

Novi News

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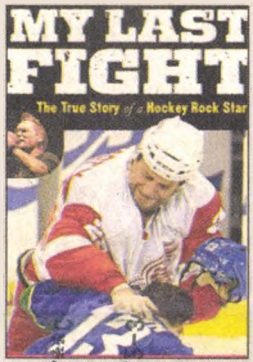
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Ex-Wing McCarty to appear at Total Hockey

Former Detroit Red Wings player 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 Blvd.

Fans are invited to bring their cameras for a photo. McCarty will also have autographed copies of his book, *My Last Fight: The True Story of a 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.



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Teenager's death ruled accidental

Macomb Township resident found Dec. 22 in Novi

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer



Fushi

Novi police reported that the official cause of death of 18-year-old Macomb Township resident Kostika Fushi was hypothermia, with alcohol being a contributing factor.

According to Novi Police Assistant Chief Jerrod Hart, the toxicology results came in earlier this month.

It proved what was suspected

all along – the death was an accident.

Fushi was reportedly on his

way to a dance party the night of Dec. 21, but ended up being found dead on a sidewalk along the side of Grand River Avenue the next morning.

The police said it appears Fushi and a number of friends were planning to attend the "Life in Color: World's Largest Paint Party," a ticketed event at the Suburban Collection Showplace, which is down the road from where he was found.

Fushi was spotted by passing motorists at 10 a.m. Dec. 22 in the 46700 block of Grand River Avenue, according to Hart. There were no reported signs of

trauma or foul play. It's unclear if he ever made it to the party.

The weather conditions that night included freezing rain, snow and cold temperatures, for which Fushi reportedly was not dressed.

But even with the cause determined, the case is not yet closed.

"The investigation will continue by looking into the events leading up to his death," Hart said of the next steps.

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Mitch Eyre begins to clear off some of the two feet of drifted snow that covered Walled Lake last month. Novi has had four snow days as of Tuesday of this week. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOUR DOWN, TWO TO GO

Novi district closing in on snow days limit

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

The polar vortex's frigid temperatures, coupled with record-breaking snowfalls, have left many surrounding school districts using up their six snow days – the maximum allowed by the state.

Novi has only used four (Jan. 6-8 and 28), but with an-

other heavy snowstorm on its way, the district could also soon be forced to figure out how to make up the lost classroom time.

"We do not have a contingency plan at this point," said Steve Matthews, superintendent of the Novi Community School District.

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Novi water rate could rise nearly 7 percent

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Detroit is proposing to increase its costs to Novi for water delivery by nearly 7 percent.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department recently announced a range of potential increases and decreases in costs to the suburban communities that purchase its water.

According to Tim Kuhns, Novi's Water and Sewer senior engineer, the potential 6.85-percent rate increase is composed of two components: a revenue requirements increase and a contract value increase.

Kuhns said no official increase is on the way yet, but there might be one.

Neighboring communities Farmington and Wixom might see 4.24-percent and 11-percent increases, respectively.

"The DWSD rate is still in the proposal stage. As such, the city of Novi won't decide on the rates impact until the DWSD rate proposal is finalized," Kuhns said. "In past years, (Novi) has passed on at least a portion of the rate increase to residents."

In Novi, the minimum rate schedule for a one-inch water meter is \$57 and a monthly rate of \$19, plus \$3.86 per 1,000 gallons of water used.



Kuhns

According to Novi's Public Services Department, the wholesale water rates charged by DWSD vary by community based on usage of water, distance from the water treatment plant and elevation change from the plant. The basis for allocating more cost to communities that use more water is that DWSD must build greater production capacity to meet the communities' maximum daily demand. Because of this, costs are higher for communities with higher peak demand.

Kuhns said the revenue requirements increase comprises 4.4 percent of the proposed 6.9-percent rate increase and is due to increases in overall system costs, such as debt service or

operations/maintenance.

"The revenue requirements portion of the rate increase is similar to past year increases. DWSD is actively working to reduce (operation and maintenance) costs through their organizational optimization efforts," Kuhns said.

The contract value modifications component comprises 2.5 percent of the proposed rate increase and is due to the fact that Novi elected for higher peak usage contract values in the most recent contract amendment.

"Higher peak hour contract values were selected as higher usage (by Novi users) was ob-

See WATER, Page A2



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WATER

Continued from Page A1

served during the 2012-13 summer periods. The 2.5-percent increase reflects a trend of higher costs to remain a peak hour customer," Kuhns said. "For this reason, communities such as Novi and Farmington Hills are electing to construct water system storage to manage peak flows from DWSD, thus realizing rate benefits from DWSD."

Novi hopes to have this storage system up and running in the next couple of years. But in the meantime, residents might see an increase in the near future.

The Novi rate to its residents contains a markup to provide funding for operations, maintenance, engineering, legal and finance operations on the city side, according to Kuhns. He added the markup also funds equipment purchases to operate and maintain the system and also provides funding to the reserve fund, which is maintained for needed capital improvements to the system.

OAKLAND COUNTY STATEMENT ON DWSD

The administration of Oakland County issued the following statement in response to media inquiries about the city of Detroit's reported draft plan of adjustment and the proposed regionalization of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department that may be outlined in that plan of adjustment:

"Oakland County representatives have neither seen nor been briefed on the reported city of Detroit draft plan of adjustment. Therefore, we cannot comment on it at this time. We do acknowledge that confidential discussions are continuing on the proposed regionalization of the DWSD but must note that, to our knowledge, no final agreements have been reached among any of the parties involved.

"In addition, we want to assure Oakland County ratepayers that before any decision is made as to whether Oakland's representatives in the negotiations will recommend the creation of an authority, both the administration and the Water Resources Commissioner, acting together, will perform their due diligence in an effort to make sure that the best interests of our ratepayers are adequately protected.

"Finally, it is essential that everyone understand that there can be no secret or confidential agreement as to the creation of an authority. Any legally binding decision to have Oakland County participate in the establishment of a regional water and sewer authority can be made only by resolution of the Board of Commissioners, in open session, after public debate and deliberation. Their decision is subject to review and approval by the county executive as provided by 1973 Public Act 139."

- Bill Mullan, media and communications officer

"If the rate increase is not passed entirely on to the users, the DWSD rate increase would cut into the city's water and sewer

division operating budget, with the potential to reduce the level of service to the system," he said.

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'Disney's 101 Dalmatian Kids'



The Novi Civic Theatre presents "Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids" Feb. 14-16. Tickets are available for purchase via cityofnovi.org or at the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office, 45175 10 Mile. This production has two casts totaling 75 kids, ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade. "This show highlights our up and coming stars," says Pamela Gibson, cultural arts programmer for the city of Novi. "By having a show for only kids in kindergarten through sixth grade, it allows them to have larger roles and gain more experience on the stage. For the spectators in the audience, the cuteness factor of this show is off the charts!" This musical adventure stars Meagan Cahill of Livonia and Sarah Griffith of Novi as villain Cruella De Vil, along with cutest cast of characters to hit the Novi stage. Performances are 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children (age 4-12) and seniors (age 55-plus). All seats are general admission. For more information, please call 248-347-0400 or visit cityofnovi.org. SKY'S THE LIMIT PRODUCTIONS

NOVI NEWS

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SNOW

Continued from Page A1

State law requires students to be in class for 1,098 hours of instructional time or at least 170 days.

One day over the allotted six requires adding six hours to the school year calendar. Matthews said if Novi added five minutes to each school day, the lost time could be recaptured in 72 days.

"However, five minutes to the day would be less than one minute per period at the middle school and high

school. Clearly not educationally meaningful," Matthews said.

Another option would be to just add a day at the end of the year. Currently, the last day is scheduled for June 12, which is a Thursday. Friday, June 13, would then become the makeup day.

"The complicating factor for adding days is that you need at least 75 percent attendance to be able to count it as a school day," Matthews said. "So I hope for good weather."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Win Valentine's Day dinner for two

Tell us in 50 words or less what makes your valentine so special and you could win dinner for two at Joe & Aldo's Italian Tavern in Novi.

Two winners will be selected by a panel of judges in this special Valentine's Day promotion. Each dinner (valued at \$70) includes an appetizer to share, bread basket, soup or salad for two, entrees and one dessert to share. Joe & Aldo's offers authentic, made-from-scratch Italian cuisine in a casual atmosphere. Visit www.joeandaldo.com for more about the Novi eatery and menu items.

Enter at facebook.com/oeohometown and look for the Valen-

tine Contest icon or go to hometownlife.com and select the Valentine Contest in the Don't Miss module.

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

CUTCO kitchen party

In recognition of February as American Heart Month, the Novi CUTCO Kitchen store (43215 Grand River, 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.

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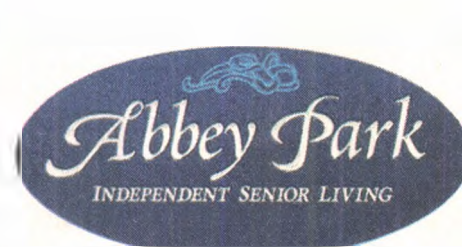
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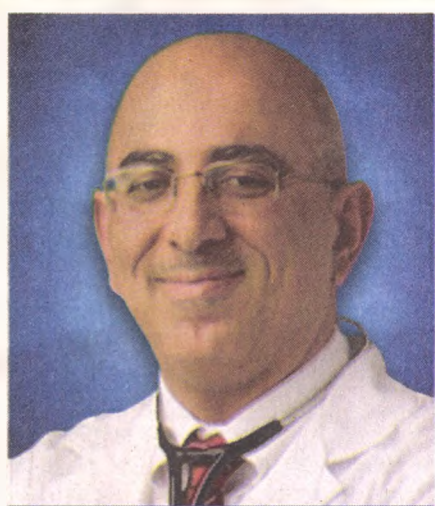
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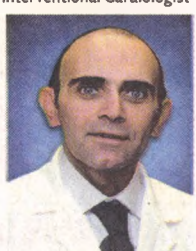
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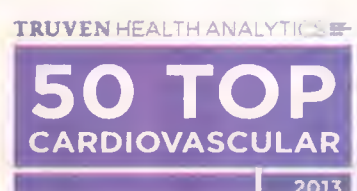
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NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Novi Community Education Preschool open house

The Novi Community Education Preschool will host an open house 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11. The open house gives the opportunity for prospective families to tour the classrooms, meet the staff and get familiar with the Creative Curriculum.

The Community Education Preschool Building (located behind Novi Meadows Fifth Grade House, 25575 Taft), Community Education Building (25425 Taft) and Novi High School Preschool Room (enter at door 40 next to playground at 24062 Taft) will all be open for tours.

Students who will be age 3, 4 or 5 by Oct. 1 are eligible to enroll. All-day classes (meet five days a week) and half-day classes (meet five, three or two days a week) are available.

Registration will begin March 13 for new students and March 11 for current families. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport. Class times and fees will be posted to the Novi Community Education Preschool website at <http://www.novi.k12.mi.us/communityed/preschool/> prior to the registration in March.

Day care is available before and after school for an additional fee at the Community Education Building, and can also accommodate students attending classes in the Preschool Education Building location.

For more information, call the Novi Community Education Preschool office at 248-449-1713.

Calling all 2014-15 kindergartners

It's time for kindergarten registration for children who will have reached age 5 by Oct. 1. Contact your neighborhood Novi elementary school office for more information.

Fight tech crime

The Novi High School SADD Club will present Oak-

land County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper in a discussion on technology and social media crimes at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the school auditorium for students, parents/guardians, educators, community members – anyone with an electronic device.

Kroger offering prizes during Black History Month Contest

In recognition of Black History Month, Kroger will focus on the historical heroes and encourage students to dream and achieve during Kroger's seventh annual "I Can Make History" contest where students can win scholarships and other prizes totaling more than \$71,000. The contest runs through Feb. 28 and is open to fourth-through 12th-grade students enrolled in Michigan schools. Students may access contest forms and details at www.icanmakehistory.com.

A Night for Northville celebrates the arts

Vibrant colors, a joyful noise and a celebration of creative expression will be part of 2014's A Night for Northville. Vocal, instrumental and physical arts in all 10 Northville public schools will benefit from the proceeds of this year's event, presented by the Northville Educational Foundation.

Hosts Susan and Chuck Gaidica welcome the community to an evening of music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and an open bar.

A Night for Northville will be from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 1, at Northville Square, 133 W. Main St.; \$70 of each \$100 ticket is tax-deductible.

The easiest way to purchase tickets is through the NEF website: NorthvilleEdFoundation.org. Tickets can be purchased in person at the business office in the Board of Education Building (501 W. Main St., Room 307). Donations to the arts can also be made directly through the NEF. For additional information: Jennifer Pearson at NEF@NorthvilleEdFoundation.org or 248-344-8458.

Novi schools looking at new bond to raise funds

By Lonnie Huhman
 Staff Writer

Novi is considered a great school district, but it can get better – with help from a voter-approved bond.

That's one of the main messages coming from the Novi Community Schools' community feedback meetings recently conducted. The one Jan. 27 was led by Steve Barr, Novi's assistant superintendent of business and operations.

He said it's a matter of needs, both critical and deferred, that might prompt the school district to go to the voters in May for a bond approval.

"We think this is the right thing to do," Barr said of the team of people who have assessed the district needs.

This might result in \$60 million to \$70 million bond proposal being placed on the May ballot.

Barr said the district is facing potential overcrowded classrooms in schools like Deerfield Elementary School and further degrading of its buildings and facilities.

According to the assessment report, the critical needs (2014-16) include facility, technology and vehicle needs, in addition to anticipated elementary school classroom additions due to upcoming housing growth in the western

part of the school district.

The deferred needs (2017-20) and extended deferred needs (2021-24) include facility, technology and vehicle needs, but are not needed until at least 2017 and 2021, respectively.

If it passes, Barr said there would not be a millage increase due to some other debt falling off the district's list. It would rather be an approval to maintain the current millage rate of 7.6 mills.

If not passed, then that millage rate is scheduled to go down 1 mill.

There are a variety of projects that would fall under the bond proposal, including new roofing, parking lot improvements and HVAC improvements.

However, it's the potential of adding classrooms for kindergarten through fourth grade, specifically at Deerfield, and the potential to build a new building to house early childhood, preschool and community education that would prompt the need for a new millage. This in total is estimated to cost up to \$15 million.

Barr said Deerfield stands out because of the population growth occurring around it.

"The population will grow, especially in that area," he said.

As far as preschool and

early childhood, Novi has had to turn away people because there is not enough room at this time. School officials say early childhood learning has become a priority on a national level.

Barr said there's room for a new building by the Novi Meadows tennis courts and bus garage. The courts would be relocated.

A lot of parents attended the community meetings.

One question that may soon be asked is, "Why do we need another bond?"

The answer is the district does not have the money to address these needs.

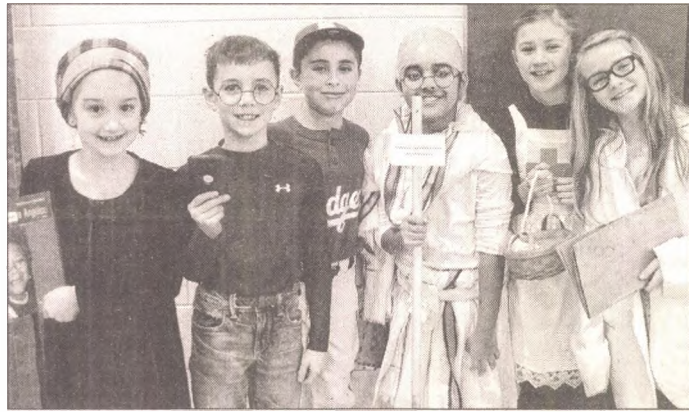
Tami Lauscke, who is also new to the district and parent to a fourth-grader, said the meeting was very helpful in getting to know the schools. She said they moved to Novi from Ohio in big part because of the schools.

"I like the concept of keeping the classroom sizes smaller, so if this (bond) does that, then it sounds good," she said of the bond proposal.

The school board and district will work to refine the proposal and could issue a decision in the next month regarding the next moves.

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Wax museum



Novi Woods fourth-graders hosted a Wax Museum of Leaders in the school gym Jan. 15-16. Students were asked to give a speech on an important world leader. They needed to dress up as their person and in their oral report include reasons why that person is considered a leader, what leadership qualities they display and which of the seven habits describes their person the best. Shown (from left) are Maya Angelou (Samantha Newman), Steve Jobs (Nick Dembinski), Jackie Robinson (Zac Rabinowitz), Mahatma Gandhi (Abhinav Suresh), Alyssa Welch (Clara Barton) and Maddi McDonald (Margaret E. Knight).

ENTRY BLANK

Hey, Novi! It's Time to Pick Your PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

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Only one entry per person per week, 18 years or older. Ballot Box stuffing will not be allowed. Only original newspaper ballots, NO COPIES ACCEPTED. Please fill out form completely. Partial Ballots may be disqualified.

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- Best coffee _____
- Best place for breakfast _____
- Best steaks _____
- Best deli _____
- Best fast food restaurant _____
- Best family restaurant _____
- Best place for soup _____
- Best place for salad _____
- Best place for burgers _____
- Best place for hot dogs/cones _____
- Best place for subs _____
- Best place for desserts _____
- Best Sushi restaurant _____
- Best Italian restaurant _____
- Best Asian restaurant _____
- Best Mexican restaurant _____
- Best Greek restaurant _____
- Best place for pizza _____
- Best martini _____
- Best wine selection (store) _____
- Best wine selection (restaurant) _____
- Best beer selection (store) _____
- Best beer selection (restaurant) _____
- Best place for romantic dinner _____
- Best after work meeting place _____
- Best sports bar _____
- Best place for dancing _____
- Best framing shop _____
- Best financial planner _____
- Best massage _____
- Best sporting goods store _____

BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES

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- Best bank _____
- Best consignment store _____
- Best eyecare _____
- Best funeral home _____
- Best salon _____
- Best nail salon _____
- Best tanning salon _____
- Best jewelry store _____
- Best real estate company _____
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- Best mortgage provider _____
- Best accountant _____
- Best auto dealer _____
- Best auto service _____
- Best oil change shop _____
- Best collision shop _____
- Best tire store _____
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- Best travel agency _____
- Best video store _____
- Best landscaping business _____
- Best health/fitness club _____
- Best car wash _____
- Best flower shop _____
- Best garden center _____
- Best dance studio _____
- Best orthodontist _____
- Best dentist _____
- Best custom home builder _____
- Best apartment complex _____
- Best insurance agency _____

All Entries Must Be Received By February 21st

Reaching goals takes everyone's efforts

My dad taught either fifth or sixth grade for 33 years in the Albuquerque Public Schools. As he and I had chances to talk before he passed away, we gained from each other's perspective. My dad was never an administrator – never wanted to be – and wondered why on earth anyone, especially his son, would want to be one. As you can see, he helps me see things from another perspective, which I appreciated.

The world my father grew up in and the world I grew up in were different. He started his life in the small towns of northeast Oklahoma, the son of sharecropper parents. For many years, he rode a horse to school and worked in the fields to help make ends meet. He talked wistfully about



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

how hard it was to sell a cow at the county fair auction, the same cow that he had raised as a 4-H project. He rode to his high school basketball games in his coach's car and there were 17 in his graduating class.

I, on the other hand, while born in Oklahoma, was raised in Albuquerque. I lived in a suburban house, walked to school, played Little League, was first chair baritone in the band, worked at McDonald's in high school, had 700 in my graduating class and enjoyed my pleasant life.

Even though our lives had different beginnings, my Dad has been able to

teach me some important lessons. One lesson that my dad taught me was that school was important. He was the first male in his family to go to college. He always told me that education was critically important in his life and opened up most of his opportunities. He always stressed that education was what allowed him to live what he has considered a good life. He often said that education took him places that he could not have imagined as a child.

My father believed that education made a difference and made it clear to me that doing well in school was important.

Here in Novi, we are working to create a school system of which everyone can be proud. We have developed four district goals. Our dis-

trict vision talks about developing each student's potential with a world-class education. Our mission calls for us to help students achieve to their highest potential. Each of these reinforces what my father always stressed to me – school is important, it can make a difference.

In order for us to achieve our goals, live into our vision and fulfill our mission, we need a commitment from everyone who is involved in educating the students in our district – parents, students and teachers. Our students cannot succeed if we don't work together.

I can remember times in school when it took everyone to help me turn the corner. In high school, my Algebra 2 teacher was enthusiastic, helpful and more than

willing to stay after and help students learn. But at one point during my sophomore year, I decided I didn't want to learn. I decided that I would rather get a low grade than put in the effort it would take to do well. I can remember my teacher trying to encourage, help and motivate me. It did no good. I was determined not to do well and I was being very successful at not doing well.

I did not turn myself around until my parents became involved. They did not threaten me or ground me or take away my bike (I didn't have a car). They just talked with me about doing better. They helped me see that school was important and deserved my best effort. They asked me about homework. They followed up with the teacher. And eventu-

ally it worked. I began to understand that school was an opportunity. If I took advantage of the opportunity, it could lead me places.

In Novi, I hope that we all agree that we are in a partnership. Each one of us plays a vital role. Without the support from each other, our students and our children will not understand the opportunity that school provides. I am sure that I frustrated my teachers and my parents on many occasions. Thankfully, none of them gave up on me. If we are to reach our goals, it will take everyone's best effort.

I think my dad would agree with me on that.

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

WALLED LAKE SCHOOL BRIEFS

Two musicals

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District presents and invites the community to two upcoming high school performing arts productions, *Tarzan – the Musical* at Walled Lake Northern High School and *Almost, Maine* at Walled Lake Western High School.

Walled Lake Northern performing arts presents *Tarzan – The Musical*, Feb. 6-9 at Northern High School (6000 Bogie Lake Road). This production is made possible by Music Theatre International.

Evening shows start at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6-8 and matinee shows start at 2 p.m. Feb. 8-9. Tickets are on sale now at www.wlcstickets.com or by calling the box office at 248-956-5465. Premium seating tickets are \$17 for adults and \$14 for students/senior citizens. Reserved seating tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students/senior citizens.

Walled Lake Western performing arts presents *Almost, Maine*, Feb. 6-8 at Western High School, 600 Beck.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. each night and tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are on sale now at www.wlcstickets.com; tickets will also be sold at the door before each show.

For more information on these productions, visit www.wlcstickets.com.

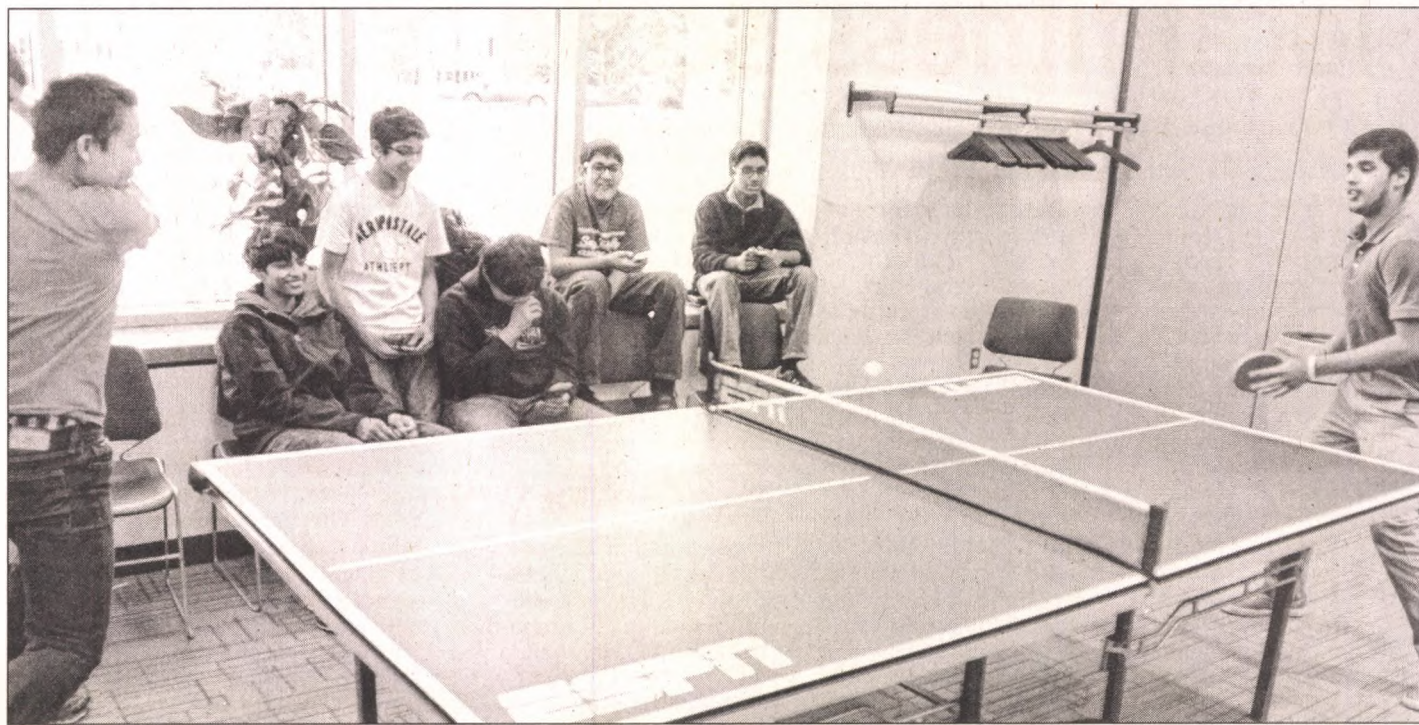
International Baccalaureate meeting

Walled Lake Consolidated School District eighth-, ninth- and 10th-grade students are encouraged to attend a meeting to learn about the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, at the Clifford Smart Middle School Media Center (8500 Commerce Road).

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme provides a challenging, internationally focused, broad and balanced educational experience for junior and senior students. Students work with IB-trained teachers to study rigorous course work that prepares them for post-secondary success. The Diploma Programme is recognized by universities worldwide.

The Diploma Programme consists of six subjects integrated through the Theory of Knowledge course that provides a framework for learning within and across the subjects. Diploma candidates are required to study English (Language A), a second language (Language B), humanities, science math, and the arts (or a second humanities or science).

Fun at the library



Daniel Yu (left) and Amal Ivaturi engage in a spirited game of table tennis Jan. 31 at the Novi Public Library. The teens were in the library's Teen Room, which opens after school each Monday through Friday and features video games on a big screen, lots of card games and, of course, table tennis. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATES

Learn more about Wayne State

Wayne State University, one of the Schoolcraft to U partner universities, will host an open house at Schoolcraft 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, to share information and raise awareness about the programs that WSU will be offering at Schoolcraft beginning with the fall 2014 semester.

Admissions and financial aid representatives and academic advisers from both WSU and Schoolcraft College will be on hand to answer questions and assist prospective students with completion of admissions applications. In addition, staff from WSU's programs, including education, social work, engineering, business, fine and performing arts, biology and preprofessional programs (medicine and law) will have presentations throughout the evening and be available to answer questions.

More information about the Schoolcraft to U program can be found at www.schoolcraft.edu/SCtoU.

Associate professor awarded

Caroline H. McNutt, an associate professor of biology at Schoolcraft, recently was named the recipient of the 2013 Two-Year College Biology Teaching Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers. This award was established by the NABT Two-Year College Section to recognize two-year college educators who employ new and

creative techniques in their classroom teaching. The award is given to one biology educator teaching at the community college level each year.

McNutt began teaching part time at several colleges before joining the faculty at Schoolcraft College in 1995. She is an associate professor of biology teaching courses in general biology, microbiology, conservation biology, nutrition and health.

Pageturners focus on 'Gatsby'

Pageturners book discussion club will host three student-led book discussions and a movie screening this month focusing on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic *The Great Gatsby*.

At 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, students, faculty, staff and the community are welcome to a special screening of the 2013 movie version of *The Great Gatsby* starring Leonardo DiCaprio. Three additional student-led book discussions will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Bradner Library on the main campus in Livonia and at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City.

All Pageturners events and activities are free and open to the public. Copies of the selected books are available at the Schoolcraft Bookstore at a discounted price. For more information about Pageturners, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/scpageturners/>.

ON CAMPUS

Michigan Technological University

The Dean's List for the 2013 fall semester includes three students from Novi: Kevin Courtney, civil engineering; Lucia Li (straight A's), chemical engineering; and Mason Pew, sound design. To be included, students must achieve grade-point averages of 3.5 or higher.

Schreiner University

Novi's Collin Francis Berenguer has been named to the President's List. To qualify, full-time students must earn at least a 3.7 grade-point average and have at least 12 hours credit for the term.

Walsh College

Novi's Keith Sampieri and Esther Nelson made the Honors List for the 2013 summer semester.

Two Novi students graduated Sept. 16, 2013: Antil Smith, master of management degree, and Julie Malaski, master of science in finance degree.

Three Novi students graduated Dec. 13, 2013: Keith Sampieri, bachelor of business administration in management degree; Jerlicia Watkins, bachelor of business administration in management degree; and Amanda Bakun, master of business administration degree.

Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras of Michigan

AUDITIONS

Saturday, February 15TH

9 am – 12 pm by appointment*



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Four ensemble groups accommodating most skill levels include:

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- Wind ensemble
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LYSO rehearse Saturday mornings at Madonna University – Music Bldg.

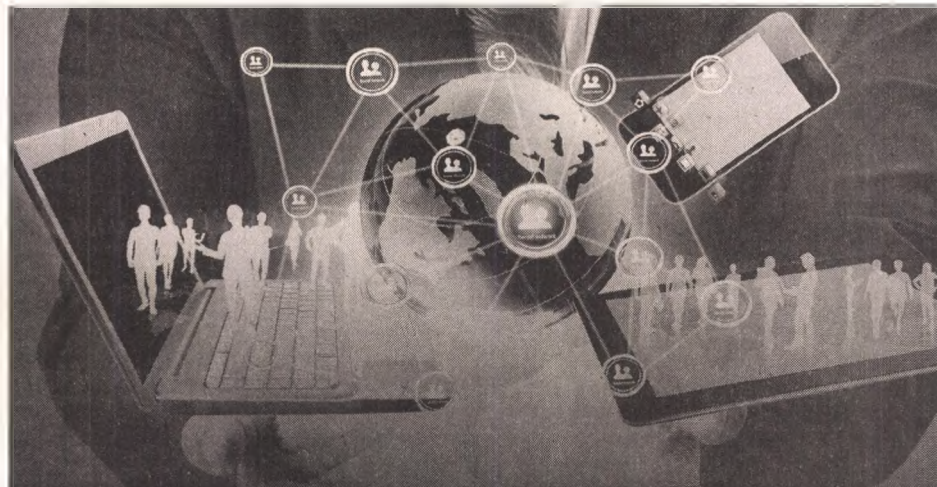
Performances include a Winter concert in January, Spring concert in May and many smaller performances from groups for charities and private events throughout the year.

To schedule an audition or for more information, e-mail auditions@lysom.org or call Dave at 734-634-5250.

*Auditions held in the Music Building at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia 48150

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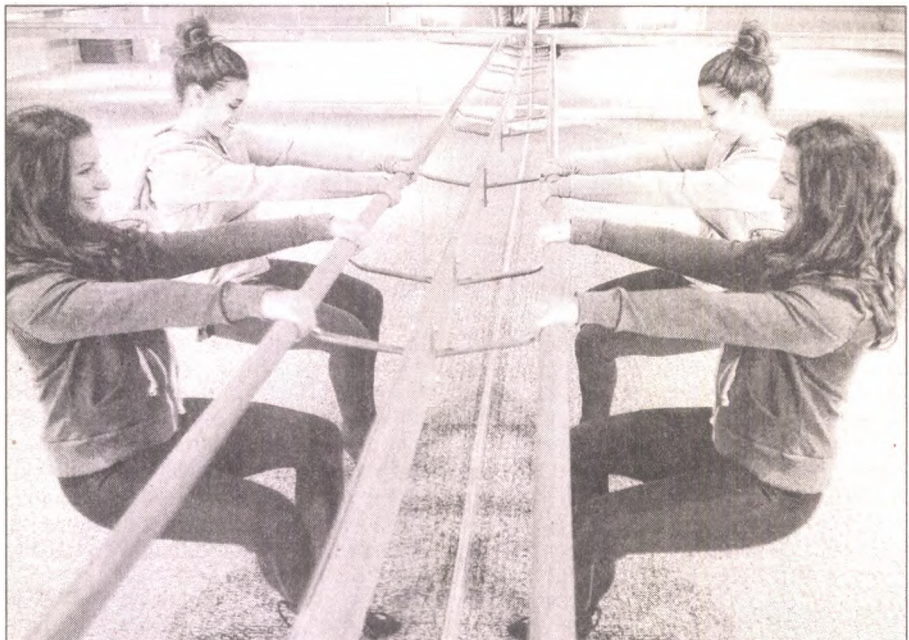
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School of Business Administration

AIM HIGHER



Melanie Brown (far left) and Kristin Mitzel warm up at the barre at Novi's Pure Barre studio in the Novi Town Center. The fitness center offers classes that teach strength and agility using many ballet poses and other exercises that work the core section. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pure Barre joins local fitness scene

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Pure Barre, a franchise business founded by dancer/choreographer Carrie Rezabek Dorr, who opened her first studio in an office building basement in Birmingham in 2001, became a franchise in 2009 and has some 160 U.S. locations. Now, there is a Novi location in the Novi Town Center (42972 Grand River), by Tony Sacco's Pizza.

"We just opened the Novi studio in December," said owner Allison Weyand of Brighton, who also owns the Brighton and Okemos locations.

"We do have some men that come,"

Weyand said. "It's non-impact." Workouts incorporate strength and stretch techniques.

"We utilize the ballet barre for a lot of it," she said. You don't need ballet training to benefit from the workouts.

"It's easy on your joints," she said. "Our teachers are very well-trained." Classes are limited to 20.

She started in 2005 with founder Dorr, with Weyand teaching and then opening Saginaw and Midland studios. Weyand traveled to train teachers and became director of operations.

"I ended up getting married and had my first baby," she said of explaining her reasons

for returning to ownership. She's had the Okemos studio some three years, Brighton for almost a year.

Weyand studied dance and said, "I grew up dancing. I just fell love with it."

She earned a bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University with studies in exercise physiology. Weyand has taught Pilates.

Pure Barre in Novi can be reached at 248-596-0002. Weyand recommends for hours and scheduling, you visit www.purebarre.com, go under Michigan and then Novi. There's also a video to watch, she added.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Second best year ever for county's Emerging Sectors

2013 investment tops \$500 million

Oakland County's Emerging Sectors business attraction and retention strategy had its second best year since inception, generating more than \$518 million of investment in 2013 while creating or retaining 4,200 jobs.

The year was second only to 2007, when \$672 million was generated, due in large part to an expansion into Independence Township of McLaren Hospital.

"We're clearly charging out of the recession," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "I can't wait for the 2014 numbers to be tabulated."

Since 2004, when Patterson created the program to diversify Oakland County's economy, Emerging Sectors has attracted new investment of \$2.6 billion from 258 successes – companies that were either new to Oakland County or stayed here when they considered moving to another state or country. The investment generated more than \$66 million in taxes and created or retained more than 44,000 jobs.

Patterson celebrated the success of the program when it reached \$2 billion in generated investment during the summer by throwing a "What goes into \$2 Billion" bash on the main floor of The Palace of Auburn Hills for the Emerging Sector compa-

TOP FIVE

The top five years for Emerging Sectors investment are:

1. 2007, \$672 million, 20 successes
2. 2013, \$518 million, 33 successes
3. 2010, \$321 million, 46 successes
4. 2008, \$194 million, 30 successes
5. 2011, \$198 million, 39 successes

nies. More than 500 people were invited.

Selected projects announced during 2013 included:

» **General Motors Corp., Milford**, \$258 million investment, 20 new jobs, consolidation of information technology services.

» **Rigaku Innovative Technologies, Auburn Hills**, \$55 million investment, 27 new and 47 retained jobs. The Japan-based company develops coatings for use in optic analysis.

» **Faurecia, Auburn Hills**, \$24 million investment, 24 new jobs and 689 retained jobs. It is a French-based auto supplier.

» **Mercury Medical Systems, Keego Harbor**, \$48 million investment, 100 new jobs. The company is creating a premier independent elder and assisted living village, which includes living facilities and medical facilities.

» **Vectorform, Farmington Hills**, \$2.2 million investment, 75 new and 70 retained jobs. The

software design and technology firm specializes in emerging digital experiences for leading brands such as Microsoft, Xbox, Coca-Cola and Chrysler. The company plans to expand its headquarters into Royal Oak.

When traditional successes are added to the 2013 tally, there was more than \$727 million of investment in the county.

"Those figures bring a smile to my face," Patterson said. "The noises you hear in the background are corks popping."

Much of the county's success is tied to its focus on attracting international companies. More than 900 international firms from 38 countries have business locations in Oakland County. In January, the county's business development team had two people at Arab Health in Dubai – one of the largest life science trade shows in the world – touting Oakland County's Medical Main Street.

One of the business development representatives left Dubai and is now in Turkey, courting automotive companies as well as medical device and information technology companies. It is Oakland County's first trip to Turkey.

More than 1 million vehicles were produced in Turkey in 2012, according to the Turkish Automotive Manufacturers Association. The Turkish automobile market is poised for significant growth due to significant investment from Renault, Fiat and Ford.

NEWSMAKERS

Novi names new finance director/CFO

The city of Novi has appointed Carl Johnson, CPA, as finance director/ chief financial officer. He officially began his duties Jan. 29. He fills the position vacated by former finance director/ treasurer Nevrus Nazzaro in June 2013.

Johnson, a current partner with Plante Moran, PLLC, will oversee the city's finance and treasury

operations including property tax billing and collection, investment management, budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, grant monitoring, payroll auditing, accounts payable and purchasing. He will also oversee the development of the city's multi-year budget, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and all other financial reporting, as well as serving on the labor negotiation team.

A certified public accountant with 25 years of experience in government accounting, Johnson worked in Plante Moran's auditing division, assisting communities throughout Michigan complete financial reviews. In 1999, Johnson founded the Governmental Accounting Professionals group within Plante Moran, filling temporary openings in

communities (finance director, accountant, clerk, etc.) while they searched for individuals to fill the openings with permanent staff. Johnson was made a Plante Moran partner in 2008.

Johnson is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts degree in accounting.

"We are gaining a very experienced colleague with solid financial values," Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said. "Carl will join the Novi team to build upon our success in multi-year budgeting, sound investments and strong financial stewardship. I also want to thank the Novi Finance Department team and Victor Cardenas, who has led them as the interim finance director. They have done a great job in sustaining our stewardship of precious public resources every day, completed the annual comprehensive financial report and thousands of transactions without a hitch."

Tarcea joins Healthmaster



Emily Tarcea is Healthmaster Holding LLC's new medicare department manager. Tarcea joined the Healthmaster team in December and has over 15 years of experience with pro-

gram operations and dedicated client service. She will direct Healthmaster's web-based Medicaid billing and clearinghouse services for school districts throughout the country.

Kramer joins Bank of Ann Arbor

Bank of Ann Arbor announced that Kevin Kramer has joined its team as vice president and private banking officer as part of its Private

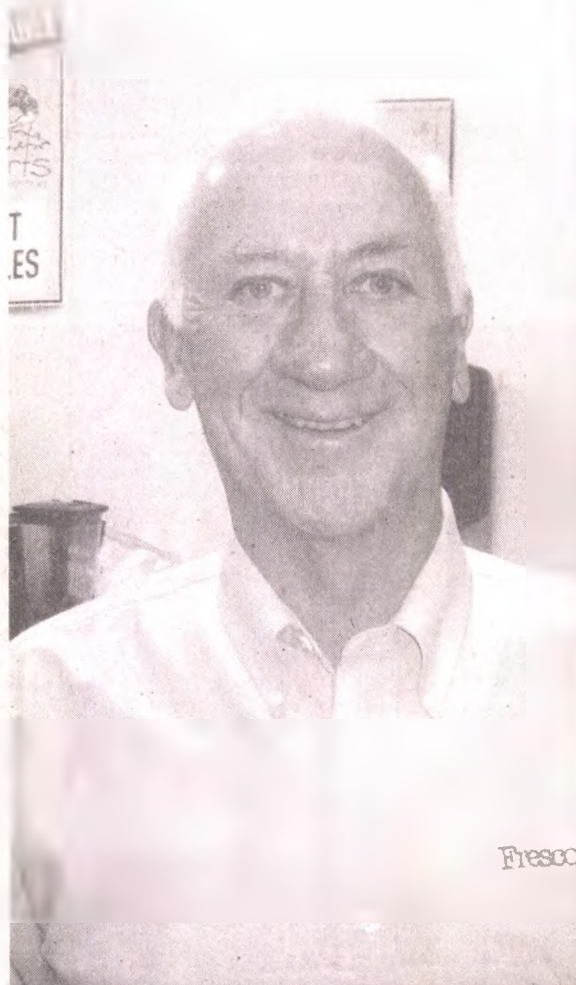
Banking Team at the Plymouth office to introduce private banking services.

Kramer has more than 20 years of experience in financial services. He most recently was employed by PNC Bank in Ann Arbor as vice president and private banking adviser. In his new role at Bank of Ann Arbor, Kramer will be able to meet the business lending and personal banking needs of professional practices in Ann Arbor, Plymouth and surrounding areas.

Kramer holds an M.B.A. in finance from Wayne State University and a B.A. from Michigan State University. He recently joined the board of the Michigan Philharmonic, is an active member of Rotary and serves in community outreach programs through St. James Catholic Church in Novi.

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media RESULTS

Steve Fuller, owner of Fresco Pizza Cafe in Milford speaking about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media



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NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fox Run marks record occupancy

Fox Run retirement community marked record occupancy in 2013 with 99-percent billed occupancy attained, an increase of 6.4 percent over the prior year. In addition, a total of 595 people were members of the Priority List in 2013, an increase of 25 percent over the prior year.

Southeastern Equipment tops sales

Gradall Industries, which designs, manufactures and supports Vacall

products, recently announced that Southeastern Equipment Co. was named the top performing Vacall dealer in the United States.

The Top Sales 2013 award was presented at the annual training meeting, held in New Philadelphia, Ohio, at Vacall's headquarters.

Southeastern Equipment has been a Vacall dealer for more than four years and recently established an Environmental Division that showcases its products, used to clear sewer lines, clean up catch basins, perform hydro-excavation for underground utilities and assist with industrial cleanup.

Mackenzie faces additional accusations

Cooper claims judge still dismissing cases

By L.L. Brasier and John Wisely
Gannett Michigan

A Novi judge, already under fire by Oakland County prosecutors who say he has been falsifying court records, faces new accusations that he quietly dismissed additional criminal domestic violence and child abuse cases, letting the defendants go, without notifying prosecutors as required by law.

Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper, in new filings Monday, said a review of cases of Novi District Judge Brian MacKenzie's court "identify several more public cases that were recently subject to illegal action by MacKenzie" that are "fitting within MacKen-



Novi District Judge Brian MacKenzie has denied that he tried to hide his actions from prosecutors. DETROIT FREE PRESS

zie's pattern of illegal judicial dismissals." Cooper filed a lawsuit in November asking that a circuit court judge begin supervising MacKenzie's docket, claiming he was routinely violating the law in his handling of cases. He con-

tinues to mishandle cases, she said in Monday's filing. "It's this 'catch me if you can' position that necessitates a superintending control order from this court, directing MacKenzie to stop his practice of illegally dis-



Cooper

missing valid state law convictions," she wrote. MacKenzie, through his attorneys, has denied wrongdoing. In a motion filed last week, asking that Oakland County Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien dismiss the matter, MacKenzie called the allegations "false, impertinent and scandalous."

MacKenzie has denied that he tried to hide his actions from prosecutors, saying public dockets revealed his activities on the bench.

"This allegation is blatantly and knowingly false. As an attorney of record, the prosecutor receives all orders of judgment issued by the court," he said. And MacKenzie claims that prose-

cutors could appeal his individual decisions if they think they are illegal.

Among the prosecutor's newest allegations:

» MacKenzie dismissed a domestic violence case against a woman who pleaded guilty to striking her husband in the eye as he held their 2-year-old daughter. MacKenzie placed her on one year of probation, but dismissed the case June 3, 2013, "on motion of prosecuting attorney." Cooper says there was no such motion and that her office would have fought the dismissal. And when her office asked for transcripts of the hearing from MacKenzie's court reporter, they were told "there is no record to be transcribed."

» MacKenzie dismissed charges against a

man accused of child abuse after he left his 2-year-old alone in a van in subfreezing temperatures for 30 minutes while he was shopping. The child was found wandering in the parking lot. MacKenzie's records say the case was dismissed "by party," but the only party that could dismiss would be the prosecutors. And they did not. "Like the numerous other cases identified by plaintiff, MacKenzie's illegal dismissal of this charge was done outside the presence of the prosecutor and without any legal support or justification."

O'Brien, the circuit court judge hearing the matter, could issue her ruling from the bench. MacKenzie has asked for a hearing Feb. 26.

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Gas stolen

A Novi resident on Fireside Court filled up his vehicle's tank with \$40 of gas before calling it a night, but awoke to see the gas tank door open and the gauge reading empty Jan. 20. Police found no evidence at the scene.

Drunken driving in winter

Novi police stopped a driver Jan. 19 for erratic driving during slippery conditions and then arrested her for OWI. The police spotted the driver on I-96 near Novi Road after 2 a.m. and stopped her at Haggerty. The report stated she was going 78 in a 70 mph zone and crossed the line several times. Considering the weather circumstances, it was deemed worthy of a stop.

The police reported smelling intoxi-

cants on the driver. She said she had been celebrating her friend's 21st birthday. She allegedly swayed during field sobriety tests and had trouble completing the walk and turn. Her blood-alcohol content was a reported 0.138 percent.

Retail theft at JC Penney

A woman was arrested Jan. 18 for attempting to steal nearly \$125 in jewelry from JC Penney at Twelve Oaks mall. Store security reportedly observed the woman on security camera taking two necklaces and some earrings and a purse and hiding them in another bigger purse. The store security stopped the woman after she left the store. She admitted to police that she took the items.

- Compiled by Lonnie Huhman

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Raulie Casteel, 44, talks with attorney Douglas Mullkoff during sentencing Tuesday in Oakland County Circuit Court. Mullkoff told the court his client was a victim of mental illness that took away his free will. "Raulie Casteel did not chose mental illness, it chose him," Mullkoff said. CARLOS OSORIO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Novi man gets prison term for sending sex images to teen

By Lisa Roose-Church
Gannett Michigan



Fourment

The father of a 12-year-old girl who received sexually explicit material from a long-time family friend asked a Livingston County Circuit Court judge to give the friend the maximum sentence for his crime.

After the statement, Judge Michael P. Hatty sentenced Aaron Michael Fourment to 43 months to 10 years in prison for using a computer to send the sexually explicit material to the 12-year-old girl.

Hatty also imposed a 16-month to two-year sentence for distributing obscene material to a child and a 32-month to four-year sentence for accosting a child for immoral purposes and using a computer to commit that crime.

"I would like to apologize to the victim and (her) family," Fourment, 35, said, adding that he will continue therapy when he is paroled.

The girl's father told Hatty that the Novi man has been a "close friend" for 20 years and he asked the judge to impose the maximum sentence because Fourment gave "a life sentence" to his daughter.

"Aaron betrayed this trust and took advantage of the fact (my daughter) was young and naive," the father said. "She was only 12 years old at the time and she will have to live with the thoughts and

images that Aaron sent to her for the rest of her life. Who knows what the long-term effects will be."

Incidents between Fourment and the girl began in the spring and continued into the summer.

Police said Fourment sent "hundreds" of "inappropriate messages" and photographs of a sexual nature to the girl.

The messages were sent on Facebook and were discovered by the girl's parents, police said.

Fourment also pleaded guilty to illegal possession of prescription drugs, possessing a stolen license plate and having an invalid automobile registration on counts related to the circumstances surrounding his arrest.

He was sentenced to county jail for those offenses and they run concurrent to the prison term.

Fourment must register as a sex offender for 25 years as a result of his conviction.

lrchurch@gannett.com
417-552-2846

JUDGE: 'THANK GOD YOU WERE A LOUSY SHOT'

Casteel sent to prison for shooting spree

By L.L. Brasier
Gannett Michigan

A judge Tuesday morning said she was sympathetic about his mental illness, but nevertheless sent I-96 shooter Raulie Casteel to prison for up to 10 years.

"Thank God you were a lousy shot, because in this case nobody was actually injured," Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford Morris told Casteel as he stood shackled, in orange jail garb, as five armed deputies stood nearby. "Mental illness is a difficult challenge, but it is

something you have to seek help for before you engage in criminal activities."

Casteel, 44, terrorized motorists along the I-96 corridor for several days in October 2012, shooting at cars across four counties. Following his arrest, he was diagnosed with a serious mental illness, that included delusions. Casteel told investigators he was shooting at cars because he believed they were part of a government conspiracy against him.

Casteel sat quietly in court as the judge ordered him to spend 80 months to 120 months in a Michigan prison. He must also serve an additional two years on a

firearms charge. The sentence was part of a plea deal with prosecutors, where Casteel was allowed to plead guilty but mentally ill to nine counts of assault with intent to cause great bodily harm less than murder.

When the judge asked if he had anything to say, Casteel declined.

Earlier in the hearing, his attorney Douglas Mullkoff told the court his client was a victim of mental illness that took away his free will. The illness struck Casteel in mid-life, with no warning, and went undiagnosed until after his arrest. "Raulie Casteel did not chose mental illness, it chose him," Mullkoff

said, as Casteel's family sat quietly in the courtroom. "This was the hand he was dealt with out of the blue."

There were no victims in the courtroom. Casteel's family members declined to speak as they left the courtroom.

Casteel admitting shooting at cars in Oakland, Ingham, Shiawassee and Livingston counties over the span of several days. Investigators believe he was responsible for 23 shootings.

Last week, a Livingston County jury convicted him of terrorism for shootings there. He faces up to life in prison when sentenced March 3.

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Area police gear up for Citizens Academy

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

Interested in an inside look into the world of law enforcement?

The Milford Police Department is gearing up once again to participate in the Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy, a joint venture between the Milford, Novi, Walled Lake, South Lyon and Wolverine Lake police departments.

Residents or business owners in each community are invited to enroll in the free 11-week program — which runs each Wednesday evening beginning March 5 — to learn about their local police department and take a behind-the-scenes look at what law enforcement work is all about.

"It's great networking for residents," said Lt. Matthew Brumm of the Milford police. "They get to know the officers and make personal contacts; it builds great relationships between the police departments and the communities."

The 30-hour program includes practical demonstrations and hands-on exercises, as well as presentations. Participants will tour the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office, the Michigan State Police DNA lab and the 52-1 District Court. They will also view a K-9 demonstration, take a turn using the Firearms Training System and have the opportunity to participate in a ride-along with a police officer.

"It's a great hands-on experience," Brumm said. "It allows people to experience some of the training and background from a police perspective. You see things on cop shows and they're not as realistic. Here, you get an actual officer from a department walking you through the training. It gives a more realistic view of what we do, day in and day out."

Lots of variety

Class locations vary from week to week, as participants from the various communities come together to go

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Date	Topic, Location
March 5	Chief's Welcome/Communications, Novi PD
March 12	K-9/Narcotics, Novi PD
March 19	Medical Examiner's Office, Walled Lake PD
March 26	Bomb Squad, Novi PD
April 2	Patrol/Use of Force, South Lyon
April 9	52-1 Tour/Judge, 52-1 District Court
April 16	Firearms, Novi
April 23	Crime Scene Investigations, Milford
April 30	Fire Department, Milford/Huron St.
May 7	F.A.T.S., Novi PD
May 14	Graduation, Sheraton of Novi

through the program.

In Week 2, for example, participants will learn about K-9 units and narcotics at the Novi Police Department. In Week 5, they'll learn about patrol and use of force in South Lyon and, in Week 8, the Milford Police Department will host a session on crime scene investigation.

"The class (in Milford) will focus on what happens after the initial police response," Milford Police Chief Tom Lindberg said. "Lifting fingerprints, investigative techniques and how things have changed since the advent of computers and the Internet."

During the session, Lindberg said, detectives will highlight significant cases revolving around something unique or some forensic evidence used to solve the case.

In the ninth week, fire department personnel from all participating communities will gather at the Milford Fire Department to present an introduction to various apparatus, techniques and an overview of how police and firefighters work together.

Popular program

"Citizen police academies are pretty popular and a good PR tool for any department," Lindberg said. "They are really designed to be a public relations tool, to give people an idea of what we do on a day-to-day basis and to show them some of the resources they have in relation to us."

Although the program has been in place for some 18 years, Milford began participating in 2012 when

Lindberg took over as chief of police. The academy, he said, has been popular and classes fill up quickly.

"We show them some entertainment and get some really good facts across," he said. "It's been nothing but positive. The people who are there want to be there."

South Lyon Police Chief Lloyd Collins agreed, noting the program is very popular in the city.

"People love it," he said. "The positive feedback from the community is the main reason we



Milford Police Lt. Matthew Brumm and Officer Brent Murray show off an evidence collection kit utilized by crime scene technicians. The Milford Police Department will present a segment on crime scene investigation at the upcoming Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy. HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

keep doing it. People like the variety, the exposure to law enforcement and the educational and social

aspects of the class. People have fun; they have a good time in the class."

And it's not just resi-

dents who enjoy the program.

"I hear from the officers how much they like interacting with the citizens," Collins said. "On a day-to-day basis, they're often dealing with people in less than ideal circumstances. The Citizens Academy gives them a chance for some positive interaction."

Classes are scheduled 6:30-9 p.m. each Wednesday from March 5 through May 14.

Participants must be 18 or older and a resident or business operator in one of the participating jurisdictions.

The registration deadline is Feb. 20. For more information, Milford residents can contact Laurie Demko at 248-684-1815 or visit www.milfordpolice.com.

Novi residents can contact Sgt. Kevin Rhea at 248-348-7100.

South Lyon residents can contact Sgt. Doug Baaki at 248-437-1773.

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County to release PSAs to help reduce gun-related violence

Focus will be on age-appropriate video games

Public service announcements by former television anchorwoman Diana Lewis to promote awareness of age-appropriate video game content for children are ready to air.

The effort is the result of a report compiled by Oakland County Commissioners Bill Dwyer and Marcia Gershenson on gun violence that was completed earlier in 2013, following a number of public hearings at the county level.

Lewis also recorded announcements to promote gun safety locks, focusing on the importance of gun safety. Gershenson and Dwyer are asking parents and guardians to select age-

appropriate video games for children and to use gun safety locks on their weapons.

"My goal is to educate and inform the public on the importance of age appropriate games and the very complicated issue of gun safety, in conjunction with early intervention for mental illness and substance abuse," Dwyer said.

The public service announcements are a part of the implementation plan for the gun violence report, Dwyer added.

"The goal is to have the public service announcements air on local commercial, cable and public access channels in January and February of 2014," Gershenson said.

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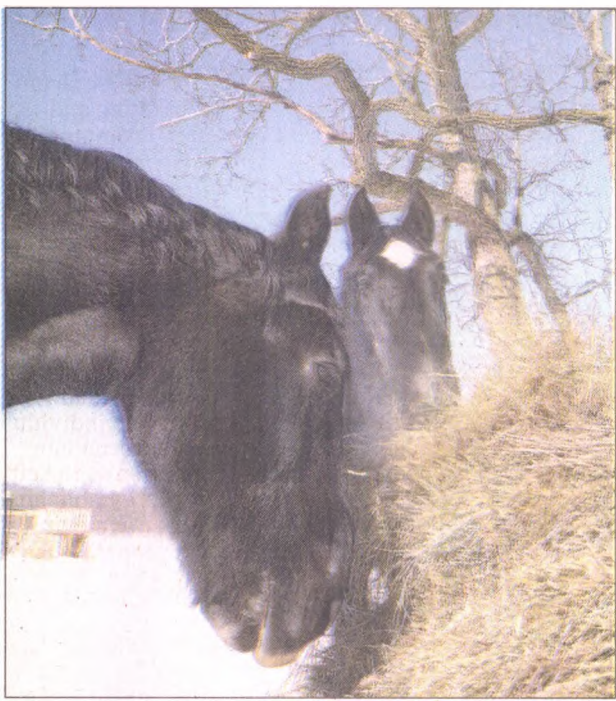
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Tollgate



A pair of percherons munch at a bale of hay in the 10-degree air Jan. 21 at Novi's Tollgate Farm. The horses, cows, sheep and other four-legged animals are a part of the working farm's community of the Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center, which is located at the northwest corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook. It's open to visitors every day. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scrapbook for a Cause at Novi Public Library

Kick the creativity into gear and get your paper, stickers and card stock 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

UPDATES FROM CITY OF NOVI

Office at 248-869-7204 to register or for more information, visit novi-library.org.

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.

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 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.

Contact the city of Novi Older Adult Services at 248-347-0414 to schedule an appointment. For more information about the AARP Tax Prep Program, contact Sandy Fisher, social services coordinator, at 248-347-0421 or sfisher@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 – Tuesday, 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 Cafe offers the opportunity to gain valuable information, free of charge. Once a month, on Thursdays, the cafe is open to adults 50

and older to play games, investigate new websites and learn from others. Refreshments are provided. The Bits and Bytes Cafe is located at the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. The cafe 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 Cafe, contact Older Adult Services 248-347-0414. To learn more about other classes for adults 50 and older, visit cityofnovi.org.

Unwanted Medicine Collection Day

Community members with unwanted medications may dispose of them safely from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook. This free community program, presented in partnership with the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Oakland County, is designed to offer an alternative to keeping expired medications or disposing of them improperly in the garbage or toilet.

Medicines to be discarded may be bought to the collection in the original containers. If privacy is a concern, participants are encouraged to remove the medicine from the bottle and use a bag or cover identity information with a permanent marker. Representatives from RRRASOC and the Novi Police Department will be on hand to assist.

For those unable to make the event Feb. 11, the Novi Police Department accepts unwanted medications 24 hours a day at its headquarters, 45125 10 Mile.

To learn more about the city's partnership with RRRASOC, community recycling or household hazardous waste days, visit cityofnovi.org.

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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 and look for the Valentine Contest icon. You can also go to hometownlife.com and select the Valentine Contest icon located in the DON'T MISS section of the website.

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Entry Deadline:

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



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Novi Parks Foundation hires new executive director

The Novi Parks Foundation has hired Janet E. Torno as executive director.

Torno joins the NPF as a major resource at this crucial time in the growth of the foundation. Her career has taken her to positions of responsibility in this region and nationally, including assistant director of the University of Michigan Museum of Art; executive director at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center; director of continuing education/associate dean at the Corcoran College of Art

ABOUT THE NPF

The Novi Parks Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on enhancing the recreational and cultural programs and facilities in the city of Novi. The NPF Board of Directors is composed of members of the community from the professional arena and from the strong volunteer base within the city of Novi. Current members include Linda Blair, David Landry, Randy Balconi, Kim Capello, Charley Staab and Stacy Ferrell. For more information, visit noviparksfoundation.org.

and Design in Washington D.C.; Artrain USA; and the Ann Arbor Art Center.

"The NPF board of directors is thrilled to

have Torno join our team as its executive director," said Linda Blair, board president and executive vice president of Novi-based ITC Holdings Corp.

"We look forward to leveraging Janet's leadership, background and experience as we work to grow and expand the resources of the NPF to enhance and improve the recreational and cultural programs and facilities in the city of Novi."

Torno's role as a consultant working with nonprofits and for-profits has allowed her work to in communication, administration/management, marketing, grant writing, public relations, strategic partnerships, sales, project manage-

ment, event planning and execution, fundraising and sponsorship/cause marketing arenas. Torno is also an active volunteer with a variety of community-based nonprofits and assists them with their programs and raising funds for education and scholarships.

Jason Mangum, director of Novi's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, is "thrilled to have Janet Torno on board, bringing her vast expertise and experience in the nonprofit and corporate community together

with our wide spectrum of programming and parks in the community. Her energy and enthusiasm will assist us as we grow our program base and expand our parks and recreational facilities in the region."

Former Novi mayor and NPF board member David Landry believes that "it is an excellent time to have an individual such as Ms. Torno join our foundation as the city plans for the establishing of Villa Barr as a cultural and recreational resource in Novi."

Begging in Novi gets 'specific' ordinance review

City revises law to comply with court ruling

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The city of Novi is amending its ordinance on "begging" as a result of last year's federal court case, *Speet v Schuette*.

According to Novi City Manager Clay Pearson, last summer the federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling from the Western District of Michigan finding the state of Michigan's prohibition on begging, MCL 750.167, to be an unconstitutionally broad prohibition on First Amendment speech rights.

"The language in the state statute is similar to the city of Novi's Code of Ordinances," Pearson said. "As a result, the city of Novi needs to amend its ordinance to reflect the ruling of the Sixth Circuit Court."

City Attorney Tom Schultz said after the ruling Novi received correspondence from the American Civil Liberties Union, which apparently filed the suit in the federal district and appellate courts.

"The letter pointed out the similarity between the city's ordinance and the state statute and suggested that the city repeal its ordinance," Schultz told city council.

The city's legal team then further researched its options and determined something more specific could remain in the code of ordinances.

At the end of the court case opinion, Schultz said the court of appeals did specifically acknowledge the state's interest in limiting begging for purposes of preventing fraud and duress.

Pearson and Schultz told council "the court made clear that it was striking down the state statute because it was a complete and outright ban against a form of speech."

But they added, "It also specifically stated that Michigan's interest in preventing fraud can be better served by a statute that, instead of directly prohibiting begging, is more narrowly tailored to specific conduct, such as fraud, that Michigan seeks to prohibit."

After reviewing similar situations, especially the one involving Royal Oak and the ACLU, Novi's legal team recommended the city adopt a more specific ordinance, similar to the one arrived at in Royal Oak.

City council members approved the drafted ordinance amendment, which is modeled after Royal Oak's aggressive begging ordinance.

Schultz said it uses much of the actual language from that ordinance.

"However, it does add a couple of additional limitations, including a limitation on begging/soliciting within 20 feet of an ATM or the entrance to a bank, which is a common provision in begging ordinances around the country (including other so-called aggressive begging ordinances)," he said. "It also adds the concept of knowingly making a false or misleading representation, which is intended to pick up the fraud aspect of the *Speet* (court) opinion."

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, ext. 255,
[Twitter: @lhuhman](https://twitter.com/lhuhman)

Christensen fundraiser



Last July, both the Northville and Novi communities were rocked by the tragic death of Lisa Christensen. She was killed by her estranged husband, who then took his own life, leaving two communities shocked and numerous family members, friends and the endless number of people Christensen touched through her involvement in local sports, reeling and searching for answers. Many who knew Christensen are now planning a wine tasting and silent auction fundraiser in her honor Feb. 8. Committee members (from left) Jamie Tran, Sue Jostes, Eric Brucker and Kim Yaggi gather at Genitti's to organize auction items like this jersey, signed by Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson. The fundraiser will be held 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at Genitti's Hole in the Wall in downtown Northville. Tickets are \$100. The ticket includes wine tasting and appetizers. Tickets can be purchased by calling Genitti's at 248-349-0522 or online at www.conta.cc/1byUXIM.

Yankee Air Museum offers flights for World War II vets

The Yankee Air Museum is going where it's never gone before by offering its first ever Flight Experience recognition season.

In 2014, YAM is honoring World War II veterans with free rides on the B-17 Yankee Lady and the B-25 Yankee Warrior when a paid rider accompanies them. This special two-for-one pricing is effective for the season beginning in May and running into October.

"All of us feel the deepest honor when a World War II veteran steps aboard one of our aircraft," said Kevin Walsh, YAM executive director. "We want as many World War II veterans as possible to have the opportunity to fly on the B-17 or B-25. This is a special offer for them and an imperative for us."

Next year, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II will be observed and, with America's Greatest Gen-



The pride of the Yankee Air Museum is its fully restored B-17 bomber, Yankee Lady.

eration now in the upper 80s and 90s, Walsh said it's an opportunity to continually pay tribute to these veterans.

"This year it's time to take dad or grandpa back through time to the era and skies where heroes have flown," Walsh said. "And it's time to go with him."

While some WWII veterans fly in the Yankee Lady and Yankee Warrior every year and are usually accompanied by a son, daughter or grandchild, Walsh hopes this incentive will bring them out in scores.

'It's all good'

"We've flown a lot of vets, especially airmen and many who were shot down and taken prisoner," said Norm Ellickson,

crew chief of the B-17. "It's impossible to imagine the thoughts they have during these flights. For some it's a last hoorah, I'm sure. For others it's more somber, like a final farewell, closing a clasp on the mission well done. One thing is sure, in every case, it's all good."

Ellickson said that a veteran's presence on any flight enriches the experience for everyone on board. He added that veterans from all branches of the military are interested in the bombers, but especially those from the Army Air Forces.

"We work very hard to get it right, so our Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and North American B-25 Mitchell are kept in top flight condition," Ellickson said. "The museum spends thousands of dollars and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to maintain these planes. We pass every inspection."

Rates for FLEX rides on the B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bomber are \$450 and \$425 for the

B-25 Mitchell medium bomber. YAM members get a \$50 discount on flights.

A FLEX ride is a 45-minute experience with approximately 30 minutes of air time. FLEX rides are being booked now for select Wednesday evenings out of YAM's home base at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti and other venues in the region.

To book a date

People who are interested in booking a FLEX ride and flying with their WWII hero are encouraged to plan early. Some of the dates may sell out early, Wright said. To order a FLEX ride or to obtain a gift certificate, call Wright at 734-483-4030, ext. 236.

Donations are tax-deductible within the limits of the law and will support the B-17 and B-25. Certain restrictions and limitations apply and veterans may be asked to provide documentation of their service. Veterans from all branches of the military are eligible to participate.

Novi Community School District (NCSD) will receive bids for: RENOVATIONS TO DISTRICT BUILDINGS BID PACK #6 - SUMMER 2014

Until 2:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, February 20, 2014 in the NCSD Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374 at which time, and place, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Board room. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted.

Bid documents can be purchased at the offices of Dunn Blue, 1009 W. Maple Road, Clawson, MI 48107 beginning January 31, 2014.

Bid documents will be available to view from the PlanWell Enterprise System on-line by accessing the website at www.dunnblue.com, clicking on "Enter Planroom" then clicking on "Public Planroom".

Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend a Pre-Bid Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 1:00 pm at Novi High School located at 24062 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48375.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum requirements in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of five (5) years
- Have successfully completed a minimum of 3 similar projects within the past five (5) years
- Must be technically and financially capable to execute a project of size and complexity
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished in the Contract Documents and be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to Novi Community School District for the sum of not less than five (5%) of the bid amount. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the NCSD School Board, Administration or Staff. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, and a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure **WILL BE GROUNDS FOR REJECTION**.

Novi Community School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves Novi Community School District interest.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDING

Laird-Giovanni

Melissa Jean Laird and Sean James Giovanni were married Oct. 19, 2013, at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. The Rev. James O'Neill officiated.

The bride, daughter of Michael and Dorothy Laird of Novi, is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in human resources and legal studies. She is pursuing a master's degree in dietetics.

The groom, son of

James and Colleen Giovanni of Farmington Hills, is a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central. He is a record producer and owns and operates the Record Shop recording studio in Nashville, Tenn.

Courtney Pistolesi served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Katie Pyett, Whitney Haynes, Ashley Glover, Sarah Wolanin, Danielle Dudek and Meagan Giovanni. Calli LeFevre was the flower girl.

Sean Griffin served as best man. Groom-



Melissa Jean Laird and Sean James Giovanni

smen were Erik Laird, Paul Cundiff, Chris Evans, Crow Belcher and Travis Singleton.

The reception also was held at the Inn at St. John's. The couple took a honeymoon trip to Punta Cana. They reside in Nashville, Tenn.

Romance will take over at Marquis Theatre

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Romance will be in the air – and up on the big screen – when the Movies at the Marquis Series returns to the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville during the month of February. In honor of Valentine's Day, the series will feature classic romantic films beginning at 7:30 p.m. each Saturday.

The films are:

» Feb. 8, *Stupid Crazy Love*, starring Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, Steve Carell, Julianne Moore, Marisa Tomei and Kevin Bacon. Rated PG-13. Sponsored by Orin Jew-

elers.

» Feb. 15, *Valentine's Day*, starring Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway, Topher Grace, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Garner and Ashton Kutcher. Rated PG-13. Sponsored by KB Jewelers.

» Feb. 22, *When Harry Met Sally*, starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan. Rated R. Sponsored by Northville Physical Rehabilitation.

Many of the movie sponsors will feature preshow activities at their locations. Northville restaurants will be open for dining.

Tickets are \$5 at the Marquis the night of

each movie. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. The theater is at 135 E. Main.

Christina Zayti of Northville, Marquis owner, is thrilled to be partnering with downtown merchants in showing the films.

"Oh, absolutely," Zayti said. "I'm hoping we get a lot of people in town. Hopefully it'll work out for the whole town."

Staff at the Northville Downtown Development Authority, which has partnered with the Marquis during previous series, chose the films.

Visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345 for more information.

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Bible Study & Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Rev. Martin Dressler
LO-0000179311

Novi

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

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Bob LaCroix, Pastor
Fr. Beto Espinoza, Associate
Parish Office: 349-8847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org

Walled Lake

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

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Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
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Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
Awards, 3 yrs old thru 8th grade
and Youth Group for 7th grade and older
Website: milfordbaptist.org

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44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
www.faithcommunity-novi.org
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM

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

Whitmore Lake

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

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pastor Bryant Anderson
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805
www.milfordpc.org
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School age 3 thru 5th grade @ 10 a.m.
Youth Group 10 am - Grades 6-12
A heritage of area worship since 1836

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mbcc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
LO-0000179396

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

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
680 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48357
248-887-1311 • www.myhumc.com
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Kids Church: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 11 a.m.
MS Youth Night Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m.
Grief Share Monday 6:30 p.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, 6 pm
Children's Church: 10:30 am
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults
248-684-2798
LO-0000179401 milfordumc.net

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

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

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
680 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48357
248-887-1311 • www.myhumc.com
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Kids Church: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 11 a.m.
MS Youth Night Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m.
Grief Share Monday 6:30 p.m.

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48380
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages: 7:00 p.m.
Also Small Groups / Ministry Teams

The Church of Christ
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyonccc.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Troy Singleton, Minister
LO-0000179313

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

New Hudson

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
57855 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48185
Phone 248-474-9108
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
Website: <http://www.newhopeuu.org>

Freedom Life Church
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom Cor 3:7
1208 E. Commerce, Milford
Worship: Sun 11am, Wed 7pm
We are here through Christ Jesus to provide Freedom to those who are hurting, diseased, addicted
LO-0000179469 and depressed.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2983
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Rob Frischar / Assoc. Pastor: Randy Wesak
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
• Email: fbcsouthlyon@sbccglobal.net
LO-0000179359

Northville

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

Livonia

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

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

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

United (248) 349-1144
777 West 6 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Taft Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times: September - May 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00
Memorial Day - Labor Day 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Wooley, Lead Pastor
www.lumcnorthville.org

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
Loving God and Loving People
22183 Pontiac Trail • 248-486-4400
(In Brookdale Shopping Center, behind Powerhouse Gym)
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Reed Heckmann, Pastor/Teacher
www.solidrocksouthlyon.com
LO-0000179451

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

WARD CHURCH
40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168
248.374.7400
Sunday Worship Services
8 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.
4 different music styles from classic to modern
www.wardchurch.org
LO-0000179460

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

OUR VIEWS

Don't mess around with flu this year

Influenza — the real deal, not the viruses that people mistakenly call the flu — is nothing to trifle with. It's beyond miserable, potentially deadly and, in most cases, preventable.

Still, most Americans won't receive a flu vaccine, even though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that influenza vaccines, on average, are about 62-percent effective.

That's less than the 70-percent to 90-percent efficacy rate the CDC estimated just a year ago, but still a far sight better than taking your chances in what is turning out to be a particularly bad flu season.

So, why do so many people take the risk?

The reasons are varied, complicated and differ from person to person,

experts say. Some fear that the vaccine carries risks. Others are lazy. Some think the flu shot is unnecessary or won't do any good.

Candidly, the science is complicated, which is why urban legends about risks or exposure get so much traction in the public and turn off otherwise sensible, health-conscious individuals from getting vaccinated.

Even public health officials are increasingly vocal about the need for a better flu vaccine.

Today, people need to be re-vaccinated every year against the flu. That's because the influenza virus is constantly changing. Virologists try to predict which viruses will be in circulation in the coming season, hoping to get a good "match" between the viruses in the

community and the viral strains used in the vaccine.

To their credit, they're pretty good at it, but it's still a hard sell to people skeptical on vaccinations and the drug industry in general. A "game-changing" vaccine would be very different.

Such a vaccine would produce immunity by including parts of the influenza virus that don't change from year to year and which are common among many strains of virus. Such a vaccine would protect people for a decade or more.

Such a vaccine would also be far more effective in producing "herd" or community immunity, where enough people are immunized that the community's viral load drops, protecting even the non-vaccinated.



Diane Ewell gets a flu shot from nurse Bhagwati Bhakta at Mollen Immunization Clinics. GANNETT MICHIGAN

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Clarifying NHS requirements

A letter to the editor published in the Jan. 23 edition of the *Novi News* had incorrect statements. It is not a requirement of National Honor Society that students be a member of an athletic team to gain admittance into the group. All the requirements are listed on the National Honor Society link on the Novi High School homepage. Please refer to that page for all information regarding admission requirements.

Barb Clift
Honor Society club adviser
Leah Wright
student

11th District saga continues

After reading the recent story in your paper about our Congressman Bentivolio, who some are calling the accidental congressman, I have to say I agreed with a lot of what you wrote. I am sure it was an accident that Bentivolio became U.S. representative for the 11th District with all of the gerrymandering done by Republicans, making it one of the most ridiculously drawn districts, guaranteeing their choice would easily win re-election. That choice was former U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter.

I am sure it was by accident that a part-time worker at the Secretary of State office found the fake petition signatures that brought about McCotter's resignation. It must have been an accident — after all, how often do they really look at those petitions that must be filed by all candidates for Congress every election? We now know McCotter's campaign filed fakes in previous elections.

Also, I find that I agree with Novi Mayor Bob Gatt: "Had McCotter not imploded, he would be our congressman." But it is just sad that a five-term congressman with a full-time taxpayer-paid staff proved to be so incompetent that he couldn't manage to get his name on the ballot for what would have been a cakewalk election. Say what you will about Bentivolio, but he at least managed that.

The Republicans' new choice for the 11th, David Trott, already a millionaire through political connections, will be a perfect fit in a Congress that is already 51 percent millionaires. Is he the best candidate to represent all of the people in the 11th? Don't the voters of the 11th deserve more from the politicians who serve them?

Cynthia Churches
Novi

COMMUNITY VOICE

"What's the one word you would use to describe this winter?"

This question was asked at various places in Novi and Northville.



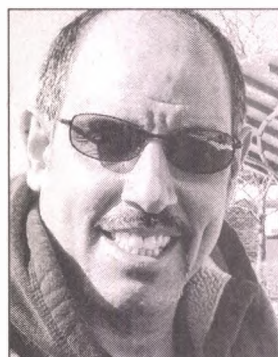
"Historic. January was the snowiest month ever in metro Detroit."

Rob Hayes
Novi Public Services director



"BRUTAL!!!"

Dale Rogers
Novi High School teacher



"Great. I love it. I have a four-wheel drive and snow blower, so it's been easier to deal with."

Tom Guajardo
Northville



"Horrific. I've never seen it this cold and windy and with this much snow. I remember the winter of '78 and that had eight-foot drifts, but this one might be worse."

Barbara Shobe
Novi

Letters from Novi High Schoolers

Keep students home when cold

This year so far has been awfully cold. Most of the students in our district are younger and at elementary schools and some are in the middle school and have to ride the bus. A lot of the kids in Novi High School can't drive or don't have a ride to school every day other than the bus. With these cold temperatures, the roads can get real slick and drivers could get hurt and we do not want that.

From your article, "Sub-zero temps, snow slam Novi," I read that three people have had heart attacks just from shoveling their snow in the driveway. It was really too cold out to have elderly people and kids to shovel their snow. I've seen my neighbor get their driveway plowed clear and it takes less than five minutes. They should just have the slow plows help out the people that need this and don't want to risk a serious injury or death.

Also when the weather gets that low on weekdays and kids have to go to school, they might freeze. Most of the kids in Novi Meadows, Novi Middle School, and a lot from Novi High, have to ride the bus. The kids

have to walk out to the bus stop where ever it is. They may even have to walk through snow, making them colder. When the weather gets like this, they should always without a doubt close the schools.

When the weather gets in the negative degrees and when it snows 10 inches of snow, don't even hesitate when canceling schools. Some kids stay up all night waiting for the call, and when it doesn't happen, they must go to school the next day tired and not ready to learn for the day and may even fall asleep during class.

Michael Shuffett
Novi

Accidents in parking lots

Parking lot crashes are a major problem when it comes to car accidents. They are one of the biggest causes of accidents in a vehicle behind drunken driving. In a parking lot, not many people take safety seriously when there is actually a high probability of an accident.

According to www.michigan.gov/msp, there were 35,086 accidents in Oakland County in 2012 and 27,925 of them were in a parking lot or local street. That is more than half of the accidents happening in a parking lot or local street. There needs to be something done to protect people in parking lots.

I, as a new driver, believe that they need to be made safer. An easy fix to this problem could be something as simple as more stop signs or even speed limit signs. When you go to Twelve Oaks mall, there are hardly any stop signs actually in the parking lot, just on the road circling the mall. Something needs to be done soon before more people get hurt. These signs are an inexpensive solution to this problem.

Neil Haakenson
Novi

Too cold for school

I would like to say that I strongly agree with the decision of the Novi Community School District to have snow days on Jan. 6, 7 and 8, and the article written by Steve Matthews explaining why. In the interest of the safety of the community as a whole, it was the proper decision to suspend school for those three days.

On all three of the days, the weather was very likely to drop into the negatives, getting as cold as -12 degrees Fahrenheit. Children that would have to wait at the bus stop or even walk to school in those freezing conditions safety would be extremely at risk. Even those that drive or

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

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

Email: cstone@hometownlife.com

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

were driven by someone to school would not be that safe considering the almost 10 inches of snow that had piled up, making the roads unsafe for most cars to drive on. Because of the fact that safety is the No. 1 priority of the Oakland County School District, those factors played a major role in the decision to close schools.

Although taking three days off of school might set students and teachers back in some classes, the safety of the community should always come first. And we need to respect the decision making of Steve Matthews because his No. 1 priority is to make sure that all members of the community are safe.

Joe Stone
Novi

Publicize classes

Recently, the *Novi News* published an article about how there will be classes for older adults to learn how to use tablets, smartphones, and applications, as well as a civilian pistol safety class and a group travel fair. Never knowing that these types of classes existed, I decided to try to search if the people in Novi have been putting together these classes often. After spending 10 minutes searching, I found that event calendars for most websites related to Novi don't include classes or small events. I believe that these events are important and should be advertised more. The only way I came across to the offering of these classes were from under the news column of this website. It's not even located in novi.com, the Novi Patch, or in the calendar of cityofnovi.org. Unfortunately, these aren't the only events that aren't mentioned much. Previous "Updates from City of Novi" have been deleted so that anyone who wanted to know

about news from a month ago can no longer find it. By deleting these posts, people might not even know that there were any classes.

There are definitely people out there that would be interested in getting involved with these events. But if no one is putting the word out there and with previous ones being deleted, it is not likely these people will learn about these things. Though there may be papers and letters from teachers, the Internet is the easiest way that we can obtain information quickly. Many citizens won't go through the trouble of asking about these events unless it is clear that there will be on these news websites. My suggestion will be to, first, not delete previous updates from Novi. Second is to install an event calendar for these types of things. Since the *Novi News* is the most popular place for news from Novi, this is the place most people will go to find these things, like me. Of course, one suggestion from a student won't automatically ensure that this will happen, but I feel like it would be a nice add to the website.

By increasing the word of these events, more people will be encouraged to attend to them and the community of Novi will be overall involved.

Matthew Crilley
Novi

Kudos for karate

Eight-year-old Lilley Aoude is extremely talented. She's a three-time Michigan Sports Karate Circuit state champion. Currently, Lilley's a brown belt hoping to soon be a black belt. People these days believe karate can only be used to hurt people rather than defending your safety. Her journey teaches others that karate's a useful tool to boost self-esteem and confidence. Karate has many benefits to the body that can help us succeed in other areas as well.

Karate's a martial art developed in Okinawa, Japan. This martial art incorporates different colored belts used to symbolize levels of achievements. Colors vary by school but the basic order from lowest to highest is white, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple, red, brown, and black.

In today's society, most people feel karate's generally a more violent sport filled with conflict and aggression. However, karate offers both physical and mental benefits. Physical benefits include improvement in reflexes, coordination,

See LETTERS, Page A15

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

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GUEST COLUMN

Mental health goes mobile

Gov. Rick Snyder called for greater civility at the top of his recent State of the State address. The Mental Health Commission clearly took note with a thoughtful, bipartisan report and unanimous support for all recommendations.

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and state Community Mental Health Director James Haveman — along with legislators from both sides of the aisle — are to be commended. Together, they produced an actionable set of recommendations that would significantly enhance both the lives and outcomes for individuals and families in our state living with mental illness, developmental or intellectual disabilities and substance abuse.

The Mental Health Commission charge is simple: "To address any gaps in the delivery of mental health services and propose new service models to strengthen the entire delivery spectrum of mental health services throughout the state of Michigan."

The authors understand that this will require more than statistics and budget numbers; the victims are real individuals with real families. They live throughout our state. No ZIP code is excluded.

After taking time to listen to mental health professionals, patients and the family and friends that love them, the commission exceeded its charge in less than a year. Among the many highlights of the report are the following recommendations:

- » Review technology guidelines and reimbursement policies to identify the barriers to promoting innovative initiatives such as tele-medicine services, improved access to appropriate treatments and early interventions regardless of location.

- » Incorporate programs to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness that can be a primary deterrent to seeking care.



Vicki Bucciere
GUEST COLUMNIST

- » Develop collaboration between the Department of Education and the Department of Community Health to develop early-intervention and best practices models to address mental health needs of students.

Additionally, the commission recommended revising Executive Order 2013-6 to extend the life of the Mental Health and Wellness Commission through 2015. This would effectively highlight the need to overcome transportation challenges for those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, mental illnesses and disorders stemming from substance abuse.

It is suggested that all these recommendations are to be viewed within the context of investment value and long-term impacts, as well as more efficient integration and coordination of services.

The action-packed report can be found at: www.michigan.gov/documents/mentalhealth/CommissionReportFinal1212014_445161_7.pdf

Transformational change

When Snyder entered office more than three years ago, he called for the "reinvention" of our great state. The Mental Health Commission's report echoes that call by examining the need for better coordination of mental health care across the state.

Another sign of progress is that the bipartisan commission unanimously agreed on all recommendations listed. The commission signaled its intent to stay together to ensure the implementation of its recommendations and to seek additional ways to improve service delivery.

This is exciting news for patient families and those

of us that have devoted our lives to providing quality care.

Technology infused with heart

I would encourage the commission to explore ways that innovative technologies can best be utilized to bring treatment options out of the Dark Ages and into the 21st century. In far too many cases, mental health treatment options remain stuck in the past while the world continues to change.

According to Forrester Research, 2013, nearly all millennials and Generation Y consumers age 24-32 owned a mobile phone and, of these, 72 percent owned smart phones. The combination of their increased mobility and the sizable economic strain expected with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act are two of the enormous societal forces impacting delivery of outpatient mental health services and the need to examine outmoded service-delivery models.

The future is here

As the demand for mental health and substance abuse treatment services increase, we need to be prepared to meet it with high-quality, cost-efficient, alternative-service delivery models and that has been an impetus for the development of BLUESPACEcounseling, LLC services. (www.bluespacecounseling.com)

Research shows that virtual, Internet-based counseling is confidential, tailored to individuals and highly effective. It provides better access, reduces stigma and provides the opportunity for early intervention. Because of its "here and now" orientation, clients feel less anxious and are more comfortable remaining in their own environment. As a result, they are more likely to participate in follow-up appointments. Such "on-site" treatment is prevention-oriented and less cost-

ly because the necessity of the traditional brick and mortar facility is eliminated.

Virtual counseling allows the client to choose electronic or digital counseling options for mobile phone or video chat sessions (using mobile apps). For those not connected to the Internet, users can still opt for the more traditional telephone counseling session.

The question being asked by millennials is, "Do you have an app for that?" The question by consumers in general is, "Is there a quicker, faster, easier, more accessible way to get to that?" Not having a mental health mobile digital device today is the equivalent of not having a fax machine in the '80s. The days of driving to a mental health therapist's office only to sit in the waiting room for your agency-structured, 50-minute hour are quickly becoming a relic of the past.

The fact is, seniors, the disabled, younger consumers and everyone else all have at least one thing in common: They don't find it convenient to go looking for mental health services. They want the support to come to them, when it's convenient for the client — not just the provider.

Michigan can leap ahead by melding "high tech" with "high touch" in ways that reduce costs, while enhancing the quality of services. As a mental health entrepreneur, I am pleased with the leadership we are witnessing in Lansing.

We need to innovate and I am optimistic about what the future will bring.

Vicki Bucciere, LMSW, ACSW, SAP is founder and president of BLUESPACEcounseling, LLC (www.bluespacecounseling.com) and has more than 25 years experience in the areas of inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use disorders and crisis intervention services. You can reach her at info@bluespacecounseling.com.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A14

performance, self-defense, strength, stamina, flexibility, fitness, and balance. Mental benefits include improvement in concentration, less stress, confidence, self-esteem, respect, and motivation. Karate can offer us all these traits that we need in life to succeed.

We should always encourage our youth to pursue an outside activity that promotes self confidence, an active lifestyle, and positive well being. Karate's a good example of one of these activities. If a child shows an interest in karate, please encourage them to become involved.

Ashley Moore
Novi

Public schools aren't failing

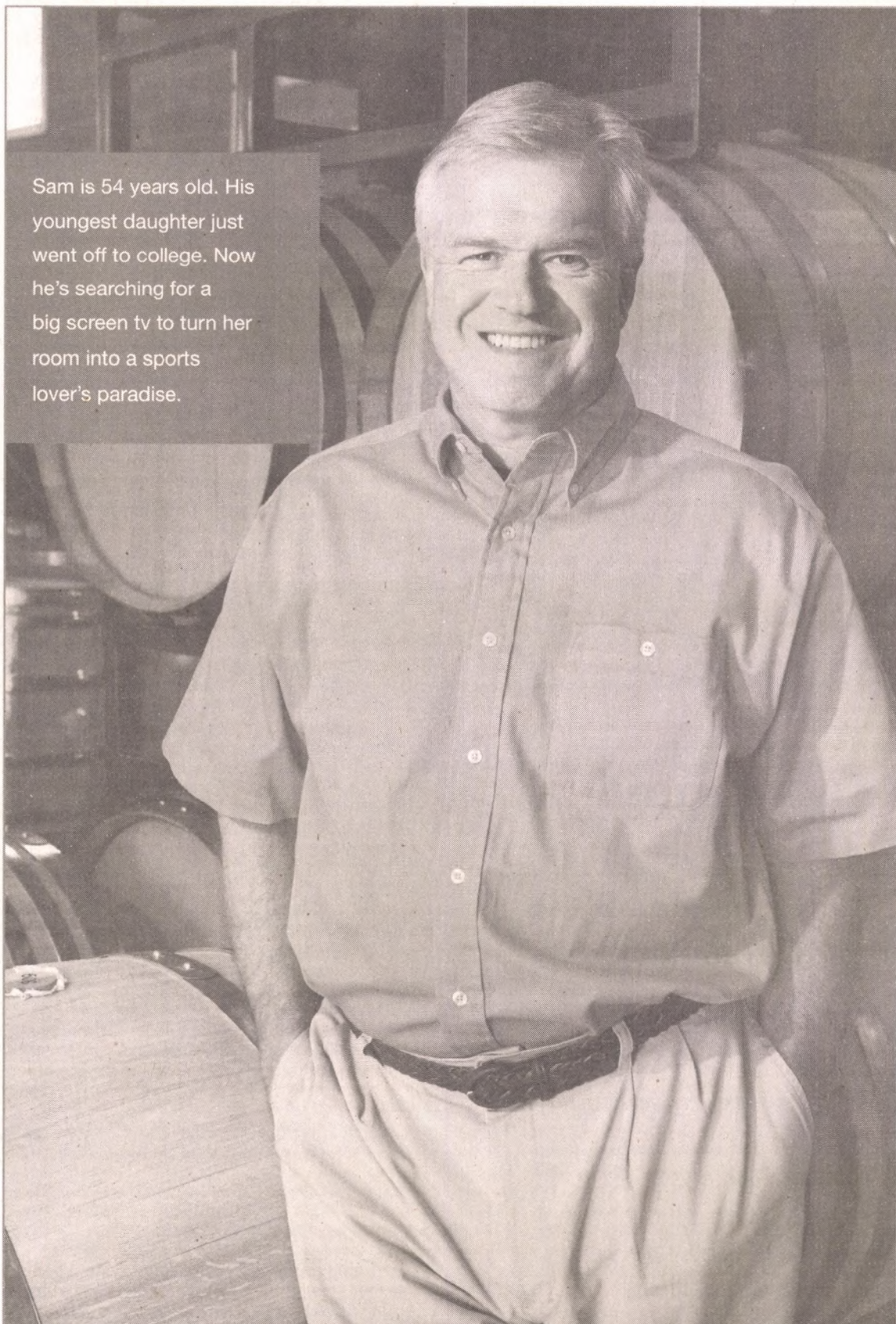
The article from Jan. 2 — "Public schools are failing ... fact or fiction" by guest columnist Michelle Cline — claims that politicians, business people and others are reporting that public schools are not educating our students or preparing them for college and careers. The author believes that these groups misinterpret statistics in order to gain public support for any programs or projects they want to operate.

I agree with the author Michelle Cline. Sometimes, government officials provide the public with only part of the data. They collect the information that they need to sell their side of the argument. Therefore, citizens are not seeing all the numbers. Also, many politicians will collect statistics from the major cities like Detroit. I believe it is OK to go to big cities to obtain some information. However, not every school district is the same. Detroit might show one set of test scores while another district will demonstrate different test scores. When looking to discover if public schools are failing, state officials need to get data from all over the state.

It seems that politicians may only be interested in reporting on low-test scores, yet there are many schools that have great scores. For example, in the class of 2013 from Novi High School, there were more than 500 students who graduated. Within those 500 students, around 200 had a GPA between 3.5 and 4.0, and of that total, approximately 46 had a GPA between 3.9 and 4.0. And as a student who currently attends Novi High School, I know that many students take honors or AP classes.

While Novi may be an exceptional high school, there are several others, such as Troy and Birmingham, which contain students who excel in academics. And like the author points out, test scores and graduation rates have increased overall across the nation in the past 30 years and more students than ever are going on to college. So this does not seem to support the statements that public schools are failing.

Alison Jamrog
Novi



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Sondheim musical 'Assassins' debuts Valentine's Day at Players Barn in Farmington

"Everybody's got the right to some sunshine." Nine characters looking for either love, equality or a common voice, deliver that message on the Farmington Players stage in the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Assassins*. They are determined to change the world by targeting the United States president in pursuit of their own twisted versions of "The American Dream."

Assassins, which won five Tony Awards for its Broadway revival in 2004, will open Friday, Feb. 14, at the Farmington Players Barn. Tickets are available at www.farmingtonplayers.org or at the box office at 248-553-2955.

Players director Mike Smith of Royal Oak said *Assassins* is a compelling history lesson, a "killer" black comedy with the power to move people, while educating them about some of America's darkest times — the product of nine presidential assassins, four who turned out to be killers. "*Assassins* is first-rate entertainment that presents American history with all its warts and foibles," Smith said.

The production is not recommended for children younger than high school age because of profanity and gun violence, Smith said.

The Barn is encouraging high school and college students to enjoy a special performance on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 17. All students will get tickets at half-price, with a complimentary ticket given to a teacher who brings a group of 10 or more students.

The show's premise: Put assassins together in "purgatory," a carnival setting that erases all boundaries of space and time, allowing them the freedom to share their madness in the form of music (including a barbershop quartet singing about their fondness for guns).

Although the subject matter is dark, Smith said it makes for some great theater. "I don't think this show is any darker than other productions out there. Look at *Les Misérables* as an example or *Miss Saigon*. Good dramatic theater often takes the most disturbing parts of society or individual character and presents it to an audience. It's an effort to examine the infinite depths of the human condition ... to see who we are as human beings."

The production serves

up a host of colorful characters who demonstrate the contrasts between their reasoning and legacy. All of the assassins in the show are people in America's history. Among them are John Hinckley Jr., who tried to kill Ronald Reagan, and Squeaky Fromme and Sara Jane Moore, who provide on-stage comic relief in their plot to kill Gerald Ford.

Other assassins include Sam Byck, who plotted to kill Richard Nixon; Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed John Kennedy; and John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Abraham Lincoln.

Jason Wilhoite of Commerce Township translates the assassins' feats into folk music as the clean-cut narrator "The Balladeer," weaving his sardonic comments through various chapters of American history. Keith Firstenberg of Livonia plays the devilish "Proprietor," intent on dragging the assassins into the abyss.

The cast is rounded with Erik Elwell (Farmington Hills), Jane Firstenberg (Livonia), Jim Moll (Farmington Hills), Martin Rinke (Royal Oak), Pat Rodgers (Novi) and Patrick Whener (Birmingham).

Rachael Rose of Waterford Township directs a score set to popular American sounds of ballads, waltzes, hymns, marches and fairground music, as well as bluegrass and Dixie. Audiences will tap their toes tapping toes to tunes such as *Everybody's Got The Right*, *The Ballad Of Booth*, *The Gun Song*, *Unworthy Of Your Love* and *Another National Anthem*.

"All the actors have to work together because the music is almost always each of them having a piece of a conversation and when put together in the whole and done well, it is exquisite and a complete conversation or narrative," Rose said. "It is no easy task and this cast is doing a fantastic job of bringing to life, but also the music and themes that Mr. Sondheim intended."

Director Smith considers the components of *Assassins* "great theater."

"I want the audience to walk away from this production thinking about what their version of the American Dream is and asking themselves if they're taking the steps to make it happen," Smith said.



Dave Davies, (left) Wayne David Parker and Cheryl Turski perform a scene in "Murder at the Howard Johnson's."

Tipping Point production helps fight 'winter blahs'

Murder at the Howard Johnson's by Ron Clark and Sam Borbrick brings with it a mystery and a murder — or does it?

The new play at the Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady in Northville, asks these questions.

What can you do with a wife who wants a divorce one minute, then loves you the next? Arlene cannot decide whether to stay with Paul, her dumpy car salesman husband of many years, or leave him for Mitchell, their dentist, who has swept her off her feet. The two finally conspire to murder Paul in a room at the local Howard Johnson's motel. This is

the first of several hilarious twists and turns as this clueless threesome leave us wondering who hates who, who loves who, and who can really pull off a murder.

"An evening of laughter in a warm theater will be a welcome distraction from the winter blahs," director James R. Kuhl said. "The cast in this production is incredible. The hilarious combination of Wayne David Parker and Dave Davies have quickly become Tipping Point favorites for good reasons. This duo, combined with the TPT debut of Cheryl Turski, is going to be a show you will not want to miss."

Kuhl added, "Tipping Point audiences especially love their comedies and this one is sure to live up to that high expectation. They should plan to laugh a lot."

Murder at the Howard Johnson's runs through March 9. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. each Thursday through Saturday, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. A special matinee performance has been added Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Members of the Actors Equity Association will perform. Tickets are \$29 to \$32 for adults, \$27 to \$30 for students and seniors. Call the box office at 248-347-0003.



Some of the assassins include (from left), David Galido of Novi (John Wilkes Booth), Keith Janoch of Farmington Hills (Leon Czolgosz), Barb Bruno of Farmington Hills (Sarah Jane Moore) and Barry Cutler of Ferndale (Charles Guiteau). JAN CARTWRIGHT

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NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- LOCAL EVENTS**
- NORTHVILLE/NOVI GARDEN CLUB**
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10
Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street
Details: Three members of the club will do presentations on how to create projects at this monthly meeting. A social mixer with snacks will begin at 6:30 pm and demonstrations begin at 7 p.m. A cellphone camera or pen and paper may be helpful to bring to the meeting.
Contact: Kathy O'Brien at obiekathy@yahoo.com
- DECORATING SEMINAR**
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11
Location: 28704 Wall St., Wixom
Details: Wixom based interior design firm Decorating Den Interiors - The Simmons Team is hosting *Wine & Design*, a room-makeover decorating seminar open to the public. The seminar will focus on dramatic room transformations and the process of working with an Interior Decorator. Seating is limited, so interested parties should RSVP before the event.
Contact: 248-596-0300 or thesimmonsteam@decoratingden.com
- DEMOCRATS MEETING**
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18
Location: Novi United Methodist Church, 4167 W. 10 Mile
Details: Rich Robinson, will address a meeting of the Democrats of West Oakland County on the topic of "Dark Money in Politics". Meeting is free and open to the public. Snacks provided, pizza may be purchased.
- Contact: www.mydemis.info
- CARELINK LECTURES**
Transitions - Life After Treatment group
Time/Date: 6-7:30 p.m. second and fourth Monday of each month
Location: Providence Park Hospital's Assarian Cancer Center, Second floor Conference Room, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Details: If you have recently finished cancer treatment or have been out of treatment for a while and would like to connect with other survivors, please join this informative discussion and peer support.
Contact: Jenny Bailey at 248-465-5466
- FRIENDS OF ISLAND LAKE**
Time/Date: 7 p.m. fourth Tuesday of each month (except December)
Location: Island Lake State Recreation Area headquarters at Kensington and Grand River Avenue
Details: Meetings are open to any interested individual. The group's purpose is to support, enhance, protect and promote the natural, historic, & recreational features of the park and the Huron River by increasing awareness of the parks assets through the education and outreach activities, encouraging and facilitating communication and cooperation between diverse users of the park and its staff, organizing volunteers and stewardship activities and fundraising through contributions and grants to support these initiatives.
Contact: www.islandlakefriends.org
- BEREAVEMENT MEETING**
Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesday of each month
- Location: Novi Civic Center (10 Mile between Taft and Novi roads)
Details: Led by Michael M. Meyer, D. Min., goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story.
- NAMI METRO**
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of each month
Location: Providence Park hospital, Novi
Details: Family support group meetings
Contact: For more information, or questions, contact NAMI metro at 248-348-7197 or visit <http://www.namimetro.org/>.
- SUBURBAN COLLECTION SHOWPLACE**
Location: 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi
Phone: 248-348-5600
Web: www.SuburbanShowplace.com
- GREAT LAKES ART FAIR**
Times/Dates: 1-8 p.m. Friday April 11; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday April 12; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday April 13
Details: Event combines exclusive and desirable works from local, regional and national artists and craftspeople with a charming village marketplace setting, seasonal motif and on-site cafe with light fare. The GLAF offers an unofficial kick-off to the warm weather art fair season, and a chance to see new artwork before it "hits the streets" at outdoor fairs across the region.
Contact: 248-348-5600; www.GreatLakesArtFair.com
- BUSINESS**
- NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Contact: www.novichamber.com or call 248-349-3743
- AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**
Time/Date: 6:15-8:30 p.m., second Wednesday of each month
Location: DoubleTree Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi
Details: Novi Oaks is a chapter of the American Business Women's Association. The group meets monthly for networking and a program featuring speakers on an array of market-relevant topics. Organizers strive to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition. Guests are always welcome; advance registration is required. Visit www.abwa-novi.org.
Contact: Holly Hengstebeck at publicity@abwa-novi.org.

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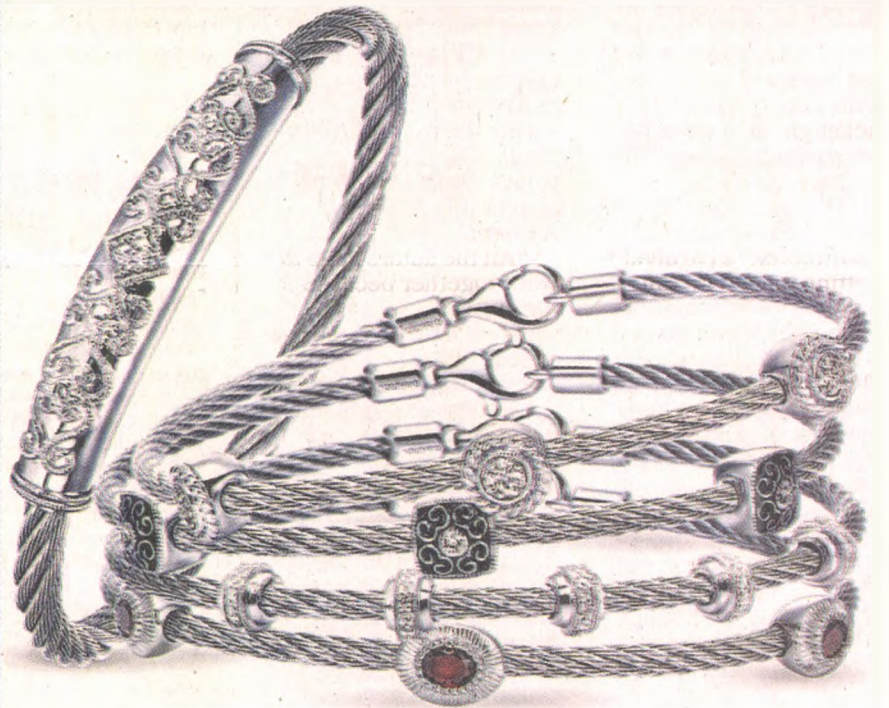
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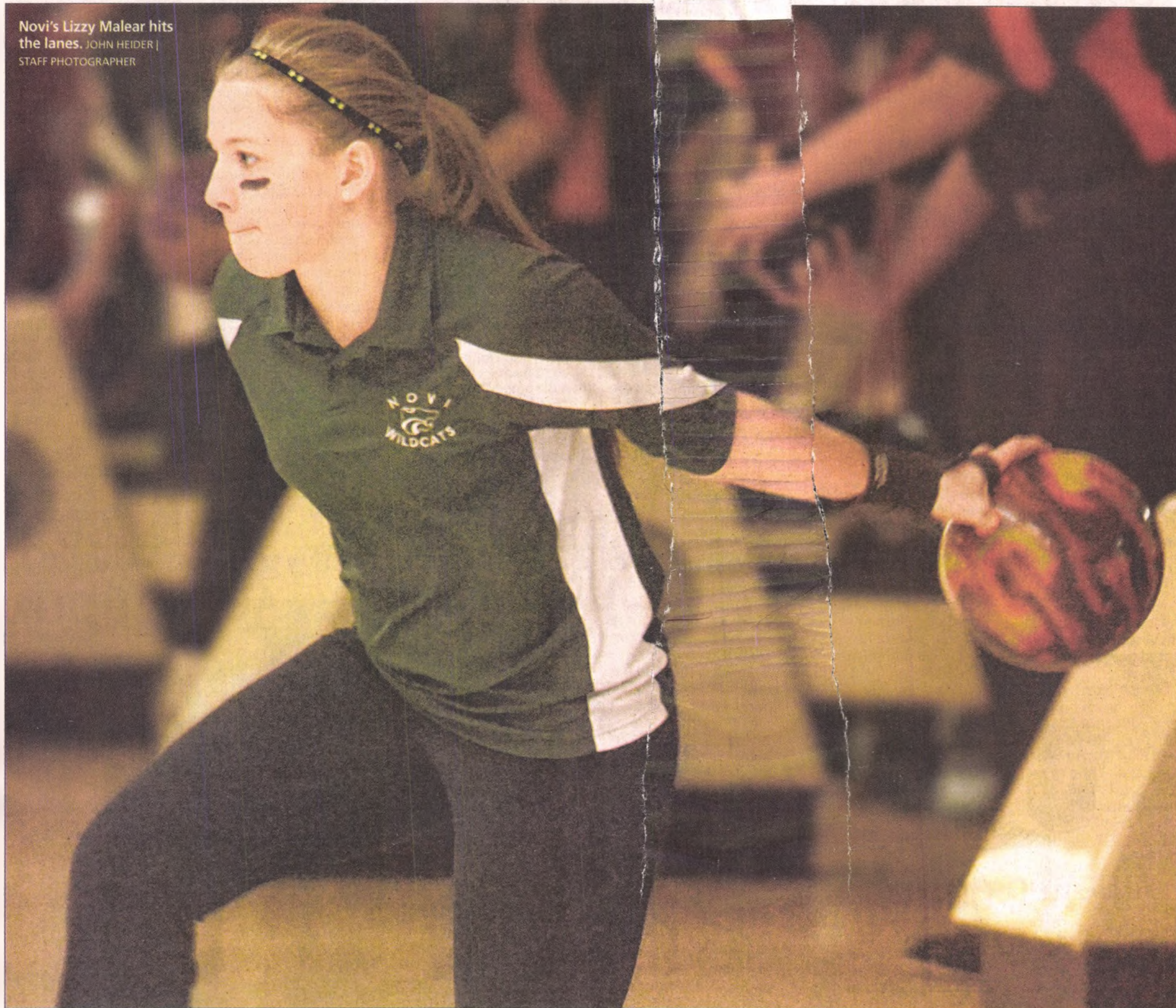
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Novi's Lizzy Malear hits the lanes. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Novi topples Northville

Rematch with John Glenn to determine girls KLAA Central Division winner

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Novi's bowling squads each picked up a victory Jan. 30 over Baseline rival Northville at Novi Bowl.

The girls (10-1, 7-1 KLAA Central) continued their winning ways with a 29-1 stomping of the Mustangs (4-7, 3-5 Central). The Wildcats won both Baker games, 159-137 and 187-132, before winning both regular games, 786-669 and 839-710. Scoring two points apiece for Novi were Evie Plae-tinck (157, 188), Abby Ranks (159, 180), Megan Engels (175, 150) and Sara Schulz (181, 182).

The boys (5-6, 3-5 Central) had a tougher time with Northville (0-11, 0-8 Central), but pulled out a 16-14 victory

ON TAP

Novi (10-1 girls, 5-6 boys) will head to Town N Country Lanes to face Plymouth Salem (2-10 girls, 12-0 boys) Friday, host Northville on Monday and to Whitmore Lanes to face Westland John Glenn (10-0 girls, 5-5 boys) on Wednesday, all at 3:30 p.m. The division title hinges on the contest against the Glenn girls, who previously handed Novi's girls their only loss of the season.

after splitting the Baker games with a 210-116 win and 133-128 loss. Novi then lost the first regular game, 906-863, while winning three single points, but won the second game, 908-881, and won three more single points. Tommy Warner (170, 215) and Ryan Moore (204, 213) both scored two points and



Novi's Ryan Moore bowls against Northville. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

had clutch strikes in the 10th frame to win single points, while Dan Savela (179) and DiAndre Moreland (203) scored the other single points.

At Saturday's Mercy Tournament at Drakeshire Lanes, the 'Cats didn't have as much success as a team. Schulz made the all-tournament girls

team by finishing fifth with a 599 series (219, 192, 188) and Scott Pryson fell seven pins short of the all-tournament boys team while shooting 611 (231, 223, 157).

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



Novi junior Evan Davis attempts to roll over his 135-pound Walled Lake Western opponent. NOVI WRESTLING PARENTS

Wright, Davis rank among best grapplers in KLAA

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In their final week of KLAA action, Novi's grapplers battled other fifth-place division finishers before competing at the individual association championships.

The Wildcats (9-11, 2-3 KLAA Central) first headed

Jan. 29 to Milford, where they battled the host Mavericks (3-6, 1-4 West) and Walled Lake Western (2-6, 1-4 North) with a split decision.

Sophomore Griffin Sparling (140 pounds) kicked things off with a tough loss by pin before Kyle Benkarski (152) lost a 12-3 decision to put the Wildcats down 10-0,

but Western voids at 152, 160 and 171, plus a Novi void at 189, led to an 18-16 Wildcats lead. Junior Dorian Haney (215) picked up a pin before junior Stevie Davis (285) lost to a tough opponent. Sophomore Willy Jackson (112) pinned his opponent and the

See WRESTLING, Page B3

Vincent breaks own school record in 100 butterfly

Novi tankers tank vs. Spartans, finish 12th at county championships

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

It was a rough week for Novi's boys swim and dive team, which ran into a solid Livonia Stevenson squad before diving into the Oakland County Championships.

The Wildcats (2-4) fell 118-68 to the Spartans (2-0) Jan. 30 at home while winning just two of the 12 events and placing multiple tankers among the top three in just three of the events.

"Although we lost by a lot, it was a very successful meet for us," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "As many of our swimmers are beginning to rest for championship season, we had a lot best times in the meet."

The divers provided a continual ray of hope as James Ciolli and Nathan Pellerito combined to finish first and second with 184.95 and 174.35 points, respectively.



Novi's Osman Zuberi swims in the 200-yard medley relay. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 100 backstroke also went well for Novi, as Tanner Vincent won in 55 seconds flat and was trailed by Gordy Williams in third at 1:00.47. Vincent also finished second in the 500 freestyle in 4:55.46. Both of Vincent's times qualified him for the state meet.

Sid Karredy also made the top ranks twice, finishing second in the 50 free (23.92) and third in the 100 free (52.10).

Although the Wildcats had no top finishers in the 200 individual medley, they consistently placed well in the relays. The

See SWIMMING, Page B2

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wildcats streak to victory over Northville

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

In a game of streaks, last week's rivalry game between Novi and Northville's girls basketball teams ended up much closer than the first meeting, a 16-point Wildcats victory.

When the Baseline rivals butted heads Friday, strong finishes in the first and fourth quarters made the difference as Novi (11-3, 6-2 KLA Central) came out ahead of Northville (10-4, 4-4 Central), 36-28.

The Mustangs – led by senior Heather Randall (12 points) – started off on a 6-2 run before Novi answered with a 15-3 run to lead 17-9 at the end of the first quarter. The Wildcats would barely double that number by the end of the game, but it would be enough to hold off Northville.

An 8-0 Northville run to start the second quarter tied it at 17-17 before Novi answered with a 5-0 run to take a 22-17 lead. Held to just two free throws in the third quarter, Novi's lead was cut to 24-22 heading into the final quarter.

The Mustangs' defense managed to hold senior Taylor Pavlika (four rebounds, three assists, two steals) scoreless, but they couldn't focus on both of Novi's stars all night, as senior Kerri McMahan (eight rebounds, three assists, two steals, one block) still got free for a game-high 17 points.

The Wildcats also got some vital assistance from senior Rachel Whitens with a season-high 10 points, as well as five points from junior Alex Felice (four rebounds) and four points from senior Allie Iacobelli, plus three rebounds from senior Kristen Schubring.

"We suspected they would come out and play a zone because of the first game," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "It was a 1-2-2 designed to keep Kerri out of the lane and to be out on Taylor. That was successful to some extent, but it did open up shots for the weak side, specifically Rachel. Very proud of how Rachel has handled herself and played all year, but (she) really stepped up tonight."

Five straight scoreless trips and an untimely turnover that was converted into a 3-pointer with four minutes remaining helped the Wildcats widen the gap. Novi had a 12-6 edge in the fourth

quarter. "I thought our girls did a real good job defensively," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "We traded buckets early in the game and weren't getting the stops we needed. Novi had a couple of role players step up and make some big shots that we didn't expect. We held them to just five baskets in the final three quarters to give us a chance. We just wasted our offensively opportunities in the second half."

Randall got her offensive help from freshman Jessica Moorman (seven points, two steals), senior Gabby Mencotti (four points, seven rebounds, two assists), freshman Emily Martin (three points), junior Emily Maresh (two points, seven rebounds) and senior Anna Giacomini (three rebounds).

As a whole, the Wildcats shot 13-for-36 (36.1 percent) and the Mustangs 9-for-36 (25 percent); the rebounding battle was evenly matched.

Novi, 55, South Lyon 28

Prior to the victory over Northville, the Wildcats rolled to a home victory Jan. 28 over South Lyon (2-12, 0-8 Central), a margin of victory nearly identical to the 53-25 win Jan. 10 in South Lyon.

Novi was up 25-6 by halftime and 44-16 through the first three quarters. While all of the Lions were held to single digits, Pavlika (17 points) and McMahan (16 points, four rebounds, two assists, three steals, five deflections) tallied double digits.

The dynamic duo also got some assistance from Schubring (eight points, eight rebounds, two assists, four steals, two blocks, five deflections), Felice (four points, seven rebounds), sophomore Allie Lipson (four points), senior Diana Fawaz (three points), junior Kelsey Miller (two points) and freshman Bailey Baumbick (one point).

Novi shot 21-for-51 (41.2 percent), compared to South Lyon's 11-for-34 (32.3 percent). The Wildcats also won the rebound battle 29-16 and cut off the passing lanes by creating nine turnovers among 15 steals and 23 deflections.

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

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

'Cats fall to Northville again

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Whenever Novi and Northville meet in sport, it takes an afternoon for standing performance over the one to earn a win over the other.

Last week, when the Wildcats played Northville in boys basketball, the Mustangs used a strong defensive offense as the key to their Central Division rival, 49-37.

Novi's gym was electric with fans of both teams filling the stands. The student section, were by far the loudest, and however, with air shouts filling the gym throughout the contest.

"Nights like this are what make high school sports special," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "What an atmosphere."

This was the second

time the teams have met this season, with the first meeting ending in much the same fashion as the Mustangs won on their home court, 51-37.

The Mustangs used a 12-4 first quarter to jump out to a lead and ended the game with a 20-11 fourth-quarter showing to stifle any comeback attempts the Wildcats may have had in mind. At the half, Northville led, 21-14.

"We defended well and did a nice job of controlling the boards," Sander said. "We missed a few shots early that would have allowed us to spread the lead more."

As the Mustangs went on an early run, the student section for Northville was brought to its feet in a thundering roar as Andrew Meacham stole the ball from Novi and slammed it home with a dunk, getting fouled in the process. He

hit the free throw to complete the three-point play.

But Meacham and the Mustangs weren't the only team to get the crowd in an uproar. Novi scored the first eight points of the third quarter to take its only lead of the night, 22-21, which had the green and white faithful frothing in expectation. But the Mustangs had several players step up in response and Andrew Stevens tipped in an errant shot to put Northville back in the lead and teammate Nathan Kellum hit a jumper to increase the advantage and quiet the crowd once more.

"It was big to have the lead going into the fourth quarter," Sander said of his team's 29-26 advantage going into the final quarter. "Then we were really able to assert ourselves. We had four different guys score in the fourth quarter."

Burying nine points was Meacham, including a huge 3-point field goal that gave Northville a seven-point lead with four minutes to play. Joe Hewlett scored five in the fourth quarter to finish with 13. Meacham led all scorers with 21 points and added 12 rebounds.

"Joe Hewlett showed tonight why he is Joe Hewlett," Sander said. "His was all over the floor, his energy was contagious and he wasn't going to let us lose."

"We had contributions from everyone tonight. It was a tremendous team victory. Guys stepped up and made plays."

Nick Zugaro led the Wildcats with 15 points, while Erik Biberstein added 12.

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

Staudt signs up for Marygrove volleyball

Fresh off the most successful season in the brief history of the program, Marygrove College women's volleyball head coach Jamie Baker announced Jan. 31 the signing of Novi native and former Schoolcraft College standout Amber Staudt.

Staudt's signing is the first of the season for the Mustangs as the program prepares to build off last year's success.

"We are excited for Amber to join the Mustang volleyball family," Baker said. "She already has a year of competitive college playing experience under her belt and I expect her to come in and push our offense, along with our defense. She is a very hard worker, not only on the court, but also in the classroom as well. Amber is a wonderful addition to the Marygrove community and I look forward to coaching her next season."

A 5-foot-3 setter and defensive specialist, Staudt committed to continue her academic and athletic career at the northwest Detroit campus that boasts 14 intercollegiate varsity sports. Known for possessing exceptional court vision and a strong work ethic, Staudt adds to an



Marygrove coach Jamie Baker (front right) and Amber Staudt (front left) with the Staudt family members (back, from left) Rachel and parents Jean and David at Friday's signing.

already impressive collection of student-athletes in the growing volleyball program at Marygrove.

Staudt spent a year playing at Schoolcraft College, where she shot up the depth chart into a starting role. Prior to her days as an Ocelot, Staudt was a key fixture in the Novi-based volleyball clubs Instant Replay and Club Xtreme. Opting for club over high school volleyball, Staudt played six years in the competi-

itive club ranks before landing at Schoolcraft for the 2013 campaign.

Staudt was a 2013 magna cum laude graduate of Novi High School and a member of Schoolcraft's Phi Theta Kappa honor society for her dedication in the classroom. The student-athlete has her sights set on being a nurse and will enroll in Marygrove's respected health sciences program beginning fall 2014.

Staudt's sister, Rachel, is a member of the volley-

ball team for Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference foe Lawrence Tech. With the sisters playing at separate conference schools, Friday's signing kicked off a friendly sibling rivalry that will create lasting memories for Amber, Rachel and the entire Staudt family for years to come. Amber and Rachel will stand opposite of each other on the collegiate court for the first time Oct. 1 when Marygrove visits Lawrence Tech.

with 190. "We had a very successful showing at the Oakland County Championships on Sunday afternoon," Pohlonski said. "The swimmers posted best times in almost every event, including Tanner Vincent breaking his own school record in the 100 butterfly. The 400 freestyle relay team of Tanner Vincent, Toraki Maehata, Sid Kareddy and Arthur Shi earned a state qualifying time."

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

SWIMMING

Continued from Page B1

'Cats took second in the 400 free relay (3:28.60), third in the 200 medley relay (1:46.92) and both second (1:37.07) and third (1:40.83) in the 200 free relay.

A trio of other Wildcats also placed in the individual events. Each taking third in their respective events were Arthur Shi (200 free in 1:56.97), Joey Berman (100 butterfly in 59.78) and Bradley Huang (100

breast in 1:08.96).

Sunday's Oakland County Championships posed an even tougher challenge, as 26 of the top squads from across the county met at Waterford Mott. Despite some improved times, Novi finished 12th after tallying 71 points, primarily off the success of Vincent, who twice finished in the top eight, something no other Wildcat managed to do.

Vincent finished fourth in the 200 individual medley in 1:55.96, which was won by Detroit Catholic Central's Jack

Walsh in 1:51.68. The entire top six beat the prior Mott pool record.

Vincent was also fifth in the 100 butterfly in 52.79 seconds, behind White Lake Lakeland's Will Walker's 50.40 seconds.

Combining with Toraki Maehata, Karredy and Shi, Vincent nearly made the top eight for a third time in the 400 free relay, but the group finished ninth in 3:23.60. Birmingham Brother Rice won the event in 3:07.11 and also the meet with 445.5 points. Seaholm was second with 294 and CC third

NOVITOWNCENTER.COM

MEET DETROIT RED WING

Darren McCarty

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Former Detroit Red Wing, Darren McCarty, will be at the Total Hockey store at Novi Town Center. Get an autograph and take a photograph with one of the Red Wings' favorite players!

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SIMON

SPORTS BRIEFS

W.L. Central announces first Athletic Hall of Fame class

Walled Lake Central High School has announced the inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame Class for 2014:

- » Dave Smith, head varsity football coach
- » John VanSicklen, college All-America football player, head varsity football coach
- » Mike Lindstrom, head varsity volleyball coach
- » Becky Cummings, all-state athlete in basketball and volleyball
- » 1995-96 volleyball team: Julie Amann, Kristie Bonner, Kristen Bramwell, Haley Breniser, Becky Cummings, Sue Furgenson, Laura Hochthanner, Katie Horton, Jenny Keeler, Amanda Mendenhall, Renee Miller, Nicole Mullins Hewson, Sabrina Nordeen, Jaelyn Pilkiewicz, Jessica Regentin, Rebecca Saldana and Mary Tudor Kistler.

This year's induction ceremonies took place Feb. 1 at Central High School's gymnasium.

Join spring sports league now

The city of Novi's Older Adult Services is offering sports opportunities for those 55 and older. Registration is

now open for softball and golf leagues that begin in May.

The 55-plus Softball Morning League includes 12 games, a tournament, balls and fields. Cost is \$35 per person. Sign up as an individual and a team will be created or sign up as a team and manage your own roster. Softball games will be played at Ella Mae Power Park (on 10 Mile Road, behind the Novi Civic Center) Tuesday mornings. This league is slow-pitch softball with games being played mid-May through August.

The 55-plus Golf League plays at the Riverbank Golf Course and Banquet Center (24095 Currie Road, South Lyon). This league offers opportunities for men at 8:45 a.m. each Monday, women at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday and a mixed league at 8:45 a.m. each Thursday. Play begins the week of May 5 and includes 16 scheduled outings, plus a golf outing/banquet scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 10.

To register, visit cityofnovi.org or stop by Older Adult Services located at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Road. For more information, please contact Tori Heglin, recreation programmer, at 248-347-0422 or the Novi Older Adult Services Office at 248-347-0414.

Novi falls to Northville in rivalry game, 5-3

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Victories are always sweet, but nothing makes a victory quite as satisfying for Northville as when it comes over Novi.

The Northville hockey team, coached by Clint Robert, picked up a 5-3 victory over Novi last week before earning a 3-1 win over Lake Orion. Unfortunately, the week had a sour note, too, as Northville fell to Hartland, 5-2.

Against Novi, the game was a true back-and-forth affair as the Mustangs skated out to a 3-0 lead in the first period and looked as though they were going to dominate every facet.

But Novi's defense buckled down and the offense went to work in the second period, outscoring Northville, 2-0, to make it a 3-2 game heading into the final period.

It was there that the Mustangs found themselves tied when the Wildcats scored with 14:36 left in the game to make it 3-3. Ryan Baxter took advantage of a power play and knotted the game for Novi in the opening minutes of the third.

But Northville answered, scoring with 5:56 left in the game off the stick of Kellan Flayer to regain the lead. Novi fought back, but to no avail, and eventually pulled its goalie late to get the upper hand. But

Northville's Alex Stuart snagged the puck and fired it into the empty net to make it a 5-3 final.

Scoring in the first period for Northville were Alec Morgan, Tim Eis and Jack Meacham. Bryan Fegert (power play) and Baxter (short-handed) scored Novi's second-period goals.

Assists for Northville were picked up by Buster White (two), Meacham, Nick Strom, Stuart and P.J. Schnepf.

Earning the win in goal was Jeremy Onofrio, who stopped 28 out of 31 shots on goal.

Northville 3, Lake Orion 1

The Mustangs scored two goals in the second period and

both teams had one in the third.

Schnepf opened the scoring for Northville with 14:51 left in the second as he took a pass from Kyle Dann and fired it home.

Just over 13 minutes later, Northville notched its second goal, when Flayer scored with assists from Schnepf and White.

In the third, Lake Orion cut Northville's lead in half off a goal by Alex Giwa, assisted by Drew Casey, but the Mustangs answered a minute later with a goal of their own from Alec Morgan, of assists from Eis and Meacham.

Chance Boutin earned the win, stopping 16 out of 17 shots.

Hartland 5, Northville 2

The Mustangs and Eagles were knotted up, 1-1, after the first period, but the Eagles scored two goals in the second and two more in the third.

Scoring for the Mustangs was White, who scored in the first period lead off a pass from Morgan on a power play. Northville's other goal came from Alec Melucci in the second, with Stuart and Nick Stegmeyer assisting.

Taking the loss was Onofrio, who stopped 21 out of 26 shots/Brent Pietila earned the win.

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

Novi trips up Stevenson, 3-2

By Brad Emmons
Staff Writer

Novi players poured off the bench and jumped for joy as they skated toward their fans along the glass Wednesday night at Edgar Arena.

The celebration was certainly state-championship caliber.

It was just another regular season win, but it was a big one as far as the Wildcats were concerned as they upended defending Division 2 state champion Livonia Stevenson on its home ice, 3-2.

It was the third straight loss for the Spartans, who slipped to 16-4 and 9-2 in the KLAA's Central Division. And the defeat all but eliminated them from gaining at least a tie for first place with Brighton (13-5, 8-1).

Novi, meanwhile, improved to 12-5 overall and 8-2 in the Central thanks to some superb goaltending from senior Austin Petty, who during the final period stopped 16 out of 30 total shots to maintain a one-goal lead and preserve the victory.

"I don't think it was a good win, it was a great win," Novi first-year coach Mark Vellucci said. "Total team effort from top to bottom. You hear by the sounds of it, we're pretty happy. We knew it was a big game coming in and hats off to the guys. They played their hearts out."

Novi had a lot of jump during the first period and it resulted in a 1-0 lead thanks to James Hole's goal from Ryan Baxter and Patrick Wojtylo at 7:44.

The goal came after the Wildcats successfully killed

off a five-minute penalty.

And just 29 seconds into the second period, Novi's Bradley Hofelich scored from Joshua Ward and Michael O'Reilly to make it 2-0.

The Wildcats then added a power-play goal just 2:01 later on Baxter's goal from Hole and Hofelich for a 3-0 advantage.

"We put ourselves behind the eight-ball," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We had a five-minute power play there and didn't capitalize. When you're playing teams like Novi and the roll that they've been on, you have to capitalize when you get your chances. They got their chances and capitalized and that was the difference in the hockey game."

The Spartans, however, got untracked behind their stellar senior Production Line as Dominic Lutz answered with a pair of goals at 7:04 and 14:32, respectively, of the same period with assists going to linemates Devin Kelly and Tyler Irvine to cut the deficit to 3-2.

"We knew Stevenson is never going to back down and that's why you play three periods," Vellucci said. "They came back the second period. I thought we won the first, obviously, not only by the score, but I think we totally outplayed them and outthrusted them. Then, the second period, they took it to us. We kind of got back on our heels a little bit and then even in third, but the third was more back and forth. That extra goal in the second really helped out."

Stevenson, which was outshot 23-16 over the first two periods, turned up the pressure in the final period, but was unable to score the equal-

izer despite getting a power-play opportunity with 2:19 left and pulling goaltender Cullen Barber for the extra attacker in the final 1:17.

Petty made a key save with only 1:08 remaining to deny Lutz, who was gunning for a hat trick and his 35th goal of the season.

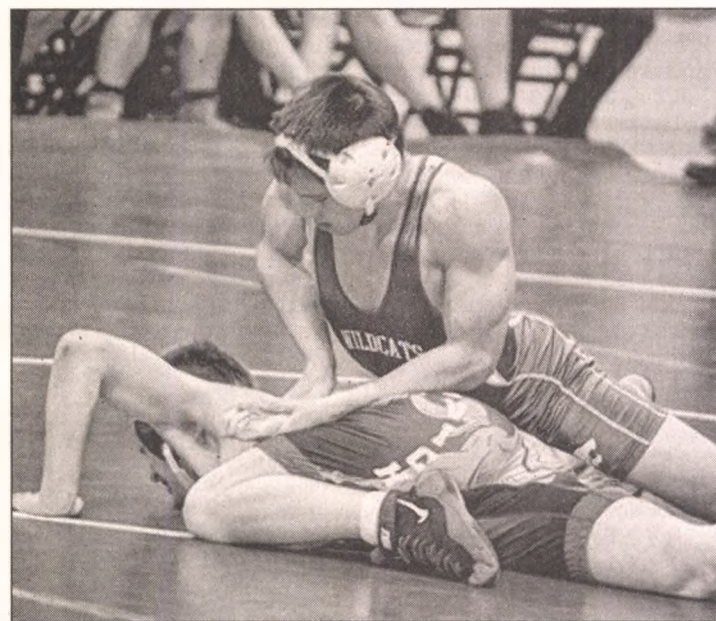
"Our senior guys were great, our captains were great and Austin Petty was phenomenal again," Vellucci said. "He was great and that's what we expect out of a four-year varsity goalie."

Senior Andrew Rozenbaum started in goal and gave up three goals on 14 shots, while Barber, a sophomore who came on with 14:30 left in the second period, kept the Wildcats at bay by stopping all 18 Novi shots the rest of the way.

But it couldn't prevent the second straight setback by a goal and third overall for Stevenson, which started its season at 16-1 overall.

"We'll be fine," Mitchell said. "We preach that this is a journey, not a sprint. The seasons are going to have their ups and downs. We're going through a little lull right now. We've played good, competitive hockey games against some really strong teams, so we knew this would be the tough part of our schedule and doesn't get any easier going (Saturday) against CC (Catholic Central), so we can't feel sorry for ourselves and we can't get down. We have to fight back and keep battling through it. This is why it's a season and not one game. We'll be OK."

bemmons@hometownlife.com



Novi senior Ben Wright attempts to gain position on his 152-pound Milford opponent. NOVI WRESTLING PARENTS

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

Warriors voided 119 and 125.

Continuing the back-and-forth affair, sophomore Brent George (130) won a 10-7 decision and junior Evan Davis (135) dropped a tough 4-2 decision to put the final team score at 45-31 Novi.

The next match was even closer, starting with Benkowski dropping to the 145-pound weight class for a pin before senior Ben Wright (152) won a 9-3 decision and senior John Hood (160) earned a pin. Sophomore Cooper Smith (171) dropped a close 5-4 decision before Novi voided the 189-pound match. Haney, Stevie Davis and Chris Silva (103) lost by pin to put the score at 27-15 Milford. The Wildcats charged back with a dominant 17-0 technical fall by Jackson, followed by an 18-3 tech fall by senior Matt George (119). The Mavericks voided 125 and freshman Scott Latham (130) lost to keep things close. Evan Davis regained the lead for Novi with a pin, but unfortunately Sparling lost to put the final score at 38-37 Milford.

Looking to make an individual impact, the Wildcats' week continued Saturday at Howell, where all 24 teams gathered for the individual KLAA tournament. Novi started strong, but individual

highlights were limited by the end of the day.

Wright had the highest finish, battling his way through the 152-pounders to finish fourth overall.

Evan Davis also did well to fight back from a second-round loss in the 135-pound class to finish eighth overall.

From there, the 'Cats had a bit of a drop-off, with Smith finishing 17th and Stevie Davis landing 18th after a 3-2 overtime decision.

"I'll tell you what I told the boys on the bus coming home," Novi coach Joel Smith said. "The KLAA is the toughest conference in the state and tougher than all the individual districts. There are 14 weight classes and eight of the 14 state champs are expected to come from the KLAA. Anybody finishing in the top half at this tournament should be very proud."

Despite a few tough breaks this season, Smith said the young lineup has shown a lot of promise by placing in the medal rounds of the KLAA and the Oakland County Championships at a higher rate than in recent years.

"This shows that our program is on the right track and getting better every year," Smith said.

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

CATHOLIC CENTRAL ROUNDUP

Wrestlers capture 20th straight league title

It's been so long since the Catholic Central wrestling team last failed to win the Catholic High School League wrestling title that the seniors on this year's squad weren't even born yet the last time it happened.

The Shamrocks did what they do best last week as they won the league tournament for the 20th straight year. The finished with six champions, two runners-up and one third-place finisher.

Greg Johnson (130 pounds), Eli Joseph (135), Joe Lyon (119), Adam McGrath (152), Ryan O'Connor (140) and Davis Rastigue (103) all took home championships from the tournament.

"I'm proud of those guys," Catholic Central coach Mitch Hancock said. "Especially our seniors who've put a ton of work into this program and don't get a lot of recognition. Those guys are very humble and fun to work with. They deserve this success."

Nathan Cascarelli (145) and Aaron Rehfeldt (112) took home second-place finishes, while Nick Jenkins (285) finished third.

The Shamrocks also had Matt Anderson (125) and Mike Trame (160) finish fourth.

Cagers starting to get scrappy

The Catholic Central basketball team is getting tired of being beaten in the last few minutes, and it isn't about to let a team just run away with a win right now.

That's why the two games the Shamrocks played last week were so darn scrappy. The squad, coached by Bill Dyer, picked up a 40-39 victory over Orchard Lake St. Mary's. The squad also suffered a loss to University of Detroit-Jesuit, but not in the blowout fashion that occurred when the two



CC's Austin Beyer drives the lane against U-D Jesuit. DENNIS BARNES

teams first met this year. Instead, the Shamrocks made U-D earn every single point of its 63-54 victory.

Against St. Mary's, the Shamrocks found themselves leading by just one point with 12 seconds left and the Eaglets inbounded the basketball. OLSM's Ted McCree, who scored 10 points in the fourth, pulled up and took a jump shot with time expiring. The shot missed its mark, but landed in the hands of Roger Hood. Up stepped Catholic Central's Charlie Ryan, who blocked the shot with a thundering slap.

The victory put Catholic Central at 6-6 on the season and 2-4 in the CHSL Central Division. OLSM fell to 7-5 and 2-4.

McCree led the Eaglets with 17 points, while the Shamrocks were led by Ryan, who had 17 points and nine rebounds. Noah Lee had seven points in the win and Ryan McGillivray had six.

Against U-D, the Shamrocks weren't about to let the Cubs take home another easy victory like the 78-35 win they picked up when the two squads first met this year.

Instead, the Shamrocks fought the Cubs every step of the way and even had it tied 47-47 in the fourth quarter.

As time ticked off the clock, the Shamrocks trailed 56-54 with under a minute to play. Unfortunately, the Cubs were

golden at the foul line, shooting 7-for-8, and were able to keep the Shamrocks from the victory.

U-D is 9-1 overall with the win and 4-0 in the CHSL. They were led by sophomore Casus Winston with 25 points.

Lee had 20 points for the Shamrocks and Ryan had 13 points.

Hockey team falls to Trenton

Catholic Central had a rough night when it took on rival Trenton last week.

The squad fell, 4-1, as Trenton scored three goals in the final period to seal the victory. The Shamrocks were held scoreless until the final minutes of the third.

Trenton opened the scoring in the second period, when Mitchell Galea took a pass from Conor Cunningham for a 1-0 lead.

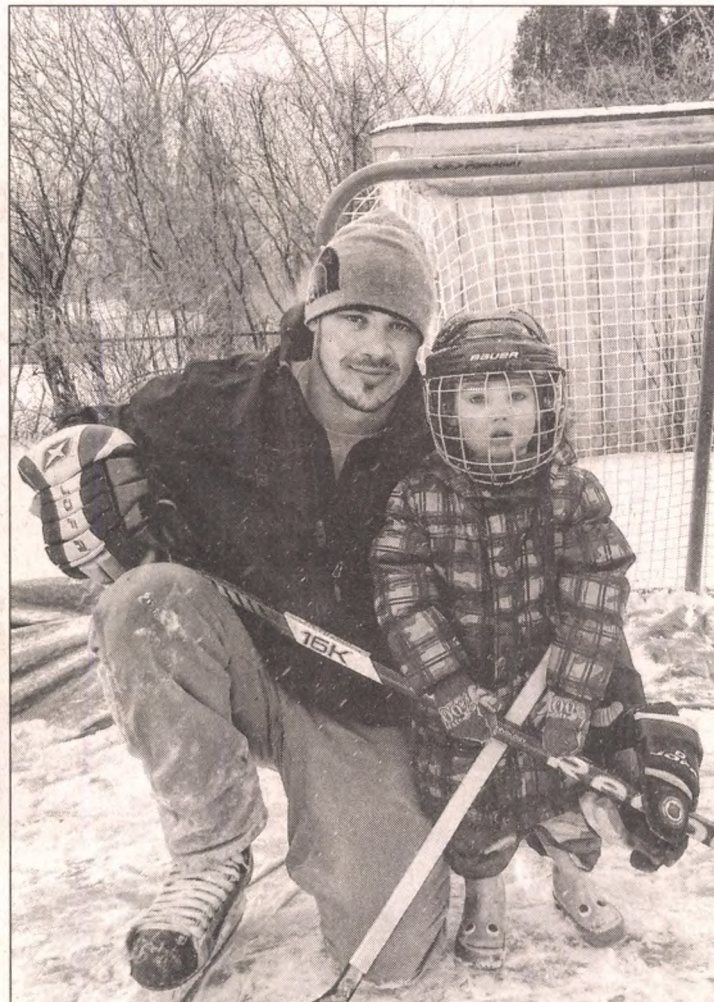
Trenton added two more goals in the third, by Phillip Pugliese and Grant McClellan, before the Shamrocks were able to score their lone goal. Mitchell Ossowski scored with Andrew Lane assisting.

Galea scored an empty-net goal to close out the scoring.

Catholic Central had four penalties for eight minutes, while Trenton picked up five for 10 minutes.

—By Sam Eggleston

STARTIN' YOUNG



Cold? Yes. Snow? Yes. Is this Michigan? Yes, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun, as evidenced by Novi residents Chaz Bulbuk and his son Charlie practicing hockey skills on their backyard rink.

Economist: Home sales to stay steady

Existing-home sales are expected to retain the healthy gains seen in 2013, while prices will stay on an uptrend in 2014, according to a forecast presentation at a residential forum during the 2013 Realtors Conference & Expo.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist of the National Association of Realtors, said existing-home sales have shown a 20 percent cumulative increase over the past two years, while prices have gained 18 percent, but incomes have risen only 2 to 4 percent in the same time-frame.

"We've come off of record high housing affordability conditions in the past year, and are now at a five-year low, but conditions are still the fifth best in the past 40 years," Yun said. "While the median-income family in many areas will still be well positioned to buy a home in 2014, income is barely budging given growth in consumer prices."

Yun said the other headwinds moving forward include



Real estate industry pros are watching the market, which has some upbeat news. GETTY IMAGES

limited inventory conditions in many areas and mortgage lending standards that are still unnecessarily stringent.

With higher mortgage interest rates, he expects refinancing to collapse in 2014 to the lowest level in at least 15 years, and hopes purchase applications will begin to rise. "This is an incentive for banks to increase mortgage origination, especially considering the low default rates in recent

years. But even with cheap mortgages for the past four years, all-cash buyers stayed high, accounting for over 30 percent of sales," Yun noted.

Beyond bank motivation, Yun said Washington policies for mortgage lending have been too restrictive. He cited rising fees for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, higher Federal Housing Administration premiums, as well as Dodd-Frank banking regulations, which

have been strangling community banks. In addition, Yun said banks are holding onto funds for potential Department of Justice lawsuits, rather than making them available to mortgage borrowers.

He said job creation, and hopefully a relaxation in stringent lending standards, will offset higher mortgage interest rates. Existing-home sales should hold fairly even at about 5.12 million in 2014.

Limited supplies were the biggest factor in price performance in the past year, with inventory bouncing around 13-year lows, and seriously delinquent mortgages have been trending steadily down. The national median existing-home price for all of 2013 was up just over 11 percent, to about \$197,000.

Housing starts are forecast to reach 1.13 million in 2014, which is still well below the underlying demand of about 1.5 million. New-home sales are likely to grow to 508,000 in 2014.

Timeshare calls for caution

Q: We are thinking about a timeshare, but one of our neighbors resale is basically non-existent. Do you have any comment on this?

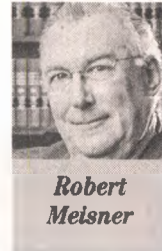
A: A huge problem for the timeshare industry is that there is no effective, functioning resale market.

The problem, in large part, is that a timeshare is much like a car, it loses value as soon as it is "driven off the lot." One of the "dirty secrets" of the timeshare industry is that 40 to 60 percent of the "retail" price of a "new" timeshare is made up of marketing, overhead and commissions. Accordingly, even if there was a functioning resale market, the value of a "used" timeshare would only be about half of the original price.

Moreover, timeshare developers do not want to cannibalize new sales by supporting or even allowing resale of timeshares at their projects or in their programs which has inhibited the development of an effective resale market. On top of those problems, the recession caused a lot of timeshare owners to default on the payment of their purchase contracts and/or maintenance assessments, and the resale market has been flooded with owners desperate to get rid of their timeshares at any cost. In short, buyer beware.

Q: We have a person on our homeowner association board who continuously refers to a resident as a sex offender type guy and is even thinking about publishing it in our community newsletter. I have seen no verification of it and am wondering how we get through to this guy.

A: In any defamation action, truth is normally a defense, but in order to establish the truth, you have to confirm that this person is in fact a sex offender. If he is not, you might want to alert your member to a case out of Clarendon County in South Carolina where the jury awarded \$690,000 in damages to a man whose fellow condominium owners, all on the condominium's governing board, repeatedly and wrongly identified him as a registered sex offender listed on the South Carolina sex offender registry. In that case, the association board members had circulated a flier which mistakenly identified the name of the individual on the flyer as the one who owned property in the condominium complex, and the board is now paying the price, which may or not be covered by their insurance carrier. This is another example of associations taking action where they do not obtain factual basis or a good legal opinion.



Robert Meisner

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 7-11, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table listing residential real estate transactions in Wayne County with columns for address and price.

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Table listing residential real estate transactions in Wayne County with columns for address and price.

Table listing residential real estate transactions in Wayne County with columns for address and price.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 16-20, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table listing residential real estate transactions in Oakland County with columns for address and price.

Table listing residential real estate transactions in Oakland County with columns for address and price.

Table listing residential real estate transactions in Oakland County with columns for address and price.

Table listing residential real estate transactions in Oakland County with columns for address and price.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. each third Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. For more information call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091.

Car Report

Advertising Feature

Carmakers Dominate Super Bowl Advertising Once Again



By Dale Buss

No industry has come to define Super Bowl advertising quite like the car business. Automakers, after all, are among the biggest U.S. advertisers and marketers by dollar volume. So for the third straight year, on Big Game Sunday the auto industry was expected to be the biggest advertiser for the third straight year.

Hyundai and Chrysler, according to Kantar research cited by USA Today, made the top

"We like to build a lot of conversation before game day," Loren Angelo, head of brand marketing for Audi of America, told me. For the brand and the new A3 sedan, that meant releasing not only an online teaser of its "Doberhuahua" spot but the entire spot itself several days before Super Bowl Sunday.

Here's a snapshot of what the auto brands planned for Super Bowl XLVIII:

While not using any big Hollywood names, Audi deployed its trademark Super Bowl humor in a spot featuring singer Sarah McLachlan (who spoofed her PSAs for PeTA with a teaser) a hilarious dog hybrid, a "Doberhuahua," that exemplifies the horrible results that come from compromise. The point

game report.

Chrysler, as usual, didn't give away its plan for the Big Game, forsaking all the pre-game teasers and other buzz-generating activities that rivals are using more and more before the actual telecast.

Hyundai has a new US CEO but some of the same challenges: how to effectively keep the brand stretched across a broad range of product segments yet battle some supply issues and stiffening competition across the board. With two spots -- one, called "Nice," for the Hyundai Elantra starring Johnny Galecki of Big Bang Theory and another ("Dad's Sixth Sense") for the luxury-sport Genesis sedan, focusing on its driving-assistance features--the brand spread its Super Bowl bets once again.

Jaguar, now owned by India's Tata Motors, is continuing its comeback with its first Super Bowl spot. The dramatic 60-second ad featured actors Sir Ben Kingsley, Tom Hiddleston and Mark Strong as a trio of British villains in a spot helmed by The King's Speech director Tom Hooper:

Laurence Fishburne to reprise his role as Morpheus in the cult movie series The Matrix to pull that off.

Toyota last year effectively used actress Kaley Cuoco for a mainstream message, and this year the brand was going back to a proven platform by including the Muppets and Terry Crews as it focused on everything one can do in a new Toyota Highlander.

Volkswagen is more in need of a pick-me-up now than it has been for three years, as US sales have leveled off. So reached for nostalgic levers similar to its Star Wars-themed ad from three years ago, "The Force" (often called "Little Darth Vader" for its adorable mini-Darth), which became the most-shared and YouTube-viewed spot in Super Bowl history. This time around, following a teaser that featured Carmen Electra, VW had "Wings," in which the brand played a bit with the "legend" of how every time a reliable VW turns over 100,000 miles, a VW engineer gets his "wings." Jimmy Stewart, star of It's a Wonderful Life, might have been bemused.

"We are thrilled with this year's creative, which highlights the enthusiasm around our



The Silverado HD stars in one of Chevy's ads in the Big Game.

five biggest spenders in the past five Super Bowls, along with Bud Lite and Budweiser parent Anheuser Busch InBev, PepsiCo and Coca-Cola.

And of course, any more it's not just Super Bowl Sunday but for the entire season surrounding the game that carmakers dominate much of the conversation. It has become standard practice to run pre-Game teasers (trailers, in a sense, of the Game Day spot), and viral videos promoted across YouTube, Twitter and Facebook with hashtags.

is that the German automaker's new A3 sedan, launching in the US this spring, is anything but an exercise in compromise, even though it's priced beginning under \$30,000:

General Motors returned to the Super Bowl after taking a one-year break, with Chevrolet slated to occupy two 60-second spots during the game. One spot, "Romance," featured a voiceover by John Cusack and promoted the 2015 Silverado HD with the hashtag #SilveradoStrong. Two other 30-second ads were to air during the post-



Laurence Fishburne is an ominous presence in the Kia Super Bowl ad.

Kia is facing a similar challenge now as Hyundai did a few years ago. The Korean-brand sibling wanted to use the Super Bowl to further legitimize its pricey first luxury model, the K900 sedan. It called upon actor

brand and our vehicles' German engineering in a humorous spot that embodies the Volkswagen spirit," commented Vinay Shahani, Volkswagen of America's vice president of marketing.

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