

Novi News

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Addicted 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 in 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 can handle.

Proceeds will go toward local anti-drug initiatives in Novi schools.

Members of the Novi Youth Council, Novi Fire and Police departments and Lucky Strike staff will be on hand to supervise the event; however, parents are encouraged to join the fun.

The permission slip is available online at cityofnovi.org and payment may be made at the city of Novi clerk's counter, located at the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. 10 Mile).

Tickets are \$10 per student.

Ordinances will help track stolen items

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

New ordinances will help police investigate stolen items that were pawned.

In an effort to modernize its registration process and better track transactions, the city of Novi is moving forward on enacting ordinance language for precious metal and gem dealers, secondhand/junk dealers and pawnbrokers.

This comes as no surprise to shops like Novi's Weinstein Jewelers, as it has been hearing the rumblings of a newer way of doing things for some time.

"This new way may make things easier, especially for the city, but we've always been required to provide the police with certain information from our business," said Gary Weinstein, owner of the shop on Grand River Avenue that offers money for precious metals.

The Novi City Council approved the first readings of the ordinance language, but did not consider as of yet a resolution setting fees for licensing or registration.

"The primary goal of the ordinances is to set forth licensing/registration for businesses engaged in purchasing or pawning secondhand items and to require electronic reporting of all transactions required by state law," Novi Assistant Police

Chief Jerrod Hart said.

Hart said using a new online system for reporting transactions will make things easier for everyone involved.

LEADS Online

Earlier this year, the Novi Police Department entered into a contract with LEADS Online to streamline the reporting process by providing an electronic meth-

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Novi resident Cliff Trotter has been making intricate wooden models of European cathedrals for years. The 86-year-old uses a scroll saw to cut out the pieces from patterns and then glues them together. This piece, based on a cathedral in Amiens, France, took about two weeks to build. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi man has ample 'time' for his hobby

Elaborate clock housings make for challenging retirement

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Cliff Trotter, 86, isn't one to be idle in retirement. "I'm not anybody to sit around and do nothing," the Novi resident said. He was a barber for 34 years and then worked 11 years for Farmington Public Schools in maintenance and repair.

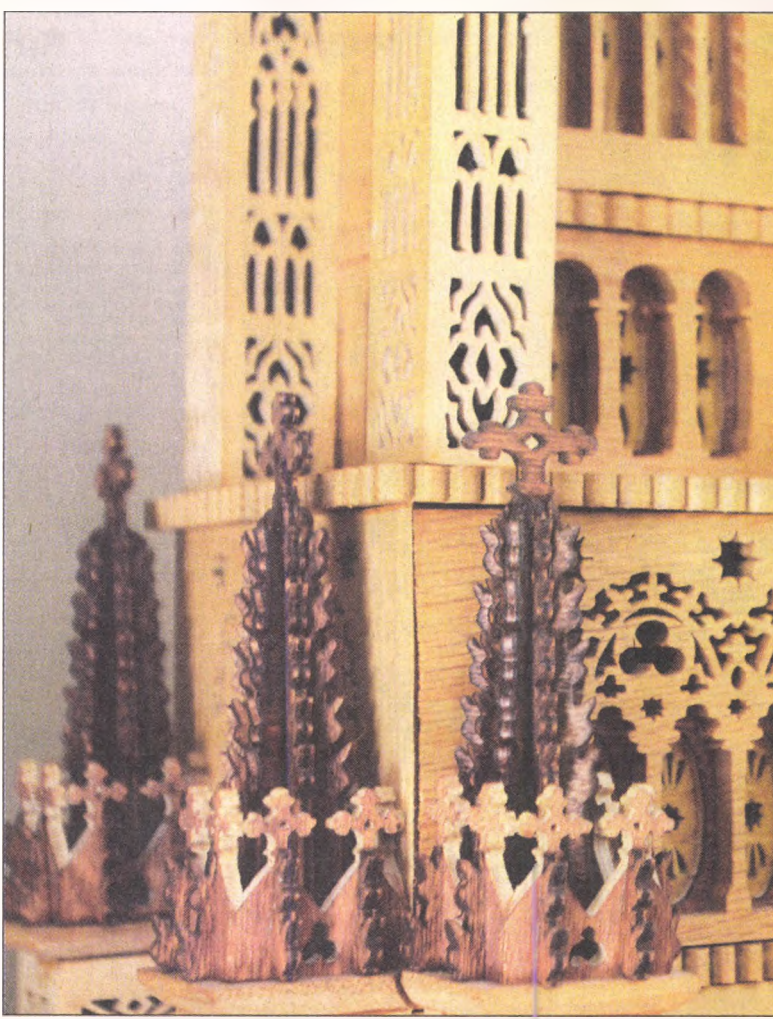
"My wife bought me this scroll saw one year," he said of his late wife Mary. They were on vacation in Florida and he began to work on a clock housing.

His hobby grew and Trotter now makes elaborate clock designs based on European cathedrals and other buildings. His favorite is one clock housing that took a year to finish.

The couple had three children - one is deceased - and many grandchildren. "I just keep going," he said of his hobby. "It's something to do. It keeps me busy."

He's done the clock designs quite a while and noted one based on a pattern of a French cathedral took a year. "It's quite a building," Trotter said.

He sends for paper patterns. "Then I have to go from there. I'm running out of space," he said as he counted eight in his living room.



A close-up of one of Cliff Trotter's models, this of the cathedral at Amiens, shows the details of the pieces he cuts from wood.

Who has say on community liquor control?

Novi manager concerned over changes in law

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

A recent state liquor law decision has Novi City Manager Clay Pearson further concerned over local government approval when it comes to liquor establishments within its community.

According to the Michigan Municipal League, a new change to a state liquor law apparently had a last-minute item taken out that would have allowed local government to have a say over transfer of an off-premise liquor license for businesses like liquor stores.

This change caught the eye of Pearson, who is growing more uneasy about the route recent legislation is taking regarding liquor stores and bars.

However, state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-15th District, said local control will always have a place in liquor licensing.

"We are adamant about having local control when it comes to liquor control," Kowall said.

House Bill 5140 passed in mid-December and allows the transfer of an escrowed Specially Designated Distributor (off-premise) liquor license to any municipality within the county in which the SDD license was located.

According to an early version of the bill, the transfer would have required local approval before it could occur.

However, the MML said the local approval language was stripped by the state Senate Regulatory Reform Committee. It then passed through the entire Senate and was approved by the House of Representatives.

Nikki Brown, a legislative associate for the advocacy organization MML, said the actual bill was never posted on the committee agenda and there was no communication with the MML that this would be coming up for discussion.

"The fact that the approval was stripped out at the last minute in the Legislature, with no real notice or opportunity to comment, is not at all transparent and does a real disservice to the local governments that are affected," Pearson said.

Kowall said there has been confusion around liquor control issues as some in Lansing work to clean up or update the language in these laws. He said anytime a local municipality has an issue with a license, officials in Lansing will listen. He does expect more updates of liquor control laws in the coming months.

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TIME

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"Made the kids all one. You've got to keep occupied," said Trotter, who lives with his son. "Just to keep busy," he said of his hobby. "I just enjoy building them." His children have suggested branching out, but Trotter likes clocks.

He doesn't create the clock mechanism. "You've got to buy the mechanism," he said. "They're made in Germany, I think."

His last clock housing was about five feet tall. "Quite a few years," he said of the hobby. "Probably right around 20 years. I'm doing pretty good. I've got to send away to get another pattern. I've never sold one. What they give you for them isn't what you've got in them."

His children can figure out what to do with his designs when he passes away, Trotter added.

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BIRTH



Emilia Evelyn Morante

David and Jennifer Morante of Northville welcomed new daughter Emilia Evelyn on Oct. 21. Baby Emilia weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces and was born at St. Joseph-Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She joins siblings Libby, 8, and Eloise, 5. Proud grandparents are Luis and Judy Morante of Novi and Karl and Beth Sekerka of Plymouth.

ITEMS

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od of reporting transactions. The transactions are uploaded once a day and do not require a separate fax or form to be mailed to the police department.

Hart said in the past, some businesses may have not been quite up to date with the department due to the process.

"Unfortunately, several businesses operating in the city of Novi do not report transactions and it is unknown how many opportunities to identify criminal activity have been lost. One reason may be the cumbersome nature of reporting transactions to the police department," Hart said.

According to Hart, there are currently 11 businesses in Novi registered with LEADS Online, including the only pawnbroker, Weinstein Jewelers.

"LEADS Online has already proven effective to our investiga-

tors," he said. "In September, investigators received an email alert regarding a stolen GPS unit which was pawned hours after it was stolen in our community."

In this case, the suspect sold the item at a pawn shop in Livonia, which reported the transaction to LEADS. The alert notified investigators of the transaction location and identity of the suspect, who was later located and confessed to committing several larcenies from motor vehicles in Novi and surrounding communities.

"This transaction would have previously been unknown to investigators, as neither the pawn shop nor the suspect resided in our community," Hart said.

The next step will be a second reading of the ordinances (adoption) and a possible fee decision on how much money annually would be required.

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From cancer to abusive marriage, faith in God sustained author

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Claudia Wells-Hamilton of Novi, a retired educator, didn't have to think long about the title of her autobiography, *Cookies Do Crumble*.



Wells-Hamilton

"At 83 years, can you believe that?" she said of her first book. "At 12 years ago, I had cancer and it was such a lonely trip."

She was open about her diagnosis of breast and lymph node cancer. "I decided that I could share some of the things I could learn the medical community had not apprised me of," said Wells-Hamilton, a cancer survivor who kept a journal.

"It took 12 years," she said of the book. "I was dealing with an abusive marriage." The couple's son lived locally at the time and she didn't want to embarrass him or damage his relationship with his father. Her son then gave permission to

publish. "When he did, full speed ahead," said the author, who sold 200 copies at a Church of God in Christ convention. Many women have bought *Cookies Do Crumble*.

Wells-Hamilton retired in 1994 as principal of Southeastern High School, having been an educator in Detroit Public Schools 38 years, as well as 13 years in North Carolina. She's now married to retired educator Edmond Scott Hamilton and has three adult children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She's a member of Greater Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Detroit. Wells-Hamilton grew up in the Church of God in Christ; her father was a bishop.

"Oh, positive," she said of reaction to her book, noting many women live in shame. "I appear to be a prosperous woman. I'm very exacting. People didn't realize I had been through what I had been through." She wants to pass life lessons

along to her daughter and granddaughter.

"It has inspired the ladies," she said. Women may share much on Facebook, but are often private otherwise. "They're holding it and blaming themselves."

Her book title is based in part on her being hard on the outside, as a Detroit school administrator. "But inwardly I always wanted to be compassionate. I'm a tough cookie, but I, too, can crumble."

Her faith has sustained her through tough times and good. "That's my foundation, that's my rock," said Wells-Hamilton, who earned a doctorate. "I'm anchored to my belief in God."

She's been asked about another book she may write and has done a little writing on the trumpet resurrection sound. Another book's unlikely.

"I'm 83 years old," she said. "I'm pulling into the train station."

She wants to leave a legacy, noting the high-needs students she worked with and encouraged to move above their

environment.

"One day, one of you might be my doctor or nurse." She did, in fact, later have a nurse after surgery who was a former student.

"I'm going to rely on you like you relied on me," she told the younger woman. "I closed my eyes and said, 'I'm in your hands.'"

Wells-Hamilton, a Novi resident since 2004, has another former student who since 1959 "has never missed sending me a Christmas card. She lives in Baltimore."

The new author summed up her philosophy: "In life, there's a bright side somewhere. You should never rest until you find it. Look at (Nelson) Mandela, 27 years in jail. Time does heal all wounds, it just takes a little longer for the deep ones."

She's glad to be cancer-free and recalled eating strawberry and raspberry Popsicles while ill as other food had no taste.

"I lost my hair and made it a fashion statement." Clinique responded to her request on how to bring out beauty and blackness.

Cookies Do Crumble is published by Tate Enterprises and Publishing and is available in bookstores, as well as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.



Novi's Gary Weinstein works at his jeweler's bench at Weinstein Jewelers on Grand River Avenue. The city is considering ordinances to create a better registration process for the precious metal and gem dealers in the area. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIQUOR

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For Novi, this comes in the wake of another proposal to lessen local influence over other liquor licenses.

Its focus in recent ordinances relating to transfers and special land use approval was on Class C liquor licenses, which are for on-premise consumption (bars, restaurants).

Novi passed ordinances in reaction to a decision by the Michigan Liquor Control

Commission that stated the transfer of an on-premise existing liquor license from one person to another or one location to another, would no longer require local approval. This opinion/decision is still under discussion at the state level.

Like Class C on-premise licenses, SDD licenses are issued under a quota system. Only so many can be issued in a community, based on population.

"It is telling that the first draft of this new law required a local approval of a transfer into the community," Pearson said. "That would have made sense - it might matter to some communities how many liquor stores it has."

He thinks communities need to keep an eye on the "sweeping" changes coming from Lansing in regard to liquor control.

"Perhaps if no one notices/cares/objects to the idea that there can be a transfer of an SDD license into town, maybe they won't notice/care/object to a similar change to the rules for on-premises licenses to further strip local review and centralize that to Lansing," Pearson said of other potential changes.

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Judge's ties to drug test firms bring more heat

His family has financial links to facilities court recommends, but judge denies any conflict

By John Wisely and L.L. Brasier
Gannett Michigan

Novi District Judge Brian MacKenzie is known for his get-tough brand of justice, ordering those who appear before him to undergo months of daily drug and alcohol testing and use interlock devices on their cars. His court offers the thousands of defendants who pass through annually a list of suggested local testing facilities and interlock vendors, which are privately owned businesses.

Among the recommended facilities: ones his family members have or had financial ties to, a *Detroit Free Press* review of records found.

The judge's wife is the paid executive director of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals, a nonprofit organization that receives thousands of dollars annually from the drug- and alcohol-testing companies. MacKenzie is that group's president, an unpaid position.

And his son worked for 16 months at Jail Alternative for Michigan Services, known as JAMS, the largest drug- and alcohol-testing company in metro Detroit.

MacKenzie denies any conflict of interest, saying he receives no financial benefit from any facility and has been ordering testing for years. He said he forces people into treatment programs to help them and keep the community safe.

"I do it because it's the right thing to do," he said. "And if I do it well, it works."

But legal experts say judges should steer clear of financial ties to outside businesses.

Keith Swisher, a law professor and associate dean at Arizona Summit Law School in Phoenix who teaches judicial ethics, said the arrangements raise concerns about MacKenzie's ability to be impartial in sentencing.

"It's problematic when a spouse is getting paid, even indirectly, by these providers," said Swisher, who also runs the national Legal Ethics Forum. "And then you have a direct connection with the son. Judges are prohibited from being influenced by improper external factors. And judges are held to a higher standard. The tightness of the familial connections could establish the appearance of impropriety."

Judicial canons — rules governing the position — allow judges to serve on boards "devoted to the improvement of the law," but prohibit them from actively soliciting contributions. The canons do not address

THE COMPLAINT

Novi District Judge Brian MacKenzie is the subject of a complaint in Oakland County Circuit Court, filed by county Prosecutor Jessica Cooper. Among the allegations in the 238-page complaint:

» MacKenzie dismissed the case of a man convicted of spousal abuse for the second time after he struck his wife in the head and pulled out her hair extensions. MacKenzie placed the man in sobriety court and then dismissed the case without consulting prosecutors.

» MacKenzie entered into pleas on misdemeanor cases and set sentencing dates when he knew prosecutors would not be present in his courtroom. He later fabricated court records to make it appear as if prosecutors were present or agreed to plea deals.

» MacKenzie dropped charges in a road-rage incident in which a man was accused of using a gay slur and threatening a man with a car. MacKenzie sentenced him under the Spousal Abuse Act, which allows judges to delay sentences and eventually drop charges. The Spousal Abuse Act requires the defendant have a domestic relationship with the victim. In this case, they were strangers.

the involvement of family members.

Scrutiny over MacKenzie's business ties comes as he is under fire by Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper, who has accused him in a lawsuit of improperly dismissing domestic violence cases, falsifying court records and sealing case files to keep them from public scrutiny. The lawsuit is unrelated to the nonprofit agency and his rulings on drug and alcohol cases.

Cooper has asked Oakland County Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien to intervene and is requesting that her office be allowed to review MacKenzie's record for the past 10 years.

MacKenzie denies any wrongdoing and said the lawsuit contains "significant factual inaccuracies." O'Brien is expected to issue an opinion within weeks.

Treatment as option

MacKenzie was appointed to the bench in 1988. In the decade that followed, courts nationwide began to consider substance abuse treatment as an alternative to jail or prison.

MacKenzie became one of the state's most vocal supporters and one of the first to implement a sobriety court.

Most courts now use

drug testing and interlocks, but MacKenzie is well-known for his extensive bond and probation requirements — beyond what many judges order, although no one tracks those requirements among judges in Michigan.

"He's very committed and passionate and he believes in what he's doing," said veteran defense attorney Jack Holmes, who regularly defends cases before MacKenzie. "What he will tell you is that the nature of the offense is somewhat irrelevant. It's the addiction that brings the person to the court."

In 2002, MacKenzie became active in the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals, a nonprofit that promotes best practices for courts that handle drug and alcohol cases. Its 25-member board, which elected MacKenzie the group's president in 2007, is made up of judges, substance abuse experts and attorneys.

Eight months after he became president, his wife was hired as executive director. Karen MacKenzie works 20 hours a week from her home, receiving about \$40,000 annually, according to the group's tax filings. She also gets bonuses, including \$4,000 earlier this year after reporting she had worked 833 hours of overtime.

The nonprofit's \$250,000 annual budget comes from contributions and an annual conference it holds in Lansing. Among those donating are interlock companies — the growing and lucrative industry that costs the average driver convicted of drunken driving between \$1,100 and \$1,400 a year. The devices are installed in cars and require drivers to blow into a tube that measures blood-alcohol levels and keeps the car from starting if certain levels register.

MacKenzie's court distributes a list of five acceptable interlock companies, which are regulated by the state. But the *Free Press* found that just three companies — which all give money to the association — qualify under MacKenzie's rule that such devices have cameras.

Smart Start of Michigan and American Interlock each gave the association \$10,000 last year. Michigan Interlock gave \$3,000. Representatives from the two other providers — one doesn't contribute to the association — say they are excluded because of the camera issue, even though they are certified by the state and are used in dozens of other courts.

"We've been locked out of that court for years," said Thomas Levoska of Alcohol of Michigan in Wixom, one of the five vendors on MacKenzie's list. "There isn't another court around with that requirement."

MacKenzie said he favors having cameras because the court's probation department recommends them and they provide greater control. He also said acceptable vendors are chosen by all three Novi district judges after discussions with the probation department.

JAMS testing

When MacKenzie orders mandatory daily alcohol and drug testing — often for months at a time at a cost of about \$9 a day — many defendants end up at JAMS.

JAMS has deep ties to the drug court association and has been a sponsor of its events. Former Southfield District Judge Stephen Cooper, whose wife Caroline Cooper is a co-owner of JAMS, served on the board of the drug court association.

MacKenzie's son David was employed there as a case manager from June 2006 to September 2007, according to an online résumé. Judge MacKenzie said he didn't help his son get the job and that it had no influence on him.

"I got no direct benefit from that and nothing that I do is related to that," MacKenzie said.

MacKenzie acknowledged he has ordered "JAMS testing" from the bench, but said he used the term in a generic sense of drug and alcohol testing and doesn't require any particular facility.

"I don't think it's ethical to send people to a specific place," he said.

MacKenzie also orders people to attend weekend sessions of Accepting Responsibility is Mandatory, billed as "team building" sessions. Participants pay \$300 to stay in cabins at the Howell Nature Center and attend counseling sessions. ARM, owned by a West Bloomfield businessman, also contributes to the association.

MacKenzie said he often has used companies that don't sponsor the drug court group and has stopped using ones that did because they didn't meet the court's standards, including a drug- and alcohol-testing facility he considered unreliable.

Months of testing

Tax records show the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals raised about \$192,000 in 2012 from groups and individuals.

In addition to Karen MacKenzie's salary, Judge MacKenzie acknowledged the group reimburses travel expenses for both when they attend sobriety court conferences and pays for their annual retreats in Petoskey.

MacKenzie said he had no input into his wife's hiring. Karen MacKenzie, who holds a master's degree in health administration, saw the job posting and told him she was applying, he

said. "When she applied, I withdrew from the process," he said. "I wasn't in the room and anytime there is a discussion about her, I leave the room."

Karen MacKenzie, one of three candidates, was selected by a three-member committee that included former Southfield Judge Cooper and Paul Ferrell, a co-owner of JAMS. Retired Genesee County Judge Robert Ransom also was on the committee.

Karen MacKenzie was selected because of her education and her experience working for the Oakland County Circuit Court, Judge Susan DoBrich, the association's treasurer, wrote in an email to the *Free Press*.

Judge MacKenzie also insists his wife doesn't actively solicit donations from companies he orders defendants to use, although her job description includes fundraising.

Defendants who have appeared in MacKenzie's courtroom say he ordered them to undergo long stretches of alcohol and drug testing, therapy and mandatory Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, despite committing minor misdemeanors.

In general, judges sentence low-level, non-violent offenders to court costs and fines and sometimes limited probation.

Kevin Meharry of Taylor appeared in MacKenzie's courtroom after being cited in Novi for urinating in public behind a party bus in May 2010 while celebrating a friend's 21st birthday. Meharry, then 21, agreed to a Breathalyzer and registered 0.26 percent — more than three times the level at which a person can be convicted of drunken driving in Michigan.

"But I wasn't driving," Meharry said. "That was the point of having the bus."

MacKenzie sentenced Meharry to months of drug and alcohol testing, mandatory daily AA meetings and intensive therapy. Meharry also had to install an in-house alcohol-testing unit and meet with a probation officer for two years.

Meharry said he failed an alcohol test after taking cough syrup for a cold and MacKenzie sent him to the Oakland County Jail. After his father bailed him out, Meharry had to submit to daily drug testing.

"It was crazy the things he was doing to me," said Meharry, who works for a firm that supplies parts for the auto industry. "People were like, they just couldn't believe it. By the time I got done, it cost me \$8,000."

MacKenzie said the sentence was appropriate, noting Meharry's high blood-alcohol level and a ticket he received years earlier for possessing alcohol as a minor.

"I was trying to get him to stop drinking," he

said.

'You lose faith'

In another case, MacKenzie ordered a law school graduate with no criminal conviction to submit to six months of drug and alcohol testing, intensive therapy and mandatory AA meetings.

Paul Ewald and a friend were out the evening of Feb. 8 in Ewald's car and Ewald said his friend agreed to be the designated driver.

Ewald said his friend lost control on an icy road after they left the bar and the car slammed into an abutment, smashing the passenger door. After the car stopped running, Ewald said, his friend got out of the driver's seat and into the back seat. Ewald, unable to get out of the smashed passenger's side door, moved to the driver's seat as police arrived, he said.

Ewald was arrested for drunken driving after he registered 0.19 percent. But officers also noted footprints in the snow that appeared to show someone had left the driver's seat.

Ewald's attorney, Dana Nessel, subpoenaed Ewald's friend to testify and said she also planned to note the footprints, text messages between them showing the friend agreed to drive and air-bag sensors in Ewald's car that registered the weight of the individual in the passenger seat.

On April 29, the day of trial, Nessel said she laid out the case for MacKenzie in his chambers. Attorney Darin Weinberg — representing Ewald's friend — said his client planned to plead his Fifth Amendment rights to avoid self-incrimination if he was called to the stand. Nessel said Weinberg told the group his client had admitted to being the driver.

Nessel said MacKenzie refused to dismiss the case, insisting her client was an alcoholic who needed treatment and hinting she would not fare well if she took it to trial.

Worried a conviction would hamper her client's law career, Nessel said they agreed to intensive drug and alcohol testing, AA meetings and substance abuse therapy. MacKenzie dropped the case in August after Ewald completed therapy.

MacKenzie disputes Nessel's account.

Ewald said the experience devastated him both financially and emotionally.

"You lose faith in the system," said Ewald, who has since moved to Florida. "It makes you afraid of police officers and judges. It entirely derailed me. He just ripped me to shreds. I'd been planning on taking the bar, but I couldn't afford it because I used up all of my savings keeping myself out of MacKenzie's court."

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NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Enter the contest and vote for your favorite photos at <http://woobox.com/uma8ba>.

"Why All the Household Dust?"

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. By now we've all heard the statistics: 50% of all illness is a direct relation to dirty indoor air and our indoor air is up to 90 times more polluted than outdoor air. Yet, 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from desperate people complaining about dust. They tell me they dust the T.V. on Friday, but by Sun-day they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch Dancing with the Stars, and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not because you're a bad house-keeper, I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag. Visit our website at www.americanpowervac.com for an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home.

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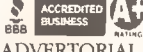
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HUGH & KATHY

Crawfords give Novi a one-two punch at county, state levels

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

If you haven't noticed, Novi has been steadily building a reputation as a political powerhouse with locals using the city council as a springboard to higher offices in Lansing and Oakland County.

From former Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche to state Sen. (and former Rep.) Nancy Cassis to current state Rep. Hugh Crawford and his wife, Oakland County Commissioner Kathy Crawford, this city of 57,000 is making sure its voice is heard.

The Crawfords' situation is unique. The two Republicans will attempt to swap seats in the November 2014 general election: She'll try to go from commissioner of the county's 9th District to her husband's position as 38th District representative in Lansing and vice versa.

Hugh held Kathy's county seat prior to being elected state representative in 2008.

"It does seem a little odd," said Kathy, who is in the third year of her term. "It doesn't happen very often."

She decided to officially run for state rep several months ago when Hugh, who will be term-limited after serving three terms, told her: "You'd be so good at this."

His two-year term and her four-year term, which give the couple a combined salary of just over \$100,000, will be up at the end of 2014.

Although Hugh has not made an official announcement, he confirmed last week that he will be running for county commission again.

"A lot of people asked me to come back and run," he said, "and use my experience as a commissioner and six years in Lansing. I'd like to run for Senate, but you've got this Kowall guy. I may be stupid, but I'm not dumb."

Hugh was referring to Mike Kowall, who is seeking reelection as the 15th District state senator, a four-year seat he won when Cassis was term-limited in 2010. If Kowall wins in November, he would then be term-limited from seeking that position again in 2018.

Novi natives

Hugh and Kathy, both in their early 70s, were born and raised in Novi. They were both baptized at Novi Methodist Church and were married there 49 years ago. They have



State Rep. Hugh Crawford and Oakland County Commissioner Kathy Crawford hope to swap seats in the Nov. 4 election.

three grown children, Doug, Amy and Kelly, and two grandchildren, Alexis and Devin.

Kathy worked in Oakland County as a professional in the field of aging for more than 30 years and retired from the city of Novi in 2004 to launch her own business, Kathy Crawford Communications. She served on the Novi City Council for three years before being elected county commissioner.

Hugh is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a retired technician of Xerox Corp., where he worked for 20 years. He served eight years on the Oakland County Commission and was on the Novi City Council 15 years prior to that.

They both have extensive resumes of community involvement and service and neither has heard of anyone willing to challenge them in an August primary at this point.

"I would think they wouldn't, but they're both open seats," Kathy said. "Pretty much the people with the experience and name recognition aren't considering it. I talked to a number of people ahead of time and let them know I was going to do it."

With Novi containing more than half the population of the 38th District, "whoever would run would have to come from here," Hugh said.

That's even truer for the county commission seat. When Hugh held that, it included Wixom. It has since been re-districted and now is just Novi, Novi Township and the small portion of the city of Northville that lies within Oakland County.

Accomplishments

Although Hugh said there are still transportation issues to deal with this year, he cited many changes to education as just one of the accomplishments during his tenure at the Capitol. He'll have chaired the Regulatory Reform Committee for four years by the end of this year, too.

"We repealed and changed a lot of regulations that were not conducive to good business. As a matter of fact, they hurt business," he said. "I just had one passed a little while ago that increased discharge for sodium and potassium. It doesn't sound sexy and exciting, but businesses throughout my district in South Lyon couldn't do businesses because they were getting fined and had to adhere to unrealistic levels."

Hugh also serves on the committees for education, tourism and health policy.

As a commissioner, Kathy doesn't do a lot of policy and

CONSTITUENCIES

Michigan House of Representatives 38th District: Novi, city of Northville (Oakland County portion), Walled Lake, South Lyon and Lyon Township
Oakland County Commission 9th District: Novi, Novi Township, city of Northville (Oakland County portion)

law work like Hugh. She has been serving as vice chair of the General Government Committee and is on the committee for finance and the retiree compensation board.

"I didn't know much about it," she said of the latter, "but it's been an incredible experience. You are responsible for all this money retirees have put in their pensions. It's an awesome responsibility that I take very serious."

Kathy also serves on the Community Development Advisory Board, which directs CDGB funds for the local area.

"A lot of things I'm doing are directly related to Novi," she said.

She's been instrumental in connecting the county's Senior Advisory Committee with other organizations and individuals, like Rachel Zagaroli who runs Novi's senior center.

"I love to see the coordination between city and county," Kathy said. "A lot of times, what I do is look for ways there can be a trickle-down effect."

Differences, similarities

Hugh said he'll feel no awkwardness in going back to being a county commissioner after being a state rep and said there are several who are in that capacity currently. Kowall's wife Eileen may try to do it as well, moving from her seat as the 44th District state representative to county commissioner of the 6th District.

"There are a lot of similarities," Hugh said, "but it's just the magnitude of state issues compared to the county's. At the county, you don't get into ordinances and resolutions and statues. You're more of an overseer of departments and you approve budgets. In the state, you can have major impact on bills that get passed."

The number of people one works with is a major difference, Hugh said, noting that he deals with 109 other state rep-

Local lawmakers get perfect '13 voting marks

By Philip Allmen
Staff writer

Local state lawmakers were among the 80 legislators with perfect voting records in 2013, according to the Midland-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy's annual Missed Votes report.

State Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, and state Reps. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi, Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, and Bill Rogers, R-Brighton, were among those with perfect voting records over the past year in the Legislature of 110 representatives and 38 senators.

The 68 legislators who did not have perfect voting records missed 1,093 aggregate votes in 2013, according to the report.

There were 2,234 missed votes in the Legislature in 2012, but there were nearly twice as many votes taken that year than during the past year, stated Jack McHugh, the Mackinac Center's senior legislative analyst and editor of the center's Michigan Votes website.

The two Kowalls, Crawford and Rogers also had perfect voting records in 2012.

In 2011, Crawford and Rogers made every vote. Mike Kowall missed one vote, while Eileen Kowall missed 48 votes, according to the figures.

The 2013 figure was a vast improvement over the 21,162 missed votes in the 2001-02 legislative session, the year the Michigan Votes project began, McHugh said.

The Mackinac Center noted that lawmakers may miss votes due to illness, family emergencies or other justifiable reasons. The center also noted that House and Senate leadership are sometimes required to be off the floor during votes.

View the full report and search past years' figures at www.bit.ly/1drj7ry.

Christopher Behnan contributed.

See CRAWFORDS, Page A5

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Area legislators eye productive '14

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

There's been a slew of changes in Michigan since Gov. Rick Snyder took office three years ago. The Republican-led state government has cut business taxes, taxed pensions, made Michigan a right-to-work state and plenty more.

Local legislators have another year to wrap up their agenda while looking ahead to the summer primary and fall general elections.

Recovering economy

State Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, said she's "very happy" about how the past year has gone and has plenty of work to do in 2014.

"People are feeling better about Michigan and the economy," she said. "Nothing happens overnight. I'm very positive about Michigan. We're making it as job-provider-friendly as possible."

Husband Mike Kowall agreed. The Republican state senator from White Lake said the state is recovering, but there's more work to be done.

"We still have a lot of work to do as far as the economy is in Michigan," he said. "We're moving, but it's a little slow to my



Eileen Kowall



Mike Kowall

liking."

Kowall, chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee, said he's seen new businesses coming to Michigan already, as well as re-shoring — businesses coming back to Michigan after leaving for foreign countries.

"It's been a quiet movement, but there's been engineering and high-tech companies coming back," he said, adding that the companies can't rely on those foreign governments for stability. Michigan, he said, seems to be one of the regions they're moving back to.

Both said there's still needless regulations hindering businesses. Creating a better business environment should lead to less state incentives and a more fair, level playing field, Eileen Kowall said.

Recent measures

Both legislators have seen success in 2013, as far as getting bills passed.

Snyder just signed a pair of Mike Kowall bills into law regarding autonomous vehicles in Michigan, an issue Kowall has worked on throughout 2013. One bill will allow for testing of "driverless" vehicles in Michigan, while a second focuses on liability issues.

Eileen Kowall just saw legislation passed in the state House that she introduced related to human trafficking and consuming medical marijuana. Both measures, she said, are expected to pass in the state Senate this year and she'll be busy following those through to completion.

Downtown Development Authorities will be a focus this year for the state representative. DDAs often are funded through tax increment financing, which takes a portion of the tax revenue for other taxing entities to keep and use within the DDA district.

Many DDAs, she said, work really well, but there are others using the funding for purposes different from which it was intended. The state Treasury, Eileen Kowall said, doesn't keep track of how much money DDAs capture statewide or how much bond debt those entities have.

There was a hubbub last year when several

Wayne County DDAs were capturing taxes from the Detroit Institute of Arts millage, a voter-approved dedicated millage.

All of those issues, she said, need to be examined. She said she's looking at the scope, power and definitions of DDAs and will work toward a resolution that can benefit everyone.

"I think there's arrangements we can work out," she said. "We need some kind of middle ground."

Any legislation could be tricky, because proponents argue DDAs are an economic engine at the local level. But with the depressed economy, revenue to local governments is down and communities are struggling, as well.

Eileen Kowall also plans to address unfunded mandates, legislation she's working on with state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, which would help make the legislators more aware "of how much it could possibly be costing counties, CVTs (cities, villages and townships) or schools."

She also wants to address marine safety and water patrol. When the economy collapsed, marine patrols by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office were cut. With the bulk of boater registra-

tions coming from Oakland County, Eileen Kowall said she has been talking with the state Department of Natural Resources on ways to shift resources to allow the enforcement to resume.

Mike Kowall said his focus will continue to be on the state's economic recovery. And that will mean more money for the state. While there were dramatic cuts a few years ago, the effects of that are being realized now. He pointed to Huron Valley Schools recently returning a portion of the employee concessions back to staff.

Toyota could be expanding its presence in Michigan, as well. With the Toyota America president moving from mainland Japan to Novi, "that sends a loud message Toyota is making a major investment in our area," he said.

Detroit will be another major focus for the state moving forward, the senator said, as well as his work on autonomous vehicles.

Down the road

Eileen Kowall is about to start her final year in the state House of Representatives. She is midway through her third term in the position representing the 44th District. Term

limits prevent her from seeking another term.

She didn't say what her next plans are once her term is up.

County Commissioner Jim Runestad, R-White Lake, announced his intention to campaign for the 66th District seat, which Eileen Kowall holds. Highland Township Trustee Russ Tierney said he is running for the seat, as well.

Mike Kowall, however, said he hopes to continue as west Oakland County's state senator. Wrapping up his first term representing the 15th District, he said he will seek reelection in 2014. Depending on how things shake out, he has his eye on a leadership position.

Current Senate leadership represents western and northern Michigan.

"We (Oakland County) are still the economic engine that runs the state," he said. "We have to make sure all of our interests are protected, as well."

The three leadership position are majority leader, floor leader and appropriations chair. All three "are vitally important to Michigan," he said. Leadership position are voted upon by the entire state Senate.

Call Allmen at 248-437-2011, ext. 226

CRAWFORDS

Continued from Page A4

representatives and 38 senators compared to 21 county commissioners.

The biggest difference? "The responsibility," he said. "There is a lot that we did in the state — and a lot more we need to do."

He did say that both as state rep and city councilman, he felt more of a connection and impact on

individuals than at the county, where he functioned more as a liaison between services and issues his community faced.

"But they each do an awful lot," he said. "I do the job seriously. Most do; some don't."

He said his wife probably spends more time working as a commissioner than her colleagues or he did when he held that seat. But to be fair, Kathy said, many have full-time jobs and

can't commit the same amount of time she can.

"I don't do anything half way," she said. "On the county level, I see so much possibility."

Next step

The extent that either of the Crawfords campaigns depends on whether or not anyone decides to challenge them.

Hugh said he wanted to wait until after the local elections a few months ago and the be-

ginning of the new year to start cranking up the machine.

Kathy already has a state campaign fund and manager and began laying the groundwork 18 months ago. She's attended a few conferences on how to run a campaign and met with some organizations that have shared their concerns and wants.

"Kathy will have a bit of advantage with the people I know in Lansing — the department heads,

lobbyists," Hugh said. "She's had the opportunity to attend events with me. I didn't quite have that. When DeRoche was the previous state rep, he was busy being speaker of the house. And a lot of people already know Kathy. Almost everybody knows she's running. People know me, but they love Kathy. Thank God I never had to run against her or I'd have lost in two seconds!"

See CRAWFORDS, Page A10

"I love to see the coordination between city and county," Kathy said. "A lot of times, what I do is look for ways there can be a trickle-down effect."

KATHY CRAWFORD
Oakland County commissioner

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The 'accidental' congressman

Bentivolio faces fight to keep House seat

By Todd Spangler
Gannett Michigan

If there's one thing U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio is learning, it's that being Michigan's accidental congressman has a precipitous downside, politically speaking.

A year into his first term and less than a year out from the end of what he hopes is a successful re-election campaign, Bentivolio, a Milford Republican, finds himself challenged in his own party, with key establishment Republicans already arrayed against him and Democrats relishing their chances of winning what by all accounts should be a safe Republican seat.

Bentivolio's fundraising has lagged that of his wealthy Republican rival, Birmingham lawyer Dave Trott, despite help from U.S. House leaders. A central member of Bentivolio's insurgent campaign of a year ago bolted for Trott's. And with Washington's Roll Call placing Bentivolio among the 10 most vulnerable members of Congress, some political observers say the race in Michigan's 11th District may draw national attention and become a donnybrook.

"They don't see me as an establishment Republican," Bentivolio said of his opponents, "because I guess I should have gone to them and asked, 'Can I have permission to run for Congress?' But the Constitution doesn't say that, right?"

But even Bentivolio's independent, tea party bona fides — which helped him win in 2012 — may come under fire: The Cook Political Report, which considers the race in the 11th one of the



U.S. REP. KERRY BENTIVOLIO

Party: Republican
Home: Milford
Age: 62
Education: Bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in Detroit; master's degree from Marygrove College
Professional: Former auto designer, builder, teacher, veteran. Owned a business playing Santa for community events and a ranch raising reindeer, fruit, honeybees and grapes.
Political experience: Before his win in 2012, Bentivolio had lost a race for state Senate in 2010.
Website: kerrybentivolioforcongress.com

few toss-ups in next summer's primaries, noted the incumbent voted for bipartisan bills "alienating the Club for Growth and other hard-line groups."

Trott's camp is questioning Bentivolio's vote in January suspending the debt ceiling as a way to force a budget deal, an agreement supported by most state Republican members of Congress, but opposed by some right-leaning groups.

On Facebook, Bentivolio defended the vote at the time as one that went against congressional "business as usual," but it still raised the hackles of supporters who felt betrayed. When the vote ending the 16-day government shutdown came last month, Bentivolio was among those rejecting it.

"We got something for something" in the January vote, he said. "In this last go-around, we got



DAVE TROTT

Party: Republican
Home: Birmingham
Age: 53
Education: Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan; juris doctor from Duke University.
Professional: Heads family law firm, Trott & Trott, which specializes in real estate law. Also has or has had interests in title insurance, newspapers, commercial real estate, sports marketing and other ventures. Sits on several boards, including that of the state Chamber of Commerce.
Political experience: Volunteered for state Sen. Don Bishop and interned for former U.S. Rep. Bill Broomfield. Served on finance team for 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. Organized this year's Lincoln Day Dinner for the Oakland County Republican Party.
Website: <http://trottforcongress.com>

nothing for nothing. Which is why I voted no."

But Bentivolio won't just have Trott to contend with.

Democrats are eyeing the seat as a possible pickup in an all-out effort to win back control of the House. Bobby McKenzie, a former U.S. State Department employee, is already running.

David Wasserman of the Cook Political Report rates next year's outcome as "likely Republican," but wrote last week that "GOP prospects here next November would probably improve if Trott were to prevail."

"My job is to do the job," Bentivolio said. "I'm



BOBBY MCKENZIE

Party: Democrat
Home: Canton
Age: 39
Education: Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University; master's degree from Georgetown University
Professional: Served as fellow at CIA, worked several years for consultancies to the intelligence community and did humanitarian work with refugees in Africa. Project manager for center countering violent extremism in Abu Dhabi. Worked as senior adviser in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism.
Political experience: None
Website: <http://www.bobbyformichigan.com>

a Vietnam veteran. I'm used to abuse."

'A gut feeling'

Bentivolio was never the choice of the Republican establishment. A veteran, former educator and reindeer rancher, he won only after U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter resigned over a scandal involving fraudulent re-election petition signatures.

The state Legislature had already redrawn the district — with less western Wayne, more southeast Oakland — to be more Republican-friendly, on McCotter's behalf.

But Bentivolio's was the only Republican name left on the GOP primary ballot after McCotter left. An attempt to beat him with a write-in candidate, former state Sen. Nancy Cassis, fell short.

In the general election, Bentivolio defeated a little-known Democrat with 51 percent of the vote. Worse, he lost to a Democrat in a lightly voted special election to serve out the remainder of McCotter's term.

Enter Trott, a member of Mitt Romney's finance team and organizer of this year's hugely successful Lincoln Day Dinner with Donald Trump as the keynote speaker. Well-known and well-liked in Oakland County's Republican circles, he already counts former state Attorney General Mike Cox, state Sen. John Pappageorge, R-Troy, and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson among his backers.

To have all three — and many more, including a couple of former congressmen from the area — 10 months before the primary is, without question, a coup.

"I don't have anything bad to say about Kerry," Waterford Township Supervisor Gary Wall said, representing one of the biggest jurisdictions in the 11th District and already a Trott backer. "It's a gut feeling, but

that's what you've got to go on."

Trott, he said, is simply "a harder charger" than Bentivolio.

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt, another Trott backer, said he hasn't seen enough of the congressman and that Trott's experience seems tailor made for the job.

"I'm not badmouthing the guy," Gatt said. "But let's face facts. ... Had McCotter not imploded, he would be our congressman there. I want to right the wrong and get someone there who can adequately represent my district."

Oakland County Commissioner Robert Gosse, R-Troy, hasn't endorsed anyone, but supports Bentivolio. He said he believes Bentivolio's opponents "probably perceive him as not as strong as some people would want him." He thinks Bentivolio is doing a good job as congressman, but that in politics, perception can become reality.

But Trott, while being touted by supporters as more dynamic and experienced, has his own potential vulnerability: His family's law firm specializes in bankruptcy law and foreclosures, a sensitive area which could bring its own political baggage with the personal losses felt in the wake of the Great Recession.

It's a fact not lost on Bentivolio's campaign or Democratic hopefuls. A few weeks ago, McKenzie, the Democratic candidate, began soliciting "real stories of foreclosures executed by Trott."

"He's the foreclosure king of southeastern Michigan, that's just who he is," Bentivolio's campaign manager, David Wolkinson, said of Trott.

Similar candidates

Trott — who traces his desire to serve back 30 years to a job with then-U.S. Rep. Bill Broomfield, R-Birmingham — dismisses any notion that the foreclosure business presents a problem. It's only part of his résumé, he said, which also includes sports marketing, commercial real estate and more.

"No one wants to foreclose, we don't want to foreclose, we go to great lengths to avoid going into foreclosure," he said.

Finding vast political differences between Trott and Bentivolio may not be easy: Both are fiscally conservative; Bentivolio, from a look at both campaign websites, presents as the more socially conservative one.

Trott said his run is motivated by a belief that his experience is more suited for Congress — there are some who see it as a possible stepping-stone to higher office — and that he can also connect better with constituents and provide them better service than Bentivolio has.

Many of his endorse-

ments, Trott said, are from people who "haven't heard from or met with Kerry."

It's a point Bentivolio won't concede, rattling off the meetings he's had — some examples in the last month include a Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce event and a meeting with the Birmingham Senior Men's Club. His office won an award for constituent service, his advisers say. Even Wall — a Trott supporter — acknowledged Bentivolio's mobile office has been a presence in Waterford.

"They have to come up with something to throw mud," Bentivolio said.

Bentivolio can point to legislative achievements — an amendment requiring state agencies to consult with private-sector employers as part of setting educational plans, for instance — though more news media attention was paid to what was considered an effort to prohibit automated traffic cameras in the District of Columbia.

But his fundraising efforts have been slow to develop, even with the leadership committee of Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., giving him \$10,000 and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, appearing on his behalf at a fundraiser in Birmingham.

The Trott campaign said it has not made any efforts to discourage people from giving to Bentivolio's campaign.

As of Sept. 30, Bentivolio had raised about \$165,000 toward next year's election and had just \$39,000 left in the bank. Trott, in one three-month period, raised \$650,000 — \$200,000 out of his own pocket — and had \$450,000 left.

"My staff beats me up all the time," Bentivolio said, but after reading all the bills, attending hearings, "meeting with folks" and more, he said, finding time to make fundraising calls "is pretty difficult to do some-times."

Bentivolio has his own list of endorsements, many from precinct delegates, a handful from state party co-chairs, but none with the cachet of a Patterson or Cox.

One, Nick Hawatmeh, was quoted as saying Bentivolio is "doing a fantastic job fighting for conservative values in Washington." On the website of the Tea Party Patriots of West Oakland County, supporters of Bentivolio posted a message, calling him an "everyday guy" battling to keep the seat.

Trott said the race is about something more fundamental than that.

"I think the focus needs to be on who is the most effective nominee to represent the 11th District," he said. "That's what the average voter is going to be concerned about."

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Teen headed to Novi dance party found dead

By Tammy Stables Battaglia and Emma Ockerman
Gannett Michigan

Novi police investigators are trying to determine how an 18-year-old Macomb Township teen on his way to a dance party the night of Dec. 21 ended up dead along the side of Grand River Avenue.

Kostika Fushi was found by passing motorists at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, in the 46700 block of Grand River, according to the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office and Novi Police Assistant Chief Jerrod Hart.

Hart said Fushi and a number of friends intended to attend the "Life

in Color: World's Largest Paint Party," a ticketed event at the Suburban Collection Showplace.

The event, a concert where attendees are sprayed with paint, was to take place from 7 p.m. Saturday to 2 a.m. Sunday, according to the event's Facebook page and website.

"At this time, we don't know if he even made it in," Hart said last week.

An official with the medical examiner's office said an autopsy Dec. 23 found signs of hypothermia. But investigators are waiting for the results of toxicology tests before ruling on a cause of death, which David Molloy, Novi's director of public safety/ chief of police, said could

take 30-60 days.

Hart said investigators are questioning friends who were with Fushi that night.

"There were no signs of trauma; there were no signs of foul play," Hart said, adding that he was found after the ice storm that moved through the area. "He was certainly not dressed for the conditions that night. His clothing was not appropriate for the weather when he was found."

Fushi's father, Llazi Fushi, 43, of Macomb Township said that his son graduated from Dakota High School earlier this year and was studying engineering at Oakland University. After adding that Kostika has a



Hundreds of gallons of bright neon paint flew through the air Dec. 21 during the Life in Color paint party at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. JOHN FROELICH

10-year-old brother, he declined further comment.

Nate Pass, 20, said Fushi was friendly, energetic and "always smiling." Pass said he had known Kostika for seven years.

Pass said he planned to attend the event, but

didn't buy a ticket.

No one responded to an email sent through the event's website, Lifeincolor.com. According to the website, the concerts began on college campuses in Florida in 2006 and now boast 200 events a year. Each event features DJs, aerial acts,

still walkers, contortionists and a fire show, culminating in a blast of paint being sprayed over attendees.

Hart said police intend to investigate rumors that attendees covered in paint — many dressed in shorts, T-shirts and light clothing — were forced out into the weekend ice storm after taxis and other drivers refused to transport them.

Hart said no alcohol was served at the event and private security that travels with the show was in place. He said there were arrests associated with the event, but he did not release what types of crimes were involved.

Former Novi mayoral candidate charged with bouncing checks

Joseph Samona, a candidate for Novi mayor this past November, was jailed Dec. 22 on a felony check fraud charge.



Samona

Novi Police received a report Nov. 14 from a victim who claimed Samona gave him a

check for campaign work for \$800 written in November from an account that had been closed since August. A second check from Samona also bounced.

Novi Police obtained a warrant Dec. 19 from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for one count of no account check, a two-year felony.

Novi officers arrested Samona on Dec. 22 while they were investigating an unrelated loitering

complaint at a gas station during the early morning hours.

Magistrate Andra Richardson arraigned Samona via video at the 52-1 District Court in Novi and bond was set at \$10,000 cash or surety. The court also ordered police to confiscate all firearms from Samona's residence.

Novi Judge Robert Bondy held a pre-exam conference Dec. 23 and reduced the bond to \$5,000/10 percent. Samona's bond was posted and he was released.

He's now due back at 1:35 p.m. Jan. 15 for a preliminary exam in front of Judge Brian MacKenzie.

Samona garnered 10 percent of the votes in the November election, losing to incumbent Bob Gatt's 86 percent.

— By Cal Stone

Rent-A-Center burglary

The Rent-A-Center at 31152 Beck Road was broken into by an unknown suspect, who stole cash and a television Dec. 22. Novi police found the southeast rear door open upon arrival and deployed a K9 unit to initially check the building. No suspects were found, but a cash drawer was found open, the door handle was broken and up to \$100 in cash was missing. The suspect also took a 60-inch LG plasma television. There is no security video of the area, but the case is still under investigation.

Underage drinking

Two individuals were cited for underage drinking Dec. 21 at a concert at the Suburban Collection Showplace. The first man, who was under 21 years of age, was arrested for drinking and disorderly conduct after he was detained for attempting to push his way through security to go into the concert. Police

report he had been told to leave prior to the arrest due to his conduct. The man refused to take a breathalyzer and was shouting obscenities at police. It was later reported that he defecated on the floor inside the jail cell.

The other man cited was an 18-year-old who had been punching people on the dance floor during the show. No one came forward to give a statement, but he was spotted by security and registered 0.19 percent blood-alcohol on his breathalyzer test.

Purse theft

An employee at a business at 27602 Novi Road had her purse stolen inside her workplace locker room Dec. 21. There was \$20 in cash inside it, as well as a debit card and cellphone. She said the lockers were full, so she placed it on the ground inside another bag. There was a similar theft recently at the same location. The security video was being reviewed.

Smash and grab

An employee of the Chili's at 20901 Haggerty Road had her vehicle broken into and purse stolen Dec. 21. Her car's rear window was smashed in and her white

Coach purse with \$300 in gift cards inside, which was covered up in the back seat, was stolen. Police have no suspect.

— By Lonnie Huhman

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



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This artist's rendering depicts the renovation to St. Mary Mercy's north entrance.

St. Mary Mercy renovation continues

Starting Monday, St. Mary Mercy Livonia will close its north entrance to update its look and mirror the architecture of the recent south addition. The renovation of the north entrance is expected to be complete in summer 2014. A temporary north entrance has been installed just adjacent to the construction area in the meantime.

The renovation of the entrance includes removing the existing canopy and rebuilding to extend over the entire patient drop-off area. The new canopy will include additional lighting, heating and identification signs to ensure patient and visitor safety. The design of the north canopy will provide a contemporary update to the north entrance and match the look of the new emergency entrance at the south wing.

This phase of the project also includes new landscaping at the north entrance – at both the Five Mile and Levan Road entrances – as well as creating additional visitor parking spaces, which could start as soon

as spring 2014.

Room renovations

In addition to getting a new look on the outside, the north wing's patient rooms are also being completely renovated, working from the top down.

Two floors, the fifth and fourth levels, are already complete while work on the third level has just begun. The changes being made to the patient rooms include more modern decor and converting semi-private rooms to private rooms.

The north wing patient rooms mirror the private patient rooms in the hospital's new south addition, which opened in November 2012.

"Our patients and visitors have been continually impressed with our updates, which is our objective. We not only want to improve the functional space, but modernize the aesthetics to reflect the quality care we deliver," said David Spivey, president and CEO, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, which has won recent national awards in quality and safety from The Joint

Commission and Leap-Frog Group, respectively.

One of the hospital's patients, David Johnson, who was moved during the recent opening of the fourth level from a semi-private third level room to a private room, was amazed by the difference the renovation has made to the rooms.

"It's overwhelming how nice it is," Johnson said. "I expected it to be nicer, but nothing like this. When you are met with the competence you have in your ER, you know you're going to be in good hands going forward and this room just solidifies how much St. Mary cares about making patients feel better anyway they can."

During the north entrance temporary closure, temporary changes in parking and traffic flow for visitors will also occur. Patients and visitors entering the north entrance are encouraged to enter from Five Mile, rather than Levan. The traffic will be directed through North Lot 1, closest to the temporary north entrance and patient pickup area.

Local doctor leading urgent care in Michigan

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala of Northville believes the most important things a doctor can do for a patient is listen and be compassionate.

These beliefs have helped him become the community doctor for many in the metro Detroit area.

"You have to listen carefully and provide compassion during what typically is a challenging moment," Arsiwala said while sitting in his office at Urgent Care of Novi.

This caring touch has helped him succeed in his role as president and medical director of Michigan Urgent Care, which was founded in 1999. He's invested a lot of time and care in heading up 10 Urgent Care centers in Livingston, Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw and Monroe counties. This success has led to his appointment as the current president of the Wayne County Medical Society and Urgent Care Association of Michigan.

He moved to the U.S. from India in 1993 and now lives in Northville, raising two sons, Akbar and Mohsin. Akbar attends the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and Mohsin is in high

school.

Arsiwala practices at Urgent Care locations across the area, including centers in Novi, Livonia, Grosse Pointe Woods, Ann Arbor and Canton. The latest opening was in Waterford. After a residency at Wayne State Detroit Medical Center, as well as time at the Urgent Care at St. John Providence Hospital, he took over the state Urgent Care leadership in 2008.

These urgent care medical centers can treat things like cuts, burns, broken bones, sprains, sore throats and respiratory illnesses, as well as chest pains and urinary tract infections. The urgent care staffs are made up of board-certified physicians and physician assistants.

He said the care is provided with a 30-minute guarantee to all ages, all medical illnesses and all accidents/injuries/sports/physicals.

They're not primary care centers, but they are what their name means – urgent care clinics.

"Urgent care is a bridge between a doctor's office and an emergency room," he said. "People can get quality care at a lower price at lower co-pays than at an emergency room."

About 35 percent of his patients are pediatric and the rest adults.

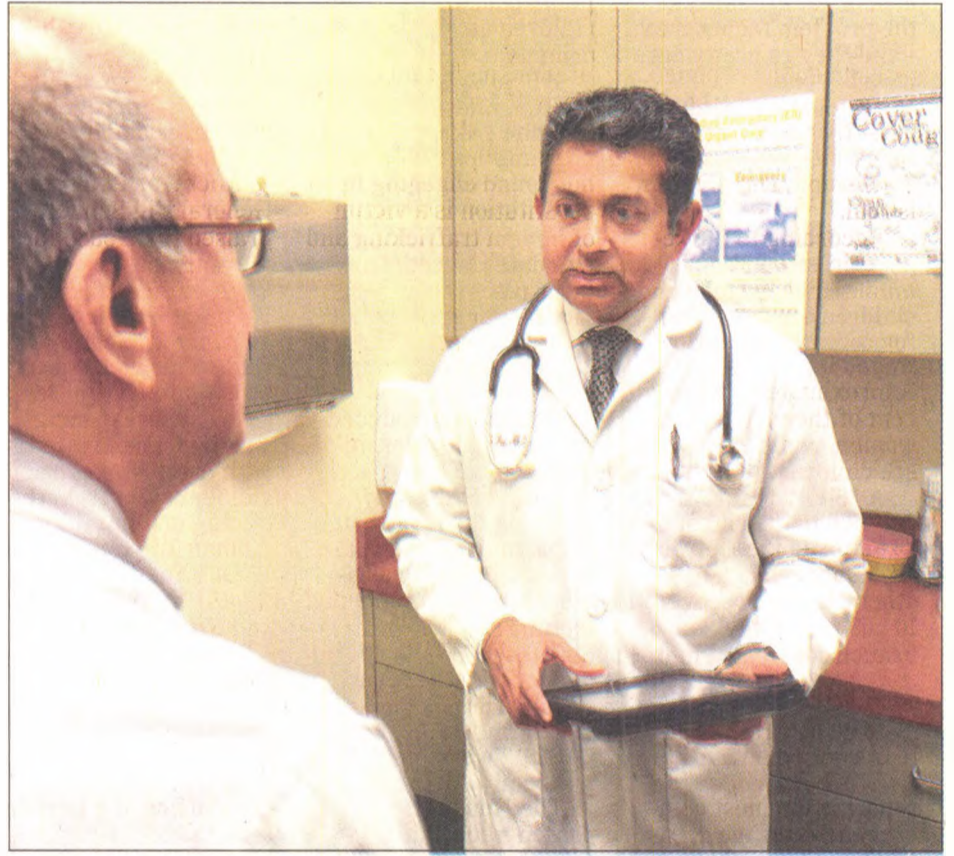
"Because of health insurance expansion and the need to lower costs, urgent care centers will be an important bridge between patient and primary care providers. Urgent care centers provide comprehensive medical services when primary care providers are not available and emergency room use is not appropriate," he said.

He said they haven't seen the influx of people sign up for affordable health care that was expected, at least not yet. But he expects urgent cares to play a big part in accommodating new patients.

His team will be looking to expand into new locations Downriver and into Macomb and Oakland counties. For him, opening up new centers is a just natural progression for an important option that serves people looking for good health care.

"At the end of the day it's about the healing process and it starts when that person walks through our doors," he said.

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Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala is president and medical director of Michigan Urgent Care.

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NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

GFS Marketplace opens in Novi

The newest GFS Marketplace, located in Novi at 44055 12 Mile Road, officially opened Dec. 15. The 15,857-square-foot store is the company's 166th location in the U.S.

The Novi store is managed by Brian Ryan and employs approximately 35 people.

The store will celebrate its new location with an official ribbon cutting Tuesday, Jan. 7, along with a week of grand opening festivities, taking place through Saturday, Jan. 11. There will be food tastings each day and shoppers can enter for a chance to win a \$300 shopping spree. The grand opening celebration will wrap up Jan. 10-11 with a Giant Taste Fest, giving the Novi community a chance to sample a variety of GFS items.

GFS Marketplace is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

GFS Marketplace is headquartered in Grand Rapids and has stores throughout Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Florida, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Missouri.

GFS Marketplace is a food service store where

both restaurant owners and consumers can shop without membership and purchase restaurant-quality items at excellent prices. The store's layout is designed to make grocery shopping easy, efficient and less overwhelming than a typical warehouse store.

"We are excited to continue expansion in our home state with the opening of our 48th GFS Marketplace store in Michigan," said Jay Zylstra, president of GFS Marketplace. "We take pride in the fact that although we are expanding into Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee and Florida, we remain committed to our loyal Michigan customers."

ATI Physical Therapy acquires eight clinics

ATI Physical Therapy has nearly doubled its presence in Michigan with the acquisition of 22 new clinics, including eight located in Oakland County. Dwight Orthopedic Rehabilitation Company and its affiliated partners officially joined the ATI family Dec. 6.

The clinics include Dwight Orthopedic Rehabilitation locations in Clarkston, Lake Orion, Wixom, West Bloomfield, Farmington, Madison

Heights, Keego Harbor and HealthStyles Physical Therapy in South Lyon.

With this acquisition, ATI now operates 16 clinics in Oakland County and 54 in Michigan. Once all clinics transition to the ATI name in early 2014, ATI Physical Therapy will be the largest physical therapy provider in Michigan operating under a unified name.

Patients will continue to enjoy the same personalized care they have come to expect from Dwight Orthopedic Rehabilitation. Approximately 150 Dwight employees are joining the ATI staff.

"Dwight Orthopedic is a perfect fit for ATI," said Brent Mack, P.T., chief clinical operations officer, ATI Physical Therapy. "Our goal is to provide an outstanding physical therapy experience like no other and the team from Dwight has the same goal. We look forward to joining forces to continue helping patients get better while enjoying themselves in physical therapy."

ATI Physical Therapy entered the Michigan market in August 2013 with the acquisition of Michigan Rehabilitation Specialists, Excel Rehabilitation Services, and Quantum Physical Therapy.

Christmas gift



Siblings Henrietta, 12, and Constantine Lucas, 10, take off down the hill Dec. 26 at Novi's Lakeshore Park. Sledders and other snow lovers got a Christmas gift with about three inches of the white stuff falling in the area, although snow shovelers might have wanted to return it. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State House bills begin attack on human trafficking

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

State Rep. Kurt Heise has said one of the biggest problems the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking faces is defining the depth and breadth of the problem and figuring out whether "we're inventing a crisis where none really exists."

Now that the commission has produced its 2013 report commission members have a better idea of the enormity of the problem facing them — and they're pretty sure it's a big one.

"It told us a lot about ourselves as a state," said Heise, R-Plymouth Township. "The problem is real."

According to the report, an estimated 20.9 million men, women and children are trafficked for commercial sex or forced labor worldwide. Approximately 75 percent of the victims are women, while 27 percent are children.

A 76-city FBI raid in July led to the arrest of 18 pimps in the Detroit area, more than any other city, and recovered 10 children. Only San Francisco (12) had more.

Taking action

"The FBI raid in Detroit confirmed our beliefs," Heise said. "The report is the most comprehensive of the crisis and what to do about it."

Now the Legislature is doing something about



Heise



Kowall

it. The Michigan House passed legislation to strengthen protections for human trafficking victims. Taking its cue from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking, the House included a Safe Harbor provision that will treat children as victims, not criminals.

HB 5012, introduced by Rep. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, creates a presumption that a minor found engaging in prostitution is a victim of human trafficking and mandates law enforcement refer the minor victims for appropriate treatment within the Department of Human Services.

HB 5026, introduced by Heise, provides minor sex trafficking victims Safe Harbor by ensuring the Michigan Department of Human Services has the jurisdiction to treat minors as victims and not delinquents when they are in danger of substantial physical or psychological harm. HB 5026 and HB 5012 were tie-barred together.

The House also passed a resolution to amend the Federal Communications Decency Act to prohibit human

traffickers from exploiting victims through on-line classified ad sites, another recommendation of the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking.

Good start

Kowall worked heavily with the Safe Harbor provisions and thinks the House came up with solid legislation.

"This Safe Harbor legislation is nothing short of a sea change as to how we view those caught up in human trafficking," Kowall said. "These bills will provide victims with the tools to begin rebuilding their lives and hope for a brighter future."

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette praised the House for the actions.

"A child forced to have sex is a victim, not a criminal," Schuette said. "This victim-centered Safe Harbor legislation ensures young survivors are treated with care — a key recommendation from the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking."

Despite the arrests in the FBI raid, both Heise and Kowall believe it's going to take a holistic approach to attack the problem. It can't just be a law-enforcement problem, Heise said. Other agencies — the governor's office, the Legislature and social service organizations — will have to work cooperatively.

White Christmas Ball



Not many charities can boast 60 years of hosting an event. But The Fontbonne Auxiliary of St. John Hospital and Medical Center can. For 60 years, the Fontbonne Auxiliary has held the White Christmas Ball and can boast an impressive \$4 million-plus raised for 20 departments at St. John Hospital and Medical Center. Proceeds from this year's White Christmas Ball on Dec. 7 will be used to purchase birthing beds for the Birthing Center at St. John Hospital. Guests shined "Brightly Like a Diamond," in keeping with the elegant black-tie theme at the Marriott Detroit Renaissance. Shown are (from left) Clarkston residents Gina and James Mundy and Novi residents Tracy and Stephen Brzezinski. JULIE YOLLES

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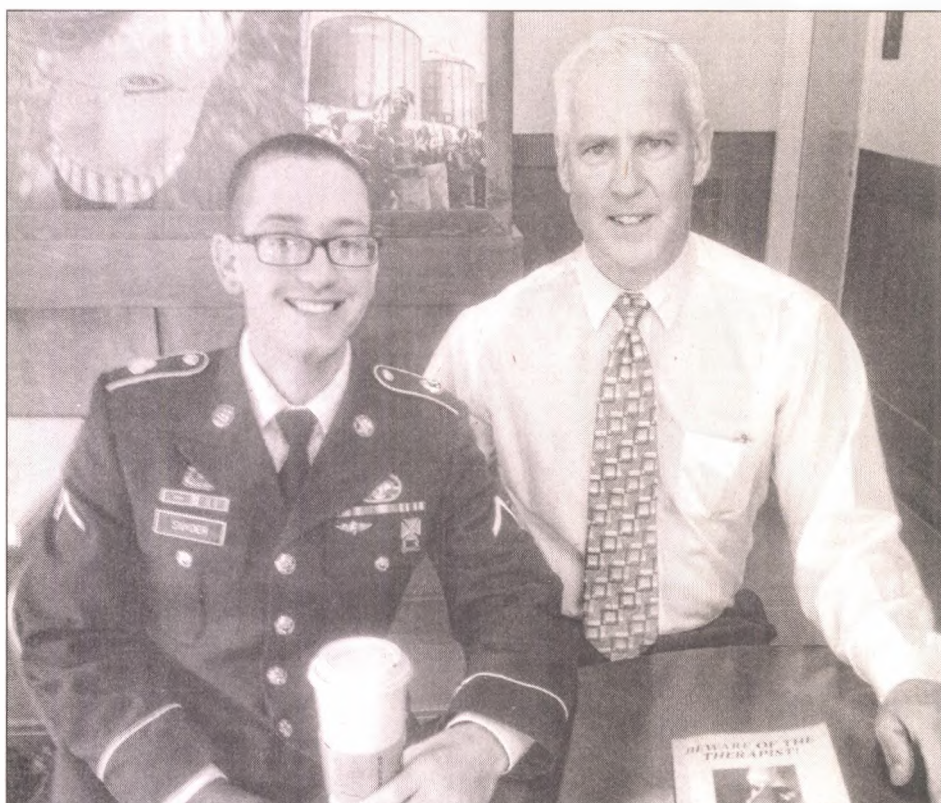
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Jay Snyder, 21, and Jeff Brandt, 53, helped each other fight through some troubled times. Brandt's book "Beware of the Therapist!" details their relationship. KURT KUBAN

Tragedy, turmoil brought together mentor, local boy

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Jeff Brandt, 53, admits he was a broken man. Disheartened, disillusioned and searching for answers. All that and more after he found out in 1996 that his wife was having an affair with her therapist. Her betrayal tore their family apart and started a harrowing chapter of Brandt's life. But it was also the catalyst for him to write new chapters – a book, in fact – and put him on a path of helping others who might be looking for support or a helping hand.

As chance would have it, that path led Brandt directly to a troubled fifth-grade boy by the name of Jay Snyder. Brandt began as a mentor for Jay, who had a mother and siblings, but no real father in his life – at least not one who was a very good role model. Brandt ultimately filled that space in Jay's life, offering him guidance and whatever assistance the boy needed.

With Brandt's help, Jay transformed from that boy who didn't quite fit in at his elementary school to an outgoing achiever who would go on to graduate from Northville High School, where he was a self-described "band geek" and member of the school's all-state jazz ensemble.

Today, Snyder is a member of the U.S. Army and hopes to someday become a therapist, so he can help other people in need. And he credits Brandt's guidance for that transformation.

Their bond, as unlikely as it may seem, has made them both richer people. They have helped each other navigate through the waters of depression and uncertainty.

Shattered life

To fully understand the special bond that developed between Snyder and Brandt, you first need to know how Brandt's own life went astray and ultimately found a greater purpose.

Before the fateful night when Brandt's life "came crashing down," he was deeply in love with his wife Gini. After a courtship, they married and made their home in Northville. But not all was bliss. She had three daughters and two of them had some serious issues that included truancy, drug abuse and teen pregnancy. The list goes on.

And to make matters worse, after being married for about a year, some of Gini's own demons from her past began to catch up to her again. She grew up in a home with an alcoholic father and a highly-critical mother; her sister was killed by a drunken driver; and she married an abusive husband

"I think we do so good together is because Jeff is such a good listener. I feel like I can go to him for anything."

JAY SNYDER
Northville resident

when she was just 18. Brandt said this brought on thoughts of suicide for his wife, even failed attempts.

They knew they needed to get her help and she began to see a local therapist. But instead of providing the help Brandt was hoping for, the therapist became romantically involved with Gini.

Earlier this year, Brandt published a book about this painful chapter in his life titled *Beware of the Therapist!*

"Gini didn't succeed in taking her own life, but she did die in another way," he writes in the book. "At the lowest point in her life, when she was as emotionally, physically and mentally vulnerable as a human being can be, she was abused by her therapist. Over a six-month period, he regularly drank and slept with her, methodically dismantled her trust in me and muscled his way into my family by alienating me from my stepdaughters."

Divorce soon followed. His family had been torn away from him. Devastated and alone, Brandt decided he needed to pick himself up and start over. But he also decided he wanted to help others.

"The hardest thing in my life was being separated from my family," Brandt said. "I had to pick up the pieces of my life. I wanted to make a bigger contribution to society."

Destined to meet

Brandt first approached and signed with Big Brothers Big Sisters, then was led to Northville Youth Assistance, where he volunteered to be a mentor for troubled children. That's when he was introduced to Snyder, who at the time was in fifth grade and having trouble at school. His parents had gone through a divorce and he was having trouble adjusting, more so than his two older brothers.

Snyder's teacher at the time recommended he seek help through Northville Youth Assistance (www.ci.northville.mi.us/Services/YouthAssistance/YouthAssistanceOverView.asp), a local organization that provides social services like counseling and mentoring to troubled youth and their families. Destiny stepped

in as Brandt and Snyder were paired up for a three-month mentorship.

At first the two went to public places and just hung out. Brandt said he got "a lot of one-word answers" from the boy. But trust began to grow as they would go to the Tuscan Cafe to play Scrabble or participate in events like Relay for Life.

"I didn't know what to expect," Snyder says. "All I knew was that Jeff treated me better than my own father."

Jackie Snyder, Jay's mother, began to notice a big difference in her son. Looking back, she says it was the best thing that ever happened to Jay.

"He didn't have a decent male role model in his life and needed some help just to work through things," she said. "Jeff came into his life and suddenly he had an example of what a man is supposed to look like and be like."

Role model

The family moved to Northville in 2003 and Brandt's relationship with both the family and especially Jay only grew stronger. He is no longer a mentor to Jay, but almost a member of the family. In fact, that's what Jackie Snyder calls him. Whether it was taking Jay to band practice, helping him with homework or talking about girl troubles, Brandt was always there for him. And when he decided to join the Army after graduating from Northville High in 2010, Brandt was there to offer encouragement. Snyder enlisted in 2011 and joined a year later.

"I think we do so good together is because Jeff is such a good listener. I feel like I can go to him for anything," Snyder said. "I really needed a person like that in my life. It's his character that I admire."

Today, Snyder, 21, is a private stationed at Fort Bragg, where he works as a parachute rigger in the 82nd Airborne Division. A couple of months ago, Brandt actually drove Snyder down to the base in North Carolina and dropped him off. Seeing his one-time protegee in a military uniform brings great pride to Brandt because he knows he made a difference. He also realizes how Snyder was able to help him through some pain of his own.

"For me to have made such a good impact on his life is all I could ever have asked for," Brandt said. "Getting outside myself again has been very fulfilling."

Brandt's book, *Beware of the Therapist!*, is available in paperback and Kindle versions at www.amazon.com. For more information, contact Brandt at jbrandt1023@gmail.com.

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BAKER, CRAIG WILSON

Passed away on December 21, 2013. Born on January 30th, 1945, Craig was a lifetime resident of Milford. Following graduation from Milford High School in 1963, Craig attended Ferris State University. He was drafted into the United States Army, where he served in Germany, and was selected to play football, as well as, box. Following his time in the Army, he played semi-professional football in California. Craig then embarked on a career with General Motors that would last 30 years, where he worked as a floor supervisor. During this time he also raised his daughter Brooke, as a single father. He generously gave his time to activities in which she was involved, such as, Girl Scouts, Milford Band Parents, and being an awesome father in general. When his career with General Motors came to a close, he retired to police the corner of Detroit Street and Union full time. These duties included, volunteer parking cop during Milford Memories, snow removal, and last but not least, squirrel patrol. When not monitoring the goings-on at 209 Detroit Street, Craig gave his time to the Oak Grove Cemetery Committee and the Milford Historical Society. He enjoyed golfing, fishing in Spider Lake, a comfortable La-Z-Boy, and the History Channel. Craig is survived by his sister, Barbara Baker Blanden (husband David), his beloved dog Willie, and his daughter Brooke Baker Monteith (husband Chad), and two grandchildren, Matthew and Madelyn. A memorial service will be held at Coratti's of Milford, Tuesday, December 24th, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Milford Historical Society. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com

GOW, ALFRED "BUD" J., JR.

83, born on June 12, 1930 in Novi, Michigan, passed on December 27, 2013 in Milford, Michigan. Loving husband of the late Barbara Gow. Beloved father of Michael (Diane) Gow, Craig (Christy) Gow, and Scott (Kim) Gow. Cherished grandfather of eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Dear brother of Thelma Marr and Joan Robb. Family will receive friends on Monday, December 30, 2013, at the Highland Chapel of the Elton Black & Son Funeral Home, 3295 East Highland Road, Highland, Michigan 48356, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Memorials appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association. Please visit www.eltonblackandsonhighland.com.

Elton Black & Son Funeral Home



HAMILL, TREVA P.

Age 84 of Hartland, passed away on Friday, December 27, 2013. She is survived by her loving husband Robert of 65 years; her children Tom (Mary), Rick (Chris) Robin, Jane (Jeff) Harnack, her grandchildren Travis and Lauren and her great-grandson Nickodaemos. Treva worked for many years as a baker for Huron Valley School District. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Eye Bank. Please visit eltonblackandsonhighland.com

LEMERY, MARGARET J.

Passed away in the care of her family December 27, 2013 at the age of 88. Margaret was preceded in death by her grandsons Jimmy Hoots and Andy McDonough and her brother Sydney A. (Irene) Wells. In addition to Leo L. Lemery, Sr., her beloved husband of 67 years, Margaret was survived by her children, Ann (James) Clarke, Julia (James) Earnshaw, and Leo L. (Kathy McDonough-Lemery) Lemery, Jr.; grandchildren, Debbie, Dee Dee, Stormy, Ben, Molly, and Michael; great-grandchildren Adam, Dan, Gordon, Jack, Tom, Anthony, Krystin, Mikey, Astrid, Joshua, Aubrie, Ronan, and Keegan. A Memorial Service was held at Hickory Ridge Community Church, 1360 N. Hickory Ridge Trails, Milford on December 31, 2013. The Rev. Rich La Belle officiated. Memorial contributions encouraged to Salvation Army. For further information, phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248.684.6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

LIDDELL, THOMAS J.

Age 85, of Northville, passed away December 19, 2013. Online condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

MCCARROLL, CAROLE F.

Age 72, of Northville, passed away December 25, 2013. Online condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

MICHALEK, MARY A. "MICKEY"

Age 93, passed away December 20, 2013. She was born on May 22, 1920, in Detroit, the youngest of eight children to Polish immigrants, Michael and Agnes Michalek. She had a servant's heart and always lived to love those around her. She was a kind, gentle example of a beautiful person. Visitation was held Sunday, December 22 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, December 23 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com



MOULE, CARLENE HEGLE

Age 72 and a resident of Milford, died at her home on December 21, 2013. She was preceded in death by her mother, Donelda "Dee" Hegle on December 11, 2013, and a brother, Phil (Ellen Hegle-Jacobson) Hegle. She is survived by her daughters, Theresa (Scott) Bisque and Tamara (Steve) Rollins; her son, James Moule; grandchildren, Kristen Bisque, Stephen and Michelle Rollins, Samantha and Adam Moule; her father, Carl Hegle; sisters, Sandy (Fred) Suttle and Kimberly Pence; brother, Greg (Sandi) Hegle and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Carlene enjoyed working for United Airlines for over thirty-eight years. A Celebration of Carlene and Donelda's lives will be held at the Milford American Legion Hall, 510 W. Commerce St., Milford, on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Scleroderma Fund, 300 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923. For further information please contact Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, 248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com



RITNER, GLEN KEITH

63, formally of Toledo and Dayton, Ohio, passed away on December 20, 2013 at his home, surrounded by his girls, after over a decade of courage battling renal cancer. He was born in Dayton, OH on December 30, 1949, the son of Stuart and Pearl Rittner. Glen attended Meadowdale High School, Bowling Green University (Undergraduate), and University of Toledo (Graduate), where he met his wife of 40 years, Carolyn. Glen spent his working career traveling the world as a global account sales manager in the automotive industry. He was a passionate golfer, trivia enthusiast, sports fanatic, but most importantly, adoring husband, father, brother, and friend. He was preceded in death by his father and mother Stuart and Pearl (Losikoff) Rittner; brother and sister-in-law Kenneth and Marilyn (Kahn) Rittner; and mother-in-law and father-in-law Edward and Dorothy (Downey) Mohler. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn (Mohler) Rittner; daughters Sarah and Rebecca Rittner (and Sunny, too); sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Martin and Terri Mohler, Dr. Bobby and Joan Austin, Claire Mohler, Elizabeth Mohler, Edward and Pamela Mohler, Christopher and Margaret Buck, Steven and Melissa Mohler, and Willow Rittner; cousins Alan and Beverly Rittner, Stewart, Robbin, and Kelly Heir, David and Becky Rittner, and Akash and Jessica Sharma; twenty-two nieces and nephews, and nine great-nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held Friday, January 3, 2014 at 11 a.m. at Bay Pointe Golf Club at 4001 Haggerty Rd., West Bloomfield, MI. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Karmanos Janet Lynn Ripper Fund, Angela Hospice, and Gilda's Club Chicago. A special thanks to Griswold Home Care and Angela Hospice for their tenderness and care. Online sympathy messages at www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

O'BRIEN SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME

WANGEMAN, DAVID M.

Age 50, of Northville, passed away December 29, 2013. www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

Let others know...

When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages", a directory located in every edition of your Hometown newspaper.

Call: 800-579-7355
Fax: 313-496-4968

Email: htwobits@hometownlife.com



CRAWFORDS

Continued from Page A5

She said she didn't think either one of them ever talked about wanting to be a politician. They were just always involved in local things and people kept saying, "You ought to run for ..."

"I was always happy doing whatever I was doing," Kathy said, "and I could see things were directly impacting people."

But the Crawfords feel that Novi and the surrounding area have not been given the attention and respect they deserve.

"People know me, but they love Kathy. Thank God I never had to run against her or I'd have lost in two seconds!"

HUGH CRAWFORD
state representative

"I think we've both always felt this southwest corner of the county is the redheaded stepchild," Hugh said. "They don't realize it exists."

Kathy says she tried to make the county recognize it by presenting proclamations to students or formally recognizing the Novi Public Library when it received a state award or when

Family Circle magazine named Novi as one of the top places in the country.

"That kind of PR helps," she said. "And now with the state fair, they can't ignore us any more. We really are a major part of the economic engine of the county."

stone@gannett.com
248-437-2911, ext. 237

Local country clubs score big for great cause

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

When Novi resident Dan Welch heard about the charity idea "Eagles for Kids," he thought it was a great way to give back and so did the rest of Walnut Creek Country Club.

"Ultimately, it's about giving back to different children's charities," Welch said of the joint effort of members at area country clubs, who have pledged a nominal amount for every eagle scored during the golf season.

Their combined efforts this past year, with Oakland Hills Country Club, Walnut Creek, Pine Lake Country Club and Country Club of Detroit participating, led them to donate nearly \$138,000 to a host of charities that benefit disadvantaged children.

"We're a giving club in general, so

we liked this idea right away," Walnut Creek General Manager Kevin Frantz said. "It's unique and simple, but it has already had an impact."

Walnut Creek, located in South Lyon, contributed more than \$20,000 in eagles this past year. Now members hope to get other courses involved.

"This was a great donation, but how can we make it more is the next step," Welch said of reaching out to other courses in the area.

Welch's friend Don Kegley is the co-founder of the idea and said 223 eagles were recorded last year. They both said the charity has a short-term goal of convincing other area private clubs to join the cause and get to a point that membership from southeast Michigan clubs are able to raise \$1 million per year for children.

Long term, if half of the clubs in the country join the effort and just 50 percent of members at those clubs commit to \$2 per eagle, the annual impact would be between \$35 and \$40 million.

Welch said each course can pick its own charity, as long as it meets a certain criteria. This past year, the money raised went to established charities that have a proven track record of helping children facing difficult circumstances, such as Care House of Oakland County, Gleaners Community Food Bank and Toys for Tots.

"There are a lot of great causes that this idea can help," Welch said. To learn more, visit www.eaglesforchildren.org.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, ext. 255 | Twitter: @lhuhman



Kevin Frantz (left), general manager of Walnut Creek Golf Course, and member Dan Welch check out a board noting the times this past year players scored eagles. Walnut Creek donated more than \$20,000 for to the program this year for eagles scored by its players. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Your Invitation to

Worship

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www.hsccc.net
at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd.
810-231-9199
Fr. John Rocus, Pastor
Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Please visit our Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes & Gift Shop

Milford

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Preschool, Pre-K & Kdg. - Mo. Synod
620 General Motors Rd., Milford
Church office: (248) 684-0895
Sunday Services: 8:30 am & 11 am
Bible Study & Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Rev. Martin Dressler

Novi

BRIGHTMOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi
on the corner of M-5 & W 13
Sundays 9:15a & 11:15a
www.brightmoorcc.org
something for the entire family

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24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Bob LaCroix, Pastor
Fr. Beto Espinoza, Associate
Parish Office: 349-6847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org

Walled Lake

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1850 S. Commerce Rd.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m. All Ages
Rev. Kenneth Warren - 586-531-2021
www.cpcnow.com

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
VISITORS WELCOME!
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-684-5695
Pastor Steve Swayze
Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Young Adults Dinner/Bible Study, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
Avarca beginning Sept. 11, 3 yrs old thru 6th grade and Youth Group for 7th grade and older
Website: milfordbaptist.org

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 W. 10 Mile., Novi, 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
www.faithcommunity-novi.org
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM
"Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
40700 W. Ten Mile Rd. • 248-427-1175
Sunday Worship 7:45 am & 10 am
Healing Service Wednesday 11:45 am
Rev. Ann Webber, Rector
holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Whitmore Lake

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
10774 Nine Mile Road
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pastor Bryant Anderson
238 N. Main Street, Milford, MI (248) 684-2805
www.milfordpc.org
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School age 3 thru 5th grade @ 10 a.m.
Youth Group 10 am - Grades 6-12
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21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mbccc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
LO-0000185195

OAK POINTE CHURCH
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Saturday Worship 5:15 p.m.,
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone (248) 912-0043
www.oakpointe.org

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
680 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48357
248.887.1311 • www.myhmc.com
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Kids Church: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 11 a.m.
MS Youth Night Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m.
Grief Share Monday 6:30 p.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, 6 pm
Children's Church: 10:30 am
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults
248-684-2798
LO-0000185198 milfordumc.net

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7778

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
41671 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor
248-349-2652
www.umcnovi.com
"Loving God, loving each other and living our core values"

South Lyon

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
205 E. Lake (10 Mile) 248.437.2875
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Church for Grades K thru 5th
Nursery Care Provided
Mid-Week Study Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org

BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH
Gathering in Jesus Name
52909 10 Mile Rd • South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Mike Ragan, Pastor
734-347-1983 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching KJV

New Hudson

NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
56730 Grand River Avenue • New Hudson MI 48165
(248) 437-6212 • Gerald S. Hunter, Pastor
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
www.newhudsonumc.org

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48380
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages: 7:00 p.m.
Also Small Groups / Ministry Teams

The Church of Christ
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyoncoc.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Troy Singleton, Minister
LO-0000185125

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8810 • 486-4335
Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
57855 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48165
Phone 248-474-9108
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
Website: <http://www.newhopeuu.org>

Freedom Life Church
Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is Freedom Cor 3:7
1208 E. Commerce, Milford
Worship: Sun 11am, Wed 7pm
We are here through Christ Jesus
to provide Freedom to those who
are hurting, diseased, addicted
LO-0000185247 and depressed.

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church
22200 Pontiac Trail (S of 9 Mile)
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am
Sunday School @ 11 am
Wednesday mid-week programs
Rev. David Brown, Pastor
248-437-2222 • www.fellowshipepc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2983
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 8:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Rob Freshour / Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weak
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
Email: fbcsouthlyon@sbcblog.net

Northville

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship & Church School 10:00 am
248-349-0911

First United Methodist Church
(248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Taft Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times: September - May 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Wokeley, Lead Pastor
www.fumcnorthville.org

first united methodist church south lyon, mi
640 S. Lafayette
(248) 437-0760
Worship: 8:15 am, 11 am & 6:30 pm
Sunday School: 9:40 am
Rev. Sondra Willabee, Lead Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy.
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Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651

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248-348-9030

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Northville, MI 48168
248-374-7400
Sunday Worship Services
8 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.
4 different music styles from classic to modern
www.wardchurch.org

Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
59255 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM
Education Hour 8:30 AM
Rev. Bart Muller, Pastor
248-486-4404
www.shepherdwaysouthlyon.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon
248-486-0400
www.ccrossroads.net
Sunday Services:
8:45, 10 & 11:30 am

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
133 Orchard Dr., Northville
WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610
Religious Education 349-2559
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church
54899 8 Mile Rd. at Carle Rd. Northville, MI 48167
248-374-2268
Sunday Worship:
10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study (Colossians) at 7 pm
LO-0000185297 Pastor Andy Whitten

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
Loving God and Loving People
22183 Pontiac Trail • 248-486-4400
(In Brookdale Shopping Center,
behind Powerhouse Gym)
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Reed Heckmann, Pastor/Teacher
www.solidrocksouthlyon.com
LO-0000185210

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Services held at:
Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road - Livonia
South of Six Mile Road
Adult Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Dr. James N. McGuire • Nursery Provided
LO-0000185168

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 let issues fester in 2014

Our state leaders made progress in 2013, but more often than not the biggest issues were kicked down the road.

The best news out of Lansing was the expansion of Medicaid to 470,000 low-income Michiganders through the federal Affordable Care Act. Also important was the long-debated adoption of Common Core standards for education. It took a few years to bring Michigan in line with 45 other states, but at least it finally happened. Gov. Rick Snyder should be lauded for expanding the Great Start Readiness Program with \$65 million in additional funding, allowing 16,000 more 4-year-olds to start school before kindergarten. The expansion is a bold commitment to early education, but more should be done. Double the size of the program again in 2014 and Michigan would be well on its way to leading the nation in funding preschool. Doing so would help Snyder reach the goal of having students reading proficiently at the end of third grade and pay future dividends in the effort

There are several issues that demand attention in 2014. The cost of no-fault insurance is still too high, pending legislation threatens the vitality of our downtowns and roads all around Michigan are in deplorable condition.

to make Michigan competitive in the global marketplace.

There are several issues that demand attention in 2014. The cost of no-fault insurance is still too high, pending legislation threatens the vitality of our downtowns and roads all around Michigan are in deplorable condition.

No-fault debate

Far too many motorists are playing a dangerous game with Michigan's no-fault auto insurance these days. The vast majority of them don't want to risk driving without insurance; they simply can't afford to keep

it. As a result, the practice of signing up for a policy but paying the premiums only long enough to get license plates is growing. In the end, the costs related to uninsured motorists go up, as well as costs for paying customers. Opposing forces have been arguing about no fault and the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association for years. In the end, little gets done and rates invariably go up yet again. Lawmakers must find common ground and do something constructive to bring down rates before the cost of auto insurance makes owning a car a luxury affordable for only the wealthy. Complete disclosure related to how MCCA sets rates would be a good start.

DDAs threatened

The state Legislature is beginning to take a serious look at eliminating or dramatically curtailing Downtown Development Authorities and Tax Increment Financing Authorities. The issue surfaced during the recent battle over whether DDAs could capture taxes earmarked for the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Institute of Arts. There is a belief among some lawmakers that these entities, which can capture taxes from other taxing authorities to improve downtowns and other districts, have gone beyond their "legislative intent." There is little doubt how important DDA groups have been to creating and maintaining many of our most vibrant downtowns. It would be a serious mistake to pass legislation that threatens the vitality of downtowns and state lawmakers had better consider all sides of the issue before doing so.

Road improvement

No one has been able to gain consensus on a plan to fix our failing road system, but the problem isn't going away. The money has to come from somewhere and prevailing wisdom is that Michigan residents would gladly pay a bit more if the money meant our roads would cease crumbling. One step that could be done right away is lowering the weights allowed for the trucking industry. It makes no sense that the federal government has a weight limit of 80,000 pounds on interstates, while Michigan allows more than double that, 169,000 pounds. Supporters of the trucking industry say Michigan calls for more axles, effectively dispersing the weight over a greater area. We'd like to see concrete proof that higher allowable weights don't do more damage to roads. Barring that, even the trucking industry concedes that allowing double the weight drives up the cost of building roads because a higher standard is used. Also clear is the fact that the higher construction standards aren't working as our roads remain, on the whole, in deplorable condition. Drive in any other state in the Midwest and it doesn't take long to see how poor Michigan's roads really are.

The bottom line is that our Legislature must find a way to reduce insurance costs, preserve our downtowns and improve roads - even if the choices that must be made aren't popular.

Making tough decisions is what politicians are elected and paid well to do. Let's hope they earn their keep in 2014.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Mark Shauer, likely Democratic gubernatorial candidate, has proposed raising Michigan's minimum wage from \$7.40 to \$9.25 over three years. Your thoughts?

This question was asked at the Novi Public Library and in downtown Northville.



"I'm not sure about that. It has so many implications on everyone, so I have to think about it before I take a position."

Linda Krieger
Novi



"Where's the money going to come from? I guess it depends what else will go up in price."

Jeremy Gornowich
Novi



"I remember when it was \$3.35. I've read a lot about inflation going up, so shouldn't wages?"

Tom Fahey
Novi



"I'm totally for it. The living wage is above the minimum, so maybe it should be brought up a bit."

Nicolas Lopez
Northville

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make toys safer

I would like to say that I strongly agree with the article written by Nathan Mueller in your Dec. 12 paper, acknowledging the problem of safety with children's toys. I really appreciate it because it is a public issue that needs to be solved and paid more attention to by the government, toy manufacturers and the general public.

The fact that parents have to test small toys themselves with a toilet paper roll to see if it is safe says that something is wrong. Instead of the toy company's worrying about how much profit they make, they should be worrying about the safety of babies and or toddlers. Considering there have been more than 90 infant deaths between 2001 and 2012 involving balloons, balls and toys means that the government and society needs to continue to focus on this issue. Balloons, balls and toys should be giving young kids joy, not death.

I have a 2-year-old cousin who could easily choke on a toy if it had been made without the right requirements and attention to safety.

If in the last year, approximately 172,000 toys have been recalled for being choking hazards; it suggests that there is a lot more work to be done and toy manufacturers are still not paying attention to safety. Toys need to be safe for kids.

Luke Smith
Novi

Lead in toys

What children love the most is causing them health problems and killing them as well. The problem of children being harmed by their toys is an increasing problem in this world. Children are having hearing

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday for Thursday's print edition.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178

Email: cstone@hometownlife.com

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

issues, being poisoned and choking on what are thought to be harmless products. Now what is letting all of this happen is the weak standards and controls of what toys go on to the market. We must tighten up the rules and regulation on toy safety.

Every year, around 10,000 kids are taken to the hospital for choking and almost a quarter of those kids pass away. In that same time span, around every one in five kids is found to have above average levels of lead in their body from their toys. This can cause a wide range of health-related issues, all the way from headaches to anemia. Also, toys above 85 decibels can cause hearing issues later on in life. All of these things happen due to the rules not being strict enough on what toys hit the market and what is recalled or not allowed to be put on store shelves.

We don't have to live with this and continue to harm our young ones. We can make a change. We

can lower the amount of lead accepted in a product from 90 ppm down to 40 ppm. This will make it so that all products can only have such a small amount of lead that it is not physically possible for it to harm children. I feel like this will solve the largest problem - which is lead - in toy safety. If we don't start to crack down even harder now, little kids could suffer.

Connor O'Leary
Novi

Anonymity wrong

A recent *Free Press* item reports, "A House committee approved a bill that doubles campaign finance limits while protecting the anonymity of donors who pay for controversial issue ads ..." that very often are attack ads by implication and inference.

Proponents claim that "requiring the public disclosure of those who advocate unpopular positions can leave them vulnerable to harassment and intimidation ..."

What Senate Bill 661 fails to provide is protection for the object or person of the anonymous ads. The ads are usually laced with scurrilous innuendo and, often times, blatant lies.

Why should the perpetrators be granted anonymity while the target is left no recourse in defending themselves? To whom do they direct their response?

Since when does free speech mean freedom to slander? This letter nor any letter received by yours or any responsible publication would never be printed without a verified signature. Why not?

This piece of legislation is one more example of our gerrymandered Legislature at work

Patrick M. Downey
Novi

GUEST COLUMN

Lansing: Don't short-change higher ed

There's no doubt about one thing: Michigan needs a better educated work force, more now than ever.

Yet one of the abiding mysteries of the past dozen years is the strange reluctance of our state's leaders to invest in our future by investing in our citizens' brainpower at colleges and universities.

"Reluctance," in fact, isn't the right term. Thinly veiled hostility is more like it. That's a puzzle, because on the surface it looks like short-changing higher education is cutting off our nose to spite our face. After all, Michigan employers say they've got jobs for 70,000 people, if only they could find applicants with the proper skills.

Statistics compiled by the House Fiscal Agency showed that unemployment for high school grads without a college degree is 10.6 percent, compared to 4.1 percent for those with a bachelor's degree.

Indeed, last week, the House Fiscal Agency - a nonpartisan body - issued a report concluding that students at Michigan universities could blame state politicians for something like 60 percent of the college tuition increases over the past 13 years.

That's because, as the report shows, the lawmakers have cut



Phil Power

appropriations by a total of \$325 million since 2000. That's a 40-percent reduction when adjusted for inflation!

That's almost the biggest decline in support for higher ed in the nation. Indeed, according to a state Higher Education Executive Officers report, Michigan is outranked only by Rhode Island and New Mexico in cutting higher education budgets.

When I first joined the University of Michigan's Board of Regents in 1987, state support represented around 75 percent of total revenue; tuition and fees accounted for around a quarter. Today, it's exactly the reverse.

Talking with Lansing insiders about Michigan universities reveals a wide range of views, some very critical of higher ed, some supportive. One well-connected insider put it in a nutshell: "Today's Lansing environment is terrible for universities."

Some think the schools have brought that on themselves. "They consider themselves unaccountable," another said.

"They're asked for metrics, for tuition restraint, for greater link between courses offered and the needs of the Michigan work force. They say don't bother, they're autonomous - and that's that."

The state Constitution says public universities, especially the Big Three - University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University - are independent of the Legislature or governor in setting policy.

That doesn't sit well with elected lawmakers who figure they're the ones who should be at the top of the food chain.

There's no doubt in my mind that one of Michigan's few world-competitive advantages today are our universities, especially U-M and MSU. Given today's realities, it would make enormous sense for our state's economic future to have the universities, the governor and the Legislature sit down and reason together.

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is founder and chairman of the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit, bipartisan centrist think-and-do tank. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of the Center. He welcomes comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

NOVI NEWS

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Area commuters prepare for I-96 shutdown

Detours ahead:
'Traffic artery'
reconstruction looms

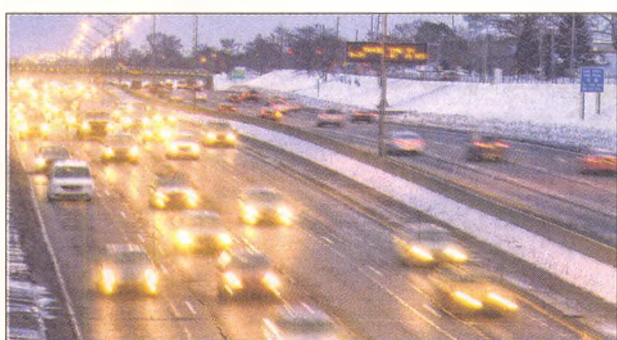
By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township resident Brian Doughty is no stranger to having a major freeway shut down and hinder his daily commute.

Doughty works in Southfield at a law office and routinely takes I-96 to the Southfield Freeway to get to work. He had to do some creative commuting in 2011, when the Southfield Freeway was shut down for repairs through Detroit and Southfield, and he expects he'll do the same next year when I-96 is closed.

"It's obviously disappointing," he said. "You just find creative alternative routes. I can try to take I-275 to I-696. The traffic on there is the reason I take I-96."

For Doughty and thousands of others who use



The ride home is about to get tougher for many commuters. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the freeway on a regular basis, an alternate route to work will be the norm for most of 2014 as the Michigan Department of Transportation shuts down and reconstructs seven miles of the freeway from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in Livonia.

During that time, through traffic will be directed to several other freeways as a detour, which includes routes such as I-94, I-696, I-275, the Lodge Freeway and the Southfield Freeway. MDOT has also expanded the exit ramp to Six Mile

from southbound I-275, adding an extra lane to accommodate the additional traffic expected to get off there.

While there has been some speculation as to when the freeway will shutdown, MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said no date has pegged as the start date and the state continues to finalize the contract with the low-bidding company. It will not take place until after the North American International Auto Show wraps up in Detroit.

"We truly do not have a closure date," she said.

More surface road traffic

More traffic is expected on roads like Six Mile and Schoolcraft, which will be down to one lane at several stretches throughout the project.

Livonia resident Liam Neary drives the freeway several times a week to volunteer at the Redford Theatre in Detroit, as well as visit family in Redford. He said he plans on using Six Mile frequently, but is open to using other roads as needed.

"I will have to use Six Mile east as my plan when the freeway closes in January," he said. "I guess anywhere east that we have to travel will be by Five Mile or Six Mile roads."

Westland resident Donna Seremak said it will be stressful during the closure, traveling alternate routes to her office at I-96 and Inkster.

"I will surely be losing my mind, ripping out my hair and definitely learn-

ing some new bad words," she said. "We will all be going through a lot more gas during this time."

Majority wanted freeway shut

MDOT took a survey asking commuters and area residents their thoughts on how best to handle the reconstruction. More than 1,700 people responded, with 56 percent saying they favored shutting the freeway down for a year to complete the work, rather than leaving part of it open and having the work last two to three years.

Not only are commuters preparing for the shutdown, but so are businesses located along the corridor. The Henry Ford Medical Center-Livonia, located at I-96 and Middlebelt, has begun crafting a map for its patients and staff members who need to get to the site.

With patients coming from all over the area, the map will be available to anyone coming to the center during the shutdown.

"We're going to be sending out a map to that particular facility. That map also will be made available at the medical center in hard copy format," said David Olejarz, a spokesman for the Henry Ford Medical Center. "If somebody were to call up and make an appointment, we'd be able to fax it to them or email it to them in a PDF."

He said the medical center is encouraging patients to plan extra time to get to Livonia during the construction.

Doughty said he is already looking at alternate routes to get to work in Southfield next year. While the shutdown is frustrating, he knows that once the road re-opens, it will be a smoother drive for everyone using it.

"I understand they've clearly got a job to do. It's hard to take out a major traffic artery for an entire year," he said. "They only did it because it was fairly necessary."

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I-96 shutdown date to be announced at Jan. 9 meeting

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Commuters and those interested in the closure of I-96 through Livonia and Redford next year will have one final chance to speak with state officials involved.

The final public meeting on the I-96 reconstruction project will take place 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at Redford Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft. There, those interested will be able to ask questions pertaining to the project, which will shut down the freeway from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in Livonia.

That meeting will also be the time when the project contractor and construction date will be announced. Bids for the project were unsealed last week and state officials are still hammering out the details of the contract with the tentative contractor.

"Our goal is to announce it at

that meeting," MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said. "They're not expected to be done verifying the information for another week or two."

The project is expected to begin as early as late January and will wrap up sometime by the end of November. The seven-mile stretch of freeway will be reconstructed and repairs or replacements to 37 bridges along that span will be completed.

An open vote last year by users of the freeway resulted in a request to shut the freeway down for the year as opposed to having partial closures for several years.

The open-house meeting will detail the plans for items such as when what bridges will be closed over the freeway as well.

During the closure, MDOT is encouraging motorists to use the official detours, which include I-275, I-94, I-696 and the Southfield Freeway. State officials expect to

see an increase in local road use for thoroughfares, such as Six Mile, and have widened the southbound exit ramp at I-275 and Six Mile to temporarily accommodate more traffic.

The Livonia City Council voted recently to appropriate its financial share of the project, more than \$1.7 million or 1.4 percent of the project cost.

Cross said the earliest possible shutdown date would be Jan. 28, just days after the North American International Auto Show wraps up at Cobo Hall in downtown Detroit.

"I can't say that officially; that is one of the many dates that is thrown around," she said. "That was one of the days that was considered that was the first chance it could happen."

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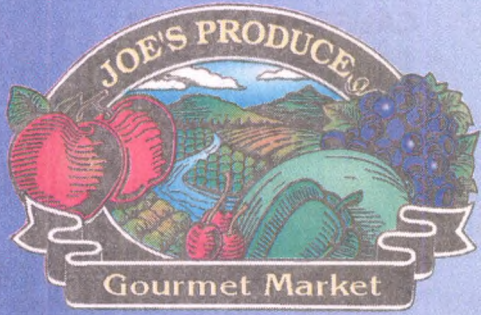


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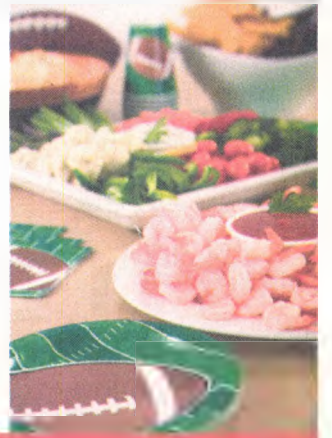
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Northville's Coleman is area's top runner

Senior helped lead Mustangs to first state championship

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

When it came to making the selection for All-Area Player of the Year for the girls cross country team, Rachel Coleman made the job rather easy.

Coleman truly kicked down a mental barrier that prevented her from being Player of the Year in her junior season. A year ago, she had difficulty in big races and it showed in her places and her times.

This year, however, Coleman was simply the best. From the start of the season to the very last race in which she led her team to Northville's first-ever cross country state championship, Coleman was hands down the best runner in the area.

"She finished in the top spot at every dual meet this season," Northville coach Nancy Smith said. "Rachel continued to excel and develop into the top runner in the state. Rachel showed determination in each and every race, always reaching for be better than the last time. She was a true leader and showed how hard work pays off in the end."

Coleman ran a season-best time of 18:00 this season and earned multiple distinctions. She was a member of the all-state team and finished 10th individually at the state finals, earned all-conference, all-Wayne County and all-region honors and is the school record holder.

What's more, Coleman was a four-time state qualifier during her career and she has collegiate offers from the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wisconsin.

First team Taleen Shahrigan Northville

It's almost hard to imagine just how good Shahrigan would have been if it weren't for injuries that have hampered her throughout her career. Even so, Shahrigan ran a season-best time of 17:59 — the fastest of anyone on the All-Area team — and earned herself all-state, all-conference, all-Wayne County and all-region honors and qualified for the state finals. She finished 14th in the state finals as part of the Division 1 championship team.

"Taleen is the hardest-working athlete I have ever had the chance to coach," Smith said. "She always wants to excel and get better, no matter what it takes. Taleen is a coach's dream. She is incredibly disciplined, dedicated and always striving to the next level."

Sharigan will likely run for U-M next year.

Rachel Barrett Milford

It's hard to believe Barrett missed the entire summer and month of September with a stress fracture that kept her from training and competing. Why? Because Barrett didn't miss a beat, running to a 15th-place finish in the state championship race to lead her squad to a ninth-place standing.

"As a coach, you don't get many runners like Rachel," coach Brian Salyers said. "She is focused, determined and a natural leader. Our team rallied



Player of the Year and Northville senior Rachel Coleman was one of many talented runners who led the Mustangs to the state title this season. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

behind her return and this helped us produce our best state finals finish since 2006. We are going to miss Rachel's presence next fall, but the girls have learned plenty from her and that is the continuity of a program."

Barrett's best time this year came when she won the regional with 18:10. She was all-Conference, all-Oakland County, all-regional and all-state this season.

Lexa Barrott Northville

The Mustangs were state champions this year thanks to their depth, skill and determination. Next year, the Mustangs will not be rebuilding, but simply re-loading. And leading the charge? None other than Barrott, a returning all-state runner who finished 13th in the Division 1 championship race. This year, she ran a personal-best time of 18:11 and was awarded all-conference, all-

Wayne County and all-region honors.

"She improved so much as a runner this year and was always competing with passion," Smith said. "She was so driven and dedicated this year. We saw a whole new level to her. She has not yet seen her true potential. Next year, I see her as a top-five finisher (in the state)."

Cayla Eckenroth Northville

And speaking of the future, Eckenroth will be back for the 2014 campaign and is a returning all-state runner. She finished 22nd in the state championship race as the top freshman in Michigan. Her season-best time was 18:18 and she earned all-conference, all-Wayne County and all-region honors.

"Cayla had an incredible season as a freshman," Smith said. "Her drive to

See ALL-AREA, Page B2

Wildcats pick up first win of season

Novi shoots 51 percent in one-point victory over Franklin

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Despite some struggles with a new lineup, the Wildcats were able to pick up their first win of the season before the turn of the new year.

Novi's boys basketball team (1-3) edged its way past Livonia Franklin (1-3) for a 46-45 victory on the road Dec. 19.

Behind 18-for-35 shooting (51.4 percent) from the field, the 'Cats were able to make the most of their 11 rebounds and seven steals. They were also able to overcome their minus-13 assist/turnover rate.

Junior Alex Marzejon (three steals) continued to make an impression, leading Novi with 15 points on 6-for-10 shooting, half from beyond the arc.

Marzejon was aided by junior Max Yanke (nine points) and sophomore Eric Foard (seven points) on offense, as senior Nick Zugaro's chances were limited and senior Erik Biberstein struggled, with both limited to six points.

Also chipping in was senior Durrell Jackson (three points, three rebounds), as just three more Wildcats (nine total) saw court time with limited results.

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

ON TAP

Novi (1-3) is scheduled to host White Lake Lakeland (2-2) at 7 p.m. Friday before visiting South Lyon East (1-4) at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Wolves slip past Wildcats in overtime

Lineup coming together in time for annual U.P. trip

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Although the Novi ice hockey team split its two games Dec. 20-21 at the Detroit Skating Club, it was a strong finish to the calendar year for the Wildcats.

Behind a 36-12 shot advantage, the No. 20 Wildcats (6-5-0, 4-2-0 KLA Kensington) battled to a 4-1 victory over Davison (5-2-0) Saturday before a tough 3-2 overtime loss to Clarkston (8-3-1, 3-1-1 OAA Red) Sunday.

"When you outshoot your opponent by a three-to-one margin, the puck is bound to go in," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said. "Their goalie played outstanding and he kept them in the game. But we had too much firepower where we kept just coming and coming and that was the difference."

Senior Chris Kennedy broke into the score book on a power play 1:53 into the second period off assists from senior Jordan Richardson and junior Brendan Wexler, but the Cardinals answered with 8:11 left in the period.

Junior Drake Shepard notched an unassisted goal for Novi 80 seconds later to give the 'Cats a 2-1 lead heading into the third period.

Despite the efforts of Davison goalie David Arterburn (32 saves), Novi's offense rattled off two more goals in the third period.

Sophomore Jakob Cyr scored with 7:22 left in the game to give the 'Cats some breathing room off assists from junior Niklas Tewillager and senior Gage Fisher. Tewillager finished it off with 2:00 remaining, as Fisher and Cyr assisted.

Novi senior goalie Austin Petty had 11 saves against Davison, but

See HOCKEY, Page B2

ON TAP

Novi (6-5-0, 4-2-0 KLA Kensington), ranked No. 20, is up north for an annual trip against a trio of Upper Peninsula opponents. On deck are Calumet (1-6-1) Jan. 3, Hancock (5-1-1) Jan. 4 and Marquette (2-5-1) Jan. 5 before the Wildcats are off for 10 days, leading up to a 6:30 p.m. Jan. 15 contest against Canton (1-8-0) at Novi Ice Arena.

Three Wildcats earn medals at county championships

Novi falls in pair of dual meets before placing 24th at county

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The final two competitions of the calendar year showed Novi's grapplers a taste of the road ahead.

The Wildcats (4-4) dropped a pair of dual meets Dec. 18 before placing three individuals in the top eight of their respective weight classes Dec. 20-21 at the Oakland County Championships, where Novi finished 24th of 46 teams with 71 points.

Detroit Catholic Central won its fifth straight county title with 307 points after four of its nine wrestlers who advanced to the second day took the crown.

The week started tough for Novi at Waterford Kettering, where it faced the host to start. Victories by sophomore Willy Jackson (5-4 decision at 112 pounds), senior Matt George (15-4 major decision at 119), junior co-captain Evan Davis (5-1 decision at 140), junior Kyle Benkarski (pin at 145) and senior co-captain Ben Wright (19-7 major decision at 152) were the highlights of the day as the Captains defeated the Wildcats 41-23.

Walled Lake Northern proved to be an even tougher opponent in the second dual match and injury-induced forfeits did not help the Wildcats much either.

ON TAP

Novi (4-4) is scheduled to compete at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Fitzgerald Senior Tournament before visiting Northville (4-5) at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, where Plymouth Salem (5-4) and Livonia Stevenson (3-4) will also be in attendance.

The lone Novi victories came from Willy Davis (8-2 decision at 112) and Benkarski (1-0 decision at 145) as the Knights won 58-12.

Two days later, Novi was hoping for a better showing at Southfield High for the first day of the Oakland County Championships, where Northern was seventh and Kettering was 10th.

Many Wildcats picked up victories before being knocked out of the bracket.

Jackson went 2-1 at 112 pounds on the first day to advance, freshman Lincoln Cleary went 1-2 at 125, Evan Davis went 4-1 at 135 to advance, Benkarski went 2-0 at 145 to advance, Wright went 2-0 at 152 to advance, senior co-captain John Hood went 2-0 at 171 to advance and junior Stevie Davis went 2-1 at 285 to advance.

The second day featured the final rounds Dec. 21 at Oxford. Of the six Wildcats to advance, three claimed medals.

Jackson was knocked out of the competition with a loss to CC's Tom Herrman (who finished seventh), while Evan Davis was knocked out by a 8-5 deci-

sion against Farmington Hills Harrison's Michael Volyanyuk (who did not medal). Stevie Davis pinned his Hazel Park opponent in 53 seconds before losing to Orchard Lake St. Mary's Josh Dabney (who finished seventh).

Benkarski, Wright and Hood battled their way onto the podium at the 145, 152 and 160 weight classes, respectively.

Benkarski won an 11-5 decision over Holly, before losing to Walled Lake Northern's Christian Lauderback (finished second), Waterford Mott's Corbin Moorer (finished fourth) and then Rochester's Ryan Morgan by a 9-5 decision in a battle for fifth place, putting Benkarski sixth.

Wright lost a close 4-3 decision to Holly's Kyle Pepper (finished second), but bounced back for wins over Avondale and Birmingham Seaholm's Reed Cortright (finished eighth) before losing to Oxford's Noah Kinne (finished fourth) and then Brandon's Thor Wardell by a 5-2 decision in the battle for fifth place, placing Wright sixth.

Hood finished off the Wildcats' performance after a loss to CC's Tyler Morland (finished fifth), as he defeated a Seaholm opponent before losses to Lakeland's Will Jacobs (finished fourth) and Pontiac's Keonta Fuqua by a 7-2 decision in the battle for seventh place, putting Hood eighth.

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

Novi ends year with 30-point victory over Franklin

Wildcats 4-1 after first month of season

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

With the first taste of defeat still fresh, Novi's girls basketball team met did not let the small bit of adversity offset its strong start to the season.

Following an eight-point loss Dec. 17, the Wildcats (4-1) destroyed Livonia Franklin (0-5) Dec. 19.

It was 21-4 after one quarter and 42-12 by halftime before the reserves took over and maintained the 30-point lead, helping Novi cruise to a 61-31 victory.

"Canton was stronger and rebounded better," Novi coach Bill Kelp said, noting that "easier shots (and) more points off of turnovers" were the difference makers.

Fourteen of 15 Wildcats scored against Franklin, led by senior Kerri McMahan (15 points on 7-for-9 shoot-

ON TAP

Novi (4-1) is scheduled to host Fowlerville (0-4) at noon Saturday before hosting South Lyon East (4-2) at 7 p.m. Tuesday. East defeated Fowlerville 54-23 last month.

ing), who was strong all around, adding three rebounds, five assists and eight steals while committing zero turnovers.

"(We) created easier shots by playing better defense," Kelp said.

Novi shot 24-for-43 (percent) from the field, compared to Franklin's 12-for-48 (percent).

The 'Cats also won the rebounding battle, 28-24, but the clear distinctions came in steals (14-1) and deflections (20-6) despite a 15-8 turnover disadvantage.

"(It was) just a chance to evaluate everyone more," Kelp said. "We need to get better in every phase of the game especially rebounding,

communicating and playing with more of a flow offensively."

Others tallying points for Novi were senior Taylor Pavlika (seven points, three rebounds, three steals, three deflections), junior Kelsey Miller (seven points), junior Alex Felice (five points, two assists, four deflections), junior Megha Ramappan (five points), senior Rachel Whitens (four points, five rebounds), sophomore Allie Lipson (four points, four rebounds), senior

Mallory Daschke (three points), plus two points each for senior Kristen Schubring (one block), senior Dina Fawaz (three deflections), senior Nicole Solakian, freshman Bailey Baumbick (four rebounds) and junior Jenna Lowney and one point for senior Alexandria Iacobelli.

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

Low-scoring affair leads to Catholic Central triumph

Defense was key in 35-22 decision against Divine Child

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central basketball team may not have brought its fans to their feet with a blazing offensive showcase when it took on Divine Child, but it defi-

nately impressed those in the stands who were hoping to see some stout defense.

The Shamrocks, coached by Bill Dyer, outscored Divine Child, 35-22, as they used a strong second half to earn the win.

"We came out without having played in 12 days because of finals," Dyer said. "We were rusty, to say the least. We made a zone offense adjustment

On tap

Detroit Catholic Central will host Detroit Loyola at 7:30 p.m. Friday. It will then visit Pontiac Notre Dame Prep at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

at halftime and played much better."

The first quarter was nearly scoreless as Divine Child put up two points to take a 2-1 lead over Catholic Central. The teams did have a spurt of offense in the second quarter as Divine

Child scored nine and the Shamrocks added six for an 11-7 halftime score.

The Shamrocks came out and poured in 14 points in the third quarter, while holding Divine Child to just one point to make it 21-12 game. In the fourth quarter, the

Shamrocks scored 14 more points while holding Divine Child to 11.

"The best part was our effort level was really high the whole game," Dyer said. "I was really proud of our effort in such a strange game and our team chemistry is high. Ryan McGillivary and Noah Lee are great captains. I believe we will continue to improve with more games and more practices."

Charlie Ryan led all scorers with nine points, while Lee and McGillivary had six each.

Scott Combs led Divine Child with seven points.

The Shamrocks are now 2-1 on the season, while Divine Child fell to 2-3.

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

Novi bowlers split match against Zebras

Girls cruise past Wayne, boys flattened

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

When Novi's bowling squad matched up Dec. 20 with Wayne Memorial at Town 'N Country Lanes, the results were complete opposites.

Novi's boys (1-2) were dismantled in a 28-2 drubbing, but the girls (3-0) returned the favor by slashing through the

ON TAP

Novi (3-0 girls, 1-2 boys) is off until facing Northville (1-3 girls, 0-4 boys) at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at Novi Bowl.

Zebras 27-3.

The Wildcats girls won both Baker games 173-149 and 149-130 before also rattling off victories in both regular games 831-780 and 902-754.

Sara Schulz led the way for Novi with games of 211 and 225 from her anchor spot, striking out in the second Baker

game and first regular game to secure the victories.

Lizzy Malear also scored two points with games of 160 and 139, while Evie Plaetink (200), Megan Engles (183) and Lauren Piorowski (155) each scored one point with their high games.

On the boys end,

Wayne creamed Novi 290-179 and 286-176 in the Baker games, which included 21 consecutive strikes by the Zebras spanning the two games. Wayne then won both regular games 1,067-873 and 1,028-720.

Novi's two points came from Ryan Moore (182) and Scott Pryson (221).

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

SPORTS SCHEDULES

Novi	Boys swim & dive 1/7 6 p.m. @ Birmingham Groves
Ice hockey 1/3 7 p.m. @ Calumet 1/4 1 p.m. @ Hanock 1/5 1 p.m. @ Marquette	Competitive cheer 1/8 6 p.m. @ Plymouth Salem
Boys basketball 1/3 7 p.m. White Lake Lakeland 1/7 7 p.m. @ South Lyon East	Catholic Central
Girls basketball 1/4 7 p.m. Fowlerville 1/7 7 p.m. South Lyon East	Basketball 1/3 7:30 p.m. Detroit Loyola 1/7 7:30 p.m. @ Notre Dame Prep
Wrestling 1/4 9:30 a.m. @ Fitzgerald Senior Tournament 1/8 5:30 p.m. @ Northville	Hockey 1/3 7 p.m. Wyandotte Roosevelt 1/4 5:30 p.m. Plymouth 1/8 6:15 p.m. @ Brother Rice

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

was forced to make 30 against Clarkston the next day in a back-and-forth affair.

"He's been a rock," Vellucci said of Petty. "In all of the close games we've had, he's given us a chance to win the games. Has made all of the

first shot saves and we just need to do a better job of clearing the rebounds for him. He's playing like I've expected from a four-year varsity player.

"Every time that the team I've coached has played Clarkston, the game is always a close one."

The Wolves' Roman Reiner scored first on a power play 84 seconds in, but Wexler answered for Novi 7:02 into the

game off assists from junior Patrick Wojtylo and Richardson.

The score stayed at 1-1 until senior Josh Ward set up senior Mark Czapski for a power-play goal with 4:00 left in the second period.

Clarkston's Carter Rea was able to notch the equalizer with its second power-play goal of the night 5:19 into the third.

Neither team would get a

game-winner in regulation, as Petty and Clarkston goalie Jack Viazanko (34 saves) came up big.

Clarkston's Jacob LaParte gave the Wolves the victory with an unassisted goal with 1:24 left in the extra period.

"We played our best overall game versus Clarkston heading into our short break before the U.P. trip, where we have three games in three days, so

even though we lost, it was a good learning experience for our team," Vellucci said. "We are still getting better in every game and especially practices. We just need to remain focused and keep building toward the state playoffs. We're in good shape."

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

ALL-AREA

Continued from Page B1

get better each race was shown every time she stepped on the course. She is the best freshman to ever come into the (Northville girls cross country) program."

Erin Zimmer Northville

If Zimmer's name is familiar, that's because she's a four-time state finals qualifier, an all-conference and II-Wayne County runner and one of the best harriers the area has to offer.

In her senior season, Zimmer came out and turned in her best performances, running a personal-best time of 18:44.

"Erin is dedicated and

hard-working and day in and day out is always striving to get better," Smith said. "Erin was a great team leader, always encouraging the younger athletes to never give up."

Next season, Zimmer has a few options for where she will run and is looking at Grand Valley State University and U-M, among others.

Nicole Mosteller Northville

There are a lot of Northville runners on the All-Area team this year, but there's good reason for that. Runners like Mosteller, to start. She embodies the pride and determination of the Northville program and comes to each practice and meet with the goal of being better than the day

before.

"I could always count on Nicole when we needed her the most," Smith said. "She had the drive to always give her all on the course. She was determined to be her best, day in and day out."

Mosteller's season-best time was 19:10 and she was the fifth runner on the Division I championship team.

She was also an all-conference and all-Wayne County runner and qualified for the state finals three times in her career.

Mallory Barrett Milford

It looks like the future is pretty bright for Milford, too, and one of the harriers expected to step up and lead is Barrett. This season, the fresh-

man continued to improve week in and week out, learning to overcome her apprehension and striving to be the best she could be by the end of the year. She finished 37th in the state finals with a personal-best time of 18:49, third fastest time of any freshman at the state finals.

"Having Mallory on the team has been a tremendous boost," Salyers said. "She has a dynamic and inspiring personality that gelled well with her team and her ever-improving contributions helped our bottom line. I look forward to working with her and her teammates over the next three years."

Barrett was all-conference, all-Oakland County and all-region this year.

Second team

Emma Herrmann Northville

Herrmann's best time this season was 19:05 and she earned all-conference, all-Wayne County and all-region honors. She is a two-time state qualifier and is expected to be one of the top runners for the Mustangs in 2014.

Alison Robinson Northville

Robinson has been a key part of the construction of Northville's program over the past several seasons, always striving to be better and better each time she goes out. Her leadership on and off the course made her a big part of Northville's successes. Her season-best time was 19:27 this year.

Hannah Lonergan Novi

Lonergan was the top runner at Novi this season, earning herself a trip to the state finals,

ALL-AREA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Rachel Coleman, Northville

FIRST TEAM

Taleen Shahrigian, Northville
Rachel Barrett, Milford
Lexa Barrott, Northville
Cayla Eckenroth, Northville
Erin Zimmer, Northville
Nicole Mosteller, Northville
Mallory Barrett, Milford

SECOND TEAM

Emma Herrmann, Northville
Alison Robinson, Northville
Hannah Lonergan, Novi
Madison Paquette, Milford
Lina Erlingis, Milford
Marisa Sailus, Lakeland
Lea Fields, South Lyon East

HONORABLE MENTION

Northville: Emma Smith and Hailey Harris; **Milford:** Sarah Ausum and Gabrielle Byndas; **Lakeland:** Miranda Reinhart; **South Lyon:** Madison Swiatkowski, Kaylie VanOrd and Meghan Burke; and **South Lyon East:** Erin O'Donnel

where she finished 39th. She was also an all-conference and all-region runner. Her season-best time was 18:51.

Madison Paquette Milford

A season-best time of 19:43 and helping her team to a ninth-place finish in the state finals weren't all that Paquette managed to do this year. In addition to all-conference and all-Oakland County honors, she also earned academic all-state honors by having one of the top grade-point averages in the top half of the state finals finishers.

Lina Erlingis Milford

Leadership is an intangible that is impossible to coach, which is why it's important for runners like Erlingis to step up and lead when called upon. This year, she did just that while earning all-conference honors and a season-best time of 19:56 at the state finals.

Marisa Sailus Lakeland

A strong runner with the ability to improve each week, Sailus is the kind of harrier a program can be built around. Look for her and her teammates to challenge for some of the top spots in the upcoming seasons.

Lea Fields South Lyon East

Fields may not have had the fastest time out of the second-teamers on the All-Area team, having run a best of 20:46 this year, but she stepped up when she had to and earned herself a trip to the state finals meet as an individual. There, Fields ran 22:09 in the Division 2 race.

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



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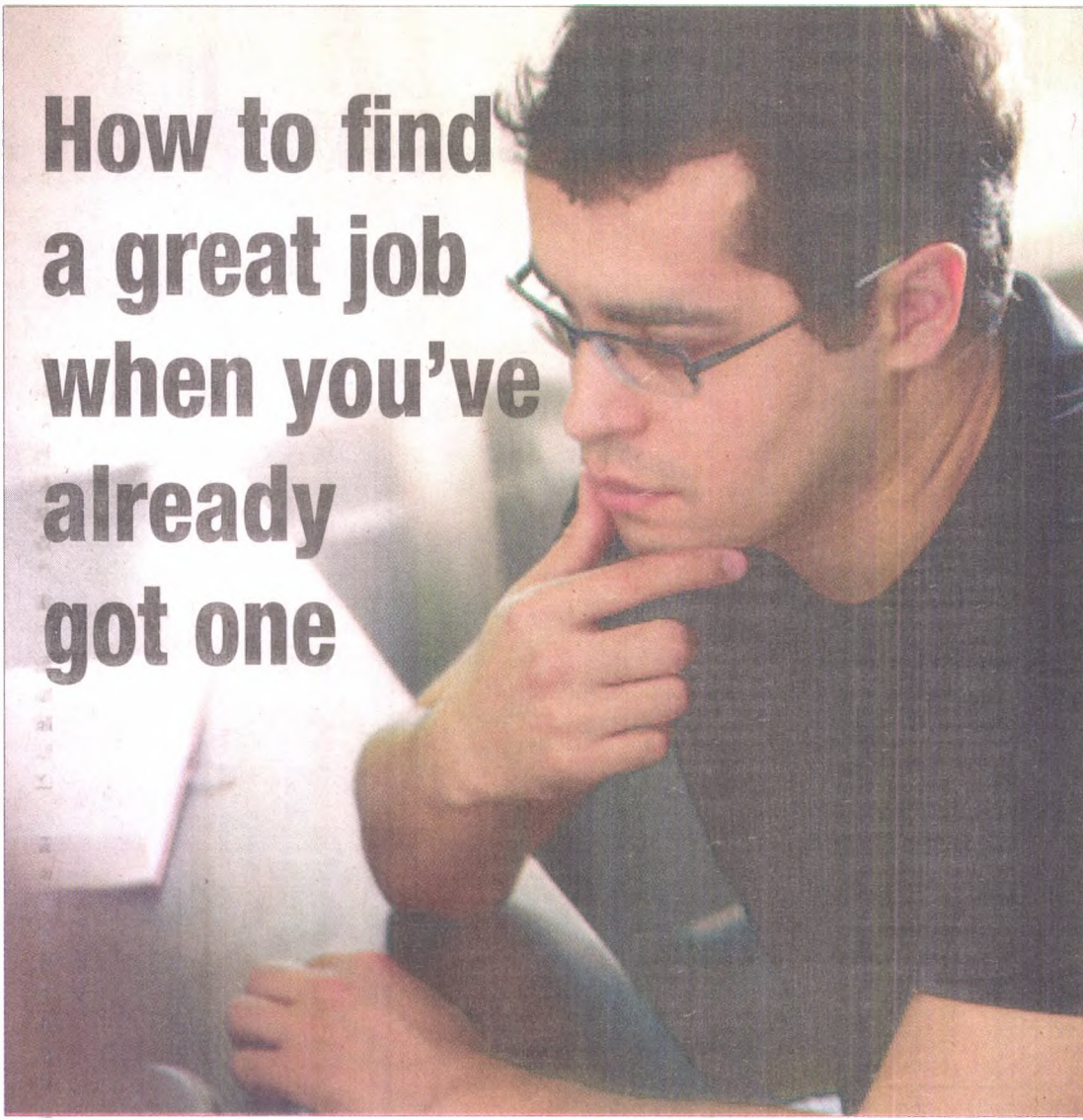
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JOBS



FRESH START



How to find a great job when you've already got one

By Susan Ricker
CareerBuilder Writer

You know you're lucky that you have a great job already, but you still can't resist looking elsewhere. Maybe you'd like a better paycheck, perhaps your current role isn't enough of a challenge for you or possibly you're just interested in doing something new.

No matter your reason, it's essential that you plan carefully if you are interested in leaving a secure job. By exploring your reasons for making a switch, making informed decisions and organizing a confidential job search, you can make the transition from one great job to another.

Explore why you may want to switch

People consider leaving their jobs all the time, but it's different to actively start the process. First things first: Explore why you want to switch jobs. "Plan," says Mary Elizabeth Bradford, resume writer and career director. "Do your soul searching, write down your driving motivators -- the things you must have ... to feel the move was justified, such as a minimum salary figure, staying in a geographical area or getting out of an industry. Create a clear target and a plan to get there. Match up your skills and strengths

[that are] transferable into your job of choice."

If this initial research period inspires you, take the next steps in transitioning your career. Quantify your career accomplishments and make a list of your business contacts and those who would vouch for you.

Take the job out for a test drive

If you're looking for different responsibilities or are interested in changing industries, take a trial period before committing.

"Instead of giving your two-week notice and hoping it pans out, focus on trying out the new

career," says Ramon Santillan, chief interview consultant and founder of Persuasive Interview in Houston. "You can do this by volunteering, talking to people who have been in the field you want to be a part of or joining professional organizations. Aside from helping you decide if this is the path you want to take, meeting these people will help you get your foot in the door, since they will probably know about any openings at their current companies.

"Volunteering or doing small projects in the new field will also build your case with potential employers that you are serious about this career move and can be used as experience when trying to get a job. Someone who is willing to take the time to learn a new field will be seen as being serious enough about a career move. This can be particularly useful when explaining to the hiring manager why you want to change careers."



Search carefully

Once you've decided to move forward with looking for a new job, be sure that you're still protecting your old one. "Any time you are in a job search, there is some level of risk that you must incur," Bradford says. "You can minimize the risk by sharing [that] your search is confidential with key decision makers, not listing [that] you are looking for a position on your LinkedIn profile or posting your resume to job boards. Also, if you speak with recruiters, don't just send your resume to a recruiting firm but call them first and ask to speak

with the person in charge of your industry [or] discipline. Share that your search is confidential before you send them your resume. They should agree that they will not forward your information without first telling you."

Treat past and future employers with consideration

If you've found a career you're interested in pursuing and score an interview, remember to be diplomatic. "The interview portion should focus on why you got interested in the field, the steps you took to learn about the field, the people you met and the types of questions you asked them, the volunteer or work on the side you have done, and how your previous experience at your last job will make you successful at this new one," Santillan says. "Also make sure to ask questions during the interview about how the hiring manager got into the field and what the biggest challenges they face are.

By this step, you should have already made up your mind if you want to pursue that new career or job, but it never hurts to confirm."

When meeting with both your past employer and your potential future employer, be respectful of both times in your career. When explaining why you want to make this switch, Bradford offers this answer: "Although I have enjoyed much challenge and success in my current role, my passion lies in [blank] and I decided that I would focus my sights on transitioning."

As the economy continues to improve and more jobs become available, switching careers will become more common. However, it's essential to think through your steps and remain respectful of employers in order to ensure a successful next step in your career.

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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