

Novi News

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Help us celebrate Mother's Day with a special salute to women. Send in your favorite photo of mother and son, mother and daughter or a photo of you and your grandmother, aunt, niece or any other special women who has made a difference in your life. Send the photo to Cal Stone, editor, at calstone@hometownlife.com. Send the photo in jpeg format only, as large as possible. Attach it to an email with your name, address and contact number. Identify who is in the photo (first and last names, please) and briefly state why this woman is special to you.

Deadline to submit photos is 6 p.m. Monday, April 14. All photos and information must be submitted online. Look for a photo album salute to women in the May edition of *Hometown Life Woman*.

General RV's new home moving along

Wixom headquarters facility right on schedule

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Work on the new headquarters of General RV, at the former Ford Wixom plant location, is moving along well and the building should be open this October.

The local company is relocating its Wixom dealership/headquarters to 33 acres of land just down the road from its current store off of West 12 Mile.

"Things are moving along really well and we are looking forward to getting into this new location," said Dennis Anderson, vice president of marketing for General RV.

Owned and operated by the Baidas family, General RV has become the largest family-owned RV dealer in the nation with nearly 600 employees in 10 locations.

Staying in Wixom was important for the company. It had a previous offer to move to South



The new headquarters building for General RV is being built on the north side of I-96 on the grounds of the old Ford Wixom Assembly plant. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lyon, but never pursued it. When this new opportunity came about, it was ideal.

"We need more space is the biggest reason, but we also want to provide an even better service to our customers. This new location will help in that

and should be a perfect fit," Anderson said.

This should be one of the largest RV retail facilities in the country and will add new jobs to the community. Ander-

GENERAL RV

Current location: 48500 12 Mile, Wixom, MI 48393
Phone: 248-349-0900
Toll-free: 800-778-4878

See GENERAL RV, Page A2

NEW BEGINNING



Marcia Wincel looks on in amazement as friend Sean Thomas removes a large lock of her hair at a fundraiser at Providence Park Hospital in Novi last month. Wincel, who lost her husband to cancer, got her colleagues at the hospital to raise more than \$3,400 for the American Cancer Society - and promised to shave her head, with some of the hair going to Locks of Love. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cancer took her husband, but Marcia Wincel keeps on fighting

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Marcia Wincel is keeping her word and battling the disease that took her 37-year-old husband Cliff three years ago. The very next day, their life-long friend Gary, 35, fell to leukemia after a seven-year illness.

"My last promise to my husband was that I would make him proud of me," she said. "On behalf of Cliff and Gary, I vow to never stop fighting this disease."

Folks may know Wincel as an employee at the Bone and Joint Surgery Center at Providence Hospital in Novi. They may also know her as the team captain of the largest 2010 Novi Relay for Life team, which raised more than \$8,000 for cancer research.

"The American Cancer Society is an organization I hold dear to my heart," she said. "I also dedicated myself to 20 years of cancer research

See WINCEL, Page A2

Enter to win Detroit Lions football summer camp

Nine boys and girls ages 4-14 will win a scholarship to the 2014 Detroit Lions Summer Youth Camps.

The Detroit Lions, in cooperation with *Observer & Eccentric Media*, will award two scholarships to the following camps:

June 7-8, Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day, 9 a.m. to noon (QB-WR Academy for ages 8-14).

June 12-13, Brighton Scranton Middle School, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Fundamentals Camp for ages 6-14).

July 19, 26, Aug. 2, Southfield Inglenook Park, 10-11 a.m. (Lil' Lions Academy for ages 4-8).

July 21-23, South Lyon Vol-

unteer Park, 6:15-7:15 p.m. (Lil' Lions Academy for ages 4-8).

One scholarship will be offered for the **June 30 through July 3 Plymouth Central Middle School Camp** from 8:30 a.m. to noon (Fundamentals Camp for youth ages 6-14).

The camps offer age-appropriate high-energy football instruction and technique training by high school and college football coaches and interactive drills, chalk talks and skill competitions.

More than 30 camps are scheduled from June through August. For a complete list of summer camps and academies,

See CAMP, Page A3



The camps offer age-appropriate, high-energy football instruction.

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Volume 58 Number 47

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WINCEL

Continued from Page A1

by participating in their Cancer Study Prevention No. 3 program."

Wincel is so determined to raise awareness of the horrors of cancer and to honor those who are fighting and those who lost that

she shaved her head March 20 at Providence as a "symbol of hope and new beginnings."

"I thought I could make it interesting," she said prior to the event. "For approximately one month before shaving, if I can get my fellow co-workers to raise enough money, I will willingly shave my head at the surgery center for ev-

eryone to see." Her co-workers stepped up to the plate in support, raising more than \$3,400 – all going to the American Cancer Society.

But for Wincel, shaving her head was probably the easiest part of the ordeal she has dealt with the last several years.

"It is extremely hard for me to share this story, but I know it's important," she said. "Cancer touches so many people. And just know this isn't half of what my husband and I went through."

Cliff's battle begins

In January 2010, Wincel's husband was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer. The onset was sudden, to say the least.

"There may have been signs that we overlooked here and there, but overall he was healthy," she said. "I remember waking up with him one morning; he was curled over complaining of excruciating back pain. We went to the emergency room at St. Mary's hospital that same day and, in a manner of speaking, we never left."

Cliff was officially diagnosed with cancer after many tests and biopsies. Although his cancer spread in much the same way, doctors later discovered his cancer was caused by a germ cell tumor that started somewhere in

his abdominal area, a cancer that affects only one in one million people a year.

With not a lot of research behind this type of cancer, most of Cliff's treatment was trial and error. His first prognosis was a 50/50 chance of survival. Those numbers, however, would continue to decrease as time went on.

Treatments

Cliff underwent an aggressive chemotherapy that made him very sick, causing the couple to spend weeks at a time in the hospital, including a very close call in intensive care.

Ever though Cliff made it through that, doctors at St. Mary's could no longer help and referred him to the Karmanos Cancer Institute. The couple prepared for weeks before Cliff was admitted to undergo a grueling stem-cell transplant.

"I had to take classes to learn how to give my husband injections and learn how to properly clean the line catheter which would be placed in his chest," Wincel said. "When you love someone, you don't think twice about what's required of you to help. You just do."

She slept beside her husband in a hospital room for almost three months in preparation for the transplant, watching his hope fade with the continuation of bad news.

And when the stem-cell transplant failed, they were no longer given percentages – the fight was then simply life or death.

Cliff would eventually come home and his treatments were reduced to mild, weekly chemotherapy, radiation and some blood transfusions. These were not intended to cure him, but rather to keep the cancer at bay as doctors tried to figure out their next step.

Dec. 23, 2010

The Wincels were hoping to go into a clinical trial, but Cliff was having trouble breathing and was rushed by ambulance back to St. Mary's. The cancer had spread to his brain and lungs and the doctors gave him a month, maybe, under hospice care.

"Seven days later," Wincel said, "I stood by my husband's bed. I held his hand and touched his heart while I watched him take every single last breath. I said goodbye to my best friend. The person I had been with since age 19. Ten years of marriage and seven years together before that."

"This was the hardest and most honorable thing I've ever done in my life."

And she continues on her mission to make her husband proud, to never stop fighting.

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248-437-2011, ext. 237

CITY BRIEFS

Memorial Day Parade

The city of Novi invites veterans, businesses, bands, Scout troops and other civic organizations to be a part of the annual Memorial Day Parade at 10 a.m. Monday, May 26.

The parade and ceremony honor veterans and those who sacrificed their lives. Groups are encouraged to showcase community spirit by creating a float, decorating a vehicle or marching as a unit. Families may participate by decorating bicycles and riding the parade route.

The parade route begins at 10 Mile and Karim Boulevard (just west of Haggerty) and travels west on 10 Mile, concluding at the Novi Civic Center. Parade entry forms are available online at www.cityofnovi.org or at the Older Adult Services Office located in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile.

For more information, contact Sandy Fisher, Social Services coordinator, at 248-347-0414 or sfisher@cityofnovi.org.

Celebrate National Library Week

Celebrate National Library Week (April 13-19) with the Novi Library as author Bonnie Virag shares her emotional and compelling story *The Stovepipe* at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15.

At 11 a.m. Thursday April 17, the Michigan Opera Theatre will present *The American Songbook*, a dynamic cabaret-style revue of the most beautiful music from Broadway's greatest composers like George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Rogers and Hammerstein, Lenner and Loewe and Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

For more information, visit www.novilibrary.org or call 248-349-0720

NOVI NEWS
Published Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media
866.887.2737 www.hometownlife.com
Publication Number USPS 398920
Periodical Postage Paid at South Lyon, MI 48178

HOW TO REACH US

Community Office:
101 N. Lafayette
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Mon - Fri 9:00 - 5:00 pm
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GENERAL RV

Continued from Page A1

son said General RV's business has grown over the last 15 years from \$50 million to \$350 million in 2013. The company specializes in new RVs, rentals, parts/accessories, insurance and financing. Motor homes, travel trailers, fifth wheels and used RVs are just some of its

offerings.

Construction of the two-story building has been under way for some time. The plan is to have the first floor feature a parts store, service counter, service bays, a sales staff and display showroom. The second floor will be for all corporate employees, IT staff and the Internet sales division.

It will be an 83,000-square-foot facility, which is more than

double the size of the current location.

General RV has other locations in Michigan, including Waterford, Mount Clemens, Brownstown and Grand Rapids, as well as in Florida, Ohio, Illinois and Utah.

To learn more about General RV, visit <http://www.generalrv.com/>.

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Heavy machinery is at work Monday along I-96 west of Telegraph Road, where a closure for road improvements is expected to last until October. ROBERT ALLEN | GANNETT MICHIGAN

POSSIBLE I-96 ALTERNATE ROUTES

Here are the most efficient detours, recommended by the Michigan Department of Transportation.



- WESTBOUND DETOUR** ← From downtown Detroit to western Wayne County:
- I-94 west to I-275 north
 - I-96 west to M-39 north to M-10 north to I-696 west to I-275 south
 - M-10 north to I-696 west to I-275 south
- EASTBOUND DETOUR** → From western Wayne County to downtown Detroit:
- I-275 south to I-94 east
 - I-275 north to I-696 east to M-10 south to M-39 south to I-96 east
 - I-275 north to I-696 east to M-10 south
 - I-275 north to I-696 east to M-10 south
- SOURCES: MDOT, Google Maps DETROIT FREE PRESS

RUDE AWAKENING FOR I-96 COMMUTERS

First rush-hour detour forces drivers to adjust their routes as contractors get to work

By Robert Allen and Bill Laitner
Gannett Michigan

The closure through Livonia jarred commuters out of their routine Monday. Tyler Grauer, 20, of Southgate said he was surprised by the closure, which caused him to be late to EMT-training clinicals at Livonia Fire Department. The department is about a block north of I-96 near the middle of the closed highway segment.

"I'm trying to pick in my GPS to see which way to go," Grauer said while pumping gas at the Marathon station on Telegraph Road near I-96. "And I saw that detour, so I'm going to try my luck on that — but man, it's bad."

Karen Sanborn, 59, of Livonia, who lives a seven-mile commute from her job at Madonna University, said she used Plymouth Road and "it was a breeze" Monday. After her morning commute, she texted her husband to say "it was smooth sailing."

"I do feel bad" for the eastbound morning commuters, she said. "I feel that they're going to have the tougher time," in part because they must drive into the sunrise, which often causes backups for morning commuters even when I-96 is open.

The stretch of interstate will be closed throughout the summer as the Michigan Department of Transportation reconstructs a section of the east- and westbound lanes, just west of Telegraph.

Traffic in general appeared to flow steadily along the detours through morning rush hour, albeit slower than normal with more volume.

"All things considered, when you're detouring 140,000 people a day ... it went fairly well," said Rob Morosi, MDOT spokesman.

Traffic signals along southbound Telegraph Road near I-96 could get some adjustments, as that area had some "significant delays" Monday morning, he said, adding

Despite all the vehicles using the detour southbound on Telegraph during the morning rush hour, there was a less-than-normal flow of customers to the Marathon station near I-96.

"It's been kind of slow," manager Hussein Khalao, 34, said. "What I see this morning, it's not going to look good. It's not going to look good at all."

He said a regular customer recently "told me, 'I'll see you in the fall,'" as he planned to take another route in the mornings.



Traffic is diverted to the Schoolcraft service drive Monday for work on I-96 that has the freeway closed from Telegraph to Newburgh until October. MANDI WRIGHT | GANNETT MICHIGAN

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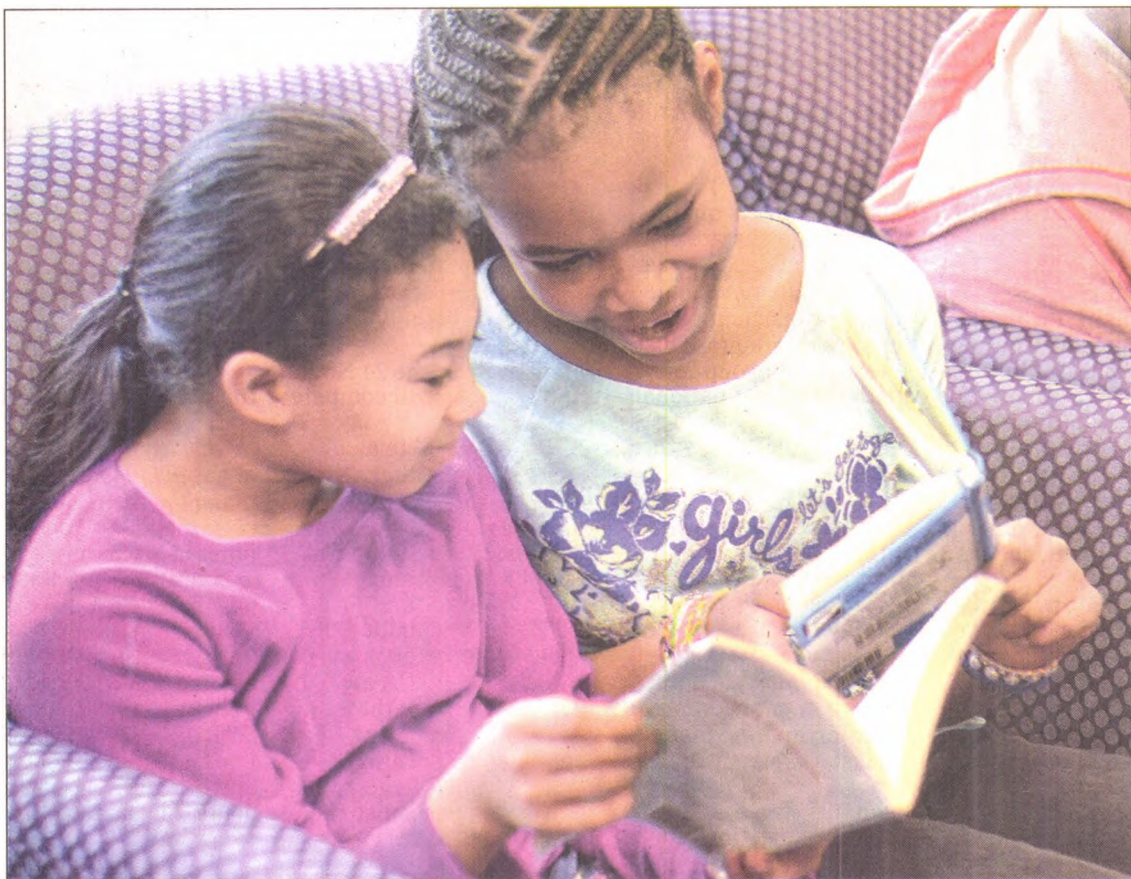
CAMP

Continued from Page A1

visit DetroitLions.com/youthfootball.

To enter the O&E Media's Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights Football Camp Contest, tell us in 50 words or less why you want to attend the camp. Have your parents email a photo of you (jpeg format only and as large as possible), along with your name, age, phone number and community where you live, to cbjordan@hometownlife.com. Subject line is "Football Contest."

Deadline to enter is April 30.



Novi Meadows fifth-graders Jordyn Williams (left) and Erika Robinson share some excitement in reading during a March 20 visit to the school's library. The school had a friendly competition to see who read more during the month of March. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reading is the thing at Novi Meadows

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

March was National Reading Month, but at Novi Meadows, it's really "Reading Year."

In recognition of reading, the school just completed a month of activities, events and continued competition. Over this school year, students in the fifth and sixth grades have been competing to see who could read the most books and pass the most "accelerated reader" tests to prove their knowledge of what they read. So far the fifth-graders are up, but not by much.

All of these things have been fun – with different prizes being given to those who excel – but many students say they would be reading anyway.

"Reading is a great way to get away and explore different worlds," Meadows fifth-grader

Miranda Prieur said. "With the AR tests, it's even more rewarding because it honors what we've done."

Lisa Fenchel, Meadows' fifth-grade principal, said teachers are working to make reading a fun yet educational practice for each student.

According to Fenchel, in the month of March, Novi Meadows had passed more than 2400 AR tests, with more than 1,400 from the fifth grade and more than 1,000 from the sixth grade. This testing incentive has really boosted the popularity of picking up a book. There was a 20-percent increase of passed AR tests from February to March.

"We're trying to get all the students excited about reading so it becomes a lifelong habit," Fenchel said.

The students love the competition.

"It's a good challenge for us," said fifth-graders Marvan Ramawickrama, Logan Barr and Jack Maskey. "Really, it boosts your confidence and makes you want to read more."

There have been book drives, read-ins, teachers dressing up in costume to kick off the reading month and guest readers coming into the school. The book drive has families going through their book shelves and donating gently used or new children's books. The team that raised the most got a treat and classroom enhancement.

In the end, for many of the students, it's all about reading.

"It's a peaceful, quiet time to focus in on something," fifth-grader Magha Gondi said. "I enjoy it a lot."

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NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

School district schedules bond information meetings

The Novi Community School District is asking voters to consider a \$70.9 million bond proposal May 6. The bond proposal results in no increase in the current millage rate. The bond focuses on sustaining the district's capital assets to provide a quality educational experience for its students.

The community is invited to meetings where information about the proposed bond will be discussed. All meetings listed are open to the community:

April 14, 7 p.m., Novi High School-Fine Arts Wing, Band Boosters meeting

April 16, 6:30 p.m., Novi High School-Room 160, Athletic Boosters meeting

April 21, 6:30 p.m., Novi Public Library, Coffee with the Superintendent

April 22, 7 p.m., Village Oaks Elementary School, Media Center

April 23, 10:15 a.m., Novi Public Library, Coffee with the Superintendent

April 23, 7 p.m., Novi Middle School, Media Center

April 29, time and location to be determined.

Details of the proposed bond are available online by visiting novi.k12.mi.us/district/bond/.

Montessori open house

Novi-Northville Montessori Center (23835 Novi Road) will hold an open house 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 27, and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 7.

The open houses give parents an opportunity to meet the staff, visit the school and learn about the classes and programs offered. NNMC offers five full days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; three full days on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays and five half days. They also offer before-care starting at 7 a.m. and after-school care 3-6 p.m. NNMC offers music and Spanish as part of their curriculum. Extracurricular classes of yoga, dance and gymnastics are also offered after school on site.

The school welcomes students ages 2½ through kindergarten. Children must turn 5 by Oct. 1, 2014.

For more information, call 248-348-3033.

A Growing Place registration

A Growing Place is now registering new students in their Afternoon young 5's and pre-kindergarten classes. Both classes are available in two-, three- or five-day options. Please call 248-471-2333 for more details or to learn about full- and half-day classes. A Growing Place, Inc. is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile in Novi.

ON CAMPUS

Northwood University

Three Novi students – Ashley Bush, Joseph Murphy and Shaun Ryzewski – recently received a bachelor of business administration degree.

Washington University

Two Novi students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester: Margery Gang and Mary Cong Xu, both in the College of Arts & Science. To qualify,

students must earn a semester gradepoint average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

University of Detroit Mercy

Two students from Novi – Frank Holecek and Derek Holecek – from the College of Engineering & Science were recently recognized March 23 for their academic excellence at the University's Honors Convocation.

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Novi High students show prowess, garner kudos

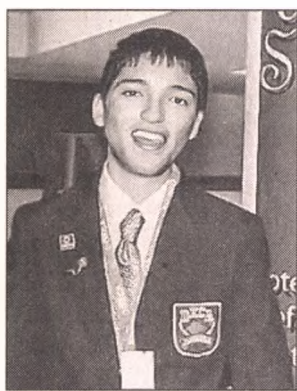
By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Novi High School parents, faculty and staff have a lot of reasons to be proud.

For the first time, Novi students competed in the Amerisure/Walsh College ECON Challenge and won. These students started competing online among 300 teams in February. They placed in the top 31 teams and then competed against those teams on-site at Walsh.

Vineet Jammalamadaka, Timothy Lu, Aditya Doddipatla and Eshwar Inapuri were the top teens in the Amerisure/Walsh College ECON Challenge from Novi.

"That was a great experience for my students," said Jodi Forster, International Baccalaureate business and management teacher at Novi High. "They definitely rose to the occasion. It



Stefan Santrach, a Novi High junior, is a new state officer for DECA, which focuses on marketing for students.

was a wonderful experience from beginning to end."

Forster is also proud of the school's DECA students, a marketing program she's advised for 14 years.

State officer

For the first time, the Novi High School DECA

Chapter has a DECA state officer. Stefan Santrach is the vice president of Career Development.

Santrach, 16, a Novi High junior, will serve as a state officer beginning this May and through his senior year. This is his second year being involved with DECA.

"I thought it was an interesting club," he said. "I was interested because it was business-related and marketing-related."

He's been able to build career skills. Santrach plans to study marketing in college and then earn an M.B.A.

"I just see an interest in marketing campaigns," he said. "I want to do the same thing in the future."

He participated last year at the international level in California, with a group of 14 teens from Novi traveling to Ana-

heim. This year, he and others went to the state conference in Detroit.

"I think Stefan will represent Novi with the highest integrity," Forster said.

A total of 59 Novi DECA students qualified to compete at state competition in March and 24 qualified to move on the international competition in May in Atlanta. This is the biggest group for both states and nationals in Novi High's history.

Santrach and another student would do role playing. "We hash out a solution to a situation in a time constraint of half an hour," he said.

One such situation involved a disaster at a hotel in which emergency personnel and hotel management needed to be informed, "to make sure it's properly in place," he said of the plan.

The marketing club's

initials once stood for Distributive Education Clubs of America, he said, although that name is no longer used.

'Extremely proud'

"I'm extremely proud of their performance," Forster said of the DECA teens. "Their work ethic and their drive and motivation continually impress me."

This year, the 24 Novi DECA teens will compete at internationals May 3-7. "They'll compete against thousands of other students," she said.

Senior Timothy Lu will receive a \$1,000 Walgreens scholarship on stage in Atlanta.

Forster explained the ECON Challenge is separate from DECA and offered through the Michigan Council of Economic Education, with Walsh College as local host. She's also the adviser for that.

"Just to get this far for a first-year team is outstanding," she said. The Novi students began their effort in the ECON Challenge online, then advanced to states.

They'll resume online competition April 15 and, if they do well there, go to nationals May 17-19 in New York City.

"They're pretty excited," Forster said.

"I feel like it gives them a real-world experience you cannot get in the classroom," she said of the programs. "We teach the theory in the classroom, but DECA puts theory in motion."

She appreciates support for the programs. "Parents are very supportive of the program," Forster said. "My administration at the high school is very supportive. It truly is my honor to work with these students. I learn from them every day."

Lambdin wins school Foundation's raffle

Walled Lake Schools Foundation for Excellence recently awarded 15 mini-grants totaling \$18,115 to benefit the students and staff of the Walled Lake District within the areas of technology, literacy, leadership and community.

The disbursement of funds continued with a drawing held March 24 during the Walled Lake PTSA Reflections Celebration with the ninth annual Tuition Expedition 50/50 Scholarship Raffle. Cheryl Lambdin, Commerce resident and Walled Lake Central High School staff member, purchased the winning ticket. Bryan Koval, Walled Lake resident and Walled Lake district staff member, also won that evening when he received a Samsung Galaxy tablet donated by Applied Imaging.

"I wish to say thanks to the foundation and the winnings will really help with my granddaughter's education," Lambdin said.

The congratulatory call to Lambdin could not have been



Cheryl Lambdin (left) is congratulated by Michelle Bianco, FFE executive director.

timed better, as her household was already in celebratory mode for her husband's birthday. "The Walled Lake District has been sharing in the excitement of Cheryl's good fortune," said Michelle Bianco, foundation executive director.

Raffle ticket sales totaled 352, which raised a total of \$35,200. The foundation appreciates the community supporting this raffle

and the Walled Lake School Employees Federal Credit Union for its sponsorship.

The foundation, established in 1991, is sustained by the generous donations received from Walled Lake district staff members, its supportive communities and businesses and through honorariums, memorials and fundraising efforts.

The foundation's Board of Trustees is composed of 13 volunteer members dedicated to extending its reach into as many classrooms as possible to enhance the educational experience of Walled Lake students.

The community is invited to attend the Foundation for Excellence fifth annual Golf Scramble, set for June 23 at Edgewood Country Club, Commerce Township. Registration will be launched and sponsorship information made available at the Foundation's website (<http://www.wlcsd.org/foundation.cfm>) or you may contact the Foundation for Excellence office at 248-956-2116 for details.

Brainstormer



Deerfield Elementary students learned that their school is filled with creative authors at the recent Brainstormer assembly, where 10 student authors were selected to watch their stories travel from page to stage as the Brainstormers crew, along with eager student volunteers, brought the stories to life. Wacky costumes, funny voices and great storytelling combined to make for a hilarious good time. Part of the fun was watching the surprise and delight on the faces of the student authors as they were called up, invited to sit in the Awesome Author chair and watch their story acted out before their eyes. The list of selected student authors was a well-kept secret until the assembly! Many Deerfield students wrote stories before the Brainstormer assembly and, although time only allowed for 10 stories to be shared, the Brainstormer crew congratulated all of the students, telling them they were all "awesome authors."

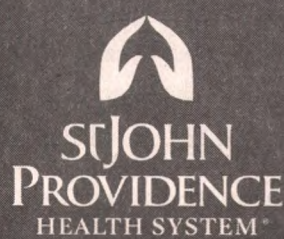
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MoveOn.org protesters want better minimum wage

Members of MoveOn.org protested last week outside U.S. Congressman Kerry Bentivolio's office in Commerce Township, encouraging him to support increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

MoveOn members carried signs reading things like "We Deserve a Fair Wage" and "Rep. Bentivolio: Stop Supporting Poverty Wages." The group said they presented petition signatures from 523 residents within the 11th District,



Virgil Schave protests April 1 outside U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio's Commerce Township office, supporting an increased minimum wage. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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which the Milford Republican represents. The district includes western Wayne and Oakland counties, as well as a portion that

stretches east to Bloomfield Hills. "Raising the minimum wage is common-sense policy with strong support, even in Republican held districts," Ilya Sheyman, executive director of MoveOn.org Political Action, said in a release. "Republicans in Congress, who are standing in the way of pay raises for millions of American workers, should be ready to pay at the ballot box in November."
 Susan Temere organized the local event. "Raising the minimum wage shows we value hard work. A \$10.10 per hour minimum wage would directly boost the wages of about 28 million workers, giving them more money to spend, which feeds back into the local economy," she said. The event was part of the political group's National Day of Action in support of increasing the minimum wage.

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Romney's niece taking on larger role

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Ronna Romney-McDaniel has never shied away from her political beliefs.

Whether it was handing out fliers for school board candidates when she was just a child or, more recently, campaigning for her famous uncle Mitt Romney during his failed bid to become president of the United States, the Northville Township resident has always spoken her mind when it comes to politics.

After being elected last month as the committee woman representing Michigan with the Republican National Committee, Romney-McDaniel, 40, will have a lot more people listening.

After defeating two other candidates for the national unpaid position, Romney-McDaniel replaces Terri Lynn Land, who had to step down because she is running for the U.S. Senate against Democrat Gary Peters. Michigan's three representatives on the RNC include Romney-McDaniel; Dave Agema, who has sparked controversy with his anti-gay views; and Michigan Republican Party Chair Bobby Schostak. Romney-McDaniel will complete Land's term, which expires in the summer of 2016.

Romney-McDaniel is the daughter of Ronna Romney, a former U.S. Senate candidate, and Scott Romney, an attorney who is Mitt Romney's brother.

Her immediate goals are to help energize the Republican base at the grassroots level and get Gov. Rick Snyder and the rest of the Republican slate re-elected in Michigan.

We caught up with her recently and asked



Northville Township resident Ronna Romney-McDaniel is becoming more visible with the GOP.

how she plans to achieve these goals.

Northville Record: With your uncle being who he is and your family very political, was politics something you were always interested in?

Romney-McDaniel: "We were always involved. In early childhood, I worked on handing out fliers for the local school board race. My aunt ran for precinct delegate at one point. I handed out fliers at the library. It's just something that's been part of our family, being civic-minded. We talked about volunteerism and public service at the dinner table. So I don't think it's surprising that I still have that interest after growing up in such a family."

Northville Record: Was working on your uncle's campaign your first big foray into national politics?

Romney-McDaniel: Working for the Women For Mitt Coalition and

traveling around the state, speaking to women during that race prepared me for this position and kind of gave me a taste of what it is like to talk to women about issues facing them. And talk to them about our party's perspectives about ways we can help women. And that kind of led to this national committeewoman's role.

Northville Record: Was this position with the RNC something you were interested in or did someone approach you about running?

Romney-McDaniel: No, I was not approached. It was something I was interested in. I knew about the position. I knew Terri Lynn Land very well and she was running for Senate. So I thought she might have to resign and it would be something I would be interested in. After she did, we had a little family roundtable session and I decided to throw my hat in the ring.

Northville Record:

Discuss the RNC and its role.

Romney-McDaniel: The Republican National Committee is kind of the governing body of the Republican Party. They meet three times a year. Our next meeting will be in Memphis in May. There is a national committee man and national committee woman from each state that are members of the RNC and also the state Republican chair. So we have three members representing Michigan. The meeting in May will be my first meeting.

We'll talk about about resolutions and rules. One of the most recent changes they made is to the primary calendar for the Republican Party. It's going to be significantly different from 2012 in 2016. There will be less debates. The primary order is set in stone. Any state jumping ahead will have a much greater penalty in terms of their delegates, which Michigan has been one of those states in the past. With the new rules, states won't jump ahead. It's going to spread the primary calendar out.

Northville Record: Looking at the 2014 election, what are your goals in this new role?

Romney-McDaniel: My goals are to re-elect Gov. Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette and to keep our Republican majorities in the state House and state Senate – and to grow those, actually. And our congressional delegation, the Supreme Court, Ruth Johnson for secretary of state. We've got a big ticket that we're fielding in 2014. It's a team that is working for Michigan. When I moved here in 2007, it was not going so well at that time. We've seen things done by Gov. Snyder and our Republican majorities that

have seen our state grow. I want to help get that ticket re-elected.

Northville Record: You've talked about your role as a female and connecting with female voters. Your colleague Dave Agema has been in the news quite a bit for his colorful views. In your role, do you have to combat that a little bit or are you in line with his views?

Romney-McDaniel: I think my role is to represent the Republican Party, which is a party that is respectful and dignified of all people of all circumstances. If you look at our platform, that's what it says. If you look at the preamble of our rules, that's the language that is used. I don't identify with any language that is derogatory or inflammatory toward any group or person. And the Republicans I know don't agree with that either.

Northville Record: What are the things Snyder has done successfully that you want to focus on?

Romney-McDaniel: There's so many things. The population is growing. People are coming back to Michigan. We're starting to see incomes rise again. Our home prices are rising. Doing business in Michigan is a much better opportunity than it was under (Gov. Jennifer) Granholm. Snyder has made doing business in Michigan an exciting prospect again.

What he's accomplished in the last four years is really remarkable. If you look at the agenda he set forth and what he's accomplished, it's an amazing number of things he's tackled in his first term and I think he'll continue to do that in a second term.

kkuban@hometownlife.com
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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

ITC field damaged

A soccer/ball field area at the ITC Community Sports Park was damaged by an unknown vehicle driving over it.

The incident occurred at the park, located at 51000 Eight Mile, sometime March 21-24. The damage was in the northeast area. The Novi Police report stated it appeared, by looking at the wheelbase of the tracks left behind, as though a truck or SUV made the damage.

Illegal pills

A driver was stopped for tinted windows, but was then cited for violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

On March 24, a Novi Police patrol vehicle spotted the vehicle and stopped it at West Park Drive and West Pontiac Trail. The vehicle was towed, but the driver said he needed to be at his doctor. So the police offered a ride, but he needed to be searched first, which turned up a variety of different pills in three bottles.

They were found in a lunch box and were mixed up in each bottle. Some of the pills were Oxycodone.

Theft at parking lot

A patron to the Tilted Kilt had his radio stolen from his vehicle while it was parked outside.

The man reported the theft, which happened March 26, to Novi Police after coming back to it to find the rear window broken out. He said it was locked. The radio/entertainment system, priced at \$300, was ripped out of the Buick Enclave.

There are no suspects. The location does not have any security cameras outside on the lot.

– By Lonnie Huhman



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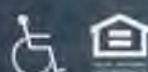
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Maddock third Republican to file for 15th District seat

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

A Milford man filed paperwork last week to challenge Mike Kowall for the state Senate 15th District seat.

Matt Maddock is the third Republican to run for the seat available in this fall's election. The primary election will be Aug. 5 and the general election Nov. 4.

Maddock said he's running to make sure traditional Republican principles are represented in Lansing.

"When I stand in that voting booth, it doesn't matter what side of the booth you're on," he said. "When you vote for that candidate, the first thing you're thinking? I'm just



Maddock

hoping this person I'm voting for if keeping to their promises."

While Maddock ran for a spot on the Milford Village Council a little more than 10 years ago, he's been more accustomed to working behind the scenes helping other Republicans get elected. "Nothing is more dis-

appointing than a Republican who abandons party principles," he said.

Maddock points to the state Legislature's vote to expand Medicaid, which he opposes. He said 21 states run by Republicans "chose a better option instead of expanding Medicaid." That, he continued, doesn't follow Republican principles and voters shouldn't be supporting Republicans who favored the expansion. Kowall was among those who voted in favor of the measure.

"We should not reelect Republicans not willing to hold firm to the Republican Party platform. We can't continue to do that," Maddock said. "The Republican Party platform is a beau-

tiful document. It's 62 pages long and represents true ideals. The Republican Party doesn't need to redefine our message. We need to redefine our candidates to hold them accountable to that platform.

"I'm never going to drive off that platform. Never ever."

If Kowall followed the Republican platform more closely, Maddock said he would not be running for the position.

"The campaign is not about me. There's thousands and thousands of people who live in this district who are sick of this as I," he said. "I was happy working the background of the Republican Party helping others win. America is craving leaders that are honorable people who mean what they say. That's what I crave in my heart."

Maddock said he supports a part-time Legislature and wants to eliminate Michigan's taxpayer-funded corporate welfare programs and the Michigan Corporate Tax.

Maddock, 47, is married with three children. He owns his own bail bonds business. He serves on the Oakland County Republican Party Executive Committee and the 11th Congressional District Committee.

Ron Molnar of White Lake also filed paperwork challenging Kowall in the Republican primary. The 15th District includes southwestern Oakland County and stretches east to Orchard Lake. The filing deadline is April 22.

Learn more about Maddock online at www.mattmaddock.com.

pallmen@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, ext. 226

Kowall faces two challengers in GOP primary this August

By Philip Allmen
Staff Writer



Kowall

Incumbent state legislators aren't challenged regularly within their own political party, at least since voters approved term limits. In the past two years, however, that's changed a bit more.

State Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, is experiencing that himself this year. Kowall, who's served in an elected capacity in the state House of Representatives, state Senate and White Lake Township, faces two Republican challengers in his quest for another term as the 15th District senator representing southwestern Oakland County.

"You're always going to have critics. Opinions are like belly buttons. Everyone has one," he said.

Kowall, along with Mike Maddock of Milford and Ron Molnar of White Lake, each filed paperwork to run in the August primary for the Republican nomination.

Kowall said their running is one of the things that makes America great.

"People are paying attention. They're more engaged. Someone always has a better way to get it done," Kowall said, noting that he thinks his record shows he's represented the district well. "All in all, we're doing a great job. When you add up all the numbers at the end of the day, it's working."

Just as some constit-

uents disagree with his work, Kowall said he's disagreed with Republican Gov. Rick Snyder on issues, as well. But in the past three years, Kowall said the state has made dramatic changes for the better.

And he's a bit surprised when his Republican credentials are questioned. He's supported Republican candidates — both spiritually and financially — since he started campaigning for Ronald Reagan in the '80s.

"I take offense when people say that, just because it doesn't fit in with their thought pattern," he said. "There's a far radical left and a far radical right. Most people are in the middle, where I think most of our district is. It's a financially conservative district."

The filing deadline is April 22. The winner of the August primary advances to the November general election. Tom Crawford of Milford is the only Democrat who has filed to run.

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Novi man marks 90th birthday with a salute from friends, family

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Lew Bartlett turned 90 years old recently and his birthday party was made that much more special with a visit from a group of U.S. Marines.

"This is all a very pleasant surprise," Bartlett, a Novi resident, said as he was surrounded by family and friends at his party, held March 29 at the Island Lake Boathouse.

Four veteran Marines showed up to the party after getting a call from Derek Atkinson of the Ann Arbor VA Hospital telling them that a fellow veteran Marine was celebrating a momentous birthday. They all still have their uniforms looking crisp and clean.

"We're excited to be here for a fellow Marine," veteran Sgt. Dave Grob said.

They, along with those gathered, sang the *Marine Corps Hymn* to Bartlett, who stood with tears in his eyes. Some of Bartlett's friends on hand also served and felt the magic of the moment. One was



Novi resident Lew Bartlett (right), with friend Francis Haney, celebrated his 90th birthday with friends and family March 29. It was made extra-special by a visit from a group of U.S. Marines.

LONNIE HUHMAN

Francis Haney, who also served in the Marines.

Both Bartlett and Haney fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. Haney said he hit the beach around the same time Bartlett did during that fateful battle in the Pacific. He felt proud to be standing with his long-time friend all of these years later.

"He's a good guy," Haney said with a smile.

Bartlett grew up in Detroit and was thinking of a life in the priesthood,

but ended up joining the Marines at the age of 18 and serving with the 5th Marine Division. He was sent back to the States after being shot in the shoulder during the battle and was later awarded the Purple Heart for his duty.

He went on to live a long life and has been married to Dorothy for 64 years. Bartlett spent his career as an insurance salesman and free time as an avid golfer and family man. They

raised eight children in Farmington Hills before moving to Novi.

He and his wife now live at Meadowbrook Commons.

The celebration was attended by more than 100 people and it was one to remember.

"This birthday was one of the finest compliments I've ever received," Bartlett said.

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Twitter: @lhuhman

Dinner, auction to benefit veterans and families

The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, a Livonia-headquartered nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to assisting U.S. soldiers and their families, in coordination with Families United and Operation Care Package Michigan, will host its ninth annual Dinner and Auction on Saturday, April 12. The keynote speaker is Robert O'Neill, a former member of Navy SEAL Team 6.

The event will begin at 5 p.m. at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, in Novi. Meteorologist Chuck Gaidica will serve as master of ceremonies. He will introduce honored veterans from all branches of service, and state government officials.

Silent auction and inspirational stories will be shared by wounded Michigan soldiers and their families and guests will be presented with detailed information on how donations to FWSF have made a positive impact on Michigan's military families. Since

its inception in 2006, the FWSF has raised more than \$1 million to help wounded or fallen soldiers and their families. Returning troops often face delays in getting assistance from the government. The FWSF has the ability to quickly help families in need, from paying medical bills and travel expenses for families to visit their recovering loved ones at Walter Reed Hospital in D.C., to living expenses, foreclosure assistance and home modifications to create accessible living quarters.

Tickets, which includes a silent auction, dinner and open bar, are \$110 per person. Table sponsorships are available for \$1,100. Organizers are accepting sponsorships and auction items. Tickets and auction items are tax-deductible.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Antonella Grimaldi at 248-747-8888 or fwsfdinner@gmail.com. For corporate sponsorships, contact Chris Cornelius at 734-718-5217 or fwsf1@aol.com.



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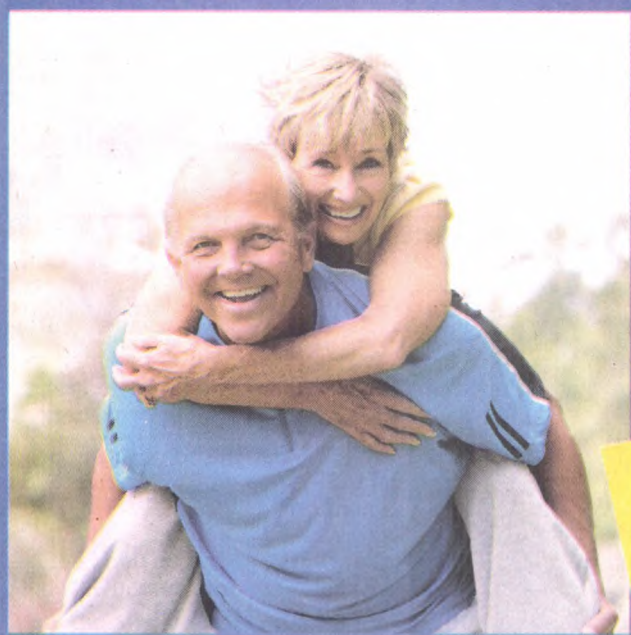


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All Patients Urgent Care serves up good health – on time

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Two physicians board-certified in internal medicine – Dr. Ahmad Alabbas, M.D. and Dr. Yaser Hamwi, M.D. – will hold the grand opening of their All Patients Urgent Care in Novi on April 16.

“We did some demographic study. Our location can target multiple communities,” Alabbas said of the Beck Road at Pontiac Trail locale in the Secretary of State office plaza. It will feature electronic records, flu shots, e-prescriptions, sports and school physicals, pre-employment physicals and will serve adult and pediatric patients.

The facility will be able to treat non-life-threatening illnesses, including minor burns, sprains and strains. It will offer laceration care and treat minor broken bones. EKGs, digital X-rays and common lab procedures will be available.

“We do lacerations, some wounds, chronic and acute diseases,” Alabbas said. “We deal with it right away.”

He and Hamwi are proud that patients, some of whom may have had difficulty getting appointments with their regular doctor, wait no more than 30 minutes. Alabbas lives in



Dr. Yaser Hamwi, M.D., (left) and Dr. Ahmad Alabbas, M.D., board-certified in internal medicine, are opening All Patients Urgent Care at Beck Road and Pontiac Trail in Novi.

Franklin, Hamwi in Walled Lake. “We have good feedback so far from everybody,” Alabbas said of the new Novi location. “We like it.”

He attended medical school in Damascus, Syria, and did a transitional year in internal medicine at the University of Baltimore, along with a residency in that specialty at a university in Canton, Ohio.

Hamwi attended medical school in Syria and did his residency with Henry Ford Health System in internal medicine.

“That’s my family wish from the begin-

ning,” Alabbas said of his becoming a physician, which became his wish, too. “You can serve the people. You are dealing with a human being.”

They emphasize customer service with patients. “We need the patient to be accommodated,” Alabbas said. The patient is also educated on care “and give him all the guidance for his treatment and follow-up.”

All Patients Urgent Care staff calls the day after a visit for a follow-up.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Small business investing triples in Oakland County

Small businesses are thriving and investing in Oakland County, according to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. In 2013, existing small businesses and start-ups obtained triple the amount of loans and capital formation dollars from 2012 with the help of the Oakland County Business Center.

Banks approved \$22,719,100 in traditional loans for established small businesses in 2013 through the Oakland County Business Center compared to \$7,050,195 in 2012. In addition, The Oakland County Business Center assisted 19 start-up companies in acquiring \$39,159,531 in capital formation in 2013. Contrast that to 2012, when 12 new starts accessed \$13,669,878 in capital formation.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They are a bell-weather of things to come,” Patterson said. “When businesses start investing more, it’s a sign that they are confident about the future.”

These investments helped generate \$42,644,162 in revenue for the businesses and created 226 jobs in 2013. The year before, they helped produce \$11,330,801 in revenue and created 191 jobs.

Oakland County Business Center counselors offered 2,968 hours of assistance to small businesses and start-ups last year. It is located in the One Stop Shop on the first floor of the Executive Office Building, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. Start-ups or small businesses seeking to grow or invest in Oakland County may contact

an Oakland County Business Center counselor at 248-858-0783, or click on AdvantageOakland.com.

Steve & Rocky’s receives award

The American Culinary Federation honored Steve & Rocky’s restaurant in Novi with an Achievement of Excellence Award at the 2014 ACF Central Regional Conference, March 16-19.

Steve & Rocky’s is one of 12 operations to receive the award, which recognizes food service establishments that exemplify a commitment to excellence. Criteria for the award are: being in operation for at least five consecutive years; nomination by an ACF chapter, member or individual in the food service profession; and being a recognized industry leader.

Steve & Rocky’s opened in 1998 under the direction of Steve Allen and Charles “Rocky” Rachwitz. The restaurant serves fresh seafood and produce based on seasonal availability. In the summer, Allen grows organic produce for a restaurant on his personal micro-farm. The menu also includes non-seafood items.

Learn about government contracting

Did you know the federal government purchases more than \$518 billion of goods and services a year and the state of Michigan utilizes 1,100 multi-year contracts?

Find out what it takes to sell your goods and services to the federal government and the state of Michigan at Government Contracting 101 at Schoolcraft College from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 17. In

addition, learn about the services and continuous support the Procurement Technical Assistance Center has available to help your company with the contracting process.

Admission is \$45 per person. Preregistration required; contact Carrie Vroman at 734-462-4438 or cvroman@schoolcraft.edu

Snyder: February unemployment figures down

Michigan’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 7.7 percent in February, the lowest the rate has been since May 2008, and the state’s labor force grew by 21,000 during the month as well.

“Michigan is the comeback state and the trend of reduced unemployment and more and better jobs continues, with six consecutive months of job growth,” Gov. Rick Snyder said. “More than a quarter million people are working today than were just three years ago in our state. While this is good news and a positive trend, our work is not done. We are going to keep our foot on the gas as we work to reinvent Michigan.”

NEWSMAKER

Leigh Merrill

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. announced Leigh C. Merrill III, P.E. has received his professional engineer license in Michigan.

He is a civil engineer on FTCH’s Transportation Design Team in the Novi office. Merrill is a graduate of Michigan State University, where he earned his B.S. in civil engineering.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in February offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For preregistration and location specifics, visit www.advantageoakland.com/expand or call 248-858-0783.

Get a Grip on Your Business | EOS Workshop May 1, 9-11 a.m. If you are the owner, leader or manager of an entrepreneurial organization who wants to see your business consistently run better and grow faster, Mike Kotsis, a professional EOS implementer, can help you and your team simplify, clarify and achieve your vision. You will walk away with a focused action plan using the EOS workbook containing the tools that will help you to gain more traction in your business. Don’t let the company run you – Get a Grip on Your Business. Fee: \$40 per person, preregistration is required.

Business Research: Feasibility to Expansion May 7, 9 a.m. to noon Thinking of starting a business and want to research your business idea? Do you want to identify market trends and opportunities to grow your sales? Are you looking for new customers or to diversify your market base? Business research shows you ways to find your ideal customers, your competitors, perform competitive analysis and more. This is presented by the Oakland County Business Center, Oakland County Market Research Department and an Oakland County Public Library business reference librarian. Fee: This workshop is free, but preregistration is required.

Know Your Numbers: Five Keys to Using Fi-

Financial Statements May 13, 9 a.m. to noon Who Should Attend: Business owners and key staff who want to have a better understanding of how to use their financial statements. The ideal participant will have two-to-three years of financial history and be pursuing financing or having challenges with cash flow. Topics include how to use your balance sheet and income statement in managing your business, use break even analysis to improve your decision-making, find the source of your cash flow problems, increase your company’s cash flow, and get the banker on your side. Fee: \$25, preregistration is required.

CEED Microloan Orientation May 14, 9-11 a.m. Many small businesses face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases, and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the Microloan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan. Fee: This workshop is free, but preregistration is required.

QuickBooks® for Business Owners May 15, 9 a.m. to noon Join ATD Solutions as we explore the possibilities within QuickBooks. Our QuickBooks for Business Owners class is recommended for owners and financial decision makers who would like to explore the options available within QuickBooks. ATD Solutions will review best practices to limit your exposure to embezzlement or fraud within your company, the best version to use, and which industry specific reports to use to make great business decisions. Further resources will be presented to help you after this introductory class. Fee: \$40 per person, preregistration is required.

Break the Rules,

Close More Sales May 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A business development workshop for business owners, company Presidents/CEO’s and professional service firms and sales people; in two short hours, you’ll learn how to establish trust with your prospects, prospect more efficiently, shorten the sales cycle, eliminate stalls and objection, take control of the sales process, and differentiate your company. Fee: \$40 per person, preregistration is required.

Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE) Certification Orientation May 21, 9-11 a.m. Learn about the benefits and process of becoming a Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE). Benefits include certification to private sector WBE’s and access to procurement opportunities with major national companies. Fee: \$25 per person, preregistration is required.

Team SBA Financing Roundtable May 22, 9 a.m. to noon Before you apply for a business loan, we recommend that you first attend the Small Business Association Forum on Small Business Lending. This is a free loan orientation conducted by a business banker, a business consultant from the SBA’s network of Small Business Development Centers, and an SBA representative. During the roundtable, we’ll debunk the myths and demystify the process of small business financing. You’ll learn how the lending process works and what is expected of you and you’ll understand how the SBA can assist with our SBA Guaranteed Loan Program. This session is best suited to those who have good credit, a solid business idea, and some money to invest in their business. Because the SBA does not provide loan guarantees to real estate investment firms, including purchasing and rehabbing houses for sale, this type of financing is not discussed at the roundtables. Fee: This workshop is free, but preregistration is required.

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OUR VIEWS

Be patient, watch out for pedestrians during freeway construction

With I-96 having just closed Saturday in Livonia and Redford for reconstruction, it may be a while before the 140,000 motorists who used the freeway daily find the best detour for them to get where they need to go.

That will mean increased traffic on nearby freeways and surface roads, including Schoolcraft, which has been reduced to one lane in either direction, and Six Mile. The \$148 million project also includes the repair of 37 bridges along the route, including some like Inkster Road that will be completely shut down for a period of time.

In the meantime, we suggest everyone allow double the time to get to their destination—at least in the beginning—and be patient with other motorists who may be unfamiliar with their new routes or unaware of which bridge is closed when.

It may help to remember that while the total closure of the freeway from Telegraph to Newburgh roads for the next six months will be inconvenient, it is preferable to partial closures for a much longer period of time.

The majority of respondents to a poll conducted by the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2012 said they preferred to have the work done all at once rather than have it be stretched out over the course of several years.

It is sort of like ripping a bandage off quickly instead of peeling it off slowly. It'll hurt a little more, but for not as long.

We also encourage drivers to watch out for children, as some Livonia Public Schools bus stops have been relocated off of Schoolcraft and into adjacent neighborhoods. Surface road traffic may also spill into neighborhoods as motorists look for ways to get around congestion.

We also encourage customers of businesses along or near I-96 to continue to patronize them during construction, even if it means sitting in traffic a little longer. Those businesses are dependent on the community's support and patrons will want them to still be around six months from now when the freeway reopens.



Construction equipment on the I-96 median between I-275 and Newburgh. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMUNITY VOICE

Novi is looking for short-term safety solutions for the 10 Mile and Napier roads intersection. What do you think should be done to make it safer?

The roads are under Oakland County jurisdiction and the intersection is planned to have some permanent fixes to make it safer, but not for another three years.



"I think visibility is an issue there, so maybe it would be best to start with clearing some of the trees away from the road."

Allison Gudeman
Northville



"They need to pave Napier southward and put a traffic light in at the intersection. That's what many people along this road want."

Dick Anderson
Northville, has family that live off of Napier



"It needs a light. It's a dangerous intersection and I think that would be the best fix."

Deanna Sypula
Novi, lives off of Napier Road



"It needs a light and Napier needs to be paved. Anything short of that might not be enough to prevent a really bad accident. We've been here three or four years and it's always been a dangerous spot. I try to avoid it. I'm afraid something terrible will happen before it's fixed permanently."

Nola D'Angelo
Novi, lives off of Napier Road

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote 'yes' for bond May 6

It isn't often when a volunteer citizen's committee is charged with asking voters to support a bond proposal, while having the pleasant task of reporting that your tax rate WILL NOT INCREASE.

That's right! If you vote "yes" May 6, the Novi School District bond will address:

- » Updating instructional technology in all district schools
- » Enhancing building security in all district schools
- » Preserving our buildings' infrastructure in all district schools
- » Sustaining low class sizes in all district schools
- » Replacing buses, furniture and equipment at end of useful life in all district schools
- » Enhancing arts and athletic facilities at our middle school and high school

And your tax bill will show NO INCREASE to the current tax rate in school debt. In fact, your tax-rate will begin to decrease in five years.

Hard to believe? Not really, if you've followed how Novi School District officials have been very responsible in managing our capital expenses.

Much of the school district's debt load is being paid off and the Novi Board of Education

recently approved a refinancing project to help take advantage of low interest rates over the last three years.

That's why we believe now is a good time to ask for your continued support of Novi Schools. After all, research shows that strong schools protect and preserve our home values.

Novi is a great place to live. It offers a tremendous "quality of life" that all citizens (young and old) have learned to appreciate over the years. And a major component of that "quality of life" is quality schools. Novi has a strong reputation as one of the top districts in the state—and the nation—because of your unending support for excellence.

You expect excellence and Novi Schools delivers it!

Let's help maintain and sustain our high standards for excellence.

Don't forget—vote "yes" May 6. Thank you.

Willy Mena
chair, Friends of Novi Schools Bond Committee

Hit for inaction

The Michigan Senate recently passed a supplemental bill that, among other things, would transfer \$100 million for road maintenance. Even though this is just a transfer of funds and other projects shelved, it will be wel-

comed by the county and local agencies that have been short-changed the past four years.

Six Republican senators voted against the \$360 million bill, among them Sen. Patrick Colbeck. Why, you ask, would he do that? Well, here's the answer in a nutshell.

Last fall, after failing to stop the Medicaid expansion, he led the charge to not give that law immediate effect, which gave our state treasury a multi-million-dollar hit. The supplemental bill includes \$73.3 million to pay for Colbeck's and the tea party's antics.

With the election looming, Colbeck doesn't want the voters to see, in black and white, how much it cost us for him to please "Americans for Prosperity (for the Rich)."

James Huddleston
Canton

CVS choice

I think if they're (CVS) going to stop selling tobacco because it's not healthy, then alcohol shouldn't be sold either.

Those who are addicted will find somewhere to purchase it. Myself, I gave those habits up years ago.

Caroline Norwood
Canton

GUEST COLUMN

Roads, young minds will define much of future

Remember the oil filter ad from the 1970s, where the gruff, grease-stained car mechanic scowls at the camera and says, "You can pay me now or you can pay me later?"

That's exactly what we are facing in Michigan, only it's been that way for a decade when it comes to dealing with the stuff—the fancy word is "infrastructure"—that will define much of our future: the condition of our roads and the quality of our young people's minds.

Roads first. It's been a long and terrible winter and the thaw we're seeing these days sure is welcome. But today's thaw means tomorrow's potholes. The harder the winter, the more and the deeper the potholes. And the more expensive, especially when you discover that big



Phil Power
GUEST COLUMNIST

thud you heard when you were driving home means a trip to the shop for a tire and a maybe a new wheel.

To his credit, Gov. Rick Snyder has been pushing for years for the big money needed to fix our roads. But it's an election year so, of course, the Legislature has been doing everything possible to avoid facing facts and coming up with the money everybody knows we need to fix our concrete ribbons.

The first step in this year's political pander dance was for a couple of Republican senators to propose—what else?—a tax cut. But when it

turned out that would pay for, maybe, a couple of lattes at the local Starbucks, support cooled. And when we got the thaw and as people gasped at the potholes, the political class began to rethink.

I'm told by Lansing insiders that legislators, regardless of party, are being pounded big-time to do something about the roads. "Something" may not mean the \$1.2 billion per year that the governor has been talking about, but it's got to be a serious, long-term program to bring our roads into the 21st century, not just a few slaps of cold patch and a thin skin of new paving.

If it's ever going to be done politically, it will have to be done pretty quickly, while folks are seeing first-hand just how much it costs everybody to shirk taking care of basic infrastructure.

Now consider our colleges and universities. They are just as basic as the roads to our future, since they have to do with the talent and skills of our young people.

Disgracefully, over the past decade, state spending on higher edu-

cation has been cut by more than half. The result has been rapidly rising college tuition and mushrooming student debt, which is now an average of \$29,000 per graduate, according to the higher education website CollegeInsight.org. The non-partisan House Fiscal Agency reports state support used to cover more than half a college degree's cost. Today, it's only around 20 percent. Michigan is one of the few states in the nation that spends more on warehousing felons in our prison system than on educating our young people.

In his State of the State message in January, the governor proposed increasing support for higher education by 6.1 percent. Many people, led by Business Leaders for Michigan, are saying it's about time. But politics has a way of getting in the way, especially in an election year.

Much of the debate has been dominated by some legislators who seem to think an uneducated labor force will guarantee prosperity for us all.

Democratic lawmak-

ers, who usually favor increased support for higher education, have been largely silent on the subject, probably because they don't want to make the governor look good.

How come? Democrats think it is good politics to bash Snyder for short-changing the schools. Because spending on both schools and colleges is bundled in an "omnibus" bill, they don't want to join in a bipartisan vote for passage—even at the risk of hurting our universities, young people, their families and our future.

Higher education increases lifetime earnings. According to the Anderson Economic Group, median wages for Michigan workers with a bachelor's degree are \$20,000 higher than those with only a high school diploma; the gap widens to \$40,000 for those with advanced degrees.

And according to the Lumina Foundation, which is designed to increase the number of Americans with degrees, we'll need an additional 900,000 workers with an associate's degree or higher to meet the work-force demands

of the next decade.

So here we have two cases—roads and colleges—in which partisan politics is preventing our lawmakers from taking long-overdue, essential actions for our long-term good.

To be fair, most lawmakers are good people who start out running for office to make things better. But as their re-election dates draw near, their calculus has a way of changing.

Maybe we should arrange to play that old "pay me now or pay me later" ad at party caucuses and in both houses of the Legislature.

For its message is even more relevant than ever: Paying now for long-term essentials makes far more sense and is far better—and cheaper—than paying later.

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics and economics. He is also the founder and chairman of the Center for Michigan. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of the center. He welcomes your comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

NOVI NEWS

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Novi siblings, other dedicated teens earn Fox Run scholarships

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The first five McClure children of Novi received a Fox Run retirement community scholarship to help them attend college.

Fox Run has held its 2014 scholarship fundraising drive to help its student workers attend college. This year, \$290,000 was raised, said Marianne Mikkelsen, philanthropy manager for the retirement community.

"They serve dinner to the residents every day and establish close relationships," she said of the program, which began in 2004 and has provided some \$1.2 million in scholarship support since its inception.

This year, 29 area students will receive Fox Run scholarships, including two of the McClures from Novi, who are twins.

"They live in Novi and they're very involved in the Novi community," she said. One older McClure family sibling is

studying pre-medicine, a sibling is in business and another a Michigan State University graduate and mechanical engineer.

"They worked here as high school students and then they went on to college," Mikkelsen said, adding one remaining sibling is too young to be employed.

The teen staffers at Fox Run in Novi like being with the older residents. "They're all in school, plus a lot of them are involved in extracurricular activities," she said.

The teens must work at least two years to be eligible, totaling 1,000 hours or more. They spend many waking hours with the senior residents.

"They really get to know the residents and the residents get to know them," she said. The students bound for college must obtain two letters of recommendation from Fox Run residents, as well as a letter from their supervisor.

At 7 p.m. Monday, June 2, the scholarship



Five of the McClure siblings of Novi have received a Fox Run scholarship up to and including this year's honorees. The college scholarships are for teens who have worked at the retirement community.

winners will be lauded by Fox Run residents.

"They kind of share their talents at that time," she said of the teens who have talents like music or dance. Not all 29 will perform.

Some previous winners have returned for careers at the retirement community, working as nurses, restaurant managers or in other roles. "There's a lot of different careers here," Mikkelsen said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Bianca Adams and Marissa Bennett, both of Walled Lake Western High School; George Bowles, Livonia Churchill HS; Kevin Coleman, Sarah Cote and Diamond Darby, Walled Lake Central HS; Alanta Davis, Walled Lake Western HS; Zachary Donnelly, Waterford Kettering HS; Alexandra Gabel, Walled Lake Central HS; Matthew Gluck, Novi HS; Velecia Haio, Walled Lake Western HS; Bradley Harris, Waterford Kettering HS; Brian Holland, Walled Lake Central HS; Elijah Howe, Novi HS; Drake Kern, Zachary Kopy, Grace Kosky and Tyler Mack, all of Walled Lake Central HS; Scott McClure and Shane McClure, Novi HS; Marissa Miller, Walled Lake Western HS; Nicholas Morgan, Novi HS; Wade Panizzoli, Waterford Kettering HS; Daniel Pouliot, Novi HS; Jazmyn Roble and Annamarie Salazar, Walled Lake Western HS; Johnathan Sheena, West Bloomfield HS; Johanna Sverdlow, North Farmington HS; and Melissa Turner, Walled Lake Western HS.

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Tipping Point Theatre key part of community

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

James Kuhl is producing artistic director for the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville, which opened its doors in 2007. The Farmington resident earned his master of fine arts degree in acting from Wayne State University.

"I think it's a wonderful asset," Kuhl said of the theater on Cady Street, where he oversees the financial/business aspects as well as the artistic side. The community of Northville made a collective decision that arts organizations are key, he said.

"They come out and support what we do," including the partnership with Northville High School drama productions and Tipping Point pros. Kuhl noted the nearby presence of theaters at Genitti's and the Marquis.

Great support

"The community supports them all for different reasons," he said. That longtime support "really shows the community has a large support for theater and arts in general."

That includes Tipping

TIPPING POINT THEATRE

Address: 361 E. Cady Street, Northville
Artistic Director: James Kuhl
Next production: *Old Love*
Web/Phone:
www.tippingpointtheatre.com;
248-347-0003

Point's Sandbox Festival in June, done in conjunction with Arts and Acts. Sandbox organizers seek 10-minute plays, then pick the top four, cast and stage them, often with newcomers.

The one-acts are then staged at Genitti's, said Lynn Wilde Concannon, who handles marketing and development for TPT. "We perform them there because our theater has a show running," the Pinckney resident said. "We use their space. You can get a drink at the bar, which is nice."

TPT offers classic plays, musicals, current off-Broadway shows and regularly new works, Concannon said. The building is now owned by the theater.

"We're very happy because



Tipping Point features numerous productions each year, including its latest, "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," which features Dave Davies (left), Wayne David Parker and Cheryl Turski.

we own our own building," she said.

The theater grew out of parks and recreation offerings, with resident Chuck Gaidica, who's soon leaving his WDIV-TV (Channel 4) weatherman post for the ministry, supporting the venture. Businessman Chuck Lapham also got involved, with the two Chucks the original building owners for about five years.

TPT now has a volunteer board of seven members, along with several staffers. It stages six full productions this year.

TPT brings in more than 12,000 people from metro Detroit and beyond, she said,

including Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

"They come far and wide. We have a group coming from Toledo as well. We're really starting to branch out," she said.

Economic asset

The annual budget's around \$450,000, with ticket sales covering some 60 percent and fundraising the rest. "We're putting a lot of money back in Northville," she said, such as lumber bought at Northville Lumber.

The theater seats 100 and shows run for five or six weeks. "People shop before

and after," she said. "That's kind of nice." Restaurants benefit, too.

Kuhl's grateful he's no longer commuting from Eastpointe to Northville.

"Now we're living in Farmington and loving it," he said. "I cut 60 miles a day off my commute."

He and wife Hallie Bard are parents of Aidan, 9, Vera, 3, and Gavin, 1, and bought their Farmington house just before Gavin was born.

Concannon, originally from Ann Arbor, has been president of a community theater group, Pinckney Players, for the past 15 years.

She performs on stage and was just in *Chicago* the musical as Mama Morton. In Pinckney, she also directs. She was the assistant development director at the Purple Rose Theatre Co. for 13 years (working with Jeff Daniels to raise funds). She's had the theater bug since fifth grade and performed throughout middle and high school.

For more on TPT, visit www.tippingpointtheatre.com or call 248-347-0003.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

Northville man featured in 'Faces of Recovery' calendar

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Richard Gibson, 52, of Northville is grateful for his more than 25 years of sobriety. He credits much of his success staying sober to the late Bob Probert, a Detroit Red Wings player who also battled substance abuse.

"When I met Bob, he was very encouraging," said Gibson, whose family is originally from Garden City.

Gibson had his share of troubles at an early age, beginning with the loss of his father and subsequent difficulty dealing with his grief. He remembers oftentimes acting up in school and getting into trouble.



Gibson

"I had lost my dad at 7. There was not really much in the way of grief counseling," Gibson said. "It was unresolved grief, not having a male to guide me. It was just my hurt."

After years of alcohol abuse, Gibson decided to give up drinking at the age of 27. Meeting Probert really helped his recovery. He recalls reading *Detroit Free Press* columnist Mitch Albom's work on Probert, who also lost his father at a young age. Gibson actually met Probert twice, the second time on Gib-

son's first day on a job at Compuware in Detroit.

Today, Gibson celebrates his sobriety and would like to help others, just like Probert helped him.

Gibson is one of 12 people featured in Henry Ford Health System's "Faces of Recovery" calendar for 2014, his story in February.

"I wanted to be a part of it because I've been recovering. There were a few people that were inspirational to me in giving up drinking," he said.

'Managed to get through'

Gibson's journey to a sober life was not always so certain. He remem-

bers the darker days, which included a drunken driving conviction in 1983, bouts with depression that led him to be hospitalized, and two suicide attempts, including a jump from a building.

"Twice I ended up lying on the street," he says.

One of the big turning points was getting medication for his depression, which he said "helped me think more clearly." He also got a job working as a manager for Little Caesars, which helped him with both interpersonal and job skills. He now works for two different area restaurants.

"I'm kind of reinventing myself at a later age," he said.

Gibson, who is single, has 11 nieces and nephews. He now volunteers with Sandcastles to help young children deal with grief. He's done that about four years.

Gibson also reaches out to substance abusers on Facebook, encouraging them with his experiences.

He joined the First Presbyterian Church of Northville and understands more of his relationship with God. Gibson attends a Wednesday morning Bible study.

"When I quit, I really quit for good," he said of drinking.

Probert's influence

"He wanted good for me. I'm eternally grateful for him taking the

time to show me support. When he passed, it just broke my heart," Gibson said of Probert.

Gibson went to the funeral home to tell Probert's widow how much he'd helped with sobriety. "She just broke down crying. She thought it was great," he said.

Gibson wants other opportunities to help young people avoid substance abuse, and is also planning to work with Toastmasters to polish his speaking skills.

"You can eliminate some of the things that go hand in hand with substance abuse. I'd like to help others prevent what I went through," he said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



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LD-000189187

Airport Ambassadors earn service awards

Sixty-three Airport Ambassadors at Detroit Metropolitan Airport have been honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award at a banquet luncheon held at the Westin Hotel at the airport.

One Ambassador, Bob FitzGerald of Westland, received gold for the first time in the history of the program. The president issues the award every year to volunteers as a way to thank and honor Americans for their volunteer service.

Each Airport Ambassador was presented with a bronze, silver or gold pin corresponding with the level of service reached in 2013, along with a certificate and letter from President Barack Obama.

At the top of the list was FitzGerald with 585.75 volunteer hours. Also receiving pins were:

Silver

- » Redford – Dianna Surowiec, 470 hours; Roy Brown, 274.25 hours;
- » Livonia – Joe Scaffero, 416.25 hours; Daniel Packer, 344 hours; Carla Chupac, 274 hours.
- » Northville – Ben Miller, 341.25 hours; George Linker, 255.5 hours.
- » Novi – Tom Beyersdorf, 298.75 hours.
- » Plymouth – Donald Green, 270.75 hours

Bronze

- » Northville – Wes Henrickson, 242.75 hours; Jared Buckley, 188 hours; John Buckland, 157.5 hours; James Aaron, 141 hours.
- » Westland – Nelson Lowe, 111.75 hours.
- » Farmington Hills – John Firment, 234.5 hours; Mike Roesch, 190 hours; Chuck Myers, 131.5 hours.
- » Redford – Ruth Bumar, 220.5 hours.

- » Garden City – Daisy Lovain, 214.75 hours.
- » Plymouth – Traci Sincok, 203.5 hours; Loretta Scappaticci, 108.5 hours.
- » Canton – Cheryl Regnier, 188 hours; Mary Pannemann, 174.5 hours; Russ Haines, 144.5 hours; Lonnie Haines, 137.5 hours.
- » Livonia – Flora Murray, 177 hours.

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2013 and is one of the world's leading air hubs. In 2010, Metro ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study.

For more information about the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport Ambassador program, visit <http://www.metroairport.com/volunteer>.

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<p>Breakfast Sausage Bulk or Link</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">\$3.99 lb</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amish Country</p> <p>1920 Legend Ham \$4.99 lb</p> <p>Semi-Boneless Half Ham \$3.99 lb</p>	<p>Winter's Spiral Sliced Fire Glazed Ham</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">\$3.99 lb</h2>	

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<p>Menage A Trois Red Wines</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">\$8.99</h2> <p style="font-size: small;">On Sale</p>	<p>Craft Beer Tasting Friday, April 25th • 7-10 pm • \$35 Per Person <i>Come taste some special brews along with some tasty appetizers.</i> Call Mike @ 248-477-4333 for reservations.</p>		<p>Founders Six Packs</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">\$9.99</h2> <p style="font-size: small;">On Sale</p>

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Novi's Carolyn Zhang (right) shakes hands with her Northville opponent Emma Worley after their April 1 match. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mustangs post shutout

Northville tops Novi in Baseline rivalry

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The Baseline rivalry between Novi and Northville is strong in several sports, but girls tennis regularly pits two of Division 1's top 10 teams.

With the Wildcats slipping out of the preseason top 10, the No. 4-ranked Mustangs took full advantage April 1 with a 9-0 win at home over their northern neighbors played in 25-35 mph wind gusts.

"The match weather was indicative of the winter as the weather was cold and very windy," Northville coach Linda Jones said. "The Novi team put up a great fight, but Northville was able to win all four singles courts and all five doubles courts."

The defending KLAA champions were led at No. 1 singles by sophomore Reeshma Kumar, who took a 6-2, 6-1 decision over Novi junior Erin Day.

With Novi sophomore Carolyn Zhang subbing at No. 2 singles, Northville sophomore Emma Worley capitalized for a 6-0, 6-1 victory.

Both teams debuted freshmen at

No. 3 singles; Northville's Joanne Gao won the showdown 6-0, 6-2 over Novi's Jessica Lypka.

"Incoming freshman Joanne Gao, who is playing three singles, was particularly impressive winning in her first conference match," Jones said.

At No. 4 singles, Northville junior Amelia Albanelli had a strong 6-3, 6-4 victory over Novi sophomore Allison

Lollo.

"Considering the very tough weather conditions, I thought both teams played extremely well," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Northville is a very young, but experienced team. They have the kind of depth at every flight that makes for a very good team."

The doubles flights also went the Mustangs' way, starting with the closest match of the day in the top flight. Despite the efforts of Novi seniors Asawari Kanitkar and Amy Zhou, Northville junior Anika Mulkerji and senior Daneille Romano fought just a

See BASELINE, Page B2

Walled Lake students raise funds

Volleyball marathons at three high schools benefit local charities

Students from Walled Lake Central, Western and Northern high schools have found a way to raise money for several charities in the local community and have a great time doing it. All three high schools recently hosted volleyball marathons at their buildings, where students are "locked in" for the entire night playing games, hanging out with friends and, of course, competing in volleyball tournaments.

Central raised more than \$21,000 in its volleyball marathon, with the Walled Lake Schools Foundation for Excellence as the primary beneficiary. Walled Lake Central choirs and freshman orientation programs also benefited. Entertainment included a hypnotist, a palm reader, inflatables, carnival games, swimming, laser tag and the Central choir talent show to



Students take a moment to pose March 28 at the Amp Radio booth at Walled Lake Western High School's volleyball marathon. The school raised more than \$28,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Pictured (from left) are Leah McCarroll from Amp Radio, Angelina Midea, Bailey Adkins, Hayley Midea, Megan Dykstra, Allison Lariviere, Hope Drogmiller and Eli Ansara from Amp radio. CURTIS DROGMILLER

kick off the night. (For more information on the Walled Lake Schools Foundation for Excellence, visit www.wlcsd.org/foundation.cfm.)

Northern raised \$5,172 with its volleyball marathon for the Cassie Hines Shoes Cancer Foundation. Activities in-

cluded the WLN bands and WLN student DJs providing entertainment, a four-man joust, a five-in-one bounce house and a hypnotist. (For more information on the Cassie Hines Shoes Cancer Foundation, visit www.cassiehines.org.)

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B2

Novi girls lacrosse earns first victory over Northville

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The season is going in opposite directions for Novi and Northville's girls lacrosse programs.

The Wildcats have jumped out to a 4-0 start on the season, including the program's first-ever win over the Mustangs in its three-year history. The 19-16 Novi victory April 2 helped push Northville to a 0-4 start on its season despite the Mustangs' 11-9 halftime lead.

Sophomore Gina Salemi was instrumental in the Wildcats' comeback, scoring five of her game-high eight goals in the second half. Junior Alanna Clark tallied five goals, while junior Morgan Statezny tallied three, senior Megan Paul two and junior Natalie Trainor one.

Northville's offense was a bit more scattered, although Grace Guibord had a solid night with six goals to lead the way. Also chipping in were Sarah Chase, Claire Beaudoin and Liz Hansell with two goals



Novi's Gina Salemi (right) is off and running against Plymouth. MICHAEL SALEMI

each and Anne Dulzo, Laura Khoury, Audrey Tatge and Hope Miller with one apiece.

The Wildcats are ranked No. 11 in the state.

Novi's other wins were March 27 over Detroit Country Day (1-2), 19-14; March 31 over Plymouth (1-2), 17-6; and April 3 over Waterford (0-5), 23-14.

Meanwhile, Northville's

See LACROSSE, Page B2

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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights



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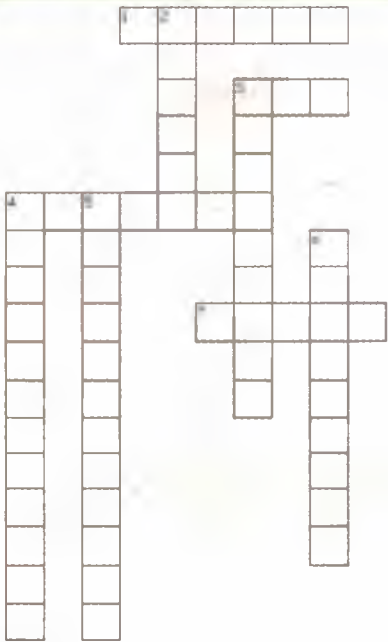
Football Camp CONTEST

Here is your chance to win a scholarship to Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp.

Nine lucky girls and boys will have a chance to win. Tell Scoop in 50 words or less why you want to attend the camp. Have your parents email a photo of you, along with your name, age, community of residence, and phone number to cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line "Football Camp Contest".



Detroit Lions Football camp puzzle



Across
 1. Wear this for protection
 3. Number of points for a touch down
 4. Team trying to stop opponent from scoring
 7. Name of Detroit's Professional football mascot

Down
 2. Number of players on the field at 1 time for a team
 3. The BIG GAME
 4. Detroit's Professional League Football Team
 5. Summer activity were boys and girls can learn and play football
 6. Stadium Detroit's football team plays in

Answers Across: 1: Helmet, 3: Six, 4: Defense
 Answers Down: 2: Eleven, 3: Super Bowl, 4: Roary

March Winner of DVD Frozen

How did Preston cope with the winter blast? He played under the trampoline sliding on ice and collecting icicles.
 Preston Bognear, 4 years old of Wayne.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nasir Dais	Westland	4/ 1
Olivia Darnell	Novi	4/ 1
Emma Welden	Garden City	4/ 1
Annaclare Brown	Livonia	4/ 7
Lucas Bridgeford	Redford	4/ 8
Sierra Haran	Northville	4/ 8
Elizabeth Ho	Farmington	4/ 9
Matthew Tuer	Northville	4/ 13
Hailey Hagen	South Lyon	4/ 16
Anthony Alexander	Inkster	4/ 20
Kyle Finley	Livonia	4/ 24
Zachary Johnson	Belleville	4/ 30

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 Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager
 Design/Layout:
 Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

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Contest Camp Dates & Locations

2 winners for these locations

- **June 7- 8:** Beverly Hills, 9 a.m. to 12 noon QB-WR Academy for youth ages 8 -14.
- **June 12-13:** Brighton, 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Fundamentals Camp for youth ages 6 -14.
- **July 19, 26, Aug. 2:** Southfield, 10 a.m. -11 a.m. Lil' Lions Academy for youth ages 4 - 8.

- **July 21- 23:** South Lyon, 6:15 -7:15 p.m. Lil' Lions Academy for youth ages 4 - 8.

1 winner for this location

- **June 30 - July 3:** Plymouth, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon Fundamentals Camp for youth ages 6 -14.

See complete camp schedules at www.detroitlions.com/youthfootball

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Game
SPANISH: Juego
ITALIAN: Gioco
FRENCH: Jeu
GERMAN: Spiel

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REAL ESTATE

'Placemaking' push expands around Michigan, focus on livability

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

For the past few years, the National Association of Realtors has made a lot of money available to state and local associations to help make communities more fun and livable.

Placemaking is part of the Lighter Quicker Cheaper Challenge pilot grant program open to the Greater Lansing area in 2012. The program was a success, according to Joe Kras, manager of communications and marketing for the MAR.

Agreeing is Realtor Gil White, a member of the Greater Lansing Association of Realtors who is doing consulting for Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design and Construction. White has some 25 years of experience in the field and was involved in getting the placemaking project running.

Among other things, the program used \$20,000 in NAR funds to help pay for a farmers market, live music performances in an underused urban park, and the refurbishing of a once-downtown neighborhood to attract private investment as part of an effort to turn the area into a mixed-use destination.

The pilot project engaged Realtors in placemaking, said White. "I think it succeeded well," he said. "We looked at Realtors as being natural for involvement."

In 2013, the state association got some 23 requests for funding and was able to support about nine, said White, a past president of the Michigan Association of Realtors. The MAR is Lansing-based so our



Reutter Fountain Park weekly entertainment has proven to be a hit.

state's capital seemed a good place to start.

"We had more requests than we had ability to fund. I think what it highlights is the grassroots initiative to make improvements in their daily habitats," White said of people who live, work and play in a community.

Kras cited the following Challenge winners for MAR: \$2,500 for the farmers market expansion, Kathie Dunbar as recipient, with Realtor sponsor Brian Huggler of Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood Realty; Arty Party recipient Greg Frens with Realtor sponsor Mitch Crank of Century 21 Looking Glass Real Estate Co., to create folk art signs for the Downtown Neighborhood Association meetings and website; Reutter Fountain Park Weekly Features recipient Tony Beyers with Realtor sponsor James Pyle of Lana Wagner Realty, weekly entertainment in the park; Neighborhood Art Installation recipients MC Rothhorn and Karen White with Realtor sponsor Nancy Kelly of Tomie Raines, for the Genesee Neighborhood's addition of six sculptures.

Also, the Historical Dimondale Walking Tour recipient Lori Conarton with Realtor sponsor Kern Slucter of Gan-non Group, sign and bench

installation; Old Town Honorary Sculpture Park recipient Louise Gradwohl with Realtor sponsor Brian Huggler, in honor of late Old Town Mayor Robert Busby, a sculpture park with flower beds and more landscaping; Trowbridge Village Neighbor's Station recipient Susan Chalgian with Realtor sponsor Sabrina Hagel of Tomie Raines, on Michigan State University's south campus a little free library and relaxation spot; and Fab Acres Neighborhood, Barnes Street Community Garden recipient Chitea Pullman with Realtor sponsor James Pyle of Lana Wagner Realty, leveraging help from local groups and volunteers for a new community garden and gathering area.

In 2013, the Lighter Quicker Cheaper Challenge opened to eight regions by local Realtor associations and boards: Flint area, Jackson area, Monroe County, Grosse Pointe, Grand Rapids, Greater Lansing area, Southwestern Michigan and Water Wonderland. MAR Senior Vice President Kathie Feldpausch followed up with the additional associations, White said.

"It's not a top-down approach at all," said White, who believes citizen groups are the "greatest untapped resource" in community improvement.

"There are obviously different success stories around the state," White said, including Ann Arbor and Traverse City. "It's learning how to encourage that type of bottoms-up placemaking." White said citizens are the experts at that.

"I think the surprise was the demand for the projects," White said. The farmers market, historic preservation efforts, public art and creation of social spaces drew people together — and continue to do so.

"It runs across the board," White added.

Other states and associations are also getting involved. The Greater Nashville Association of Realtors is using \$10,000 to help fund a citizens' transit council, which is intended to make residents more knowledgeable about land-use issues and get them to think more broadly about how land use relates to quality of life.

All of these projects have something in common. That is, to make communities nice places to live as their population densities grow. That's a key factor in keeping property values and investment returns up.

Community quality of life is one of the underwriters of property markets and home values, so there's a concrete return on investment as commercial and residential real estate markets respond to improved conditions. It's a key piece to the economic puzzle.

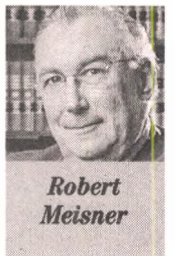
The NAR produced a four-minute video on the initiative. It looks at some success stories and invites you to learn more on the smart growth section of reator.org.

The National Association of Realtors and Michigan Association of Realtors contributed to this report.

Heed counsel's advice on guest who fell down

Q: One of my tenant's guests fell on some carpeted stairs in my apartment building and is claiming that I violated an alleged statutory duty to keep the premises in reasonable repair. I have submitted the claim to my insurance company, but what do you think?

A: No doubt the plaintiff will argue that you had a duty to keep the apartment fit for its intended purpose and in reasonable repair, and they will argue that the plaintiff was a licensee. However, if they cannot prove that they were a lessee or licensee of yours, they will more than likely not be successful in their claim, although whether someone is a licensee or tenant is sometimes debatable. Obviously, you are going to get legal advice from your insurance carrier's attorney, but you may wish to hire independent counsel.



Q: Can you tell me what Fannie Mae requires, if anything, with respect to rentals in a condominium?

A: From your general question, I presume that you want to know if you exceed an acceptable level of investors, will the lenders be required to deem the project ineligible for Fannie Mae financing. In that regard, if it is a fully established project, the lender will be looking for 51 percent owner occupancy (meaning 49 percent max investors). For a new project or a newly converted project, Fannie Mae is looking at 70 percent owner-occupant presale, meaning a cap of 30 percent investors, and sales to investors do not count toward calculating the pre-sale acceptance. FHA, on the other hand, says that there cannot be a prohibition against leasing units. However, they do permit a cap or limit on the number of rentals a condo will permit. In any event, you should consult with your developer or your real estate-project attorney with respect to obtaining the proper financing through the proper documentation.

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 brmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 18-22, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table with columns for city/neighborhood and price. Includes sections for BEVERLY HILLS, BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, and BLOOMING TOWNSHIP.

Table with columns for address and price. Includes sections for FARMINGTON, FARMINGTON HILLS, and FRANKLIN.

Table with columns for address and price. Includes sections for MILFORD, NORTHVILLE, NOVI, and SOUTH LYON.

Table with columns for address and price. Includes sections for SOUTHFIELD and WAYNE.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 9-13, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table with columns for city/neighborhood and price. Includes sections for CANTON, GARDEN CITY, LIVONIA, PLYMOUTH, and REDFORD.

Table with columns for address and price. Includes sections for NORTHVILLE, PLYMOUTH, and REDFORD.

Table with columns for address and price. Includes sections for WESTLAND and WAYNE.

Table with columns for address and price. Includes sections for WESTLAND and WAYNE.

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Answer to Last Week's Puzzle

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B A T T L E F O R M A T I O N R O S E Y
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L A D I T S A I R P L A N E B O D Y
T I N A A N N E E K E I N G E
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OPEN 2-4 | 5095 Lafontaine, Detroit - Nice brick home, with lots of space. Full bath in master bedroom, sitting room. \$18,500
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OPEN 2-4 | 44 Regal, Grosse Pointe Shores - Great curb appeal in this spacious home w/3 car garage. Large foyer, open staircase. \$525,000
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OPEN 2-4 | 2002 Roslyn, Grosse Pointe Woods - Magnificent quad-level home. 5 Bedrooms, possible 6th bedroom. 3 bathrooms. \$159,900
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OPEN 1:30-4:30 | 5497 Trillium Lane, Scio Twp. - Trillium Crossing! Stunning NEW construction condo. Luxury custom. \$279,500
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OPEN 1:30-4:30 | 5489 Trillium Lane, Scio Twp. - Trillium Crossing! To be completed. \$269,500
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OPEN 11-1:30 | 16320 Rudgate, Southgate - Gorgeous 2 bedroom brick condo. Easy to maintain. Beautifully maintained. \$57,000
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OPEN 2-4 | 1011 Troon, St. Clair - Newer, lovely Colonial which has it all with a first floor master suite. \$399,900
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OPEN 2-4 | 20900 Bayside, St. Clair Shores - Perfect for summer entertaining with unique large deck. Kitchen updated. \$160,000
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OPEN 2-4 | 30113 Taylor, St. Clair Shores - Four bedroom home. Some hardwood floors, updated kitchen and windows. \$129,000
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