids into a music trivia contest.

## Novi U-M student heading to Argentina on exchange program

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

### LEARN MORE

The fellowship is a new endeavor focused on sustainable development, launched this past fall, to give more Americans opportunities for meaningful international experience. Information is online at [www.culturalvistas.org/cvfellowship](http://www.culturalvistas.org/cvfellowship).

University of Michigan sophomore Jaime Cameron started Spanish studies in elementary school and continued through middle school, high school and college. That knowledge will come in handy when the 2011 Novi High School graduate heads to Argentina for an international fellowship/internship this summer.

"I guess we'll see," she said of the nonprofit Cultural Vistas, which focuses on international exchange and experiential learning. She's one of seven U.S. university students comprising the inaugural class of Cultural Vistas Fellows.

She will complete "Fellows in Service" activities to share what she's gained overseas in her local community in the fall 2013 semester. Cameron said she'll live in a hostel or apartment

with other students. She doesn't have her exact assignment yet. "I'm not really sure what the next step will be after here," she said of U-M in Ann Arbor. "It would largely depend on the opportunity."

She started to look at careers overseas for after U-M graduation. Ideally, she'd work a year and then go on for a business-paid M.B.A.

Cameron said Novi schools and Advanced Placement classes prepared her well. Calculus in particular was "a wakeup call."

She took Spanish from second grade on. She found her Spanish helpful: "It was good preparation."

She would have liked more chances to speak Spanish.

"I was very involved in Marching Band in high school," said the former track team member.

Cameron's sister, Bren-



Jaime Cameron of Novi, a University of Michigan student, will travel to Argentina this summer as a Cultural Vistas Fellow.

na, 17, a Novi High senior and drum major, is headed to Michigan State. "For Christmas, I bought my dad the 'House Divided' T-shirt," the U-M student said, adding he's a Michigan fan.

Next year, she'll be at MSU games for the first time, along with her dad. Jaime Cameron will leave for Argentina in late May, with a stop in New York City and time to explore over the weekend. That's true for the return trip as well.

"You talk about great opportunities," she summed up.

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### Author, author!



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi author Maria Dismody addresses an assembly of Parkview Elementary School kids on March 22. Dismody, visiting for March is Reading Month and author of "Spaghetti on a Hotdog Bun" - wanted the students to know that they have ways that they can use to deal with bullying and that they don't have to tackle the problem alone. Dismody's most recent book is "The Potato Chip Champ."



Parkview Elementary School kids listen to author Maria Dismody during her March 22 to the Novi school.

## Novi school kicks off Count Your Steps initiative

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's Count Your Steps initiative to fight child obesity kicked off its 10th year April 8 with students from Franklin Road Christian School in Novi. More than 13,000 students from 105 schools are participating in the 2013 Count Your Steps program from April 8 through May 5.

"Count Your Steps encourages kids, families and their communities to adopt a more active and healthier lifestyle," Patterson said. Oakland County third- and fourth-graders will use pedometers to log the number of steps they take every

day for one month. The students will also keep track of the fruits and vegetables they eat. The top three schools and their students will be recognized in May.

Students from Franklin Road Christian School, the 2012 Count Your Steps winner, began counting their steps today at the kick-off event with songs, dances and games by StarTrax and other fun activities provided by Oakland County Parks.

Last year, Franklin Road Christian students walked an average of 184,227 steps per student to win first place. In total, all students participating in last

year's Count Your Steps walked more than 1 billion steps, or over 540,000 miles. Since Count Your Steps inception in 2004, more than 188,000 third- and fourth-graders have walked 17 billion steps, or 341 times around the earth. Supporters include Platinum, PNC Bank; Gold, DTE Energy Foundation, Oakland County Parks and Oakland County Health Division; Silver, McLaren Oakland; Bronze, HAP; and Supporting, Beaumont Health Systems, Detroit Zoo, HealthPlus, and Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital.

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ON CAMPUS

Kristock earns O.U. award

Novi native Nicholas Kristock is the recipient of Oakland University's Human Relations Award. The honor is presented annually to a graduating senior who has made a valuable social impact within the university community.

At Oakland, Kristock has excelled in athletics, while volunteering his time to a number of community service organizations and charity events. He played for the OU men's soccer team and has been

a Golden Grizzlies Academic Award winner for the past four years. He is a member of the OU Student Athlete Advisory Committee and Oakland Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a volunteer tutor through the OU Tutoring Center, and an OU Student Athlete Ambassador. As a peer consultant with Oakland University's Peer Transition, a program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Kristock has played a key role in the lives of students transitioning to college.

In his four years with the OU men's soccer team, Kristock helped guide the program to three Summit League Con-

ference Championships and one NCAA Tournament appearance. He served as team captain for three consecutive years, earned Summit League Academic All-Conference honors three times and appeared on the OU Dean's List every semester.

"Nicholas is without a doubt one of the finest young men and student-athletes to ever walk on the field for Oakland University," said Eric Pogue, head men's soccer coach. "We are all better coaches and better people for being a part of this young man's life. Nicholas is a very deserving candidate and will be an excellent recipient of such a deserving honor."

He also contributed to numerous community service and charity events such as the OUCARES Autism Soccer Clinic, National Autistic Society, Meals on Wheels through the Rochester Older Persons Commission, Grizz Skills soccer training for youth, March of Dimes Walk America, Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells, Gigs for Good - a non-profit organization he started to help raise funds to support Christian missions abroad - National Bone Marrow Transplant Link, canned food drives, and mentoring and tutoring inner city youth.

He will graduate in April with a bachelor of science in business administration with a 3.85 GPA.

NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Local Events

BALANCING YOUR HORMONES NATURALLY

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 19
Location: Better Health Market, 42875 Grand River, Novi
Details: Learn how balancing your hormones naturally can help you at a free seminar by Roslyn Rogers. She has over 25 years experience in the teachings of vitamins and herbs.

Details: A screening of a film on the male perspective of growing old, produced and directed by Keith Farnie. Cost is \$10 with event support Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter.

ART EXPLORATION

Time/Date: 12:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25
Location: Meadowbrook Activity Center, Novi
Details: The next Lunch & Learn is a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the diverse collections of the University of Michigan Museum of Art, presented by the UM museum's art docents. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$7 for

residents; \$8.50 for non-residents.

CONTACT: For more information contact City of Novi Older Adult Services at (248) 347-0421 or visit www.cityofnovi.org.

SIZZLING SUMMER ART SERIES

Location: Fuerst Park (southeast corner of Taft and Ten Mile roads, Novi)
Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
June 18: Dakini Circus
June 25: John the Magician
July 9: Jason Kollum: Comedy Juggler
July 16: "Fisherman and his wife" theatre show
July 23: Animal Adaptations
July 30: Joe Reilly
Aug. 6: Try this at home!



Shannon Rouston, 16, relaxes in her basement studio space recently. The Novi High School junior will soon be releasing a CD with six songs.

Novi teenage singer aims high, seeks musical career

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Shannon Rouston, 16, a Novi High School junior, just might see her name in lights some day.

"Hopefully," the aspiring singer said. "That's the plan."

The daughter of Marian Mahoney and Bill Rouston recently got some songwriting help on six songs she's releasing at an April 20 party. The songwriters gave the beat and lyrics. "I just made them my own," she said. She

describes her sound as pop.

"I'm bringing my own flair to it. I'm going for my own sound."

After Novi High graduation, she'd like to attend Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., for vocal performance as a major with two minors, music theory and political science.

"It's just all good things," Rouston said of her friends she's told and their reaction. She hasn't told all at school yet. "I've been singing since forever. I got into band when I was 10."

She's in the NHS choir and is a drum major for the marching band. She plays the tuba in class.

She has a sister, Carly, 21, a Novi High graduate. Shannon Rouston had originally planned to study music education in college.

Her proud dad said, "It should be quite a cool event" of the April 20 launch party. "They'll use 'Shannen' for her stage name, he said, to help her be more visible.

Schoolcraft to start plastics technology program

By Ken Abramczyk Staff Writer

Bill Dunbar, dean of occupational programs and economic development at Schoolcraft College, met with engineers and manufacturers over the past several months to discuss changing technologies and how tomorrow's workers can best be educated.

More companies are using an increasing number of plastic parts in products ranging from motor vehicles to medical equipment. Dunbar learned companies want to hire trained employees who know plastics. The college wanted to help students land a job and develop competency levels in technology.

Those discussions led to the development of a plastics technology program. Schoolcraft is expected to offer associate degrees in 2015 and build an academic foundation for plastics engineering.

Starting in May, the college will offer its first plastics class, Characteristics of Plastics.

While that class is non-credit, it will help build in students a foundation of plastics knowledge. The idea for the program is similar to that of the college's health information technology and nursing programs, which also have strong "industry/employer" ties, Dunbar said.

try/employer" ties, Dunbar said.

Skill building

The first four classes after the Characteristics of Plastics will be "stackable" credited classes, which will be added to the curriculum as students progress through the program. "These classes will build their skills for a one-year certification; then once they hit 60 to 62 credits in that curriculum, they can obtain their associate's degree in plastics technology."

Dunbar estimated entry-level positions range from \$13 to \$16 an hour. "They move up from there," Dunbar said.

It gives them an opportunity to build their skill levels and keep building their credentials. Education and those credentials are something that no one can take away from you."

Sassan Tarahomi, president-elect of the Society of Plastics Engineers Detroit Section, will be teaching the class in May. He and other SPE members met with Dunbar to discuss the program. "We are targeting this southeast Michigan region to bring in jobs," Tarahomi said. Companies with representation in the group include NYX, IAC and Q'Vive. Tarahomi said companies



NYX Cherry Hill Plant Manager Gurjit Singh Sidhu explains how plastic parts for Ford and General Motors products are produced at the plant. Listening to the explanation are Dawnne Toppa, vice president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, and Amy Jones, director of business development, Schoolcraft College

would like to hire workers, but many of the younger ones don't have experience. Students can learn about plastics materials, processing and design in the class. The class would be geared toward a designer, technician or a high school graduate. "They need to prepare so that they can get experience, try working in that field and experience that

learning, and eventually get a co-op position," Tarahomi said.

Part of program

Internships at companies will be available. Dunbar estimated that students would be eligible after the one-year certification.

Plastics technology is part of the growing field of mechatronics, which Dunbar described

as intelligent control of mechanical systems. Companies are turning to plastic parts in manufacturing and production to lighten the weight of vehicles to improve mileage and durability and also lessen the cost of medical equipment. Hospitals are full of equipment comprised of plastics.

"The auto industry is big on plastics, but plastics are in every industry."

Students will be able to transfer those credits to Ferris State University, which is the closest university that offers plastics technology and plastics engineering, Dunbar said.

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Advertisement for STIHL power tools. Text: 'STIHL IS THE NUMBER ONE SELLING BRAND OF GASOLINE-POWERED HANDHELD OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT IN AMERICA'. Features 'SAVE \$20' on FS 40 C-E TRIMMER (now \$169.95) and MS 170 CHAIN SAW (\$179.95). Includes STIHL logo and contact info: Peter's True Value Hardware, 415 East Lake Street | South Lyon, 248-437-1751.

Advertisement for South Lyon Cycle and Signature Lighting Systems. Text: 'Best Selection of Bikes, Parts, & Accessories in the Area. Over 100 Years of Experience. SOUTH LYON CYCLE Family Owned & Operated'. Features 'Mother's Day BIKE LAYAWAY' and 'Remodel With Light!'. Includes contact info: 209 S. Lafayette (Pontiac Trail), 2 blocks S. of 10 Mile • Downtown South Lyon, (248) 437-0500.

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Advertisement for Spring has Sprung! Text: 'Spring has Sprung!'. Features 'FREE Installation on all CARPET' and 'CUSTOM installation including tear-out of old carpet & pad'. Includes contact info: SOUTH LYON 248.437.2838, 21946 Pontiac Trail (south of 9 Mile Rd.).

Advertisement for Novi Jewelers. Text: 'NOVI JEWELERS 25875 Novi Road, Novi, MI 48375 Tel: (248) 344-8226'. Features 'Spring Extravaganza!' and 'Open House at Novi Jewelers Join us Friday & Saturday, April 26 and 27, 2013 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.'. Includes 'OPEN HOUSE SPECIALS' like 'Buy 3 Kameleon Pops Get one Pop FREE!'.

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## 'Obama Phone' store comes to area

By Karen Smith  
 Staff Writer

A new store has opened in Livonia that serves as the Michigan headquarters for a distributor of the "Obama Phone."

The Obama Phone is a refurbished cell phone with 250 monthly voice minutes provided free to low-income and disadvantaged families by the federal Lifeline Assistance program.

The program is funded by FCC-mandated universal service fees paid by telecommunications carriers and passed along, at least in part, to consumers. Consumers may notice a "universal service" line item on their telephone bills.

It is one of 11 My Life Mobile locations the businesses have opened in Michigan and Toledo since starting their company three months ago. Budget Mobile is the carrier.

Owners Zach Carroll, 25, of Farmington Hills and Jim Allie, 51, of Novi opened the store March 6 at 2015 Middlebelt Road, next to Clarenceville High School.

The Livonia store is one of a handful of the standalone stores; the others are located inside other businesses, such as tax centers.

Carroll said that while the Obama Phone is available from other distributors and carriers, they don't have storefront locations like My Life Mobile.

**Discount service**  
 "We're here to provide support as well (such as instructing recipients on the use of the phones)," he said, adding they intend to keep their locations open as long as the program is available.

Allie said the Lifeline Assistance program started before President Obama took office, so the term Obama Phone is a misnomer. According to the FCC website, the Lifeline program has provided a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers since 1985, to ensure that



The phones are refurbished and can be used for voice and text messages.

all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings. In 2005, Lifeline discounts were made available to qualifying low-income consumers on pre-paid wireless service plans in addition to traditional landline service.

"This program allows people who are using certain government assistance programs to help keep in touch with the person that they care about the most," Allie said.

My Life Mobile is compensated for each phone it gives away, with the amount going up as the volume it gives away increases. It also receives a monthly residual for 12 months for each phone, Carroll said.

In addition, My Life Mobile earns an average 16-percent commission for selling services over and above the 250 free voice minutes. For an extra \$25 a month, recipients can purchase unlimited text messaging and voice call

minutes. For \$10 more per month, recipients can purchase an additional 100 minutes or 1,000 text messages.

**One per home**  
 Only one Obama Phone per household is permitted. Phone service ends after 250 minutes per month for those who haven't purchased additional service.

Recipients qualify by having an income that is at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline or by participating in a qualifying government assistance program, such as Social Security, Medicaid, food stamps and the National School Lunch Program.

"Seniors are ideal for the program," Carroll said. "Most don't want a cell phone, they don't want to pay for one. The major carriers, they can't afford or don't need."

Carroll said they've given away about 50 phones so far in Livonia. He estimates 15,000 to 20,000 Livonia residents qualify.

**More coming**  
 Recipients can also apply online at [www.mylifemobile.us/](http://www.mylifemobile.us/) and have a phone mailed to them within three days.

Carroll and Allie, both of whom have backgrounds in the cell phone industry, hope to open as many as 50 My Life Mobile stores each in Michigan, Ohio and Arizona.

Carroll said he gets satisfaction out of giving something to someone in need, rather than selling services to those who can afford it. "I don't expect to make millions," he said.

My Life Mobile also accepts donations of used Verizon phones for refurbishing. Hours are from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call (248) 289-0046 or visit [www.mylifemobile.us/](http://www.mylifemobile.us/).

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098  
 Twitter: @Karen587

## Help Kenyan children



In June, Dr. Mehul Mehta, a surgeon at Oakland Regional Hospital, will join the 24 Michigan team members of International Surgical Mission Support on a mission to Kenya. The team will be performing surgery on adults and children in need during their 10-day trip. More information on ISMS may be found at [www.ismission.org](http://www.ismission.org). Michigan Surgery Specialist office locations, including 44000 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 205, in Novi (248-374-0077), and Oakland Regional Hospital locations are hosting a donation drive that is open to the public and their employees. From Monday, April 22 through Wednesday, May 8, individuals are asked to drop off comfort and basic items for children of Kenya that will be receiving much needed medical attention: soft children's toys (stuffed animals, dolls); pencils, crayons, coloring books; small pillows; small games (not a lot of pieces); underwear for boys and girls; and flip-flop sandals of all sizes.

## NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Advancing in the Resurgent Economy

The PMI Great Lakes Chapter will hold its 12th Annual Symposium on April 26 at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, with the theme being Advancing in the Resurgent Economy.

Participants at this one-day event will discover how organizations can be equipped to embrace efficient practices, promote team innovation, and incorporate the best project management practices to create rapid value delivery.

For more information about registering, visit <http://www.pmi.org/symposium2013>.

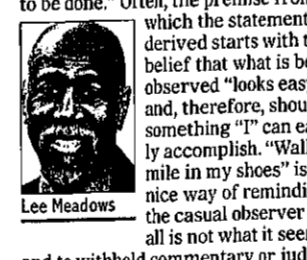
## TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

### 'Walk a mile in my shoes' solid advice

By Lee Meadows  
 Guest Columnist

There is a familiar adage which assures us that we can never, truly, understand an individual until we have "walked a mile in their shoes." This, of course, assumes that the shoes are the same size so as not to add a higher level of discomfort to that mile long walk.

Organizational life is robust with self-held beliefs fostered by individuals who emphatically state, "If I were in that job, I'd show you how it is supposed to be done." Often, the premise from which the statement is derived starts with the belief that what is being observed "looks easy" and, therefore, should be something "I" can easily accomplish. "Walk a mile in my shoes" is a nice way of reminding the casual observer that all is not what it seems



Lee Meadows

and to withhold commentary or judgment until, through experience, insight takes the place of ignorance.

Now, in extreme cases, like ice-skating, the casual observer has to know that when they see a Quadruple Lutz or Salchow performed to perfection, there is a rational appreciation for an act that was mastered over years of practice, dedication and an unwavering commitment to the art. More often than not there is an expression of awe and complete resolution to knowing, "I could never do that." The reason being that while that performance is made to look easy, it is clear that the path to making it look easy was not. There is a degree of the tangible and concrete that allows for the acceptance of that Quadruple Lutz being something that is well beyond our reach. However, when the observed behavior is less tangible, as in the case of good leadership, there is a tendency to attribute the successful Quadruple Link (profits, people, structure and capital) as being within our grasp. Undoubtedly, the leader being observed makes it look easy and, as such, rarely receives

the appreciation for balancing and integrating the Quadruple Link so effectively that there is no hint of the circus going on behind the curtain.

One of the penalties for making the "difficult" look easy is the unsolicited criticism from those who believe they are better equipped to do the job without truly understanding what is required. It is with a heightened sense of delusion and conviction that the critic stands ready to offer their insights on what the leader "ought," "should" and "might" do while completely uninformed as to the context in which the leader must operate.

When a first-line supervisor is adamant about how a regional director should perform their leadership role, it never occurs to them that their context is narrower, and any insight being offered is limited by the nature of that experience. The decision always looks easier when you not the one making the decision. When operating in the context of the leader's broader view of the global village, there is more behind the decision than is visible or known.

Some of the most inspiring and effective leaders, over the course of time, always made it look easy. They call upon a skill set that was sharpened across a series of experiences and complemented by an unending acquisition of knowledge. While confident in their actions, they are also comfortable in their skin. It is that combination of confidence and comfort that allows for a daily presentation of "life in the big chair" as just a series of innocuous tasks.

This false interpretation of the observation is the reason why successful comics believe they can be great singers, professional wrestlers believe they can be cinema action heroes, and the five-beer limit karaoke warblers believe they can take the top prize on *American Idol*. It always looks easy until you walk a mile in their shoes.

Lee E. Meadows, Ph.D., is a professor of management at Walsh College working at the Novi Campus. He can be contacted at [leam@walshcollege.edu](mailto:leam@walshcollege.edu).



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OUR VIEWS

## Park it here!

Improvements to parkland money well spent

While many municipalities throughout the state and country are struggling to meet financial obligations and avoid layoffs, the City of Novi last week approved \$150,000 to improve playground structures at two parks.

That's indicative of a healthy rainy day fund, but also a commitment to quality parks and recreation.

Simply stated in the city's recent Citizen Survey: "Quality parks and recreation opportunities help to define a community as more than the grind of its business, traffic and hard work. Leisure activities vastly can improve the quality of life of residents, serving both to entertain and mobilize good health."

Novi residents rated positively their recreation opportunities and services related to parks and rec, and they felt the city's centers were better than the national benchmark.

And it's because the city is willing to pump money into their parks, like the improvements slated for Lakeshore and Rotary parks this month. The current playground structures at those two parks have outlived their 10-15 year lives and are no longer compliant with current safety and performance standards.

Lakeshore (601 S. Lake Drive) is getting an all-new nature-inspired playground, and Rotary's (22220 Roethel Drive) equipment will also be new and relocated to a more appropriate area.

These are just two of the facilities managed by the city's Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. The others are:

- \* Brookfarm (adjacent to Village Oaks Elementary)
- \* Ella Mae Power (behind the Civic Center)
- \* Fuerst (southeast corner of 10 Mile and Taft roads)
- \* ITC Sports Community (northeast corner of Eight Mile and Napier roads)
- \* Pavilion Shore (west Pavilion Shore (43390 Thirteen Mile))
- \* Village Wood (east side of Meadowbrook, south of Malott Drive)
- \* Wildlife Woods (26442 Wixom Road).

There are more than 1,000 acres of parkland in Novi, and the city is constantly improving them. Six years ago, only 68 percent of residents rated the rec opportunities here "excellent" or "good". In the 2012 survey, that has shot up to 80 percent.

And the percentages have also increased for those who have used Novi's recreation centers; participated in a recreation program or activity; and visited a neighborhood park or city park.

Parks are just a piece of the puzzle that makes up Novi, but it's a very large piece. And it meshes beautifully with the education system and athletic programs, which are key factors for people looking to relocate in southeast Michigan.

Outsiders may initially see Novi as just a mecca for retail and restaurants. But spend some time outdoors here and it quickly becomes apparent that Novi residents have access to a remarkable system of parks that the city, in intent on constantly improving.

COMMUNITY VOICE

## A recent newspaper article indicated that motorcycle fatalities in Michigan increased from five in 2011 to 55 in 2012. Do you think motorcyclists should be required to wear helmets?

This question was asked at the Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet held at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.



"Yes, I've been around motorcycles my whole life, and I don't personally like wearing a helmet, but they do save lives. It's just common sense."  
**Paul Hollo**  
Lapeer



"I believe it's a personal choice. But, for me, I care about my family and friends, so I do wear one."  
**Robb Stancer**  
Livonia



"I'm pro-choice on helmets and seat belts. However, it does have a bearing on things and they do save lives."  
**Terry Powell**  
Kingston



"Of course. Take it from a person who almost died 30 years ago in a crash. Helmets can save lives."  
**Howard Leahy**  
Clawson

LETTERS

The Three D's

Novi school Principal Kim Warren was arrested for driving erratically and then found slumped over the steering wheel of her car in the school parking lot. People coming to her defense argue that she should undergo treatment and then be returned to her position as principal. Is that what we expect of our school leaders? I sure hope not! Let's follow three simple rules for situations like this — drink — drunk — discharge!

**Bill Kalmr**  
Lake Orion

Novi benefits from Gatt's experience

Mayor Bob Gatt is my employee, my supporter and my friend. He is a true professional with great leadership skills. He is the kind of man who has the experience and knowledge to lead Novi's growth and prosperity into the 21st century.

Bob Gatt is running for re-election for another two-year term as Novi's mayor. The election is Nov. 5, 2013. I'm supporting Bob Gatt, and I hope you do too.

Bob Gatt has served Novi with distinction for more than 30 years, most recently as a councilman and mayor pro tem before becoming your mayor two years ago. He's the experienced leader Novi needs to ensure that it remains one of Michigan's premier communities to work, to raise a family and to retire.

Bob also is a distinguished department head in Oakland County. I'm excited that Oakland County's government has earned respect from Wall Street for its sound financial policies by attaining and maintaining a coveted AAA bond rating, which only 34 of the nation's 3,200 counties have received. Bob's one of many employees who has worked hard to make Oakland County financially sound.

I'm proud to endorse Bob Gatt for another term as Novi's mayor. He's earned your vote!

Bob's done the same outstanding job as your Novi mayor, and you need to keep the momentum going! Please vote for Bob Gatt for Novi Mayor on Nov. 5.

**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County executive

SB 288 a bad bill

Yes, I wish to protect Michigan wolves from hunting and trapping. Yes, I collected signatures and signed a petition to allow the voters of Michigan to voice their opinion as well.

But, just days after submitting the signatures, Senate Bill 288, introduced by Sen. Casperson, was voted out of committee and passed on to our state senators for voting. SB 288 will literally smash our efforts, ignore our voices, and remove our right to vote on the wolf protection issue as well as any wildlife issue ever again!

SB 288 is a blatant threat to our democratic rights, again!

Even if you have never called your state senator or state representative

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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

**Deadline:** Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published Thursday.  
**Online:** Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

before, please call them today. Your state senator will probably vote on SB 288 this week. Then it will quickly move on to your state representative.

Tell them this threat to your democratic rights is unacceptable; tell them you oppose SB 288; and ask them to vote NO on SB 288.

We must act now to protect our democratic rights.

**Judith C. Brock**  
Northville

**Justice for all**

Disgustingly, the Republican-controlled House in Lansing wants to cut 1,000 jobs from the Human Services Department, which controls food for the poor, programs for poor people, control of abuse to children, etc. All are programs that help people when they can't help themselves. Plain and simple — they are taking a hatchet to the social programs of Michigan.

These same people are hypocrites. They say they are pro-life. Yet the minute they force people to have babies by denying them abortions, they desert these babies. They cut the very funding necessary to help these babies have a decent life. They cut the food they get and they cut the workers necessary to ensure that these babies are not abused. The foster care systems here in Michigan cannot police the cases they have.

I believe in social justice for all. Where will the social justice for these babies be? Certainly not in the hands of these Republicans in Lansing, who want to punish the poor and help the rich get richer.

**Joanne Braund**  
Royal Oak

Spring to action

If you own a vehicle, chances are it needs some work. National Car Care Month in April is the ideal time to spring into action and give your car some extra attention.

Results of vehicle inspections held at community car care events across the country reveal that 77 percent of vehicles need service or parts. Neglected vehicle care almost always

means much higher costs down the line in the form of more extensive repairs or lost resale value.

Following a routine maintenance program on an ongoing basis, like the Car Care Council's free personalized schedule and e-mail reminder service, can help you drive smart, save money and make informed decisions.

**Rich White**  
executive director  
Car Care Council

Have muskets

Very soon, Connecticut will have prepared for the governor's signature the toughest gun safety law in the country. This bill passed the Legislature with bipartisan support.

According to the Brady Report, nearly 100,000 people will die in this country this year from gun violence. Some 17,000 will be under 19.

This legislation could serve as a model in our current federal debate on gun safety measures.

What does the NRA have to say about combating school violence? Arm teachers, principals and janitors. More guns will increase school safety. Of course, the NRA represents gun manufacturers who profit by selling more guns. The NRA hides behind then Second Amendment, which at the time, applied to muskets.

Let the NRA have muskets.

**Gerard Maxey**  
Farmington Hills

On 'right to work'

I am losing one half of my children. At least that is what it feels like. Like so many parents in Michigan, my wife and I have worked hard to help put our four children through college. They have succeeded in gaining their respective degrees but two of the four have or soon will have moved to other states to pursue their careers.

Many of my children's college graduate friends have left the state as well. As we are very family-oriented, the loss of frequent face to face contact is distressing. According to the 2010 Census, Michigan was the only state in the country to have lost population over the past decade from 2001 through 2010. I am hopeful that one day, soon, the jobs that Michigan has been losing will return to Michigan and in doing so, bring our children back home.

It is for this reason that I am very glad that Michigan has passed the "workers' choice" aka "right to work" legislation. I believe that the growth of good jobs in Michigan will increase and eventually help to bring our children home. National statistics clearly show that states with right to work laws have a higher influx of population and higher expendable income.

I am grateful that Sen. Pat Colbeck and Rep. Mike Shirkey took the time and effort to champion this "freedom of choice" legislation for Michigan's workers.

**Bob Cushman**  
Northville

# Beaumont, state partner to promote safe sleep

SAFE SLEEP TIPS

- Never put the baby to sleep with adults or other children as this practice exponentially increases the chance of a tragedy occurring
- Put babies in cribs of their own, never on adult beds, pillows or couches
- Ensure that the crib does not contain extra items, including pillows, crib bumpers and stuffed animals — and use a safe sleep sack instead of blankets
- Place the baby to sleep on their back, not on the stomach or side
- Do not overheat the baby
- Make certain that no one smokes around the baby

By Nathan Mueller  
Staff Writer

Sharee Lee was at work when she received the phone call that changed her life.

The call was from her husband, who told her when he went to check on their 3-month-old baby, Lailah, she wasn't breathing.

Lailah had been put to sleep on her stomach, just like Lee had done with her two older children, causing her to accidentally suffocate.

Lee said it could have happened to anyone, but the Novi mom doesn't want anyone else to have to endure the pain she has had to deal with the last two years.

In an effort to educate parents and caregivers, Lee was among a group of parents who shared their stories of loss with the Michigan Department of Human Services and Community Health for a video they created about safe sleep initiatives.

A portion of the video was shown March 25 at the Beaumont Children's Hospital in Royal Oak, where Michigan first lady Sue Snyder also announced her support of the program.

"This is such an important message, not just for new parents, but for anyone who has children or works with them," Lee said.

She said unsafe sleep practices, such as laying an infant on their stom-

ach to sleep, or allowing them to sleep with a parent because it seems like the only way the child will be quiet, isn't worth it.

"The pain that comes from losing that child is not worth those few moments of rest," Lee said. "It's not worth the lifetime you will lose."

In the last three years, 424 babies in Michigan have died due to unsafe sleep environments, including 144 in 2012. And thus far this year there have been at least 13 infant deaths in Detroit and five in the rest of Wayne County.

"The death of a baby is devastating," Snyder said. "And when this tragedy is preventable, the loss is nearly unbearable. It's a pain and a regret I hope we can spare every family in Michigan."

Canton residents Paul and Paula Mallia also lost their son Michael to accidental asphyxia and shared their story on the video.

Michael was at day care in 2002 when the quilt put over top of the Pack 'N Play he was sleeping in to block out the sunlight fell on him.

Paula said she hopes her personal story reaches others so it doesn't happen to them, too.

"I don't want anyone else to have to live through our hell," she said. "Now he's my guardian angel always looking over me."

Dr. Fozia Saleem-Rashed, a neonatologist at Beaumont Children's Hospital, said the hospital has created



Michigan first lady Sue Snyder (right) talks with Stacy, holding new baby Alaina, and Michael Bambach at Beaumont Hospital on Monday where she announced her support of the state's safe sleep initiatives. Beaumont is the first hospital in the state to partner with the Michigan Departments of Human Services and Community Health in an effort to curtail the nearly 150 infant deaths annually due to unsafe sleep environments.

old when Michael died, and she said she still misses him a lot.

"I looked at him not only as my little brother but as a best buddy," she said. "Now he's my guardian angel always looking over me."

There are no quilts, no comforters, no stuffed animals and no bumpers. Babies also should

never share beds with another person, and the use of pacifiers at nap and bedtime is encouraged.

"Where you put your baby to sleep can be the difference between life or death," she said.

Beaumont is the first hospital to partner with the state departments by airing the video through the hospi-

tal television system. The goal is to partner with other hospitals and make the video available to all new parents.

Maura Corrigan, director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, said they have appointed safe sleep coordinators in all the counties where there are difficulties with safe sleep environments, and hopes the message of those who have lost infants has an impact on others.

"Each one of the deaths from unsafe sleep environments is a preventable death," she said. "It's undeniable and it's imperative that we act together."

"The video is available for viewing at www.michigan.gov/safesleep.

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# Family signs on for benefit as part of daughter's fight

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

It meant a lot to 15-year-old Kaitlyn Berg that family dog Bailey, a yellow lab, came to see her at the hospital. Berg's parents, 13-year-old Novis residents Larry and Lynn Berg, got permission for Bailey to visit at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor during Kaitlyn's brain tumor treatment. The family, including sister, Kara, 17, recently sat down to talk about Kaitlyn's illness and a May 11 fundraiser they're working on. "Unfortunately you can usually find someone in a worse place than you are," said Lynn of her involvement in an American Brain Tumor Association forum. "That's helped me, knowing relatively speaking she's in a good place."

Kaitlyn's a sophomore at Novi High, Kara a senior. Kaitlyn recalled of eighth grade, "I just had really bad headaches and started to get seizures." Headaches aren't uncommon for teen girls, Lynn said. "We kind of put off things a bit." Epilepsy was considered a possibility. Kaitlyn had an MRI on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and was off school sledding. Her parents got the call about the large tumor, which was benign but still doing damage.

"No one had indicated that was even an option. Before we knew it, we were in the emergency room." The parents explained how the benign tumor had been growing for some time, creating pressure. "But it isn't cancer," Lynn said. "If you're going to have a brain tumor, apparently it's a good type to have." Neurosurgeon Dr. Hugh Garton has been a big help, as has Mott staff. "They've been amazing," Lynn said. Staff helped on how to talk to Kaitlyn about the illness. Larry's vice president and general manager for Valassis Solutions, and the family's grateful for health insurance to cover most costs. Larry's colleagues were supportive. "They said 'Do what you need to do.' They were awesome," he said. Kaitlyn's had two surgeries, with the first one lasting 12 hours. "A lot better than I did before," she said when asked how she felt. She also went through some tough radiation, 30 treatments five days a week over six weeks. That was just before 10th grade. Novi Schools staffers were flexible on Kaitlyn's schoolwork. "Very accommodating," her dad said. The parents are proud of Kaitlyn's work to get good grades. "Kaitlyn is very determined," her mom said. "She was determined to come back and keep her grades up."



The Berg family in their Novi home. Top row: Larry and Lynn. Bottom row: sisters Kara, 17, and Kaitlyn, 15.

**GIVING BACK**  
The family didn't need charitable functions for their own expenses, but wanted a way to give back. They're participating in a Saturday, May 11, 5K Run & Walk for the American Brain Tumor Association at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. There's a total goal of \$50,000 for the event, and their United Against Tumors team has a \$10,000 goal, well on the way to being met. They have about 15 team members, Larry said. There's a fundraising website, and there's also a general website, www.breakthroughforbraintumors.org. Donations are welcome online.

gled with that. Many friends sent cards, which were appreciated. The family and their friends used the caring-bridge.org social sharing site for updates and words of encouragement. Lynn recalled a mom of Kara's friend who helped. "That was something I didn't need to worry about. Things like that were really beneficial." Kaitlyn now gets an MRI every three months to see how the radiation did. "No one could really tell us what the future would hold," her mom said. "A lot needs to be done to figure out how to treat these things." They're grateful for the technology and care that saved Kaitlyn. "We don't really talk about it that much," Kara said of the situation, other than planning for the May 11 benefit. Kara, who's headed to Ball State University in Indiana to study journalism, wrote an article on her family for the NHS paper, the *Wildcat Roar*. "I had a bunch of people coming up to me and saying they thought it was a good idea we were doing that," Kara said of the benefit. The girls swim team and National Honor Society also worked together in a related fundraiser.

"We're just kind of in a wait and see mode," Lynn said. "They hope for good health news, and are glad to work on the fundraiser." "It's more the chance to give back," she said. Friends wanted to help, Larry said. "This gives a way for them to participate. Everybody wants to help and there isn't always something for them to do." May is Brain Tumor Awareness Month as well. "Awareness is important to help other people know how to deal with health crises," Lynn said. "We're hoping a lot of people will come out and support us on that day," she added. Kate Butler, marketing & communications manager for the Chicago-based ABTA, said registration will start 8 a.m., the walk/run at 9 a.m.

**Family, friends**  
Kaitlyn appreciates a good friend who talks about other things. "She kind of distracts me." A friend made posters of dog Bailey for Kaitlyn while she was in treatment, and having family nearby has helped. "It's hard enough for adults to know what to say to someone," Lynn said. Some teens strug-

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Coach Brian O'Leary helps break things down during the Wildcats' 4-2 win Saturday at Saline.

**Novi girls capture unexpected road trip Soccer team stops Saline, 4-2**

By Terry Jacoby  
 Correspondent

The Novi-Saline soccer game on Saturday was originally scheduled to be played at Novi High School, but Mother Nature's cold breath forced the game to be moved to Saline and the Hornets' turf field. Despite the chilly temperatures, it was worth the trip for the Wildcats, who scored the first four goals and won 4-2 over the host Hornets in a non-league game. Novi coach Brian O'Leary was pleased with what he saw, both on the scoreboard and on the field. "I thought we got a really good effort from everyone," O'Leary said. "We are still trying to figure out not only our start-

**ON TAP**

Novi (2-1 overall) began league play this week with South Lyon on Tuesday and South Lyon East today.

ing lineup but our substitution pattern. Everyone got in both halves, and I put a lot of girls in different positions to see which lineup works best for us." O'Leary called it a productive trip for the Wildcats.

"We made a lot of progress (Saturday) in figuring out not who our best 11 players are, but what best 11 players play the best together," he said. "Regardless of the score, I wanted to give everyone a chance to play and

Please see SOCCER, B3



Novi's Natalie Krygier takes the ball up field against Amanda Zylstra and the Hornets on Saturday.

**Shamrocks split trip to Toronto Squad falls to St. Michaels, dominates Upper Canada College**

By Sam Eggleston  
 Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks lacrosse team took a trip to Canada last weekend and represented their school and their country with pride.

The squad, coached by Dave Wilson, made the trek to Toronto and played two games, winning one against Upper Canada College in a dominating fashion, 12-2, and falling to St. Michaels in the final moments of that game, 9-9. St. Michaels then went on to control the following face-off and

**ON TAP**

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks lacrosse team will be back in action when they visit University of Detroit-Jesuit at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

with just over a minute left in the game. Unfortunately, the team was pick-pocketed by a crafty St. Michaels' defender, who then fed the ball down the field and, eventually, into the goal to tie the game, 9-9. St. Michaels then went on to control the following face-off and

scored again with less than a minute left to seal the game, 10-9, on a shot by Andrew Mullen that resulted in his sixth goal of the contest.

The Shamrocks had a night to think about how much that loss stung before taking the field against Upper Canada College the next day and letting out their frustration on the Blues in the tune of a 12-2 whipping. "The Shamrocks were challenged by the staff Saturday to put forth a better defensive effort," said Wilson. And the defensive effort paid off in more

than just a victory — the Shamrocks' players enjoyed popsicles after practice on Monday, courtesy of the coaching staff.

Jack Van Acker had three goals and an assist on Friday against St. Michaels and Alec Gilhooly had four goals and an assist on Saturday against Upper Canada College.

Splitting time in goal on Friday were Jon Conley and Joe Williams while Chris Naubert went three quarters in the win over the Blues and Williams took over for the final seven minutes of the game.

**Comeback 'Cats!**

Novi rallies to beat Franklin

By Terry Jacoby  
 Correspondent

It's still early in the season, but the Novi baseball team has already showed resiliency and a no-quit attitude that can help a team gain confidence. Down 4-0 and showing little signs of life on offense, the Wildcats scored four runs in the fifth and two more in the sixth for a 6-4 win Monday over visiting Franklin in a Kensington Lakes Athletic Association opener.

The Wildcats improve to 3-2 overall and 1-0 in the KLAAS Kensington.

"I think we are going to have our ups and downs but we should get better as the season progresses," said Novi coach Rick Green. "But this was good to see. Our team is really close and we are starting to get healthy. If we stay focused, we have the ability to play well."

They certainly focused in on Franklin in the fifth inning. Mitch Hall got the ball rolling with a single. With one out, Nick Sheelar blasted a two-run homer to cut the deficit in half.

"We weren't doing much with the bats up until that point," said Green. "I think that homer rattled their pitcher a little bit."

With two outs, Kyle Matel singled to keep the inning going. Ryan Caputo then doubled to

**ON TAP**

The Novi baseball team (3-2 overall, 1-0 KLAAS Kensington) played a doubleheader yesterday against Northville. The Wildcats play at Walled Lake Central on Friday, at Plymouth on Monday and host South Lyon East on Wednesday. All games are at 4 p.m.

give Novi runners at second and third. After Matel scored on a wild pitch, Mario Ferrini hit an RBI single to tie the game at 4-4.

In the sixth inning, Grant Wheeler and Bryan Klosterma both walked. After a fielder's choice, the Wildcats drew an intentional walk to load the bases. That decision backfired as Novi scored two runs off wild pitches to take a 6-4 lead.

Junior Blair Myers pitched the last two innings and held Franklin hitless to earn the win. Tyler Whitehead started and went three innings. The junior allowed three earned runs on four hits and struck out two. Luke Begenis allowed an unearned run in two innings of relief.

"We have only played three games and have only practiced outside twice because of the weather," Green said. "So we need to get into some games before we can figure things out and get to know each other."

**Defense strong in baseball opener**

Mustangs top Brighton in twinbill

By Sam Eggleston  
 Correspondent

There are definitely worse ways to start a season than win an opening game and then take the second when the contest is called due to darkness.

That's exactly how the season started for the Northville Mustangs last week when they took on the Brighton Bulldogs and walked away with two victories.

In the opening game of a twinbill contest, the Mustangs collected a 4-1 victory and then took a victory in the closing game, 2-1, after officials called it in the fifth inning due to darkness.

"It was a good way to start the season," said Northville coach John Kostzewa. "We pitched well and played good defense and I was pleased with that given the

**ON TAP**

The Northville Mustangs baseball team will be playing again Saturday at Lake Orion at 11 a.m. They will then visit Canton Monday and visit Salem Wednesday. Both games are at 4 p.m.

fact that we have only been outside one time prior to this game."

The Mustangs followed Taylor Turner to the victory in the opener as he pitched all seven innings, giving up one earned run, four hits and three walks while striking out four batters. Thomas Huber paced the team on offense with two hits while Brandon Patrone, Brad Vanhulle and Eric Fox each had a hit.

"Although we struggled with that given the

Please see BASEBALL, B4

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## Wildcats drop opener, but down Anderson in nightcap

By Terry Jacoby  
Correspondent

The first time the Novi softball team stepped outside was in a game last Monday against visiting Southgate Anderson. And the lack of practice time showed as Anderson took the first game of a double-header 10-0. But the Wildcats bounced back with an impressive 9-6 win in the second game.

"I don't want to make excuses, but we have not practiced outside yet and we just returned back from Easter Break so even though we played sloppy at times we did do a number of good things," Lulek said. "I was pleased with the way we hit the ball in the second game. The girls played very hard. Now that we are able to practice outside I think we will be able to work on game situations and do things we were not able to do inside."

Laura Oakley had the only Novi hit in the first game. Novi did get three walks including two by Jenna Lowney. Kailey Oppat had the other walk. Natalie Tarrant allowed nine hits and three walks

### ON TAP

The Novi softball team played yesterday at Northville. The Wildcats play at 4 p.m. on Monday at Plymouth and play two on Wednesday starting at 4 p.m. at home against South Lyon East. They host Canton at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

while striking out two for Novi in the opener. The Wildcats had four throwing errors and three fielding errors.

Novi played a much better game in the nightcap as they pounded out 14 hits and scored nine runs. Sam Troher had three hits including a double with two RBIs; Kasey Lowney had two singles, a walk and an RBI; and Casey Lawler had a single, double and two RBIs.

Mallory Daschke, Laura Oakley, Miranda Hanby, Lola Teran, Anna Greulich, Christina Oakley and Kailey Oppat had one hit apiece for the Wildcats.

Daschke gave up six hits and three walks while striking out four.

## Northville girls lacrosse team splits two games

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

The Northville girls lacrosse team last week added another victory to their record to keep their season running at high-octane levels. So much so, that the first loss of the season against Saline a few days later only solidified their drive this season.

The squad came out last week and collected a close 12-11 victory over cross-town rival Novi before heading to Saline and falling to a very tough Hornets squad, 9-7.

The game against Novi proved to be a true challenge for the enthusiastic Mustangs, and the two teams came out of the opening half tied, 7-7, and pushed each other every step of the way until the final seconds remained.

Northville led, 12-11, and won the final face-off of the contest and looked to run out the clock. The Wildcats, however, pressured, causing a turnover and charged into the Northville defensive zone with second remaining in the contest.

Northville's defense reacted, doubling down on the ball carrier, but a whistle from the officials with three seconds left for a shooting-space foul within eight meters gave Novi a free shot.

The fans were on their feet and both teams could only watch as Northville goalie Kali Maisano, a senior, and a Novi attack stare one another down. Maisano, who faced five free position shots on the night, watched as the attack drew back and fired. Maisano stepped in front of the shot, deflect-

### ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs girls lacrosse team will compete again when they visit Kettering tomorrow at 7 p.m. On Monday they will visit Canton before hosting Salem Wednesday at 7 p.m.

ing it wide and sealed the victory for the Mustangs, who had taken the lead just 85 seconds before.

With 1:28 left in the contest, Northville and Novi were knotted up, 11-11, following a goal a minute and a half earlier by Mustangs' sharpshooter Claire Beaudoin. The contest was getting physical, which was expected between the rival teams, but Novi got a little too chippy with just under 90 seconds left in the contest and giving the Mustangs a free position shot.

Northville sent Beaudoin out for the shot, and she buried it to give her squad the lead and the victory, 12-11.

In the first half of the game, the Mustangs fell behind almost immediately, 1-0, when the Novi team raced down the field and put the first score on the board at the 22-minute mark of the first half. From that point on, it turned into a back-and-forth affair, with Northville tying the game nearly five minutes later on a shot by Erica MacDonald, who was assisted by Erin Vogel. Novi went up again a minute later, 2-1, and it took two more minutes before a shot by Beaudoin knotted the game up again for Northville.

The Mustangs took the lead at 11:26 on a shot by MacDonald, 3-2, but Novi tied it and went ahead with four straight goals over one minute of play with scores coming with 10:31 left in the first half, 10:03, 9:50 and 9:29 to give the Wildcats a 6-3 advantage.

Northville was forced to collect itself and then went on the march, answering Novi's onslaught with several goals of their own as Grace Guibord tallied at goal with just over eight minutes left in the first to make it a 6-4 game before Alivia DuQuet scored less than two minutes later, followed by a goal from Rylee Donovan to make it a 6-6 contest.

Novi struck again, however, taking the lead once again with just over four minutes left in the half, but a push on the offensive side of the field paid off in the waning moments of the half as Northville once again tied the game, this time off a free-position shot from Vogel with just 11 seconds on the clock to knot it at 7-7.

Northville struck first in the second half, scoring on a shot from Vogel, but the goal was answered by Novi less than a minute later for an 8-8 contest. Novi then took the lead with 15 minutes remaining, followed by MacDonald tying it for Northville at the 12:25 mark. Northville took the lead again a minute later off Vogel's stick and then fell behind on a free-position score and another goal from Novi that put them up, 11-10, with 7:25 remaining before Northville came back to earn the last-minute victory.

### Saline 9, Northville 7

Northville's first loss of the season was truly a tale of two halves as Saline marched out to a commanding 5-2 lead in the first half before Northville dominated the second half but couldn't muster enough points to secure the victory. In the first half of the contest, Northville came out with the opening goal off the stick of MacDonald before Saline scored five unanswered goals to slide out to a 5-1 lead. Northville did tally another goal from MacDonald with 1:26 left before the half to make it a 5-2 contest.

In the second half, Northville scored five goals and held Saline to just four, but couldn't get enough traction to get the win. Saline opened the half with a goal at the 21:11 mark, and Northville answered with two goals from DuQuet and Vogel to cut into the Saline advantage, 6-4. Saline notched another goal with 13:36 left in the game and Northville scored three minutes later off a shot by Vogel to make it a 7-5 contest.

**\*Stang boys earn two wins**

The Northville Mustangs boys lacrosse team picked up two wins and suffered a loss last week. The team, coached by Greg Durham, toppled the Howell Highlanders, 13-8, and defeated the Walled Lake Northern Knights, 16-10. Northville also fell, 13-7, to Holt last week.

### BASEBALL

Continued from page B1

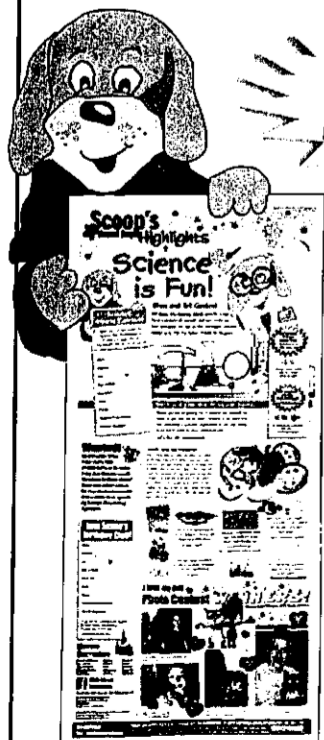
gled offensively. I thought we had good at bats and put the ball in play, only striking out two times," said Kostzrewa. "We also ran the bases very well, taking the extra base when possible." In the second game, Ewan Fiehr pitched four complete innings of the shortened contest to earn the win.

He gave up an early run in the first inning and then settled down, striking out four and walking one. "Offensively we made several base running mistakes that cost us opportunities to score early on, but overall it was a good way to start the season," Kostzrewa said. "We pitched well and played good defense all day and that is what we try to stress and it showed in their play."

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