



# Novi News

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Two winners will be selected in this special Valentine's Day promotion. Enter at facebook.com/oehometown and look for the Valentine's Day contest icon or go to hometownlife.com and select the Valentine's Day contest in the Don't Miss module.

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» Deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9.

» Each dinner is valued at \$70.

# MORE HOMES, MORE TRAFFIC



Cars wait to cross the busy 10 Mile and Napier intersection, where Toll Brothers is expanding its Island Lake development. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Final phase of Island Lake development brings concerns

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

More homes will be coming to Novi, but they'll be near the already busy and dangerous intersection of 10 Mile and Napier roads.

After a 4-3 vote, the Novi City Council approved the plan for the eighth and potentially final phase of the residential development at Island Lake by developer Toll Brothers.

The dissenters (council members Andrew Mutch, Wayne Wrobel and Gwen Markham) expressed concerns about added traffic congestion in the area. Supporters say traffic is a concern at the intersection, but that Island Lake's overall benefit to the

community is important.

Mutch offered a motion to table the vote in an effort to see the developer put forward something more for the public benefit, possibly something similar to what's being done in Lyon Township – money toward improvements at the intersection of 10 Mile and Napier.

Mayor Bob Gatt disagreed with the motion and believes the plan does help the community. Mutch's motion was struck down.

"I think you have shown a public benefit," Gatt said to the planners.

Specifically, he referred to the addition of more open space in this planned phase, which was a point of contention in previous phases. The plan proposes more than 20 acres, or roughly 45 percent of the site, as open space.

The property to be included is 48.95 acres of land located at the northeast corner of 10 Mile and Napier. The applicant is proposing

a 45-unit single-family development that would be Phase 8 of the existing Island Lake of Novi development. The RUD was amended to modify the number of units permitted from 884 to 903.

### Intersection issues

Mutch said that intersection has grown even more concerning in recent years with traffic accidents. With an increase in population density in the neighborhood, these concerns increase.

He said he was happy to see the additional open space, but it's the addition of the homes above the RUD amount that has him looking for more benefits.

"From my perspective, I'm looking for a public benefit that would off-set those impacts," Mutch said at the Jan. 21 meeting. "And, frankly, I will be up front of the kind

See TRAFFIC, Page A2

## 11 Mile potholes will be fixed, eventually

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

Help is coming for the drivers who have to endure the potholes on 11 Mile.

Spot repairs are just enough to make 11 Mile between Town Center and Meadowbrook somewhat drivable at this point, but it will need an upgrade soon.

And it will get one, after completion of some design work and the acquiring of easements that will make the segment more non-motorized friendly.

The city of Novi moved forward on a project to have this section of 11 Mile eventually reconstructed in 2015.

URS Corp., based in Southfield, has been awarded a contract for the design engineering services in the amount of \$108,799.

"This segment of road has required repeated intensive maintenance over the past several years to repair failing joints," said Rob Hayes, public services director/city engineer.

The segment is seven-tenths of a mile long and is made up of concrete that is approximately 22 years old.

"The road has deteriorated to a point that it is no longer



This sign greets drivers moving along 11 Mile, west of Meadowbrook, hinting at its rough surface. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See 11 MILE, Page A2

## Novi's city manager moving to Texas

Pearson selected for position with Pearland

By Cal Stone  
Staff Writer

The city of Novi is on the hunt for a new CEO as the man who currently holds that position, Clay Pearson, is soon moving to become city manager of Pearland, Texas, a large Houston suburb.

Pearson was one of three finalists for the position and was interviewed this past weekend by the Pearland City Council.

"It was a great experience and they're great people," Pearson said. "We took community tours on Friday and interview sessions were held on Saturday. The Pearland City Council acted quickly and we have agreed to contract terms."

Pearson said Pearland's council acted on his contract Monday night, the same time he discussed his departure with the Novi City Council.

"I have agreed to starting there on March 10 and my last day in the office with Novi will



Pearson

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UPDATES FROM CITY OF NOVI

Civilian pistol safety class

The Novi Police Department will offer a civilian pistol safety class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Novi Police Department Training Center, 45125 10 Mile. The course fulfills both the classroom and shooting requirements to obtain a Michigan Concealed Pistol License.

Registration forms are available online at cityofnovi.org and at the Novi Police Department. Completed registration forms and the \$200 course fee (cash or money order), may be returned to the police department. Class size is limited and all participants are subject to a criminal background check.

After lunch, participants will move to the Novi Firearms Training Center to complete the course. Students must bring their own equipment, including a personal handgun, 100 rounds of ammunition, safety glasses, shooter's earmuffs or ear plugs, a pen or pencil, a baseball cap and wear loose, comfortable clothing to participate in the course. Participants must be 21 years old, but do not have to be a Novi resident to attend.

For more information, visit cityofnovi.org or contact Sgt. Michael Warren at mwarren@cityofnovi.org or 248-921-9843.

Novi receives budget award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada announced the city of Novi has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 17th consecutive year.

To receive the award, the city of Novi satisfied nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation which assess how well the

city's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Documents submitted to the Budget Awards Program are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in public-sector budgeting.

The award represents a significant achievement by the city of Novi and reflects the commitment of the city council and staff to meeting the highest principles in governmental budgeting. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting. The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals throughout North America and has offices in Chicago, Ill., and Washington, D.C.

Free income tax preparation service

Volunteer tax counselors from AARP are here to help by providing free tax aid by appointment to older adults 55 years and older. The program takes place every Thursday, from Feb. 6 through April 10, at the Novi Civic Center.

Tax assistance is provided by AARP volunteers. While tax counselors received extensive training, they are not accountants. Complex returns may be refused. Participants are responsible for accuracy and retention of all information and tax records.

Please contact city of Novi Older Adult Services at 248-347-0414 to schedule an appointment. For more information about AARP Tax Prep Program, contact Sandy Fisher, social services coordinator, at 248-347-0421 or sfish-

er@cityofnovi.org.

Tech Talk classes

City of Novi Older Adult Services is offering Tech Talk classes for adults 50 years and older who would like to become more tech-savvy by learning how to use tablets, smartphones and applications.

One-day classes are held 6:15-8:15 p.m. each Tuesday at the Novi Civic Center (45175 10 Mile). Each class is \$15 per resident and \$18 per nonresident. Registration is required and available at cityofnovi.org or in person at the Older Adult Services office inside the civic center.

Upcoming topics include:

iPads and iPhones – Tuesdays, Feb. 11 and March 11

What Do I Do with This Smartphone? – Tuesday, and March 18

All about Apps (Applications) and Tablets – Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and March 25

E-book Readers: Concept, Comparison and How To Operate – Tuesdays, Feb. 18 and April 1

For those who already understand the basics of technology and are looking for new uses and helpful hints, the Bits and Bytes Café offers the opportunity to gain valuable information, free of charge. Once a month, on Thursdays, the café is open to adults 50 and older to play games, investigate new websites and learn from others. Refreshments are provided. The Bits and Bytes Café is located at the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. The café will be open 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 20 and March 20.

For more information regarding Tech Talk classes or the Bits and Bytes Café, contact Older Adult Services 248-347-0414. To learn

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MANAGER

Continued from Page A1

be Feb. 28," he said. "Four to five weeks is fairly standard and at some point you need to move forward."

Pearson said he and his wife Jennifer, executive director of the Northville Educational Foundation, will probably take up residency in interim housing in Pearlard while settling matters in Novi during the transition.

"We're very excited," he said. "It's one of the few places, honestly, that would cause us to look at something beyond Novi."

Pearson described the Texas city, immediately southeast of Houston, as "fast-growing, dynamic, very similar to Novi in a lot of ways."

"They're very professional in all aspects," he said. "Their city team is first class. They've gone from 37,000 people to 100,000-plus over just 14 years, with plans for going well beyond that."

He did note that there would be one tradeoff – extreme cold for extreme heat.

Next for Novi

If past performance is an indicator, the next step for the city of Novi will likely be to look at several executive search firms, ask them to make proposals for the council to review and then select one. That firm will work with council members to develop a profile of what they're looking for in Pearson's replacement.

"Novi has tons of upside potential," Pearson said. "Finding somebody who can work with the team going in the right direction will take longer than people normally anticipate. But a good search firm will even find candidates who weren't necessarily looking who would be a good fit."

And that's exactly what Pearson said happened to him a few months ago.

Pearson came to Novi as assistant city manager to Richard Helwig, who retired in February 2006. Pearson served as interim city manager until he officially assumed the role in July of that year.

Previously, Pearson worked for the city of Elgin, Ill., outside Chicago, in a variety of positions beginning in

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"There have been many things accomplished in Novi over the last decade through some boom times and retrenchments," Clay Pearson said. "Through it all, our high-performing staff, boards and commissions and partners have accomplished much."

Here are a few highlights during Pearson's tenure as Novi's city manager the past eight years:

» Remaining a growth location through a prior difficult economy, Novi hosted the third-highest real property additions in Oakland County, which represented 8.06 percent of the total 2010 real property additions in the entire county.

» Worked with police and EMS/fire professionals on staff to complete resources and utilization study with ICMA Public Safety Consulting and followed through on recommendations for improving services and increasing use of data and maximizing assets to fulfill most critical city mission.

» Led presentation to earn increase in bond credit rating to AA+ from Standard & Poor's for issuance of \$16 million library construction bonds for new 55,000-square-foot city library on Civic Center campus. Followed through as member of Building Authority to design, construct and open a new Novi Public Library, on time and under budget.

» Named to be one of four cities in the United States to participate in pilot older adults perception survey. Completed follow-up Community Assessment for older adults and associated Older Adults Services Strategic Plan 2013-15. City initiated additional programs and communications specifically for older adults, including quarterly Enhance newsletter mailed directly.

» Made organizational priority to cross-train staff to improve service levels at permit processing and citizen service centers; support training and development strongly with continuous support of tuition reimbursement, staff technology training at all times.

» Integrated individual review sessions formerly to cadre of outside consultants of core technical functions by hiring and building systems for engineering, forestry/woodlands and planning into a new collocated Plan Review Center, resulting in more than \$65,000 in savings of City Plan Review costs in its initial nine months of operation and decreased number of required plan copies submitted by applicants from 23 to 10.

» Oversaw plan review and building inspections for simultaneous construction of Providence Hospital (280-bed hospital and Level 1 Trauma Center) and expansion of Taubman Company's Twelve Oaks Mall.

*"Finding somebody who can work with the team going in the right direction will take longer than people normally anticipate."*

CLAY PEARSON

1991, including assistant to the city manager, director, budget director and, lastly, assistant city manager.

He holds a master of public administration degree from the University of Kansas.

The Pearlard position reportedly pays between \$200,000 and \$250,000 annually; Pearson's base salary in Novi is just over \$135,000.

"Our 13-plus years in Novi have been a great experience and amazing journey," Pearson said. "Jennifer and I have made so many great friends while we have

become fully vested with this incredible community and city staff team. I have had great elected leaders to work beside on important issues and opportunities. The Novi traditions of having an eye to the future while always maintaining high standards of quality and professionalism are values that I think that I have helped sustain and that I know will continue."

Novi, Pearson said, will be a leader in southeast Michigan long into the future.

"I want to specifically thank Mayor Gatt and the Novi City Council for their leadership and support as we now leave this phase of my professional life," Pearson said. "The mayor and council exemplify the best in public service and I look forward to remaining a fan of Novi and following its success."

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11 MILE

Continued from Page A1

serviceable and will need to be reconstructed," said Brian Coburn, Novi engineering manager.

However, the design and easement acquisition process for a reconstruction project of this type will be extensive and will require a full year to complete, according to the Department of Public Services. Twenty-one pathway easements will

be drafted up as part of acquisition process.

In the meantime, DPS maintenance crews will continue to patch the road to the maximum extent possible to keep it open to traffic.

The eventual plan will call for 11 Mile to be paved and widened to include bicycle lanes and to fill in the gaps of five-foot-wide pathways along the the south side of the roadway and eight-foot-wide pathways provided on the north side.

According to DPS, the eastern 550 feet of 11 Mile in this area was recently rehabilitated and will not be reconstructed. This asphalt section crosses Bishop Creek and has been maintained separately from the remainder of the road. However, in this area the bike lanes may be transitioned into the adjacent pathway or remain in the road, as appropriate, based on a review as part of the design phase.

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TRAFFIC

Continued from Page A1

of contribution ... is along the lines these other communities have requested for improvements to the 10 Mile and Napier intersection."

He said the Lyon Township residential projects adjacent to the property have both proposed giving at least \$170,000 each to road improvements there.

However, Toll Brothers says it shouldn't have to contribute more after completing the city's process. A traffic study was done and approved by the city and the plan has been met with approval by

the planning commission. The developers say they have worked to meet the overall demands of the current neighborhood homeowners and city.

That intersection is under Oakland County jurisdiction and has become a concern to many drivers in the area.

However, due to financial constraints and other priorities, the county will not work on it until at least 2017. It would involve three municipalities, including Novi, contributing money to a \$2.2 million road project that could involve installing a traffic signal.

Novi officials said the city has its share

(\$220,000) ready and wants to see the intersection improvements go forward. Mutch said the developers can and should help to move it forward quicker.

This notion was not shared and now the development will move into the next planning and construction phases.

The new phase will have 45 single-family detached homes that will connect to the existing Orchards phase of Island Lake through Kennebec Drive to the east and Nepavine Drive to the north, extending the road south to 10 Mile.

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# M-5 improvements in Novi finally paid off

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

The M-5 project through Novi started in the late 1990s and was completed more than a decade ago, but for the city budget, it didn't officially end until this month.

Novi's final payment for work associated with the M-5 project has finally been given to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

In what Novi City Manager Clay Pearson called a "no choice" decision, the city council approved a nearly \$137,000 payment to MDOT for the long-completed project. The city's cost for the project was \$370,000.

More than 17 years ago, Novi entered into a cost participation agreement with MDOT to facilitate completion of roadway improvements adjacent to the proposed construction of the M-5 highway, specifically along portions of 13 Mile and Meadowbrook roads. Novi requested some major improvements, including upgrades to its sanitary system in that area.

A water main and sanitary sewer have since been installed under M-5 and the sanitary sewer under 14 Mile is also in service. However, a court case caused the delay in final payment.

According to Pearson, the final invoice for this project was delayed more than a decade because of a legal dispute involving one of the subcontractors and



The M-5 roadway helps to link I-96 drivers with points both north and south along its corridor. It opened in 1999, through the Novi area to 14 Mile, as an expressway. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the Department of Labor regarding wage standards under the Davis-Bacon Act. This dispute began in 1997 and was not resolved until 2012.

Novi Engineering Manager Brian Coburn said in 1997, the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of

Labor contacted MDOT regarding an investigation of William J. Lang Land Clearing, Inc., a subcontractor to Dan's Excavating on the M-5 project related to overtime violations of the Davis-Bacon Act.

"MDOT was instructed to withhold payment to the contractor until

the investigation was resolved," Coburn said.

This dispute was finally resolved two years ago and now MDOT is calling for its money in order to close the book on the M-5 project. Novi has complied.

"The city attorney has reviewed the agree-

ment and determined that the city is required to pay the invoice or it would risk losing current and future state funding," Pearson said. "There is nothing in the agreement that limits the time between completion of the project and providing a final invoice."

Novi will further work with MDOT to clarify all of their shared projects and their details, so it can properly budget for any outstanding payments in the future.

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## BRIEFS

Continued from Page A2

more about other classes for adults 50 and older, visit cityofnovi.org.

### Scrapbook for a Cause at Novi Public Library

Kick the creativity into gear and get your paper, stickers and cardstock ready by joining

the Novi Public Library from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, for 12 hours of scrapbooking fun sponsored by Penn Station.

To partake in this day full of craft making,

each individual will pay \$30 for a six-foot table. Consultants from Creative Memories and Close to My heart will be on hand to help with any creativity needs.

Crafters will get the

opportunity to enjoy lunch provided by Penn Station, dinner, make and takes and giveaways. All proceeds will go toward the library to support future programming.

If you would like to participate, call the Library Administration Office at 248-869-7204 to register or for more information visit novi-library.org.

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## Discussion group excellent for helping students

**M**y wife has been part of a book club for more than a dozen years. Each month, her group of friends has gathered to talk about books.

It took me a while, but I finally figured out that this was a great idea. So I started a book club. Technically it is an "adult book discussion group" or a "parent-to-parent book discussion." It met for the first Jan. 22. It will meet two more times before the end of the school year, Feb. 26 and March 26.

In January, we discussed the book *How Children Succeed* by Paul Tough. The central premise of this book is that the qualities of persistence, self-control, curiosity, conscientiousness, grit and confidence are as central to



**Steve Matthews**  
SUPER TALK

success as how much information a person can remember. In the past, success was defined by test scores and grades. Now we have come to recognize that while intelligence is still critically important, we also need to be helping our children and our students develop what are often called "soft skills" or "non-cognitive" skills.

On Jan. 22, a group of parents met with me to discuss how this book connects to the children in our families and the students in our schools. What can we do to help our

students understand the importance of attributes like grit and curiosity and confidence? More importantly, what can we do to help our students and our children develop these skills?

I am responsible for a school system. But my mission is not simply to convey information to students. My job is to help students learn the skills that they will need to be successful when they leave our schools. Can they think? Do they have the ability to apply their knowledge to new situations? Can they persist when things get difficult? Can they think through problems?

Knowledge, as represented by tests scores and grades, is important. But equally important is the ability to self-reflect, solve problems and

persist to the end. Our schools have to be able to help our students develop these skills as well.

As parents, we want our children to be successful. There is no magic formula. We will make mistakes. We will find ways that work very well. Our book discussion allowed a group of parents to talk about the ideas in this book and find ways that we could apply the lessons to our lives.

If you did not attend the first book discussion, you are in luck. There are two more chances for you to participate.

On Feb. 26, we will meet again to discuss *Creating Innovators* by Tony Wagner. This book discusses how we can create an environment that nurtures creativity and

sparks imaginations. It will help us think about our schools and what we can do to create cultures that recognize and reward collaboration and problem-solving. The book is available at the library or you can find it on your own.

I would encourage you to sign up and participate in our next parent-to-parent book discussion. You can find information at the Novi Public Library. It is a wonderful opportunity for a group of committed adults to think about and think through ways for us to create and develop great environments for our students and our children.

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

## Book drive



Senior Amy Zhou spearheaded a gently used book drive through Novi High School's National Honor Society. Many students and staff members donated a total of 409 books this year and 460 last year. All these books were donated to Cesar Chavez Academy in Detroit to help start a library for its K-12 school system.

## NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

### New PE teacher at Orchard Hills

Orchard Hills Elementary physical education teacher Erika Perkovich resigned effective Jan. 16 due to a medical condition, according to an email from Pamela G. Quitquit, school principal.

"Keep Erika in your thoughts," Quitquit said, adding that Ryan Smith transferred from Novi Meadows as a half-time physical education teacher.

Smith grew up in Novi and graduated from Novi High School. He has a major in physical education, a minor in health education and just completed his master's degree in sports leadership and coaching and educational leadership. Smith has seven years of teaching experience, the last five years at the K-5 level.

### Maximizing your gym membership

Learn how to get the most out of your gym membership by letting certified personal fitness trainer Mike, from

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### St. Catherine open house

St. Catherine Academy will hold an open house 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30. Visitors will meet students, hear firsthand from faculty and tour the state-of-the-art building.

The girls school is located at 28200 Napier Road in Wixom.

For additional information, contact Adora Ibrahim, director of admissions, at [admissions@saintcatherineacademy.org](mailto:admissions@saintcatherineacademy.org) or visit [www.saintcatherineacademy.org](http://www.saintcatherineacademy.org).

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# W.L. Schools names Diversity Award recipients

The Walled Lake School District recognized Semaj Davis, Oten Iban, Carolyn Kevelin and Dr. Jay Marks as Friend of Diversity Award recipients Jan. 20 at the District's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

"Walled Lake Schools has built a culture around celebrating diversity. I am proud that our 2014 Friend of Diversity Award recipients, Semaj Davis, Oten Iban, Carolyn Kevelin and Dr. Jay Marks, represent our key stakeholders - students, staff and our community. Actions speak louder than words and the actions of these individuals are indeed thoughtful and impressive," said Ken-

neth Gutman, superintendent.

Davis and Iban, students at Walled Lake Northern High School, were nominated for their work in founding their school's first African American Awareness club. Through their partnership, they have created a group that addresses many important topics facing students. Issues raised include college-readiness and inter-racial relations. Their leadership abilities and time management skills were paramount in getting the AAA club started, as each student is heavily involved in activities outside of the classroom.

Kevelin, who teaches at Pleasant Lake Ele-

mentary, was nominated for her work as the lead staff member on the building's Multicultural Committee. She organizes the school's diversity week activities and is an advocate for the school's ESL students and their families by making sure students are registered for appropriate summer programs and parents are notified of important events and activities. She also facilitated the creation of the PLE Cookbook, which contained parent submitted recipes from all over the world.

Marks has worked with Walled Lake Schools to create an environment in which appreciation for and understandings of



Pictured (from left) are Greg Janicki, school board president; Oten Iban, Friend of Diversity Award recipient; Semaj Davis, Friend of Diversity Award recipient; and Kenneth Gutman, superintendent.

diversity are key parts of the day-to-day experience for students. He has impacted the professional development of countless

educators throughout the district, Oakland County and the state of Michigan. He has also worked with administrators and par-

ents to start a new African American Parent Network in Walled Lake Schools later this school year.

## Reflecting



"In the Name of Love" was the message from the combined Walled Lake high schools of Northern, Central and Western as they performed several songs Jan. 20 at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Northern High School. CURTIS DROGMILLER

## NFL player volunteers at local school

Students at Pleasant Lake Elementary have benefited from the volunteer work being done by a local NFL player for the past few weeks. Joe Barksdale of the St. Louis Rams has been volunteering at the school, helping students in any way that he can.

Barksdale's work at PLE is through his foundation, Uplift 72 (www.uplift72.org), with the mission to afford students greater personal and professional opportunities by focusing on development in three key areas: academics, athletics and community service.

"The staff and students at Pleasant Lake Elementary are excited

to have Mr. Barksdale working with our students each week," said Nayal Maktari, Pleasant Lake Elementary principal. "Giving back is very important to Mr. Barksdale and he is committed to helping children reach their potential. We feel fortunate for the opportunity we have been provided and look forward to having Mr. Barksdale become a part of the Pleasant Lake Elementary School community."

He volunteers six hours per week at the school, doing anything from helping students with their academics, working in one-on-one and small group settings with students and also has his own mentor

group at the school. Barksdale has worked closely with PLE teachers and social workers on the necessary training and has been an asset to the instruction of the students at the school. His work centers on preparing students for the various transitions they face throughout life, from elementary school to middle school to high school and beyond.

Barksdale is from Detroit and went to school at Cass Technical High School. He attended college at Louisiana State University, where he played football and studied pre-law. Barksdale is an offensive tackle with the St. Louis Rams of the NFL.

## Walled Lake sells school bonds for \$65.7 million

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District Board of Education announced the sale of its 2014 Safety, Security & Technology Bonds (School Building and Site Bonds) for \$65,755,000.

The Walled Lake Schools community approved the bond after the Nov. 5 general election and the district's Safety, Security & Technology Bonds were sold in January 2014 at a true interest rate of 4.59 percent, with a final maturity of 2043 (a repayment term of approximately 30 years).

"Thank you to the Walled Lake Schools community for providing enhanced safety, improved technology, new buses and many other improvements for our 15,000 children and the more than 70,000 residents we serve," said Kenneth Gutman, superintendent.

The bonds are being issued for the purpose

of remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings and other facilities to enhance security and for other purposes; acquiring and installing technology equipment and technology infrastructure in school buildings and other facilities; constructing additions to school building entrances to enhance security; preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings and other facilities; the purchase of school buses; and paying the costs of issuing the bonds.

"Walled Lake Consolidated School District bonds were well-received by the bond market," said Brenda Voutyras, managing director with Stifel. "We were able to take advantage of current low rates that met the goals of the district and provided a lower cost of borrowing than originally anticipated."

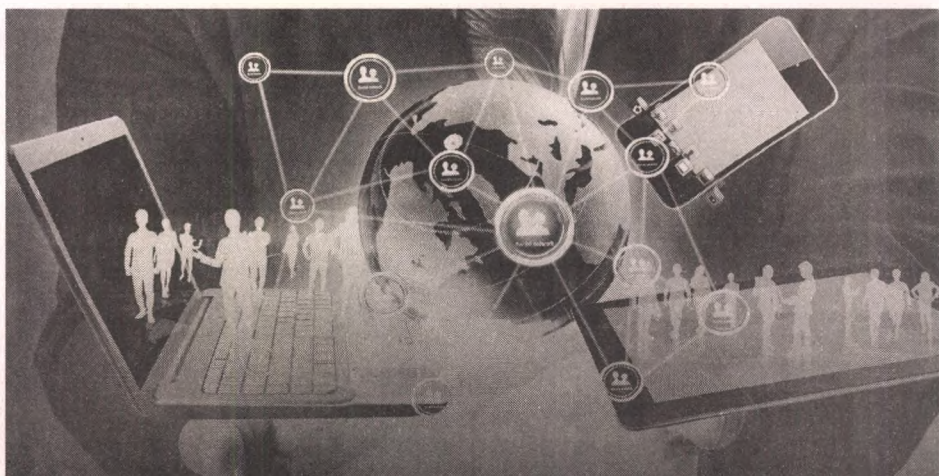
In preparing to sell the bonds, the school district, working with its financial adviser, Public Financial Management, requested that Moody's Investors Service evaluate the school district's credit quality. Moody's assigned the district the underlying rating of "Aa3," citing the district's management, willingness and ability to make expenditure reductions and sizable tax base and average income levels.

"Walled Lake Schools has a record of consistently repaying bonds in 20 years or less as a result of timely refinancing as the market allows," Gutman said.

The district's financing was conducted by the Michigan investment banking office of the brokerage firm, Stifel, the financial advising firm, Public Financial Management and the law firm serving as bond counsel, Clark Hill PLC.



Joe Barksdale (from left) Pleasant Lake fifth-grade tour guides Harmony Hall, Reeya Mathur and Mia Hirsch and school Principal Nayal Maktari.



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# Students explore problems of the future

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Some students showed their smarts Monday and had a great time at the same time.

The Engineering Society of Detroit, based in Southfield, coordinates Michigan's Future City competition, in which students use software, research skills and math/science knowledge to build a model city. A number of schools presented their models and findings to judges Monday, Jan. 27, at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi during regional competition.

"What happens to wastewater?" asked judge Peggy Matta of the U.S. Green Building Council. She and two other judges were examining the presentation of Southfield's MacArthur K-8 University Academy.

"We're looking at how they protect the environment," said Matta, one of a number of adult volunteers that day.

This year's competition, the 19th annual, had a transportation theme. From MacArthur were students Erin Andrews, 14, an eighth-grader from Southfield, Ariel Slappy, 13, an eighth-grader from Southfield, and London Jones, 12, a seventh-grader from Southfield.

Their team had about 15, the girls said, and worked on their model for some three months. Their city is "Pavati: The Floating City." Islanders there live in Grand Original Green Igloos and wind and solar power are used.

The surface is of grass or permeable cement.

"I like the ability to create things and to solve problems," said Jones, who like her classmates is considering an engineering career. Their school model included a tube for travel with pods that could go as fast as 760 mph. Andrews noted there are bicycles that come from a backpack design, as well as wheelchairs for the disabled that can go in the tube.

## Math's a focus

"I have learned so much about math and science," said Slappy, who used numbers to design to scale. "It was a lot of



Marshall Upper Elementary School students of Westland discuss their entry in the Future City Competition held Jan. 27 at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace. From left are Natalie Reed, Andrew Biber, Jack Mortson and Brendan Schema. This year's engineering challenge was to design a way to move people about a city in the future. Schools from all over Wayne and Oakland counties participated in the program.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

work."

She liked presenting for the judges in this, her second year of competition. "I actually have fun presenting to the judges. It was better than I thought it would be."

MacArthur K-8 took third place Monday.

Also participating was Crescent Academy International of Canton, which had two teams. Areesha Hasan, 12, a seventh-grader, Amina Hafeez, 13, a seventh-grader, and Amirah Aabed, 12, also a seventh-grader, all live in Canton. The girls were happy to explain their city of the future.

"This is Utopia, the city of the future," Aabed said. She explained the pollution of Los Angeles led to its end and its replacement.

"Utopia's very environmentally friendly," Aabed said, noting the downtown spins slowly to avoid disorienting people. "It's one big windmill."

Hafeez noted the iconic Hollywood design incorporated into the city of the future. Hasan said agriculture is separated from industry.

"I'm thinking about it," Aabed said of an engineering career. "I want to invent something." Their team's city also mixed country, suburbs and city. T2 (squared) transportation tubes took people between zones.

Over at Marshall Upper

Elementary School in Westland, the sixth-graders were working on Krania, located in Winter Water Valley, Mich. Krania has 81,712 people, an average IQ of 135 and is "Your Destination for Education."

Presenters for Marshall were Jack Mortson, 11, Brendan Schema, 11, and Andrew Biber, 11, with Natalie Reid, 11, as runner-up presenter. All are Westland residents in a sixth-grade Talented and Gifted class.

"This is the Krania Metro," Mortson said, noting its left-right design. Schema said there's an Area Criminal Control spot for law enforcement.

"It gives them a better view of the city," Schema said.

Biber noted the hydrogen-powered cars. "They give off water vapor," he said, which in turn powers the People Mover or Metro.

"I think it fits better because you know the area," Schema said of their Michigan location. Some other teams chose to put their cities overseas.

"This was a class project," said Marshall teacher Diane Krzyaniak, a Livonia resident. Students began their work in October.

## 'So proud of them'

"I am so proud of them," Krzyaniak said. "It boggles my mind how much teamwork, how much enthusiasm they

have had." Her team of 31 worked with engineering mentor Stephanie Fowler, who does consulting with GZA GeoEnvironmental of Livonia. Fowler would visit the Westland school each Monday to work with the team.

"Engineers are leaders and mentors," Fowler said. "It's a great opportunity to work with the community, especially kids."

Mortson spoke for his classmates about possibly pursuing engineering later as a career as their mentor did: "She's very helpful."

The Westland city planner also visited the class, Krzyaniak added. "The kids get so much out of it," the teacher said. "This is our future and we've got to expose them to as much as possible."

Cary Junior of Royal Oak Township is among volunteer mentors, working with Bates Academy in Detroit. Junior, who earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan, works with a construction engineering firm in Detroit.

He's been mentoring about six years. "They seem to have more of a demand for mentors," he said of Detroit schools, where he concentrates. "I hope it opens their minds to what the opportunities are."

He's also interested in promoting sustainability. "The kids are very eager. They just take off with it," said Junior, who'd like more students to take math and science, "and it becomes a piece of cake. We'll figure out how to do it."

The Jain Temple of Greater Detroit in Farmington Hills was well-represented, including David Brooks, 12, a seventh-grader from Farmington Hills, and Yug Chauhan, 13, an eighth-grader from Ann Arbor.

"We also wanted to preserve the charm," Chauhan said of their city, Papa Chzh Bro. The students built their city, in Istanbul, Turkey, to be earthquake-proof in that zone.

It was presented as "The Safest World City," and included an Autonomous Intermodel Transport System, with The European West and The Asian East. The European

side had many skyscrapers. "So it's a good mixture," Brooks said. "Everything is connected." Jain Temple took fourth place Monday.

St. Valentine Catholic School of Redford had presenters Fiona Baughman, 13, of Redford, Paul Schulte, 13, of Livonia, and Alexa Terry, 13, of Redford, all eighth-graders. Their city of Illu Suun was off the coast of Australia.

Illu Suun has two main modes of transportation, plus emergency pods. "They can get to a hospital or emergency center quickly," said Terry, whose father is an engineer.

The public transportation for Illu Suun is underground, with tunnels allowing travel up to 600 mph. "So that cuts down your commute times drastically," Terry said.

"I was always looking forward to being able to do Future City" when younger, Schulte said.

## 'Learned a lot'

"St. Valentine is really proud of their city," Baughman said, noting classmates are excited about the annual competition. "We learned a lot of new stuff about the city," she said of regional finals day Monday. They learned from the judges and also educated them, Baughman said.

St. Valentine took second-place honors Monday. First place went to St. John Lutheran School of Rochester. Athanasius Kircher Academy of Belleville took fifth.

Like many participants, the three from St. Val's are considering engineering careers, a goal of the competition. Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade work on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities, applying them to real-world problems.

This year's theme was "Tomorrow's Transit: Design a Way To Move People In and Around Your City." Students used SimCity software, wrote an essay and made a presentation to the judges. Students are challenged to build a city 150 years into the future using engineering principles.

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# Priest who molested receives nearly 16 years

By Patricia Montemurri  
Gannett Michigan

Catholic priest the Rev. Timothy Murray was never prosecuted for sexually molesting a 13-year-old boy in the mid-1980s. But as the one-time parish pastor awaited sentencing Jan. 23 on child pornography charges, a federal prosecutor argued that it was finally time for Murray to pay for his assault on childhood innocence.

U.S. Assistant Attorney Kevin Mulcahy described Murray's assault on the teenager and gestured toward a grown man in the courtroom, whom Mulcahy later acknowledged was Murray's long-ago victim. The man, who was not identified, had also written to U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts about the assault, which Mur-

ray has admitted. Mulcahy asked the judge to consider that when sentencing Murray for possessing and sharing nearly 700 child porn



Murray

videos on his home computers. "The character of a man who could sit and watch children suf-

fer" in child pornography, Mulcahy said, "is disgusting."

The priest went "largely unscathed" from his past behavior, Mulcahy said, "and deserves no further break."

Roberts sentenced Murray, 63, of Novi, to 15 years and eight months in federal prison for possessing and distributing child pornography.

"You should not be in contact with minors. The sentence that this court will impose will make sure that doesn't happen," Roberts said. She noted that Murray had never been charged with the assault on a minor, but cited other factors for the length of the sentence. Mulcahy had argued for 22 years, while Murray's defense attorney asked for five years.

Beforehand, the disgraced priest addressed Roberts and apologized.

"I did download" child pornography, Murray said. Of the children victimized, Murray said, "I'm sorry for them, feel bad about that and I will never do it again."

A federal investigation in 2012 found Murray had a large volume of child pornographic images on his home com-

puters and nearly 700 videos of child pornography. Murray pleaded guilty in July to one count each of possession and distribution of child pornography.

Murray's case reveals the changing views and practices on handling child sexual assault. When Murray molested a 13-year-old in the mid-1980s, by touching his genitalia, the victim's family confronted the priest, but didn't contact any other authorities. Murray admitted to molesting the teenager, Mulcahy told the court today.

It wasn't until 2004, after massive publicity surfaced regarding the Catholic Church's scandal of handling child sex abuse complaints, that the victim came forward and the archdiocese of Detroit removed Murray

as the pastor of St. Edith in Livonia. The archdiocese forbade Murray from working as, dressing like or identifying himself as a priest. The statute of limitations prevented Murray from being criminally prosecuted.

The archdiocese also required Murray to report to a monitor about any activities that could put him in contact with minors. But Murray did not tell archdiocese officials that he participated at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills as a co-director of church plays and as an occasional "worship leader," as revealed in federal court documents.

Roberts told Murray that she found it hard to believe Murray's comments to court investigators and sentencing experts, in which he

blamed the priestly celibacy requirement of the Catholic Church for contributing to his attraction to child porn and his past behavior — or that he didn't know viewing child porn in his home was illegal.

"This court is very hard-pressed to believe you when you say you didn't know it was a felony," Roberts said.

Roberts said psychological evaluations of Murray show he has pedophilic tendencies.

"You have them and you have demonstrated them, so the public has to be protected from you," Roberts said.

Murray remains on bond and home confinement while awaiting a date to report for imprisonment.

pmontemurri@freepress.com  
313-223-4538

## Enough already!



A city of Novi plow truck works the parking lot Jan. 16 at the Novi Civic Center as more snow falls. The Novi area saw about two additional inches of the white stuff that day. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Tickets (\$5 each) for the Movies at the Marquis are limited and may be purchased at the Marquis Theatre the night of each individual movie. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on Movies at the Marquis, visit [www.downtownnorthville.com](http://www.downtownnorthville.com) or call 248-349-0345.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Daddy Daughter Dances**

The city of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, in partnership with Sweet and Sassy, will host Daddy Daughter Dances 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile. Tickets are on sale and available via cityofnovi.org.

Dads (or significant male adult in the child's life) and daughters will spend "A Night in the Spotlight" with some surprises from the Novi Civic Theatre production of Disney's *101 Dalmatians Kids*. The fun will continue with Night and Day Productions playing today's hits along with some older favorites. Refreshments include breadsticks from Aubree's of Northville, a giant chocolate fountain and a snow-cone machine. At the end of the evening, 800 balloons will fall from the ceiling.

The price is \$14 per person for residents and \$17 for non-residents. Wrist corsages and charms are available for pre-order for \$8 each and will be available for pickup at the dance. Each couple will receive a free photo, with additional packages available for purchase at the event. Each child will receive a commemorative gift.

To buy tickets and order corsages and charms, visit cityofnovi.org or stop by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Office inside the Novi Civic Center. Tickets sell quickly. Any remaining tickets available at the door will be \$5 additional.

Call the Novi Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services office at 248-347-0400 with any questions.

**CUTCO kitchen party**

In recognition of February as American Heart Month, the Novi CUTCO Kitchen store (43215 Grand River Avenue, Suite D) will host a free demo and kitchen party - From Our Heart to Yours - 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. Discover how CUTCO can help you and your family lead a healthy lifestyle while sampling delicious and easy to make heart-healthy recipes.

Space is limited. For more information or to reserve your

spot, call 248-679-1538.

**Kathy Crawford makes it official**

Kathy Crawford, R-Novi, officially filed as a candidate for state representative for the 38th District last week. The current representative is her husband, Republican Hugh Crawford, who will be term-limited this year.

"As a state representative, I will bring my years of experience and proven leadership in community activities, as well as city and county government," she said from the clerk's department at the Oakland County government offices in Pontiac. "I also pledge to continue Hugh's great record by ensuring that everyone's tax dollars are spent wisely in education, economic development, transportation infrastructure and health-related services."

Voters will hit the polls Nov. 4 for the general election for this seat if no Republican files to oppose Crawford in an August primary election. The district includes Novi, Novi Township, South Lyon, Lyon Township, Walled Lake and part of Northville.

**Combat diabetes naturally**

The size of your waistline has been long proven to be a predictor of certain diseases and often times whether you will live a long and healthy life. Dr. Don Verhulst will host a seminar on how to avoid certain medications at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Better Health Market in Novi (42875 Grand River Avenue).

Reservations can be made by calling 248-735-8100, online at [www.thebetterhealthstore.com](http://www.thebetterhealthstore.com) or by visiting The Better Health Market Facebook page.

**CoE1 seeking donations**

The Congregation of Every 1, a non-religious community group dedicated to helping those in need, is currently seeking:

**Survival packs:** New or used "school style" backpacks; non-perishable food items that don't require a can opener, microwave or teeth; and men's size gloves, hats, scarves and socks

**Supplies for Genesis House**

**Arctic blast**



Judy Hildreth bundles up against the Arctic-like air Jan. 24 as she leaves the Novi Public Library. On that day, the temperature didn't get much above 10 degrees and the wind made it feel frighteningly colder. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Ill, a women's and children's shelter:** toiletries for women and children; diapers; towels and linens; gloves, hats, coats and scarves for women and children; and clothing of all sizes for women and children

All donations are being accepted at several metro Detroit locations, including One Training, 40400 Grand River Avenue, Novi.

The planning for a Feb. 1 charity drive is under way and will assist LACASA and First Step, local area battered women's shelters. All details about this event and more can be found at [www.CoE1.org](http://www.CoE1.org).

**Warming Hearts & Homes campaign**

Through Warming Hearts and Homes, Community

Financial Credit Union chose several nonprofit organizations to receive a donation with the help of their social media fans. For December 2013, The Heat and Warmth Fund, local food pantries and The Salvation Army Coats for Kids Program each received a portion of \$30,000 that was earmarked for Warming Hearts and Homes.

Community Financial chose nonprofit organizations that make a difference in children's lives across northern Michigan.

THAW helps more than 20,000 children in their efforts to provide energy assistance to low-income families throughout Michigan. Funds received by THAW help Michigan families keep their utilities on. The Salvation Army Coats for Kids Program has provided warm coats to children in need for 31 years in eastern Michigan. Other donations from Warming Hearts and Homes went directly to food pantries around southeast Michigan, feeding those who need assistance during the winter months.

"Michigan winters are rough so the thought of children not having the outerwear they need is heartbreaking," said team member Denise Busby. "I'm glad to work for an organization that sees a need and does something about it."

**Hearts of Hope campaign**

During the month of February, Bagger Dave's Burger Tavern will seek to help thousands of Michigan families associated with Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan through the organization's annual Hearts for Hope campaign.

To support CLF, Bagger Dave's guests can simply purchase a paper heart pinup for \$1.

The funds raised will go to help the families affected by leukemia, lymphoma and other related blood disorders who need financial assistance and emotional support. With the purchase of the pinup, supporters have the option to write a personalized message that will be displayed throughout the 13 participating locations, including Novi's on the northeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue.

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In 50 words or less tell us what makes your Valentine so special and you could win dinner for two at Joe & Aldo's Italian Tavern.

Go to [facebook.com/oehometown](http://facebook.com/oehometown) and look for the Valentine Contest icon. You can also go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and select the Valentine Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

**Entry Deadline:**

Sunday, Feb. 9 11:59 p.m.



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# Local business shows Girl Scouts how to 'eat for beauty'

One Training teamed up with local Girl Scouts by hosting an Eating for Beauty workshop for Cadette Scouts on Jan. 25.

Michelle Christ, co-owner of One Training, explains that what one eats has a profound effect on health and well-being. It also impacts how the girls relate that to their self-esteem and body-image. The programs teach girls ways to boost self-esteem and how to eat sensibly. This means choosing foods that help promote healthy bodies, clear skin, strong minds and happiness.

Colleen Crossey, a Girl Scout leader whose daughter attended the workshop, agrees whole-heartedly.

"This teaches girls to love their bodies," she said. "This workshop helps counteract the messages that girls get daily from diet, cosmetics and magazine ads that their bodies need constant improvement."

One Training gives the message to take care and love your body to younger Scouts, too. Daisy Scouts earn their Courageous and Strong badge;



The Novi One Training (40400 Grand River Avenue) held an Eating for Beauty workshop for girls Jan. 25.

Brownies earn their My Best Self badge; Junior Scouts earn their Staying Fit badge; and Senior Scouts earn their Cross Training Badge. The workshops are scheduled through the month of March.

"I think that reaching out to Girl Scouts and helping them

earn badges is a really smart business model," Crossey said. "I like to shop at local businesses. They are the pillars of our communities and too often get overlooked."

One Training is located at 40400 Grand River. Call 888-309-5311 for more information.

## Camper, RV show returning to Showplace

The Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds is sponsoring the 48th Annual Detroit Camper & RV Show Feb. 5-9 at the Suburban Collection Showplace on Grand River Avenue, Novi.

All types of new 2014 recreation vehicles – more than 275 units and 50 brands – will be displayed: folding campers, motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, fifth wheel travel trailers and toy haulers.

On display at the show, you'll see folding campers from \$4,999, trailers from \$8,999 and motor homes from \$49,999. Discounts on 2013 models, plus manufacturer rebates on select RVs. Booths featuring parts and accessories, campground information, on-site RV financing and RV rentals make this the complete

### DETAILS

**Event:** 48th Annual Detroit Camper & RV Show  
**Location:** Suburban Collection Showplace  
**Dates:** Feb. 5-9  
**Hours:** 2-9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday  
**Cost:** \$10 for ages 13 and up; \$9 for seniors; free for children ages 12 and under  
**Phone:** 517-349-8881  
**Web:** www.marvac.org

RV show experience.

At the show, enter to win event tickets and camping packages for 2014 summer events from the Michigan International Speedway. Win-

ning package includes tickets and camping to an MIS event of your choice.

Visit one of the 10 metro Detroit Play it Again Sports stores for discount admission coupon. Coupons are also available at www.marvac.org, Big Boy restaurants and in area newspapers. With this special coupon, all consumers can get \$1 off any adult or senior admission.

Consumers can pick up the new 2014 RV & Campsite. This guide to camping and RV dealers in Michigan now includes coupons.

The show is sponsored by the Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds, a member organization representing all aspects of the camping and RV industries.

## Home improvement



In order to demonstrate its ruggedness, Todd Copling (left), of the Little Giant Ladder Co., climbs one of his products along with a customer Jan. 24 at the Novi Home Improvement Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace. Visitors to the weekend-long show got to peruse aisle after aisle of goods and services for their homes, including windows, roofs, patios and porches. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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FEBRUARY 4 Novi Public Library	FEBRUARY 10 Waterford Public Library
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FEBRUARY 13 Farmington Hills Public Library	

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## OUR VIEWS

# 'Jeffress Center' a fitting name for new Schoolcraft building

## College's president gets deserved honor

Congratulations to Dr. Conway A. Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, for having a building named after him!

It is an honor that is certainly well-deserved. Jeffress has been tireless supporter of Schoolcraft College for the past 32 years, the last 14 as president. His accomplishments are many and we're glad the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees acknowledged them in such a public way.

Under Jeffress' leadership, the college has added buildings and programs while remaining financially sound and keeping tuition affordable.



Jeffress

For example, last May the Board of Trustees approved issuing \$18 million in bonds for improvements that it will pay back over the next 15 years without having to go to voters for a tax increase.

Those improvements include renovating the former American Community Mutual Insurance building at the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty, now called The Jeffress Center, which will be used to house classes for Schoolcraft's new bachelor's and master's degree partnership program with Wayne State University and the University of Toledo that begins this fall. Degrees in business, nursing, engineering, criminal justice and more will soon be available at Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia.

Other improvements covered by the bond include overhauling the college's mainframe computer, adding a parking lot and building a road around the back of campus so motorists can get from Six Mile to Seven Mile without going onto Haggerty.

Moody's Investment Services, the nation's leading bond credit rating agency, issued Schoolcraft College one of its highest ratings because of "solid financial management that has controlled expenditure growth and utilized tuition raising flexibility to maintain strong financial revenues."

Also under Jeffress' leadership, the college built and opened the VisTaTech Center in September 2003, remodeled the Bradner Library in 2005, built the Biomedical Technology Center in 2008 and created the Public Safety Training Complex in 2013.

While Jeffress has served as president, the college and its labor unions have worked cooperatively together, negotiating fair contracts that contribute to a peaceful relationship and allow everyone to concentrate on their respective jobs.

At the same time, the college has kept costs to students affordable, giving them a way to gain knowledge and work skills without having to take on a huge amount of debt.

The college and community have benefited greatly from Jeffress' vision and we are pleased the new building will remind everyone of his contributions for many years to come.



The Jeffress Center will house most of the operations of the Schoolcraft to U partnership.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

# Do you think the Novi community will again see the home values it saw before the drops in 2006-08; why or why not?

This question was asked to local real estate agents.



"I don't think it's a question of if the home values in Novi will see the prerecession levels again. It's more like when we'll see that happen — either by inflation or buyer demand driving up home prices. In 2013, we saw 8 percent more homes sell than in 2012. The average home price was up 12 percent. Those are really encouraging numbers!"

**Ken Pozek**  
Keller Williams Realty  
(Novi/Northville Real Estate)



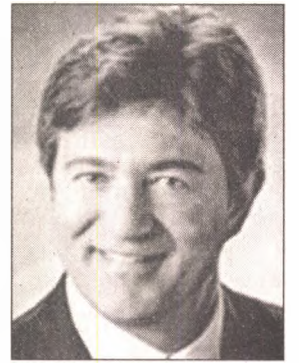
"Not for some time. They will continue to appreciate, but they will probably not soar so quickly to the heights we saw. That appreciation we saw may have been artificial and that became evident with the crash. Now things are going in a more sensible direction."

**Kathy Solan**  
Real Estate One (Novi)



"In real estate, it's location, location, location. Novi is situated geographically perfectly to see a migration of population to its community. Easy access to highways. High-ranking school system. Newer construction. Great amenities. Low interest rates. It may take a few years of sustained growth, but I believe housing values will continue to improve for the foreseeable future and start to approach 2006-08 by 2018."

**Jonathan Brateman**  
Jonathan Brateman Properties, Inc. (Novi)



"As a Novi homeowner, I would like to see the values go back to what we saw 2006-08. We are headed in the right direction and in 2013 we saw some aggressive appreciation, mainly sparked by low inventory and historically low interest rates. What's in store for 2014 and on? With rumors of interest rates increasing, this should give us another positive spike in the market. Buyers will want to lock in a low interest rate and are more likely to pay a little higher of a purchase price because locking in a low rate will save money in the long run. Hopefully, this will keep us on the right track for a great 2014."

**Jim DiMora**  
The DiMora Team-Keller Williams Realty (Novi)

## GUEST COLUMN

# Snyder makes the case for his accomplishments

Gov. Rick Snyder likes to describe himself as "one tough nerd." He is also widely and accurately regarded as a numbers guy.

And his annual State of the State address was, indeed, true to type. There was none of the soaring rhetoric of his predecessor, Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Our governor would never win an oratory contest and I suspect he knows it.

Instead, what we got was a down-to-earth, wide-ranging list of topics, from campaign promises kept and initiatives accomplished to some forward-looking priorities. Snyder is clearly, if unofficially, running for a second term and the speech offered an advance look at what his re-election campaign will look like.

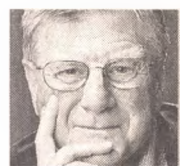
For me, the most interesting part of the speech had to do with his emphasis on how immigrants coming to Michigan can be an essential part of our state's economic development strategy.

To his credit, Snyder has been talking about welcoming immigrants ever since his first State of the State back in 2011. This time, however, he called for creating a "Michigan Office for New Americans" to help educated, talented and ambitious immigrants, plus he urged federal approval for a visa program to help provide a path to citizenship for entrepreneurial immigrants who come with at least \$500,000 in capital to invest in new businesses.

Indeed, the metrics of what immigrants have done here are impressive — even to a numbers guy. From 1995 to 2005, one-quarter of all high-tech start-ups in the U.S. were founded by non-native born entrepreneurs, fully half of all such firms in Silicon Valley.

In Michigan, where only 6 percent of our population today is foreign-born, a radically disproportionate 32 percent of high-tech start-ups from 1990 to 2005 were founded by immigrants. In fact, nearly one-sixth of all businesses started in Michigan between 1996 and 2007 were launched by immigrants; in all, those 2,276 firms generated \$1.5 billion in one year alone.

Clearly, we need more of this. The Michigan Office for New Americans idea follows past steps taken by the Snyder administration to encourage immigrant-driven economic



**Phil Power**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

*For me, the most interesting part of the speech had to do with his emphasis on how immigrants ... can be an essential part of our state's economic development strategy.*

success.

At Snyder's urging, the Michigan Economic Development Corp. has provided financial support for the Global Talent Retention Initiative of Michigan, a pioneering international student program. It's aimed at encouraging the best of the more than 25,000 foreign-born students at Michigan universities, many of them studying engineering and math, to stay after graduation.

The governor's administration has developed a series of online professional licensing guides designed to help new Americans through the thicket of regulations and requirements. Now, his Office for New Americans is a logical next step. Former state Rep. Steve Tobocman, D-Detroit, is a bright guy who started Global Detroit and has been a consistent and effective advocate for immigrants as drivers of Michigan's economy.

Tobocman says the new office "sends a signal that Gov. Snyder is serious, that he is committed to making our state welcoming and that the complexities of the field ... require full-time attention and coordination."

Complexities are right. One example: Michigan has filed an application to be designated an EB-5 visa application center, something that would allow the state to reach out to prospective investor immigrants. Makes plenty of sense, yes? True — but bizarrely, the feds have placed management of the program in the Department of Homeland Security, not the Department of Commerce. Unraveling that bureaucratic snafu is bound to take some of the governor's attention.

The solution of Michigan's most pressing problem — how to remake Detroit into an economic engine rather than a sinkhole — has much to do with immigration policy. One of the key priorities for a revitalized Detroit is increasing the number of residents and it's plain that international immigration is the only population growth strategy that has worked in any significant way in years.

The growing Hispanic community in southwest Detroit, the Middle Eastern one in Dearborn and multi-ethnic Hamtramck are all envied by struggling neighborhoods throughout Michigan.

Back in 2011, Tobocman told me "nothing is more powerful to remaking Detroit as a center of innovation, entrepreneurship and population growth than embracing and increasing immigrant populations and the entrepreneurial culture and global connections they bring." I suspect Snyder has heard that message.

And looking through his State of the State speech gives the impression he has been listening to other far-sighted folks, as well. The governor wants another \$65 million in support for a state-run free pre-K program for poor and vulnerable 4-year-olds. He wants to explore the idea of year-round schools, where kids don't forget much of last year's learning over a long summer vacation. And he wants the Legislature to finish a new teacher evaluation system.

Two weeks ago, I went after the governor for signing a bill that perpetuates the disgraceful amount of secret "dark money" sloshing into Michigan political campaigns. That was a bad decision.

But there's much to admire in Rick Snyder's State of the State speech. We have no idea yet how the campaign for governor will unfold over the next nine months. But the markers Snyder laid down last week offer a powerful case for what he's done as a nerdy numbers guy who happens to be our governor.

Former newspaper publisher Phil Power is the 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 your comments at [ppower@thecenterformichigan.net](mailto:ppower@thecenterformichigan.net).

# NOVI NEWS

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# Don't use a resolution to treat a medical condition

While losing weight may be one of the most common New Year's resolutions in 2014, it will also be one of the most abandoned resolutions during the year. For many people, their weight issue is actually the chronic medical condition of obesity. And while personal resolutions are the first step, people struggling with obesity may benefit from medical care to reduce their health risks and improve their quality of life.

According to the National Institute of Health, obesity is a serious, chronic medical condition and a national epidemic. About two-thirds of U.S. adults



**Dr. Gary Katz**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

are overweight and nearly one-third are obese.

Obesity is associated with life-threatening conditions that reduce quality of life and lifespan, including diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, certain cancers and sleep apnea. Research shows that 66 percent of all U.S. adults and 18 percent of U.S. children are at risk for these health conditions

due to their weight.

According to the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases, weight loss surgery is an option for people who are severely obese and cannot lose weight by traditional means or those who suffer from serious obesity-related health problems. The operation promotes weight loss by restricting food intake and, in some operations, interrupting the digestive process. As with other treatments for obesity, the best results are achieved with healthy eating behaviors and regular physical activity.

Weight loss surgery has

helped millions of people shed excess weight and live healthier lives. It is a common treatment option for people with severe obesity who have been unsuccessful with other weight loss methods. Weight loss surgery works because it also includes education to transform eating habits to maintain an ideal weight and thus live a healthier life.

You may be a candidate for surgery if you have:

- A body mass index of 40 or more – about 100 pounds overweight
- A BMI between 35 and 39.9 along with a serious obesity-related health problem such

as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, or severe sleep apnea (when breathing stops for short periods during sleep)

• An understanding of the bariatric operation and the lifestyle changes you will need to make.

*Dr. Gary Katz is medical director of the bariatric surgical team at St. John Weight Loss Center. He is certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Surgeons. Also, he is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, the American Osteopathic Association, the Michigan State Medical Society, the Oakland County Medical Society, and the American Society of Bariatric Surgeons.*

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

### Stop invasive species

In his State of the State message, Gov. Rick Snyder announced that he would be initiating a new effort to combat invasive species in Michigan and the Great Lakes. He said, "There's too much talk and not enough action on invasive species." I couldn't agree more.

We already are spending large sums to deal with the sea lamprey, zebra mussels and emerald ash borer, to name just a few that are already here. Last August, a citizen task force created by the state Legislature made a series of recommendations on changes that could be made to state law and policy that would shift our focus from managing invasive species after they get here to preventing their introduction.

Gov. Snyder is trying to get us moving. I hope the Legislature follows his lead and quickly takes up this issue and appropriates the resources and makes the legislative changes needed to protect our beautiful state for our children and grandchildren.

**Robert L. Anthony**  
Michigan trustee,  
The Nature Conservancy  
Northville

living in the same place as them!

Snyder has been a better governor than Granholm and Blanchard, not much better than Milliken and not as good as Engler, who really did nothing constructive beyond Proposal A. He needs to go – go anywhere really, but boot him out of Lansing, by all means. Traitors to the cause like Snyder and Rep. Walsh supported Obamacare and conservatives need to cast out the evil from among their midst. Snyder cut the income tax credit for the struggling in favor of his fat-cat business buds. He cut the gas energy tax credit for the struggling. He wants to raise taxes for the roads – why not trim some bureaucrat jobs? Why not save money by making the Legislature part time?

Snyder is no friend to the pro-life and pro-family crowd. Nope, he wants to focus like a laser on his big business buds. A pro-life bill only recently got through via a voter initiative drive. Michiganders need to use the vote and apply some of Snyder's relentless positive action and positively kick RINOs like him to the curb. Vote for anyone else, yeah, even Bozo, or don't vote at all, but don't give this clown a second term.

**Leo Weber**  
Livonia

pointing situation. The ironic thing about reading your editorial was the same day I read it, I also read a commentary (in another newspaper) by Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, titled "How U.S. is redistributing wealth – to the wealthy." In his commentary, Reich makes the case of how the wealthy continue to profit at the expense of the working class and the poor.

I saw your story about the Salvation Army as more proof that "trickledown economics" do not work. Ronald Reagan cut taxes on the rich and so did George W. Bush. Then, during the Great Recession (which started before Bush left office) with it easier for the rich and corporations to keep more profits and with more in need, charitable, giving has fallen. At a time when many in our country could use a hand-up, less is available and government aid is also being cut – all while big corporations are holding cash from record profits and the rich have gotten richer.

An example of redistributing wealth here in Michigan was Gov. Snyder's billion dollar tax cut for business and the tax increase on seniors and taxing pensions to pay for it while also reducing unemployment insurance. The promise was jobs, which have not come, as can be seen by our continued high unemployment. The new jobs that have come have come because of the bailout of the U.S. auto companies. Businesses are not going to hire people they do not need, no matter how much their tax is lowered. In fact, the opposite has been happening as companies have sought and gotten higher productivity with fewer workers.

It is past time to set a fair tax burden and raise wages so more will prosper

and our economy will grow for all. The income gap between workers and their bosses has never been greater and union membership is at an all-time low. Seeing the numbers, one need look no further. As they say – figures do not lie, but liars can figure.

**Chuck Tindall**  
Novi

### Hold Patterson accountable

Gov. Rick Snyder and Senate candidate Terri Land should condemn Oakland County Executive, L. Brooks Patterson's incendiary and outrageous comments about Detroit. In an article titled "Drop Dead, Detroit!", which appears in *The New Yorker* magazine, Patterson is quoted as saying: "What we're going to do is turn Detroit into an Indian reservation, where we herd all the Indians into the city, build a fence around it, and then throw in the blankets and corn."

Under the tenure of Patterson, embracing human and geographical diversity has become mostly toxic within the Republican Party. Such a callous condemnation of a city which is trying to regain its credibility as one of America's vibrant urban jewels is a direct slap in the face to the people of Detroit as well as all Michiganders. When is the Republican Party going to hold its so-called leaders accountable for their offensive, bigoted and divisive statements?

**Jill Farber-Bramson**  
West Bloomfield

### The state of Snyder

Well, Gov. Snyder has given his fourth State of the State address, but I think I'll pass on joining his sycophant audience in applauding him. When you hear these politicians giving these self-aggrandizement speeches that make life sound so rosy, you almost have to pinch yourself to make sure you're still

### Income gap continues to widen

Regarding your recent editorial concerning the Salvation Army not meeting their fundraising goal this past Christmas, I was not surprised. Still seeing a Red Kettle bell ringer in front of our local Kroger store and still stopping to contribute, my wife and I, after asking, were informed of this disap-



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# 'Madman' documents abolitionist movement

Edited in Novi, film gets world premiere Friday in Detroit

By Cal Stone  
Staff Writer

What can a 17-year-old teach us about history?

See for yourself Friday, when Luke Jaden offers the world premier of his film *Madman or Martyr* at the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit.

It is a documentary focusing on John Brown, the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad, specifically dealing with Detroit and the impact it had on that city between the years of 1837-59.

Jaden said his 40-minute film searches for the true meaning of Brown's life and attempt to free the slaves from this brutal institution.

"Brown's life falls into a dark chasm filled with a macabre of events that prevents him from achieving salvation for the African-American slaves," Jaden states in his synopsis of the film. "A mere few months before Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, Va., Brown transports 11 slaves to Detroit, a hub of the Underground Railroad, and discusses his 'Subterranean Pass Plan' with Frederick Douglass

and George DeBaptist, along with other local Detroit abolitionists. The freedom will not ultimately come for the African-American slaves for nearly a quarter century later."

So how did a senior at Detroit Country Day High School come to tackle such a heavy subject and put it on film?

"It was a history class project last year," Jaden said. "It was our whole grade - either write a paper on Abraham Lincoln or do a documentary on abolition. I thought it would be cool to do a documentary, mainly because I'm an actor. But I wanted to try out this whole writing, producing, directing thing and see what's behind the camera, not necessarily what's in front."

Jaden started researching the topic and found John Brown and Detroit as a hub of the movement. He also realized that not much had been done with this particular focus. He wrote a script, which "started getting a lot of buzz," and began auditioning actors in Michigan and accepting tapes online.

### Picking the cast

"This guy, Ed Kelly, blew us away," Jaden said, so much so that in addition to playing the lead of Brown, he's also the narrator. Kelly portrayed Sen. Dennis Darden in *The Double* starring Richard Gere.

Phillip Edward Van-Lear, known for his role



A scene from the film "Madman or Martyr," written, produced and directed by Luke Jaden, a Detroit Country Day student. The film debuts Friday at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

on TV's *Prison Break*, fell in love with the script and his character.

"He said, 'I am Frederick Douglas. I have to be part of this project,'" Jaden said.

Next, Jaden approached Tim Holmes, who was producing a film at the time. The Lansing native portrayed the strong man in last year's film "*Oz the Great and Powerful*" starring James Franco.

"I told him, 'You really look the part and your voice is this character. Will you be part of it?'" Jaden said. "I sent him the script and the next day I got a phone call from him and an email from his agent - 'We have to be a part of this! I was just jumping up and down with joy. That completed the cast. Three roles and they all have this chemistry that went so well together.'"

A "decent size" crew of about 45 was assembled, using film industry

grips, gaffers, electricians, assistant directors, cameramen, etc.

"It was a slow time in Michigan - not many films at the time," Jaden said. "They worked for differed pay. If the project makes over a certain amount, they'll get paid."

### Novi connection

Through a friend, Jaden met his director of photography, Joel Warren, who runs Axis Media in Novi.

"I fell in love with his work and how he shot and his whole style," Jaden said. "I called him up, he read the script and enjoyed it and wanted to be part of it. He actually shot it."

Using Canon 5D and 7D cameras, the shooting took place over six days in Romeo and Detroit, then all the voiceovers were done at Magnetic Recording Studio in Pontiac.

But the writing process consumed much time.

### WORLD PREMIERE

*Madman or Martyr* will be shown at 6 p.m. Friday at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, located at 315 E. Warren Avenue, Detroit. Doors open for a meet-and-greet at 5:30 p.m. A Q&A and discussion with some of the cast and crew will be held after the screening. The event is free and open to the public.

the actors so they could connect and bring their characters to life," he said. "That was also a key factor for the narrator - having that visual and knowing what to write for him to tell the story."

Final editing consumed almost three months. Three hours of film was cut to an hour and 20 minutes and then that was whittled down to 40 minutes.

"We had to be very strategic," Jaden said. "We didn't want to take out the juicy stuff. Forty minutes wasn't a requirement, but I wanted to make it shorter. Most documentaries, you lose interest. We wanted this to be high intensity from the first second to the credits rolling at the end."

A key part of the film is the soundtrack, with original music composed by David Winans Jr. (of Detroit's famous gospel family) that Jaden said, "really adds an emotional impact."

Jaden said his film, shot on "the lowest budget ever," turned out much bigger than he expected. He has shown it to family, friends, cast and crew, but Friday will be the first time for the general public to view it.

Jaden is submitting "Madman or Martyr" to several festivals - Sundance, South by Southwest, Toronto and Cannes - and is hoping the History Channel, A&E or PBS pick it up as well.

Until we could show it to

# Pet owners get help, support in discussion group

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Dennis Cuper still grieves Max's death. The Livonia retiree sometimes even feels guilty that his golden

retriever, whom he considered his son, is gone. Cuper decided to end Max's suffering from neurological problems in August, after trying traditional medicine and acupuncture for two

years. "In June he started getting incontinence. I was getting two hours sleep every night for two months straight. I was totally worn out," said Cuper. "I had caretaker

burnout." Was Max ready to leave him? Cuper knew he'd find that answer in Max's eyes. "Did I really see it in his eyes or was it just burnout?"

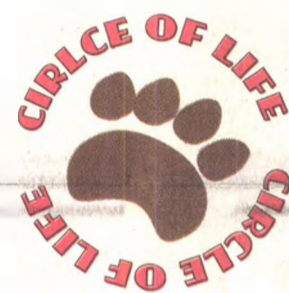
Cuper hopes to put the question to rest and find some peace through Tail Waggers' 1990's new Circle of Life Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group.

The group meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., at Tail Waggers' 1990, 28402 Five Mile, in Livonia. Attendance is on an as-needed, drop-in basis. Call 734-855-4077 to reserve a spot.

### Questions, answers

Tricia Luger, a pet owner with a master's degree in clinical psychology from the Michigan School of Professional Psychology, will facilitate discussion, which will include such topics as taking care of sick pets, deciding when to say goodbye, struggling with the frustrations of medical treatments, feeling grief, sadness or guilt, and considering a new pet.

Laura Zain, Tail Waggers' 1990 founder, said the new program is more than grief counseling. It's a chance for participants to share stories, questions, grief and successes



the right choice without prolonging the animal's life unnecessarily," Zain said. "People come in and donate their (deceased) animal's leftovers. When people come in here with bowls, collars and leashes, there would be tears. We'd talk to them about it and find out what happened and give words of encouragement. Now I feel like we can give them something more."

The group is open to all ages, but weekly sessions are limited to approximately 15 individuals. Zain said she would consider starting a second weekly session, if needed.

Zain said she is facing the "challenge of letting go" with one of her own pets, an elderly cat that has been treated for cancer.

She'll be on hand at the group for at least the first few sessions. She hopes Circle of Life will not only draw pet owners with questions, but those who also want to share their answers.

That's exactly what Cuper intends to do.

"When you're with other people who have similar (experiences), it helps you to realize they are going through that, too. It tends to help," Cuper said. "Maybe by being there, I can help someone else."

with others.

"We decided to start this because of the number of inquiries that come to our office. We have so many people calling with questions about their pets," Zain said. "They will call us wanting to know if we euthanize. When we explain we don't, it opens a conversation - they don't know if it's the right time, what are the signs, can they come in and talk to a vet."

"They are turning to us for advice for their pet needs. They're using us as a resource center."

### Feeling empowered

Zain and Luger, a Tail Waggers' 1990 volunteer, struck up a conversation about the callers' questions. Luger offered her services for free, but suggested a discussion and support group, rather than a grief counseling program.

"I'm hoping this will empower people to make

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## CC second in Observerland

Plymouth captures first-ever crown

By Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

Solid from top to bottom, Plymouth added another trophy to its already crowded 2013-14 wrestling case when it captured its first-ever Observerland Invitational title Saturday at Livonia Churchill.

The Wildcats, who have already garnered the Wayne County and KLAA South Division dual meet crowns, scored a team-high 212.5 points in the 23rd annual event.

The Novi Detroit Catholic Central Blue-White team (193) finished a strong second, while

defending champion Westland John Glenn (177.5), Livonia Franklin (131) and Wayne Memorial (120) rounded out the top five.

Plymouth earned places in all 13 weight classes, with senior Mohamad Youssef and junior Hussein Youssef earning individual titles at 119 and 171, respectively.

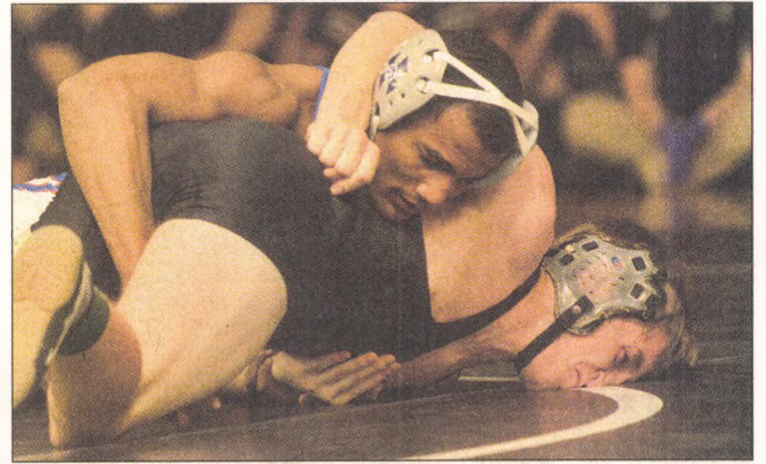
Adding seconds for the Wildcats were Collin Reed (103), Brandon Harris (112) and Jon Conn (145) and Joey Shaver (160).

"I was pretty happy with the way our guys wrestled today," Plymouth coach Quinn Guern-

sey said. "We came with a goal to try and get a lot of our guys to place and get a lot of guys on the podium. We brought 13 guys and all 13 made the podium, so mission accomplished as far as that goes."

The Wildcats also got a third from Michael Jordan (285), while Spencer Schiftar (125), Dylan Dwyer (135) and Sterling Schiftar (140) added fourths.

"We had a great round in the semifinals," Guernsey said. "Spencer Schiftar had a good win over a regional qualifier. Sterling Schiftar upset the No. 1 seed at 140. The whole quarterfinal round was good. I think we had 10 guys in the semifinals, which is a solid



Catholic Central's Greg Johnson (top) won on a technical fall over Lutheran Westland's Caleb Richter at 135. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

day." CC, meanwhile, fielded a split squad after the No. 2-ranked Shamrocks (Division 1) had a double-dual home meet scratched Saturday against

Midwest prep powers Cincinnati (Ohio) Moeller and Marmon (Ill.) Academy.

Catholic Central earned

See WRESTLING, Page B2



Novi's Nick Zugaro (left) and Erik Biberstein try to wrestle a ball away from a South Lyon East player. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Novi tankers sink Salem

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Behind victories in seven of 12 events, Novi's boys swim and dive team evened its record in the KLAA Central Division at 1-1.

The Wildcats (2-3) defeated Plymouth Salem (0-2, 0-2 Central) 109-77 on the road Jan. 23.

Tanner Vincent and the diving squad combined to lead the way for Novi once again. Vincent won both the 200 freestyle (1:48.84) and 100 breaststroke (1:03.15), while the Wildcats divers swept their 1-meter event thanks to James Ciolli (203.75 points), Nathan Pelletto (196.30) and Trey Richman (152.20).

"Tanner Vincent earned a state qualifying time in the 200 freestyle and our divers continued to dominate as they finished first, second and third," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said.

Vincent also helped the 200 medley relay team to a first-place finish (1:47.27), as another group of Wildcats took fourth in 1:53.74. Novi's 200 free relay team won its race 1:36.07, while more Wildcats took third in 1:40.47. Salem won the 400 free relay in 3:26.27, but Novi took second (3:27.42) and third (3:40.86).

Novi had a slew of other swimmers finish in the top three throughout the night. Sid Kareddy won the 200 individual medley in 2:10.43 and Joey Berman won the 500 free in 5:10.76.

Runners-up finishes came from Karredy in the 100 free (53.26), Nathan Louie in the 200 IM (2:13.66), Ryan Katulski in the 500 free (5:19.68), Kyle Kilponen in the 100 butterfly (59.69) and Arthur Shi in the 50 free (23.80).

Shi was also third in the 100 fly (59.83), as was Andrew Kilponen in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.15), Toraki Maehata in the 100 free (53.30) and Gordy Williams in the 100 backstroke (1:00.45).

Salem won four individual races over Novi, including the 50 free (23.24), 100 fly (59.52), 100 free (51.42) and 100 back (58.74).

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

## Wildcats cagers split close contests

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

The difference between a win and a loss could've been two baskets in each of Novi's boys basketball games last week.

The Wildcats (3-8, 2-4 KLAA Central) dropped a four-point loss to Livonia Stevenson (4-7, 3-3 Central) Jan. 21 before a

five-point victory Friday over South Lyon East (1-10, 0-6 Central).

Senior Erik Biberstein found his stride last week, shooting a combined 13-for-19 (68.4 percent) - in addition to 11-for-15 from the free-throw line (73.3 percent) - to lead Novi in both games.

In the 53-49 loss to Stevenson, Biberstein tallied 15 points to go with six re-

bounds and two steals. Junior Billy Ulle also had a strong game with 12 points, while junior Max Yanke (eight points), sophomore Naji Ozier (six points), senior Nick Zugaro (four points, five assists, five steals), junior Brad Dotinga (two points), sophomore Kameron Hankerson

See WILDCATS, Page B2

## Novi grapplers wrap up duals with victory

By Chris Jackett  
Correspondent

Wrapping up league action, Novi's grapplers split their senior night meet against the two South Lyon schools.

The Wildcats (8-10, 2-3 KLAA Central) dropped a 39-28 decision to South Lyon (5-2, 4-1 Central) Jan. 22 before rebounding for a 78-6 win over South Lyon East (0-7, 0-5 Central).

Freshman Scott Latham (130 pounds) got things started with a 10-4 decision, but junior Evan Davis (135) dropped a 3-2 decision and sophomore Griffin Sparling (140) lost by pin before junior Kyle Benkarski



Novi sophomore Nate Tu (right) battles for position with a 130-pound opponent against South Lyon East. NOVI WRESTLING PARENTS

(145) could get Novi back on track. Benkarski pinned his opponent and then junior George Freeman (152) cruised

to a 15-5 victory before senior Ben Wright moved up a weight class to 160 pounds for a tough 10-5 decision.

The moves didn't pay off for everyone though, as senior John Hood (171) dropped a 4-3 decision and sophomore Cooper Smith (189) lost by pin. Dorian Haney (215) and Collin Sherrod (285) suffered similar fates, also losing by pins.

In the lighter weights, 103-pounder Chris Silva lost by pin before sophomore Willy Jackson (112) got the Wildcats another win by pin. However, senior Matt George (119) dropped a 3-0 decision before freshman Lincoln Cleary (125) finished off the evening with a pin for the Wildcats.

Seniors George (Georgia

See GRAPPLERS, Page B3

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# S.L. East earns first-ever victory over Novi

By **Chris Jackett**  
Correspondent

What a difference two weeks and home-court advantage can make. South Lyon East (7-5, 3-3 KLA Central) handed Novi's girls basketball team (9-3, 4-2 Central) its second division loss of the season Jan. 23, 42-41, just 14 days removed from a 58-38 loss in Novi. It was the Cougars' first-ever victory over Novi since East opened its doors in fall 2007. "Novi is the perennial power in our division, winning the last four championships," East coach Rob Leadley said. "We admire their program and so it was very exciting for the girls to

defeat them for the first time in East's history. "We played better together on offense and defense than we have ever played. This win is a definite sign that our program is heading in the right direction and it should give us confidence to compete well in the last half of our season." The loss came one week after the Wildcats were upset at home by Plymouth Salem (6-4, 1-3 Central), but had seemingly regrouped during a 45-40 win Jan. 21 at Livonia Stevenson (6-3, 3-2 Central). Senior Kerri McMahan was a beast for Novi last week, tallying 50 of her team's 86 combined

points (58.1 percent) in the Stevenson and East games, on 18-for-31 (58.1 percent) shooting. Her teammates went a combined 14-for-48 (29.2 percent). After a dominant 8-1 start to the season, Novi has lost two of the past three games. Against Stevenson, the Wildcats shot 35.6 percent (16-for-45), but were just 7-for-29 (24.1 percent) beyond McMahan's 26-point (9-for-16) night. She added seven steals and three rebounds against the Spartans, as her team won the rebound battle 28-26. The remaining offense against Stevenson came from junior Alex Felice (six points, six rebounds),

senior Taylor Pavlika (five points, four rebounds, two steals, one block), senior Dina Fawaz (three points, six rebounds, five deflections), senior Mallory Daschke and sophomore Allie Lipson (two points each), and senior Kristen Schubring (one point, six rebounds). Meanwhile, the Spartans, who led 23-21 at halftime, got 17 points from senior Kyra Johnson and 13 points from senior Charlesann Roy, as they shot 16-for-44 (36.4 percent). It was a similar point split that got the best of the Wildcats against East two days later. The Cougars got 17 points from junior Gabi Bird and 13

points from senior Sydney Jones. Although East trailed Novi 26-24 at halftime, it pulled ahead late with a 12-10 fourth quarter to earn a 42-41 victory. McMahan shot 9-for-15 (60 percent) for Novi in picking up 24 points, three rebounds, four assists and two steals. She got some help via a strong performance by Schubring (eight points on 4-for-6 shooting, 12 rebounds, four steals). The duo went 13-for-21 (61.9 percent), but the rest of the Wildcats went 3-for-13 (23.1 percent), as the team finished 16-for-34 (47.1 percent). "I as a coach have to do a better job of filling in the players around

Kerri, Taylor and Kristen," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "We need some secondary scoring, especially if one of them isn't scoring. And, again, we need to do a better job of keeping people in front of us defensively." Pavlika added seven points, three rebounds and three steals, while Fawaz had two points. Despite winning the rebound battle 21-16, the Wildcats lost the turnover difference with 16 to East's five.

Staff writer Jeff Theisen contributed to this story.  
Chris Jackett is a freelance writer covering Novi High School sports for the Novi News.

## WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

four individual titles led by 145-pounder Malik Amine, who was the Division 1 state champion last year at 140. The Shamrocks also got firsts from Trevor Zdebski (125), Greg Johnson (135) and Eli Joseph (140). "The real exciting thing was the younger guys — the freshmen and sophomores — that came in today unseeded and placed in the top five," CC assistant coach Kevin Griffin said. "That's the most exciting to me. Then we had a few senior wrestlers — Eli Joseph and Greg Johnson — who are beginning to show what they're made of and ready to make individual and team runs for us." Zdebski, who was third in last year's state individual finals at 119, is rounding back into form after suffering an early season injury. "He (Zdebski) was out with a broken hand and we just wanted to send him to a good tourna-

ment where he could wrestle good matches," Griffin said. "And that worked today. It allowed him to get his gas tank up. He's been off the mat, but he's proven his focus has stayed the same on winning a team and individual title this year." Amine meanwhile, decided Conn in the finals, 7-1. "I think the guy I was most impressed with was Jon Conn," Guernsey said. "We discussed whether he'd go 140 or 145, but we eventually decided to go 145 to get the better match against (Zachary) Francis of Lutheran Westland. We were thinking that we could do better at 140 with Sterling Schiftar than 145. So we show up yesterday (alpha weight) fully expecting to see Jon having a great day at 145 and all the sudden Malik Amine (of CC) walks in, so then it sounds, 'Oh, crap, but alright, well. We're going to have a good finals match, I guess,' and it was. I was happy with the match."

bemons@hometownlife.com

## Wildcats bowlers take three of four

By **Chris Jackett**  
Correspondent

If you see a Wildcat bowler, ask them how their arm is feeling. Novi's squad played four matches in four days last week — with each squad going 3-1 — before competing Saturday in the Livonia Clarenceville Tournament after one day of rest. The long week began Jan. 20 at Pinz in South Lyon, where both Novi teams claimed a victory over host Walled Lake Northern (6-3 boys, 0-9 girls). The Wildcats girls (9-1, 6-1 KLA Central) picked up a 26-4 victory by winning both Baker games 162-135 and 190-119 before also claiming both regular games 717-688 and 682-666. Sara Schulz led Novi with games of 180 and 188, while Megan Engels scored two points with games of 145 and 129. Novi's boys (4-6, 2-5 Central) had to fight for their win. The 'Cats split

the Baker games by winning 159-149 and losing 199-160. In the first regular game, Novi bowled its high game of the year, winning 1,000-943, before losing a close second game 945-938. Tied 15-15, the Wildcats won on total pins 2,257-2,226. DiAndre Moreland led the way with games of 224 and 245 for a 469 series, while Scott Pryson was second highest with games of 234 and 184 for a 418 series. Both teams kept the victories coming the next night against Plymouth (5-5 boys, 0-10 girls) at Novi Bowl. The girls won 26-4 again, after losing the first Baker game 137-135 and winning the second 223-98. Novi won both regular games 778-544 and 860-524 while claiming all 10 single points. Schulz (172, 210), Evie Plaetinck (192, 153), Engels (156, 169), Abby Ranks (128, 193) and Lizzy Malear (132, 135) all scored two points. On the boys side, Novi won 22.5-7.5 by winning the first Baker 174-143, losing the second 169-156 and then winning both regular games 991-854 and 940-912, consequently winning the two-game totals in both categories. Tommy Warner had his best day, winning two points with games of 237 and 224. Pryson also scored two points with games of 187 and 207, while Ryan Moore scored 1.5 points with games of 219 and 183. The Jan. 22 match

against Westland John Glenn (5-4 boys, 9-0 girls) at Vision Lanes was a big one for Novi's girls, as both teams were vying for the division title. Glenn got the best of it though, winning 21-9 after winning the first Baker game 170-154 and Novi taking the second 202-183 and totals. But the Rockets won both regular games 1,033-851 and 954-842, shooting five games of 225 or better. Schulz's series of 219 and 214 led the way, while Ranks contributed a point with a 216 game. The Novi boys managed a 17-13 victory despite losing all 10 Baker points in 278-221 and 173-168 games. But the 'Cats won both regular games 1,040-899 and 960-942, as well as seven individual points to take the meet. The 1,040 game and 2,000 total pins were Novi's best of the season. Brennan Snow (235, 197) and Pryson (210, 212) each totaled 432, while Moreland (218, 191) and Warner (177, 199) each scored two points. In their fourth consecutive dual meet in as many days, Novi split with Wayne Memorial (7-0 boys, 3-4 girls) Jan. 23 at Novi Bowl. The girls won 27-3 by taking both Baker games 200-136 and 160-155, as well as both regular games 969-780 and 866-840. The 969 first was propelled by Ranks' 211, Poirkowski's 201 and Engels' 232, while Schulz had the best

set of the day with games of 187 and 213. The boys match-up was the opposite, as the Zebras got the best of the Wildcats 29.5-0.5. Wayne won both Bakers 267-169 and 248-159 and both regular games 1,030-842 and 1,052-910. Snow scored the 0.5 with a 170 game, while Pryson had Novi's high scores with games of 205 and 185. After a day's rest, Novi headed to Merri-bowl Lanes in Livonia for the Clarenceville Doubles Tournament. On the girls side, Novi had three teams qualify for bracket play. Schulz and Engels were seeded second, Ranks and Plaetinck third and Malear and Piorowski 14th. The second and third seeds made for an all-Novu semifinal, where Ranks and Plaetinck won to advance to the final, finishing second. Schulz and Engels won the third-place match. Individually, Schulz took first with a high series of 628 (201, 214, 213), topping Plaetinck by one pin (200, 207, 220 for 627 total). In the boys division, the team of Moreland and Snow finished 17th of 31 teams entered, just three pins short of qualifying for the final round.

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

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Novi's Jok excels at Carnegie Mellon

Carnegie Mellon University senior defensive lineman Ryan Jok, a 2010 graduate of Novi High School, was named a Capital One Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America. He was selected to the first team after being selected as an all-district candidate the past two seasons. Jok, a business administration major, earned All-University Athletic Association First Team honors for the second time following the 2013 season as he returned to the top team after making the second team last year. The three-year starter finished the season with 43 tackles, including a team-best five tackles for loss. A three-time all-UAA Academic award winner, he also had 2.5 sacks, two pass breakups and a fumble recovery. Jok was also the lone UAA representative on the team this season. Jok was also named to

the 2013 Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III South All-Star Team.

### Hockey classes for youths

The Novi Ice Arena (42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive) has skilled instructors gearing up to teach hockey to boys and girls in the 4-11 age group — everything from putting on hockey equipment to taking their first shot on goal and working in a team environment — in their upcoming "Learn To Play Hockey" classes. This program is for kids who have a basic knowledge of skating. It will be broken into two sessions of nine classes each, running 6-6:50 p.m. each Wednesday. Session 1 runs through Jan. 22. Session 2 runs Jan. 29 to March 26. Sign up for both sessions now and save with a discounted price. The emphasis of the class is to create a fun and challenging environment for players to learn the beginning stages of balance, skating in equip-

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

### Former Red Wing McCarty at Total Hockey

Former Detroit Red Wing Darren McCarty will make an appearance at the Novi Town Center Total Hockey store 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. The Total Hockey store is located at 43111 Crescent Boulevard. Fans are invited to bring their cameras for a photo. McCarty will also have personally autographed copies of his book, *My Last Fight: The True Story of Hockey Rock Star*, available for sale. McCarty was a member of four Detroit Red Wings Stanley Cup championship teams (1997, 1998, 2002 and 2008) and played in the NHL for 16 years.

## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

(two points) and sophomore Eric Foard (seven rebounds) all chipped in. The team shot 18-for-52 (34.6 percent) as a whole, while grabbing 26 rebounds and nine steals to offset 11 turnovers. Novi had to come back from a 23-22 halftime

and 31-24 third-quarter deficit against East to claim a 56-51 victory three nights later. Biberstein's 22 points countered 28 points from East's Trent Willenborg, but the Wildcats' supporting cast provided enough to get the victory while shooting 21-for-46 (45.7 percent) and grabbing 14 rebounds. Chipping in for the 'Cats were Yanke (10

points), Foard (eight points), junior Rohit Mogalayapalli (five points, two assists), Ozier (four points, three rebounds), Ulle (three points, three assists), Zugaro (two points, two steals) and Dotinga (two points).

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

## NOVI SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Icers top defending D-1 champion

With a sixth straight victory since the holidays, Novi's hockey team is 12-5-0 (8-2-0 KLAAs Kensington) on the season.

Now ranked No. 16 in the state and No. 5 in Division 2, Novi picked up a 4-1 victory Jan. 20 over then-No. 17 Plymouth (7-9-1, 5-3-0 Kensington) and a 10-1 victory Jan. 23 over Ann Arbor Huron (5-8-0).

Niklas Tewillanger, Brendan Wexler, Ryan Baxter and Jakob Cyr propelled Novi to the victory over Plymouth before the offense really took off against Huron. Aside from Tewillanger's shorthanded goal, the other 13 goals by Novi last week were all even strength.

Huron's headaches came via Baxter (two goals, one assist), Bradley Hofelich (three assists), Mitchel Magillocco (two goals), Tewillanger (one goal, one assist), Bryan Fegert (one goal, two assists), Michael O'Reilly (one goal, one assist), Jeff Malear (one goal, one assist), Joshua Ward (one goal) and one assist apiece for Wexler, Mathew Kopel, Jordan Richardson, Gage Fisher, Mark Czapski, Jacob Lynch, Robert Gaul, Drake Shepard and Patrick Wojtylo.

Senior goaltender Austin Petty had 17 saves in the Plymouth victory and Gaul had five saves in the Huron victory as the Wildcats scored on 10 out of 31 shots in the second game.

The 'Cats will host No. 21 Northville (12-4-2, 7-2-1 Kensington) at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and No. 19 Berkley (12-2-1) at 8 p.m. Monday.

### Cheer beats both South Lyon schools

The Wildcats competitive cheer squad improved to 2-1 after a Jan. 22 quad meet at Livonia Stevenson,

where it defeated both South Lyon (3-2) and South Lyon East (1-4). The Wildcats' score of 698.74 trumped both the Lions' 680.66 and the Cougars' 546.76, although Stevenson's 752.02 helped it improve to 3-0.

Novi will participate in Saturday's KLAAs tournament at Novi.

### Vincent finalist for Scholar-Athlete

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced Jan. 23 its 120 finalists for the Scholar-Athlete Awards. Of the 120, 32 will be selected and awarded \$1,000 scholarships. There will be 12 scholarships awarded to Class A student-athletes; six per gender.

Candidates needed a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 or higher, have won a varsity letter in at least one sport and were required to respond to a series of short essay questions, submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Although Detroit Catholic Central did not have any nominees, there were six from Novi and 12 from Northville. The Novi nominees were Erik Biberstein, Mark Ghanam, Kyle Matthew Kilponen, Karissa Koomen, Andrew Turek and Tanner Vincent. The Northville nominees were Henry Chang, Alexandra Chapekis, Rachel Coleman, Eric Fox, Christopher Komorous, Cassidy Minghine, Chloe Page, Ashley Peper, Taleen Shahrighian, Barry Taylor Turner, Andrew Westphal and Christian Yap.

Of the 18 local student-athletes, Novi's Vincent was the only one to make the field of 120 statewide finalists.

— By Chris Jackett

## CATHOLIC CENTRAL ROUNDUP

### CC grapplers fall to Lowell

The Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team took a trip over to Lowell to compete in front of the high school's student body during an assembly match.

Lowell, ranked No. 15, earned a 36-27 victory over the Shamrocks as it captured eight weight classes. Catholic Central won six weights as Myles Amine, Tyler Morland, Trevor Zdebski, Malik Amine, Nick Bennett and Drew Garcia each picked up a victory.

Catholic Central's white team, which competes in the Catholic High School League, picked up two wins last week. It defeated DeLaSalle, 44-33, and University of Detroit-Jesuit, 46-15. The team is looking to win a CHSL title this year.

### Hockey team wins two

The CC hockey team played two games against St. Mary's Prep and came away with two wins last week.

In the first game, the Shamrocks earned a 5-0 shutout, scoring in each period to dominate the game from start to finish.

Ryan Burnett scored the first goal of the game with 3:04 off the clock in the first period with an assist from Lucas Turner.

The Shamrocks went up 2-0 in the second period, when Turner scored a goal of his own, taking assists from Carter Cerretani and Kyle Mulka. Brent Jones scored two minutes later on an unassisted goal before James Considine scored less than a minute later with an assist from Cerretani for a 4-0 lead.

The final goal of the

game was scored with 8:38 off the clock, when Owen Kipke scored off assists from Burnett and Mark Gossett.

Earning the win in goal was Alec Calvaruso, who stopped all 18 shots he faced.

In the second game, St. Mary's put up a bit more of a fight as the Shamrocks skated away with a 7-4 victory.

Catholic Central led, 3-2, after the first period, with goals coming from Conner Gaffney, Nicholas Macari and Cerretani, while St. Mary's had goals from Sammy Nardicchio and Alex Frye.

The second period was an even contest, with both teams scoring two goals. St. Mary's tied the game to start the period as Nardicchio found the back of the net.

The Shamrocks had two goals in the second period from Mitchell

Ossowski.

In the third, Catholic Central took a 5-4 lead and added two goals by Ryan Burnett to earn the victory.

Earning the win in goal was Calvaruso, who stopped 22 of 26 shots.

### Cagers can't stop DeLaSalle

The CC basketball team couldn't find the right recipe of offense and defense to stop Warren DeLaSalle last week as the Shamrocks fell, 55-46.

Leading the way for DeLaSalle was Jim Chapman, who scored 25 points, including 10 in the fourth. Charlie Ryan's 15 points led the Shamrocks.

Catholic Central fell to 5-4 overall and 1-3 in the CHSL Central Division with the loss.

— By Sam Eggleston

## GRAPPLERS

Continued from Page B1

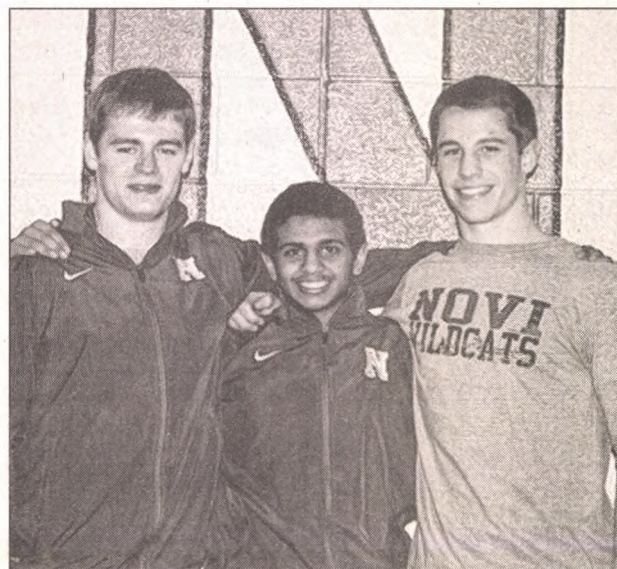
Tech), Wright (Grand Valley State) and Hood (Michigan State) were honored between matches.

Following the festivities, East forfeited six matches at 103, 119, 140, 152, 171 and 189 pounds, digging itself quite the hole. The Wildcats won

six of the seven remaining matches to clinch the meet.

Davis (135), Benkarski (145), Hood (160), Haney (215), Sherrod (285) and Jackson (112) all picked up pins before Brent George (125) dropped a last-second pin.

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



Novi seniors John Hood (160 pounds), Matt George (119) and Ben Wright (152) pose for a quick senior night photo. NOVI WRESTLING PARENTS

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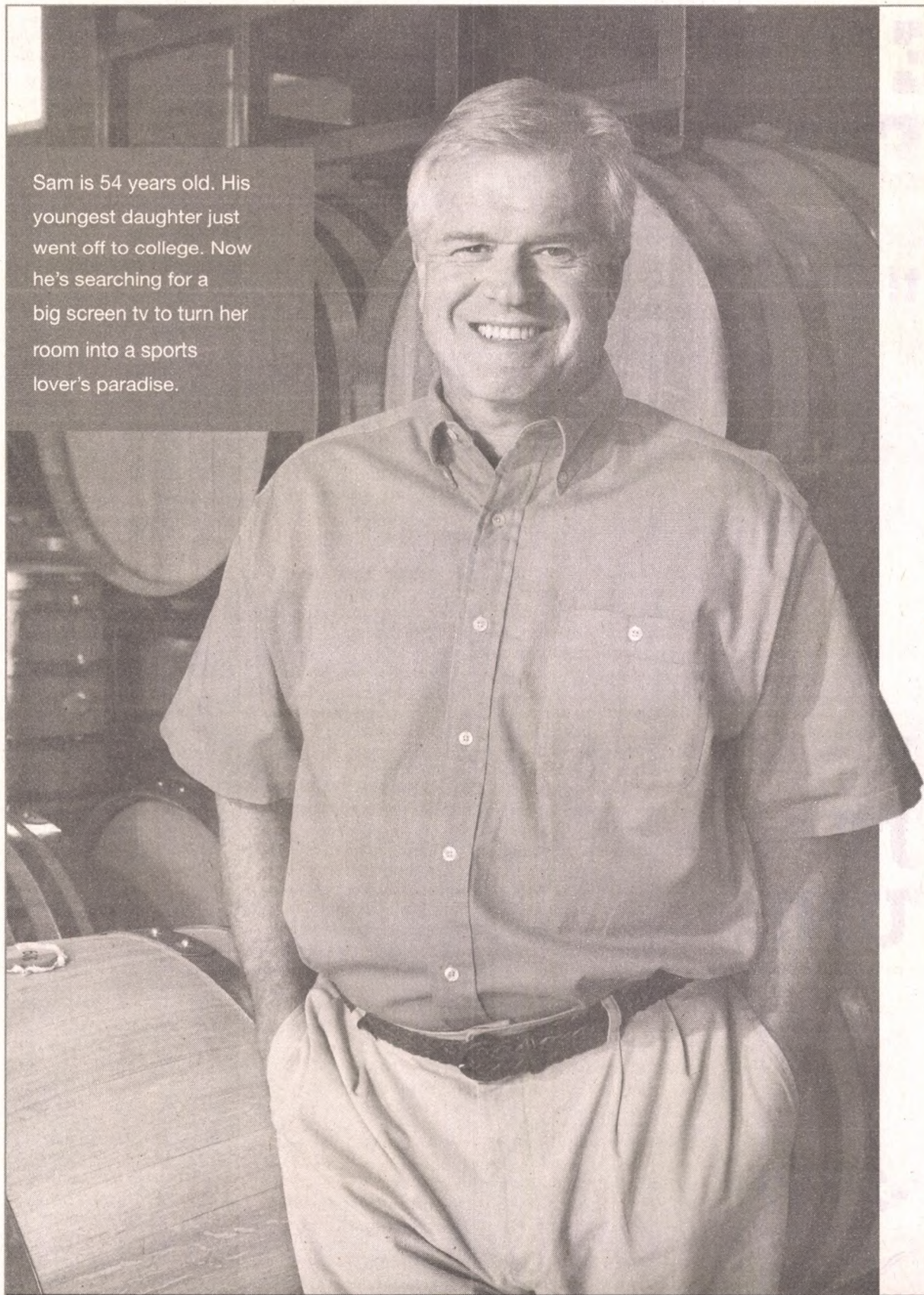
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## Former Wing McCarty to discuss book at luncheon

Former Detroit Red Wing Darren McCarty will discuss his recent book that documents his life on and off the ice at a multiple-community luncheon coming Friday, Feb. 7, to Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The four-time Stanley Cup champion will discuss his book, *My Last Fight*, in an on-stage discussion with WJR-AM (760) Sports Director Steve Courtney

at the event that involves the Livonia, Westland and Novi chambers of commerce. Members of the audience will have the chance to ask questions.

"We look forward to meeting Darren and hearing about memorable moments from those championship Red Wings teams, but also how he will bluntly talk about some hard lessons he learned in life," Livonia Chamber President Dan West said. "Regardless of your interest in hockey, I believe everyone will appreciate at least some aspect of his story."

In *My Last Fight*, McCarty shares inside stories from his childhood building his hockey dreams to his 15-year professional hockey career to details of his personal struggles in the hope others will learn valuable lessons.

Copies of the book will be sold at the event and McCarty will take pictures and sign autographs after the formal presentation.

Seats can be reserved now. The cost is \$30 for chamber members, \$40 for guests. For more information, contact Laura Sweeney at 734-427-2122 or email her at [sweeney@livonia.org](mailto:sweeney@livonia.org).



Clothes Mentor employees Keilani Haralson (left) and Colette Copp organize some of the Novi Town Center shop's display racks. The store specializes in resale women's wear, purses and shoes at 43299 Crescent Blvd.  
JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Clothes Mentor helps women go green, be stylish

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Gina and Paul Wells of Canton know lots of women want to be fashionable – and save the environment.

"We see that a lot more," Gina, co-owner with her husband of the Clothes Mentor in Novi, said of going green by recycling clothes for sale. Even younger women like to bring clothes in for resale.

"We have seen that trend really turn around," she said. "Green is really, really a big thing."

The couple also owns three Plato's Closet stores, for teens and young women, one in the Novi Town Center near their Clothes Mentor franchise, as well as Plato's stores in Canton and Ann Arbor.

They've had the Ann Arbor Plato's Closet about seven years, the Canton one 11 years.

"I'm a Motown girl," she said. "I'm all about Detroit growth. I just think we all need to pull together to get this area back to where it belongs."

Their Clothes Mentor, 43299 Crescent Blvd. in Novi, opened in November 2012 and can be reached at 248-348-3830. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. (Buying hours end one hour before closing time.)

"We buy and then resell better brand names," she said. That includes business, casual, athletic, jewelry, shoes and purses.

Women age 22 to their 70s seeking designer items at good cost are customers.

"The designer handbags are really big for us," she said, noting they buy on the spot and pay cash for good-quality items. "We buy things we pre-

ty much know will move right away."

Their Clothes Mentor customers range from Michael Kors to Coldwater Creek and Talbots, as well as plus sizes and maternity.

The Wellses opened the first Michigan Plato's Closet 12 years ago in Novi. "People that find us absolutely love us," she said. "It's been getting the word out that's hard."

Women customers appreciate the mall look of the store and its much lower prices.

"We always have people who want to sell," Wells said, adding they must reach both demographics. "We do carry really current merchandise."

Right now, women are selling clothing, common after Christmas.

"There's a wide range of styles and ages," she said.

[jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com)

## Nominations sought for Novi business awards

There is still time to nominate your business or another deserving business for a Novi Business Recognition Award.

Many attributes are necessary for a successful organization and a healthy, thriving business community. The city of Novi, Novi Chamber of Commerce and Novi Rotary will be recognizing companies for their excellence in three categories at the Toast of the Town celebration Feb. 28 at the Baronette Renaissance hotel in Novi.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 5. To be eligible for nomination, a business must have a physical location within the city of Novi.

Businesses will be judged based on the categories below. Separate awards will be given to small businesses (50 or fewer employees) and large businesses (more than 50 employees). Please choose one or more categories and provide information supporting your nomination. A business can only win in one category.

**1. Community Builder:** Businesses which partner with others to enhance the Novi community. Partnerships could include involvement with: nonprofit organizations, schools, service clubs, the city of Novi or other organizations and associations that further business interest.

**2. Best Place To Work:** Businesses which create an optimal working environment for their employees. Examples could include businesses that have taken efforts to create a pleasant work environment, innovation or career advancement.

**3. Customer Service Excellence:** Businesses which demonstrate a commitment to excel in all areas of customer service to ensure customer satisfaction. Company attributes could include the ability to interact effectively with customers and exceed expectations on a continuous basis, or a passion that runs through the company to address customer service.

A committee of community representatives will review all nominations and select the winners. Winners will receive:

An award at the Feb. 28 Novi Chamber of Commerce Toast of the Town gala at the Hotel Baronette.

A business article in *Novi Today*, the official quarterly publication of the city of Novi. This publication goes out to 27,000 residence and businesses in Novi.

A profile in the Novi Chamber of Commerce News e-blast.

Recognition in the city of Novi e-Biz monthly online newsletter to more than 3,000 recipients.

### DETAILS

To submit an application, include the information listed below, as well as a separate document that describes in 400 words or less why the business should be considered.

Documents are due by Feb. 5 and should be emailed to [info@novichamber.com](mailto:info@novichamber.com) or faxed to 248-349-9719.

Name of business applying for a Recognition Award

- » Type of business
- » Contact person
- » Number of employees
- » Website
- » Email
- » Phone number

## Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media REACH

Wie-Hin Pan, Executive Director of Huntington Learning Center in Canton speaks about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media



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### NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### CANsystem, Danlaw team up

Novi-based Danlaw, Inc., a global provider of connected vehicle telematics, automotive electronics and embedded engineering services, announced its strategic relationship with CANsystem, Co. Ltd., a technical service provider to the Korean auto industry.

"CANsystem is a perfect fit for representing Danlaw's Mx-Suite product line as they have a stellar reputation for providing testing products and integrated solutions for automotive embedded electronics," said Dan McClung, vice president of operations for Danlaw. "We are confident in CANsystem's ability to support our joint customer base in Korea."

The Mx-Suite Embedded Software Test tool is designed to help automotive ECU module suppliers produce their products more efficiently and with higher quality than traditional methods. Using intuitive graphical diagrams, software requirements are easily documented with performance criteria and tolerances, therefore simplifying software validation.

#### Retailers report weak holiday sales

Hurt by damaging winter storms and outdated government policies that favor out-of-state, online companies, Michigan's retail industry suffered a poor holiday shopping season, the Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) said.

Retailers posted only a 0.1 percent average increase over last holiday season, according to the Michigan Retail Index, a joint project of MRA and the Federal

Reserve Bank of Chicago.

"Retailers were hit by arctic air, snow and ice storms that knocked out power across the state during the critical final days of the holiday shopping season, when stores should have been full," said James P. Hallan, MRA president and CEO. "At the same time, they continued to be hurt by badly out-of-date laws that give out-of-state online merchants a price advantage over our Michigan companies that invest in Michigan, employ Michigan workers, pay taxes in Michigan and support their Michigan communities."

The latest Michigan Retail Index showed 38 percent of retailers increased sales during the holiday season and 41 percent experienced declines. Twenty-one percent reported flat sales.

Retailers went into the already compressed shopping season with cautious optimism, their forecasts averaging a modest 1.3 percent gain over last year. The results were even weaker.

December sales were slightly better than November's. The Index found that 39 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 44 percent recorded declines and 17 percent saw no change. The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 50.5, up from 46.7 in November.

The 100-point Index gauges the performance of the state's overall retail industry, based on monthly surveys conducted by MRA and the Federal Reserve. Index values above 50 generally indicate positive activity; the higher the number, the stronger the activity.







