

NOVI NEWS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 • hometownlife.com

COMFORT
WHEN HOLIDAYS
GET TOUGH
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Track Santa

Have you ever wondered how Santa gets around the world in just one day? According to North American Aerospace Defense Command, Santa doesn't feel time like regular people; in his reality, he's traveling for much longer than 24 hours.

Children all over the world are fascinated by his journey and the folks at NO-RAD have graciously allowed us to share its tracking service with our readers. Go to our website, Hometownlife.com, Dec. 24 to track Santa as he circles the globe.

Auditor: Novi is fiscally strong

City's net worth increased \$2.2 million

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The annual audit of the city of Novi shows a municipality that is fiscally prudent and its net worth is on the way up.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and 2013 audit were given Dec. 2 to the Novi City Council by the city's Finance Department and Randy Morse of the auditing team from An-

draws Hooper Pavlik PLC. The overall takeaway for city officials is the auditors stated what Novi has been hard at work doing for some time - getting and keeping in strong financial shape.

"The auditors confirmed the diligent and prudent stewardship of the precious tax dollars by verifying that the city is in a strong fiscal position," said Victor Cardenas, assistant city manager/interim finance director and treasurer. "By providing an unmodified or 'clean' opinion, the auditors confirmed the city's accounting of millions of funds across our diverse critical public services."

Cardenas pointed to one favorable highlight of the reports as being the city's total

assets currently at \$389.7 million. He also said the total net worth (assets minus liabilities) increased \$2.2 million to \$335.9 million, long-term debt obligation decreased \$6.6 million to a total of \$41 million and program revenues, business-related activities (permits, program fees, etc.) increased by \$4.3 million for a total of \$40.5 million.

And as far as changes or improvements needed, none were noted.

"The auditors did not identify any 'findings' that would require the city to make any changes to its financial practices," Cardenas said.

Working on a multi-year financial plan and always looking forward, city officials will

use this information to set a plan for the near term.

"The audit provides city administration a starting point to begin formulating the multi-year budget outlook for the next three years," Cardenas said. "We have already begun to formulate the budget for fiscal year 2014-15 and the projected two years 2016 and 2017, using the audited numbers from fiscal year 2012-13. Confirming the city's position allows both elected and appointed leaders to begin to plan on how and what type of services the city can offer to its residents in the years to come."

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COME TOGETHER



Novi High School students performed some Christmas carols in the classrooms of the Academy of the Americas.

Novi, Detroit partner for holiday fun

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer



Novi Meadows parent Anna Kurliak works with some students in Detroit. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Holiday spirit and good cheer brought together students from Novi and Detroit in what's become a huge community service event.

Novi Meadows Elementary and Novi High School students traveled Dec. 11 to the Academy of the Americas in Detroit to help with Bridgepointe's annual party that aims to bridge communities in a holiday celebration.

This is one of the largest annual community service events for Novi schools.

"Our students really enjoy meeting new friends and helping them have a fun day," Novi Meadows Principal Lisa Fenichel said. "It's great to see the interactions between them. Sometimes you will see a hug and that's special."

The Academy of the Americas is a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade neighborhood-centered quality school that of-

See PARTNER, Page A6

Area mall walkers boost holiday fitness, friendships

By **Julie Brown**
Staff Writer

Mall walking is a great way to keep holiday calories at bay and keep seasonal stress to a minimum at the same time.

"We have a very enthusiastic group here," said Dan Jones, general manager of Twelve Oaks in Novi. "A big part of mall walking is the social aspect."

Twelve Oaks opens to walkers two hours before its regular opening. Jones is more of a visit the gym before work guy, but also appreciates fitness opportu-

nities at work. "I certainly get a few laps in," he said. "It's great just to go and take a few laps and stretch my legs a bit."

"Twelve Oaks opens for walker 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday, with walkers asked to use only the lower level before 9 a.m. First-timers should register at the Customer Service Desk in the Center Court after 10 a.m."

At Westland Shopping Center, Garden City Hospital is the

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A trio of walkers hits the upper level of Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. The three - Tom Grabowski (from left), Dave Axelrad and Dave Butler - were among a few dozen walkers at the mall by 8 a.m. on a sub-zero morning. JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lions tickets

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the New York Giants at 4 p.m., Dec. 22 at Ford Field. Our website, Hometownlife.com, is giving away two tickets, but you must act fast. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get five extra chances to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random Dec. 20.

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Volume 58 Number 31

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WALKERS

Continued from Page A1

official partner for Westland Walkers. Westland's doors open at 7 a.m. by Olga's (Arcade 2), Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. Laurel Park in Livonia also offers walking, beginning at 8 a.m. Monday

through Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday. **'Camaraderie'** Jack Morrison of Plymouth Township has been a mall walker for about 20 years at Laurel Park. "For the camaraderie and the very small exercise I get," the retired brick salesman said. Morrison also likes

the people he's met walking. "Everybody is lovely. It's the people we've lost," he said of those who've passed away. "We've met so many lovely people and now they're gone." Friend Mel Karfis of Livonia, a retired iron worker, has also walked at Laurel Park some 20 years. "For the exercise and the camaraderie," Karfis said of mall walking. He has both family and friends who walk at Laurel Park.

"I've learned a lot of things. Our group is very well-informed," Karfis said. "It's like one big family in a way." Walker Jim White of Livonia, who's exercised about 15 years at Laurel Park, said of Morrison, "He's the patriarch of this mall."

White, a retired banker, said, "I've got to keep my health up" by walking, which he does with wife Mary Ann and his friends. "It's like we're having our own town meeting here," White said. "You don't dare miss." Absences of regulars are quickly noted.

Over at Westland mall that same Thursday morning, Friends Linda Young and Carmen Vella

were walking. The Livonia residents are regulars there. "I stopped smoking four years ago, gained some weight and wanted to lose it," said Young, a retired Walgreens supervisor. "And good for the heart. That's what the doctor says."

The women walk outdoors in warmer weather, aiming for three miles daily. Vella is a homemaker. Young's been walking there since her retirement four years ago. "I was very active at work," she said. She wanted to keep that up.

"Nice mall, clean, safe," Young said of Westland. "I enjoy it. It gives you a good chance to look at the specials." At Westland, Charles Monroe of Garden City was also doing fitness walking that morning. The Ford Motor Co. retiree has done mall walking eight or nine years, beginning at Wonderland in Livonia.

"To stay healthy, stay active," said Monroe, who walks at Westland three to five days weekly. "Sometimes you have things to do." Monroe agreed the other walkers are friend-

ly. "Oh, yeah, I'm a people person," he said. "They're nice."

Exercise, fun Florence Marini of Novi was walking the upper level of the office of Oaks on a recent Monday morning. "I've been walking here just three years," she said. "My husband's been walking here eight years. He likes the longer route (on the lower level) and I began basically to keep him company."

Some mall walkers track their distance, but she doesn't. "I worked for 40 years; I don't want any regimen," the retired Kroger cashier said. She likes her fellow Twelve Oaks walkers. "Everybody's friendly."

The security staff is also friendly and helpful. "I feel comfortable, secure," Marini said. "It's free, although I do patronize it. For my husband, it's like going to work. He needs that 'get up in the morning.'"

They socialize at the Novi mall near I-96 on weekends. Marini has her mom, 92, at home

who needs help. "Starbucks is our bar," she said with a smile.

Downstairs at Twelve Oaks was Janet Trusty of Wixom, who's walked there three or four years. She works in the office of a family-owned business.

"We do the exercise class in front of Macy's," Trusty said of that Monday through Wednesday morning class. "Then we're out of here."

Liz Smith of Commerce Township, a retired warehouse staffer, walks and takes the class for "exercise. And it's nice and warm in here in the wintertime."

The women sometimes walk outdoors at Twelve Oaks in warm weather. "A lot of nice people," Smith added. Walker Janice Cavins of Wixom is Trusty's twin sister and retired in May from the city of Wixom. She was in California five months with her daughter and just started Twelve Oaks exercise.

"I miss being with walking people," Cavins said. "Just super people." She hopes to come to Twelve Oaks more often for exercise, encouraging her twin.

Goodfellows sale



Novi firefighter Matt Cyr takes donations for the Goodfellows newspaper fundraiser drive Dec. 7 at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road. Novi personnel were spread out across town, selling commemorative editions of the group's annual newspaper to raise funds and make sure no kids wake up Christmas morning without gifts. JOHN HEDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mackenzie calls prosecutor's allegations an error-filled attack

By Ann Zaniewski
Gannett Michigan



MacKenzie

A district judge in Novi has shot back at a prosecutor's allegations that he broke the law in his courtroom. Judge Brian MacKenzie of the 52-1 District Court contends in court filings that the Oakland County prosecutor's complaint against him is rife with factual and legal errors. His response, filed last week by his attorneys, also refers to the allegations as an "attack."

Prosecutor Jessica Cooper charged in her 238-page complaint that MacKenzie has falsified court records, improperly dismissed cases and concealed public documents. She said he has been secretly setting aside convictions and sentencing people when assistant prosecutors aren't in court.

Cooper is asking that the Oakland County Circuit Court correct MacKenzie's actions

and that her office be allowed to review his cases dating back 10 years. Cooper also wants the higher court to order MacKenzie's court clerk to stop reporting that prosecutors are present at hearings when they are not there.

MacKenzie's response said there are no secret proceedings in his courtroom. An assistant prosecutor appears in court only each Wednesday and every other Thursday, while the court is open five days a week, it said. The response also said there were no attempts to conceal proceedings and that the judge was required by law to order the files be made non-public. The prosecutor had full access to all non-public records, the response said.

"The prosecutor had actual notice or readily accessible electronic notice of all proceedings cited in the complaint," MacKenzie's response reads. The response also said that Holmes Youthful Trainee Act status was not given to a 46-year-old defendant. MacKenzie and one of his attorneys, John Lynch, could not immediately be reached for comment last week. Cooper has declined to comment, saying it is pending litigation and that the complaint speaks for itself. At a hearing Dec. 9, Oakland County Circuit Judge Leo Bowman recused himself from the case, saying he could not be fair. The matter will be reassigned to another judge.

NOVI NEWS
Published Thursday by Observer & Economic Media
888-887-2737 www.hometownlife.com
Publication Number USPS 398920
Periodical Postage Paid at South Lyon, MI 48178

HOW TO REACH US
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Party fun doesn't have to mean weight gain

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Linda Main, a registered dietitian, has some common sense advice for holiday revelers headed out to parties.

When facing the buffet, it's best to first have eaten some complex carbohydrates and protein at home, said Main, director of food and nutrition services at Garden City Hospital. "A lot of times, people arrive hungry and it's hard to resist the items in front of you," said Main, a Canton resident who's been at GCH 27 years. She suggested such items as a yogurt, half a

peanut butter sandwich or half a turkey sandwich before heading out to the party.

Once at the party, you should look over food selections, she said. "Decide which options are most important to you. Don't feel you have to eliminate your favorites," noting portion size is key.

"Alcohol tends to lower our inhibitions" and can lead to overeating. "Try to limit consumption of alcohol," she said. She agreed alcohol provides only "empty calories" and that women should have no more than one drink a day, men two.

Hosts can help with healthy food options. These include veggies with a low-fat dip, a fruit tray, bottled water and diet pop, she said. Smaller plates also reduce the tendency to overeat. Carving, game playing or decorating can also help. "Something that draws the focus away from eating."

Main recommends people not try to lose weight during the holidays, but stay at the same weight and, if needed, focus on weight loss after the holidays. In winter, you can continue with exercise, she said, even if it's just a 15-minute daily walk.

Yoga and exercise classes help and are good for stress and there's mall walking (GCH partners with Westland Shopping Center for Westland Walkers) or exercise DVDs to use at home. Main's hospital has a nutrition clinic available at 734-458-4330. She noted it gets more weight management referrals in early January. "I decided to not berate yourself needlessly if you overeat once during the holiday season. 'Realize it was just one incident and put it behind you and move on,'" she said.

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May your holidays be special this year

On Christmas Day 1963, my sister and I eagerly unwrapped the presents left for us under the tree. It was 2:30 a.m. Shortly after we began, we were finished. My mom and dad quickly found us in the living room and informed us that it was 2:30 a.m. It was back to bed until a more reasonable morning time.

My sister was 9, I was 7. We were trying to sleep in my bedroom because my grandparents were visiting for the holiday break. Together, my sister and I had convinced ourselves that we saw the sun rising. That was our cue. We could officially open presents if the sun was up.

Clearly, at 2:30 a.m. the sun was not rising. We also knew the sun was not rising because we did not go and get my parents. Now, 50 years later, I can still recall that morning.

That morning was important, not because my sister and I tried to sneak into the living room or that my parents woke up or that we tried to open presents early. No, that morning was important because it reinforced to me the importance of holidays. I learned that morning that holidays were special times where families and friends connected in ways that they did not typically connect.

Within our Novi community, we celebrate many different



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

holidays. Whatever the holiday, my hope is that each of the families in our school district and our community has pleasant, meaningful holiday memories.

Holidays are important. First, they typically represent an important religious or cultural day. The holiday helps us remember and reflect on the message of that day or season. The messages and lessons connected to the holidays help make us who we are and identify those important lessons that we need to remember.

Holidays are also important because they typically bring together communities. Friends and families rally around the common theme and develop strong bonds. The holidays help us extend our lives to those who live around us.

Our Novi community is tremendously diverse. This diversity is one of our strengths. It provides us an opportunity to experience the world that most of our students will live in.

For the students in our schools, the world is getting smaller. Transportation and communication make connecting with people around the world much easier than it

has been at any time in our history. Within Novi, we have begun to experience that. The holidays reinforce to us that the world is getting smaller as we learn from and about the important times and places in each of our lives.

Our Novi community is also one of history and change. Within Novi, there exists a core of longtime residents. They have witnessed many changes in Novi. Yet Novi is still home. These longtime residents embrace how Novi has grown and changed. They help steady Novi and help us all look to the future.

Novi has also seen tremendous change. Many residents moved here because they wanted to be part of a community that valued the things that they valued. What are those things of value? Great schools. Great neighborhoods. Great parks and community activities. A great library. It all adds up to a great city.

As this holiday season arrives, the lessons that I learned so long ago are still relevant. The holidays are still about families and friends celebrating special times centered around common purposes.

May your holiday season be special!

Steve Matthews is superintendent of Novi Community Schools. He can be reached at 248-449-1204 or smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us.

Holiday shopping



Parkview Elementary first-grader Natalie Deneweth gets some help from Rachel Harris during the school's Dec. 12 PTA holiday gift shop, which allowed students to shop for their families and friends within a predetermined budget. JOHN HEDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Great Start Readiness Program

The Novi Community Education Preschool will be offering the Great Start Readiness Program for 4-year-olds starting September 2014.

To qualify for this state-funded program, children must be age 4 by Oct. 1, 2014, and meet two of seven criteria set by the state. The GSRP program is a free preschool and includes lunch and snack. Parents provide transportation.

The all-day class will

be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and follow the Novi Community School district calendar.

Novi Community Education Preschool uses the Creative Curriculum. This curriculum supports the children learning through hands-on activities and follows the state of Michigan Early Childhood Standards. Lesson plans reflect social, emotional, physical, cognitive and language development.

Registration is ongoing beginning Jan. 6.

Space is limited and enrollment is not guaranteed. Parents or guardians should contact the Community Education Preschool office to schedule a registration appointment at 248-449-1713.

The following documents are necessary for preregistration: 12-month proof of income (2013 tax forms, FIA statement), child's birth certificate, health insurance, copy of child's immunization records and three proofs of Novi residency (one proof must be a mortgage or lease).

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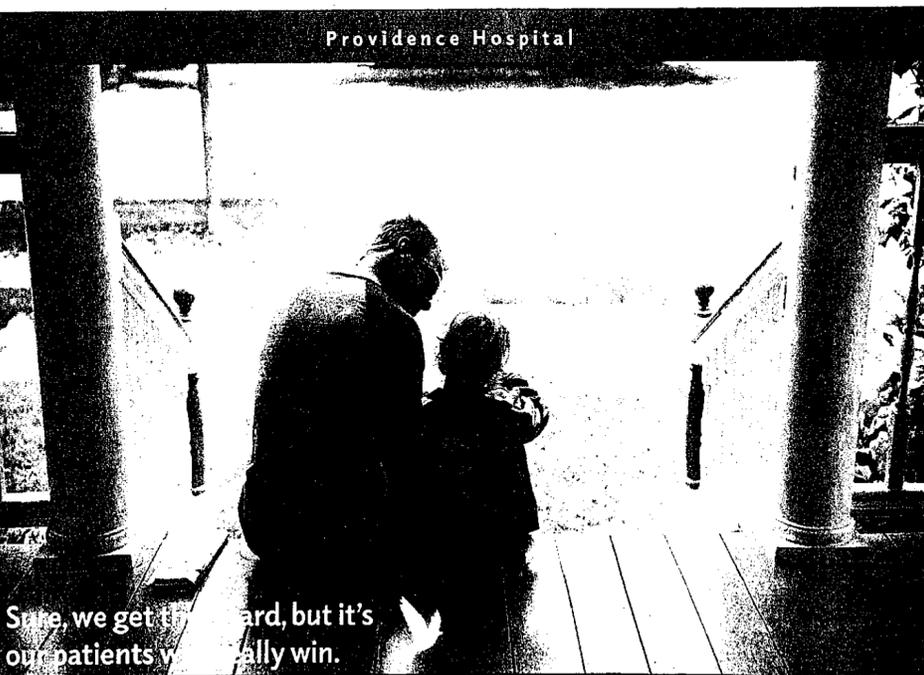
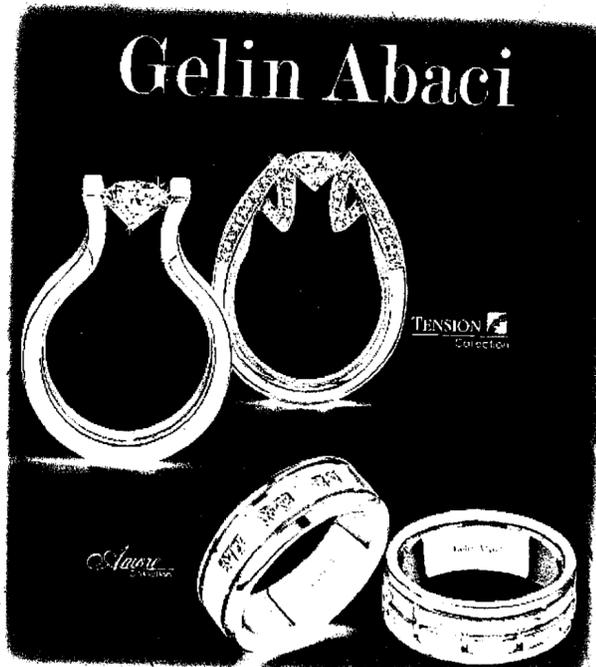
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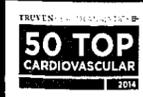
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Stress, conflict part of holidays, but there's joy, too

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The holidays are a joyful time for many, but not free of stress. "We see it in our clients. My view of it is we have so many expectations surrounding the

holidays," said Janet Terry, clinical manager for the Pontiac site of Oakland Family Services. Trying to meet unrealistic expectations causes problems. "In that trying, the stressors occur," said Terry, who earned a

master's degree in social work from Wayne State University and is a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor. OFS also has sites in Rochester Hills, Berkley and Walled Lake. All parents want to give to their children,

she said, and that's been difficult with the economic downturn. "We're starting to see a slight uptick on that," she said of jobs, including seasonal work. OFS clients often still struggle. The holidays bring

family and work activities with alcohol served. "There may be a little more risk of some binge drinking," said Terry, a White Lake resident. Women should have no more than seven drinks a week, but she emphasized you should never try to "save up" and drink to excess.

The holidays also mean overeating for many and the excess drinking can start "as a little relaxation at the end of the stressful day," she said. The good part is seeing family and friends, including some you don't during the rest of the year. "There are a lot of

the fixings," she said. "We can still have a fantastic dinner." Volunteering is a great way to celebrate the season. Terry's office does an adopt-a-family as a staff, as well as Christmas baskets. "You get so much out of it yourself," she said. Research shows volunteering is good for the volunteer's self-worth. "The needs are there all year long," but surface at the holidays. Volunteering as a family all year for Meals on Wheels and including children sets a great example, she said. She's pretty good about heading her own advice.

"It's always a work in progress," said Terry, who has learned to delegate. "Could I always do better? Oh, yes. We all can." She recommends reading traditions for absent family members, bypassing those that no longer have meaning. "Just focus on the stuff that's really important to the entire family," Terry said.

"It's always a work in progress. Could I always do better? Oh, yes. We all can." She recommends reading traditions for absent family members, bypassing those that no longer have meaning. "Just focus on the stuff that's really important to the entire family," Terry said.

positives that occur at that time," said Terry, whose family includes two daughters, two stepchildren and two granddaughters. Remembering loved ones who've died is sad, but also brings good memories at the holidays. Terry recommends doing things together as a family come holiday time, as well as delegating tasks. Religious rituals and the spiritual side of the season can uplift people, too. "I think it goes right back to expectations," she said. "We need to get more realistic." Adding humor, such as if the turkey falls on the kitchen floor or is otherwise a flop, helps.

"Well, we still have all

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Michigan-made gifts help economy, warm hearts

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Job Benefiel of Plymouth Township was out shopping on a recent Tuesday evening for a gift for wife Lynn's birthday. He came to the Art Is In Market at Livonia's Laurel Park Place.



Deb La Pratt's ceramic work uses common objects like this Farmington Hills manhole cover. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Helen Hardmeyer is a retired veteran working with fibers and cloth. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Just something unique, something made by an individual, not mass-produced, something that reflects Michigan or Detroit," said Benefiel, a retired lawyer. As he looked at artists' wares, Benefiel noted he had a brother-in-law, father to 12, who delivered Fajgo pop.

Benefiel's attitude is music to the ears of Deb La Pratt of Walled Lake, owner of the Art Is In Markets with locations in Twelve Oaks in Novi and the newest at Partridge Creek in Clinton Township, as well as Laurel Park Place.

"I think it's great for the economy, it's great for Michigan," La Pratt said of the growing popularity of made in Michigan gifts. She eschews high-end box stores for shopping.

"I always say it's touched by the artist's hands," said La Pratt, an artist who uses old found objects, focusing on Detroit, for such works as ceramic tiles and mantle covers.

A walk through the Laurel Park Place store reveals pencil drawings of scenes from Livonia, Plymouth, Northville and elsewhere. There are such items as metal garden art pieces, organic spices, women's clothing, jewelry and pottery. Monte Nagler, a Farmington Hills photographer, has his work displayed for sale.

There are also books by Michigan authors. "Artists and talent" "We have such a range of artists and talent," La

Michigan Now campaign, which includes the August festival in downtown Northville, set for Aug. 1-3, 2014.

Her effort started the day before Thanksgiving in 2007 with an emphasis on Michigan shopping. "We could really make an impact on our economy," Diggs said. "It's been very successful."

The Northville festival has grown and there are 7,400 people committed on the website www.BuyMichiganNow.com to Michigan shopping. She has some 5,000 businesses on board of many types.

"That's growing all the time. It's been great," Diggs said. This time of year, she helps smaller businesses with local TV appearances highlighting gifts.

She has a holiday gift guide in November and December, currently available online, focusing on Michigan gifts with about 100 and links to their websites for other gift ideas. A grocery guide is available through the website year-round.

Diggs cites Kelly's Karamels in Troy as having a great product. Poof-Slinky makes soft toy balls in Plymouth, while Walled Lake's American Plastic Toys produces beach toys to kitchen sets.

Diggs agreed local artists have much to offer. "A lot of times, it's a one-of-a-kind item," she said. "We've got a great blossoming art community and they deserve our support."

Diggs cited the Art Is In Markets, as well as the Yellow Door Art Market in Berkley and Rust Belt Market in Ferndale, for artists' gifts made in Michigan.

at least 80 percent of foodstuffs in her store are Michigan products. She finds many customers eager to buy Michigan gifts.

"Once they see all of it, that really gets them excited," said Canton resident Delap, whose 24-year business began in Canton and moved to Plymouth in 1999. "They like it very much."

She carries work by local artists, including Pewabic Pottery. "They love the idea that we do represent a lot of local artists," Delap said. Basket Kreations carries recycled license plate artwork, including a Michigan cutout of a Florida plate ideal for snowbirds. The store also carries mittens recycled from sweaters.

Basket Kreations carries books on the Daisy Air Rifle Co., based in Plymouth until its 1958 departure for Arkansas. "We just really love our made in Michigan items," Delap said. "It really does

help our state. I'm very pro-Michigan." jbrown@hometownlife.com



Livonia artist Ann Fay Sneddon, here with her service dog Rita, has worked with oils and acrylics for about 10 years. Her subjects include these florals, as well as commissioned pet portraits. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Get your Michigan food fix with Mitten Crate

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Andrew Chmielewski and Cory Wright have traveled all over Michigan and tasted some of the best food products the state has to offer.

But one thing they noticed on their travels is the items they found in different regions of the state were restricted to that area.

"We noticed a lot of great small products, but it's really regionalized," Chmielewski said. "Unless you are within that 30-mile radius, it was hard to find new products."

The two Royal Oak residents then put their heads together to come up with an idea that would not only give consumers across the state the ability to try food products they are missing out on, but also open up avenues for the small business owners that create these products to expand their reach.

Mitten Crate, which models the subscription box service, started in August and in just three months sales have tripled. They sold 60 boxes in the first month and are expecting to do more than 350 for December.

Each month, subscribers receive a box of four to six Michigan-made artisan foods from around the state. A subscription is \$35 per month, including shipping and handling, but single boxes also can be purchased for \$35 and a \$7 flat rate shipping fee.

Boxes also can be shipped out of state, with Wright noting that about 30 percent of sales so far have come from outside Michigan.

Chmielewski said the value of the box is between \$40 and \$45 and the items and theme change every month.

It's also a surprise, as the food products are announced in advance.



Royal Oak residents Andrew Chmielewski (left) and Cory Wright created the Mitten Crate subscription box in an effort to showcase some of the many unknown food products made in Michigan. NATHAN MUELLER

"Primarily, 99 percent of the time, it is going to be filled with products from companies people have never heard of," Chmielewski said. "And that is the fun part."

For example, the November box included items from Dave's Sweet Tooth in Harrison Township, Ethel's Edibles in St. Clair Shores, Johnny Secreto in Rockford, Street Eatz in Royal Oak and Hamtramck, Al Dente in Ann Arbor and McClary Bros. in Ferndale.

Wright said the goals of Mitten Crate are to showcase great Michigan products and have a positive impact on the community.

"Our main focus is for small producers to get as much exposure as possible," he said.

Mitten Crate also has formed a partnership with

Gleaners Community Food Bank, where money donated from every box sold accounts for three meals for people in need. The business donated almost 900 meals last month.

"This is your commitment to Michigan, if you will," Chmielewski said. "We love this place and we are proud to help people be a part of that."

Chmielewski and Wright also will be guest bartenders at the Bartending for Gleaners event Dec. 19 at Lily's Seafood in downtown Royal Oak. All tips and auction proceeds will go to Gleaners Community Food Bank.

For more information or to purchase a Mitten Crate, visit www.MittenCrate.com.

nmueller@hometownlife.com
586-826-7209

Cable franchise talks focus on quality, service

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Programming and rates are taboo topics during cable franchise talks about and with Bright House Networks. But technology and the quality of service are fair game.

Elected officials from Farmington Hills, Farmington and Novi met in a study session Dec. 9 with the expectation that they would meet with Bob McCann, president of the Bright House Networks Michigan division.

Unfortunately, McCann didn't make it to study session, instead arriving for the regularly scheduled Farmington Hills City Council meeting at which residents were invited to comment on cable-related community needs and performance. Only two residents had comments, but city council members in the three cities had plenty of comments.

Officials in the three cities are preparing for the renewal of Bright House's franchise, which expires in December 2015. In preparation, they scheduled three public comment meetings for residents. The last one was Monday in Farmington City Hall.

Technology
Elected officials talked about the future of cable when today, particularly the younger generation can stream television shows, movies and concerts on their smart phones and tablets.

City officials questioned how committed Bright House is to improving its infrastructure and whether the typical 15-year franchise agreement should be shortened.

"The competition is for media — not just cable," Farmington Mayor Bill Galvin said. "You don't need a cable provider to get ESPN."

But Farmington Hills Councilman Richard Lerner

noted that media is heading toward full wireless. He asked whether at some point, "Bright House will say, 'Let's stop investing because everything is going wireless.'"

As Novi Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt said, "You don't see them laying new cable down."

Later, McCann said that existing infrastructure allows Bright House to increase speed and handle new technology. And Bright House is working on adding more hot spots, particularly around Farmington Hills.

In response to questions about Bright House technology, McCann said its services are all digital now.

"I know Bob McCann has some ideas of what he wants to change," Hills City Manager Steve Brock said.

Competition
City officials also spoke briefly about competition. AT&T U-Verse is the only company that some years ago built infrastructure to compete. "We've made it quite plain that we are open for business," Brock said.

Bright House currently has about two-thirds of the market in the area, while the remaining is held by others, such as Direct TV, Dish Network and AT&T. "Laying down fiber optic cables is a fortune," Hills Mayor Barry Brickner said.

Service
City officials also acknowledged that Bright House has improved its customer service. In an email to the council, one resident said he canceled service and went with AT&T, while another acknowledged problems that were cleared up.

But Novi's Staudt added that in residential buildings, Bright House has not maintained the cable boxes that are deteriorating.

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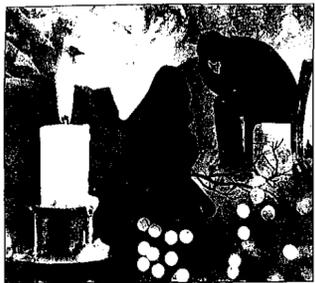
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Groups offer comfort when holidays get tough

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Despite the brightly colored lights, festive decorations and wishes of good cheer, the holidays are not always happy — especially for those experiencing some type of grief.

Glad tidings aside, the feelings of loss — of a loved one, a job, housing or other tragedy — are often intensified during

this stressful season, leading to anything but a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holiday."

"It is not always a joyful celebration — for many, it's a really tough time," said the Rev. Michael Horlocker of the First Presbyterian Church of South Lyon.

"Christmas can be a really tough time. In addition to your own personal issues, you now have the added stresses

and expectations that traditionally surround the holidays. Whether you're experiencing a loss or dealing with addictions or even just feeling broken, this time of year can be very rough," Horlocker said.

Suicide rates are highest during the holidays, Horlocker noted, adding that he believes that feelings of grief and loss throughout the holidays may be more common

than most people realize. That is one reason that his church, along with others in the area, is offering special services designed to address the needs of those anticipating the holidays with dread.

The First Presbyterian Church of South Lyon "Blue Christmas" service, scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 19 is aimed at giving space and voice to the trying feelings surrounding the Christmas season.

"Anyone feeling broken is welcome," he said. "The holidays are not the same for everyone," said the Rev. Ann Webber, rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Novi, whose church held its annual Blue Christmas service Saturday.

Acknowledging loss
Loss of any sort — jobs, health, income, the many losses that we feel that cause grief — can be acknowledged and addressed with hope, Webber said.

"Our lives are always going to be changed and different, but that does not mean they are ended. We can look with hope for God's gracious love to be with us as we journey through our grief to a time of hope and resolution," Webber said.

Karen Laing, executive director of the Northville-based New Hope Center for Grief Support, knows firsthand the pain that can surround the holidays following the loss of a loved one.

"The holidays can be extremely difficult," said Laing, a Northville mother of two college-aged children who lost her husband Keith in 2009.

"Everyone is saying 'Joy to the World' and you feel anything but joyous. It presents a difficult situation. You miss the person and the traditions they created or were a part of and the holidays themselves can be overwhelming. It just adds to the sense of loss — it is exhausting," she said.

Attending special services that provide a quiet, special place to grieve can be very helpful in coping throughout the holidays, Laing said.

"It also helps to be able to talk about your loved one," Laing said, "Saying things like, 'I remember when ...' can be very healing."

Taking time to memorialize your loved one by participating in special volunteer work of making a donation in their name can also be helpful, she said.

"This year, we adopted a family for Christmas this year in honor of my husband."

Laing said that often, the anticipation of the holiday is much worse than the holiday itself. Keep this in mind and try to plan for the holiday in advance.

"Think about the things you are going to keep on doing, the things you are not going to do anymore and the things you may change," she said. "For instance, instead of a sit-down family dinner, try it buffet-style. I have even heard of a family that barbecues."

Horlocker is looking forward to the opportunity to offer comfort to those in spiritual need.

"We're all expected to be happy and celebrate and we feel like something is wrong with us when we can't," he said. "People need to be lifted up and reassured they are OK and that there is hope."

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Holiday luncheon



The Harmony Town Barbershop Chorus entertains the Dec. 12 holiday luncheon at the Novi Senior Center. The chorus sang many holiday favorites and encouraged the audience to join in. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brightmoor Christian Church
Location: M-5 and 13 Mile, Novi
Contact: 248-227-4420 or www.brightmoorchurch.org
Celebrate Recovery
Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Mondays
Details: Worship, teaching or testimony, and open-share recovery groups. Organizers offer the principles and tools to bring healing for the hurts, deliverance from life-controlling habits, and freedom from the hang-ups that keep us from developing strong and healthy relationships with God and others. Enter at Door D on the south side of the building. No cost; child care is available for children birth through fifth grade. Preregister.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
Location: 200 E. Main
Contact: 248-349-0911 or www.fpcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Location: 205 E. Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile), South Lyon
Contact: 248-437-2875

First United Methodist Church of Northville
Location: 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville
Contact: 248-349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org
Summer Sunday Worship (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 and 10 a.m.
Summer Sunday School (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 a.m. - Nursery; 10 a.m. - Nursery - sixth grade

Church of the Holy Family
Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: 248-349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
Time/Dates: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday; 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 6:30 p.m. Saturday (Spanish)
Holy days: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Location: 41415 Nine Mile, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: 248-349-0565
Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

Episcopal Church
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-227-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Holy Cross
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-227-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. Worship service
Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month.

Destiny Worship Center
Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile, Northville
Contact: DestinyW3@gmail.com or visit www.DW3.org

Hope Lutheran Church
Location: 39200 W. 12 Mile (corner of Haggerty), Farmington Hills
Contact: 248-349-2243 or visit www.hopcchurch.org
Sunday School/Small Groups for all ages: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Services: 11 a.m.
Bible Study/Prayer: Wednesday 7 p.m.

Lakes Baptist Church
Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
Livonia Church of Christ
Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia
Web: www.emmanuel-livonia.org
Contact: 248-442-8822
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Women's Coffee Break Bible Study: 10:15-11:30 a.m. Mondays "Advent Reflections, Making All Things New"
Christmas Eve: worship, candle lighting and holy communion at 5 (family worship), 7 and 11 p.m.
Sunday Dec 29: one service at 10 a.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-349-2243 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: 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: 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

First Church of the Nazarene
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Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Classic worship service, Adult Bible Fellowship classes and Children's Sunday School; 11 a.m. Contemporary worship service with Kids Church, Teen Worship Service and Adult Bible Fellowship classes. Cafeteria open from 9:15-11 a.m. Refreshments at 10:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Evening Traditional Service
Tuesday: 9:25 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Women of the Word) studying Luke
Thursday schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group and Bible Study
Friday: 9:30 a.m.; Sweet Fridays on the second and fourth Fridays — A Ministry for Moms of All Ages

BUSSELL, PHYLLIS
Age 93, of Farmington Hills, passed away Dec. 11, 2013. Funeral service at www.casterlinefunerals.com

MURPHY, AMY M. (PRIEST)
Died suddenly Dec. 13, 2013, age 13 of Livonia. Beloved wife of Jerome Murphy. Loving daughter of Brenda Priest and Michael (Dino) Priest. Dear sister of William (Dobby) Priest. Chartered granddaughter of Mary Miller. Proud aunt of Kaylee and Ryley Priest. Loved by aunts, uncles and cousins. Gathering Thursday, December 19, 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Memorial Service at First Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane Society, 30330 Telegraph Rd., Suite 220 Bingham Farms, MI 48025

HEGLE, DONELDA
Age 89, died December 10th, surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of Carl Hegle of 73 years. Mother to Carolee Moline, Sandy Stedle, Greg Hegle, Kim Pence and preceded in death by son Phil Hegle. Grandmother to five grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Forever in our hearts. Private memorial for family only.



The sold-out holiday luncheon at the Novi Senior Center featured good food, door prizes, a barbershop chorus performance and a festive atmosphere.

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Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Legacy Church (formerly First Baptist Church and Orchard Hills Baptist Church)
Location: 23455 Novi Road, Novi
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix 248-349-5665 or visit www.legacychurch.org
Sunday School/Small Groups for all ages: 9:45 a.m.
Bible Study/Prayer: Wednesday 7 p.m.

Merry Widows Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Pilgrim Fellowship: 6 p.m. Sundays
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Story Service: 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24
Details: The Meadowbrook Handshome Choir will be making its debut. Rev. Ritter's sermon title is "Fear Not". The service will end with "Silent Night" and candles. The 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service of candlelight, music and word will include guest violin and harp along with soprano Stephanie Rose Kanak and Marren Ritter. The sermon title is "Godianover" - Nursery care is available at both services.

Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life
Details: Events, programs and activities for all ages throughout

Northville Christian Assembly
Location: 41355 Six Mile
Contact: 248-348-9030; ncaillife.org
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults/youth/children; 9 a.m. Contemporary service in multipurpose gymnasium; 10:15 a.m. Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade); call 248-348-9031.

Orchard Grove Community Church
Location: 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake
Contact: 248-926-6584 or www.orchardgrove.org

Our Saviour Apostolic Lutheran Church
Location: 54899 Eight Mile, Northville
Contact: 248-374-2268
Children (5-10) & Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Orchard Grove Community Church
Location: 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake
Contact: 248-926-6584; www.orchardgrove.org

Passages

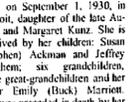
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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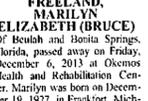
Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper



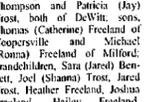
BERCHEM VIOLETTE M.
Age 83, formerly a 35+ year Northville resident, passed away December 13, 2013. She was born on September 1, 1930, in Detroit, daughter of the late August and Margaret Kunz. She is survived by her children: Susan (Stephen) Ackman and Jeffrey Berchem; six grandchildren: three great-grandchildren and her sister Emily (Black) Marriott. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack in 1992 and her son Daniel in 2011. Visitation was held on Monday, December 16, from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Interment followed at Rural Hill Cemetery. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com



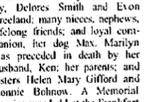
JENKINSON KENNETH DEE
Age 69 of Milford, passed away peacefully at his home on December 11, 2013. Ken was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Adrian College from which he graduated in 1966. Ken was a teacher of the Huron Valley School System 1967-1997, primarily at Milford High in the English Department and taught Driver's Education and was the Student Activities Director. Ken also coached 9th grade girls' softball and basketball. In addition to Marcia Lee Jenkinson, his beloved wife of 47 years, Ken is survived by his sons Paul Dee (Sheila) Jenkinson and David Land (Valerie) Jenkinson; granddaughters Hannah Jenkinson and Hope Jenkinson; grandson David Kenneth Jenkinson; mother Irene Jenkinson; sister Mary Dee Jenkinson; her mother-in-law, Jean Regan and many nieces, nephews and loving friends. She was preceded in death by her father: Martin Galvin and Jeri A. Ross. Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 17, from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with a funeral service at 7:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com



REGAN, RENE
Age 88, of Salem Twp., passed away December 13, 2013. She was born on November 15, 1963, in Jackson, daughter of Toni and the late Martin Galvin. On June 7, 1997, Rene married the love of her life, George Regan. Rene touched the heart of anyone she met. She was known for her gentleness, loving, caring nature and for her random acts of kindness. Her passion in life was her husband, George, her grandchildren and her family. Rene enjoyed arts and crafts and was an excellent cook. She loved spontaneous adventures and was a huge fan of the movie Toy Story. Rene will always be remembered for her great sense of humor and for her ability to make anyone laugh. She is survived by her beloved husband, George; her mother and best friend, Toni (Mike Barnes) Overmyer; her children: Raymond Conklin, Dustin (Poncee) Conklin, Joshua (Vuko) Regan and Jecile (Joey) Bialas; her grandchildren: Samantha Alexander and another grandson expected in May. Rene is also survived by her sisters: Mari (Tim) Overmyer, Toni (Rob) Baarden and Robin Ross; her uncle, Mike Goethe; her mother-in-law, Jean Regan and many nieces, nephews and loving friends. She was preceded in death by her father: Martin Galvin and Jeri A. Ross. Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 17, from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with a funeral service at 7:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com



BUSSELL, PHYLLIS
Age 93, of Farmington Hills, passed away Dec. 11, 2013. Funeral service at www.casterlinefunerals.com



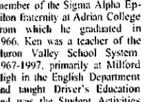
MURPHY, AMY M. (PRIEST)
Died suddenly Dec. 13, 2013, age 13 of Livonia. Beloved wife of Jerome Murphy. Loving daughter of Brenda Priest and Michael (Dino) Priest. Dear sister of William (Dobby) Priest. Chartered granddaughter of Mary Miller. Proud aunt of Kaylee and Ryley Priest. Loved by aunts, uncles and cousins. Gathering Thursday, December 19, 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Memorial Service at First Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane Society, 30330 Telegraph Rd., Suite 220 Bingham Farms, MI 48025



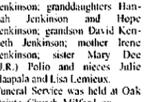
HEGLE, DONELDA
Age 89, died December 10th, surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of Carl Hegle of 73 years. Mother to Carolee Moline, Sandy Stedle, Greg Hegle, Kim Pence and preceded in death by son Phil Hegle. Grandmother to five grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Forever in our hearts. Private memorial for family only.



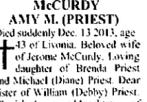
SEDORE, MARILYN C.
Age 88, passed away December 14, 2013. She was born on July 2, 1925, in Detroit, daughter of the late Harry and Mabel Rich. She is survived by her children: Janet (Gary) Knight and Mark Sedore; two grandsons: two granddaughters; seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, Richard in 1986 and her sister, Marcia Bishop in 2012. Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 17, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with an Eastern Star Service at 7:00 p.m. A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Online guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com



TUCK, PAUL
Age 69, of Ivon, passed away on December 10, 2013. No services have been planned at this time. Arrangements have been entrusted to Corvell Funeral Home of Traverse City.



BUSSELL, PHYLLIS
Age 93, of Farmington Hills, passed away Dec. 11, 2013. Funeral service at www.casterlinefunerals.com



MURPHY, AMY M. (PRIEST)
Died suddenly Dec. 13, 2013, age 13 of Livonia. Beloved wife of Jerome Murphy. Loving daughter of Brenda Priest and Michael (Dino) Priest. Dear sister of William (Dobby) Priest. Chartered granddaughter of Mary Miller. Proud aunt of Kaylee and Ryley Priest. Loved by aunts, uncles and cousins. Gathering Thursday, December 19, 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Memorial Service at First Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Humane Society, 30330 Telegraph Rd., Suite 220 Bingham Farms, MI 48025

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CHRISTIAN & KENNEDY MEDIA

Readers share special holiday traditions

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Traditions – those special events and practices that bind us to one another, creating happy memories and something to cling to in times of trouble – can be as simple as getting together to bake cookies every year or as elaborate as a gathering of family and friends complete with an ugly sweater contest.

New or old, these traditions centered around the holiday season hold a special place in both the hearts and minds of readers in the area.

Just ask Livonia's Judy Franco, who celebrates her Polish heritage with her family every year, a tradition built upon her studies of the subject as a college student years ago.

"Wigilia is the traditional Polish Christmas Eve dinner and begins when the first evening star is sighted in sky," Franco said.

The traditional menu is quite specific; however, Franco altered hers a bit on some advice from her mother.

"When I first started hosting this event, I told my mother that I wanted

to have the traditional Polish menu. She said, 'I didn't like it when I was young girl and I am not going to like it now either,'" Franco said, laughing.

As one of six sisters, all of whom are accomplished cooks, Franco's meal is typically meatless and usually includes sautéed perch and other Polish delicacies, such as potato or sauerkraut pierogi, homemade potato soup flavored with sautéed onions, cucumbers and sour cream, coleslaw and Jell-O.

See TRADITIONS, Page A15



Here's a group photo from a past Maylen holiday party. Friends from Bloomfield Hills, Novi, Wayne, Northville and Lansing attended.

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www.brightmoorcc.org
something for the entire family

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24265 Meadowdale Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:15 p.m.
Fr. Bob Lachon, Pastor
Fr. Bob Espinosa, Associate
Pastor Office: 248-8847 • www.hfllc.org

Walled Lake

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1835 S. Commerce Rd.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m. All Ages
Rev. Kenneth Warren • 585-531-2021
www.cpcwalledlake.org

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-584-5585
Pastor: Steve Sawyer
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
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Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44209 E. 10 Mile, Novi 48375-2345
12 mi. west of Novi Rd.
www.fccnovi.org
Worship and Sunday School - 10 AM
Children, Youth and Adult Ministries

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
47670 W. Taylor Rd. • 248-427-1175
Sunday Worship: 7:45 am & 10 am
Healing Service: Wednesday 11:45 am
Rev. Ann Wheeler, Rector
holycrossnovi@gmail.com
www.holycrossnovi.org

Whitmore Lake

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
10774 Nine Mile Road
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 410-2582
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pastor: Bryant Anderson
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI 48460-2805
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
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South County: 10 am, Grades K-12
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Sunday 8:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone (248) 912-0043
www.oakpointe.org

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
660 E. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48327
248-887-1311 • www.humc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Kids Church: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 11 a.m.
MS Youth Night: Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m.
Great Share: Monday 8:30 a.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1280 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48364
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am
Children's Church: 10:30 am
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults
248-684-2798
www.milfordumc.org

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Saturday 9:45 a.m.
Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor
Parish Office: 247-7778

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4167 E. 1st Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. Anne M. Smith, Pastor
248-265-2652
www.nuwc.org
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South Lyon

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205 E. Lake (10 Miles) • 248-437-2875
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Children's Church for Grades K thru 5th
Nursery Care Provided
Mid-Week Study: Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Richard Heston, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org

BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH
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62910 13 Mile Rd. • South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
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Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Great Share: Monday 8:30 a.m.

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48360
248-884-4216
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Wednesday: All Ages: 7:00 p.m.
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The Church of Christ
21859 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-427-3363 • www.chcsl.com
8:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday: Midweek Ministry 7 p.m.
Troy Singleton, Minister
www.chcsl.com

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Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.
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Northville

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www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship & Church School 10:00 am
248-349-0811

United Methodist Church
(248) 349-1144
177 West 8 Mile Road
Northville, MI 48178
www.unitedmethodist.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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Evening Service: 6:30 am • Wednesday Evening: 7:00 pm
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Worship: 10:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

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248-495-0400
www.waltonwood.org
Sunday Services:
8:45, 10 & 11:30 am

Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
50225 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM
Education Hour 9:30 AM
New Bart Muller, Pastor
248-485-4408
www.shepherds-way.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon
248-495-0400
www.crossroadscc.org
Sunday Services:
8:45, 10 & 11:30 am

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
133 Orchard Dr., Northville
248-346-9030
Sunday Mass: 8:00 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Church: 10:30 am, 11:30 am
Parish Office: 248-346-9030
Rev. Dennis Bernard, Pastor

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church
10000 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48155
10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Coffee
11:30 a.m. Morning Service
Wednesday Bible Study (colleagues) at 7 pm

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Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
15660 Hubbard Road - Livonia
South of Six Mile Road
Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Dr. James M. McGuire • Nancy Probert

For more information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sore at 248-437-2011, ext. 247 or e-mail: ssore@hometownlife.com



Grace, 9, Ashlyn, 6, and Aubrey Kuhn, 7, of Plymouth.

TRADITIONS

Continued from Page A14

"everyone loves Jell-O," Franco said.

Served on a white tablecloth over hay to signify a manger, the meal is completed with a wide array of cookies and pastries prepared by Franco and her sisters.

Christmas wafer

A highlight of the meal is the passing of the Christmas wafer, or opłatek – thin, unleavened wafers embossed with writing or Christmas images.

"We pass them with a plate of honey to those surrounding us as a sign of peace and love," Franco said.

One caveat that Franco is careful to observe is that there should always be an even number of places set at the table.

"There is a saying that if there is an odd number, someone who is not at the table will not return the

following year," she said. This year, Franco will set a table for 28 guests, family members that include her husband and their three grown sons, plus her sisters and their families. It has become a tradition that is quite special to her.

"It just makes it Christmas. It is a just a wonderful way of remembering," she said.

For Novi's Elaine Maylen, tradition is not only about past memories, but creating new ones to pass along to her daughters and friends.

Growing up as an only child, Maylen remembers quiet gatherings with her small family where often she was the only youngster.

"It wasn't like you see on television – these big celebrations with lots of people and lots going on," Maylen said.

Making memories

It was these memories, she explains, that are behind the Christmas party that Maylen and

her husband, also an only child, have been hosting for friends and neighbors the past nine years, complete with a fiercely competitive ugly sweater contest and a prize-filled bingo game.

"When you are just a small family, it can get really lonely. We knew there were others in the same situation that we were, so we decided to do something about it," she said.

"People like to go out and do things with others on Christmas day – even if they are not Christian."

"The celebration that began with '20 or so' has now taken on much larger proportions.

"We now have over 50 people – Christian, Jewish, Parsi and Hindu – from Novi, Northville, Livonia and Farmington Hills. We even have someone from Boston who attends with her brother, who lives nearby," Maylen said.

The party, while creating happy, fun-filled memories for her two daughters ages 23 and 16, is a testimony to the need for people to have social tradition in their lives, Maylen said.

"I think the party and the fact that it has grown is a reflection of the need people have to connect and celebrate with each other," she said.

When Joe Legato of South Lyon and his family gather each holiday, it is around a pile of themed gifts, each handmade by family members, which are then handed out, white elephant-style.

"The beauty of it is that we are not all craftsman. Some of the gifts are just fantastic and then some of them, well you kind of wonder how in the world they are staying together," he said with a laugh.

Legato, whose family own Bill and Rod's Appliance in Livonia, has been participating in the gift exchange "for as long as I can remember," he said.

The party, while creating happy, fun-filled memories for her two daughters ages 23 and 16, is a testimony to the need for people to have social tradition in their lives, Maylen said.

"I think the party and the fact that it has grown is a reflection of the need people have to connect and celebrate with each other," she said.

See TRADITIONS, Page A18

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Remember the true meaning of Christmas

Christmas is a time to celebrate humanity. As you can tell by the bitterly cold weather this week, the first major snowstorm last weekend, the increased traffic on the roads and the crowds at your favorite mall, the Christmas season is upon us.

But those are the tangible — to some, distasteful — trappings of the seasons. For people of the Christian faith, it is one of the most significant times of the year. It marks the coming of the Messiah — the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians all over the world celebrate this great milestone with prayer and reverence.

But this time of year is also important to the followers of other religions. Jews, for example, recently finished celebrating Hanukkah, the eight-day "Festival of Lights," which ended Dec. 5. The season is marked by the candles of the menorah and Jews celebrate their ancient heroes and the survival of their culture with festive foods, games and blessings.

Although Hanukkah is considered to be a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, it has taken on more significance, especially in America, because of its proximity to Christmas. It is also at this time of year that many African Americans



In the spirit

This home along Catherine in Novi's Addington subdivision has featured an extensive holiday lighting decor for the past few years. Santa's sleigh, pulled by reindeer, located at the center, rises about 15 feet off the ground. JOHNN HEDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

begin to celebrate Kwanzaa. Although not a religious holiday, Kwanzaa, which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1 is a time when followers come

together and celebrate family, community and tradition. So in reality, the Christmas season means different things to different people, especially

in America, where so many different cultures have been thrown together. The common denominator seems to be that it is a time of celebration, to

hold dear the things that we might take for granted the rest of the year.

In recent years, some people have complained that there has been a war on Christmas. A debate has raged about whether the meaning of Christmas has been watered down by huge department stores or the political correctness police.

It's an unfortunate debate, particularly at this time of year, because it seems to run counter to all the virtues that are celebrated during Christmas.

It is supposed to be a time of rejoicing and a time to reflect on the common bond of humanity. There are so many people around the globe, including right here in our own back yard, who are not as fortunate. Many are dealing with poverty, hunger or war.

In America, we are fortunate to have the freedom to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. That in itself is reason enough to celebrate this holiday season.

So whatever Christmas means for you, please take a few moments during this wonderful season to think of those in the world who are not as fortunate. And give thanks for all that we are blessed with here in America. Merry Christmas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promote patriotism

A month ago, the Novi News published an article about the celebration of Veterans Day, which recognized the sacrifices that 21 million veterans have made for all of us. While it is great to remember these dedicated men and women on this particular day, unfortunately the subject of patriotism is not a high priority in our school system.

This became very evident on a recent summer trip to Boston. Our family took a historic tour, and during a visit to

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. Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday for Thursday's print edition.

Web: www.hometownlife.com
Mail: Letters to the Editor, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
Email: cstone@hometownlife.com
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

a museum we were asked to join in to sing My Country 'Tis of Thee. It was a song neither my older brother nor I had ever heard. Another

family from Novi was also visiting the museum with us at the same time, and their children did not know the song either.

Patriotism is important and should be something that is encouraged in our school system. In the United States today,

patriotism is very lacking as Americans are divided over politics, policies and lifestyles. Patriotism is something that helps people feel better about the country they live in and aides in setting aside differences with others to benefit the country as a whole. A recent study reports that 90 percent of Americans claim to be patriotic, while only 11 percent know the full lyrics of our national anthem.

Patriotism can unite Americans in difficult times. It helps us appreciate and reflect on the freedoms that have been fought for over the last 300 years. Something must be done about the lack of patriotism, and it

should begin by encouraging the love and respect of our country in our schools.

Matthew Bednarski
Novi High School student

Adopt a family

I believe acting as Holiday Angels by adopting a family for the holidays is the best thing a family can participate in. By adopting a family, you are teaching adults and children as well as their community, that holidays should be about giving and not receiving. Christmas is coming up and most children are excited Christmas Eve to wake up Christmas morning and discover gifts all around the Christmas tree. Yet so many of the

children do not share in their enthusiasm; many wake up to nothing. By adopting a family, you are showing that Christmas isn't just about gifts; it's about helping your others in your community out.

Adopting a family makes you feel absolutely great. You feel nothing but pride knowing that you made a family's Christmas come to life. Holidays are a time where people come together throughout the community whether your family or not. So let's all come together as a community to brighten this upcoming holiday by adopting a family.

Autumn Nicholson
Novi

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's one thing you really want for Christmas?

This question was asked at the Novi Public Library and Civic Center.



"For a happy family." "I want a Rainbow Loom."

Laura Kaska and daughter Leah, 8
Novi



"For my daughter to be home (she lives out of the country)."

Matt Vuich
Livonia



"Concert tickets."

Rachel Mullins
Novi



"A new iPhone 5s."

Terry Yu
Novi

NOVI NEWS

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

GUEST COLUMN

Simpler regulatory process will help small businesses

The Michigan economy has turned the corner. After years of high unemployment and sluggish growth, the economic outlook for our state is improving. Still, there is more that can be done to get the Michigan economy to full employment and businesses to increase their investments in the state. The key is to foster a stable future for the growth of small businesses — one of the backbones of our state's economy. We can do this by listening to the needs of the small business community and relieving them of the burden of an entirely too complex regulatory system.

I'm a small business owner in Livonia and I employ about 75 workers. I have watched the economy falter and observed the impact that this last downturn had on the small business community. Hiring slowed — so did business growth. I'm a business person and I care about fixing this big problem before our economy experiences a second recession.

Jump-starting small business hiring — which has historically created two-thirds of all new jobs and employs half of the private sector work force — should be a high priority for our lawmakers in Washington now that the federal government is again open. An easy, bipartisan way to rejuvenate small businesses is to review the regulatory system currently in place and make it easier for owners to navigate.

Regulations are a necessary part of doing business in the United States, but they do not



Lee S. Jacobsen

have to be a road block for small business owners. There are so many regulations in the pipeline in Washington, D.C., that small business owners are no longer able to predict yearly expenditures. With so much uncertainty about the cost of new regulations, business owners stop investing in new equipment, new projects and new hires.

Our federal government can do better than this and should look to adopt friendlier regulatory standards that will remove the economic uncertainty for small businesses. Then small business owners like me can get back to what we do best: growing our shops and hiring more workers.

The National Federation of Independent Business' Small Business Regulatory Reform Act outlines some great places for the federal government to start its overhaul of the current system. First, small businesses need to have a voice at the table during the creation of federal regulations. Lawmakers should seek our input and discuss the ways that regulations work when they are implemented. We can steer them in the right direction of smarter regulations.

Next, federal lawmakers should help small businesses comply before assessing penal-

ties for non-compliance with complicated regulations. Most small business owners want to do the right thing and meet all standards for business. But regulations can be tricky and hard to understand. Government agencies should work with owners to get small businesses up to code instead of punishing them first.

Finally, regulations should be rigorously vetted in a transparent process that includes a cost-benefit analysis and objective data. Federal decision-making must be made easier for small business owners to access and understand. All data, methods and models should be available to the public and clear standards must be used for all regulations. These standards should include cost-benefit analyses that illustrate that a regulation will do more good than harm and scientific data that underscore the justification for a regulation.

The federal government's willingness to tackle regulatory reform would be a signal to small business owners that Washington, D.C., understands the challenges facing our economy. A commitment to making the regulatory process more open and simplistic will allow small businesses to continue growing and hiring workers. With this regulatory relief, small businesses in Michigan can boost our state's economy and keep it on track for growth.

Lee S. Jacobsen is president of Jacobsen Industries in Livonia.



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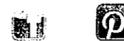
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maurices to hold clothing, toy drive

maurices is holding a clothing and toy drive to benefit Forever Families. "While we participate in a number of events sponsored by maurices throughout the year, we are especially proud when we have the opportunity to support causes right here at home," store manager Molly Starobas said.

The clothing and toy drive continues through Saturday, Jan. 18. Customers can drop off their donations any time during store hours, which are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Items needed include coats, clothing, shoes and toys.

For each donation, people will receive a coupon for 30 percent off any one regularly priced maurices item. maurices

offers clothing and accessories for fashion-savvy young women in sizes 1 to 24.

Band's selling CD to benefit Holy Cross

To help improve the lives of thousands of abused, abandoned and neglected children throughout the state, more than 20 well-known Michigan musicians and groups recorded *A Michigan Christmas of Hope* CD to benefit Holy Cross Children's Services. The CD is now available for a minimum donation of \$10 on www.michiganchildren.org or www.michiganchildren.org/music.

All 15 *Michigan's Fresh Food Markets*, including the Novi location on the northwest corner of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, are selling the CD.

CFCU to donate \$30,000 to charities Community Financial Credit Union is announcing the return of its

HOLIDAY HELPING OPPORTUNITIES

Warming Hearts & Homes charitable program for the 2013 holiday season. Throughout December, Community Financial is donating up to \$30,000 to local non-profit organizations instrumental in providing heat, food and clothing for families in their communities. The Novi CFCU is at 23890 Novi Road.

There are three ways to contribute to Community Financial's Warming Hearts & Homes program. Participants can visit the credit union's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CommunityFinancial. For every new "like" on the time line, Community Financial will donate \$25 to the active charity of the week. Participants can also use #CFCUwarms in a tweet to Community Financial. Every tweet using that hashtag will ensure \$25 more to each charity. Lastly, Community Financial is

donating another \$25 for each text it receives. Participants can text CFCUwarms to 70,000.

For Week 3, ending on Dec. 21, Community Financial will donate to The Salvation Army's "Coats for Kids" program.

Give at Meijer

The Meijer store in Wixom is running its Simply Give program through mid-December. All the funds will go to the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which has received \$3,000 from

Meijer this year. Look for the special gift cards on kiosks at the end caps near checkout lanes. The cashier will scan your card, which adds \$10 to your total, and you will receive the card back as your receipt for tax purposes.

TRADITIONS

Continued from Page A15

Snowmen, boxes and clocks have all been some of the themes, but Legato is quite proud of his gift entry into this year's birdhouse-themed exchange, made of driftwood and stones personally culled from the shores of Lake Superior. "It is a lot of fun and has made for some great memories," he said.

Grandma's house is special

This Christmas morning, as it has been for the past 18 Christmas mornings, Maris Ryckman of Livonia will wake up in her grandmother's

Grosse Ile home surrounded by the warmth of her family. It is a tradition that Ryckman, a freshman at Michigan State University, has shared with parents Bob and Carrie of Livonia and three siblings, ages 15, 21 and 24, since her birth 18 years ago.

"I can't imagine not waking up on Christmas surrounded by my entire family. It just wouldn't seem like Christmas," Ryckman said of the family's holiday sojourn to grandmother Georgian MacDonald's Downriver home.

Ryckman's family's traditions also include attending a special service at St. John Bosco in Redford, the same church where she and her three siblings participated in the annual Christmas pageant, followed by an elaborate

home-cooked Polish feast at her parents' home.

"We have homemade pierogi, golumpki, kielbasa and other great Polish foods before we leave for my grandmother's," Ryckman said.

These traditions, Ryckman said, are what make the holidays special for her. "It brings our family together and gives us something to look back on remember. It just wouldn't be the same without our traditions," she said.

The opportunity to celebrate family is exactly what makes tradition so important to Kelli Turi, 47.

The Canton mother of four children ages 15, 14, 12 and 10 is part of a very large family that has made a tradition of gathering together—close to 50 of them all living in the Detroit area—every year to celebrate the Christmas.

One of 12 grandchildren of family matriarch Maxine Harrigan, 91, of Livonia, Turi said that this tradition is something the entire family eagerly anticipates throughout the year.

"We have all stayed close to one another as cousins and now we are passing it on to our own children. It's very special," Turi said.

"I have so much gratitude for being a part of such a large family that has remained close throughout the years. We are all so proud to be part of such a loving family," she said.

Creating lasting memories like these and others is what makes tradi-

tions so valuable, said Liz Keiser, 38, who works in the Observer & Eccentric Media Classified Call Center.

Making candy

Keiser, the mother of two children, Aiden, 4, and Samantha, 4 months, has joined her aunt, Kathy Held of Shelby Township every year for the past five years in a candy-making extravaganza that would make Willy Wonka jealous.

Last year, the women made close to 600 turtles, fruities and cherry cordons together to pass out to family and friends throughout the holiday season.

Not only does this annual event help put Keiser in the spirit of the season, it also provides her the opportunity to spend some special time with her aunt.

"It is nice reminder of what the holidays are all about: making and keeping memories of people who are important to you," Keiser said.

For Stephanie Kuhn of Plymouth, tradition is centered around helping her three young daughters Grace, 9, Aubrey, 7, and Ashlyn, 6, remember the true meaning of Christmas.

An exquisitely designed book, *The Advent Book* by Jack and Kathy Stockman, is carefully packed away throughout the year, unwrapped only as the season approaches and read aloud every day as a family.

"The girls look forward to it and it is a really nice way to spend some quiet time together," Kuhn said.

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BEER & WINE

<p>Bell's Two Hearted Ale On Sale \$8.99</p>	<p>Dogfish Head 60 Min IPA On Sale \$9.99</p>	<p>J. Lohr Cabernet Sauvignon On Sale \$13.99</p>	<p>Menage A Trois Wines (Excludes Cabernet, Malbec & Pinot Noir) On Sale \$8.99</p>
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<p>Wild Caught Chilean Sea Bass \$19.99 lb. Save \$4.00 lb.</p>	<p>Alaskan Red King Crab Legs \$15.99 lb. Save \$3.00 lb. \$28.99 lb. (6/9 ct.) Save \$4.00 lb.</p>	<p>Wild Caught Sockeye Salmon \$13.99 lb. Save \$3.00 lb.</p>	<p>Snow Crab Clusters \$8.99 lb. Save \$2.00 lb.</p>
<p>Entrée To Go Pesto Salmon \$5.99 ea. Save \$1.00 ea.</p>	<p>Maryland Crab Cakes \$3.99 ea. Save \$1.00 ea.</p>		

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See the previous page for fantastic items from...

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SPORTS

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Novi attack starting to click

Wildcats fall short to defending state champ Brighton, crush Franklin

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The battle to get above .500 continues to be a challenge for Novi's iceers.

After splitting another pair of games last week, the Wildcats' hockey team is 4-4 (3-2-0 KLAAs Kensington) with three games left in the calendar year. Last week consisted of a close 4-2 loss Dec. 10 at Brighton (3-4-0, 1-0-0 Kensington) that included an empty-netter, before hosting and defeating Livonia Franklin (2-5-0, 0-4-0 Kensington) 6-0 Dec. 13. The Kensington Valley Ice

ON TAP

Novi (4-4-0, 3-2-0 KLAAs Kensington) was set to host Livonia Churchill earlier this week before facing Davison at 7:30 p.m. Friday and either Clarkston or Macomb Dakota on Saturday, both at the Detroit Skating Club.

Ryan Baxter cut the deficit to 2-1 just 3:29 into the third period off assists from juniors Bryan Fegert and Brad Hofelich.

Brighton regained the buffer with 7:03 remaining, but Novi junior Nikolas Teviliager scored off a junior James Hole assist with 2:27 left in regulation to make it 3-2.

The Wildcats were unable to complete the comeback, however, as Brighton notched an empty-net goal with 1:01 remaining when Novi junior goaltender Austin Petty (18



Novi's Jake Cyr puts the pressure on a Livonia Franklin player. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See HOCKEY, Page B2

Novi loses to Central, Northern

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

One week into the season and most boys basketball teams are still sorting out their lineups and playbooks while trying to get the right chemistry to gel. Novi's squad is no different.

The Wildcats (0-2) started the season with a pair of road losses, Dec. 10 at Walled Lake Central (2-0) and Dec. 13 at Walled Lake Northern (1-0).

Although the season opener was a 37-39 defeat to Central, Novi made it a game against Northern before losing 55-48. Shooting 18-for-32 (56.2 percent) from the field, the Cats reeled in 14 rebounds despite 16 turnovers against the Knights.

Junior Max Yanke and sophomore Eric Board (three rebounds) paced Novi with nine points apiece, while junior Alex Marzejon added eight points.

"This team has come a long way since day one," Novi coach Brian Tass said. "It may not register in the wins column yet, but the learning that's had to take place with guys who are willing to be coached is outstanding. Nine of our 15 players are new to varsity or the Novi program, so we have had to start basically from scratch this year. The attitude has been good and our focus on fundamentals will pay off by the end of the season. I am excited for the outcome."

Others contributing to the offense were junior Billy Ulle (six points), senior Nick Zugaro (five points, five assists), senior Erik Biberstein (four points, four rebounds, two steals), Junior Rohit Mogalaya-pal (three points) and sophomore Naji Ozier and senior Durrell Jackson (two points each).

Ulle and Mogalaya-pal, who split time at quarterback for the football team this past fall, combined to go 3-for-3, all from beyond the arc, in tallying their nine points toward the team's total. As a team, Novi was 6-for-7 from distance, with Zugaro, Yanke and Marzejon also knocking one down.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

ON TAP

Novi (0-2) looked for its first win of the season earlier this week against Canton in the home opener before visiting Livonia Franklin (1-1) at 7 p.m. today.



Novi's Matt George (front) wrestles Dec. 11 at Northville. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Underclassmen help defeat North Farmington

Wildcats hit tough break with trip to New Boston

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

With a wide variety of opponents during the past week, Novi's wrestling squad continues to take shape for the division season next month.

The Wildcats (4-2) headed to Northville for a Dec. 11 quad meet, where they split with North Farmington and Farmington, before a six-squad battle Saturday at New Boston Huron.

The week started against North Farmington, as the 'Cats won 61-15. The victory was highlighted by pins from sophomores Willy Jackson (112 pounds), Brent George (130), Griffin Sparling (140) and Neil Haakenson (145) and junior George Freeman (160) and a 12-2 decision by junior captain Evan Davis (135).

Farmington proved to be a bit tougher, handing Novi a 49-25 loss despite pins from Jackson, senior co-captain Ben Wright (152)

ON TAP

Novi (4-2) was at Waterford Kettering earlier this week along with Walled Lake Northern and Plymouth Salem before heading Friday and Saturday to the Oakland County Championships at Southfield and Lake Orion.

and Freeman, as well as an 8-1 victory by Davis and a 17-7 decision by senior Matt George (125).

In Saturday's battle at Huron, Novi faced a group consisting of Huron, Chipewewa Valley, Yale, Trenton and Howell to a slew of mixed results and individual successes.

Wright and freshman Travis Davis (103) each picked up a pin against the hosts, while junior Kyle Benkarski (145) nabbed a 10-2 win and Evan Davis



Novi's Nick Chavez goes against a North Farmington opponent.

See WRESTLING, Page B3

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Novi bowlers fashion strong start to season

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

With the bowling season rolling into action, the girls team came away with two dominant victories while the boys saw a split decision.

Novi hosted Walled Lake Western on Dec. 12 at Novi Bowl before visiting Hartland on Dec. 13 at Brighton Bowl.

The girls (2-0) defeated Western 29-1 and Hartland 26.5-3.5. Against Western, Novi won both Baker games 141-105 and 141-97 before winning both regular games 715-578 and 744-674. Sara Schulz (184, 155) and Megan Engels (133, 196) led the way.

It was more of the same against Hartland, as the Wildcats won both Baker games 160-125 and 176-110, as well as both regular games 774-649 and 801-756. Schulz (213, 233) and Engels (184, 153) were joined by Evie Plaetnick (125, 176) in scoring two points apiece.

The boys (1-1) had a tougher road in pulling out an 18-12 win over Western before losing 22-8 to Hartland. The 'Cats lost all 10 Baker points to West-

ON TAP

Novi (2-0 girls, 1-1 boys) looks to finish the calendar year at 3:30 p.m. Friday against Wayne Memorial at Town N Country Lanes in Westland.

ern 144-115 and 132-111, but won both regular games 801-673 and a close 649-636. Novi was led by Brennan Snow (172), Ryan Moore (170) and Mike Uille (165), with Snow securing the victory with two strikes in the 10th frame of the second game.

Against Hartland, the Eagles won the Baker games 172-167 and 163-159, winning totals by one pin. Snow again came up big in the 10th frame with three strikes. But the Eagles won the regular games 971-866 and 894-712 to pull away for a victory despite DiAndre Moreland scoring two points with games of 232 and 177.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

Shamrocks fall to rival Cranbrook

Catholic Central can't overcome onslaught in second period

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Lessons were learned last week when Detroit Catholic Central took on Cranbrook in a rivalry contest.

The game ended in a way most Shamrocks fans would have liked to avoid, as Cranbrook skated away with a 5-2 victory.

The first lesson for the Shamrocks had to be that it's hard to win when you pick up 25 minutes in penalties on seven calls, especially when your opponent is whistled for just three for six minutes.

But the biggest lesson, and one that goes without saying, is you can't let Cranbrook score you in the second period, 3-0, and expect to win.

Those three goals proved to be the difference maker, giving Cran-

ON TAP

Detroit Catholic Central will be back on the ice at 5:30 p.m. Saturday against Port Huron Northern at home. The team will then be on break until Jan. 3.

brook a 4-1 lead heading into the final period, in which both teams added a goal to their final tally.

Cranbrook scored on goals by Christopher Brown, Sam Miletic and Austin Alger in the second period, with assists going to Alger, Miletic, Brown and Jack Blumberg.

It was Catholic Central, however, that opened the scoring, taking a 1-0 lead with 8:22 off the clock in the first period on a power-play goal by Carter Cerretani. Ryan Burnett assisted.

Seven minutes later, the Cranes tied the game when Miletic found the back of the net past Catholic Central goalie Spencer Wright. Noah

Gilreath and Alger were credited with assists.

In the final period of play, it was Miletic scoring for a hat trick on a power play with 9:03 off the clock. He was assisted by Brown and Alger on the goal that led to a 5-1 advantage. Catholic Central scored six minutes later on a shot by Connor Gaffney, with Cerretani assisting.

Taking the loss was Wright, who stopped 23 of 28 shots on goal, while Spencer Applebaum picked up the win, stopping 27 of the 29 shots he faced.

The Shamrocks are now 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the MIHL North Division. Leading the division is St. Mary's with a 3-0 mark (7-0 overall), while Cranbrook is 2-0 (8-0 overall) and Brother Rice is 2-1 (4-2). Port Huron Northern is last in the division with a 0-3 mark (3-3-1).

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

Novi cruises to two big victories

Wildcats crush Central and Western

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Walled Lake was simply outmatched last week.

Novi's girls basketball team (3-0) cruised to a pair of lopsided victories over Central (0-3) on Dec. 10 and Western (0-4) on Dec. 13.

The Wildcats starters have proven to be effective early in the season after returning just two from last season. Against

Central, Novi led 15-1 after the first quarter and 28-8 at half-time en route to a 51-26 victory. Against Western, it was better, with a 19-3 first-quarter lead and 36-8 halftime lead before a 58-14 victory.

The 'Cats shot 22-for-65 (33.8 percent) against Central, which went 12-for-42 (28.6 percent) despite winning the rebound battle 34-24. Novi had 17-1 and 21-5 advantages in steals and deflections, respectively, drawing 16 turnovers while committing 15 of its own.

Novi was led by senior Kerri McMahan (16 points on 7-for-15 shooting), who also tacked on

ON TAP

Novi (3-0) looked to head into the holiday break undefeated earlier this week at Canton before hosting Livonia Franklin (0-4) at 7 p.m. today.

five rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Also aiding the victory were senior Taylor Pavlika (nine points), junior Alex Pelice (six points), senior Kristen Schubring (six points), senior Nicole Soltan (five points), junior Kelsey Miller (three points)

and senior Allie Iacobelli, junior Tiara Slater and junior Megha Ramappan (two points each).

In Friday's contest against Western, Novi shot 21-for-54 (38.9 percent), while the Warriors were locked down to 5-for-18 (27.8 percent) from the field. The Wildcats won the battle of the boards 21-15 while dominating assists, steals and deflections, resulting from 20 turnovers by the Warriors.

Pavlika led the 'Cats with 13 points and three assists, while McMahan dropped in 10 points, five rebounds, five assists and five steals.

The duo got a lot of help from their teammates, as every Wildcat registered at least one shot attempt. Also scoring for Novi were Pelice (eight points, six rebounds, three assists), Schubring (seven points, three rebounds, four steals), senior Rachel Whitens (seven points), senior Dina Favaz (four points), senior Mallory Dascke, Slater, sophomore Allie Lipson and freshman Bailey Baumback (two points each) and Miller (one point).

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

Novi native Kristock captures national award

CC picks up wins, takes loss

Team beats one nationally-ranked foe, falls to another

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

There's an old sports adage that goes: You win some, you lose some.

That's true for every team, of course, but the latter part of that sentence has been rare for the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team, defending Division I state champion.

That's what makes its loss to Davison last week a tough pill to swallow for the grapplers, who fell 31-28 in front of the student body during the annual assembly match.

Heading into the competition, the Shamrocks were ranked No. 1 in the state and Davison was ranked No. 2. Both teams were ranked in the top 25 nationally with the Shamrocks having an 11th-place ranking and Davison 20th.

"I like to compete and win just as much, if not more, than anyone in this gymnasium," Catholic Central coach Mitch Hancock said. "However, we needed this as a program and as a team. We have to get better in all aspects of wrestling and we have to do a better job in preparing. We will learn from this loss and we will get

better. Now it's time to switch roles and become the hunter."

The Shamrocks jumped out to a 21-6 lead, but were unable to hold on as they took losses in the light weights and eventually fell to the Cardinals.

Earning wins for the Shamrocks were Drew Garcia (171 pounds), Nick Giese (215), Jimmy Russell (285), Malik Amine (145) and Nick Bennett (152). They also received points from a void at 103 pounds.

The week wasn't all about losses to nationally-ranked opponents. In fact, earlier in the week the Shamrocks defeated the 24th-ranked team in the country with a victory over St. Edward (Ohio).

The victory came in the form of a tie-breaker, however, and one that took quite a while to figure out. Since the two teams were tied following the final match, the decision of a winner by match criteria had to be calculated.

There were no winning marks in the first three categories, which focus primarily on misconducts and point deductions, for either team. The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh

categories were null, too, as both teams had five pins each, no technical fall wins and each had a major decision and one decision, while the eighth criterion was a tie as well.

The decision came down to a ninth criterion, which found the Shamrocks had 23 near fall points throughout the entirety of the meet and St. Edward had just 15, giving Catholic Central the win.

Earning wins for the Shamrocks were: Myles Amine (138), Malik Amine (145), Bennett (152), Tyler Morland (160), Andrew Garcia (170), Logan Marvicki (182) and Jimmy Russell (220).

The Shamrocks also picked up wins in the Holland Duals against East Kentwood (64-18), Greenville (49-18), Clarkston (54-13) and Allegan (48-22). They fell to St. Johns in the final, 35-33, but were without state champion Garcia and all-state grappler Trey Zdebski.

"I thought our guys wrestled hard," Hancock said. "We have to get better at each weight class. We should've won that dual without Drew or Z, no doubts about it. It's easy to say that and use that as an excuse, however we got pinned five times and it's nearly impossible to beat any team when giving up five pins."

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

Novi tankers dunk Canton

Wildcats win 11 events, sweep top places in five

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In a promising showing, Novi's boys swim and dive team won 11 of 12 events in defeating Canton in its home opener.

The Wildcats (1-0) took two of the top three spots in three of nine individual events and all three relays, while sweeping the top three in five events, to win 141-42.

The lone success for the Chiefs (0-1) was in winning the 100 breaststroke in 1:08.56, where Will Sohn (third in 1:09.99) was the lone top-three finisher for the Wildcats. From there, it was all green caps.

Tanner Vincent took first in two events, the 200 individual medley (2:03.48) and 500 freestyle (5:02.46), while teammates Sid Karedy (second in 1:09.99) and Garrett Ray (second in 5:00 free in 6:33.11) were not far behind.

Karedy also won the 100 free in 52.42, just ahead of teammate Nathan Louie, who was second in 54.27 seconds.

Arthur Shi joined Vincent as a two-time individual winner, taking the 200 free (1:55.83) and 100 butterfly (59.33), both sweeps for Novi.

Shi was joined by Toraki Maehata (second in 1:56.12) and Justin Lee (third in 2:03.82) in the 200 free and by Joey Berman (second in 1:00.31) and Jacob Robbins (third in 1:02.30) in the 100 fly.

Maehata (1:01.80), Berman (1:01.98) and Robbins (1:04.54) also combined to sweep the 100 backstroke.

The 50 free was another sweep by Novi's Ryan Katuski (24.43), Louie (24.59) and Kyle Kilponen (24.74).

"This meet allowed us to swim an alternate lineup to see what options we have for future meets," Novi coach Brent Polonski said. "Our new swimmers were able to get in the meet and show what they could do. This meet also allowed our divers to pick up valuable wins in order to qualify for regionals."

In one-meter diving, Canton only had one diver, allowing James Cioffi (176.80 points), Nathan Pelierito (152.85) and Trey Richman (115.65) to sweep the event.

The individual talents combined to win all the relay events in both first and second. Novi won the 200 medley in 1:48.52 and 1:53.06, the 200 free relay in 1:34.79 and 1:39.68 and the 400 free relay in 3:35.96 and 3:50.43.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

saves) headed to the bench.

Brighton goalie Jimmy Miletics had 12 saves as the Bulldogs went 1-for-3 on the power play, while never finding themselves in the penalty box even once.

Petty had 22 saves in a shutout effort three days later against Franklin, as the Wildcats killed off penalties stemming from six trips to the box.

Novi's offense caught fire late in the first period and never looked back. Throwing 38 shots at Franklin goalie Matthew Monero (32 saves), senior Chris Kennedy started the scoring with 1:47 left in the first period (Jordan Richardson and Brenden



Novi goalie Austin Petty keeps an eye on the puck. JOHN HEDDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wexler assisted). Things kept rolling 3:10 into the second period, when Wexler tallied a power-play goal off assists from Richardson and Patrick Wojtylo.

Fegert then followed with a shorthanded goal 1:58 later off assists from Baxter and Josh Ward. Up 3-0 at the midway point of the game, Wex-

ler struck for the second time that night, again on the power play (Franklin only had two penalties). Richardson and Hofelich assisted as the 'Cats took a 4-0 lead into the third period.

"For our game on Friday, our standouts were Brendan Wexler, Jordan Richardson, Austin Petty pitching a shutout and our overall team defense was pretty good," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said. "Plus, having 50-22 (edge) in shots for us didn't hurt either."

Fegert and Twilliger added third-period goals with 7:41 and 3:01 remaining, as Hole, Hofelich, Jakob Cyr and Gage Fisher assisted on one or the other.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

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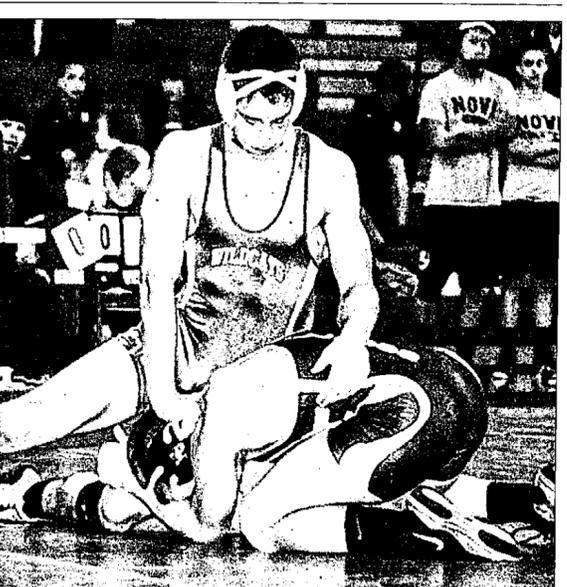
Kristock

amazing groups I have been connected with that helped me throughout the voting. Their support was relentless, and I could never thank them adequately.

"Lastly, I really need to express how grateful I am for the many people close to me that helped me during my entire soccer career," Kristock added. "Those people that supported me so passionately will not be able to have their name on this award, but I hope they all know how humbled I am by the recognition and how honored I am to represent them. No one ever does it alone and I owe so much of what I have accomplished as a student-athlete to the people who have impacted me along the way. It is these amazing people that have earned this award. Thank you all and 'Fight, Oakland!'"

A human resources major who graduated last spring and is currently working on his masters in business administration, Kristock was named the Oakland University Student Leader of the Year and was the recipient of the Human Relations Award, exemplifying superior academic and co-curricular achievement by a graduating senior. He is the president and founder of the nonprofit organization Gigs for Good that funds Christian missionaries around the globe. He also recently founded Mission 50K, a service-based movement that is seeking to accrue 50,000 service/volunteer hours in a six-month span.

Kristock was named to the all-Horizon League second team following a senior season in which the Golden Grizzlies went 7-7-5.



Novi's Ben Wright (left) attempts to roll over his 152-pound opponent from Yale.

WRESTLING

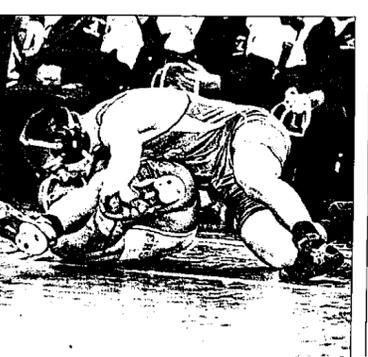
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wrestled to a controversial 5-5 tie.

Heavyweight Dorian Hanev grabbed a pin as the lone highlight against Chippewa Valley. Similarly, Benkarski's 16-1 technical fall was the lone highlight against Yale.

Trenton went a bit better, as Travis Davis and Jackson pinned their opponents, while Benkarski and Wright were also victorious with 11-2 and 20-8 decisions, respectively.

Evan Davis' 11-0 decision and Wright (up a weight class to 160) with a pin capped the day against Howell.



Novi's Evan Davis (right) goes for the pin against a 135-pound Farmington opponent.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

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JOBS

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By Beth Braccio Hering
Special to CareerBuilder

Worried that age might be a strike against you when applying for a job? Present yourself the right way and experts agree that you can turn that potential negative into one of your selling points.

"The key for older job seekers is to embrace rather than hide from what they have to offer future employers," says Tamryn Hennessy, national director of career development for Rasmussen College. "A lifetime of a variety of employments, household and family obligations and volunteer accomplishments can be assembled into a résumé and interview that a younger job seeker simply cannot offer."

So get set to put your experience to good use by doing these three things:

1. Concentrate on the job

If you spend your time demonstrating how you are the right candidate for the position, age need not even enter into the equation. "Never be defensive about your age or even focus on it at all," states Martha Finney, a Santa Fe-based employee engagement and career management consultant and co-author of "Unlock the Hidden Job Market." "Focus on who you are and how what you bring to the table would meet the company's strategic objectives."

Hennessy suggests highlighting your suitability right from the start by looking at the key action words from the job description (such as "analyze," "design," "inspect," etc.) and matching them to your history. "Focus on your past experiences including non-industry, volunteer and family obligations where you have demonstrated accomplishments under these action word categories. Use the exact same action word and apply it to your experience, always being sure to offer quantifiable results."

Proving your age is an asset in a job search



2. Have confidence in your past

Lavie Margolin, author of "Lion Cub Job Search: Practical Job Search Assistance for Practical Job Seekers," advises mature job seekers to get in the mindset that age is a strength. "As opposed to a recent college graduate filled only with potential, the mature worker can demonstrate a track record of accomplishment throughout his career."

Let your years of real-life experience shine by presenting evidence of qualities employers value.

- These may include:
- The ability to meet deadlines
 - Loyalty to a company, industry or cause
 - Flexibility and adaptability
 - Problem-solving skills
 - A strong work ethic
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork

3. Have equal confidence in your future

If worries over new methods or technologies are putting a damper on your confidence, take a class or two to get up to speed. Since one of the greatest fears about hiring older workers is that they are too set in their ways and unwilling to learn new things, this action also can show employers your enthusiasm for continual growth.

By law, age should not be a

consideration for employment, yet many job seekers receive subtle (and not so subtle) clues that it may be an issue. If concerns about age do come up, try to tactfully redirect the conversation back to your abilities.

Another tactic is to show that you are comfortable and happy with where you are. "Stress the great stage of life you are entering, one with fewer family distractions that will allow you to be the most reliable and dedicated employee possible," Hennessy suggests. Also worth pointing out: "Younger workers may have less understanding of what they want to do exactly in their career," Margolin notes. "An older worker has a better understanding of his interests and how they fit best into the market."

Watch, too, that you aren't blaming age when there is actually a different problem. "Don't assume you're increasing your

chances of landing a job by applying for jobs that are beneath your experience level," Finney notes.

"Overqualified for the position" isn't always code for "too old." Hiring managers wisely want candidates who are appropriate for the job level, so if you're experiencing a long string of application rejections, don't lower your sights, raise them. Only go after jobs that are appropriate for your skill sets and experiences."

Finally, remember that employers want to hire likeable people who fit into company culture and can do their job. Treating interviewers as friendly equals and relating to them with relaxed confidence never goes out of style.

Beth Braccio Hering researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @CareerBuilder on Twitter.

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ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
Sony 5 disc player, recent DVD, recent record player, mp3, mp4, mp5, mp6, mp7, mp8, mp9, mp10, mp11, mp12, mp13, mp14, mp15, mp16, mp17, mp18, mp19, mp20, mp21, mp22, mp23, mp24, mp25, mp26, mp27, mp28, mp29, mp30, mp31, mp32, mp33, mp34, mp35, mp36, mp37, mp38, mp39, mp40, mp41, mp42, mp43, mp44, mp45, mp46, mp47, mp48, mp49, mp50, mp51, mp52, mp53, mp54, mp55, mp56, mp57, mp58, mp59, mp60, mp61, mp62, mp63, mp64, mp65, mp66, mp67, mp68, mp69, mp70, mp71, mp72, mp73, mp74, mp75, mp76, mp77, mp78, mp79, mp80, mp81, mp82, mp83, mp84, mp85, mp86, mp87, mp88, mp89, mp90, mp91, mp92, mp93, mp94, mp95, mp96, mp97, mp98, mp99, mp100, mp101, mp102, mp103, mp104, mp105, mp106, mp107, mp108, mp109, mp110, mp111, mp112, mp113, mp114, mp115, mp116, mp117, mp118, mp119, mp120, mp121, mp122, mp123, mp124, mp125, mp126, mp127, mp128, mp129, mp130, mp131, mp132, mp133, mp134, mp135, mp136, mp137, mp138, mp139, mp140, mp141, mp142, mp143, mp144, mp145, mp146, mp147, mp148, mp149, mp150, mp151, mp152, 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