NOVI'S VICTORIA IACOBELLI LEADS ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL TEAM SPORTS, B5





Roary story

The Detroit Lions announced a "Stories With Roary" contest for all students in third, fourth and fifth grades in Michigan. Original stories can be submitted online at www.detroitlions.com/storieswithroary through Jan. 3.

The author of the winning story will get a pizza party with team mascot Roary for their school classroom in March (National Reading Month), a \$100 voucher for the Detroit Lions online store, as well as a hardcover book version of their story.

Stories must be 300-450 words, fictional and typed. Illustrations are not required. Submit stories in .pdf, .doc or .docx file formats.



Roary is the Detroit Lions mascot.

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Novi students score among county's best in new M-STEP

Philip Allmen Staff Writer

Local results of the M-STEP test were released last week and Novi Community School District officials are happy with the results.

Novi students did better on the test when compared to the Oakland County and statewide results. Novi results topped the county in science and social studies, while Novi ranked second in English language

arts and math. The new test —

called the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) — was given for the first time in spring 2015



science and social studies. The Michigan Department of Education released a breakdown of individual school and district results Dec. 17. It replaced the MEAP test,

in English language arts, math,

which had been Michigan's go-to state assessment test for decades.

More than a month ago, state results were released. Last

week's data provides a more detailed picture of just how well students did on the exam, which is largely based on the ambitious Common Core State Standards. Those standards, adopted by Michigan and more than 40 other states, spell out what students must learn to be prepared for college and careers.

See M-STEP, Page A3

Students spread holiday cheer



Novi Meadows sixth-grader Sammy Maday works with Academy of the Americas' Orlando Fuentes on a holiday crafts project during last week's visit to the Detroit school. Find more from the festive day on page A13 and online at hometownlife.com.

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Novi firefighter Matt Osborne checks pajama sizes for Matthew Klein, 8, while shopping together at Target.

Novi kids given chance to shop with a hero

Philip Alimen Staff Writer

"We've got a cart full of stuff!," 6-year-old Brooke Fitzpatrick said as she ran around the clothing section at the local Target store earlier this month.

She was shopping with police officer Julie Warren as part of Novi's annual Shop with a Hero program.

And while her cart was rather full, that didn't stop Brooke from finding more things to add. After getting some of the necessities to help stay warm this winter, she was anxious to get a closer look at the purses and jewelries to accessorize with her new outfits. All the while, Warren was negotiating with Brooke to make sure they didn't go over budget.

With \$3,000 from Target and the Novi Police and Fire Benevolent Fund, 10 local kids had the chânce to spend some quality time with officers and firefighters while shopping for some winter clothes. Each armed with a \$300 budget, most of the kids were eager to keep the costs at a minimum so there would be something left over for a gift for a loved one or perhaps a new toy, as well:

And despite meeting at 7 a.m. on a Saturday earlier this month, everyone was having a fun time.

"It's a good feeling helping

See HERO, Page A3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOCAL NEWS

Novi Police Department promotes two staffers

The Novi Police Department recently promoted Sgt. John Nelson to the rank of lieutenant and Officer Amanda Kulikowski to the rank of sergeant.

Nelson began his career with the Novi Police Department in 1989 after serving as a deputy with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. During his 26-year career, Nelson has served as a field training officer, domestic violence officer, detective and sergeant in the Uniform



Nelson Kulikowski

Patrol Division. Additionally, he has led the field training officer program and Public Safety Implementation Committee.

He earned both his B.S. degree in criminal justice (1988) and his

master's in public administration (2008) from Eastern Michigan University. Nelson is a graduate of the 24th session of Eastern Michigan University's School of Police Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program.

Nelson has been awarded nine Unit and seven Merit Citations and was chosen as Domestic Violence Officer of the Year for Oakland County in 1997. Nelson is a second-generation Novi command officer.

His late father, Gordon Nelson, retired as a captain with the department in 1989.

Kulikowski started her career with the Novi Police Department in 2004 after serving as a police officer with the Detroit Police Department. During her 11year career, Kulikowski has served as a uniform patrol officer, field training officer, task force officer with the **U.S. Drug Enforcement** Administration, mountain bike officer and is a

member of the Public Safety Implementation Committee.

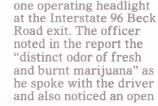
Kulikowski earned her B.S. in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University (2002) and has been awarded one Unit and three Merit Citations and an Individual Achievement Award recognizing her successful investigative efforts with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"It was my honor to promote Sgt. John Nel-

son and Officer Amanda Kulikowski to key leadership positions within our organization," Novi Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David E. Molloy said. "They each demonstrate a strong commitment to teamwork and dedication to the mission, vision and values of the Novi Police Department. I have every confidence both will embrace their new responsibilities and I look forward to working with them in their new assignments."

Medical marijuana patient arrested for too much pot in car

At 8:50 a.m. Dec. 12, a Novi public safety officer made a traffic stop on a vehicle with only





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container of boxed wine on the front passenger overnight floor. The man said he

was a medical marijuana card holder. The officer advised him that he could possess 21/2 ounces of marijuana. The suspect stated he had about 1¹/₂ ounces and gave permission for the officer to

search the vehicle. The officer took a baggie of marijuana from the cup holder and found another baggie with a larger amount of suspected marijuana in the center console. Two smoking pipes were also located in a closed container attached to the dashboard.

In the rear passenger area of the vehicle, an opened pint-size bottle of whiskey was found, as well as a bag with two large mason jars also containing suspected marijuana. A third large mason jar of marijuana was found on the floor. The suspect was advised he was under arrest for possession of marijuana over 21/2 ounces and open alcohol in a motor vehicle. A fourth mason jar with marijuana was found during an inventory search prior to impound. The suspected marijuana weighed a total of 3.88 ounces.

Mailboxes damaged

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Two neighbors on Bethany Way reported to police that between 10 p.m. Dec. 10 and 8:30 a.m. Dec. 11, someone ran over their mailboxes, located next to each other. Neither had heard a disturbance in the night. The responsible

Package taken from home

vehicle is believed to be

a red Ford based on de-

bris at the scene.

Thieves allegedly took a package delivered to a home on Ludlow, but may have been disappointed to find it contained two range hood filters. The estimated value of the stolen property is just under \$100.

The homeowner said the post office confirmed the package was delivered at 4:27 p.m. Dec. 4. His son had returned around 6:30 p.m. with his mother and saw four unknown people wearing hoodies running north on Faywood Drive, close to the Ludlow home. The store is resending the package; it was unknown whether the victim will be charged. The police officer advised the man on

tips to prevent future issues during the holiday season.

Car damaged at lot

The owner of a business on Grand River Avenue reported to police that someone damaged his rental vehicle between 3:30-5:15 p.m. Dec. 11 while it was parked in front of his business. The damage consists of a two-inch hole on the headlight and a dent on the hood. Almost two years ago, he observed a man throw a rock at his windshield in the same parking lot. The current damage is estimated at about \$600.

Construction site hit

A report of larceny was filed Dec. 11 at the Novi Police Department for the theft of a furnace and air conditioning coil stolen between Oct. 30 and Nov. 3 from a home under construction on Nepavine Drive. All doors had been locked and there is no damage to the home. It is believed a window may have been unlatched.

Two arrested trying to take air guns

Two subjects were arrested for retail fraud at Walmart on Ingersol

Drive at about 7:24 p.m. Dec. 12 after they attempted to steal two air soft guns.

The loss prevention officer told Novi Police one subject put the two guns into his pants while his friend acted as a lookout. They then exited the store without paying for them and were caught outside and instructed to return.

Three BB bottles and three carbon dioxide bottles were also found on one suspect and five carbon dioxide bottles and two BB bottles were found on the other. They denied taking these items, but were unable to produce receipts and the items were confirmed to be from Walmart. They were arrested and each issued citations for retail fraud, third degree.

Car window shattered

A resident of an apartment on Summer House Court reported her vehicle window was shattered sometime between 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 3 p.m. Dec. 12 while in the parking lot of the complex. Nothing apparently was taken.

— By Susan Bromley







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BATTERIES

LOCAL NEWS

O & E Media | Thursday, December 24, 2015 (NN) A3

HERO Continued from Page A1

out, seeing the kids faces in the morning," said officer Scott Woodley, one of the police volunteers that day. "They're excited. It's like Christmas morning before

Christmas." Novi Police Lt. Keith Wuotinen said Shop with a Hero is an annual event to help some local kids, identified through Novi Youth Assistance. It makes sure the kids have the winter necessities, as well as a chance to see police officers and firefighters in a positive light.

"It's a unique opportunity for us to make that positive impression." Wuotinen said. "We can connect on an informal level, a positive level. We're here to help them break down barriers."

The Novi Police and Fire Benevolent Fund is designed

M-STEP

Continued from Page A1

R.J. Webber, assistant superintendent of academics for Novi schools, said he was very pleased with the M-STEP results for Novi students. He attributed the outcome to the disciplined approach and hard work on the part of district teachers, students, staff and parents.

"The vast amount of curriculum work that the Novi teaching staff has completed contributes greatly to the NCSD being able to better serve our students," Webber said in a release.

Combined results

When compiling all the scores throughout the school district, Novi scored a 73.8percent proficiency rate in English language arts, compared to 57 percent in Oakland County.

In math, Novi students netted a 69.9-percent proficiency to Oakland County's 47.7 percent. In science, Novi scored 48.4-percent proficient to the county's 27.9 percent. In social studies, 59 percent of local students were considered proficient compared to 34.2 percent throughout Oakland Coun-



PHILIP ALLMEN Officer Julie Warren keeps her eye out for some of Brooke Fitzpatrick's favorite colors during the Shop with a Hero program at Target.

to help community causes, as well as to support its officers and firefighters who are suffering from injury or illness.

pallmen@hometownlife.com Twitter: @PhilipAllmen

High, middle schools

ty.

At Novi High School, 75.81 percent of 11th-grade students tested proficient in English, 57.11 percent in math, 59.32 percent in science and 77.35 percent in social studies.

In comparison statewide, 49.28 percent of 11th-graders were considered proficient in English, 28.48 percent in math, 29.4 percent in science and 43.86 in social studies.

At Novi Middle School, 75.21 percent of seventh-grade students tested proficient in English, 72.65 percent in math and 60.42 percent in science.

In comparison statewide, 49.13 percent of seventh-graders were considered proficient in English, 33.26 percent in math and 22.69 percent in science.

For Novi eighth-graders, 80.64 percent tested proficient in English, 71.43 percent in math and 58.4 percent in social studies.

In comparison statewide, 47.6 percent of eighth-graders were considered proficient in English, 32.17 percent in math and 29.72 in social studies.

Third grade

At the third-grade level, scores by school were: Novi Woods scored 77.78



Police officers and firefighters ended the morning with a group photo with the kids, their families and Target staff.

percent proficient in English language arts and 89.9 percent in math.

Orchard Hill scored 55.88 percent proficient in English language arts and 79.41 percent in math.

Village Oaks scored 72.48 percent in English language arts and 68.14 percent in math.

Parkview scored 81.11 percent in English language arts and 90.22 percent in math.

Deerfield scored 78.75 percent in English language arts

and 83.33 percent in math. In comparison statewide,

50.05 percent of third-graders were considered proficient in English and 48.8 percent in math.

Fourth grade

Scores for fourth-graders by building were:

Novi Woods scored 78.79 percent proficient in English language arts, 70.71 percent in math and 27.27 in science.

Orchard Hill scored 68.49 percent proficient in English language arts, 70.13 percent in math and 22.37 in science.

Village Oaks scored 77 percent proficient in English language arts, 71.29 percent in math and 22.77 in science.

Parkview scored 69.7 percent proficient in English language arts, 73.79 percent in math and 24.27 in science. Deerfield scored 77.08 percent proficient in English language arts, 81 percent in math and 30 in science.

In comparison statewide, 46.57 percent of third-graders were considered proficient in English, 41.37 percent in math and 12.37 in science.

Fifth and sixth grades

Novi Meadows fifth-graders scored 69.34 percent in English language arts, 66.93 percent in math and 45.49 percent in social studies.

In comparison statewide, 48.68 percent of fifth-graders were considered proficient in English, 33.36 percent in math and 22.24 percent in social studies.

Novi Meadows sixth-graders scored 74.03 percent proficient in English language arts and 69.94 percent in math.

In comparison statewide, 44.74 percent of sixth-graders were considered proficient in English and 33.26 percent in math.

Because the exam was far more difficult than the state exam it replaced, fewer students rated as proficient on the M-STEP than previous assessments.

The same occurred in other states that adopted tests based on the Common Core standards. But it wasn't just the more rigorous standards that made M-STEP harder. It was given online to about 80 percent of the students who took it. And it was interactive, requiring students to do far more than fill in multiple choice bubbles. For instance, students had to type in answers to some questions, plot data on a graph, listen to a presentation and then answer questions and draw shapes.

The test also included a performance task in math and English language arts, which required students to complete an in-depth project during the course of the exam that demonstrates their analytical and problem-solving skills.

Because the M-STEP is new, the results can't be compared with results from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, the 44-year-old exam that was retired in 2013. The exam starts a new trend line as students try to reach state expectations that by 2025 require 85 percent of Michigan students to be proficient in English language arts and math.

Michigan.com contributed to this story.

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EDUCATION

Passage of Every Student Succeeds law applauded

By Aileen Wingblad Staff Writer

Exit "No Child Left Behind." Enter "Every Student Succeeds."

Signed into law earlier this month by President Barack Obama, the bipartisan legislation is being applauded for returning some control to school districts, family engagement initiatives and more.

"We're happy – this puts more decision-making under state and local control," Farmington Public Schools Superintendent George Heitsch said. "We think decisions made close to where students are directly

affected rather than at the federal level created more meaningful opportunities for kids.'

According to a release from the National PTA, the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 brings needed improvements to K-12 education.



signing the **Every Student** Succeeds Act into law and his Peters commitment to improving education to make sure every student is prepared for long-term success," said Laura Bay, Na-tional PTA president. "The Every Student Succeeds Act is a marked improvement over previous law and provides great opportunity to strengthen family engagement in education and ensure all students reach their full potential. Now is the time for all of us to work together at the federal, state and local levels to make certain that this law makes a difference for the futures of our nation's children "

The Every Student Succeeds Act includes changes to Title 1 requiring school districts to have activities, initiatives and policies to engage families in education.

"PTAs, families and Statewide Family Engagement Centers play an important role in the successful implementation of ESSA and ensuring that all children receive a quality education by holding states and districts accountable," said Nathan R. Monell, National PTA executive director. "National PTA is committed to empowering all families to be active participants in state and local implementation of the law, support student success and make the promise of ESEA/ ESSA a reality for all children."

Farmington Hills resident Tammy Luty, Michigan PTA federal legislative chair, said she's talked with Michigan's senators and representatives while in Washington, D.C., about family engagement and getting the legislation approved.

"Having this bill pass and signed was a great win for education, as it did include the family engagement piece and also gave more control to a local and state level," she said. "I am looking forward to the March Legislative Conference, where I will be able to go back to Washington, D.C., and thank our Michigan legislators for this work and continue to discuss education topics with them that will benefit our students locally and statewide.'

Every Student Succeeds also has a bipartisan amendment introduced by U.S. Sens. Gary Peters, D-Michigan, and Cory Gardner, R-Colo., supporting dual and concurrent enrollment in schools. There are also measures to support funding for financial literacy programs and to strengthen efforts to identify "dual status youth" – those who come into contract with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Peters said Every Student Succeeds is "long overdue education reform that will help strengthen our primary education system and give kids a greater opportunity to get ahead." The provisions for dual status youth will "protect our most vulnerable children from falling into the school-to-prison pipeline," he said.

The act's Gardner-Peters amendment allows the use of Title 1 money to support dual and concurrent enrollment programs so high school students can simultaneously get college credit from secondary education classes taught by college-approved teachers. It also allows fifth-year program partnerships so students can have concurrent enrollment in the year after their senior year.

awingblad@hometownlife.com 248-390-3976 Twitter:@awingblad

Year's end gives time to reflect on district's successes

he end of the year is always a wistful time for me. Not only does the new year beckon, but my birthday is in December. As I age, my birthdays are less and less important. I acknowledge birthdays and the years as they pass, but after you've been around as long as I have, they are not quite as exciting as they used to be.

This December, I turned 59. That is not one of the milestone birthdays, but it is certainly getting close to a milestone. Combine my birthday with the new year and it causes me to reflect a bit on where I am and where I am headed.

I feel very fortunate to be in the Novi Community School District. Our district is one of the premier school districts in the state and nation. The recently-released M-STEP test results clearly show that our district is one of the top districts in our state.



In addition, we have a wide range of opportunities for students. We have athletic, fine art and club activities for students. Our eighth-grade stu-dents visit Washington, D.C. Our fifth-grade students go to camp. We have Lego League, **Destination Imagination and** Robotics teams.

More importantly, perhaps, we also focus on helping our students develop the kind of skills that will help them be successful in the 21st century. From our Leader in Me program in grades K-6 to our Restorative Practices program that began this year in the middle school to our leadership programs like Link Crew and Student Council at the high

As another year passes, I trust that all of us who care for (NCSD) are ready to commit ourselves to once again doing the hard work that needs to be done to serve the students and families in our district.

school, our district understands that to be successful, you need to be more than just smart.

To be successful, our students need to know how to work with others, negotiate, listen and advocate for themselves. In Novi, we understand that we need to help our students learn these skills, along with their academic skills. As I reflect on where I am.

I'm also deeply appreciative of our students. As I visit the schools and sit in classrooms, our students continue to impress and amaze me. They are polite, inquisitive, curious and capable. They ask good questions, push us to be better and enjoy themselves and their schools.

Oh, at times, our students are rambunctious and they occasionally cross lines they should not cross. But our students are learning. Making mistakes is a part of the process. I understand that our students are not perfect; part of our responsibility as a district is to help them learn and grow from their mistakes.

Our most important asset is our staff. I continue to be impressed each day with the passion that our staff has for the students of our district. Our staff cares and wants our district facilities, programs and curriculum to be the best,

because they realize that our students deserve the very best that we have to offer.

I am very fortunate to be here in Novi. As I look forward, I am excited about the possibilities. We have so much, yet there is still work to do.

As another year passes, I trust that all of us who care for the Novi Community School District are ready to commit ourselves to once again doing the hard work that needs to be done to serve the students and families in our district.

I believe that the future of the Novi Community School district is bright. As the new year dawns and I turn a year older, I look forward to what lies ahead. I hope you do as well.

Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at smatthews@novischools.net.

Dr. Anil Kumar Wishes You

erry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

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Dr. Anil

Dr. Kumar's Christmas List

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Livonia Democratic Club Holiday Party



Plymouth Democratic Club Holiday Party



Left to right: Anil Kumar; US Rep. Brenda Lawrence; 11th District Chair Pam Jackson

KumarForCongress2016@gmail.com

www.KumarForUSCongress.com

George's Senate donates to Goodfellows

Local businessman George Dimopoulos made news several weeks ago with his promise, "If anyone is home alone, come eat with us for free."

It's the 10th year that the owner of George's Senate Coney Island has offered free Thanksgiving dinners so that no one has to dine alone, but it was the first year his generous offer was posted on social media.

Several local and national news outlets publicized his offer. In the past, George's Senate served around 80 Thanks-

The Northville Library will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, for the holidays. It will also be closed Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1.

Drop-In Winter Break Craftapalooza

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 Details: Kids of all

ages use your imagination and get creative with a variety of fun craft supplies. No registration required. Due to space limitations, we cannot accommodate special groups.

giving dinners each year. With all the news coverage, this year Dimopoulos and his group of volunteers served more than 400 Thanksgiving dinners.

And it appears that generosity is contagious. Many of George's Thanksgiving customers not only paid for their meals, but donated to help cover the cost of feeding those who couldn't afford to pay.

Dimopoulos donated their contributions, along with additional funds from Dimopoulos himself, to the Livonia Goodfellows. Dimopoulos presented the Livonia Goodfellows with a check for \$2,000. A new sign in George's window reads in part, "Thanks again for your support. I hope that all of us around the world help others that are in need. God Bless everyone and Merry Christmas!"

Now in its 80th year, the Livonia Goodfellows is an all-volunteer organization whose motto is "No Livonia child without a Christmas." In 2014, the Livonia Goodfellows provided 328 families with 743 children with food vouchers, new toys,

games and books for the children.

In addition, each family receives a large assortment of canned goods that are collected mainly through canned food drives held by students at 26 Livonia and Clarenceville schools.

In recent years, the Livonia Goodfellows has expanded its mission to support causes throughout the year that benefit needy Livonia children, including sharing canned food with local pantries, helping provide school supplies and more.



George's Senate Coney Island owner George Dimopoulos (left) presents Livonia Goodfellows treasurer Mike Smykowski with a \$2,000 check.

LIBRARY LINES

Foreign Film @ the Library

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 **Details:** Enjoy the French film The Gilded

Cage (with English subtitles). Will Marie and Jose choose to leave their beloved Paris neighborhood to fulfill a lifelong dream? 90 minutes.

Battle of the Books 2016 Registration

Time/Date: Through January 29

Details: Register now for this fun reading competition for middle school students who live or go to school in Northville. Teams start your reading! Check our website for complete details.

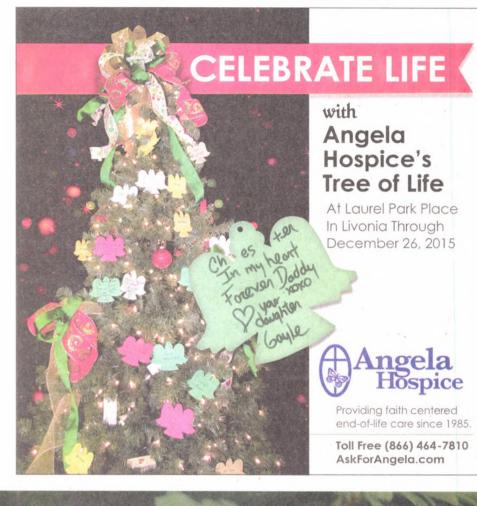
Winter Storytimes Time/Date: January

through March Details: For details about Winter Storytimes,

go to www.northvillelibrary.org or call the library at 248-349-3020.

Winter Reading Program

Time/Date: Jan. 2-30 Details: Pick up your bingo card beginning Jan. 2, read five books or complete simple tasks to earn a spin on the Wheel of Prizes! For ages 12 and



MILL RACE MATTERS

Archives: The archives are open Monday and Tuesday. Office: The office is

day through Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millracenorthville.org

each Tuesday.

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Upcoming events

Members Only Annual Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Jan. 21. To be held at the New School Church at Mill Race Village. Renew your membership today and join us in January!

Tea Ticket Sales for

Mad Hatter: Feb. 6, 2016. Our teas are popular and sell out quickly. Buy your tickets today.

Closed: The office and the archives will be closed for the holidays until Jan. 3.

General info

Website: www.millracenorthville.org

Volunteers: The Northville Historical Society at Mill Race Village accepts volunteers in many different areas. Contact the office for more details.

Rentals: Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or Church for a wedding or party. Many dates are available. More information on our website

Donations: Accepted only from 9 a.m. to noon

COMMUNITY **EVENTS**

Chilly softball

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9; registration deadline Dec. 29.

Details: The city of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department hosts the second annual Chili Chilly Softball Showdown at Ella Mae Power Park. The co-ed event features wooden bats, a 16-inch ball, one pitch per at-bat, prizes for all participants and a lunch featuring coney dogs from Kerby's Koney Island. 18 years of age or older. \$250 per team. Double-elimination format with games lasting six innings.

To register your team, go to cityofnovi.org or the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services office inside the Novi Civic Center, 4517510 Mile Road.

No Contracts. No Co-pay. Lock in your monthly membership price with auto pay. \$39 Membership Card Activation Fee Applies. Expires Dec. 31, 2015. Regular price \$149

Get in here and make something!





GET IN HERE AND TAKE A CLASS!

Register with a non-member buddy and save 50% on the price of the class. Not including material fees.

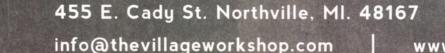
| Wood Shop |
|--------------|
| Metal Shop |
| Machine Shop |
| Quilting |
| Sewing |

Welding **Powder Coating** Vinyl Cutter Laser Engraver Kids Classes Too



MEMBERSHIPS AND CLASSES MAKE GREAT GIFTS! GIFT CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE.

During the month of December bring in a donation of arts and crafts supplies or kits for LaCasa and receive a keepsake ornament made at The Village Workshop.



248.667.7157 www.thevillageworkshop.com LOCAL NEWS

hometownlife.com

Popular court magistrate dies

Charles Y. Cooper, magistrate of 52-1 District Court in Novi, died Friday following a brief illness. He was 79.

Known as Charlie to family, friends and staff, Cooper's presence in the district court was noticed by all.

"Charlie came to work every day with a smile on his face. No matter what was going on or how he was feeling, if you asked him how he was doing he would say, 'Couldn't be better,'' stated Alexandra Black, administrator of the 52-1 District Court.

"Charlie would never want anyone else to feel bad or worry. He will be remembered here at the court for his tremendous kind heart, his whistling in the hallways and his everlasting sunny disposition which spread joy to all of us. He will be missed," Black said.

Cooper, a Pleasant



Cooper

January 1964 after graduating from law

Ridge resident,

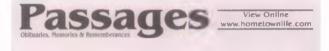
began

practic-

ing law in

school at the University of Detroit Mercy where he also earned his undergraduate degree. He served as a municipal judge in Pleasant Ridge from 1972-1974. He also served as the prosecutor for the city of Novi for a number of years before becoming a magistrate of the 52-1 District Court in 2012. He was a member in good standing of the State Bar of Michigan.

Cooper is survived by his wife Elizabeth Ann; four children Shannon (Jeff) Wolf, John, Ann (John) Arends, and William; and five grandchildren Kathryn, Cooper, Charlie, William and Elizabeth.



How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 · fax 313-496-4968 · www.mideathnotices.com

Deadlines: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



BARATI, IDA EMMA Of Milford, passed away in the care of her family on December 16, 2015 at the age of 83. Ida is survived by her brother, Louis F. (Lee) Barati; nephew, Louis Barati: niece, Linda (Sue) Nehasil; great-niece and Ashley Barati, Louie nephews, Barati, Adam Nehasil and Aaron Nehasil. She was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Emma Barati; brother, Frank and nephew, Barati: Larry Memorials may be Nehasil. made in Ida's memory to a charity of choice. Lynch & Sons Directors, Milford Funeral 248.684.6645 or visit





HAY, AGNES EARL died on December 2, 2015 at age 94. She is preceded in death by her parents Crystal and Stephen Myshak, her husband Clifford M. Hay, and son Gary C. Hay, Agnes was an renaissance woman. She made friends everywhere she went. Agnes worked at and retired from the Legal Staff at General Motors. She the world, visiting Germany and China traveled Egypt, among other places. She was a dancer and music lover. She tapdanced into her 90s in the theater group she joined in Northville, and for many years enjoyed season tickets to the opera with her good friend Allison. Agnes was an expert seamstress sewed costumes and clothes for her granddaughters when they were little and went on to sew clothing for the dolls she made in her later years. Agnes was an athlete. She started practicing yoga in the 1960s and continued until she was no longer able. She also loved cross country skiing, biking and swimming. She was a gardener who grew roses at her home in Novi and flowers at her home in Northville. She was an avid reader who checked out shopping bags full of books from the library. She was always willing to share her hobbies with those around her and teach those who were interested. Agnes was most happy while with her grandchildren and friends. Agnes was no fool and had great insight into people. She knew who loved her for who she was and expressed her appreciation to those who enjoyed having her around. She could often be seen drinking her morning coffee at her kitchen table while looking out the window. She was always glad to have visitors. She treasured her friendships and looked forward to catching up on the latest news. Agnes was generous to a fault and was sometimes taken advantage of. She knew it, but she was more interested in preserving relationships then tracking how much she gave. Agnes taught others how to live their lives fully with beauty, dignity and generosity. She will be deeply missed by those whose lives she's touched. She is survived by her best friend of over 50 years, Allison Welch, her treasured dog Crissie who was always by her side, Candy Creedon, grandchildren Lisa Hay and Mike Hay of Alaska, Emerald Hay, Steven Creedon, Kristen Creedon; great grandchildren Ronin, Kaia, Jace, Noelle, Navi, Rebecca, Alex, Connor and Austin. In her last days, Agnes asked that she not forgotten. A Celebration of Life is being planned for Agnes.

If interested in attending, please

email Agneshaycelebrationoflife

HOPPER, LARRY

September 27, 1948 -December

19, 2015. Arrangements by:

PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME

www.phillipsfuneral.com

NGUYEN, KINH

December 18, 1925-December 15, 2015 L. J. Griffin Funeral

Northrop

TRIPOLI,

AVERALDÓ J.

October 4, 1927-December 16, 2015 L. J. Griffin Funeral Home-

VanINGEN, DONALD

February 4, 1929-December 18, 2015. Services entrusted to L.J.

Griffin Funeral Home Northrop-

Northrop Sassaman Chapel

Sassaman Chapel.

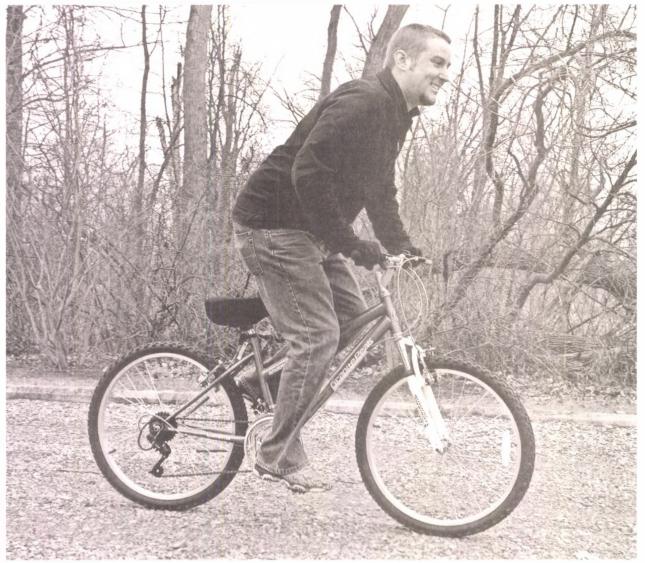
Sassaman

@gmail.com.

Home

Chapel

TRAIL RIDING



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josef Webber takes off on a bike ride Dec. 17 at Novi's Lakeshore Park. Webber, of Houston, was hitting the park's mountain bike trails with his brother Johannes, who lives in Novi.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Contact: 248-349-0911

all ages)

Church

Lyon

Dec. 24

Web: www.fpcnorthville.org

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (for

Location: 205 E. Lake St., South

Worship: Blue Christmas Service,

Worship: Christmas Eve Candle-

light Service, 10:30 p.m. Friday,

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian

Contact: 248-437-2875, of-

fice@fpcsouthlyon.org

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21

Send calendar information to pallmen@hometownlife.com by 5 p.m. Friday to be included in Thursday's publication. The calendar is also available online at www.hometownlife.com.

Brightmoor Christian

Location: M-5 and 13 Mile, Novi Contact: 248-668-7014; celebraterecovery@brightmoorcc.org Web: www.brightmoorchur-

ch.org

Celebrate Recovery

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Monday Details: Worship, teaching or testimony and open-share recovery groups. Organizers offer the principles and tools to bring healing for the hurts, deliverance from life-controlling Location: P.O. Box 605, Novi Contact: 248-767-1366 Pastor: James H. Moseley Jr. Asst. Pastor: Ashaki M. Moseley

Emmanuel Lutheran

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia

Web: www.emmanuel-livonia.org Contact: 248-442-8822 Sunday worship: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Youth group: 7 p.m. Wednesday Special Needs Ministry: Judy Cook, 248-442-8822

Study: 10-11:30 a.m. Mondays

Faith Community

Cook, 248-442-8822 office@fpcsouthlyon.org
Women's Coffee Break Bible

First Presbyterian Church

n 26165 Sermineten I

Location: 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Location: 330 E. Liberty, South Lyon

Contact: 248-437-2289 Pastor: Pastor Scott Miller

Lakes Baptist Church

Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake

Legacy Church

(formerly First Baptist Church and Orchard Hills Baptist Church)

Location: 23455 Novi Road, Novi
Contact: pastor Jon Hix, 248-349-5665
Web: www.legacychurch.us
Sunday School/Small Groups for all ages: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Services: 11 a.m.
Bible Study/Prayer: Wednesday 7 p.m.

BAYER, DOROTHY J.

Age 81, passed away December 18, 2015. She was born May 24, 1934 in Canton, Ohio, daughter of the late Leon & Blanche Price. Dorothy was an active member of T.O.P.S. for many years and held the privilege of being named "Queen" many being named "Queen" many times. She held a Black Belt in Ishanru Karate and was an instructor for many years in South Lyon. Dorothy will always be remembered for her longstanding membership at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in South Lyon. She had a ministry for sending cards to friends and other church members to recognize their birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or any other special event in their life. Dorothy will be dearly missed by her family and friends! She is survived by her daughter, Theresa (Jerry) Gyde, her grandsons: Michael (Loree) Gyde and Todd (Lisa) Gyde. She is also survived by two great-grandchildren. Cheyenne Gyde and Todd Bailey Gyde. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert in 1982, her sister, Nancy Osborne and her parents. A funeral service was held on Monday, December 21 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 330 E. Liberty, South Lyon. Dorothy was laid to rest beside her husband in Cemetery. Lyon South www.phillipsfuneral.com.

Wishes of peace to you and yours in this time of sorrow. relations with God and others. Enter at Door D on the south side of the building. No cost; free child care is available for children birth through fifth grade. Pre-register.

habits and freedom from the

developing strong and healthy

hang-ups that keep us from

Church of the Holy Family

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

Contact: 248-349-8847

Web: www.holyfamilynovi.org Mass Schedule: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday through Friday; 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 6:30 p.m. Saturday (Spanish)

Holy days: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment

Priests: the Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and the Rev. Beto Espinoza, associate pastor AA: 8 p.m. Wednesdays

Crosspointe Meadows

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

Sunday worship: 11 a.m. Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for

all ages **Details:** Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center

Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 41355 Six Mile, Northville

Contact: destinyw3@gmail.comc Web: www.dw3c.org

Detroit Japanese Christian Fellowship

Location: 45301 11 Mile, Novi Contact: Kanji Fuki Contact: 248-756-3336

Dominion Church

1

Presbyterian Church

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Contact: 248-349-2345 Web: www.faithcommunitynovi.org Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Women's Group: 12:30 p.m. third Thursday Children's Faith Club: 5 p.m. Wednesday

First Baptist Church of Northville

Location: 217 N. Wing, Northville Contact: 248-348-1020 Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday

First Church of the Nazarene

Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile Contact: 248-348-7600

Web: www,dfcnazarene.org Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Classic Worship: 11 a.m. Revive (contemporary) Worship; 11 a.m. Kids Worship and Teen Worship; 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School Monday: 7 p.m. - Bible Study Fellowship Men's Bible Study Tuesday: 9:25 a.m. - Women of the Word Women's Bible Study Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. - Caravan Scouting program for kids ages 4 through fifth grade; Club 45 for fourth-and fifth-graders; Merge Middle School Worship night; Bible Study with Troy

Ogle; Little Critters preschool program; Alpha class from 6:30-8 p.m. – an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha is for high school to adult.

Thursday: 6 a.m. – Men of Purpose Prayer and Bible Study – Revelation.

First Free Will Baptist Church

Location: 51395 10 Mile Road, Novi Contact: 248-348-2380

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 E. Main, Northville Location: 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington

First United Methodist Church of Northville

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

Frank Turner Ministries

Location: Novi Civic Center 45175 W. 10 Mile Road Contact: 810-599-7392

Web: www.FrankTurner.org

Sunday Gathering: 10 a.m. The Believers Congregation in Novi receives all desiring God's love, grace, healing and acceptance, regardless of faith background, gender identification or sexual orientation. The atmosphere is warm and loving. The attire is casual. Experience an entirely new way of sharing and receiving the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

Location: 41415 Nine Mile, Novi Contact: 248-349-0565, www.goodshepherdnovi.org Pastor: Rev Thomas E. Schroeder

Service: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible study; 10 a.m. worship

Grace Immanuel Bible Church

Location: 21900 Meadowbrook Road, Novi Pastor: Charles Sexton Contact: 248-344-4465

Holy Cross Episcopal

Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile, Novi

Contact: 248-427-1175; holycrossnovi@gmail.com Web: www.holycrossnovi.org Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.

Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. worship service

Alzheimer's Support Group:10 a.m. second Saturday

Hope Lutheran Church

Livonia Church of Christ

Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia

Contact: 734-427-8743 Web: www.livoniachurch.net Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

Contact: the Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister; 248-348-7757; office@mbccc.org

Web: www.mbccc.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; church school and nursery care provided during worship Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.

Memorial Church of Christ

Location: 35475 Five Mile Road, Livonia Minister: Mark McGilvrey Web: www.5milechurch.org Contact: 734-464-6722; churchoffice@5milechurch.org

Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church

Location: 15585 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth Contact: 734-420-3131 Web: www.metrosdachurch.org Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Saturday Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Saturday Bible Study/Prayer: 7 p.m. Wednesday

NorthRidge Church

Location: 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township Contact: 734-233-3621; pheaton@northridgechurch.com

Decision on Southwest Oakland Cable Commission delayed

Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

The Farmington Hills City Council gave itself a little more time to decide what to do about its participation in the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission.

With a Dec. 31 deadline looming for the parties in the SWOCC — the cities of Farmington, Novi and Farmington Hills — to decide whether to continue in the partnership, Hills city council members voted Dec. 14 to extend the deadline to March 31.

At issue is the future of the consortium, formed in 1982 to negotiate cable franchise agreements, and to help the three communities formulate and manage public access television programming.

Novi officials months ago let

their partners know they'd like to dissolve it; it takes the vote of two of the three municipalities.

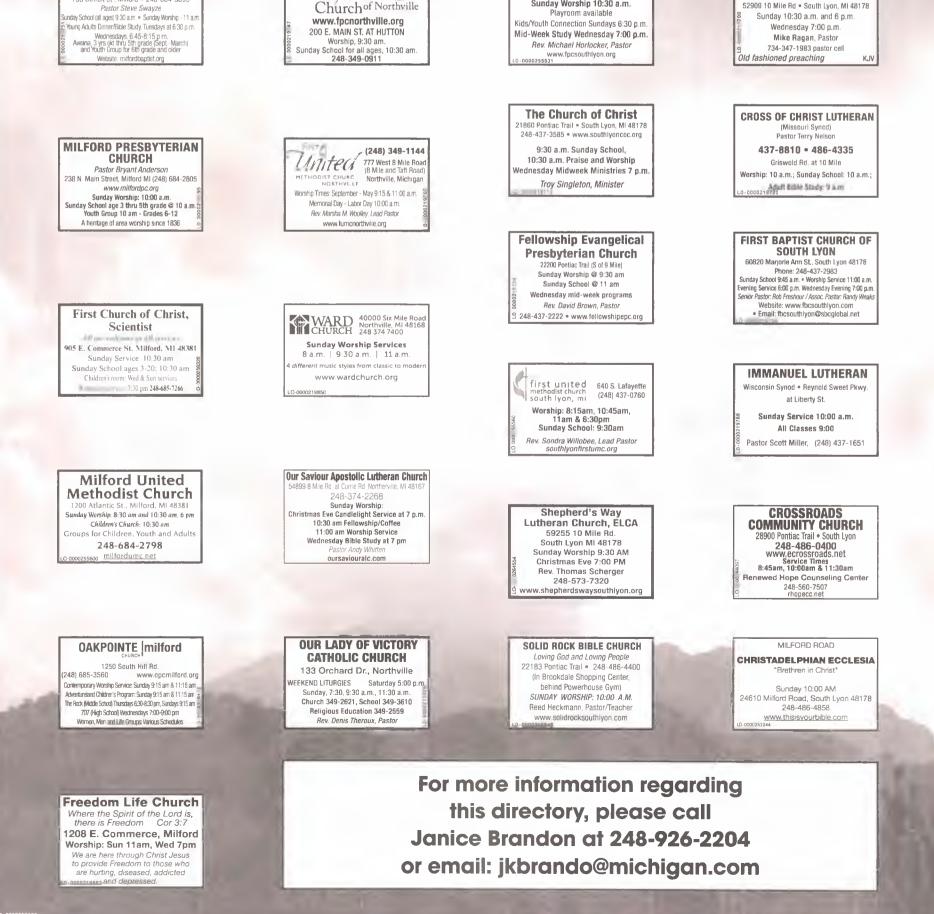
The resolution passed by the Farmington Hills council delays the notification date until March 31, but does not change the exit date, which remains June 30. A similar resolution is expected to be passed in Farmington and Novi, even though officials in Novi already passed a dissolution resolution. SWOCC is located on Nine Mile in Farmington. According to Boyer, the equipment

SWOCC uses is outdated and carries some \$400,000 in debt. Boyer said the SWOCC has seen a 10-percent drop in revenue the last three years as it deals with an old building, outdated equipment and increased competition from various sources, such as iPhones and the Internet. Novi officials aren't likely to

change their minds about walking away. Back in October, Novi Mayor Pro Tem Dave Staudt said the city's decision is simply a matter of finding a partnership that makes more sense, perhaps something with Novi Public Schools.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com Twitter: @bkadrich





A8 (NNNR) O & E Media | Thursday, December 24, 2015

LOCAL NEWS

Kowall awards pin to vet

State Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall welcomed Vietnam veteran Bruce Kurth of Commerce Township and wife Karen and their family Dec. 9 to his Capitol office

Kurth, who served two tours in Vietnam from 1968-70 as part of the Navy Seabees, received a Vietnam veteran lapel pin from Kowall.



Pictured (from left) are Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, and Bruce Kurth.



Novi • Bloomfield Hills • Southfield

Hospital's Christmas Store assists 800 kids

Greg Mullin Staff Writer

Southfield and Novi hospital employees provided gifts for 802 children representing 355 families at the annual **Providence-Providence** Park Hospital Christmas Store.

"Everything is donat-ed," said Lisa Ward, event co-chair. "Our medical staff is phenomenal. Our associates are phenomenal. We even have long-term commitments from some of our vendors. It really takes a village to coordinate this and it's really through the generosity of many It's an event that we all look forward to.'

On Dec. 5, parents were able to shop for a new toy, new outfit and new book for each child. To allow them to discretely shop, a child care area was set up with a hot chocolate ornament craft area and visit from Santa.

'The children are not allowed in the store." Ward said. "It's almost like if you were a mom or dad going to the store and buying for your child. We want to continue to evoke that element of surprise for the



More than 200 volunteers from the Southfield and Novi campuses pitched in Dec. 5 at the Christmas Store.

child."

In addition, each family received a picture with Santa, Christmas chocolates, a food gift card and gift wrapping. More than 200 Providence volunteers helped out that day, which was split into three sessions.

"We strategically use black garbage bags - we put everything in there and strategically bring them around to the wrap-ping stations," Ward said. Planning for the event begins right after Labor

Day. "We've kind of got this down to a fine-oiled machine or what we like to call 'controlled chaos, said Ward, director of Clinical Safety Risk Management and Patient Relations for SJPH Providence and Providence Park Hospital. "We have a very defined checklist as to what needs to be done and we make sure that we're meeting those time lines.'

Referrals come from Providence physicians,

agencies that the hospital works with and four area schools - two in Southfield, one in South Lyon and one in Novi.

The Christmas Store was held in Southfield, but the event was a joint effort between the Southfield and Novi campuses. "We gather together

in Southfield, but certainly associates from both hospitals are extremely contributory," Ward said.

gmullin@hometownlife.com

Novi will conduct winter camp programs

Looking for ways to keep your child active and engaged this winter? Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services has some options for your kids.

» Camp Arctic Adventure - Join the Novi Parks Staff for an extraordinary winter wonderland experience for kids ages 6-12 at the Novi Ice Arena. From ice skating to the Mini-Iditarod, this program is a great way to spend the midwinter break; Feb. 15-16, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The price is \$86.

» Tennis classes offered with Funstart and Todd Beyer Tennis -Both Funstart and Todd Beyer offer fundamental instruction for kids ages 6-12. Todd Beyer Tennis begins Thursday, Jan. 7, for \$79 and Funstart Tennis begins the week of Jan. 25 for \$78.

» Leisure Unlimited Basketball and Volleyball - Leisure Unlimited uses the perfect mix of games and drills to make learning both sports fun. Basketball classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 13, for \$63 for ages 7-10 and

volleyball begins Friday, Jan. 15, for \$54 for ages 7-11

» Michigan Jaguars Soccer Training - Children ages 5-13 will soccer skills fresh in the offseason with high quality Michigan Jaguars coaches. Trainings begin the week of Jan. 6 for \$70.

» Auditions and Acting Techniques - A new workshop featuring instruction for both beginners and experienced child actors. Students will learn through vocal and movement exercises on Saturday, Jan. 23, for

\$30. The classes are for ages 8-12 and 13-18.

» Princess Ballet Classes - This popular class introduces ballet fundamentals in a fairy tale format for kids ages 3-6. Classes begin the week of Jan. 25 for \$53.

» Wildwind Horse Riding Lessons - Wildwind offers an excellent mix of classes for both children and adults. Lessons begin the week of Jan. 18 and are \$198.

A complete listing of all camps and workshops and registration is available at cityofnovi.org.



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0 & E Media | Thursday, December 24, 2015 (NNNR) A9

And to all a GOOD NIGHT!

During this most special and festive holiday season, we pause to remember: it's not what you get, but what you give that matters most. As a part of the Northville community, we are joyful to be able to serve our fellow friends and neighbors throughout the year.

And so, in the spirit of the season, we warmly wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas.

Kroger stores will close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and remain closed on Christmas Day. Stores will reopen at 6 a.m. on Saturday, December 26.



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Observer & Eccentric com

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- Advertising in the Spring Senior Expo **Special Section**
- inserted into all **Observer & Eccentric** Newspapers
- Inclusion in the digital Spring Senior Expo **Special Section on** hometownlife.com

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- Adult Day Care Services
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- Spa & Wellness Companies
- Anti-aging & Holistic Wellness Companies
- Senior Housing
- Senior Fitness Providers
- Alzheimer's Service Providers
- Financial Services
- Insurance Providers
- Health Insurance
- Home Health Care
- Hospice Care
- Mobility Solutions
- Community Services
- Elder Law Advice
- Medicare Coverage Providers
- Veteran's Benefits Services
- Transportation Companies
- Lawyers
- Nutrition & Dietary Services
- and many more



A11 (NN) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Public awareness campaign's message bears repeating: Don't drink and drive

Area police are stepping up patrols this holiday season to combat drinking and driving. Their basic recommendation? Make it none for the road.

While the holiday season brings celebrations with family and friends, it also brings an increased number of festivities that may include alcohol. Leaders of Mothers Against Drunk Driving want to make sure everyone's holiday ends in cheerfulness, not tragedy.

As MADD's longest-running public awareness campaign, Tie One On For Safety asks adults to display a red ribbon on their vehicles to remind others to plan ahead and designate a non-drinking driver before holiday celebrations begin.

This season, MADD and Nationwide, national presenting sponsor of Tie One On For Safety, conducted a new online survey showing the growth of designated drivers throughout MADD's 35-year history.

Here are some encouraging results:

» 75 percent of respondents say they have been a designated driver in the past year, showing significant growth from 1989, when 35 percent of participants in a Roper survey reported being a designated driver.

» Women were slightly more likely to serve as a designated driver (76.92 percent vs. 71.87 percent).
 » Eight out of 10 males (81.58 percent), ages 21-34

have served as a designated driver.

» 71 percent of respondents have used a designated driver in the past 12 months, an increase of nearly 10 percent from 2013, when 63 percent of adults surveyed in a 2013 MADD public opinion survey said a designated driver had driven them home.

» 94 percent of respondents said that a designated driver is a person who hasn't been drinking at all.

MADD also surveyed respondents on their attitudes toward using ride share services, like Uber, as a designated driver:

» Just a few years after these services launched, 23 percent of respondents already associate the term "designated driver" with ride sharing.

» 31 percent of respondents under the age of 30 reported using a ride share service to get home after drinking.

» Nearly half (48.7 percent) of respondents ages 21-34 stated that ride share services were very valuable or extremely valuable.

To encourage party goers to designate a nondrinking driver and plan ahead for a safe ride home, MADD and Uber are teaming up to make it easy for party hosts to purchase Uber rides for their guests. Through Jan. 1, Uber will donate \$10 to MADD for every ride home purchased through

every ride nome purchased throug

UberEVENTS+MADD. Whether it's a company holiday party or a family dinner, UberEVENTS allows for party hosts to secure their guests a safe and reliable way home. Learn more at UberEVENTS+MADD.

Give guests the gift of safety with UberEVENTS+MADD. If not using Uber, traditional cab services — or allowing guests to spend the night rather than drive home in conditions dangerous to themselves or others — can be a godsend.

Also, remember to serve non-alcoholic drinks to your guests at holiday gatherings. There are plenty of tempting non-alcoholic drink recipes online that are sure to please. These don't look much different from drinks with alcohol, so these guests won't feel isolated; at any rate, never single out such a guest and make him/her feel self-conscious for not imbibing.

Remember, too, that some people have alcoholism issues and be sensitive to their needs this holiday and all year. Have plenty of options for them at parties that don't include alcohol and understand if they need to leave a gathering early.

Let's all get home safely from our holiday celebrations and face the new year eager for new challenges and the treasures of family and friends.

LETTERS

Supports Bush

As a young adult that has not yet reached voting age, I hear adults talk about the state of our nation and they all seem to have one thing in common: their underlying sense of pessimism toward our country. Because of my age, I can't share their perspective on how things used to be, but as an informed citizen, I can still make known my ideas. While some may look at my age as a disadvantage, I see it as an opportunity to see things from a fresh perspective on how great America can be. The ideas that I have as a young adult seem to be in sync with many of the ideas held

NOVI NEWS A GANNETT COMPANY

Phil Allmen, Community editor Larry Ruehlen, Managing editor **Jani Hayden,** Advertising director by Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush. For that reason, I think it would be in our country's best interest to support him.

One big, controversial topic in our country is education. Jeb Bush supports more choice, and giving states more authority. As a student, I can advocate that making those changes would greatly improve our education system. Right now, there are federally set standards that all states have to meet; my opinion is that the states should have the right to set their own educational standards and requirements.

Another important

issue being debated right now is border security and it is proving to be very divisive. Whilst some candidates favor a drastic approach, like Trump's idea to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico, Bush's approach to the situation is more conservative and would appear to work better. He favors an increase in border security, and is not opposed to allowing immigrants to move into the U.S., so long as they follow protocol. Finally, health care is possibly the most widely talked about subject in recent years in regard to politics.

While I support the idea

of universal, affordable health care for all, I believe that there are better options than our current legislation. I think that we should repeal the ACA and electing Bush would help us to achieve just that.

Make your voice heard on these issues. You can take a stand with me and vote for Bush during the upcoming primaries. Not only would he be a great president, he would help make America great again. From my perspective as a young adult, he is clearly the best choice. Sincerely,

Kylie Maxton Novi

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife-

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A12 (NNNR) 0 & E Media | Thursday, December 24, 2015

LOCAL NEWS

Take care to prevent sports head injuries this winter

s a youngster growing up in northwest Detroit, wintertime led us to build a skating rink. Donning the skates was followed by hours of carefree (or careless) fun. This inevitably led to hockey "pickup" games for the neighborhood, hosted in our own back yard. Our father would rig up a flood-light so we could play outside into the night. When winter weather was too severe, we would take the competition indoors and, wearing roller skates, we would re-enact the then popular Hockey Night in Canada.

Hours were spent careening around the cement basement floor with occasional exclamations of "He shoots, he scores!"

What's wrong with this picture of our past? One thing is that it is amazing we survived since we wore no helmets, no protective gear of any type and if someone fell and hit their head he would shake it off, resume play or go home crying. All the while none of us knew just how dangerous this was and how lucky we were.

Winter is upon us. With it comes an increased participation in winter sports and an increased incidence of traumatic brain injuries. Outdoor winter sports include ice skating, sledding, snowmobiling,



snow-boarding, hockey and skiing. Indoor winter sports include basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer.

All of these have in common the increase in potential for heads hitting heads and heads hitting the ground.

In fact, an estimated one million children alone in this country sustain a traumatic brain injury each year. Every 23 seconds, a head injury occurs in the U.S. according to the Brain Injury Association of Michigan. The majority of these are closed head injuries, also called concussions or traumatic brain injuries.

Myths dispelled

It previously was thought that the head had to hit something for there to be a concussion-like injury. This myth has been proven wrong. A whiplash-like motion of the head can cause damage to the brain.

Also, a loss of consciousness is not necessary for the brain to be hurt. Technically, a disruption in consciousness, no matter how brief, such as mildly dazed to a full coma, constitutes concussion. And repeated concussions can have a cumulative effect, as

often seen in boxing. We also are hearing more reports of hockey and football players sustaining concussions, retiring earlier and developing Alzheimer's-like disorders.

Resources

More resources than ever now are available for children, adults, parents, teachers and coaches to learn about these conditions and ways to remedy the consequences of such injuries.

In addition to the natural resource of brain healing, the likelihood of recovery can be increased by working with rehabilitation specialists. Some school districts are now training coaches about head trauma or partnering with local physical therapy companies to have a professional at games.

Help also is available from the field of neuropsychology in making "return-to-play" decisions. The Brain Injury Association of Michigan is a leader in this area. Its website is www.biami.org.

Also, The Therapy Choirs of Michigan provides choir therapy and develops therapy choirs for people with special needs, including sports concussions.

The group has active therapy choirs in Macomb, Oakland, and Livingston counties. It has plans to expand to Wayne County soon. Its work largely has been selffunded, with the exception of a small passthrough grant and Goodnonprofit organization, located at 24477 Buchanan Ct., No. 1887, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. TCM is appealing for contributions to continue its "Tour of Hope" concerts, with performances by individuals with brain injuries and associated disorders.

For donation records, the TCM federal ID number is #36-4611444. Your canceled check is your receipt. Go to www.therapychoirs.org

Prevention

We need to devote more attention to prevention. It is estimated that 90 percent of head injury concussions could be prevented if people took more precautions. In the final analysis, the greatest tool we have against traumatic brain injury is prevention.

This is not to discourage participation in winter sports, but to encourage safe participation in all that we do.

So if you are thinking about flooding your back yard for unprotected, unsupervised winter hockey or re-enacting Hockey Night in Canada in roller skates on your cement basement floors, think again.

Leonard J. McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is a certified brain injury specialist and is board certified in traumatic stress, mental health, addictions and social work. McCulloch also is president and director of Therapy Choirs of Michigan. Call him for a courtesy consultation at his Farmington



Prepare your car for winter

ecently I was able to attend a play at a local school here in the area. The name of the play was Snow Way Out. It was a fun play, and the kids did an excellent job of singing. However, the play was about people waiting for the snow to come. They talked about all the fun they could have in the snow, sledding, skiing, building snowmen, but "Old Man Winter" was taking his time getting there. Of course, the play ended with "Old Man Winter' arriving in the nick of time with a nice pleasant snowfall. What a nice simple play.

It made me think though — it doesn't just snow in Michigan. It sneaks up on you, and then faster than a Ronda Rousev roundhouse kick, it tries to knock us out - just like the storm we had already in November. Winter dumps on us and then it freezes us with the sun. Bright sunny days with below-zero temperatures — do you remember last year? And don't forget the wind adding to the feeling of numbness to the face and hands. Frozen windshields, driveways full of snow, power lines with ice hanging off them causing power outages. "Old Man Winter" and his friendly snowfall, I don't think so! But we are Michiganders, we can take it. If you haven't done this already, make sure your vehicle is ready for the cold.

Have your radiator system serviced before winter and make sure to



Have your brakes, brake fluid, oil, car *battery*, *heater* and exhaust checked to make sure everything is running efficiently.

light, windshield scraper, jumper cables, mobile phone charger, shovel, blankets, first aid kit, nonperishable food and bottled water in case you get stuck or stranded. Oh yeah, one last thing, don't forget to slow down. That right there may help keep you out of the ditch or an accident. Reducing speed allows your wheels to have more time on contact and maintain friction to the roadway. There is no place you need to be, that you can't get to safely.

Well, that is all for this year - look for me again in the paper in January. I want to take just a moment and say, "Thank you," to everyone who submitted questions and kind words this year. I am glad so many enjoy reading the "Ask A Trooper" column. I enjoy answering the questions and look forward to continuing to answer your questions next year. I hope everyone has safe travels where ever they go this holiday season and may the new year be a good one for you.

If you have questions or comments email them to askatrooper12@ gmail.com, or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan

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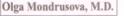


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LOCAL NEWS

Students bring holiday cheer to Detroit academy

For more than 15 years, Novi students have participated in the Bridgepointe Program, an outreach effort that pairs Novi students with Academy of the Americas, a K-8 school in Detroit. Bridgepointe was launched to bring youth from city and suburban schools together to share creative talents and open the door to cultural understandings

The program's principal event - coordinated by the parent teacher organization, students, staff and parents — features gifts and food baskets for an annual holiday celebration.

"It really makes an impact on their lives," PTO volunteer Lissa Lewinski said of how Novi students have responded to the program, which has gone beyond the initial annual event to include projects timed with March Is Reading Month activities and a shared Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Bridgepointe is a nonprofit organization based in Detroit. For more information on the program and how to contribute, go to www.bridgepointenonprofit.org.



Novi High School a capella choir Major VI entertains Academy of the Americas students.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

JOHN HEIDER | STAF PHOTOGRAPHER Santa Claus gives Academy of the Americas student Eric Zamora a gift during a visit to the Detroit school by staff and students from Novi.

Novi Meadows student Cole Shires helps to dish out some pizza





Novi Meadows student Anika Venkanagara smiles as she talks to a student from **Detroit's Academy of the** Americas

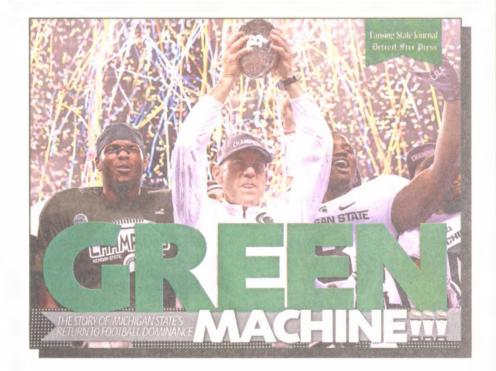


HN HEIDE Novi Meadows students Emma Johnson (left) and Ashley Cherniewsky escort some Academy of the Americas students - train-style -- back to their classroom during their get-together.

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As Mark Layton spent more time at his desk and his activity level decreased, his weight accumulated. Mark was diagnosed with type two diabetes and had high cholesterol and blood pressure. That's when his doctor recommended surgical weight loss surgery at St. Mary Mercy Livonia's Michigan Bariatric Institute. Now, he's committed to a healthier lifestyle - he's a runner and has competed in marathons. His diabetes is resolved and Mark is 130 pounds healthier.

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INSIDE: BUSINESS, B6 • CLASSIFIED, B7-9

SECTION B (NNNR) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM SPORTS **BRAD EMONS, EDITOR BEMONS@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM** 734-451-1490

PREP WRESTLING Shamrocks pin down seventh county title

Catholic Central has four individual champions

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central distinguished itself Saturday in the 56th annual Oak-land County Wrestling Championships at Lake Orion.

The Shamrocks scored a 330 points to earn their record seventh straight title as they outdistanced Clarkston (264.5) and Oxford (255). CC has now surpassed both Clarkston and Hazel Park, which own six county titles apiece.

Catholic Central boasted

COLLEGE SPORTS

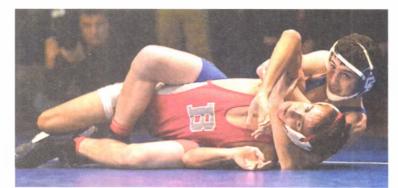
Rhett Newton (103 pounds), Kevon Davenport (125), Cameron Amine (130) and Tyler Morland (189). Stone Moscovic (119) was

four individual champions:

runner-up, while Davis Ras-tigue (112), Aaron Rehfeldt (135), Tyler Johnson (145), Aidan Waugh (152) and Nick Jenkins (285) each placed third.

Also earning places for CC were Joe McGrath (140) in fourth and Jackson Ross (215) in fifth.

After the first day of preliminary round action Friday at Southfield High, CC led Clarkston by only by 3.5 points.



SCOTT CONFER Catholic Central freshman Cameron Amine (top) was named Oakland County tourney MVP after winning the 130-pound weight class.

But Saturday, CC won eight of 11 quarterfinals and five of

eight semifinals to separate itself from the Wolves.

"Clarkston kept it close by going on a pinning cruise Fri-day evening," CC coach Mitch Hancock said. "We knew it would be close going into Sat-urday and our guys understand the significance of the quarterfinals and semis in a team race.

Let Shareset and

"Perhaps the most important round was the (consolation) semi round, where we went five for six. That was awesome. I'm proud of the way those guys bounced back. Losing in the semifinals is tough. You have to show com-posure and grit to bounce back and we did that.'

See COUNTY, Page B3

BOYS BASKETBALL Unbeaten **Northville** overcomes slow start, tops Wayne

Gibbons (24 points) and Zimbo (20) pace victory

> **Brad Emons** Staff Writer

Northville was expecting the fastball, but Wayne Memorial came out and threw the Mustangs a curve ball to start the Dec. 17 boys basketball game.

But once Northville figured things out after trailing by as many as 11 points in the first quarter, the host Mustangs scored another walk-off victory - their fourth straight to open the season – by a 60-54margin.

"They (Wayne) ran a different kind of defense, they ran a different kind of zone," said Northville senior forward Justin Gibbons, who finished with a game-high 24 points. "It was a match-up zone and they left the paint wide open a lot of times. We crashed hard and kind of clawed our way back from an 8-0 deficit. We kept crashing, kept getting secondchance points and honestly that got us back in the game and got us the W.' Northville trailed by eight, 20-12, after the first thanks to a triple by senior Justin Zimbo (20 points) with 5.4 seconds left in the quarter. "We thought it'd be a similar game that we had (Tuesday) versus (Westland John) Glenn, where they'd be trapping an pressing all over the floor," Northville coach Todd Sander said of Wayne. "And they played a really creative match-up zone (defense) that's hard to practice against and hard to simulate. Took us a while to get it figured out, but we had different guys step up and make big plays. By the second quarter, Northville had pulled even, making 7-of-12 shots from the floor while outscoring the Zebras, 19-11. The quarter was capped by Zimbo's short buzzer-beater to even the score at 31-31. "They came out firing and hit two threes back-to-back," Gibbons said of the Zebras' first quarter, when they made 8-of-16 field-goal attempts. "We started off a little slow on offense, made a few poor turnovers, but we managed to



Northville High's Emily Maresh (top) was the starting goalkeeper for Grand Valley's NCAA Division II national soccer champs.

Winning formula

NCAA champ GVSU fueled by local soccer connection

Brad Emons

Staff Writer

Grace Guibord has been a part of three straight NCAA Division II women's soccer

national championship runs at Grand Valley State. Meanwhile, former Northville High teammate Gabriella

Mencotti has been part of the

ride for two with the Lakers.

For goalkeeper Emily Maresh, also from Northville, it was her first rodeo and the 2015 season was quite a ride for her as the Lakers finished 23-1-1, capped by a 2-0 victory over Columbus (Ga.) State in the Dec. 5 final at Pensacola,

Fla.

"It was just amazing to play with those girls and the talent that this team has was just incredible to play with," Ma-resh said. "That was one of the

See GVSU, Page B4

See NORTHVILLE, Page B2



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BOYS HOCKEY

Northville goaltender Miller shines in 2-2 tie with Rice

Mustangs also sweep pair of games in Muskegon

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Junior goaltender Brett Miller stood tall between the pipes Dec. 15, enabling host Northville to earn a 2-2 boys hockey deadlock with topranked Birmingham Brother Rice at the Novi Ice Arena.

Miller stopped 37 out of 39 shots by the Warriors, who sent the game into overtime on Emerson Vogel's gametying goal, assisted by Dominick DiPonio and Jaret Koger with 6:18 remaining in regulation.

"Even (Rice coach) Lou Schmidt commented on (Miller) after the game when we were shaking hands in the line and he said, 'Your goalie played great,'" Northville coach Jon Gates said. "So it's nice to get a compliment like that from a guy that's been around so long.'

Rice's Joey Blanck opened the scoring, assisted by Andrew Rosa, at 7:06 of the first period.

But Northville answered to take a 2-1 advantage as Riley



Northville's Daniel McKee (right) scores on Muskegon Reeths-Puffer goalie Will Mierz.

Brass scored from Zac Osaer at 8:20, followed by Jimmy Dales' unassisted goal at 12:07 of the same period.

Daniel Sendek, who came on after starter Ryan Hoffman was lifted in the opening period, made 22 saves for Rice (6-2-1).

"It was really a gutty per-

formance by us," said Gates, whose team stands 4-2-1 overall. "They're a top program in the state. They're ranked No. 1 in Division 2 and defending champions for a reason. Our kids showed a lot. They showed a lot of character and resilience and we hung with them the whole game and

MARK HICKS

we're really happy to get out of there with one point.

"It was a total total team effort. A lot of blocked shots, lot of getting in shooting lanes, just doing the little things that you have to do to stay competitive."

NORTHVILLE 5, MONA SHORES 3: The NORTHVILLE 5, MORA SHORES 3: Ine Mustangs (6-2-1) jumped out to a 3-2 first period advantage and never looked back Saturday in a non-league win over host Muskegon Mona Shores (1-5) at the Lakeshore Ice Arena. Northville got first-period goals from Riley Brass at 1:19 (from Dylan Coombes and Nick Williams); Shane Bryans at 1:39 (from Kyle Dann and Jimmy Dales); and Brendan Hicks short-handed at 6:14 (imassisted)

(unassisted).

(unassisted). The Sailors countered with first-period goals by Zach Gilden and Sawyer Jensen (power play). At 10:02 of the second period, Daniel McKee scored from Ian Welsch and Williams to make it 4-2, but Mona Shores' Joel DeVoursney answered at 14:55 to make it a one-goal deficit. Dann's goal from Welsch and McKee with 8:03 remaining the final period provided the marcin of

remaining in the final period provided the margin of victory. Northville goalie Brett Miller made 28 saves, while

"It was a nice weekend, getting two wins, living in a hotel for two nights," Northville coach Jon Gates said. "We got a lot of work to do, but we like where we're at "

NORTHVILLE 8, REETHS-PUFFER 2: Junior Daniel McKee notched a hat trick Friday as the Mustangs (5-2-1) downed host Muskegon Reeths-Brendan Hicks also added a pair of goals for Northville, which led 2-0 after one period and 4-1

after two before blowing it wide open with four goals in the final 17 minutes. Ian Welsch chipped in a goal and two assists,

while Riley Brass and Jimmy Dales scored a goa each. Zac Osaer and Kyle Dann each collected two assists. Max Schaab and Trevor Fowler scored for the

Rockets, who were outshot 35-21. Northville goalie Darsh Dholakia made 19 saves, while Reeths-Puffer's Will Mierz had 27 stops.



BOYS HOCKEY ROUNDUP **Catholic Central** pounds Huskies

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Glynn Robitaille, Kyle Issacson and Kam Ottenbreit each scored a pair of goals Saturday to propel Novi Detroit Catholic Central to 9-0 a Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League North Division triumph over Port Huron Northern at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth

The defending state champion Shamrocks, ranked No. 1 in Division 1, improved to 8-2 overall and 5-0 in the MIHL North.

Isaacson's goal from Za-chary Sprys-Tellner and Alex Kreutzer ended the game with 3:41 left in the second period.

Other goal scorers for the Shamrocks, who led 5-0 after one period, were JoJo Mancinelli (power play), J.P. Laffer-ty and Cody Borke.

Kruetzer also collected four assists, while Sprys-Tellner added three. Luc Krasicky and Anthony Esser contributed two apiece, while Michael Considine, Mancinelli and Brian Galvin each had one

CC goalie Mitchell Kieffer had to make just four saves to post the shutout, while Andrew Adolph and Chad Kreda faced at total of 41 shots for the Huskies (4-5, 0-5). NOVI 4, REETHS PUFFER 4 (OT): Nate

Sullivan's goal with only 1:20 left in regulation Saturday gave host Muskegon Reeths-Puffer (2-5-1) the non-conference tie against the Wildcats (3-5-1) at L.C. Walker Arena. Novi's Ryan Fonda scored on a power play from

Andy Mizerowski with 15:38 left in the third to give

Hey Milesoward a 4-3 advantage. Reeths-Puffer led 3-1 after one period on goals by Logan Homfeld (power play), Connor McEvoy and

Sullivan (power play). Novi's Zach Perpich scored at 7:25 of the same period to make it 1-1 off assists from Brennan Martin and Cam Czapski.

In the second period, Novi evened the score at 3-3

on goals by Brandon Kour at 15:40 (from Perpich and Martin) and Perpich with only two seconds left from Alex Scarozza). Freddie Samson, who played the first 34 minutes.

and Manny Legace, who finished up the final 25, combined for 19 saves. Colton Koopman made 43 saves for the Rockets.

DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL 5, ROCHES-TER 1: Novi Detroit Catholic Central (7-2) scored three times in the final period to snap a two-game

losing skid with a non-league triumph Friday against host Rochester United (1-6) at the Onyx. Five different players tallied goals for the Sham-

rocks, who got an eight-save shutout from goaltend

For Alec Calvaruso. CC led 1-0 after one period on Michael Consadine's goal at 6:52, from Zachary Spys-Fellner and Kam Ottenbreit. J.P. Lafferty then made it 2-0 at 15:15 of the second period, assisted by Brian Kearns and JoJo Mancinelli.

Mancinelli. The Shamrocks put it away in the final period on goals by Mancinelli at 2:19 (from Ottenbreit and Sprys-Tellner); Kearns at 10:54 (from Lafferty and Mancinelli); and Nick Macari at 13:36 (from Sheldon Wasik and Kyle Mulka). NOVI 4, MONA SHORES 1: The Wildcats (3-5) reacted Michaera Maca Share (15) an anti-ord

spotted Muskegon Mona Shores (1:15) an early goal before answering with four straight Friday en route to non-conference win at L.C. Walker Arena.

The Sailors (1-5) struck first at 11:39 on Brennan Winegar's goal, assisted by Elijah Wilson, but Novi (3-5) came back on a power-play goal at 13:35 by du Mizerowski from Brennan M artin and Ryar

Northville's Samuel Bradley (right) sets up a two-on-one with teammate Kyle Dann (center) as Brother Rice's Mitch Shultz sprawls on the ice

BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Maddox sparks Wildcats' rout against Chargers

Novi improve to 3-1 following 67-43 win

> **Brad Emons** Staff Write

Sophomore guard Traveon Maddox notched 13 of his game-high 24 points to spark a 29-9 third-quarter run and Novi went on to post a convincing 67-43 boys basketball victory Dec. 17 over Livonia Churchill.

The 6-foot-3 Maddox also grabbed nine rebounds for the Wildcats, who improved to 3-1 overall.

Novi also received 11 points and nine rebounds from senior center Naji Ozeir,

while Wisconsin-Green Bay signee Kam Hankerson, a 6-4 senior guard, contributed eight points, nine rebounds, nine assists and five blocks.

"Kam was all over the place for us," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said.

Jon Hovermale and Jeron Hampton scored 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Chargers (3-1), who trailed 32-23 at halftime.

"I thought our defense was effective against their big three guards," Sinawi said of Churchill's potent offensive trio of Hovermale, Dayton Davis and Joan Andoni, who were limited to a combined 23 points. "Our defense led to offensive baskets, especially

in that third quarter."

FRANKLIN ROAD 61, LIGGETT 58 (OT): enior guard Austin Hearns took a pass from Rahsan Scruggs and made the game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer Friday to give Novi Franklin Road Christian (3-2, 1-1) the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division win at Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (2-3, 0-1). Hearns finished with a game-high 22 points, while 6-7 senior center Joshua Bause added 15 points, 17 rebounds and three blocks.

Liggett's Spencer Ewing finished with a game-high 30 points, including five 3-pointers. Thomas Jackson added 10 as the Knights rallied from a 30-21 halftime deficit with a 14-9 run in the final quarter to send the game into OT at 51-51. Franklin Road made 12-of-18 foul shots, while Liggett was 7-of-14.

NORTHVILLE 70, JOHN GLENN 61: Senior guard Justin Zimbo scored a team-high 24 points as the Mustangs (3-0) spoiled the season opener Dec. 15 for host Westland John Glenn (0-1). Zimbo went 13-of-18 from the line, with eight of those resulting from a total of four Glenn technical fouls, including back-to-back calls that led to the ejection of Glenn second-year coach Rod Watts from the game during the third quarter. Northville jumped out to a 27-18 halftime advantage before the Rockets closed the gap to

one in the third quarter. The Mustanos then

one in the third quarter. The Mustangs then answered with a 15-1 run. "I was really proud of our guys going on the road, beating a good Glenn team and overcoming a lot of adversity," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "We answered two big runs of theirs. Our guys kept their composure and finished strong." Northville senior forward Justin Gibbons added Date back and the senior forward back lunior.

MARK HICKS

19 points, including 13 in the second half. Junior Jake Justice chipped in 14.

Christian Agnew, making 9-of-11 from the foul line, scored 22 of his game-high 27 in the second half to page Chara alf to pace Glenn. Northville connected on 26-of-37 total free

throws (70.2 percent), while the Rockets struggled, NOVI 51, PLYMOUTH 36: Senior center Naji

Ozeir scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds Dec. 15, leading Novi (2-1) past host Plymouth (2-1)

in a KLAA crossover. Sophomore guard Traveon Maddox added 12 points and seven rebounds as Novi led 26-18 at halftime and 38-25 after three quarters. Armani Tate and Jeremy Abraham both scored

nine for Plymouth. Novi was 9-of-13 from the foul line, while

Plymouth hit 11-of-15.

bemons@hometownlife.com

Fonda, followed by Cam Czapski's goal from Martin at 16:26 to make it 2-1. Jake Cyr's goal from Brandon Kour and Tyler Camposano at 13:07 of the second period increased

the lead to 3-1. Cyr then notched his second of the night, an unassisted effort at 12:23 of the final period, to

Novi goalie Josh Richardson stopped 21 shots, while Mona Shores' Joni Tuomi made 16 saves.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Sunday, Dec. 27 (Harper Woods Roundball) Novi vs. Grosse Pte. South, 4 p.m (Northville Holiday Tourney) vs. Bloomfield Hills, 1 p.m. Northville vs. W.L. Northern, 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 (Northville Holiday Tourney) Consolation final, 3 p.m. Championship final, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29 (Harper Woods Roundball) Novi vs. Roch. Adams, 7 p.m. ovi vs. Roch. Adams, 7 p.n GIRLS BASKETBALL Sunday, Dec. 27 (Northville Holiday Tourney) Dexter vs. Warren Cousino, 3 p.m. Northville vs. Oxford, 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 (Northville Holiday Tourney) Consolation final, 1 p.m. Championship final 5 p.m PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 30 Milford Team Inv., 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 Detroit CC Invitational, 9 a.m. Northville, South Lyon East at Roch. Adams Inv., 9:30 a.m. BOYS SWIMMING Saturday, Jan. 2 CC at Cranbroook Inv., TBA. PREP BOWLING Sunday, Jan. 3 CC at Owosso Tourney, 9 a.m. TBA – time to be announced.

NORTHVILLE

Continued from Page B1

tighten things up and hit some shots.'

Sander was thrown for a curve himself to start the game.

"We've been fortunate," he said. "We've got off to good starts in games to date, so today this was a great learning experience. We dug ourselves a couple of big holes, but had a big second quarter and cleaned up some things on defense. I was really proud of our guys how they executed in the second half.

Wayne, behind 6-foot-6 junor forward Keion Epps, stayed close in the third quarter as the teams battled to a defensive stalemate. Northville held a

39-38 lead heading into the final quarter.

It was 45-45 with 5:17 left in the final quarter after Epps, who finished with a team-high 18 points, scored inside.

But two straight shots by Zimbo broke the deadlock and a pair of free throws by Jake Justice with 2:27 left gave Northville a four-point cushion, 51-47. The Mustangs went on to make 9-of-12 free throws down the stretch to secure the victory

"Zimbo, I thought, willed us to some hoops and showed why he's the leader that he is," Sander said.

For the game, Northville made only 19-of-50 shots from the floor (38 percent), but connected on 19-of-25 free throws (72 percent). By contrast, Wayne was 21-of-47 from the field (44.6 percent), but only

3-of-8 from the foul line (37.5 percent).

Northville also outrebounded the Zebras, 33-25, and scored on 19 second-chance points to Wayne's seven.

"Some of the things that hurt us was, if you look at the game, is that we missed free throws and (Northville) made theirs and that was the difference.' said Wayne coach Nkwane Young, whose team fell to 1-3 overall. "But my hat's off to them. They made plays when they had to. I thought in the fourth quarter, there were two crucial plays where they didn't score, but wound up getting second-chance points and that hurt us big time. That's been our problem - rebounding."

Gibbons wound up going 7-of-17 from the floor to go along with 11 rebounds. "Gibbons ... he ended up

with a lot of points and made free throws down the stretch for us and made big plays for us on the glass," Sander said. "Didn't shoot it real well, but was really, really effective around on the interior going against their defense.

Gibbons, however, went 10-of-12 from the foul line.

"Tonight was a good night," the senior forward said. "Not every night is great, but hit them (free throws) when they mattered and got us back in the game. That's all that matters ... got the W.'

Junior forward Napier Bryant and freshman guard Isaiah Lewis each added 12 points for the Zebras. All of Lewis' points came on triples.

"We're steadily trying to build." said Young, who is in his second season. "That's one thing I've done is build pro-

grams and I know it's going to take time. You gotta to be patient. We got a freshman and a sophomore starting at guard, then three juniors starting and three of my top four players off the bench are juniors, so I know it's going to take some time."

Northville, which had only one returning starter (Zimbo) off last year's Class A district final squad, has been somewhat of a surprise starting the season at 4-0.

"We were really excited to get going," Sander said. "We've got great chemistry. We really like the style the guys are playing. They're buying in and they're just a bunch of winners. We're excited where we're at, but certainly can be a lot better."

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LOCAL SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Novi's Mackay keys win over Plymouth

Tom Morelli Correspondent

In the battle of youth versus experience, it isn't often that the up-and-comers end up victorious.

But for the Novi girls' basketball team, youth worked to their advantage as they rolled to a 38-22 victory over visiting Plymouth on Tuesday night.

Boasting a roster with a half-dozen sophomores, Novi kept their foot on the gas pedal essentially all-night long with point guard Ellie Mackay (20 points) emerging as the focal point of the offense

Most of Mackay's damage came in the first half, as she accounted for 14 of the

team's 24 points against a Plymouth squad that produced just nine points.

Plymouth coach Ryan Ballard was astounded by how Mackay took control of the game against a team featuring six seniors and four juniors

"We shot a low percentage in the first half and had some good looks," Ballard said. "Ellie Mackay is a great player. She's a sophomore with a great floater and hit some big shots. That was the game and how it flowed - it was the Ellie Mackay Show. She looked really good."

Novi (3-0 overall) parlayed that momentum into the second half, with junior Cara Ninkovich splitting between two defenders for the easy

lay-in, followed by a baseline jumper from Mackay.

After trading baskets at both ends, a free throw by Plymouth sophomore Gabby Chouinard with 4:02 remaining made it a 30-13 affair before Novi closed out the frame by going on a fivepoint run.

The best outing for Plymouth (1-3) came in the fourth quarter, where they outscored their opponent 9-3, thanks in part to employing a full-court trap

Novi coach Bill Kelp assessed how his players handled the late-game pressure. "You have to reverse the

basketball and get it to the middle," the Novi coach said. "A couple of times, we dribbled and picked it up. You

can't do that, and you have the reverse that basketball and keep your composure. I thought for such a young group that they did really well with that tonight.'

Senior guard Hannah Badger led Plymouth with six points (6-of-10 free throws) followed by a five-point outing from classmate Bailey Brown.

Plymouth, who also dropped contests to fellow KLAA schools Salem and Waterford Kettering, is still looking to find their groove in the early part of the season.

"I'm proud of our kids because they don't give up, play hard and are relentless," Ballard said. "We're a greedy group and we're going to

embrace the process. We talk about embracing the process and getting better every day and we will. Right now, we're not where we need to be, but we will be in a little bit. We're going to keep working and getting better every day.'

Aside from Mackay, other offensive standouts for Novi were senior Allie Lipson (six points) and sophomore Julia Lalain (five points).

Kelp came away highly satisfied with his team's performance at both ends.

'Offensively, it was Ellie in the first quarter," he said. 'I'm really happy with how these young kids handled the press and took care of the basketball. Defensively, I thought we did a great job of switching off the screens.'

GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Northville overcomes Wayne's triple attack

Adams' last-minute three-point play gives Mustangs 47-46 win

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Comeback victories have become the norm early in the season for the Northville girls basketball team

The Mustangs did it again Dec. 17 while im-proving to 4-0 by pulling out a 47-46 win over host Wayne Memorial in a battle of unbeatens.

Junior Brook Adams, who converted an oldfashion three-point play with only 18 seconds left, put Northville up by one and provided the final margin of victory.

Wayne (3-1) then came up empty on its final possession as Northville's defense held on.

"The kids battled," Northille coach Todd Gu-dith said. "They were spent by the end of the game. It was a good win for us to go on the road and beat a really athletic team. I think the difference really was that we had faced some

they took a step back and fired it up from 25 and 30 feet out and hit the shot,' Gudith said of Wayne's dynamic duo.

ed game throughout. Northville led 25-24 at halftime and started the

tage, only to have the Zebras, behind the longrange shooting of Terry and Clegg, get back into the game.

They racheted up the pressure in the fourth quarter and we kind of coughed the ball up back and forth and they took the lead, actually," Gudith said.

NOVI 51, CHURCHILL 32: Sophomore guard Ellie Mackay scored 19 points added four rebounds and four steals Dec. 17 to carry the Wildcats (4-0) to a victory over host Livonia Churchill (1-3).

Allie Lipson chipped in 11 points and six rebounds, while Cara Ninkovich added 10 points, two assists and two steals for Novi, which led 24.14 at halftime. The Wildcats then broke the game wide oen with a 21-8 third-quarter run.

LIGGETT 64, FRANKLIN ROAD 23: Nia Ahart poured in a game-high 33 points and Kendall McConico added 22 as Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (4-2, 1-0) rolled to the MIAC Blue Division triumph Friday over visiting Novi Franklin Road Christian (0-5, 0-1). Ahart and McConico combined for nine of

iggett's 10 3-pointers on the night as the Knights led 31-9 at halftime and 50-20 after three quarters. Hannah Rayburn scored a team-high 11 points for the Warriors, who made 8-of-15

It was a tightly contestthird quarter with a 7-0 run for an eight-point advan-

adversity already this year being down and playing from behind, playing in foul trouble. (Wayne) really hadn't and had three blow-out wins. They really hadn't had the chance to play back-and-forth in the fourth quarter like we did. Our kids really performed, for sure. It was a heck of an effort."

Adams scored a teamhigh 15 points, along with sophomore Roan Haines. Junior Jessica Moorman chipped in 11.

Jeanae Terry, a 5-foot-7 freshman guard, led the Zebras and all scorers with 27 points, including eight 3-pointers. Cam'ree Clegg added three triples and finished with 15.

"Just when you thought you were close enough,

NORTHVILLE 37, JOHN GLENN 23: Northville's defense prove to be stifling Dec. 15 as the host Mustangs (3-0) pulled away in the second half for a win over Westland John Glenn (2-1). Junior Brook Adams and sophomore

Kendall Dillon paced Northville with eight points apiece. The Mustangs, who trailed 14-13 at halftime, outscored the Rockets 11-6 in the

third quarter and 13-3 in the fourth. "We got into foul trouble, but to our kids' credit, they rebounded back," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. (Glenn) did not until they hit a three at the buzzer." Shannon Woodworth scored seven points

for the Rockets, who made 9-of-11 free rows (81.8 percent). Northville was 2-of-18 from the line (66.6 percent). PARKWAY 73, FRANKLIN ROAD

44: Erica Mick nailed six 3-pointers en route to a game-high 24 points to lift Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (4-1) to a convincing win Dec. 15 at Novi Franklin

Convincing win Dec. 15 at Novi Frankiin Road Christian (0-4). Lauren Turner and Talli Guido added 14 and 11 points, respectively, for the Eagles, who led 30-21 at halftime and 48-28 after

Hannan Rayburn led the Warriors with 17 points, while Chanelle Lochrie and Danielle Fusco added 15 and 10, respectively. The Warriors made 20-of-35 free throws (57.1 percent), while Parkway hit 7-of-15 (d6 6 percent)

(46.6 percent).

56TH ANNUAL OAKLAND COUNTY WRESTLING TOURNEY Dec. 19 at Lake Orion

Dec. 19 at Lake Orion TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 330 points; 2. Clarkston, 264.5; 3. Oxford, 255; 4. Walled Lake Central, 190; 5. Rochester Adams, 175, 6. Waterford Kettering, 154; 7. Ortonville Brandon, 145.5; 8. Rochester, 127; 9. Holly, 120.5; 10. Waterford Mott, 113; 15. Novi, 98; 19. South Lyon, 87; 20. White Lake Lakeland, 85; 34. South Lyon East, 36; 36. Milford, 27 (39 schools). FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

160 pounds: Sam Addy (Adams) decisioned Kyle Masters (Clarkston), 9-4; third place: Hadyn Kinjorski (W.L. Central) dec. Josh Brooks (Rochester), 12-5; **fifth place**: Bobby Keyes (Troy Athens) dec. devin Trevino (Oxford), 5-1 **seventh place**: Miles Filippis (Royal Oak) won by injury default over Tyler Modock (Lake Orion).

171: Nate Vandermeer (Clarkston) won by technical fall over Shermond Dabney (St. Mary Prep), 16-0; **third**: John Staron (Troy Athens) dec. Cade Dallwitz (Holly), 5-1; **fifth:** Patrick Liess (W.L. Northern) dec. Anthony Tuppins (Adams), 8-4; seventh: Ethan Erin (Oxford) dec. Efrain Ortiz (Pontiac), 9-5

189: Tyler Morland (Detroit CC) won by tech. fall over Kobie Davis (Ferndale), 17-2; **third:** Byron Schlickenmeyer (Oxford) dec. Nate Hayes (Clarkston), 7-5; **fifth:** Bryant Thickstun (Lakeland) pinned Denny Matthews (Lake Orion), 2:03; seventh: Tyler Koch (Stoney Creek) dec Demarco Howard (Rochester), 11-9.

Novi's 215-pounder Cooper Smith (right) took runner-up honors at the Oakland County tourney Saturday at Lake Orion.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

215: Wyatt Harden (Oxford) p. Cooper Smith (Novi), 3:22; **third:** Jacob Uingli (Troy) dec. Dilan Yaldo (N. Farmington), 13-9, **fifth:** Jackson Ross (Detroit CC) dec. Collin Dallwitz (Holly), 7-4; sev-enth: Donovan King (Farm.) p. Brandon Jones (Rochester), 4:57.

285: Nate Troutvine (Clarkston) p 285: Nate Troutvine (Clarkston) p. Brendan Thompson (Lake Orion), 4:18; third: Nick Jenkins (Detroit CC) dec. Jimmy Gray (Holly), 6-4; fifth: Ian King (Berkley) p. Chris Nader (N. Farmington), 3:17, seventh: Quentin Logan (Mott) p. Jamie Johnson (Pontiac), 0:16. 103: Rhett Newton (Detroit CC) dec. Liam Hillany (Oxford), 7-2; third: Jack Olson (Brandon) dec. Varun Mongal (Adams), 7-2; fifth: Mackenzie Hansel-man (Clarkston) won by major dec. over

man (Clarkston) won by major dec. over Brandon Munson (W. Bloomfield), 14-5; seventh: Jack Greenstine (W.L. Northern) p. Marcos Cruz (Mott), 0:48. 112: Nolan Klapec (Lakeland) dec Jarrett Greenstine (W.L. Northern), 9-7;

third: Joe Eisho (Hazel Park) dec. David Rastigue (Detroit CC), 5-2; fifth: Shane Moore (Oxford) dec. Jakobe Jones (Pontiac), 9-2; seventh: Cole Wieger Clarkston) dec. Eliel Mahone-Kearney

119: Kaleb Marion (W.L. Central) won by major dec. over Stone Moscovic (Detroit CC), 8-0; **third:** Joey Mason (Troy) p. Jacob Call (Oxford), 3:52; **fifth:** Khalil Ford (Groves) won by injury default over Dom Fosmoen (Lake Orion); sev-Caldwell (Bloomfield Hills), 4:59. 125: Kevon Davenport (Detroit CC)

1235 Kevon Davenport (Derroit CC) won by major dec. over Houston Heming-sen (Clarkston), 15-5; **third:** Warren Stanfield (N. Farmington) won by major dec. over Dylan Howcroft (Adams), 12-3; **fifth:** C.J. Davison (Kettering) dec. Nate Hampton (Stoney Creek), 5-4; **seventh:** Noah Ternes (Rochester) dec. John Moll (Lake Orion) 4-2 (Lake Orion), 4-2.

130: Cameron Amine (Detroit CC) dec Nick Freeman (W.L. Central), 6-2; third Brandan Ladd (Brandon) p. Sergio Borg (Oxford), 0:37; fifth: Corey Conrad (Kettering) dec. Harley Susalla (Clarkston), 9-6; seventh: Kyle Gray (Avondale) dec. Max Katsiroubas (Mott), 5-0.
 135: Ben Freeman (W.L. Central) won by tech. fall over Aidan Pierobon (Stoney

Creek), 18-3: third: Aaron Rehfeldt (Detroit CC) won by major dec. over Sasha Wilson (Rochester), 12-4; fifth: Colin Takata (Groves) dec. Malike Parker (Pontiac), 4-3; seventh: Garrett Tyrrell Oxford) dec. Amarae Kittles (Brandon),

CATHY WRIGHT

140: Alex Hrisopoulos (Oxford) p. Anthony Gonzalez (Kettering), 0:43; third: Jake Anderson (Adams) dec. Joe McGrath (Detroit CC), 6-3; fifth: Jacob Rygielski (Clarkston) p. Blair Boerkel (Seaholm), 2:50; **seventh:** Dan Stallard (Holly) dec. Luke Evangelista (South Lyon).

145: Bryan LaVearn (Brandon) n. Nick Costanzo (W.L. Central), 4:21; **third:** Tyler Johnson (Detroit CC) dec. Trent Myre (Oxford), 6-3: fifth: Caleb Edmond (St Mary Prep) p. Jake Race (South Lyon), 1:25; **seventh:** Kevin Price (Stoney Creek) won by default over Alec Bills (Clarkston)

(Clarkston). **152**: Tim Hagelin (Kettergin) p. Cobrin Moorer (Mott), 1:07; **third**: Aiden Waugh (Detroit CC) won by major dec. over Jalen Adams (Hazel Park), 17-6, **fifth**: Chris Kade (Lake Orion) won by default; **seventh**: Jake Calvano (Clarkston) won by majord e. over Louis Ehle (Adame) by majord ec. over Louis Eble (Adams), 16-5

COUNTY

Continued from Page B1

Amine, a freshman, decisioned Walled Lake **Central's Nick Freeman** in the 130 finals, 6-2, while also earning tournament MVP honors.

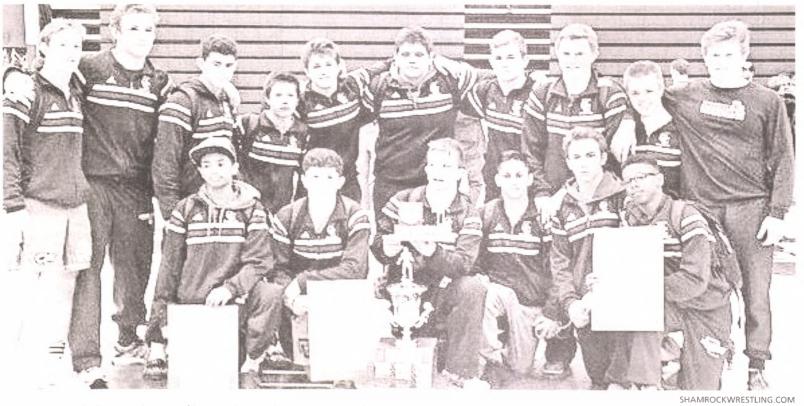
"Amine was impressive," Hancock said of the ninth-grader. "He doesn't care who you are, what you're ranked or who you've beaten. He's going to come at you hard for eight minutes.

"Cam deserved MVP of this tournament, no doubt in my mind. I think in the last seven years we've been here, we may have won one MVP and we had some great performances."

Newton decisioned **Oxford's** Liam Hillary for the 103 title, 7-2, while Davenport, a transfer from East Lansing, took the 125 crown with a 15-5 major decision over Houston Heningsen of Clarkston.

0

In the medal matches, the Shamrocks went 10 for 12, capped by Mor-



Novi Detroit Catholic Central captured its record seventh straight Oakland County championship Saturday at Lake Orion.

land's 17-2 technical fall win for crown at 189 over Ferndale's Kobie Davis.

Klapec wins 112

Lakeland's Nolan Klapec came away with the 112-pound title with a 9-7

Greenstin of Walled Lake Northern. Meanwhile, Novi's Cooper Smith was runner-up to Oxford's Wyatt Harden at 215, losing on a pin in 3:22.

South Lyon boasted a pair of placers: Jake

Race, who was sixth at 145, and Luke Evangelista, who was eighth at 140.

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decision over Jarrett

LOCAL SPORTS

BOYS SWIMMING

Northville dunked by Rice, Saline

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Northville ran into to two of the premier boys swim powers Saturday in a quad meet at Waterford Kettering.

Two-time defending **MHSAA Division 1 state** champion Birmingham Brother Rice defeated the Mustangs, 118-62, while Saline, fourth a year ago and a four-time state champ from 2010-13, also downed Northville, 117-69.

Northville salvaged the day, however, with a 103-77 victory over Birmingham Groves to even its overall dual meet record at 2-2.

"We got better from last week, but we still have a long way to go if we want to compete with the best teams in the state," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "We were nowhere near them today. We had some young guys step up on a big stage and do pretty



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville's Larry Zhao was fifth in the 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle, along with a second in the 400 freestyle relay.

well, so that is encourag-

ing." Rice's Alex Margherio figured in three firstplace finishes, including

the 100-vard freestyle (47.63) and 100 backstroke (52.54). He also anchored the Warriors to first in the 400 freestyle

relay (3:15.02). Saline's Daniel Keith and Jacob Ehrman were also individual doublewinners while teaming

with Ryan Klemptner and Max Duong for first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:29.42).

Keith swept the 200 individual medley (1:53.17) and 100 butterfly (51.59), while Ehrman took the 200 freestyle (1:43.41) and 500 freestyle (4:42.81).

Northville's top individual finisher was Kirk Maibach, who was second in the 50 freestyle (22.02). He also teamed with James Xue, Trevor Degroot and Larry Zhao for second in the 400 freestyle relay (3:20.88).

"We still have major holes in a lot of different areas, so that will be what we will try to figure out as we head into the winter break practices," Bennetts said. "We are going to find out what we are made of here in the next two weeks with some very hard training. Hopefully, we will come out of it with answers to some of these questions."

QUAD MEET RESULTS

Dec. 19 at Waterford Kettering TEAM SCORES: Birmingham Brother Rice 118, Northville 62; Saline, 117, Northville 69; Northville 103, Birmingham Groves, 77; Brother Rice 97, Saline 86.

FINAL RESULTS 200-yard medley relay: 1. Brother Rice (Alex Margherio, Drew Grady, Jake Zalinski, Patrick Olmsted), 1:36.2; 5. Lainski, Patrick Olmsted), 1:36.2; 5. Northville (Larry Zhao, Chris Geng, James Xue, Kirk Maibach), 1:41.99. **200 freestyle**: 1. Jacob Ehrman (Saline), 1:43.41; 3. Trevor Degroot (N'ville), 1:50.82.

200 individual medley: 1. Daniel Keith (Saline), 1:53.17; 5. Xue (N'ville), 2.04 52

2:04.52. 50 freestyle: 1. Cal Cemy (Groves), 21.98; 2. Maibach (N'ville), 22.02). 1-meter diving: 1. Dakota Hurbis (Saline), 276.55 points; 3. Christain Field (N'ville), 164.80; 4. Thomas Rys (N'ville),

111.35. 100 butterfly: 1. Keith (Saline), 51.59; 6. Xue (N'ville), 56.97. 100 freestyle: 1. Margherio (Rice), 47.63; 5. Zhao (N'ville, 50.79. 500 freestyle: 1. Ehrman (Saline), 4:42.81; 4. Degroot (N'ville), 4:56.7; 6. David Alameddine (N'ville), 4:56.7; 0. 200 freestyle relative (Suite), 200 freestyle (Suite), 200 freestyle relative (Suite), 200 fre 200 freestyle relay: 1. Saline (Ryan Klemptner, Max Duong, Ehrman, Keith), 1:29.42; 5. Northville (Travis Nitkiewicz, John Duan, Jason Nitkiewicz, Degroot), 1:37.73; 6. Northville (Cameron Heaven, Troy Stacer, Ryan Smelt, Alameddine), 1:38.05

100 backstroke: 1. Margherio (Rice), 52.54; 5. Zhao (N'ville), 56.97. 100 breaststroke: 1. Drew Grady (Rice) 59.0

(Mce, 59.0.) 400 freestyle relay: 1. Brother Rice (Patrick Olmsted, Zalinski, Grady, Marghe-rio), 3:15.02; 2. Northville (Xue, Degroot, Zhao, Maibach), 3:20.88. Northville's dual meet record: 2-2 overal

PREP BOWLING

Pryson lifts Novi boys to triumph

Brad Emons Staff Writer

Scott Pryson proved to be good in the clutch as the Novi boys bowling team earned a 16-14 KLAA crossover victory Dec. 16 over Milford at Airway Lanes in Waterford.

Novi (2-2) split the Baker sets, losing the first, 134-11, while winning the second, 127-11.

The Wildcats then captured the first regular game behind Pryson's 10th-frame strikes, 770-752, but lost the second, 739-736. Novi, however, captured totals and six singles points to secure the victory as Pryson led the way with a pair of points on games of 186-181-367 Meanwhile, the Novi girls (1-3) earned their first win of the season with an 18-12 triumph as they won the first Baker game, 122-116, while tying the second, 146-146. Novi then captured the first regular game, 645-626, but fell in the second, 636-573. Needing only one point to win the match, Novi captured three singles points as Megan Hartmus (149-152-301) and Heather Gregory (135-109-244) each scored two points. Madison Murphy rolled 151 to earn the other point. Both the Milford boys and girls squads are 0-3 overall.

BOYS SWIMMING Cranbrook wins double-dual at Novi

Brad Emons Staff Writer

The Novi boys swim team suffered its first defeat of the season in it its double-dual meet Dec. 15 at home against two-time defending **MHSAA** Division 3 state champion Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook and Troy, but coach Brent Pohlonski walked away with more encouraging signs.

The Wildcats defeated Troy, 124-62, while falling to the top-ranked Cranes, 99-84, as senior Siddhardha Kareddy achieved the Wildcats' seventh Division 1 qual-

GVSU

ifying time with a runner-up finish in the 100yard butterfly (53.88).

"Although we lost to Cranbrook, this was a great night for us," said Pohlonski, whose team stands 4-1 overall. "Our swimmers got a taste of what state meet competition will look like. We put up a lot of great times and we are very close to more state cuts. Based on our times this early in the season, we have the potential to accomplish some amazing things this season."

Cranbrook's Andrew Trunsky swept the 200 and 500 freestyle events with times of 1:48.96 and

He was also a member of the Cranes' firstplace 200 freestyle (1:30.23) and 400 freestyle (3:20.62) relay

teams. Giorgio DelGrosso also figured in four firsts for Cranbrook, winning the 200 individual medley (1:59.29) and 100 breaststroke (59.72), as well as being a member of the first-place 200 medley relay (1:40.06) and 200 freestyle relay teams.

Novi's top individual performer was Rvan Katulski, who captured the 50 and 100 freestyles in 21.85 and 48.38, respectively. Joey Berman added a win in the 100 backstroke (55.55), while James Ciolli took the diving event (237.95 points)

The Wildcats will return to action at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, at Hartland.

TRI-MEET RESULTS

TRI-MEET RESULTS Dec. 15 at Novi TEAM SCORES: Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook 99, Novi 84; Novi 124, Troy 62. 200-yard medley relay: 1. Cran-brook (Eric Youshao, Giorgio DelGrosso, Spencer Keoleian, Matthew Yang), 1:40.06; J. Novi (Dow Roman Naruyan Maniyan, Novi Nove Roman Naruyan Maniyan, . Novi (Joey Berman, Narayan Manivan an, Siddhardha Kareddy, Phillip Billiu),

200 freestyle: 1. Andrew Trunsky (BHC), 1:48.96; 3. Alexander Yuan (Novi), 1:52.47.

200 individual medley: 1. DelGros

21.85; 5. Bradley Huang (Novi), 23.69. 1-meter diving: 1. James Ciolli (Novi), 237.95 points; 2. Nathan Pellerito (Novi), 221.00; 4. Mitchell Russell (Novi), 144.60.

(Hov), 221.00, a. Mitcher Russeil (Hov), 144.60.
 100 butterfly: 1. David Nie (Troy), 53.37; 2. Kareddy (Novi), 53.88; 3. Billiu (Novi), 55.15; 5. Brian Son (Novi), 56.52.
 100 freestyle: 1. Katulski (Novi), 48.38; 4. Yuan (Novi), 51.16.
 500 freestyle: 1. Trunsky (BHC), 4:52.95; 3. Berman (Novi), 5:03.64.
 200 freestyle relay: 1. Cranbrook (Yang, DelGrosso, Lucas Misra, Trunsky), 1:30.23; 2. Novi (Katulski, Kareddy, Manivannan, Yuan), 1:31.68; 5. Novi (Huang, Preston Harrel), Stephen Siltari,

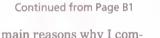
(Huang, Preston Harrell, Stephen Siitari, Kotyk), 1:38.05.

100 backstroke: 1. Berman (Novi), 55.55; 3. Billiu (Novi), 56.48; 5. Maxwell Williams (Novi), 1:00.13.

100 breaststroke: 1. DelGrosso

400 freestyle relay: 1. Cranbrook (Misra, Trunsky, Michael McLaughlin, Youshao), 3:20.62; 2. Novi (Billiu, Yuan, Berman, Katulski), 3:20.63; 4. Novi (Son, Williams, Kotyk, Siitari), 3:31.54. Novi's dual meet record: 4-1 overal

so (BHC), 1:59.29; 3. Kareddy (Novi), 2:02.87; 3. Joel Kotyk (Novi), 2:07.51. 50 freestyle: 1. Ryan Katulski (Novi),







definitely came up big in the playoffs. especially saving

"I think it was difficult for her. because of the number of positions we asked her to play. We were constantly moving her around and having a versatile player like her, with the skill set that she has, is a tremendous advantage. It made it difficult for her to find a rhythm at times this season ... She did a great job of acclimating to it and there's no doubt she's a dangerous player."

4:52.95, respectively.

Wildcats swept

Both the Salem boys (2-1, 1-1) and Salem girls (3-0, 1-0) earned identical 29-1 KLAA Central Division wins Dec. 15 over Novi at Super Bowl in Canton.

The Salem girls captured both Baker games, 128-112 and 168-96, along with both regular games, 746-546 and 709-553, en route to the win.

Gregory scored the lone point for Novi (0-3, 0-1) with a 140-139 win.

On the boys side, Salem captured both Bakers, 177-113 and 193-140, along with both regular games, 924-752 and 882-716.

Pryson tallied the lone point for the Wildcats (1-2, 0-1) with a 189-180 win.

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mitted to Grand Valley, too, because it was kind of close to home and I knew so many of the other girls. Knowing Gabrielle (Mencotti), Alexis (Mencotti) and Guibord was definitely so comforting. Obviously, I was scared going into college, but having them there the whole way with me was amazing. They were so helpful with

everything. Guibord, a junior midfielder, finished the year with two goals and three assists, but brought so many intangibles to the table.

"She played with a really high consistency throughout the year, which she really struggled with as a sophomore," Grand Valley second-year coach Jeff Hosler said. "She was an integral part for us and does a lot of the dirty work in terms of ball winning and tackling that doesn't see a lot of headlines, but she was a vital part as well as anybody in the success we had this year.'

Guibord attributed the team's success to the tight-knit atmosphere on and off the field.

"Every year has been a different journey,' Guibord said. "First year, we had Dave Dilanni (now at Iowa) as coach. the second year was Jeff (Hosler) and the third year was Jeff. The team chemistry over here has always been good. That's one of the reasons why I came to Grand Valley, was how great the chemistry of the team was and the environment (Hosler) provided. It's exceeded my expectations, for

sure. "This year has been different. We've had our ups and downs — our first game being our first down that we experienced. We didn't perform to the best of our ability

Guibord G. Mencotti

in a couple of the games and (Hosler) got on us because he knows what we're capable of."

In the season opener against Quincy, Grand Valley was stunned 3-0 as Maresh made her inaugural start. The loss proved to be an eye-opener for the freshman.

"Obviously, the season did not start the way she would have wanted or prefer, giving up three goals in the season opener," Hosler said. "She did a really good job of staying resilient, focusing on the training that she had been getting on a daily basis. And really, as the stakes got higher, her level of performance was raised in the postseason."

In the NCÂA quarterfinal match-up with Central Missouri, Maresh had a signature moment by saving three penalty kicks in a 2-1 shootout victory

"I think that was the moment I said, 'Wow.' and it was great to be a part of this team," Maresh said. "Obviously, I wasn't super-comfortable at the beginning of the season. I was scared to be in the game, but this team had so much confidence in me. After the semifinal game, the coaches said, like, 'We're proud of you,' and it was amazing to see and feel like I belonged on that team and I deserved to be playing every second with those girls.

Maresh finished the year with a 19-1-1 record, including 13 shutouts. She had a 0.48 goalsagainst average and an .873 save percentage.

"She's definitely a character," Guibord said. "We love her. She didn't have many challenges during the regular season in the GLIAC, but she

three PKs in the A. Mencotti (quarterfinal) game.

She's definitely a voice in the back line and it's crazy that she's a freshman who stepped into that role, but she definitely filled those shoes."

Mencotti, a 5-10 sophomore, also proved to be a force on the front line as the team's third leading scorer with 10 goals and nine assists.

"After a while. it started to get better and then really started to mesh well," she said. "We knew if we kept working hard, we were going to go all the way to the finals. Thankfully, that's what we did."

Hosler said Mencotti's willingness to accept different roles on the team proved to be a bonus.

"Gabby had another solid year for us," he said. "I think it was difficult for her, because of the number of positions we asked her to play. We were constantly moving her around and having a versatile player like her. with the skill set that she has, is a tremendous advantage. It made it difficult for her to find a rhythm at times this season, both playing as a winger and a center forward and as a midfielder. which are all very different positions. She did a great job of acclimating to it and there's no doubt she's a dangerous player. Very gifted offensively, with the ability to take players on and score from distance."

Gabby's sister Alexis, a red-shirt sophomore defender, missed the entire season after undergoing surgery for a torn ACL in the spring.

"Even though she couldn't make an impact on the field in training or matches, she just has great leadership qualJEFF HOSLER, GVSU soccer coach, about Gabriella Mencotti

ities, (someone) who demands and respects the most out of herself and those around her, Hosler said. "She helped keep people sharp. She helped keep them focused on those expectations. And I think her leadership is really important to our success."

But she was there for the national championship ride as a supporting teammate.

Yet another unsung hero on Grand Valley's run to the title was freshman forward Samantha Riga, a Plymouth native who finished the year with nine goals and five assists in 25 matches. The Livonia Ladywood graduate made 10 starts.

"Sam had a major obstacle in order to get ready for the fall season," Hosler said. "She had to shut it down during her high school season in April due to and injury and it really sustained throughout the whole summer. She wasn't able to do anything to prepare for our season. She had her first on-field training with a ball in August, so she was really behind the eightball there, but she did a good job of playing catch-up, worked really hard. She tried to be as effective as she could and she scored some really big goals for us this year.

Riga scored twice in the NCAA tourney opener against Quincy and had three goals in three GLIAC tourney games.

"She really came up big and understood that she can perform at that level," Hosler said. "We got a lot out of her as a freshman, because it's a major adjustment to this level. She did a good job to get ready on short notice and was a big contributor for us this year."

Yet another asset to Grand Valley's title run was sophomore defender Maria Farmer, a Canton native who played at Plymouth High. Farmer, a reserved player, appeared in nine games for the Lakers.

"(Farmer) is a great teammate, works really hard," Hosler said. "She worked really hard between her freshman and sophomore year to get herself more physically fit and prepared for this level. She didn't see the minutes as the season progressed, but didn't let it affect her attitude and still bought into the culture of winning and doing what's best for the team."

For Guibord, it would be a remarkable feat to win four national championships in four years. But 2016 will be a new journey, even though all six area players return.

"We kind of battled hard and worked our butts to accomplish what we did this year," Gui-bord said. "We have to come in next year with a whole new mentality and a whole new routine.'

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LOCAL SPORTS

Novi's lacobelli repeats as area's top player

Brad Emons Staff Writer

It's no secret that Victoria Iacobelli will go down as the most accomplished player in Novi volleyball history.

The 5-foot-9 senior hitter, who repeats as All-Area Player of the Year, capped a stellar four-year varsity career as a starter by helping the Wildcats earn their first MHSAA Class A state championship in school history last month with a four-set win over Romeo, the team that defeated Novi in the 2014 state finals in Battle Creek.

Iacobelli, one-half of the heralded Iacobelli sisters along with identical twin Paulina, paced the Wildcats to a 55-2 record as she finished with 531 kills (.401 attack percentage) to go along with 487 digs, 81 service aces and a serve receive average of 2.2 (on 532 chances).

Iacobelli was voted Miss Volleyball runnerup, earned second team MaxPreps All-America honors and was a Gatorade Player of the Year nominee. She was also a three-time all-region and all-KLAA selection.

"She is the definition of reliable, as she does everything well on the court, including her ability to terminate the ball from anywhere, as well as her extremely consistent back-row play," Novi coach Jen Cottrill said of the two-year captain. "Off the court, she is a 4.0 student and an exemplary leader."

During her career, Iacobelli played 507 out of a possible 508 sets, racking up 1,515 kills on 3,703 attempts to go along with 203 aces and 1,645 digs (all firsts in the Novi volleyball record book).

"Victoria's success on the court has been paramount as she leaves our program as the greatest player in N vi history," Cottrill said. "What she has done for our program is indescribable in words."

2015 ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

PLAYER OF THE YEAR Victoria Iacobelli, Novi

FIRST-TEAM Erin O'Leary, Novi Jessica Ignace, South Lyon Ally Cummings, Novi Emily Martin, Northville Paulina Iacobelli, Novi Mikayla Monk, South Lyon Kiera Borthwick, Northville Paige Thompson, Lakeland Maddie Appleton, Milford Mackenzie Watson, Milford Katie O'Malley, Northville

HONORABLE MENTION

Novi: Clare Pinkerton, Soph. libero; Kathryn Ellison, Soph. MB; Emmy Robinson, Jr. MB; Northville: Bryce Quick, Jr. MB; Hannah Grant, Fr. Setter; Rachel Holmes, Soph. OH; Jessica Hogan, Soph., South Lyon: Hannah Barton, Jr. setter; Callie Harper, Jr. DS; South Lyon East: Nicole Dowdell, Sr. setter; Maddie Topping, Jr. OH; Peyton Jones, Sr. libero; Milford: Isabel Lee, Sr. MH; Sydney Phipps, Jr. OH; Mya Zeese, Soph. setter; Lakeland: Kate Winter, Jr. RSH-OH; Kaitlyn Hawke, Jr. setter; Reilly Butcher, Sr. setter; Franklin Road Christian: Reagan Mumford, Jr. MH; Maddy Hensley, Jr. OH.

hand-to-ball contact was good. She also did some improvising."

Ally Cummings, Jr., Novi: The 6-0 right-side hitter earned Class A second team all-state honors after finishing with 398 kills on 891 attempts for a .412 attack percentage.

The all-region and all-KLAA pick also added 75 blocks and 256 digs. "Ally's development

"Ally's development into one of the most efficient and powerful attackers in the state has been impressive," Cottrill said. "Her ability to terminate at a very high rate was the key to our success this season. We could always rely on her to put balls away, as well as defend the opponents' best attackers. An intense competitor and tremendous teammate."

Emily Martin, Jr., Northville: The 5-10 outside hitter, a thirdyear varsity starter, earned third team Class A all-state honors.

Martin also garnered all-region and all-KLAA honors after racking up a team-high 402 kills (3.9 per set) with a .311 hitting percentage. She also ked second on the ran team in digs (272) with only 10 errors. "Emily is a six-rotation, go-to hitter and was our kill leader," Northville assistant coach Amanda Yaklin said. Paulina lacobelli, Sr., Novi: The 5-9 outside hitter saved her greatest moment for the Class A state finals, when she had a team-high 20 kills on 46 attempts (with no errors) to go along with 12 digs. The all-region and all-KLAA pick wound up with 351 kills on 806 attempts (.360 average) to go along with 506 digs, 92 aces and a 2.25 serve receive attempt average. "Paulina has been one of the most impactful players to ever play for Novi," Cottrill said of the MIVCA Academic allstate choice (3.95 GPA). "Always sort of the unsung hero, she does all of the little things well. Paulina is one of the most competitive players I have ever coached. She always wants to win, no matter the game or situation. Her ability to perform under pressure has been tremendous, as her best matches came in 2014 and 2015 in the semifinals and finals in Battle Creek.³

a good passer for us on serve receive. Even if she didn't play back row, she sometimes jumped into serve receive when was front row. Her ability to hit outside, run a slide, was effective for us."

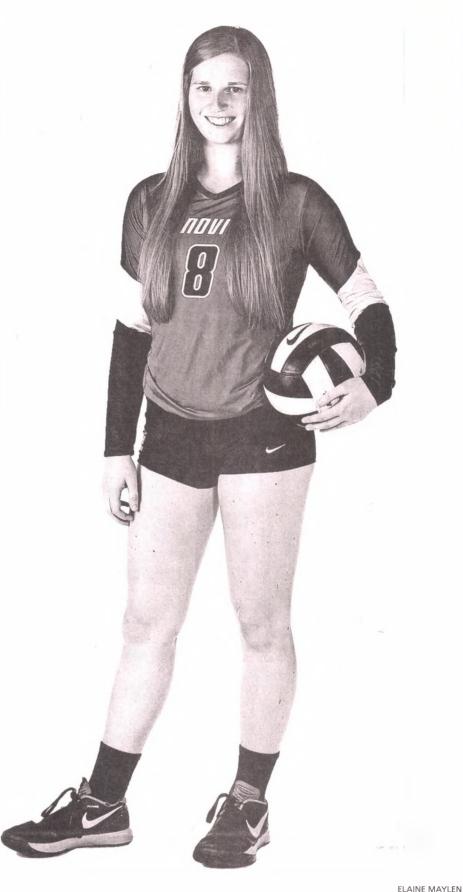
Kiera Borthwick, Jr., Northville: The 5-6 libero, a second-year starter and third-year varsity player, earned Class A honorable mention all-state honors after posting a team-best 320 digs (3.6 per set).

Borthwick who recorded a team-high 394 service receptions with only 15 errors, also earned all-region and all-KLAA accolades.

"I'd have to say Kiera was the most consistent with her passing than any player in Northville history," Yaklin said.

Paige Thompson, Sr., Lakeland: The 5-11 middle hitter garnered Class A all-region and all-KLAA honors for the Eagles.

"She was my go-to player, my most steady player," coach Jean Duk-ic said. "She was strictly front row, but for threequarters of the season I had her serve and play defense and she had a killer serve. She's a high academic achiever, too." Maddie Appleton, Soph., Milford: The 5-8 outside hitter and setter earned all-region and all-KLAA recognition. She played primarily as an outside hitter, finishing with 305 kills and a .250 attack percentage, but also can play setter when called upon. "Maddie is very athletic; she can make adjustments on the fly,' coach Mary Shelton said. "She has a very, very high volleyball IQ. She's also a very good leader who leads by example versus leading vocally." Mackenzie Watson, Sr., Milford: The libero, a signee with NCAA Division II Coker (S.C.) College, averaged 20 digs per match while earning and all-KLAA honors. Watson, who finished with 1,005 career digs, is a three-sport athlete who also plays tennis and bowls, as well as being an KLAA all-academic honoree. "It will be a huge loss having her gone, simply from the fact that she was our vocal leader and was also a person who led by example all year long," Shelton said. "She made sure she created an environment that everyone wanted to play in on top of it." Katie O'Malley, Sr. Northville: The 5-9 outside hitter, a two-year varsity performer, earned both all-region and all-KLAA honors after finishing with 377 kills (3.7 per set). O'Malley also recorded a team-best 54 service aces and contributed 188 digs (1.8 per set). "Katie is a verbal court leader and a thunderous outside hitter," Yaklin said.



Novi senior Victoria Iacobelli, a senior outside hitter, was named All-Area Player of the Year.

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

First team

Erin O'Leary, Soph., Novi: The 5-10 setter and captain, a University of Michigan commit, was the only sophomore named first team Class A all-state after finishing the season with 1,371 assists, 225 kills, 321 digs and 86 aces for the state champions.

O'Leary is a two-time all-KLAA and all-region selection, as well as being a KLAA scholarathlete with a 4.0 G.P.A.

"Erin is such an impressive setter, because she possesses both the elite level skill set as well as all of the intangibles of a stellar athlete,' Cottrill said. "Erin continually amazed me with her ability to make a bad pass look good, get her attackers in a great position to score, keep our opponents guessing, attack at the net as well as serve and defend efficiently in the back row. Erin always stays calm, no matter the score or situation, and just plays the game. A humble, mature young leader who is a pleasure to coach and be around."

Jessica Ignace, Sr., South Lyon: The 6-3 middle hitter, who signed with NCAA Division II Indiana (Pa.) University, earned all-KLAA honors after finishing with a team-best 418 kills (4.6 per set) with a .267 attack percentage.

Ignace, who could play three different positions, also finished with 53 blocks (including 20 solo).

"What made her effective was her consistency hitting from high positions, her blocking and her leadership," South Lyon coach Tom Teeters said. "Beginning in midseason, she was able to hit from the back row for us and we were pretty much a two-hitter team for a long time. Her Mikayla Monk, Sr., South Lyon: The 6-0 middle hitter, who signed with NCAA Division II Southern Missouri State, ranked second for the Lions in kills (277), with an attack percentage of .244.

Monk also earned all-KLAA honors for the Class A district champs.

"What made her a good player was her dynamic approach and ability to jump high, hit quick," Teeters said. "She was always in a high position and was a strong blocker like Jessica (Ignace). Toward the end, we started using Mikayla in the back row. She was

bemons@hometownlife.com

CITYGATE MARKETPLACE (CASE PZ15-0032), DORAID MARKUS ON BEHALF OF CITYGATE MARKETPLACE, 27200 BECK ROAD, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND EAST OF BECK ROAD, PARCEL # 50-22-16-176-033. The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES, to allow construction of a 5,908 sq. ft. building with a retail space and two fast food restaurant spaces: 1) a variance from Section 3.1.23.D to reduce the required north yard building setback by 34 feet (50 feet required, 16 feet proposed); and 2) a variance from Section 5.3.11.A, B to reduce the required north yard parking setback (20.0 feet required, 0.0 feet proposed) to allow construction of a drive-through lane.

VOJTIKOFSKY (CASE NO. PZ15-0045), RYAN VOJTIKOFSKY, PARCEL #: 50-22-21-179-011, 25687 CODY LANE, EAST OF BECK ROAD AND SOUTH OF 11 MILE ROAD. The applicant is requesting a variance from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES; Section 5.11.A.ii to allow installation of a fence in the exterior side yard of an existing residence.

AIRTIME (CASE NO. PZ15-0046). NEW GENERATION SIGNS FOR AIRTIME. 44255 TWELVE MILE ROAD, UNIT A. WEST OF DONELSON DRIVE AND SOUTH OF 12 MILE ROAD, PARCEL#: 50-22-15-200-112. The applicant is requesting variances from the CITY OF NOVI, CODE OF ORDINANCES; 28-5 (3)f and 28-5(2)b 1(a)(i)d to allow installation of (3) additional wall signs (1 sign allowed) with a total additional area of 281 square feet. Published: December 24, 2015

> CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider <u>DIXON MEADOWS JSP 14-46 AND ZONING</u> <u>MAP AMENDMENT 18.709 FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION</u> <u>TO CITY COUNCIL FOR A PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY ASSOCIATED WITH A</u> <u>ZONING MAP AMENDMENT, FROM RA (RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE) TO RT (TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) WITH A PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO).</u> The subject property is approximately 22.36-acre and is located on the east side of Dixon Road, north of Twelve Mile Road (Section 10) and the applicant is proposing a development of a 90unit single-family residential detached site condominium.



Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 22-10-400-002, 22-10-400-003, Part of 22-10-400-004, 22-10-400-005, 22-10-400-006, Part of 22-10-400-006, Part of 22-10-400-007

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary Published: December 24, 2015

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B6 (NNNR)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BUSINESS

PHIL ALLMEN, EDITOR PALLMEN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-396-3870 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Forever, Inc. to host digital scrapbooking retreat

For moms and family historians alike, the new year isn't just a time to reflect on memories made with families and friends. As the curators of family history, it's also a time to organize those memories.

Forever, Inc., a onestop shop for digitizing, editing, printing, permanently saving and shar-ing memories, will hold its first of many digital scrapbooking retreats Jan. 8-10 at the Novi Sheraton. At this inaugu-ral retreat, moms will gather with friends and learn new tricks from industry experts on how

to take perfect pictures and make beautiful photo books as they preserve their families' history for generations. Similar retreats will be held across the country in 2016.

"Thanks to smart phones, there's been a steep increase in the number of pictures taken and photo organization is now a more daunting task than ever," said Anna Broome, a Commerce Township resident and lead organizer of the retreat. "Our goal with the Forever Retreat is to make it fun for moms to organize their memories

and check this important memory keeping item off of their 'to do' list. I would describe this retreat in three words: cozy, fun and productive.

The two-day retreat will kick off at 1 p.m. Jan 8, with world famous photographer and author Nick Kelsh, whose expert, but easy-to-learn photo taking advice earned him several appearances on Oprah and The Today Show. Kelsh's breakout session will de-myth the belief that you can only take great pictures with clunky, expensive cameras.

Kelsh will teach moms powerful tricks on how to take amazing pictures with your smart phone.

Concluding Sunday, the retreat includes a total of six breakout sessions and plenty of digital or non-digital 'crop' time. Jan McCallum, founder of the popular site Pixels2Pages, which teaches anyone how to create masterful digital scrapbooks with Forever's Artisan soft-ware, will present strategies and tips for creating photo keepsakes that celebrate lives. Other special guests include **Forever Trainer Shellev**

Murray, who has appeared on TV to give moms tips on how to de-clutter memories by digitizing them and mak-ing photo gifts with Forever. In addition to hearing from these and other industry experts, attendees can also bring with them old photos they wish to digitize and save at their Forever site.

Registration is still open. Prices vary based on the number of sessions attendees wish to choose. The Deluxe Package that includes six breakout sessions, dinner Friday and Saturday, a Forever "goody" bag and crop time snacks is \$159.99. Attendees may register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-weekend-retreattickets-19078155276.

"For many women, it's not just about starting off the new year with a commitment to organize memories for generations, but about having fun and spending time with like-minded photo enthusiasts," Broome said. "While we gather as a community to curate life stories, there's no doubt we'll be making memories with old and new friends, too!"

Providence Park Hospital earns Baby-Friendly designation

The birthing programs at the Southfield and Novi campuses of **Providence Park Hospi**tal have both been designated Baby-Friendly by Baby-Friendly USA, the initiative's national accrediting body. Baby-Friendly designation recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that provide an optimal level of care related to infant feeding and mother/ baby bonding.

According to the accrediting organization, Baby-Friendly USA Inc., there are just over 300 hospitals and birthing centers in the U.S. that are Baby-Friendly. Hospitals and birthing centers that earn Baby-Friendly status must meet comprehensive guidelines and evaluation criteria, including implementing the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and the International Code of



Providence Park Hospital was recently designated as **Baby-Friendly**

Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.

"Studies show that breastfed children have fewer and less serious illnesses and moms who breastfeed are at lower risk for developing breast and ovarian cancer," said Michael Wiemann, M.D., president, Providence Park Hospi-tal, Southfield, and senior vice president, St. John Providence. "Fam-

ilies in southeastern Michigan will now be comforted to know that they'll receive optimal breastfeeding care and support when they welcome new babies into the world at PPPH."

Two other St. John Providence hospitals, St. John Hospital & Medical Center and St. John Ma-comb-Oakland Hospital, were previously recognized as Baby-Friendly.

Need help

Which IRA is right for you?

n those retirement years, you want to be able to buy that second home in Florida, jet off to Aruba or golf every day. The more you save, the more you have to enjoy your retirement. If you have money that you can afford to invest for the long term, you should consider an IRA.

An individual retirement arrangement is a personal retirement savings plan that offers tax benefits. IRAs are one of the most powerful retirement savings tools available. Even if you're contributing to a 401(k) or other plan at work, you should also consider investing in an IRA.

There are two types of IRAs: traditional and Roth. Both allow you to make annual contributions of up to \$5,500 in 2015 or \$6,500 if are over age 50. Generally, you must have at least as much taxable income as the amount of your IRA contribution. But if you are married filing jointly, your spouse can also contribute to an IRA, even if he or she does not have taxable income.

Both feature tax-sheltered growth of earnings and give you a wide range of investment choices. However, there are important differences between the two. You must understand these differences before you can choose the IRA that's best for you.



spouse is covered by a 401(k) or other employersponsored plan, you can generally deduct the full amount of your annual contribution. If one of you is covered by such a plan, your ability to deduct your contributions depends on your annual income (modified adjusted gross income) and your income tax filing status. You may qualify for a full deduction, a partial deduction or no deduction at all.

When you start taking money from your traditional IRA, the funds will be subject to income tax. If you take a withdrawal prior to age 591/2, you may have to pay a 10-percent early withdrawal penalty, unless you meet one of the exceptions.

When you reach 701/2, you will be required to take your first required minimum distribution, which is based on standard life expectancy table. You can always withdraw more, but never less. If you withdraw less, you'll be hit with a 50-percent penalty on the meet certain conditions, your withdrawals from a Roth IRA will be completely free from federal income tax, including both contributions and investment earnings.

Unlike a traditional IRA, the Roth IRA is not subject to the required distributions at age 70½ or at any time during your life. You can put off taking distributions until you really need the income or you can leave the entire balance to your beneficiary.

Choose the right IRA for you

Assuming you qualify to use both, which type of IRA is best for you? The Roth IRA will probably be a more effective tool if you don't need the tax-deductible contributions. However, if you want to deduct your contributions, the traditional may be the better choice. Most professionals believe that a Roth IRA will still give you more bang for your buck in the long run, but it depends on your personal goals and circumstances. A financial professional or tax adviser can help you pick the right type of IRA for you.

Note: You can have both a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA, but your

website?



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- Templated or customized website to meet your business needs
- Our websites are sleek and professional with a focus on conversion best practices
- Turn-key website solutions for any sizes business

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(248) 408-9501 or email jhayden@mlchigan.com



Traditional IRA

Most people can contribute to a traditional IRA. The only requirements are that you have taxable income and be under age 70½

Your contributions may be tax-deductible on your federal income tax return. This is important, because tax-deductible contributions lower your taxable income, saving you money in taxes. If neither you nor your

difference between the required minimum and the amount you actually withdrew.

Roth IRA

Not everyone can set up a Roth IRA. Even if you can, you may not qualify to take full advantage of it. The first requirement is that you must have taxable income. Your ability to contribute to a Roth IRA depends on your modified adjusted gross income and your income tax filing status.

Roth contributions are made with after-tax dollars, therefore they are not tax-deductible. If you

total annual contribution to all of the IRAs that you own cannot be more than \$5,500 in 2015 (\$6,500 if you're age 50 or older). I am dedicated to walking you though the steps that you need to make to take control of your financial future and

prepare you for a secure retirement. Now it is the time to start focusing on your finances.

Paula Swain is a

Plymouth-based financial consultant. The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations.



The Monty Python "knights" develop a castle strategy during the film.

Civic Theater to present classic Monty Python movie New Year's Eve

Aileen Wingblad Staff Writer

If you're looking for something a little different to do to help celebrate the end of 2015 as 2016 inches closer, how about enjoying a cinematic blast from the past New Year's Eve?

The Farmington Civic Theater is having a special showing of Monty Python and the Holy Grail at 9:45 p.m. Dec. 31

"Show time is scheduled so movie-goers can watch the movie and still be home to celebrate the arrival of the new year," said Scott Freeman, general manager of the Civic.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the cult classic, known for its memorable lines and its featured songs' lyrics. For those who need some help with that, the lyrics will be displayed on-screen to encourage audience participation.

When the movie debuted in 1975, it was rated PG. But that was before the establishment of the PG-13 rating - where it would likely fall today, Freeman said. Tickets for Monty

Python and the Holy Grail are \$4 at the door.

See the theater's Facebook page and website, www.theFCT.com, for more information.

The Farmington Civic Theater is located at 33332 Grand River Ave., just east of Farmington Road.

awingblad@

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EMPLOYERS: To place a recruitment ad in the OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC OR HOMETOWN WEEKLY and on CareerBuilder.com call 888-263-5002 or e-mail MichJobs@gannett.com

The right references can boost your résumé

BY MATT TARPEY CAREERBUILDER

Despite what you may have heard, the employment references you include in a job application do matter. Many job seekers make the mistake of settling for subpar references out of laziness or habit, or because they don't know what makes a person a good reference. Doing so could potentially cost you the job.

Here are four tips for selecting the ideal people as your employment references and preparing them.

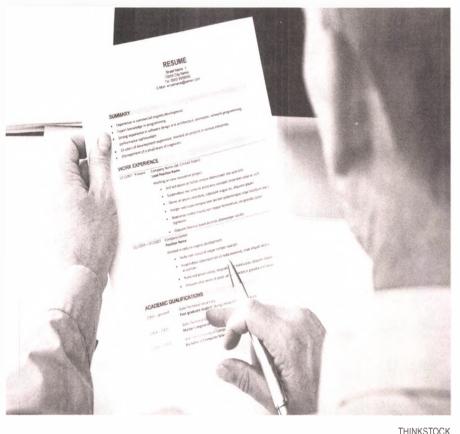
Choose well-rounded references.

Employers use references for more than simply verifying your resume's employment information. The best references are people who worked closely with you and can vouch for not only your professional skills, but your character as well.

"Your references should be able to address your performance, productivity and reliability," says Kristen Coppins, a director at Professional Staffing Group. "Ideally, your references will be people who are most familiar with your work history and can comment on your day-to-day performance. For example, though it may seem impressive to list the president of your company as a reference, if the person does not remember you clearly or wasn't involved with your work on a daily basis, they won't be a good reference."

Take the bad with the good.

Everyone makes mistakes, but the mistakes aren't as important as how



you handle them. Don't be afraid to include a reference from a rough patch or someone who has seen how you react when the chips are down.

"The best references come from supervisors who haven't always seen you at your best," says Michele Mavi, director of content development, internal recruiting and training at Atrium Staffing. "Someone who has seen you work hard to overcome challenges, turn around a weakness or can speak to a real and quantifiable period of growth and development during your time together is ideal."

Make reputation a top consideration.

When choosing potential references,

don't overlook how those individuals may be perceived by employers. The source of a reference is just as important as the content.

"Consider the reference's reputation," says Thomas J. Ward Jr., executive director at Adelphi University's Center for Career Development in Garden City, N.Y. "Is this person a credible and respected leader in their field? Does their reputation hold weight in the community and/or in the specific field that you are targeting employment?"

Set your references up for success.

Once you've decided to use someone as a reference, let him or her know. It may seem obvious, but missing this step can have serious ramifications — not only for you and your chance at a new job, but also for the references themselves.

"First and most important, ask the person you'd like to be a reference for you if it's OK to name them," says Laurie Battaglia, CEO and workplace strategist with Living the Dream Coaches. "Some companies don't permit their leaders to give references and want all inquiries sent to HR. You could be jeopardizing someone's job by asking them to provide a reference."

Additionally, don't forget that they're doing you a favor by agreeing to be your reference. In return, do what you can to minimize the obligation, starting with providing them the information they'll need.

Beyond sharing your resume and the job description, it's helpful to set up some time with your references to discuss why you're pursuing the position and what you believe qualifies you for it. This gives them some discussion points to use when talking with the potential employer. Also, if possible, let them know when they should be expecting the call, so they aren't caught off-guard.

Many employers put a great deal of stock in the quality of a candidate's references. By putting effort into choosing yours and knowing what to look for in a potential reference, you'll increase your chances of getting hired.

Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder. com. He researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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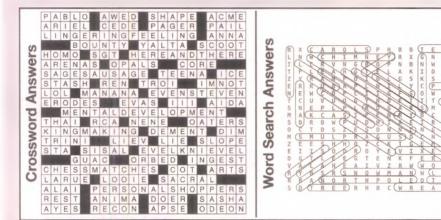
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figure out the order in which the numbers provided in the boxes. The more numbers

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- Lots of storage



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