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Novi News

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2013 • hometownlife.com

I-96 to see updates

Eastbound I-96 from the western edge of Oakland County to Novi Road will be improved in the next year with the help of a \$4.9 million grant made possible by the Michigan Legislature.

"It is no secret that many roads across the state are in serious need of repair, it is a costly problem and there is no simple solution," said state Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi. "This is an excellent project for Novi and Oakland County as a whole and the fact that it will not raise taxpayer dollars is icing on the cake."

The I-96 project is just one of many throughout Oakland County and the state that will see updates as a part of the \$115 million Roads and Risk Reserves Fund.

As part of the fiscal year 2014 state budget, the Legislature created the special fund using \$230 million in existing state revenue. One-half of the funds were available for appropriation Oct. 1 and the other half could be appropriated for roads next year.



Police officers, like Novi's Mike Jusino (left) and Brian Tillman, will be extra vigilant this holiday season, keeping an eye out for intoxicated drivers. JOHN REIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Think before you drink: How much will a drunken driving conviction cost you?

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

'Tis the season for celebrating and for many that includes consuming alcohol — whether hooking up with friends at the local bar, a work party at the office or a family get-together at a relative's house.

Regardless of the circumstances, one thing is certain — you do not want to drink and drive. If you think the cost of Christmas gifts is skyrocketing, watch what an operating while intoxicated charge does to your savings account.

"A normal first offense runs about \$1,200 to \$1,300 for fines and costs," said Judge Sean P. Kavanagh of the 16th District Court in Livonia.

"If you refuse the breath test and have to get blood drawn at the hospital, that's another \$200 to \$250," he added. "And if you get in an accident, that'll cost you \$300 or \$400 more."

But those numbers are just the beginning of the nightmare — it gets much, much worse.

What to expect

Tom Nanni, a 45-year-old Highland Township resident, was arrested back in February and went through

the 52-1 District Court in Novi. "I went to a party for a friend of mine and actually had a designated driver," Nanni said. "He proceeded to drink and we drove home and almost got in an accident."

Nanni and his friends switched seats, but he only made it about 60 feet out of a parking lot before they were pulled over by a police officer on Milford Road.

"He told me that I had stopped in the intersection, because I wasn't sure which way to go. He gave me sobriety tests and a breathalyzer, which I failed," Nanni said, adding that he registered 0.105. The legal limit is 0.08.

He thinks he had probably 10 drinks in a 2½-hour time frame while at a nearby restaurant.

The field sobriety tests included saying the ABCs; walking a straight line, pivoting and walking back; and leaning his head back and trying to touch his nose.

"I don't know if I failed them all, but I failed a couple," Nanni said.

He was taken to the Milford Police Department, booked and given another breathalyzer test within 10

OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED

OWI includes three types of violations:
 • Alcohol or drugs in your body substantially affect your ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.
 • A blood-alcohol content at or above 0.08. This level can be determined through a chemical test.
 • High BAC means the alcohol level in your body was at or above 0.17. This level can be determined through a chemical test.

EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Driving requires concentration, motor skills, common sense and a concern for the safety of everyone on the road. Alcohol affects people differently. Mixing drugs or medications with alcohol and then driving can be especially dangerous, even deadly. The effects of alcohol are the same whether you drink beer, wine or whiskey. A 12-ounce can of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine and a 1.5-ounce shot of whiskey all contain the same amount of alcohol. Drink a standard serving of any of these and the effects will be the same. Your judgment and self-control will be affected. Even one drink can impair your ability to drive, slow your reaction time, dull your concentration and cause vision problems. Many people mistakenly believe that coffee, a cold shower, exercise or fresh air can sober them up. Time is the only thing that sobers you up.

Source: www.michigan.gov/dot
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See DRINK, Page A3

Man found dead in the snow

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

A man was found by Novi Police dead in the snow Sunday.

"We received a 9-1-1 call regarding a welfare check shortly after 10 am yesterday," Novi Assistant Police Chief Jerrod Hart said Monday. "The caller stated a male was lying in the snow near a sidewalk along Grand River east of Beck Road."

Hart said responding personnel found the body of a deceased 18-year-old male. He was not from Novi, but may have been in the area for a concert. As of Monday morning, police could not say anything more pertaining to the man's identity because they were still working on speaking with a few more people.

"At this point in the investigation, we do not suspect foul play and the subject's family has been notified of his death," Hart said.

The autopsy proved inconclusive, but there were some signs of hypothermia. Hart said the toxicology report will help determine the cause, but it will not be known for another couple of weeks.

Hart said the man was not dressed for the cold, wintry conditions.

"We want to get some answers for the family before we can say any more about the investigation," Hart said.

Novi Police expect to release more information as the investigation continues.

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Novi property values continue to increase

City's residential assessments mirror Oakland County's; commercial property values also up, but industrial down

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Novi residential property values are projected to go up in the new year and overall commercial and industrial properties have also seen a bit of an improvement.

City Assessor D. Glenn Lemmon presented Novi's 2014 property tax base projections at the last city council meeting. He said overall, Novi is looking better.

Lemmon cited the latest numbers from Oakland County Equalization: "Their projection



Lemmon

is that we need to raise residential properties an average of 8.62 percent."

Sales from October 2012 to September 2013 were used to help project this number. In comparison, OCE's report stated Farmington Hills is going up 8.96 percent, Lyon Township 7.10 and Troy 9.10.

"Although we're moving 8.62 percent this year on average,

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PROPERTY

Continued from Page A1

better than last year, when it was down 7 percent.

In the past year, Novi has seen decreases in tax value appeals and foreclosures.

Prior to 2006, Novi averaged at least 500 Board of Review petitions a year, but in 2013 it was at an all-time low of 304. Foreclosures are also down to 49 this year. Last year it was 92 after a high in 2010 of 265. Bank sales are also down to 75, compared to 113 last year and 211 in 2009.

Looking ahead, Lemmon said officials will keep an eye on changes to personal property taxes, which could lead to Novi seeing some tax dollars going away.

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NOVI BOASTS ITS OWN 'KARATE KID'

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Eight-year-old Lilley Aoude, a third-grader at Hickory Woods Elementary, is a three-time Michigan Sports Karate Circuit state champion and this spring she will be competing for even more honors as she moves to the next level of competition.

She was named the regional champion in the girls 12 and Under Advanced Belt Karate Division and has earned the national championship, giving her a spot on Team USA.

Learning karate since the age of 4, when she graduated from the Little Ninja program at the Task Karate Academy in Wixom, Lilley said it's helped her confidence grow.

"I expect to succeed," she said at recent practice.

She still gets nervous before competition, but once it starts, she's in the driver's seat.

Lilley followed her older sister to karate practice before taking up the sport. She hasn't looked back.

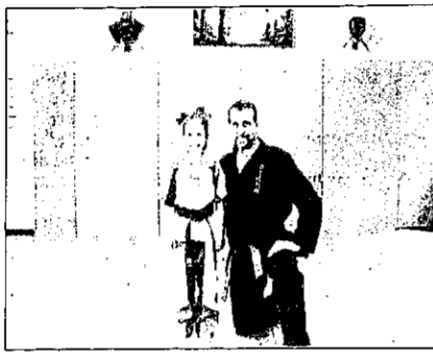
"She's very dedicated and focused for such a young person," said instructor Kevin Johannes of Task Karate. "Lilley has improved her self-confidence and esteem each step of the way. We're proud of her."

So is the city of Novi, which honored her with a proclamation at a city council meeting last month.

"On behalf of the Novi City Council, the entire Novi community recognizes and congratulates and



Eight-year-old Lilley Aoude, a karate state champion, practices at the Task Karate Academy in Wixom. PHOTOS BY LONNIE HUHMAN



Lilley Aoude with her instructor Kevin Johannes. He is very proud of Lilley's accomplishments.

celebrates the accomplishments of Lilley Aoude, whose dedication to the highest standards of competition place her among an elite group of karate students and make her a very special resident of the city of Novi," Mayor Bob Gatt said.

Currently, she is a

brown belt and will have to compete with other girls who are 12 and under who are black belts. Mom Amanda Aoude has confidence she will compete to her fullest capability.

"She's progressed so quickly and caught on so well," her mom said. "She's one of the youngest to accomplish some of the things she's done in the past couple of years."

Lilley's other hobby is dancing, which she has done for years as well. She also takes pride in being a straight-A student.

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DRINK

Continued from Page A1

minutes to ensure accuracy. And then he spent the night in jail.

"It wasn't good," he said.

He had to arrange for a ride the next day and it ended up being his boss.

A costly mistake
Nanni said the impact on his employment cost "a great deal," including the use of a company car.

He did go through the 52-1's sobriety court to get his license back sooner, but the time commitment of that option is enormous.

"If you don't have a pretty understanding boss, it can be difficult," said Nanni, who works 60 to 70 hours per week.

In the first phase of sobriety court, Nanni attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings seven days a week for 90 days; met with a counselor once a week; had to perform home testing two times a day; and was tested for drugs four times a week.

"It's pretty intense, to say the least," Nanni said.

He was fortunate enough to have a friend who was willing to drive from Sterling Heights every day to take Nanni to his commitments.

For the second phase, which will end in February for Nanni, he got his license and an interlock device in his car. The AA meetings drop to three times a week and counseling goes down to once a week, but the rigid testing schedule stays the same.

Then, if he makes it through the entire sobriety court program, he'll be on probation for 18 months.

So what are actual dollar amounts Nanni is spending?

The home testing unit is \$120 per month; \$1,440 total.



Novi Police Officer Mike Jusino gives a practice breathalyzer test to fellow officer Eric Lindblade. JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"The person that is most likely to kill someone over the holidays in Novi is not a drug dealer or an armed robber, but the person behind the wheel of a car who is drunk."

JUDGE BRIAN MACKENZIE
52-District Court

which must be registered with the state, is \$180 per month; \$1,620 total.

The drug testing costs \$6 each time; \$1,248.

Insuring his Lexus went from \$170 a month to \$4,000 every six months.

And the big one—attorney fees: \$7,000.

"I make a good income," Nanni said, "but this is costly. I don't see how anybody with a regular job could even afford this."

He credits his probation officer for making sure he understood just how tough this OVI conviction would be on his finances, his employment and his personal life.

Nanni said he wants to make sure his 10-year-old son learns from his mistakes and he has simple advice for anyone else smart enough to pay attention.

"Don't drink and drive," he said. "Always get a designated driver. You don't always make the clearest decisions, regardless of how sober you think you are. When alcohol is involved, you don't think clearly."

Numbers declining
Thankfully, Kavanagh says non-felony OVI convictions are down to 275 in his court this year.

"I can tell you that in years past, we have been up to 375, so they're down significantly," Kavanagh said and he attributes that to many factors.

"People are getting the message," he said. "Insurance costs are really where they get whacked—canceled or double and triple premiums."

He said the abundance of media stories that focus on the negatives are helping as well.

Interestingly, Kavanagh cites the proliferation of cellphones as another factor contributing to the decline in OWIs.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Added to Games ... Not Drugs

The Novi Youth Council is partnering with the Novi Fire and Police departments and Lucky Strike to present the annual Addicted to Games ... Not Drugs event from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 3.

Hosted by Lucky Strike, located at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, this event offers students in kindergarten through sixth grade access to all the games, bowling, interactive entertainment, food and soft drinks they go towards local anti-drug initiatives in Novi schools.

Fox Run scores high on survey

Fox Run retirement community did exceptionally well in its 2013 Resident Satisfaction Survey. The overall mean in independent living increased from 87.7 percent to 89.7 percent. This marked Fox Run's highest score ever and put it in the 90th percentile in the national senior housing industry.

Get flu vaccination

The Oakland County Health Division urges residents to take preventative action and get vaccinated against seasonal flu.

Flu shots are available at Health Division offices in Pontiac and Southfield from noon to 8 p.m. each Monday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. They cost \$20. The Health Division offices are located at the following addresses:

North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac

South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield.

Walk-in clients are welcome. Payment options include cash, Visa, MasterCard, Medicare and/or Medicaid (no checks or money orders). Credit card fees apply.

Wixom council sworn in

Following the November elections, the Honorable David F. Viviano, Michigan Supreme Court justice, administered the oaths of office to re-elected Mayor Kevin W. Hinkley, council members Patrick Beagle and Thomas Rzeznick and council member-elect Nicholas Kennedy. Attending the ceremony were state Rep. Hugh Crawford and Oakland County Commissioner Philip J. Weipert, as well as friends, family and other residents of the city of Wixom.

Viviano also swore in two trustees of the Wixom Library Board, Mary Proper and Jennifer Mulder. According to

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Friday Night Live!
Claire Aebersold & Ralph Neiveem perform music from Walt Disney's *Fantasia*. Rivera Court, 7 & 8:30 p.m.

Storyteller Performance
Doug Berky combines masks, puppets, mime, drama and comedy for *Gems: The World's Wisdom Stories*.
Lecture Hall, Saturday and Sunday, 2 & 4 p.m.

Now On View
Watch Me Move: The Animation Show, through January 5.
On Saturdays, buy one adult ticket and receive one free youth ticket!
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FINDING THE SPIRIT

Institute puts 'St. Nick' into historical context

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A. Michael Deller had been performing as Santa Claus for nearly a decade before the St. Nicholas Institute opened Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia.

But when the institute, with its vision of, according to its website, empowering "faith-filled candidates with the tools needed to convincingly portray both St. Nicholas and the 'elfin' Santa Claus in a wide variety of venues," whether religious or secular, it caught Deller's attention.

"The institute... would have an emphasis on St. Nicholas, the actual person, and his history and how some of his beliefs and passions in life have come through to the person we know as Santa Claus," said Deller, perhaps best known as the Santa in the now-defunct holiday parade in Livonia. "That sounded really interesting to me. I thought it would be interesting to see what they provided."

The institute revolves around St. Nicholas who, according to institute founder the Rev. Joseph Marquis, is "remembered and revered among Catholic and Orthodox Christians and is also honored by various Anglican and Lutheran churches."



Students take part in the four-day St. Nicholas Institute at Sacred Heart in Livonia. The institute was founded last year.

Charitable inspiration

According to information provided on the institute's website, Nicholas was born in Patara of Lycia (present-day Turkey) during the third century, of devout and wealthy parents who provided him with a Christian upbringing and education. Especially well-known, according to Marquis, is his charity and love for children. He used his great wealth to relieve all who were in need: families, widows, orphans and children.

For this same purpose he founded, as bishop, a poorhouse, hostels and a hospital.

According to Marquis, charitable groups such as the Salvation Army, the Goodfellows and the St. Vincent DePaul Society "owe a lot" to St. Nicholas.

"I look at St. Nicholas as a role model for Christians as a focus of solving need, not taking bows for charitable works," Marquis said.

He was the personification of Christian love and affection. As such, he is honored by the entire Christian world, both the Eastern and Western Churches. In the West, especially, he is considered the great patron saint of children and in

modern times as the cheerful giver of gifts, Santa.

That's the benefit institute participants find the most interesting.

"We teach about the historic figure behind Santa Claus," said Marquis, the pastor at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, home of the institute. "We're showing the historical context of St. Nicholas. Understanding who St. Nicholas is helps us more accurately portray Santa."

Longtime Santa
Marquis should know about that, since he's been doing it for 42 years. He's an Emmy Award-winning Santa, a member of the Santa Claus Hall of Fame who used to portray Santa in the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Detroit.

He's done parades and home visits, mall appearances and hospital visits.

One story stands out in his mind of a little girl dying of cancer in a hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandfather appealed to Marquis to visit her as Santa in the hospital and to give the girl a new, blue dress she had wanted.

When he arrived, Marquis found the entire hospital staff had dived into the spirit of the occasion. The hospital was totally decorated for Christmas and staff members were all in Christmas costumes — and the visit happened in the summer.

Marquis passed through the entire children's ward, visiting with all the patients and finally ending up in the girl's room. Her eyes widened with delight at the sight of Santa and she was all

smiles when she opened the dress.

Marquis said when the crowd got around to singing *Silent Night*, "there was a presence in the room and a peace descended" — and a stark realization hit him.

"This was the real reason I was called to do Santa," Marquis said. "If this is the only person I ever do Santa for, it's worth it."

Year-round spirit

It's worth it for Deller, too. A retired librarian, Deller has done story times at libraries, he's done family visits. He's also the Santa at a banquet center near Mount Clemens every year. And he takes with him the lessons learned at the institute.

"The institute hasn't really changed how I portray Santa, but it deepened my understanding of how this all came together and came to be," Deller said. "For many of us, it was helpful in knowing what we needed to find or use in order to give a faithful appearance and presentation of the bishop known as St. Nicholas."

The first institute last year drew 17 students from 10 different states. This year's grew to 30 students from 15 states.

For Marquis, it's about spreading the word that the Christmas spirit isn't relegated to just the Christmas season.

"The beautiful thing is, the spirit is available any day of the year," he said. "That's the spirit I'm trying to give the 'Santas' who come through here. The one message they walk away with is, 'The most important child I ever see is the next one.'"

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Student Services offices

in the McDowell Center will be open Saturday, January 4, to help students make final preparations for the winter semester. This will include:

- ▶ Registration Center
- ▶ Student Financial Services (Financial Aid and Student Accounts)
- ▶ Academic Advising Services
- ▶ Counseling Services
- ▶ Testing Center
- ▶ Admissions and Welcome Center

Class start dates for Winter 2014

- ▶ 15-week, 1st 12-week, and 1st 7-week classes: Monday, January 6
- ▶ 2nd 12-week classes: Monday, January 27
- ▶ 2nd 7-week classes: Monday, March 10
- ▶ Last day to register for Open Entry/Open Exit Class: Thursday, February 27

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A. Michael Deller, as Santa, visiting with his grandchildren during an appearance at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy last month.

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WALLED LAKE SCHOOL BRIEFS

District hosts King Day celebration

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District invites the community to the 15th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at Walled Lake Northern High School (6000 Bogie Lake Road, Commerce).

The evening's events will include a at a multi-cultural dinner 5-6 p.m. complete with ethnic food from around the world prepared by 12 different local restaurants and an exhibition of student work 5-6:30 p.m.

The program will feature keynote speaker Steve Spreitzer, interim CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, who will speak on "Dr. King's Dream 30 Years Later: Continuing the Journey Together." The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will also include performances by student choirs from around the district.

This event is free and open to the entire community to attend; however, donations of canned and/or boxed foods will be accepted for the Focus: HOPE food pantry in Detroit.

Appointments are preferred for this blood drive and appointment information as well as more information from the Red Cross can be found at www.wlcsd.org.

Community invited to Day of Strings Concert

The Walled Lake district will host the annual Walled Lake Day of Strings on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014 at Walled Lake Western High School. The community is invited to attend the final concert at 3 p.m., which highlights what the students have learned throughout the day.

String students from across the district will attend rehearsals, clinics and participate in sectionals with their fellow musicians.

Students will have an opportunity to work with the top string players and teachers from

hope is to exceed the 30 blood donation limit so that both groups benefit as a part of the blood drive.

The Walled Lake Schools bowling program is composed of both boys and girls varsity and junior varsity teams from each district high school. All three schools have their own teams. The funds generated from this event will be used toward the overall bowling program.

"The WLSB program is an athletically competitive and character building sport that is proud to partner with the Red Cross at this crucial time of year when the need for blood is significant," said Marcy Hornsby-Mohr, Walled Lake Schools Bowling Boosters president.

"It's our bowlers goal to 'Strike It Out' big for the Red Cross and to be able to give back to our community."

"Both the left and right sides of the brain are engaged when learning and practicing instruments and through music education. These six Walled Lake Schools students are prime examples for those extolling the benefits of music education. I applaud the level of excellence they have achieved and wish them well in the MSBOA performance in January," said Kenneth Gutman, superintendent.

More than 2,000 students from across the state auditioned for the all-state program. The audition required students to perform difficult etudes, a list of memorized scales and sight-read a piece of music they had never seen before.

Only the top performers for each instrument were selected for the all-state program.

Six students selected for state event

Six Walled Lake Consolidated School District band and orchestra students have been selected to perform in the 2014 Michigan Schools Band & Orchestra Association all-state ensembles: Ryan Servis, trumpet, Sarah Banks Middle School; Lauren Glomb, oboe, Northern High School; Alex Alcorn, clarinet, Northern High School; Perry Lee, trumpet, Western High School; Sho Dembinski, trumpet, Western High School; and Ryan Malburg, euphonium, Western High School.

The MSBOA all-state ensembles will perform Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

The MSBOA all-state ensembles will perform Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

Local schools saw the need to help after seeing the aftermath in the Philippines from Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated much of that southeast Asia country.

Parkview Elementary students raised \$800 to give support to the most recent disasters. Some \$400 was donated to the Red Cross for use in the Philippines. Orchard

Hills Elementary students, families and staff gave Red Cross \$978.

"This was an important project for them," Orchard Hills Principal Pamela Quitquit said. "This was a good way to show them how important it is to help others in need."

Novi Woods also helped out in fundraising toward this cause. Principal David Ascher reached out to the school community and thanked them for their

support. "To help our student leaders understand that even the smallest help can make a difference."

"The Philippines is still reportedly without power in parts of the country after the storm struck the island nation earlier this year. The death toll was reportedly in the thousands."

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Novi students help typhoon victims in the Philippines



Local schools like Orchard Hills are donating money to the Red Cross to help with the emergency effort in the Philippines, which was left devastated by a typhoon earlier this year.

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Local schools saw the need to help after seeing the aftermath in the Philippines from Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated much of that southeast Asia country.

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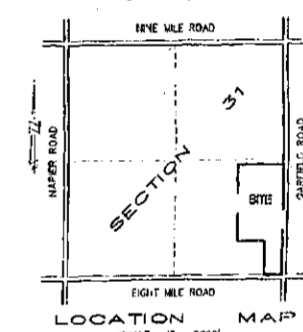
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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **REZONING, SITE PLAN NUMBER 12-6, LOCATED IN SECTION 11 OF THE CITY OF NOVI AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF GARFIELD ROAD AND EIGHT MILE ROAD, SEEKING APPROVAL OF A RESIDENTIAL UNIT DEVELOPMENT (RUD).** The applicant is proposing to construct 41 single-family homes with associated infrastructure on a parcel totaling 50.84 acres. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published December 26, 2013

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center 45175 Ten Mile Road to consider:

Case No. PZ13-0087 Vacant parcel # 50-22-11-101-102
The applicant is requesting two minimum lot size variances for parcel sidwell # 50-22-11-101-102 located on the southwest corner of Thirteen Mile and Martin in the Howell's Walled Lake Sub, in the R-4 Zoning District. The property consists of (8) eight: 20 x 100 foot lots to be combined and split into two 8,000 square foot parcels.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCE, Section 2400, "Schedule of Regulations" requires the minimum area for lots within an R-4 district to be 10,000 square feet.

Case No. PZ13-0068 44500 GRAND RIVER
The applicant is requesting an extension of the variance granted in ZBA PZ12-0044 to allow (1) 24 sq. ft. and (1) 48 sq. ft. real estate signs where a single 16 sq. ft. sign is allowed for marketing of an industrial property. The property is located west of Novi Road, south of Interstate 96, and north of Grand River Ave, in the I-1 Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCE, Section 28-6 (4) states: "Sale, rental or lease sign which identifies the site, rental, or lease of the non-residential property... not less than one-half the distance between the principal building and adjacent street and not higher than ten (10) feet nor more than 16 square feet in area. This section also permits only a single sign for each parcel of property."

Case No. PZ13-0069 44700 GRAND RIVER AVE
The applicant is requesting an extension of the variance granted in ZBA PZ12-045 to allow (1) 24 sq. ft. and (1) 48 sq. ft. real estate signs where a single 15 sq. ft. sign is allowed for marketing of an industrial property. The property is located west of Novi Road, south of Interstate 96, and north of Grand River Ave in the I-2 Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCE, Section 28-6 (4) states: "Sale, rental or lease sign which identifies the site, rental, or lease of the non-residential property... not less than one-half the distance between the principal building and adjacent street and not higher than ten (10) feet nor more than 16 square feet in area. This section also permits only a single sign for each parcel of property."

Case No. PZ13-0070 (Socialite Bistrot) 44175 W. 12 Mile Rd., Ste. G-157
The applicant is requesting a variance from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES 2524.b to allow outdoor seating year round. The property is located east of Cabernet Drive and north of 12 Mile Road in the RC Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 2524.b. Outdoor seating shall be permitted between March 1st and November 30th with all furniture and fixtures including, but not limited to, tables, chairs and waste receptacles removed from the exterior premises after November 30th. Outdoor seating shall not be the primary seating of the restaurant.

Case No. PZ13-0072 (Feldman Auto) 42355 Grand River
The applicant is requesting a variance from CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 28-5(3) to allow an oversized ground directional sign of 15 square feet for an existing automotive dealership. The property is located south of Grand River and east of Novi Road in the B-3 Zoning District. Previous variance 08-014 approved a sign of this size and location specifically for Hertz car rentals.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, Section 28-5 (3) Number of on-premises advertising signs permitted states: "No building or parcel of land shall be allowed more than one (1) sign..."

Case No. PZ13-0073 42705 Grand River Ave (Joe & Aldo's Italian Taverna and Andiamo)
Applicant is requesting a variances to sections 28-5(3) and 28-5(2b).1(b)(iv) to allow an oversized wall sign and revision of a previous variance to allow and increased sign from 54 square feet to 76 square feet on the second floor wall for a separate second floor business. This project is located in the TC Zoning District.

CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCE, Section 28-5(3) permits only one sign per parcel of property and 28-5(2b).1(b)(iv) limits signage to 24 sq. ft. sign for a second floor business.

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Skiers ride a lift at Mt. Brighton Ski Area this week as cold weather allowed for the snow-making machines to put down a good base. GILUS BENEDICT | GANNETT MICHIGAN



Skiers line up for night sessions at the newly re-opened and remodeled Mt. Brighton.

New-look Mt. Brighton has people 'psyched'

Customers like what they see after \$10M in improvements

By Jim Totten
Gannett Michigan

Sherri Heffernan had an instant reaction when she strolled into the completely renovated Mt. Brighton Ski Area last week.

"I walked in — holy cow," Heffernan said. "It's unbelievable."

The Lyon Township woman began texting her friends and putting photos on Facebook about the new look at the facility. Vail Resorts, which recently purchased Mt. Brighton, has sunk \$10 million in improvements into the slopes at 4141 Bauer Road in Genoa Township.

With frigid temperatures, Mt. Brighton fired up its snow-making machines and opened Nov. 26, a month earlier than normal.

The slopes had a base of 22 inches of snow. "The weather was on our side," said Taylor Ogilvie, Mt. Brighton general manager.

He said he's been most impressed with the enthusiasm of people coming to ski. After months of construction, he said that it's great to see people enjoying the facility.

"It's been fabulous," Ogilvie said about the opening days. "Everyone is psyched."

People lined up to get their passes Nov. 27, which was an ideal day for skiing. It was sunny



Gary Martin of Northville puts the first tracks down a slope fed by chairlift No. 3 at Mt. Brighton. GILUS BENEDICT | GANNETT MICHIGAN

with blue skies and parents sat inside the lodge overlooking the slopes as their children went skiing.

Ogilvie said construction crews are completing the final improvements to the new Ore Creek Mountain Grill,

which used to be the Bowery Grill, and the retail area.

Heffernan visited the skiing facility so her sons, Jake, 13, and Brandon, 10, could go snowboarding. Everything is new inside the lodge, including chairs, tables and counters; the restaurant and other areas have all been renovated.

"It's really, really impressive," Heffernan said. Heffernan, who used

to live in Colorado, said Mt. Brighton now has the real look and feel of a lodge in Colorado, a top skiing destination.

Jake Heffernan said the chairlifts are more comfortable and there's more powdery snow on the hills. He is excited to try the new terrain park, which hasn't opened yet. Mt. Brighton has been open since 1960.

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Snow blowers stolen

A storage shed at the Heights of Novi apartment complex was broken into and two snow blowers were taken.

On Dec. 9, staff for the residential complex, at 22123 Solomon Boulevard, found the lock missing off of the shed and equipment missing. There were noticeable tracks leading away from the shed to the parking lot, but there are no suspects at this time.

Window smash and grab

A vehicle parked at Life Time Fitness was broken into Dec. 9 with a DVD player and GPS stolen from it. The fitness center is at 4000 Pointe Boulevard and the victim's Ford Explorer was parked in the north lot. The rear passenger side window was smashed, while at least one other window had a crack in it. There were no cameras covering that area, so there are no suspects currently.

Jeans returned, but suspects escape

Two women suspected of attempting to steal jeans walked away from

the scene after being stopped by an employee of the Buckle store in Twelve Oaks mall.

On Dec. 9, the employee found the sensor tags torn off the jeans and asked the women if they had the jeans. They took them out and handed them to the employee and then walked away.

Mall security did follow them, but they made it to their vehicle and drove away. The case is still open.

Drunken crash

A driver who crashed into a brick wall off of Novi Road was arrested for impaired driving.

On Dec. 9, Novi police found the vehicle crashed into the wall near West 14 Mile. It also hit a tree. The driver said he left the scene to get his cellphone from his friend's home nearby. He called the accident in.

The police reported smelling intoxicants on the man, so they gave him a field sobriety test and preliminary breathalyzer. He was detained after it registered a 0.103 blood-alcohol level.

- By Lonnie Hulman

Novi physical therapist's license suspended by state

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has suspended the Michigan license to practice as a physical therapist of Jessica Ann Vigil, P.T., of Novi, after her felony conviction in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

On Aug. 1, 2013, Vigil was convicted of one

felony count of health care fraud conspiracy. Vigil was sentenced to incarceration for a period of 22 months, followed by two years of supervised release with terms, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2.375 million. The conviction was based on Vigil and co-conspirators submitting physical therapy and occupational

therapy claims to the Medicare program for services that were not performed.

On Dec. 11, LARA issued an order summarily suspending Vigil's license pursuant to the Public Health Code which provides for the mandatory suspension of a health professional upon the conviction of a felony.

Sheriff: Think safety before venturing out on to any ice

As the temperatures continue to fall, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office reminds residents no ice that is 100 percent safe.

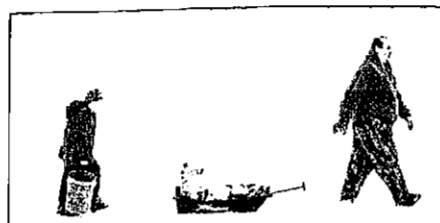
"Understanding the risks of going out on the ice that may be dangerous will help keep your family, friends and neighbors safe," Sheriff Michael Bouchard stated in a release.

A recommended guide to help judge recreational use of clear, solid blue ice and help you minimize your risk states: 5 inches thick minimum for general use (fishermen, ice skaters and foot traffic); and 8 inches thick minimum for travel by snowmobile or off-road vehicle. The sheriff's department does not recommend automobiles out on the ice. This also voids any insurance claims.

Survey the ice, keeping in mind that ice conditions change day by day, lake by lake and location by location on the same body of water.

Do not go out alone on the ice. Always take a partner or someone who can call 9-1-1 or go for help in an emergency.

Do not make the



David Godin and his son Sean head out for some ice fishing. FILE PHOTO

first tracks on the ice. Check with someone who has experience with a particular lake or pond before you venture out on the ice.

Always leave a travel plan with someone who can call for help and direct a search party if you do not return.

Plan ahead by dressing appropriately for changing weather conditions. Dress in layers to protect all exposed parts of your body. Consider wearing a personal flotation device as part of your overall protective clothing or a flotation jacket or suit. Ice creepers attached to boots will help to keep you stable on the ice and can assist in self-rescue.

Bring safety items, which may include cell phone, whistle, rope, ice

pick or awls, screwdriver, hand flares, flashlight, throwable PFD. Plan ahead for a rescue. Check and double check the ice thickness with an ice spud, auger or cordless drill. If you discover a weak spot, retrace your route off the ice. Keep a distance between others in your group. If you hear the ice crack or detect unsafe ice, you should stay spread out, immediately lie down and crawl back to safer ice by the same way you came.

Oakland County offers many outdoor recreation opportunities with its lakes, ponds and rivers. However, before you step out onto the ice officials strongly urge you to plan ahead and consider the risks involved.

'It happens everywhere'

Michigan attorney general talks to Junior League members about human trafficking

By Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

It's a modern form of slavery, one that reeks of perfume and desperation.

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion global industry, second only to drug trafficking. Yet it's a crime that receives little attention with very few cases of prosecution.

State Attorney General Bill Schuette and Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard spoke Dec. 11 about human trafficking and legislative efforts being put into place to help thwart it. The presentation was hosted by the Birmingham Junior League and held at the Baldwin Public Library. "It does happen," Bouchard said. "It happens everywhere. It may be the house next door... it could be in any neighborhood across America."

Schuette co-chaired the first Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking that just issued a 63-page report with five key recommendations:

Strengthen legal protection for human trafficking victims or the passage of a Safe Harbor law.

Expand assistance for human trafficking victims, such as housing, education and employment.

Toughen the law. Schuette said the commission wants to increase penalties for "johns" who solicit sex from minors from a misdemeanor to a felony. The commission also recommends strengthening state forfeiture laws to target traffickers and their money.

awareness, possibly through a billboard campaign.

Develop a comprehensive method for capturing human trafficking data.

What is human trafficking?

It's where a person is held against his or her will by fraud or coercion, leading to forced labor, pornography or prostitution, Schuette said. It's different from prostitution, in which the person selling sex is doing it by choice.

And it's big business in Michigan, mainly because of the state's international border. Schuette said during a nationwide sting in July, Michigan had the second most arrests (18) after San Francisco. That sting, he added, resulted in the liberation of 10 women and led to a number of convictions.

All told, approximately 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked in the U.S. every year, Schuette said. Even more disturbing, 40 percent of the human trafficking cases involve a minor under the age of 18.

"As the father of two children, to think this could occur in the 21st century turns your stomach," Schuette said to the audience.

He likened human trafficking to domestic violence or drunk driving—two issues that were hidden from the public eye for decades, before awareness campaigns brought them to the forefront.

"It's everywhere" Barry Levin of Birmingham asked Schuette if there are ways to spot



State Attorney General Bill Schuette addresses the Birmingham Junior League about human trafficking and what his office is doing to stop it. PHOTOS BY CARROLL DEWESE



"It happens everywhere," Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said about human trafficking.

human trafficking.

"What should I be looking for?" he asked at the presentation.

Schuette said it comes in all shapes and sizes and is difficult to characterize. Does the person look abused in any way? Do they appear fearful or controlled by someone else?

Bouchard said sometimes it's just a matter of trusting your instincts. "Everyone has that

Eric Regan of Royal Oak asked whether there was adequate funding at the state level to combat human trafficking in Michigan.

Schuette admitted that funds are sparse and that nonprofits will be needed to help with housing and jobs.

He said the state is better prepared to advance legislation, such as a Safe Harbor law that will protect victims, rather than treat them as criminals.

Kathy Walgren of Birmingham was amazed at the number of minors involved in human trafficking, while Deborah Saybolt of Bloomfield Hills welcomed the idea of increasing penalties against the "johns" who also play a part in the equation.

"Going after the demand side is effective," Saybolt said. "We have to let it be known that real men don't buy women."

Junior League President Stephanie Smith said the whole community needs to be aware of the issue.

"It's not just run-aways," she said. "These kids could be coming home at night and they could still be involved in human trafficking."

The 2013 Report on Human Trafficking is at michigan.gov/gov. Schuette encouraged the league members to contact lawmakers about passing legislation that was recommended by the commission.

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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.

Church of the Holy Family

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

Mass Schedule

Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. Monday-Friday: 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday: 4:30 p.m. Saturday: 6:30 p.m. Saturday (Spanish)

Reconciliation

beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: the Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and the Rev. Beto Espinoza, associate pastor

Crosspointe Meadows Church

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

Bible study classes

10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contem-

Religion Calendar

porary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center

Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile, Northville
Contact: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia
Web: www.emmanuel-livonia.org
Contact: 248-442-8822

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

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

First Presbyterian Church

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

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

Women's 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

Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile
Contact: 248-348-7600 or visit fcnazarene.org

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via email to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to 248-685-2892; or by mail to Religion Calendar/Novi-Northville, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178.

Northville Christian Assembly

Location: 41355 Six Mile
Contact: 248-348-9030; ncalife.org
Sundays: 9-10 a.m. Sunday School for adults / youth / children; 9 a.m. Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium; 10:15 a.m. Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210)

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.us

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Location: 41415 Nine Mile, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: 248-349-0565

Holy Cross Episcopal Church

Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-427-1175 or hollycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit hollycrossnovi.org

Hope Lutheran Church

Location: 39200 W. 12 Mile (east of Haggerty), Farmington Hills
Contact: 248-348-1020

Lakes Baptist Church

Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake
Contact: 248-349-1144 or www.livoniachurch.net

Livonia Church of Christ

Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net

First United Methodist Church of Northville

Location: 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville
Contact: 248-349-1144 or www.fumnorthville.org

Summer Sunday Worship (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 and

Religion Calendar

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. Café is open from 9:15-11 a.m. Refreshments at 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. Evening Traditional Service

Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life

Details: Events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Suskind at 248-790-6075 or rabbi@novijewishcenter.com; www.novijewishcenter.com

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile
Contact: the Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister, 248-348-7757; visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org

Novi-United Methodist Church

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-349-2652 or visit unmcnovi.com

Whitmore Lake Crosspointe Community Church

Location: 1850 S. Commerce Rd., Walled Lake, MI 48325
Contact: 248-664-2798

Highland United Methodist Church

Location: 600 W. Ligonier Rd., Highland, MI 48327
Contact: 248-667-1111 or www.highlandumc.org

New Hudson United Methodist Church

Location: 6270 Grand River Avenue + New Hudson MI 48165
Contact: 248-437-4212 or www.newhudsonumc.org

West Highland Baptist Church

Location: 1116 S. Mckay Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48330
Contact: 248-667-2328

Freedom Life Church

Location: 1202 E. Commerce, Milford
Contact: 248-664-2798

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 E. Main St. at Hutton
Contact: 248-349-0911

Northville Christian Assembly

Location: 41355 Six Mile Road
Contact: 248-348-9030

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

Location: 133 Orchard Dr., Northville
Contact: 248-349-9330

St. James Roman Catholic Church

Location: 46325 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374
Contact: 248-349-2778

Milford United Methodist Church

Location: 1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48311
Contact: 248-664-2798

Novi United Methodist Church

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374
Contact: 248-349-2652

St. James Roman Catholic Church

Location: 46325 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374
Contact: 248-349-2778

Milford United Methodist Church

Location: 1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48311
Contact: 248-664-2798

Novi United Methodist Church

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374
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First Presbyterian Church

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

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

Women's 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

Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile
Contact: 248-348-7600 or visit fcnazarene.org

Chocolate Jubilee

It's a sweet ending to 2013 for the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The 29th annual Chocolate Jubilee, held at the MGM Grand Hotel, was attended by more than 750 patrons. This year's country western-themed gala, combined with some major gifts, raised \$1 million for the organization.



Alan Funk (from left), of event corporate sponsor DMC Medical Center Rehabilitation in Novi, his wife Barbara and Stefan Stratton of Pomeroy Living in Troy. JULIE VOLLES



Marcia Mittelman (from left) of Jewish Senior Life in West Bloomfield, Linda Kovan of Novi and Dr. Genise Kerner of Commerce. JULIE VOLLES



Steven Tyshka (left) and Joe LaQuinto of event corporate sponsor Waltonwood of Novi. JULIE VOLLES

Retirees explore Detroit's culture

Pat Morgan spent her career as a teacher. She's retired now, but in a unique way she is still helping people learn. Morgan leads Fox Run retirement community's Arts a la Carte committee, which organizes monthly outings for residents to take advantage of Detroit's vibrant arts and culture scene.

The Arts a la Carte committee launched in 2011. Over the last couple of years, Fox Run residents have attended a number of operas, orchestra performances, and plays and explored a variety of museums. Fox Run provides shuttle buses and the committee secures group ticket prices, making the outings affordable for residents.

Last year, a group took in a performance of Book of Mormon, the Broadway musical produced by the creators of the television show South Park, who are known for pushing the comedic envelope. On another outing, residents gathered for a "do-your-own-thing" tour of the Detroit Institute of Art. Everyone wandered around to take

in the exhibits that most appealed to them and the group reconvened in the cafeteria for lunch. The museum was popular among residents, so Morgan says the Arts a la Carte committee will plan another visit there next spring. Recently, the committee organized a visit to the Detroit Historical Museum. Afterward, they had lunch at Traffic Jam & Snug, a popular Detroit restaurant and brewpub.

A particularly popular outing among residents has been a bus tour of Detroit. The tour begins at Woodlawn Cemetery and then travels to the Boston-Edison Historic District, an affluent neighborhood where Henry Ford lived. She has always enjoyed art, music and theater and she says after she retired in 2000, she started to attend more performances and visit museums more frequently.

"Having this kind of thing is nice," she said. "The people on the committee are wonderful and everyone really takes charge of planning the outings they suggest."

Holiday crafts



Carly Ader, 12, and other kids enjoy a Dec. 13 holiday crafts session at the Novi Public Library. Those attending the afternoon session got to make a variety of things, including a snowman figure and a reindeer-themed gift bag. JONHEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches and religious groups including Brightmoor Christian Church, Faith Community Presbyterian Church, Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Oak Pointe Church, and many others. Each listing includes location, contact information, and service times.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • htwtobits@hometownlife.com
Deadline: Tuesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

HACHTEL, DORIS Nov. 11, 1933-Dec. 13, 2013
www.obitworld.com/funeralhome.com

HAYES, DONALD FRANCIS Age 74 and a long time resident of South Lyon, died at his home on December 17, 2013 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Judy, his daughter, Debbie, and his sons, Thomas and Clayton.

OSCARSON, PATRICIA A. Died Monday morning, December 16, 2013 at her residence. Pat was born February 22, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan a daughter of John and Evelyn (Fisher) Campbell. She had been in a Kalamazoo area residence for eight years, after spending time in Rochester, Minnesota, and South Lyon, Michigan. Pat was also a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church and was an avid golfer and accomplished artist. She preceded in death by her parents. On February 14, 1970, she was united in marriage to Kenneth R. Oscarson, P.E., who survives. Also surviving: two sons, Dr. Casey (Danielle) Oscarson of Stillwater, MN and Garrett Oscarson of Brighton, MI; two grandchildren, Noah and Henry; two brothers, John "Jack" (Elizabeth) Campbell of Clawson, MI and Robert "Bob" Campbell of Westland, MI; three sisters, Mary (Larry) Newland of Livonia, MI, Cathleen (Dick) Dixon of Brighton, MI, and Elizabeth (John) Barr of Grand Rapids; and many nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. There will be no visitation. Memorials may be directed to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Children's Program, 711 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Please visit Patricia's personalized webpage for the online guestbook, or to leave a condolence. Arrangements will be made by the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Howard St. www.langelands.com

POTRYKUS, ALFREDA S. Age 89, passed away December 18, 2013. Visitation Thursday, December 26, from 3pm-9pm. Burial at 11am at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME. Funeral Mass Friday, December 27 at 11am at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

MARKHAM, BEBORAH April 18, 1955 - Dec. 2, 2013
www.obitworld.com/funeralhome.com

MYERS, LINDA JUNE (SIRPILLA) Age 68, of Fenton, died Thursday, December 19, 2013. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Mrs. Myers was born July 17, 1945 to the late the daughter of Robert and Jean (Springer) Myers. Surviving are four children: John (Michelle) Fessend of Fenton; Amy Stappila of Michigan; Andy (Sharon) Sirpilla of Chicago; and Stephanie Grand Rapids. Grandchildren: Naama and Ben; Leonard Dustin Spriggs; Ross and Emma; step-mother, Jane Myers; brother, Larry; and Judy Myers of Michigan. Her father preceded her in death. Arrangements by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1900 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Friends may share an online tribute on the obituary page at www.sharppfuneralhomes.com

PRATT, GLORIA L. Age 91, of New Hudson, passed away December 17, 2013. One-line obituary at www.easterlinefuneralhome.com

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



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

OUR VIEWS

Don't drink and drive

Commit to making it a smart and safe New Year's Eve by planning ahead

The numbers seem very small in comparison to how many people live in the United States, but they're really not. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10,322 people in this country lost their lives in drunken driving accidents in 2012. That's one death every 51 minutes.

We are approaching what *Time* magazine lists as the No. 1 booziest night of the year — New Year's Eve. People will gather in homes, in halls and in bars to ring in the new year where copious amounts of alcohol will be consumed. After all, what is a party without a bit of the bubbly?

There are those people who believe that there is value in going out on New Year's Eve and drinking with the aim of getting drunk, that somehow the evening isn't a success without that happening. But it's what happens when the parties are over that also make it the scariest night of the year. Many of those revelers will get behind the wheel of a vehicle and drive home. Hopefully, they make it to



New Year's Eve is one of the worst nights of the year for drunken driving accidents. Make sure you have a designated driver if you hit the town. FILE PHOTO

their final destination without a problem. Some do, some don't.

Some get stopped by the police and, in Michigan, if they register more than 0.08 blood-alcohol content on a breath test, they end up sobering up in a jail cell. Some find themselves involved in accidents that can cause injuries and even death.

In a country that glorifies the making of illegal moonshine on cable TV and sends

the message through commercials that drinking certain beverages gives you sex appeal, it's hard to deter people from drinking and driving, especially those who do it repeatedly.

According to NHTSA statistics, a drunken driver on average has driven drunk 80 times before being arrested for the first time. And between 50-75 percent of convicted drunken drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.

New Year's Eve is meant to

be a time of celebration, but it doesn't need to be alcohol-laden. For those who feel a need to overindulge, think about other people and don't drive. Have a designated driver, call a taxi to take you home or play the big shot and arrange for a limousine service to do the pickup and delivery duties.

The holidays should be about friends and family, not excessive drinking. They can be just as much fun without alcohol. Find alternative ways to

ring in the new year like:
» Gathering your friends and friends together for a scavenger hunt and pot-luck dinner.

» Blowing the snow off the fire pit and having a fire with s'mores and hot chocolate.

» Hosting a movie marathon, featuring your favorite films of 2013 — and don't forget the buttered popcorn.

» Planning a game night. Dust off the UNO cards, pull out the Trivial Pursuit and open up the Monopoly board. No need for booze to buy Boardwalk.

» Going out for a nice dinner and a movie. A lot of restaurants offer special menus for New Year's Eve. And if you feel the need to hold a cocktail glass in your hand, fill it with a mocktail. There are plenty of recipes for everything from a hibiscus mimosa to non-alcoholic sangria that can be found on the Internet.

This New Year's Eve, commit to making it a safe one for you and for others. Celebrate all you want, but be smart. Don't drink and drive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Require motorcycle helmets again

I am writing in return to the article that you published (on your website) Dec. 11, 2013, about the motorcycle helmet debate. I question if we should have passed this law. There has been an increase in the number of motorcycle accidents and fatalities since the law has been passed. Not requiring people to wear helmets while riding a motorcycle isn't the best idea; there is no positive outcome if people don't wear helmets. The law was in place to protect riders and their passengers while on streets and state highways.

The number of motorcycle fatalities has increased by an astounding from last year alone. Why have this law if more people are being killed from it? Some people might say that they have a right to make a decision on whether they want to wear a helmet or not. I don't understand why you wouldn't want to wear a helmet — it could be a matter of life and death if you don't wear it. Even though it only covers your head, it is the most important part of your body and wearing a helmet can protect you from many serious injuries if you get in a crash.

What we need to do is revoke the law and require people to wear helmets again to save more lives. If more people started wearing helmets again, we would have fewer annual deaths from motorcycle crashes. If we don't change this now, the death rates on motorcycles could keep going up and up. If we don't stop this now, many more will be dead and it might even be somebody you know.

James Giolli II
Novi

New law disregards women's health

The Republican-dominated Michigan Legislature's recent passage of the "rape insurance" law speaks volumes about where the Republican Party's allegiance lies. GOP legislators joined forces with special in-

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: estone@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

terest groups, in particular Right to Life of Michigan, whose stated goal is to ban abortions without exception. This extremist group wants to eliminate birth control, as well.

Right to Life of Michigan gathered a little more than 315,000 signatures, had them certified by the Board of Canvassers and then forwarded the initiative to the Legislature, where it was suddenly passed into law. The signatures represented a mere 4 percent of Michigan voters.

This law bans insurance plans in Michigan from covering abortion, forcing women to purchase a separate rider or, in other words "plan ahead for your rape!" However, the rider system is unworkable because insurance companies and employers won't necessarily provide riders, due to the expense and complications.

This newly passed "rape insurance" law exemplifies the Republicans' reckless disregard for women's health.

Within the next 90 days, Michiganans will be asked to collect 161,000 signatures to place this draconian law on the ballot for consideration. It's imperative that we do everything in our power to overturn this anti-women law. Let's make this happen!

Jill Farber-Bramson
West Bloomfield

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your New Year's resolution?

This question was asked at the Novi Public Library.



"I always try to lose weight and live healthier."
Brad Charles
Novi



"Find a new job. I just moved back to town recently and I'm applying for jobs now."
Maureen Anway
Novi



"To write a new book."
Bonnie Virag
Novi



"To get ready for college. I'm transferring from Schoolcraft to the University of Michigan next year."
Hossein Zabinian
Novi

GUEST COLUMN

Improving safety of compounded prescription drugs focus of law

In November, the Senate passed the Drug Quality and Security Act, legislation aimed at strengthening the safety of compounded prescription drugs in Michigan and around the country in the wake of a deadly meningitis outbreak. It has been more than one year since the public became aware of what quickly became a far-reaching fungal meningitis outbreak affecting citizens in 20 states, including Michigan.

Following an investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, along with local health departments, it became clear the outbreak was caused by contaminated steroid injections produced by the now-defunct New England Compounding Center, a compounding pharmacy in Massachusetts. According to the CDC, more than 750 people across the United States seeking pain relief were affected by tainted steroid injections produced by NECC. More than 260 of these victims, more than one-third of the hundreds made severely ill from contaminated injections, reside in Michigan; 64 of the victims lost their life as a result of illness, including 19 Michiganans.

This tragedy brought a spotlight to bear on the opaque regulation of what are known as mass-compounding pharmacies — facilities that produce large amounts of custom-formula drugs.

Strengthens rules
On a bipartisan basis, members of the Senate and House of



Sen. Carl Levin

Representatives worked through this issue to produce legislation that both strengthens federal authority to regulate mass-compounding facilities and will lay the groundwork for a nationwide system to track prescription drugs. While not as far-reaching as some may have initially intended, the bill we passed represents an important and necessary step forward.

It is important to draw a distinction, as this legislation does, between so-called "traditional compounding" — where a pharmacist tailors a particular drug to meet the unique needs of a patient, such as removing a certain dye or altering the dosage level of an adult medication to be suitable for a child — and the mass compounding of drugs for wholesale distribution.

Compounding pharmacies have long been regulated by state boards of pharmacy. However, as was made clear in the investigation that followed the meningitis outbreak, NECC, a mass compounding pharmacy, was operating in a regulatory gray area where neither the state nor the federal government took full responsibility for ensuring its facility and compounding practices were safe and sterile.

The Drug Quality and Security Act, signed into law by President Obama in late November, aims to address this regulatory

gray area by clarifying the responsibilities of the FDA with regard to the oversight of mass compounded pharmaceuticals. Specifically, it further defines the distinction between traditional compounding and mass compounding manufacturers that make large volumes of drugs without individual prescriptions.

Detailed labeling
Under this law, mass compounding pharmacies can choose to register as "outsourcing" facilities that would be subject to new FDA regulatory oversight similar to that of other pharmaceutical manufacturers. And in an effort to provide patients with better information about compounded drugs, the law calls for detailed labeling of compounded drugs and directs the FDA to make available on their website a list of FDA-regulated facilities. Importantly, this law also will implement a new system for tracking drugs from the manufacturer to the pharmacy in an effort to ensure accountability at every step along the way. This new system will replace the current state tracing laws with a uniform standard and also will establish nationwide drug serial numbers to allow for efficient tracing.

While this law will not compensate those who have been harmed or bring back those who we have lost, I am hopeful it will help to ensure Americans are not faced with a similarly tragic, avoidable situation in the future.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.

Cure cabin fever with outdoor adventure

Opportunities for winter activities abound at area's parks and other attractions

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

There's plenty to do when the weather is frigid and cabin fever gets dangerously unbearable. But cold, snowy weather doesn't mean you have to hibernate on your sofa, in front of the television with a blanket until spring.

Check out the Wild Lights show at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak as you take in the holiday entertainment, from arts and crafts, storytelling, ice carving and a Lego holiday train display. The Wild Adventure Zone is also featuring *The Polar Express 4-D Experience*, a 14-minute film starring Tom Hanks.

The show runs 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 2-5, staying open until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the gate for ages 2 and older. Parking is \$5.

Or head outdoors to some place like Kensington Metropark, where there's plenty to keep you busy.

Up north feel

The wooded, rural setting of Interstate 96 offers the perfect scenery for Dave Hardin of Royal Oak, who uses the park to the fullest all year. He usually meets friends, because it's a halfway point from where everyone lives. He was out recently to hike with buddies in 28-degree weather and he also uses the trails to snowshoe, bike and cross country ski.

Ben Buyawo of Farmington Hills walks the trails around Kensington for close to three hours two or three times weekly, depending on the temperatures.

Bruce Darr rode his horse Hammer from his Milford home to Kensington recently. Hammer prefers colder weather to warm, said Darr, who dresses in layers and wears winter riding boots to keep warm.

Kim Jarvis, Kensington Metropark superintendent, said there are five miles of hike/bike trails that are plowed from the East Boat Launch to the Bay Woods Picnic area. Two ice rinks are available at the boat rental, one for free skating and other designated for hockey use. There are no skate rentals available.

The park also offers 12 miles of cross country ski trails. Cross country skis are available at the golf course clubhouse, which is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekends and holidays, when snow conditions permit. Snowshoeing is available on the nature trails, too. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, if there is enough snow, are available on the weekends at the Farm Center. The cost for adults is \$5 and children and senior citizens are \$3. The Nature Center is also open during the winter.

Sledding, tobogganing and a beginners snow boarding hill are available at the Orchard Picnic area, which is also dubbed the winter sports area, Jarvis said. Huron Meadows Metropark in Green Oak Township offers both classic and skate skiing. The park also has a one-kilometer cross country ski trail. Jarvis said. Both classic and skate skis are available for rental at the Huron Meadows club house 2-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The metroparks require a vehicle entry pass, which is \$5 daily.

Flying down hills
Thrill seekers love the rush of mounting their sleds and flying down the hills at Edward Hines Drive between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Northville or between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Westland. The lines can get daunting, but it gives the adventurous time to catch their breath.

Sledders also test their speed at St. Andrew's Church in Rochester Hills; at Beverly Park in Beverly Hills; and Shawassee Park and Heritage Park, both in Farmington.

Grab your hiking boots for outdoor fun at Maybury State Park in Northville, which is open all year for hikers and runners. Trails are plowed and during the winter, paths are groomed for cross country skiing. Snowshoes are available for rental by calling 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday to make arrangements for weekday and weekend outings. Adult snow shoes are \$10 to rent and children's sizes are \$7. Call 248-349-8390.

"Maybury provides an easily accessible outdoor experience with snow in the woods and wildlife," said Nikki Van Bloem, Maybury supervisor. "You can walk five minutes into the woods and have no idea you're so close to a huge metropolitan area that we're right on the edge of. It's convenient."

The backdrop at Maybury is a whole lot of woodpeckers along with all kinds of other birds, as well as deer and fox if you're lucky to spot them. You are more likely to come across a flock of turkeys.



Children make their way up the toboggan run at Kensington Metropark. HAL GOULD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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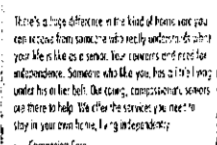
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IN THE SERVICE

Chaistian Bjonaj

Navy Petty Officer Third Class Chaistian Gjonaj, son of Lesh and Leza Gjonaj of Novi, recently assumed the duties and responsibilities of a third class petty officer as he was promoted in a ceremony aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN75). Gjonaj is a 2011 graduate of Northville High School.



Chaistian Gjonaj, son of Lesh and Leza Gjonaj of Novi, recently assumed the duties and responsibilities of a third class petty officer as he was promoted in a ceremony aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN75). Gjonaj is a 2011 graduate of Northville High School.

Novi Girl Scouts givers at yuletide

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts gathered Sunday, Dec. 15, at Karen and John Kaley's Novi home to work on fleece blankets for a C.S. Mott Children's Hospital project.

There are seven Juniors and eight Cadettes, Karen Kaley said, with the older girls mostly

from Novi High School (some through the years were from Mercy) and the Juniors from Novi Middle School. The girls and their leaders enjoy making the fleece blankets.

"The girls have done this the last several years," said Kaley, who co-leads Junior Troop 41569 with Diane Ross and Lisa Rinkel. Cadette Troop 41441 is led by Denise Sinkovitch.

Kaley is mom to Anna, 12, a Junior Scout, and Emily, 14, a Cadette. Emily was in preschool with the late Leah Elisabeth James, whose family created the charity Leah's Happy Hearts after the child's cancer death. More can be found online at www.leahshappyhearts.org.

When Leah got sick, John Kaley set up a blog to keep people updated on her progress. The Scouts do their project in honor of Leah and her family. Leah's Happy Hearts hosts the holiday shop at Mott for children there.

"They can choose a blanket for themselves," Kaley said. The children also shop for others, from donated and purchased items.

"They're able to give presents to mom and dad and sisters and brothers. They love to help do the blankets," she added of the Scouts.

The blankets are taken to Mott in Ann Arbor the Sunday before Christmas, brightening



Girl Scouts who made blankets for Leah's Happy Hearts include (front row, from left) Anna Mikkelsen, Emily Kaley and Mary Grace Sinkovitch; (middle row) Jordyn Kreucher, J.J. Wright, Kira Hurley and Katie McMaster and (back row) Brianna Patel, Sammy Ross, Blaire Thibaudeau, Pranati Kongara, Allison Rinkel and Anna Kaley.

the holiday for the hospitalized children and their families.

"It's something the girls look forward to at this time of year," Kaley

said of the project. "The girls have been great about supporting the organization."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

WEDDING

The Kenzies

Ann Elizabeth Superfisky and Andrew Robert Kenzie were married July 6, 2013, in Saint James Chapel in Chicago, Ill., with Monsignor John Budde officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Pam and Fil Superfisky of Novi. She graduated summa cum laude with honors in management from the Olin School of Business at Washington University, earning a bachelor of science degree in business administration with majors in finance, accounting and mathematics. She graduated valedictorian with highest honors from Novi High School. She is a senior credit products officer in real estate corporate banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Chicago.

The groom is the son of Robert Kenzie of Troy. He graduated with highest distinction from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the Uni-

versity of Michigan, earning a bachelor of business administration degree with an emphasis in finance and corporate strategy. He graduated valedictorian with highest honors from Rochester High School. He is vice president at Thoma Bravo, a private equity firm focused on software and technology services located in Chicago.

The bride's attendants were Megan Brotschul, matron of honor; bridesmaids Karen Rugh, Allison Egid and Katrina Johnson; and Kat Superfisky (the bride's sister) as attendant.

The groom's attendants were James Tomasini, best man; groomsmen Taylor Traub, Matt Trebesh and Riley King; and ushers Michael Superfisky (the bride's brother), Anthony Munaco and Colin McKenna.

A reception was held at The Peninsula Chicago. The couple honeymooned in Bora Bora and reside in Chicago.



Ann Elizabeth and Andrew Robert Kenzie

It's not always obvious, but if you're over 65, you may be eligible for a special benefit called the Senior Discount. It's a special benefit that can help you save money on a wide variety of goods and services. For more information, visit www.seniorshelpingseiors.com.

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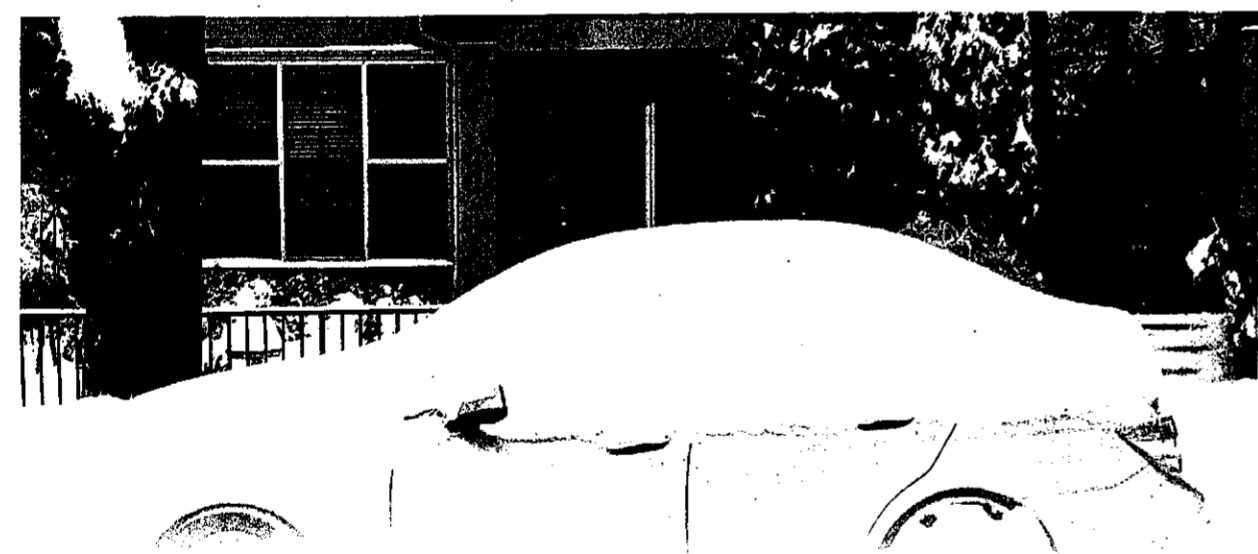
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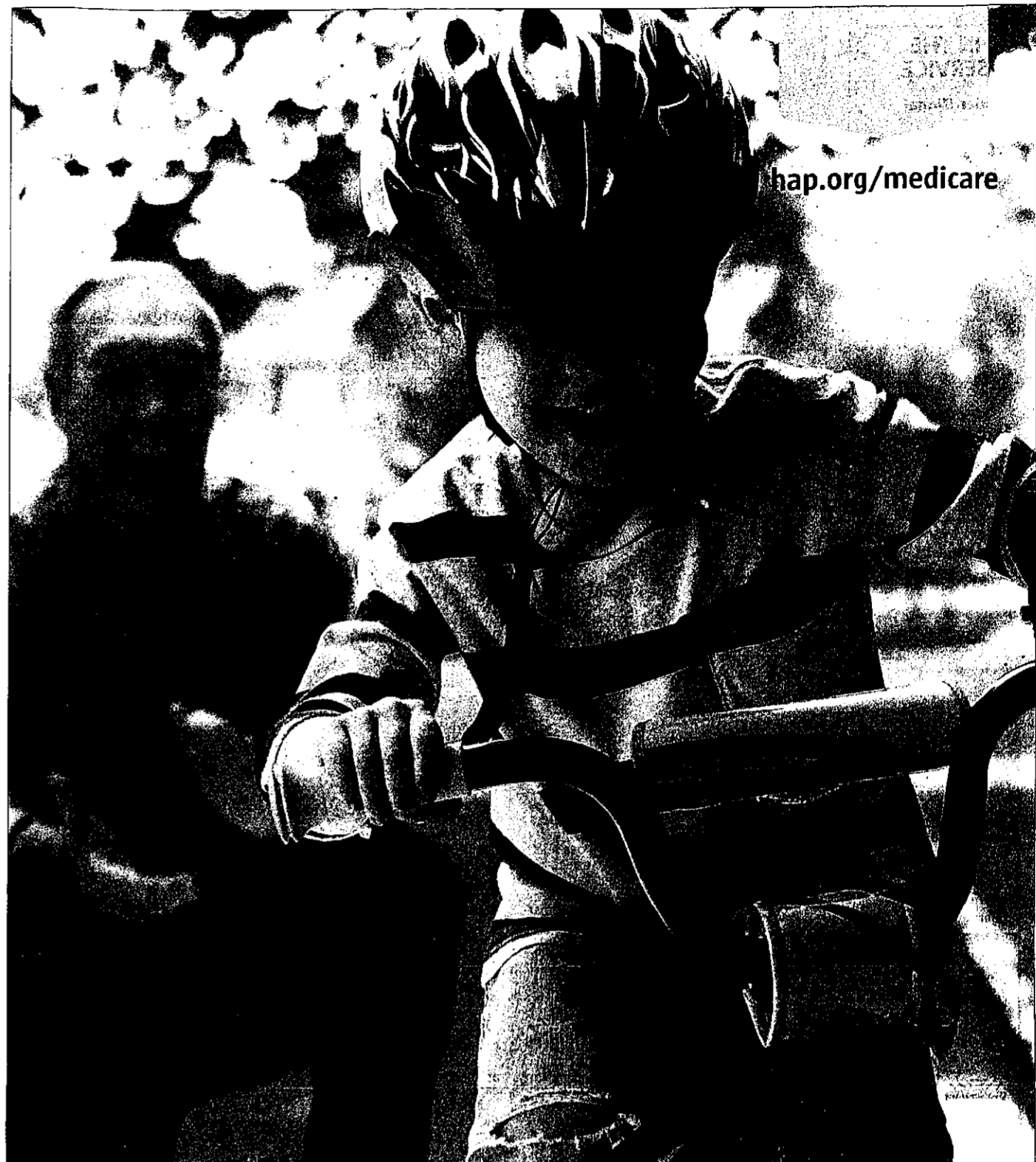
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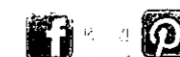
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SPORTS



A pair of Novi players put pressure on a Canton player. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton downs Wildcats

Novi still searching for first victory of the season

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The Wildcats were hunting for their first win of the season in their home opener Dec. 17, but it was the visiting Chiefs who got the victory.

Novi's cagers (0-3) shot 17-for-50 (34 percent) from the field in a 57-43 losing effort to Canton (4-0).

Despite grabbing 10 rebounds and 13 steals, Novi was unable to keep pace with the Chiefs.

The Wildcats' offense was led by senior Nick Zagaro (10 points on 4-for-7 shooting), who also picked up three assists, three steals and one block.

Several Novi teammates also chipped in, as senior Durrell Jackson (seven points, two steals), junior Max Yanke (seven points), junior Alex Marzejon (six points, two steals) and senior Erik Biberstein (five points, three rebounds, four steals, two blocks) tried to keep the deficit to single digits.

Also chipping in were sophomores Eric Board (four points), Kameron Hankerson (two points) and junior Cameron Hatcher (two points).

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



A Novi player runs into an obstacle in the form of a Canton player. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON TAP

Novi's boys basketball team (0-3) will take a holiday break until 7 p.m. Jan. 3, when White Lake Lakeland (2-2) comes to town.

Bonin leads talented All-Area swimmers

By Jeff Theisen
Sports Writer

South Lyon star swimmer Chanel Bonin entered the season with high hopes for herself and her team.

The senior capped off the season with four all-state swims, including a state title in the 100 backstroke, leading South Lyon to a fourth-place finish. She also placed runner-up in the 100 butterfly and was on the third-place 400 free relay and the fifth-place medley relay.

Bonin is the 2013 All-Area Swim and Dive Athlete of the Year.

"Chanel was a very hard worker this year and really put a lot of time into fine-tuning her technique so that she was able to make the strides she needed in order to win the state title," coach John Burch said. "Chanel is the most talented swimmer and the most accomplished swimmer to go through the South Lyon swim and dive program and she is certainly deserving of the awards and honors she is getting."

Bonin signed to continue her career at Michigan State University.

First team Laura Westphal Northville

The freshman made a huge splash in her first season with a Division 1 state title in the 500 freestyle (4:57.84). She was also 10th in the 200 IM, was the anchor on the 11th-place 200 medley relay and also part of the 14th-place 400 free relay.

"Great swimmer and racer," coach Brian McNeff said. "When we needed a big swim, she was there to deliver. Very focused on what she needs to do in order to succeed."

Sarah Lohman Northville

The senior capped off her career with an all-state swim in the 100 breaststroke with an eighth-place finish (1:06.69). She was also part of the 200 medley relay (11th). Lohman was also a captain.

"She has been a big part of the team for four years," McNeff said. "She has a great attitude at practice, always kept things light and fun."

Kelsey Macaddino Northville

The freshman claimed 13th in the 100 fly as well as being a part of all three relays to score at the state meet.

"Kelsey was a huge part of the team," McNeff said. "She was a great competitor and always stepped it up when we needed her. She is a very hard worker and will have a lot of success in the future."

Alissa Moore Northville

The sophomore finished 11th in

See ALL-AREA, Page B3



South Lyon's Chanel Bonin is the 2013 All-Area Swim and Dive Athlete of the Year. JIM BOYLES

Nothing Petty about 39-save performance

Novi icers defeat Churchill, 7-3

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Quality over quantity.

Novi's hockey team was outshot 42-23 Dec. 17 when Livonia Churchill (1-6-1, 1-2-0 Kensington) visited, but the Wildcats (5-4-0, 4-2-0 KLAAs Kensington) prevailed with a 7-3 victory.

Senior goalie Austin Petty had 39 saves, but his offense helped him out by shooting 30.4 percent and knocking seven of 23 shot attempts past Churchill goalie David Turiz.

Novi's offense got rolling with two power-play goals in the first period, by senior Michael O'Reilly with 5:32 remaining and junior Bryan Fegert with 1:55 remaining.

Juniors Bradley Hofelich and Ryan Baxter assisted on O'Reilly's goal, while

ON TAP

Novi (5-4-0, 4-2-0 KLAAs Kensington) was set to face Davison last Friday and either Clarkston or Macomb Dakota on Saturday after the holiday press deadline. Past Novi hockey stars will gather at 9 p.m. Sunday at Novi Ice Arena for an alumni game.

O'Reilly and Baxter assisted on Fegert's goal.

Churchill cut the deficit to 2-1 just 2:39 into the second period, when Evan Gibboney set up Andrew Sparks for a goal, but the Wildcats answered back less than three minutes later with a goal by senior Chris Kennedy, assisted by senior Gage Fisher and O'Reilly.

Junior Niklas Tewillager made it 4-1 with 6:44 left in the second period, as sophomore Jakob Cyr and junior Brendan Wexler assisted, but the Chargers weren't out of it yet.

Drew Puishes tallied two power-play goals for Churchill in the final 5:21 of the period to cut the deficit to 4-3 at the second intermission.

Although Puishes' second goal came with 24 seconds left in the second, it only took Baxter 27 seconds into the third period to get it back for Novi on a goal assisted by Fegert.

Fegert got another goal for himself 10 minutes later off a pass from senior Mark Czapski, before junior James Hole set Wexler up for the final goal of the night with 3:56 remaining as Petty shut it down between the pipes and Novi won 7-3.

The two teams combined for 15 penalties, but Churchill spent 27 minutes in the box, compared to 12 minutes for Novi.

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

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- Turning Points

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NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

Walled Lake football programs recognized by MHSFCA

Several Walled Lake Consolidated School district football coaches were recently recognized by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association with Coach of the Year awards. Dan Ristau from Geisler Middle School was recognized for his work at the middle school/junior high level with an Assistant Coach of the Year award. Bob Gutovz from Walled Lake Central High School was also recognized with an Assistant of the Year for his work with the varsity level. Mike Zdebski from Walled Lake Western High School received the 2013 Steve Spicer Award

Leadership Award for his continued community service efforts. Zdebski was also named Regional Coach of the Year for Region 12.

The MHSFCA also recently announced 2013 Academic All-State honorees. Walled Lake Western finished first in Division 1 with a combined grade-point average of 3.980. Walled Lake Central also received Academic All-State honors in Division 1 with a combined GPA of 3.830.

Hockey classes for youths

The Novi Ice Arena (42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive) has skilled instructors gearing up to teach hockey to boys and girls in the 4-11 age group — everything from putting on hockey equipment to taking their first

shot on goal and working in a team environment — in their upcoming "Learn To Play Hockey" classes.

This program is for kids who have a basic knowledge of skating. It will be broken into two sessions of nine classes each, running 6-6:50 p.m. each Wednesday. Session 1 runs through Jan. 22 (no classes Jan. 1). Session 2 runs Jan. 29 to March 26. Sign up for both sessions now and save with a discounted price.

The emphasis of the class is to create a fun and challenging environment for players to learn the beginning stages of balance, skating in equipment and stick handling.

Each skater will receive a hockey jersey as a part of the class, but will be required to have their own hockey equipment.

Shamrocks start season with a win, a loss

Basketball team tops Lincoln Park, nearly beats Taylor Kennedy

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

You win some and you lose some and, to begin the 2013-14 season, the Detroit Catholic Central

basketball team did both. The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, earned a 56-33 victory Dec. 11 over Lincoln Park, two days after suffering a loss to Taylor Kennedy, 62-59.

In the victory, the Shamrocks were led by Charlie Ryan as he put up 16 points to lead all scorers. Teammate Noah Lee added 14.

ON TAP

Detroit Catholic Central will be back on the hardwood at 7 p.m. Monday at home against Redford Thurston.

Lincoln Park was led by Tywan Cage with 12 points.

With the victory, the Shamrocks evened their record to 1-1 on the season.

But that was almost a 2-0 mark and would have

team dug deep and came back for a near-perfect performance over the fourth quarter. The Shamrocks scored 26 points, hitting every shot they took from the floor with the exception of one free-throw try. The defense held Taylor Kennedy to just 14 points but, unfortunately, it was too little, too late and the

huzzer sounded with the Shamrocks trailing by three points. Lee led all scorers with 20 points, while Kennedy was topped Andia Marsh's 17 points and Kareth O'Neil's 14.

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

Cranbrook, Troy sink Novi tankers

Vincent qualifies for state meet, Giolli wins diving

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Cranbrook Kingswood and Troy proved to be a much tougher challenge for Novi's boys swim and dive team than the season opener.

In a Dec. 17 tri-meet on the road, the Wildcats (1-2) lost 124-61 to Cranbrook and 103-83 to Troy.

"Tanner Vincent lead the way with state qualifying times in the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "Diver James Giolli came from behind on his final dive to take first place in diving with a score of 182.65."

Giolli was the lone Wildcat to take first in any of the 12 events, although several others made it to the top three of various flights.

Giolli was joined in the 1-meter dive by Nathan Pellerito, who took third with 152.95 points.

Vincent was the runner-up in both the 100 fly (53.71 seconds) and 100 back (56.25 seconds), just 0.47 and

ON TAP

Novi (1-2) is off for the holidays until it visits Birmingham Groves at 6 p.m. Jan. 7.

1:42 seconds, respectively, behind the winners from Troy.

Other top individual finishes came from Nathan Louie, third in the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.43, which was 2.77 seconds behind Cranbrook's winning time, and Ryan Katuski, third in the 200 free in 1:54.90, which was 4.43 seconds behind Troy's winning time.

Novi didn't place anyone in the top three in the 200 individual medley, 50 free, 100 free, 500 free or 400 free relay, but took third in both the 200 medley relay and 200 free relay.

The 200 medley relay team of Toraki Maehata, Louie, Vincent and Sid Karedy finished in 1:45.33, behind Cranbrook's 1:40.95.

The 200 free relay team of Vincent, Maehata, Karedy and Jacob Robbins finished in 1:36.14, behind Cranbrook's 1:33.11.

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

Chiefs hand Novi first loss of season

Free throws make the difference in 35-27 decision

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Following a dominant start to the season, Novi's girls basketball team met its match Dec. 17. The Wildcats (3-1) had scored more than 50 points and held their opponents below 30 in each of their first three games.

ON TAP

Novi (3-1) will head into the holiday break until noon Jan. 4, when Fowlerville (0-3) — who lost 54-23 to South Lyon, East (4-2) — comes to town.

However, Canton (3-2) had other plans, as the Chiefs battled to a 35-27 victory over Novi.

Three Chiefs scored in double figures as the team shot 10-for-29 (34.5 percent), although Novi shot 10-for-31 (32.3 percent), as well.

Free throws made the difference, as Novi had 22

fouls and Canton had just eight, which allowed the Chiefs to go 14-for-22 (63.6 percent) from the line in comparison to Novi's 5-for-7 (71.4 percent).

The Chiefs also held a 22-11 rebounding advantage, including 12 offensive boards, while committing seven fewer turnovers than the Wildcats.

Novi's offense was led by senior Kerri McMahan (30 points on 4-for-13 shooting), who added six rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Senior Taylor Pavlika and junior Alex Felice added five points apiece, while senior Kristen Schubring (three steals) and senior Mallory Daschke added two points apiece.

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

Several local athletes sign collegiate letters

Two Mustangs, five Shamrocks announce college decisions

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The world of collegiate athletics will be a little more talented next year now that two Northville and five Novi-Detroit

Catholic Central student-athletes have signed their national letter of intent.

From Northville, both Andrew Sarokin and Symone Abbott signed, while CC's Daniel Ault, Drew Garcia, Logan Marcicki, Nick Bennett and Malik Amine did as well.

Sarokin will be heading to Oakland University to play golf, while Abbott announced that she will

be playing volleyball for Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Joining Sarokin on the Oakland University golf team will be Ault.

Garcia, Marcicki, Bennett and Amine will all compete in wrestling. Garcia will attend Cornell University, while Marcicki will enroll at Indiana. Bennett will attend Nebraska, while Amine

will remain local at the University of Michigan.

Amine becomes part of a legacy at Michigan. His father Mike and uncle Sam both wrestled for the Wolverines in the 1980s, while his cousin Jordan is on the current roster.

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

Northville cheer team shows improvement at KLAAs meet

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

In the early weeks of the season, it's all about finding weaknesses and improving on them until the end of the season and into the postseason.

For the Northville competitive cheer team, progress is being made and each of the rounds are being worked on.

What that has meant so far has been a couple of

tough scores that have led to a 0-6 record. But there are some huge bright spots, like the team's first-round scoring, as well as the fact that it still hasn't unveiled its full round three performance yet.

"The team performed well," Northville coach Mindy Gantz said of the Dec. 18 KLAAs crossover competition. "Overall, we are pleased with how the team is progressing. Our leaders and captains are doing an outstanding job

mentoring the younger girls and setting examples of focus and commitment to achieving both team and individual goals."

The Mustangs entered the competition knowing they would have a tough time competing with the more experienced squads, but after the first round

was done they showed just how potent they can be as they scored 199 points — just one shy of eventual winner Plymouth.

The second and third rounds, however, are where the team is focusing the most to increase points. Northville scored 148.52 points in the second round, which dropped it back to third, and it scored 206.3 points in the third round, which slid it to fourth overall.

ALL-AREA

Continued from Page B1

the 500 free, 15th in the 200 free and was part of two scoring relays at states.

"Alissa is one of the toughest swimmers on the team," McNeff said. "She has a winner's mentality and is always putting her best effort to do everything we do."

Nicki Pumper Northville

The freshman was part of three scoring events at states. Pumper finished 16th in the 100 backstroke and was part of two scoring relays.

"Nicki is an extremely hard worker, she does whatever is asked in practice and puts in her best effort, no matter what," McNeff said. "We relied on her a lot to score us points this year."

Deirdre Gerke South Lyon

The senior was part of three all-state relay teams. She also won the Kensington Conference title in the 100 free and was on the conference champion 400 free relay.

"Dee was a very hard worker for us this year," Burch said. "She had a shoulder injury that kept her from complete participation last year, so it was great to see her healed and ready to go this year. She made huge strides and was a key leader for us. She showed her commitment to the team by swimming in three relays at the state meet for the third straight year for us."

Stormy Malarik South Lyon

The senior earned all-state in the 50 free (seventh place) and as part of all three relays.

Malarik was also part of the Kensington Conference champion 400 free relay.

"Stormy has always been a good swimmer, but she really came into her own this year," Burch said. "She made huge strides and made her state qualifying time earlier than she ever has before. This was very important because it allowed her to concentrate on the state meet, which allowed her to finish very high. She also showed her commitment to the team by being willing to sacrifice an individual event for the good of the team by swimming in three relays at the state meet."

Meg Darrow South Lyon

The senior capped a strong season with her first trip to the state meet and left with a pair of all-state swims as part of the medley relay and 200 free relay (both fifth place).

"This was Meg's first year at the state meet, but she showed the experience of a senior in swimming her best times of the season in helping us to great relay performances," Burch said. "Without Meg's improvement, this season we would not have finished fourth in the state because our relays would not have finished in the top five."

Carolyn Bischoff South Lyon

The freshman proved she will be a force in the future with a ninth-place finish in the 50 free, a pair of all-state relay efforts and a 13th-place finish in the 100 free. She was the conference champ in the 50 free and as part of the 400 free relay.

"Carolyn had one of

ALL-AREA SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Chanel Bonin, South Lyon

FIRST TEAM

Laura Westphal, Northville

Sarah Lohman, Northville

Kelsey Macaddino, Northville

Alissa Moore, Northville

Nicki Pumper, Northville

Deirdre Gerke, South Lyon

Stormy Malarik, South Lyon

Meg Darrow, South Lyon

Carolyn Bischoff, South Lyon

Heidi Surdyk, South Lyon

Autumn Smith, South Lyon

Jaymie Ziegler, Novi

Sophie Beck, Milford

SECOND TEAM

Lauren Jarzembowski, Northville

Andrea Meister, Northville

Jessica Yan, Northville

Gillian Zayan, Northville

Milford 200 free relay

and that hard work has led to great success for her."

Autumn Smith South Lyon

The senior capped her career with a 12th-place finish in diving at the state finals.

"Autumn was one of our captains this year and she led a very deep team," Burch said. "Not only did she perform well and score at the state meet for the second straight year, she also led many other divers to impressive performances throughout the year. We needed her leadership to set the tone on the diving team."

Jaymie Ziegler Novi

The senior diver claimed 14th at the Division 1 finals.

"Jaymie was Novi's No. 1 diver all season," coach Annette Vander-Mey said.

Sophie Beck Milford

Meghan Lakkides, Milford

Emily Mayoras, Novi

Alexandra Cortez, Novi

Dana Kilponen, Novi

Lauren Kim, Novi

Melanie Dunnuck, South Lyon

Emma Bauer, South Lyon

Anna Geyer, South Lyon

HONORABLE MENTION

Northville — Hannah Craig (so), Natalie Filipowicz (jr), Maria Gutowski (sr), Sabrina Lee (fr), Darby Mroz (so), Julia Scavricky (fr)

South Lyon — Misato Tamaki (jr), Merys Gravel (fr), Rachael Smith (fr), Megan Mieske (fr)

Alysa Sawyer (jr), Starr Bryan (fr), Kavyi Ihara (so), Sonya Tyahla (jr), Emily Kososki (so), Sara Plohetki (jr), Caitlyn Canadi (fr), Morica Houck (fr)

Novi — Mallory Martlock (fr), Elizabeth Glenn (so), Karen Xu (fr), Alysa Stark (jr), Idalia Moore (fr), Alexa Nusio (jr), Sarah Wang (fr), Lindsey Vaughan (jr), Claire Tuckey (fr), Brooke Grant (fr), Ava Bianchi (so)

Second team

Lauren Jarzembowski Northville

The senior qualified for states in the 100 breaststroke and helped the 200 free relay claim 13th. She finished sixth at the conference meet in the 200 IM.

Andrea Meister Northville

The senior diver finished her Northville career with a conference title and six school records.

Jessica Yan Northville

The junior qualified for states in the 500 free as well as finishing ninth at the conference meet in the 100 breaststroke.

Gillian Zayan Northville

The sophomore free-styler qualified for states in two events.

Dana Kilponen Novi

The sophomore sprinter qualified for states in two events.

Lauren Kim Novi

The sophomore showed versatility as Novi's No. 1 breaststroker and flyer. She qualified for states in two events.

Melanie Dunnuck South Lyon

The freshman qualified for states in two events.

Emma Bauer South Lyon

The junior diver reached the state meet and finished 25th.

Anna Geyer South Lyon

The sophomore just missed the state cut in the 100 backstroke with a time that would've qualified in all previous seasons.

The freshman was part of the 200 free relay that finished 13th at states.

Milford 200 free relay

The squad of sophomore Brenna Grass, senior Annabel Spencer, freshman Lynn Hancsak and sophomore Allie Crouse qualified for the state finals.

Meghan Lakkides Milford

The junior diver just missed scoring at the state finals with a 17th-place finish.

Emily Mayoras Novi

The freshman qualified for states in four events, including the 100 back and 500 free.

Alexandra Cortez Novi

The sophomore free-styler qualified for states in two events.

Dana Kilponen Novi

The sophomore sprinter qualified for states in two events.

Lauren Kim Novi

The sophomore showed versatility as Novi's No. 1 breaststroker and flyer. She qualified for states in two events.

Melanie Dunnuck South Lyon

The freshman qualified for states in two events.

Emma Bauer South Lyon

The junior diver reached the state meet and finished 25th.

Anna Geyer South Lyon

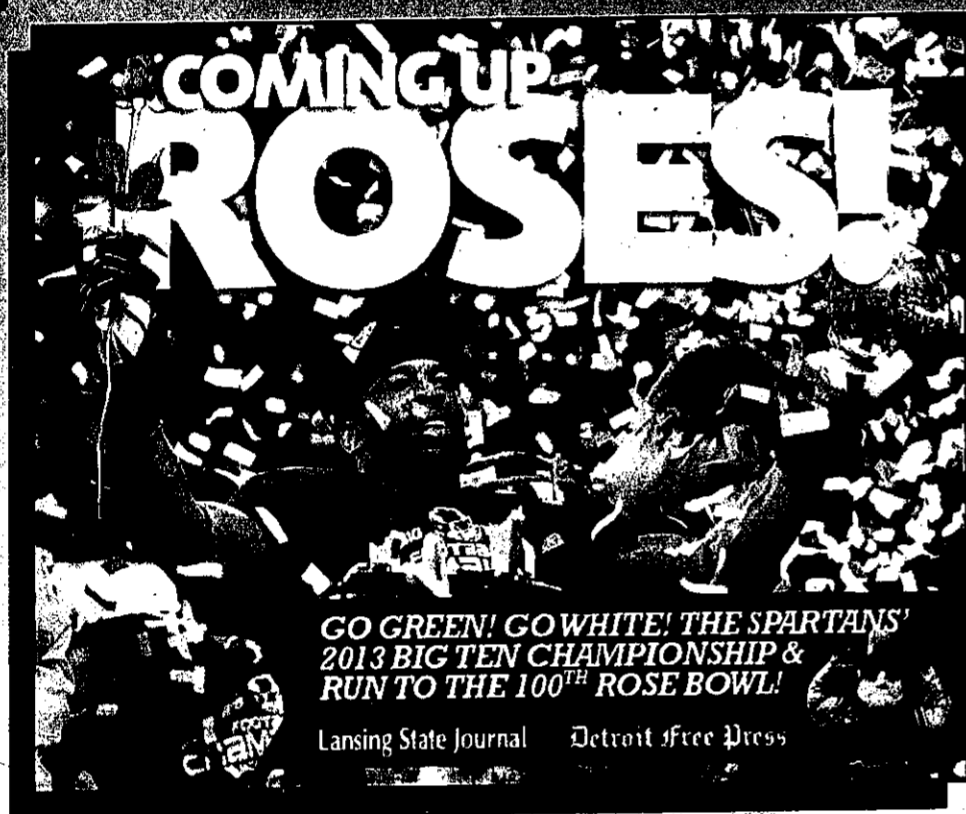
The sophomore just missed the state cut in the 100 backstroke with a time that would've qualified in all previous seasons.

Editor's note: Lakeland did not return any information.

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