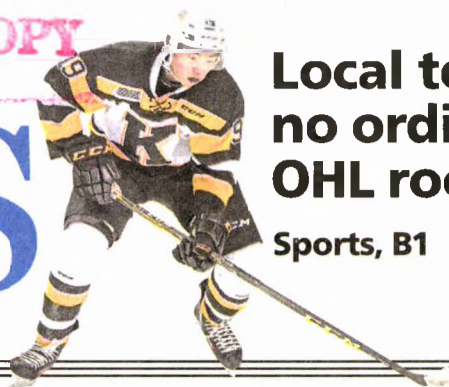


Novi News

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Local teen no ordinary OHL rookie
Sports, B1

Radon kits

Oakland County Health Division will offer radon test kits for \$5 during National Radon Action Month this January.

"Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, but it is preventable," County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "We are offering the radon testing kits at half-price to help Oakland County families protect their loved ones."

Radon test kits for homes are available at Health Division offices:

- » North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Building 34E, Pontiac
- » South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Radon is a naturally-occurring, invisible, odorless gas that is usually harmless outdoors.

If high levels of radon are found, contact Health Division's Environmental Health Services at 248-858-1312 in Pontiac or 248-424-7191 in Southfield. Go to www.oakgov.com/health or www.epa.gov/radon for more information.

State legislators from area look forward to serving in '16

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

When it comes to voting, west Oakland County's legislators are among the best. The area's four elected officials in Lansing missed a combined seven votes last year. Three had perfect records.

Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, didn't miss a single one of the 642 votes taken in the state Senate in 2015. His district includes Novi, South Lyon, Lyon and Milford.

Rep. Kathy Crawford, R-
Novi, also cast votes each and



Kowall



Crawford

every time state House members were called on to do so — 504 occasions, to be exact. Her district also includes South Lyon and Lyon Township.

Crawford, who also serves on the House committees on Families, Children and Seniors,

Workforce and Talent Development, Health Policy and Regulatory Reform, said she did not miss any committee votes, either.

"I did not pass once," she said. "That is a pet peeve of mine. I am elected to vote."

Kowall agreed on the need to vote.

"That is why the people of Novi (and the rest of west Oakland County) sent me there and take a great deal of pride in voting," he said. "I still have a job to do and people expect me to do it."

Rep. Jim Runestad, R-White

Lake, represents Milford and Highland residents. He, too, was present and voting all last year.

"I was sent to Lansing to work hard for the residents of our communities and I make it a priority to vote on every issue placed before the House," Runestad stated in a release. "Voting on every bill we are presented is important to ensure taxpayer money is spent responsibly and the rights and liberties of residents are protected."

Sen. David Robertson, R-Grand Blanc, missed seven of

See LEGISLATORS, Page A3

SWEET FUN



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As her son Gregory peers under her arm, Alexandra Raygorodsky works Dec. 22 on assembling a gingerbread house during an edible crafts session at the Novi Public Library. About 35 kids and their parents worked on attaching walls and roofs with frosting and then decorating the exteriors with M&Ms, gumdrops and pretzels.

Growing business part of Novi's mission

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

Novi touts itself as an ideal place to live, work and have fun.

Local officials want to make sure businesses realize the city is serious about working with them, seeking new enterprises and those who want to expand to do so within the city limits.

"We want businesses to invest in the city," Mayor Bob Gatt said during a recent visit to a research and development company.

Improving the business climate is part of the reason City Manager Pete Auger was hired in Novi. Coming from a similar position in Auburn Hills, which relies heavily on businesses for its tax base, officials here wanted to improve the business climate and the tax base it provides.

"Every month, our team is getting out to the businesses," Auger said. "You have to know what's going on in your city."

There are plenty of businesses in the community already and it's "easier to keep a firm than to go recruit one from overseas and to bring it back," he said.

Novi touts itself as business friendly and Auger said the city is ideal for businesses on the cutting edge of technology.

A visit to Somnio Global, tucked off 12 Mile Road, is a prime example. The 30-year-old business set up shop last year in Novi and is working on ways to bring new technology to the market. Privately funded, the

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Mockingbird Glen home destroyed in Sunday fire

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

A Woodham Road home in Novi was destroyed early Sunday by a fire.

Jeff Johnson, Novi's director of EMS/fire operations, said dispatch received a call at 5:02 a.m. Jan. 3 to a reported structure fire at 24453 Woodham

Road in the Mockingbird Glen subdivision off 10 Mile Road, near Beck.

When firefighters responded, they found the two-story home fully engulfed in flames.

"Because of the magnitude of what they had, (firefighters) called for crews from the other



See FIRE, Page A2 A Woodham Road home in Novi was destroyed early Sunday by fire.

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FIRE

Continued from Page A1

(Novi) fire stations," Johnson said. "They needed more help with extinguishing the fire."

Firefighters took a defensive strategy in the blaze. There was significant debris flying from the home and firefighters hosed down the roofs of neighboring homes as a precaution. Johnson said staff ensured no other homes were damaged before clearing the scene.

Neighbors told firefighters the family was out of town at the time of the fire, but "several animals in the home perished in the fire," Johnson said.

The fire marshal and

Oakland County Sheriff's Office are investigating the cause of the fire. It does not appear suspicious in nature, Johnson said. Preliminary investigations indicate portable heating units inside may have played a role.

"This particular fire, as much as we want to save houses and save lives, animals included, was pretty big," Johnson said. "We would have liked the outcome to be a lot different."

The Northville City Fire Department was called for mutual aid for the incident, manning Novi's Grand River station in case another call came in.

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Live jazz series scheduled for Northville's Tipping Point Theatre

With Northville's live music options limited mainly to summertime events like Arts & Acts, Friday Night Concerts and Victorian Festival, a local company has decided to test the waters and expand offerings by presenting a four-part jazz series at the Tipping Point Theatre.

Kittens & Crooners will feature four of metro Detroit's top vocalists and their bands on selected Saturdays: Jan. 9 - Brad McNett; March 12 - Jill Jack & The American Songbook Band; May 14 - Paul King; and July 9 - Beth Stalker.

"This series focuses on the classic jazz vocalists — like Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole," said producer Whitney Stone of Brighton-based 2 Stones Events.

In addition, ticket holders will also dine on appetizers from area restaurants and explore a variety of wines provided by local shops.

Another element of this series brings in the Northville Art House, which has been using 2 Stones Events to book the musical portion of the annual Arts & Acts Festival since 2012.

At each of the four shows, the Art House will bring in select pieces from one of its featured artists to display in the theater. Concert attendees can even purchase the art, with portions of the proceeds going to Tipping Point and the Art House.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with wine-tasting and appetizers until 7:45 p.m. The shows will run 8-10 p.m. with a brief intermission. There will also be a cash bar with wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages available. Tickets are \$30, but



Jill Jack and the American Songbook Band.

music lovers can save 10 percent by purchasing the four-show series. Tipping Point season ticket holders will also receive a 10-percent discount.

To purchase tickets online, go to www.2StonesEvents.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the Tipping Point Theatre (361 E. Cady St.) from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 6:30-10 p.m. Friday. For more information and for business partnership opportunities, call 586-484-8797.

Series lineup

The Kittens & Crooners four-part jazz vocalist series starts Jan. 9 with Brad McNett backed by Tyler Driskill, piano; Jordan Schug, upright bass; and Jesse Kramer, drums.

Barely into his 20s, vocalist/composer McNett is quickly becoming one of the most popular interpreters of the Great American Songbook. McNett's large repertoire and his ability to interpret a lyric or turn a phrase, with the skill and poise of someone twice his age, makes him an instant smash with any audience. "There's a late '50s sensibility in his voice —

touches of Mel Torme and Frank D'Rone," said Marc Myers of Jazz-Wax.com.

Artist Henry Fusco's subject matter has evolved from buildings, seascapes and landscapes to figures, nudes and still lifes. His most current work is often on a scale larger than normally associated with typical watercolor paintings. Today, Fusco is noted for his impressionistic figurative work and rhythmic still lifes. He has mastered transparent washes to create depth and richness reminiscent of the Midwest regionalist painters of the Depression Era. Fusco currently works out of his studio in Northville.

Jill Jack & The American Songbook Band — March 12: Thirty-seven time Detroit award-winning singer/songwriter Jill and long-time drummer Ron Pangborn have talked about putting a project together that celebrates the music they both love — The American Songbook. Selecting some of the best musicians in Detroit, they have captured the beautiful essence of the music of an era long ago. Come celebrate with them as they will take you on their musical

journey.

Paul King — May 14: Crooner King describes his style as "a mixture of Mel Torme, Joe Williams and Frank Sinatra — with a dash of Cab Calloway thrown in." Detroit's *Metro Times* wrote: "His voice has been banned in some nightclubs for inducing public displays of affection on the dance floor."

King, vocalist for The Rhythm Society Orchestra, has been featured on a number of local television and radio programs. He has also performed with veterans of some famous big bands, including Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Sam Donahue, Joe Williams, Lionel Hampton and Big Joe Turner.

Beth Stalker — July 9: A Detroit native and seven-time Detroit Music Awards winner, Stalker is no stranger to the music biz, beginning her career at the age of 4. Known then as "Little Liz," she released her first full-length album, *Jesus Loves Me*. Soon after, she began touring and making appearances on several local television shows. And though she loved the glitz and glam of the music industry, she took some time away from the spotlight to focus on school.

At 20, Stalker was back at it, releasing her second album, *Here with You*. The album garnered much praise at the Detroit Music Awards, earning her six awards. One year later, she recorded and released *Hallelujah I Love Him*. But her journey didn't end there. In 2008, she auditioned for *American Idol*, making it to Hollywood after receiving the highly coveted "golden ticket."

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Mike Bosnic (center) was sworn into office Dec. 11 as a magistrate for the 52-1 District Court by Judge Robert Bondy.

Oakland County appoints former commissioner as new magistrate

Former Oakland County Commissioner Mike Bosnic was sworn into office Dec. 11 as a magistrate for the 52-1 District Court in Novi by Judge Robert Bondy.

Bosnic's nomination for the court position was approved Dec. 9 by members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Bosnic will begin serving on the bench this month. The 52-1 District Court serves the communities of Novi, Commerce Township, Highland Township, Lyon Township, Milford, Milford Township, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom and Wolverine Lake.

Bosnic will be responsible for conducting arraignments, setting bond, performing marriages and overseeing informal and small claims hearings.

Bosnic is an attorney and graduate of Michigan State University with a law degree from the University of Notre Dame. He served from 2011-14 as a county commissioner from Clawson.

"It's always an honor to be able to serve the community," Bosnic stated in a press release. "Thanks to the Board of Commissioners and the judges of the 52-1 District Court for this opportunity."

MISSION

Continued from Page A1

business is involved with seven projects, beginning concepts in the lab with the intent of taking them to market.

In addition to making money like any private company, its principals see themselves as social innovators, focusing on work that will benefit people. The company employs about three dozen people, mostly research staff.

"We take on projects we feel will make a big impact," said Steve Annear, Somnio's vice president of operations.

Its work is widespread, from preserving and shipping fresh foods cheaply and using ozone for water treatment to creating a hardened metal coating over lightweight materials for car parts and disinfecting medical rooms by aerosol.

"We think we have a true world-class research and development facility based here," Annear said. "We focus on solutions that are going to be transformational."



PHILIP ALLMEN

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt (left) and City Manager Pete Auger (right) learn more about Somnio's work in water treatment using ozone from Steve Annear. Ed Beagale, one of the principals with the company, said 75 percent of the world's diseases can be cured with clean water.

The company mission states: "Innovation without purpose is futile. We focus on some of the world's most challenging problems such as rising greenhouse gas emissions and the need for clean drinking water. By bridging the gap between breakthrough science and commercialization, we are ready to impact social change."

For now, the company plans to handle everything from concept

through manufacturing. As demand grows, it may turn that last step over to partner businesses.

Somnio, which is Latin for "dream," started in Dearborn before moving to Novi. Auger said the name is perfect for the business.

"These are the types of companies that will actually grow the economy," Auger said.

"They're very in tune with what we're trying to do with attracting

new businesses."

Auger said meeting with businesses gives Novi officials a chance to learn more about the local businesses, as well as find out what needs the business owners have and whether or not the city can assist in those issues.

Learn more about the company online at somnioglobal.com.

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LEGISLATORS

Continued from Page A1

642 votes in 2015, all taking place Oct. 29. Robertson represents Highland residents in Lansing.

Individual votes and missed votes are compiled by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a conservative think tank based in Midland. Find the full report online at www.michiganvotes.org/missedvotes.asp.

A look at 2015

Crawford said she is proud of legislation she sponsored and helped pass in last year, including a resolution making June 2, 2015, "Older Michiganders Day," which was unanimously adopted. An event was held June 2 on the lawn of the Capitol in which older adults, as well as service providers for the elderly and others, could express concerns and discuss opportunities for seniors.

"I think the public wants us to do big things all the time," Crawford said. "They expect us to pass legislation, but a lot of little things need to be done, too."

Other legislation Crawford sponsored in 2015, which are in various stages of action, include HB 4408, which would require veterinarians to have continuing education (Michigan is the only state that does not mandate continuing education for vets); HB 4581, which addresses a cap on the distribution of liquor by distribution agents in the state who have seen a cost increase, but no increase in their cap in 30 years; HB 4712, which would allow physical therapists to accept prescriptions from chiropractors; and HB 5049, which allows

for harsher penalties in the sentencing guidelines for those guilty of elder abuse. The penalties will be more in line with those guilty of child abuse.

"They are all pending and waiting for the governor's signature," Crawford said, adding that she was proud to co-sponsor another bill that will allow veterans, particularly those with post-traumatic stress disorder, to have their dogs accompany them on airplane flights.

Two of Runestad's bills have been signed into law, one that eliminates the adoption registry fee, making it easier to complete an adoption. The

other new law concerns civil asset forfeiture, preventing the seizure of property without due process.

"Many of the bills I have introduced prevent government overreach and safeguard personal liberties," Runestad stated. "I will continue to champion legislation to keep our citizens safe while protecting their rights and freedoms."

Looking ahead

Crawford said she is looking forward to tackling issues in the new year and said legislators will likely vote on bills that deal with medical marijuana use, as well as

recreational use of marijuana.

"I think there is a lot to be learned about medical marijuana and I would really like people to have a choice regarding edible marijuana, including people that can't or don't want to smoke it," Crawford said. "I'm in favor of it, as long as there are more restrictions on those that get the card. I would like stricter guidelines on who is allowed to have medical marijuana. And I'm not in favor of recreational use."

Kowall assumed the role of Senate majority floor leader this term and as such is spending much

of his time reading and getting up to speed on the bills others have sponsored, but said he is looking forward to bills that have yet to be assigned numbers, but will address autonomous vehicles.

In 2013, Kowall sponsored Senate Bill 169, which permitted the testing of automated motor vehicles by automakers, but required a human in the driver's seat to take over if necessary. SB 663 accompanied that bill, protecting manufacturers from civil liability for damages caused by autonomous vehicles unless the defect was present when

the vehicle was manufactured.

Kowall is also anticipating a bill that will address the hacking of computer systems in vehicles.

"Everyone has seen the news stories where Jeep Grand Cherokees have been taken over by hackers as a prank, but when you are traveling in a community such as Novi, with high traffic, (that) can cause a severe accident — even death — and we're looking at severe penalties," Kowall said.

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New year full of promise for Novi schools

As we embark on a new year, it is appropriate to look back on last year as we also look ahead to the coming year. While last year was an eventful one in the Novi Community School District, 2016 also looks full of promise.

Academically in 2015, our district continued to perform at a very high level. We had 26 National Merit semifinalists. Our M-STEP state assessment results were very positive. More importantly, our teachers continued to develop our curriculum and assessments so that the activities in our classrooms were meaningful. This work by our teachers ensured that our students would learn the important concepts in each subject and be able to demonstrate



Steve Matthews
 SUPER TALK

their learning in meaningful ways.

It was also a positive year for our district's athletic teams. Novi High School students won state championships in boys tennis and volleyball. Our girls golf team finished fifth in the state and our boys cross country team finished third. Our field hockey team earned a spot in the state quarterfinals and our football team earned a trip to the state playoffs. We had state qualifiers in boys and girls swimming and

track and field.

More importantly, our students learned the importance of teamwork and the value of hard work and dedication.

Also important for our district in 2015 was the first impact of our voter-approved 2014 Capital Projects Bond. The most visible evidence of the bond were new classroom additions at Deerfield, Parkview and Meadows elementary schools. New tennis courts were installed at Novi High School. Work was also done on things not as easily seen – like roofs and boilers. These improvements will ensure that our district facilities continue to meet the needs of our students for years to come.

In 2015, our school district

and the city of Novi continued to deepen our relationship and work together for our community. The summer reading program with the Novi Public Library increased participation. A new "What Parents Need to Know" program was launched with the Novi Police Department.

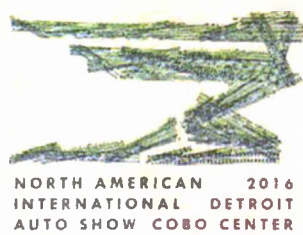
While looking back is important, it is also important to look ahead. The new year will continue the positive momentum for the Novi Community School District. A new Early Childhood Education Center is being constructed and will be ready by the fall. A new high school weight room and exercise facility is being built and will be open by the fall as well. Our teachers continue to work

on curriculum and assessments to ensure that what occurs every day in our classrooms is meaningful and important for our students.

The Novi Community School District is a wonderful place to live and work. As we look forward to a new year, we can have confidence that the good work that has gone on in 2015 and years past will continue. The foundation that has been put in place has prepared our district to continue to achieve great things for our students and families.

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

Adam Lewis earned third place for his design, winning a \$100 prize.



Novi High School students win auto show design contests

Three Novi High School students won the auto show poster design contest this year.

The winning posters will be on display this month at the 2016 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in Detroit.

Mitchell Russel won for Best of Show, good for a \$500 prize; Adam Lewis earned third place for his design, winning a \$100 prize; and Courtney Klerkx won the T-shirt

design contest, so her entry will be placed on T-shirts for distribution at the show.

With more than 50 Michigan high schools competing and 707 total entries, only 16 winners are chosen in this challenging competition. There is a mere 2 percent chance of winning an award, Novi High School art teacher Melissa Edmunds said, and Novi had three winners.

"Real world art and

design application opportunities like this are priceless for our students, not only for the recognition, but for the scholarship opportunities, portfolio development and the exposure to career work within the art and design fields," Edmunds said.

The students who won these awards are planning to study art and design in college.



Mitchell Russel won for Designer's Best of Show, good for a \$500 prize.



Courtney Klerkx won the T-shirt design contest, so her entry will be placed on T-shirts for distribution at the show. The contest was new this year.



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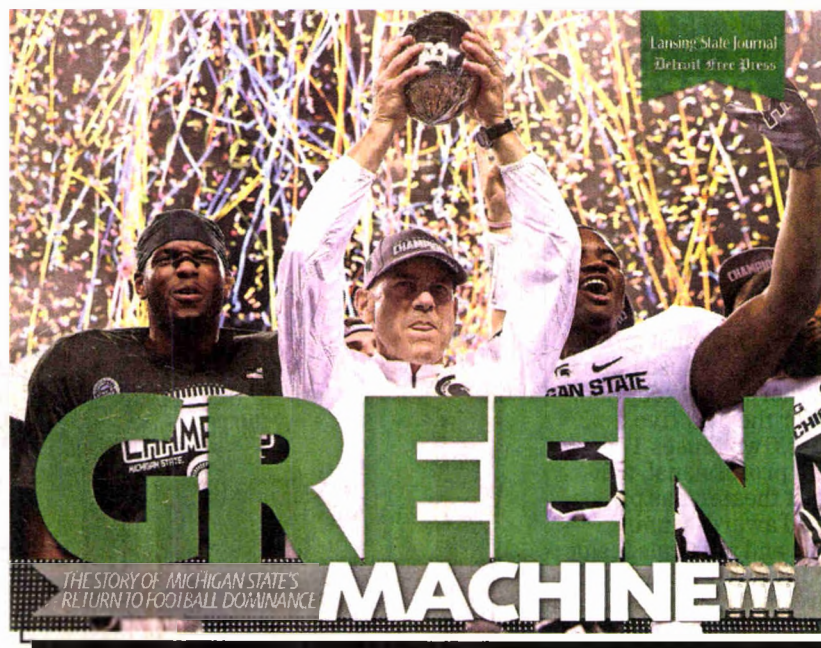
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Happy New Year! Making weight loss resolutions that stick

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Two days before the start of the new year, Monika Foedisch had a plan for achieving her goal to be healthier in 2016 — charging her Fitbit batteries that died before Thanksgiving.

She laughed as she explained that she didn't even pretend during the last month of the year to keep up healthy habits she resolved to make at the start of 2015. Foedisch instead is starting anew with the ever-popular resolution to lose weight and be healthy.

"Losing 20 pounds would be nice, but I'll probably aim for five, because I'll be sad if I don't make it," she said. "I'm going to eat better and move more. I'm not cutting out cookies or candy. You have a certain amount of calories, so if you want chocolate, you should also have a salad."

Patrick May, manager and personal trainer at Anytime Fitness on Grand River Avenue in Novi, said he believes Foedisch is setting goals in an achievable manner.

"It's good to make resolutions — the most important thing is to set realistic expectations and make small goals and keep yourself accountable," he said.

Losing one to three pounds per week is a reasonable goal, he added, while dropping 20 pounds in a month is not.

May has extensive experience in helping people lose weight and keep it off as a personal trainer for eight years and manager of the Anytime Fitness Novi location for the past three years.

Gyms packed

Right now is the gym's busiest time and May is signing up new members, including Abe Raina, who is setting a new year's resolution for the first time in his life.

"I want to lose weight and get stronger," Raina said as May showed him a treadmill. "I want to start the new year on a good note."

While the treadmills, elliptical machines and stationary bikes at the



Abe Raina learns about treadmill features from Patrick May, owner of Anytime Fitness in Novi.

gym offer good cardio workouts, they are relatively small pieces of the weight-loss puzzle. The strength training equipment at the gym is at least equally important. Exercise participants burn calories for 24 hours after doing a cardio workout, but after a strength session can still burn calories up to 72 hours later.

More important than either cardio or muscle-building in the battle against weight gain, however, is nutrition. Weight loss is 20 percent exercise and 80 percent the food you consume.

Instead of going cold turkey from a pop addiction, reduce the amount of soda you drink per day or limit drinking soda to only certain days, for example. Do not fall into the trap of using a fad diet such as Atkins or South Beach. Such diets are not maintainable nor healthy long term for most people, May said, and often lead people to gain even more weight after they stop.

Lifestyle changes

What is needed is a lifestyle change. Track calories using an app such as My Fitness Pal. Get a baseline of the number of calories you currently consume and learn the calorie counts in various foods to gain the ability to make better choices.

"Stick with clean foods," May said. "When

you are reading the ingredients and there are words you can't pronounce, there's a good chance your body can't break that down."

Avoid hydrogenated oils and high-fructose corn syrup. Sugar should be less than half the total carbohydrates, he added.

May recommends kick-starting your metabolism each day with breakfast and consumption of 16 ounces of water in the morning. Water is essential to weight loss and he suggests drinking between two and three liters total per day. Eating small meals throughout the day, roughly 200-300 calories every two or three hours, is also better than large meals several hours apart, May said, adding that many people get into trouble by skipping breakfast, having a light lunch and then, ravenous, eating a 2,000-calorie dinner.

"Results take time," May said. "It takes two to four weeks for a body to make adjustments to a lifestyle change. It can take up to four to six months to start seeing benefits. ... You have to change up your routine when your body adjusts to what you are doing and you hit a plateau. Pack your gym bag the night before and leave it by the door. Set a schedule and stick to it. It's good to set a goal, but you have to stick with it."

sbromley@hometownlife.com

Two Muses Theatre forced to find new home for 2016

The show must go on. And for Two Muses Theatre, there's no exception.

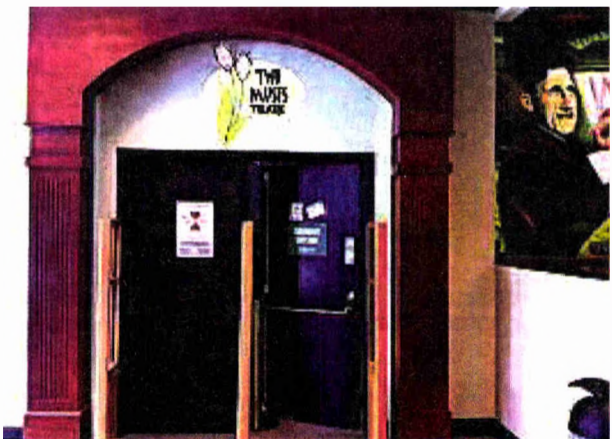
For the past five years, Two Muses Theatre, a professional, non-profit theater, has produced award-winning plays and musicals inside the Barnes & Noble bookstore on Orchard Lake Road.

Unfortunately, Two Muses' Artistic/Executive Director Diane Hill recently received notice from California-based Starpoint Property Management that the company is closing down the building this month.

Barnes & Noble in West Bloomfield shut its doors Dec. 31. Two Muses Theatre packed up everything and moved out of Barnes & Noble following the close of its November musical production of *The Light in the Piazza* that played to delighted sold-out houses.

Two Muses officials are giving a standing ovation to Monster Box Theatre Managing/Artistic Director Paul Stark, who offered his performance space at 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford as the new home for Two Muses Theatre.

Two Muses Theatre will resume its current season April 1 with the Pulitzer Prize-winning serio-comedy, *How I*



Beginning this month, Two Muses Theatre will be located at 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford, inside the Monster Box Theatre.

Learned to Drive and will end its season as planned with the musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

"The intimate performance space at Monster Box Theatre is perfect for our audience and will ensure a familiar environment," Hill said. "The location of Monster Box Theatre in Waterford is not too far from our original space and we look forward to gaining a new following in the area."

In addition, Two Muses patrons, who have become accustomed to enjoying refreshments at the soon-to-be-closed Barnes & Noble Starbucks, will appreciate similar hospitality at the

Monster Box Café.

Hill and Stark are collaborating to develop a cohesive performance schedule that will allow both theater companies to independently and, in rotation, produce their own shows, but do it under one roof, at Stark's Monster Box site.

Tickets for the remaining two shows of Two Muses' season, *How I Learned to Drive* in April and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* in June, can be purchased at www.twomusestheatre.org or by calling 248-850-9919 starting in March.

For more information, go to twomusestheatre.org.

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Library conducts public survey this month

The Northville District Library will conduct a survey throughout January to gather input from the community. The survey results will be used as part of the planning process to guide the library in the next few years.

User opinions regarding library collections, services, facility space and more are welcome. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete and can be done online via the library's website at northvillelibrary.org. There are also paper copies in the library, you can also take the survey on the Library iPad at the circulation desk.

The library will host a public forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, in the library's Carlo Meeting Room. The public is invited to attend this informal gathering, where library officials will gather more information in the next step in the planning process.

Contact Library Director Julie Herrin at 248-349-3020, ext. 206, with questions.

LIBRARY LINES

Winter Reading Program for Ages 12 and Up

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

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.

Battle of the Books 2016 Registration

Time/Date: Through Jan. 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 the website for details.

Between the Lines Book Discussion

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11
Details: Teens and adults will enjoy a lively discussion of Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven*, a novel set in post-apocalyptic Michigan. Fiction.

Mad Science 'Fire & Ice'

Time/Date: 4:15-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13
Details: Foggy dry ice storms, giant beach balls floating in the air and even a special "burb" potion will amaze kids as they learn about science! All ages. 100 free tickets available five minutes prior to the program. Tickets not available in advance. Due to space limitations, no special groups please.

Our Stuff and Us! With Author Terrence Shulman

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14
Details: Learn about our relationship with our stuff with Terrence Shulman, author of the book *Cluttered Lives, Empty Souls*. Register.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16
Details: Show off your Wii U skills and compete for fun prizes. Free play and check-in begin at 11:30 a.m. Tournament begins promptly at noon. Must check in by 11:50 a.m. to compete! For grades 6-12. Registration required online, by phone or in person.

Ice Festival gliding into downtown Plymouth

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

With new features and a new major sponsor, the Plymouth Ice Festival returns for its 2016 edition beginning Friday.

The three-day festival — the 34th annual — in Kellogg Park and nearby downtown streets will feature more than 100 ice sculptures, interactive features like a playscape and cross country skiing, plus live entertainment and chances to help the larger community.

The festival, inspired by a similar event in Japan, is billed as the oldest continually operating ice festival in America. Begun to draw people downtown, especially during the post-holiday lull, the festival has evolved into a celebration that's one of the city's signature events.

"The most impressive thing about Plymouth is the longevity," veteran sculptor Aaron Costic said. "There are very few festivals of any kind that go 30 years."

"It really has turned



A fire and ice tower lights up the sky at Kellogg Park during last year's Plymouth Ice Festival. This year's event, the 34th annual, begins Friday, Jan. 8.

from just bringing people downtown to part of what makes the community so unique," said organizer James Gietzen of JAG Entertainment.

"With tens of thousands of people attending the ice festival, it certainly has become one of the biggest and most anticipated events of the year," said Tony Bruscatto, director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.

Costic, of Broadview Heights, Ohio, is owner of Elegant Ice Creations.

He has carved at the Plymouth festival off and on since 1990, competed as both an amateur and professional carver and for the past few years has done a lot of the major carving that's showcased at the festival.

This time, Costic and his crew will be creating an ice playscape, with nine different activities.

Skiing and more

The playscape, plus the returning Lou LaRiche Chevrolet "ice

throne" and the cross country skiing course will be among the festival's interactive features.

"We're hoping for some snow so we can make it (the trail) a little bit bigger, but if there's no snow, we'll start making it," Gietzen said.

For this festival, Gietzen picked up a major sponsor, Ford Motor Co., which will have the show's largest sculpture, with Ford's GT sports car as its theme.

In addition, the company will give festival-goers the opportunity make a donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank via a text message and have the Ford Motor Co. Fund match each donation.

Festival favorites returning for 2016 at Kellogg Park include the opening ceremony, 7 p.m. Jan. 8; collegiate ice-carving, Jan. 9-10 (winners announced at 1 p.m. both days), with students from Henry Ford Community College, Oakland Community College, the Univer-

sity of Michigan and the Art Institute of Michigan competing; the dueling chainsaws competition at 7 p.m. Jan. 9; the fire and ice towers, which will be lit at approximately 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8-9; and the Hot Spot warming station, at The Gathering, across from the park, with area vendors, product demonstrations and a sitting area, during all festival hours.

There will be about 50 ice sculptures in Kellogg Park and more than 100 total in the park and in front of downtown businesses, Gietzen said.

The 2016 Plymouth Ice Festival Hours are 3-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10. Sculptures will be on display around the clock — weather permitting.

For more information and an expanded listing of festival events, go to plymouthicefestival.com.

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734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman

Michigan remains accredited in emergency management procedures

Gov. Rick Snyder announced that the state of Michigan has retained its accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. This national accreditation reaffirms the ability of state government to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies and disasters.

"The state of Michigan continues to be a national emergency

management and homeland security leader," Snyder stated in a release. "In Michigan, we are committed to having a system in place that ensures our residents are prepared for all hazards, whether natural or human-made. I commend the Michigan State Police and the other state departments for their dedication and commitment in this arena."

To achieve re-accredi-

tation, Michigan was required to document how the state's emergency preparedness and response system meets 64 national standards and undergo a peer-review assessment by an independent team of EMAP assessors.

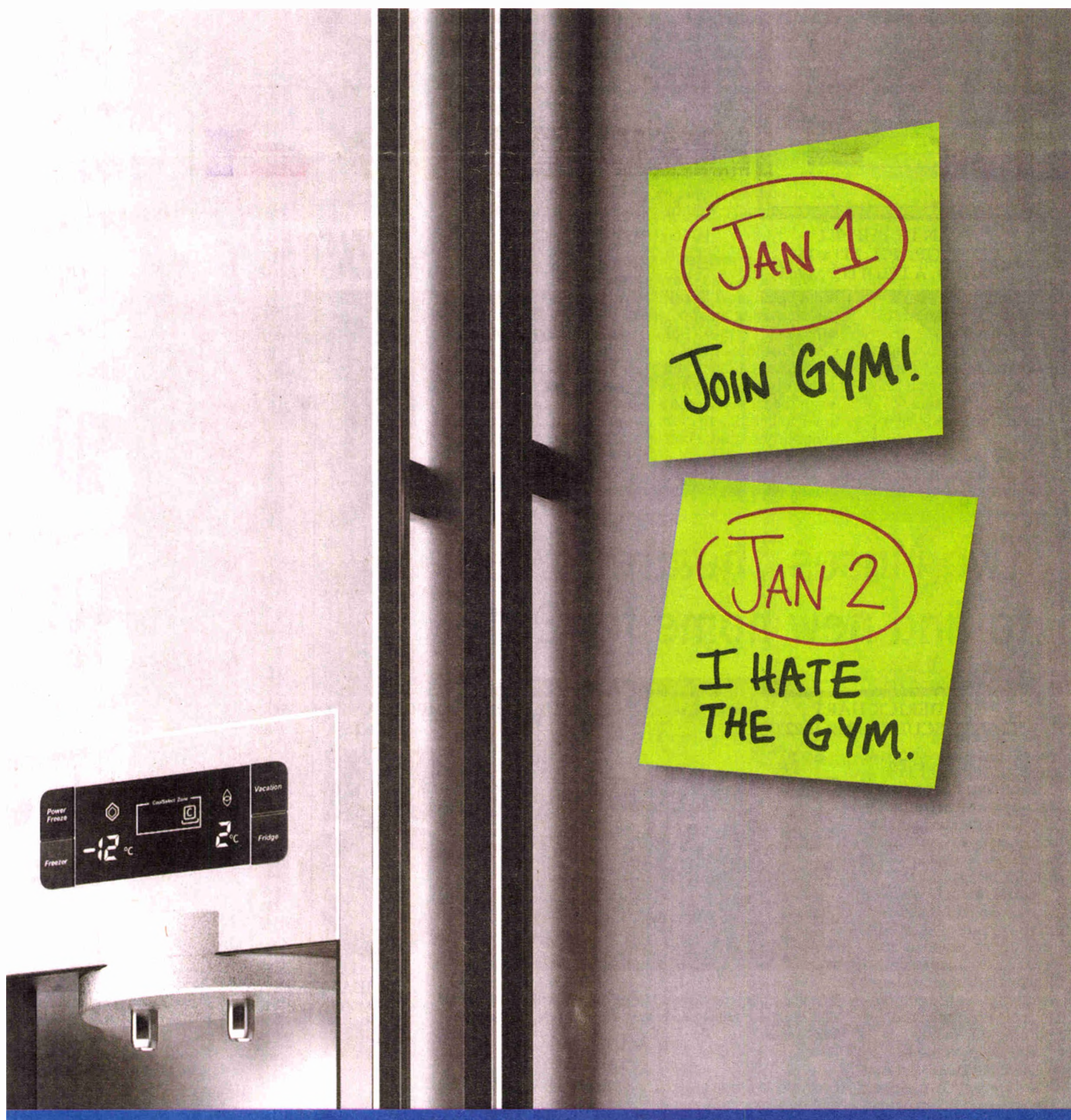
The accreditation process was led by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, which

is responsible for coordinating the state's activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

"This achievement displays Michigan's dedication to protecting the health and safety of Michiganders during times of crisis," said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, state director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and direc-

tor of the MSP. "The accreditation process was crucial for assessing Michigan's emergency plans and procedures, ensuring we continue to be compliant with current emergency management standards and are establishing best practices for years to come."

For more information about emergency planning in Michigan, go to www.michigan.gov/emhsd.



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"THE MUSIC LESSON", C. 1884



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OIL ON CANVAS, 22" x 28"
"THE PERFORMERS"



DALE NICHOLS
GOUACHE, 6" x 8"
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"PROFIL A DROITE", 1962



HUGHIE LEE-SMITH
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"THE PROMISE", 1989



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PAINTED ASSEMBLAGE
RELIEF SCULPTURE, 48" x 40"



MARC CHAGALL
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"LA PETITE MARIEE", #48/50



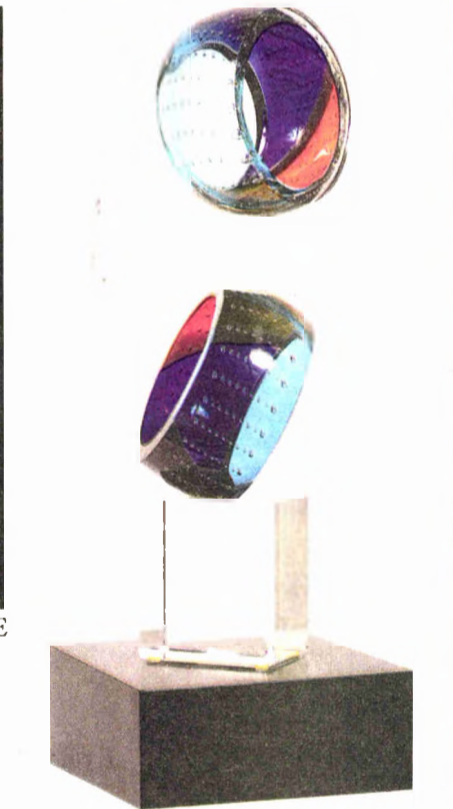
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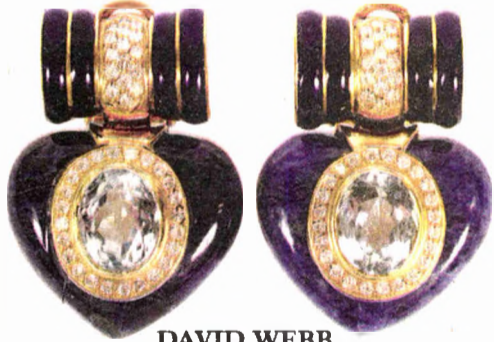
LEON APPLEBAUM
"WEDDING BANDS"
GLASS SCULPTURE, H 31"



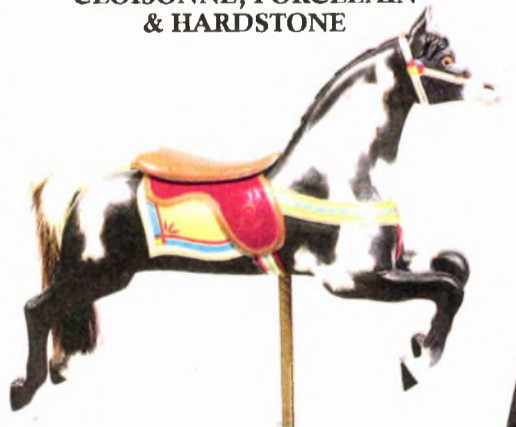
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Tipping Point Theatre presents 'Odd Couple' with a twist

Unger and Madison are at it again in Neil Simon's famous update of his contemporary comic classic beginning this month at the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville.

Slobbish and easygoing Olive Madison has invited the girls over for an evening of Trivial Pursuit. But when up-tight, neat freak Flo-



Cochrane

Banks

Unger shows up - just separated from her husband - the game is over before it gets start-

ed. *The Odd Couple* runs Jan. 28 through Feb. 28, with a special "leap year" performance Monday, Feb. 29. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. A special matinee performance has been added at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The theater is at 361 E. Cady St. in Northville. Tickets are \$30 to \$33 for adults, \$28 to \$31 for students and senior citizens and \$22 for the two preview shows Jan. 28-29. Tickets are on sale now. For tickets or more information, call the box office at 248-347-0003.

For more good news about Unger and Madison, the Purple Rose and

Tipping Point theaters are teaming up for a special deal as the two theaters are performing *The Odd Couple*. While Tipping Point performs the female version of the famed show, Purple Rose is sticking with the traditional, male roles.

Anyone who attends both shows will be entered into a drawing to win two tickets from

both theaters (good for any show in their full season). When the shows close, Tipping Point and Purple Rose will pick a winner.

In addition, theatergoers who show their ticket from the other theater at the box office you will receive a coupon good for a free concession to use during that performance.

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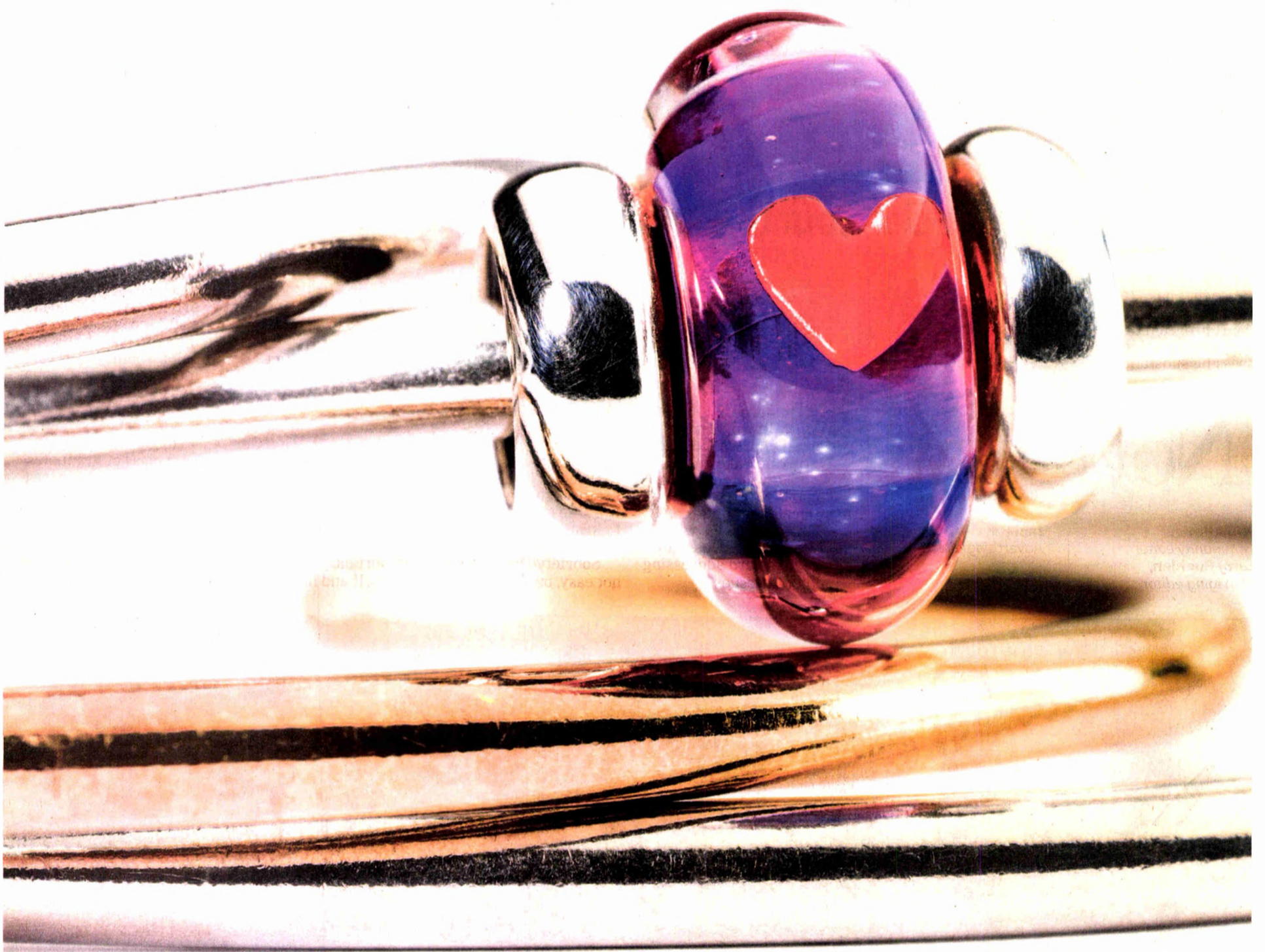
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OUR VIEW

Work as a team to end school bullying

A staffer of this newspaper had a great idea for the new year — end school bullying. Too often, school bullying leads to fear and pain, abandoned hopes and dreams and even tragic violence. It takes a team to address the issue.

Parents, school staff and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can:

» Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.

» Keep the lines of communication open. Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school and understand their concerns.

» Encourage kids to do what they love. Special activities, interests and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends and protect them from bullying behavior.

» Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.

Help kids understand bullying

» Kids who know what bullying is can better identify it. They can talk about bullying if it happens to them or others. Kids need to know ways to safely stand up to bullying and how to get help.

» Encourage kids to speak to a trusted adult if they are bullied or see others being bullied. The adult can give comfort, support and advice, even if they can't solve the problem directly. Encourage the child to report bullying if it happens.

» Talk about how to stand up to kids who bully. Give tips, like using humor and saying "stop" directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions don't work, like walking away.

» Talk about strategies for staying safe, such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.

» Urge them to help kids who are bullied by showing kindness or getting help.

» Watch the short videos at www.stopbullying.gov and discuss them with kids.

Keep the lines of communication open

Research tells us that children really do look to parents and caregivers for advice and help on tough decisions. Sometimes spending 15 minutes a day talking can reassure kids that they can talk to their parents if they have a problem. Start conversations about daily life and feelings with questions like these:

» What was one good thing that happened today? Any bad things?

» What is lunch time like at your school? Who do you sit with? What do you talk about?

» What is it like to ride the school bus?

» What are you good at? What would you like best about yourself?

Talking about bullying directly is an important step in understanding how the issue might be affecting kids. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, but it is important to encourage kids to answer them honestly. Assure kids that they are not alone in addressing any problems that arise. Start conversations about bullying with questions like these:

» What does "bullying" mean to you?

» Describe what kids who bully are like. Why do you think people bully?

» Who are the adults you trust most when it comes to things like bullying?

» Have you ever felt scared to go to school because

you were afraid of bullying? What ways have you tried to change it?

» What do you think parents can do to help stop bullying?

» Have you or your friends left other kids out on purpose? Do you think that was bullying? Why or why not?

» What do you usually do when you see bullying going on?

» Do you ever see kids at your school being bullied by other kids? How does it make you feel?

» Have you ever tried to help someone who is being bullied? What happened? What would you do if it happens again?

» Get more ideas for talking with children about life and about bullying. If concerns come up, be sure to respond.

There are simple ways that parents and caregivers can keep up-to-date with kids' lives.

» Read class newsletters and school fliers. Talk about them at home.

» Check the school website.

» Go to school events.

» Greet the bus driver.

Model how to treat others with kindness

Kids learn from adults' actions. By treating others with kindness and respect, adults show the kids in their lives that there is no place for bullying. Even if it seems like they are not paying attention, kids are watching how adults manage stress and conflict, as well as how they treat their friends, colleagues and families.

More discussion on ending school bullying is online at www.stopbullying.gov.

Purpose of special court: A life-changing graduation ceremony

In my time on the bench, I have found the Sobriety/Drug Court program to be a very useful tool in addressing substance

abuse. I am honored to serve with fellow judges Robert Bondy and Travis Reeds on the 52-1 District Court bench, which serves the communities



David Law
GUEST COLUMNIST

of Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Milford, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake and Wixom. Many defendants come before us with drug or alcohol problems and we strongly believe in crafting sentences with an eye toward addressing addiction issues.

Sobriety/Drug Court is an intensive program designed to identify and assist those defendants with substance abuse problems, using testing, treatment, incentives and penalties. The program is a team approach involving the judge, participant, probation officer, therapist, treatment court coordinator and defense advocate, all working to help the participant and reduce recidivism.

Sobriety/Drug Court is not easy, but it is effective

and the end reward for participants is reclaiming their lives from the grips of alcohol or drugs.

The 52-1 District Court recently held a "graduation" ceremony Oct. 17 for those who completed the program. One such graduate, Gerald, spoke to the assembly about how the program changed his life. Gerald has regained the trust of his wife and family, has a job and, most importantly, is proud of himself and his sobriety.

The goal of a judge is to help people, so it is a privilege to take part in such a program and witness life-changing results. Thank you, treatment court team, probation staff, and congratulations to our graduates!

I look forward to the next class of graduates and continuing to assist people beat drug and alcohol addiction through Sobriety/Drug Court.

David Law is a judge with the 52-1 District Court in Novi.

NOVI NEWS

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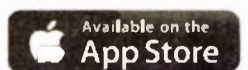
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Addicted to games ... not drugs

The city of Novi, Novi Police Department, Novi Youth Council and Lucky Strike Lanes recently hosted a morning of fun for area kids, encouraging them to get addicted to games, not drugs.

Kids in kindergarten through eighth grade had access to the games, bowling, entertainment, food and drinks for the morning at a discounted price.

"Addicted to Games is a great event that allows kids to make new

friends," said Ashna Jain, Novi Youth Council representative. "Kids always have a lot of fun and the turnout is amazing. I love going to the event, because kids are always excited and happy."

Members of the Novi Youth Council, Novi Fire and Police departments and Lucky Strike staff supervised the event, as parents joined in the fun. Proceeds benefit local anti-drug initiatives in Novi schools.



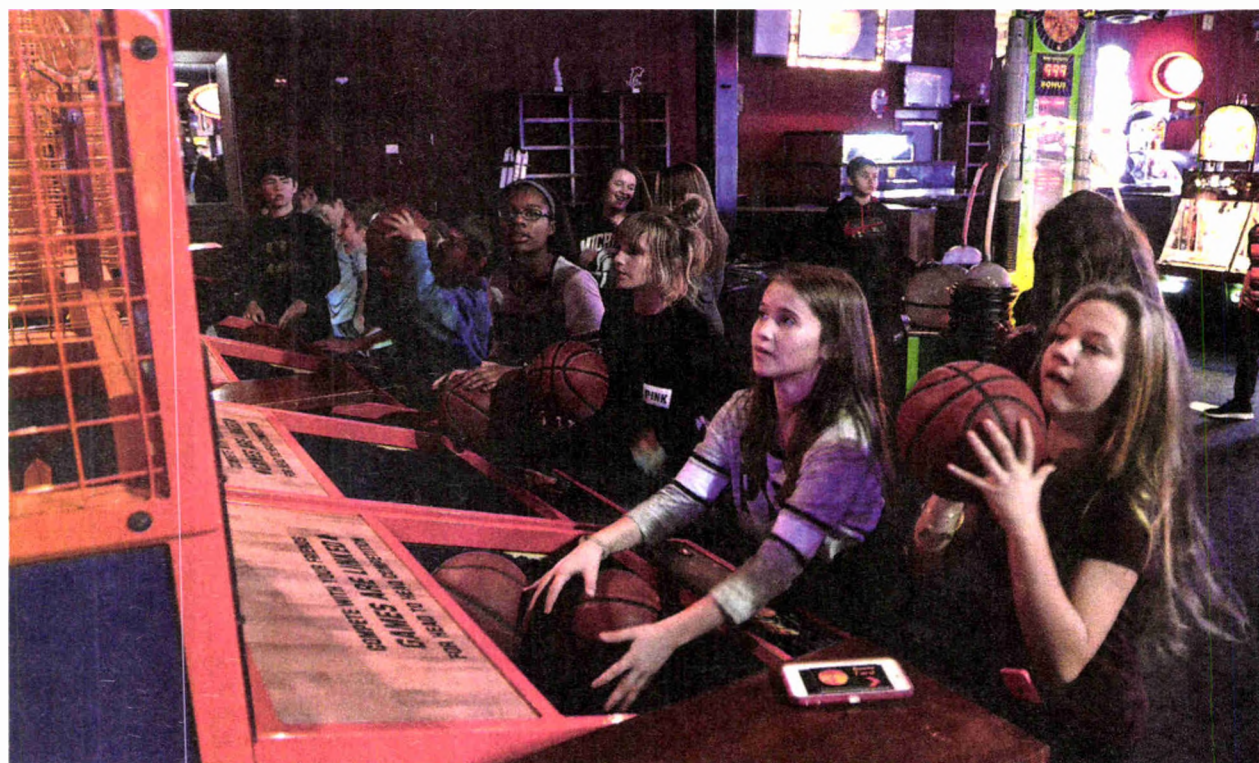
Ryan Kelly, 9, and Connor Ryan, 8, play a boxing video game.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



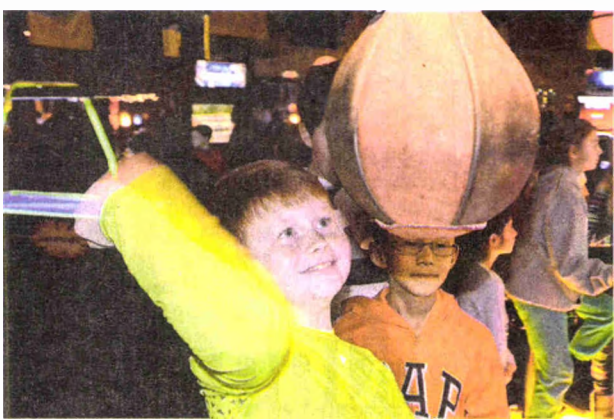
JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mia Herbst (right) plays air hockey with her friend Sydney Ostrofsky during their Dec. 29 visit to Novi's Lucky Strike complex as they and many other kids took advantage of the city's Addicted to Games program. The fun allowed kids to play all the video and skill games they wanted for \$10, with some snacks thrown in as well. The day was sponsored by the city of Novi, Novi Police Department and Novi Youth Council, among others.



A group of kids plays a basketball game during their Dec. 29 visit to Novi's Lucky Strike.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jason Strohl tries his hand at a game that shows how strong his punch is.

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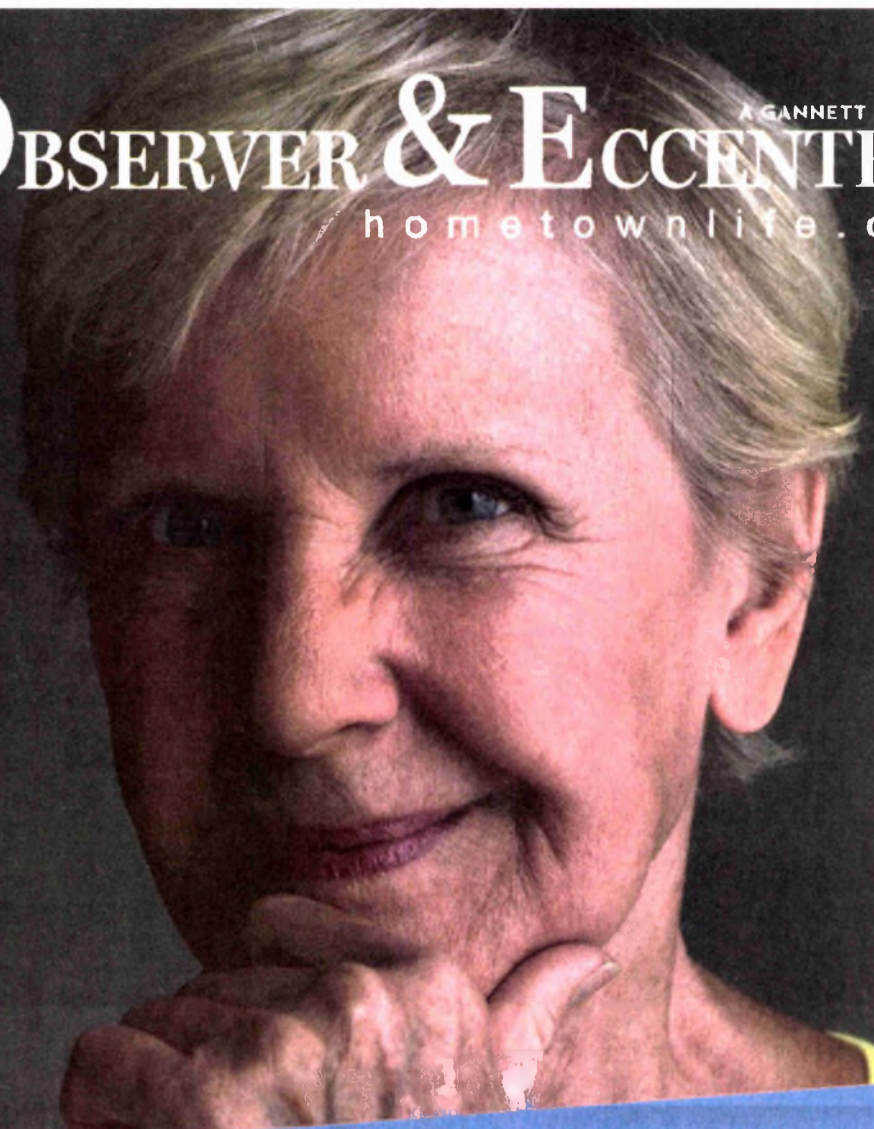
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Send Novi calendar items to pallmen@hometownlife.com and Northville calendar items to jmaliszews@hometownlife.com by 9 a.m. Monday for consideration for the Thursday edition.

Garden Club meets

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11
Details: Gardeners of Northville and Novi present The Scented Garden with Pam Palechek Fiani of Petal Pushers. The program starts at 7 p.m. after 30 minutes of social time at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, in the Forum Room. \$5 for guests.

Novi Choralaires

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12
Details: Do you love to sing? Would you like to meet new people and take part in sharing the joy of music within our community? Join the Novi Choralaires, a community chorus of men and women from Novi and the surrounding area. Rehearsals at Novi Middle School choir classroom, 49000 West Eleven Mile at Wixom Road in Novi.
 The Choralaires will present a joint concert with the Novi Band at 3 p.m. March 6; a "Sneak Peek Concert" at the Novi Public Library at 7 p.m. April 5; and the spring show "Songs of Nature" at 7:30 p.m. May 7. For more information about the Choralaires, go to novichoralaires.org or www.facebook.com/novichoralaire.

Compassionate Care Hospice

Time/Date: Jan. 12 volunteer orientation
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice seeks

caring, compassionate volunteers with big hearts to help with patient care and companionship, office support, group activities and more. Volunteer training sessions will cover mission and values, confidentially, communication and listening skills, grief, loss, the dying process and information pertinent to serving the needs of the patients. Interested volunteers may also choose to receive additional training and serve as specialized spiritual or bereavement volunteer.

Interested volunteers must complete the online application process prior to training. Early registration is encouraged as several steps are to be completed prior to the start of the training sessions. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator with questions or to apply for a brief interview 888-983-9050.

Art on display

Time/Date: Opening reception 6-9 p.m. Jan. 8. Exhibit through Jan. 30.

Details: The Northville Art House presents an exhibition of textiles and mixed media by Barbara Bushey and Susan Moran, two established fiber artists whose work develops from close observation of the Michigan landscape. Art House hours, 215 W. Cady Street, Northville, run noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Reach Northville Art House at 248-344-0497 or www.northvilleart house.org.

Masquerade charity ball

Time/Date: 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 6.

Donation helps NYA



Novi Youth Assistance caseworker Lisa Shields (left) and vice chair and volunteer Julie Abrams (center) talk Dec. 17 to Kappy Trott, wife of U.S. Rep. Dave Trott, at the Novi Civic Center. Trott learned a bit about the agency's efforts that day as she dropped off a \$1,000 donation to help its services of local youth.

Details: Kyyba Kidz Foundation, dedicated to improving the lives and education of orphans and underprivileged individuals, will host its 2016 Charity Fundraiser Gala Dinner at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi (46100 Grand River). Evening features a silent auction and raffle, dinner and dancing. All are welcome to bring their own masks or purchase them on-site by making a donation. Open to those 18 years and older, individual tickets are \$150 each and a table of 10 is \$1,000. The deadline for pre-registration, which is mandatory in order to attend, is Friday, Jan. 22, and can be completed at www.kyyba-kidzfoundation.org. "From gowns and gararas to suits and sherwanis, we encourage all

to put on their most festive formal wear for a night of fun, mystery and giving back," said Tel Ganesan, president of the Kyyba Kidz Foundation's Board of Trustees. Farmington Hills-based Kyyba Inc. is a technology and staffing services company.

Widowed Friends

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Ladies Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Connor's Restaurant, Haggerty/Five

Sweet gifts



Novi Library librarian Lindsay Fricke assists Ananya Gupte, 5, in making a holiday cookie mix jar Dec. 17. About two dozen kids signed up to prepare a jar mix of chocolate chip cookies that they could then decorate in holiday wrappings.

Mile Road, Northville. To save a seat, contact Carol at 313-562-3080.

Time/Date: 9 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.

Details: Join Widowed

Friends, a peer support group, hosting Co-Ed Breakfast at Richard's Restaurant, on Plymouth Road at Eckles Road. Contact Jerry at 734-455-2651.

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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 **VALENCIA SOUTH. SITE PLAN NUMBER 13-75. FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLANDS PERMIT, WOODLANDS PERMIT, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED R-3, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL WITH A PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO) AND IS LOCATED IN SECTION 29, SOUTH OF TEN MILE ROAD AND WEST OF BECK ROAD.** The subject property totals approximately 41.31 acres and the applicant is proposing a 64 unit single-family residential development. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-29-226-011, 50-22-29-226-028, 50-22-29-226-029, 50-22-29-226-004, 50-22-29-226-031, 50-22-29-226-030, 50-22-29-226-018, 50-22-29-226-019, 50-22-29-226-022, 50-22-29-226-023

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: January 7, 2016

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 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ARKIN BUILDING FOR MARTIN TECHNOLOGIES, JSP 15-74 FOR SPECIAL LAND USE AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED I-1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND IS LOCATED IN SECTION 26, EAST OF NOVI ROAD AND NORTH OF NINE MILE ROAD.** The applicant is requesting a Special Land Use Permit for proposing outside storage that is related to the current use of the existing building on site. No additional improvements to the site are being proposed.

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

Subject Property Parcel ID: 50-22-26-300-010

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 27, 2016.

Novi Planning Commission
 Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published: January 7, 2016

Colder weather draws guests to ski slopes

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

It hasn't been ideal for winter-based businesses.

Monday's cold weather was closer to what people expect when thinking about frigid January temperatures.

"This is the first time I've come out to ski this season," 17-year-old Nicci Sterling said. "It stinks. I haven't been able to ski as often as I want to."

Sterling spent Monday at Alpine Valley in White Lake, along with scores of others enjoying the winter weather. White Lake isn't the only place in the area for residents interested in downhill skiing without driving too far. Farther north in Oakland County there's Pine Knob (skipineknob.com) in Clarkston and Mt. Holly (skimtholly.com) in Holly for downhill aficionados.

Or head west, a bit past U.S. 23, to Mt. Brighton in neighboring Livingston County to get your ski or snowboard fix.

Alpine Valley, at 6775 Highland Road in White Lake Township, offers 25 slopes, nine chair lifts, four tow ropes, a magic carpet and four terrain parks. Conditions Tuesday included a 6- to 20-inch snow base and limited runs open.

Learn more online at skialpinevalley.com.

Mt. Brighton, 4141 Bauer Road in Brighton, has 25 trails and five lifts. Ski conditions earlier this week included a 16- to 22-inch base and limited runs.

Go to www.mtbrighton.com for more.

pallmen@hometownlife.com
248-396-3870
Twitter: @PhilipAllmen



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christian Gradowski, 16, gets some air after hitting a ramp on his snowboard during a visit to White Lake Township's Alpine Valley. The ski resort was making lots of snow that day, benefiting from some natural white stuff and had most of its runs open by late afternoon. Gradowski is a student at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A skier rides up a chair lift at Alpine Valley.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Max Stanecki, 15, smiles as he readies to hit the slopes of Alpine Valley.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lakeland High School senior Marissa Gallmeyer gets ready Jan. 4 to make her first run down the slopes of Alpine Valley. Gallmeyer is on the school's ski team.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Skiers come down one of the many open runs Jan. 4 at Alpine Valley. Snow machines at the top of the hill make some cover for the runs.

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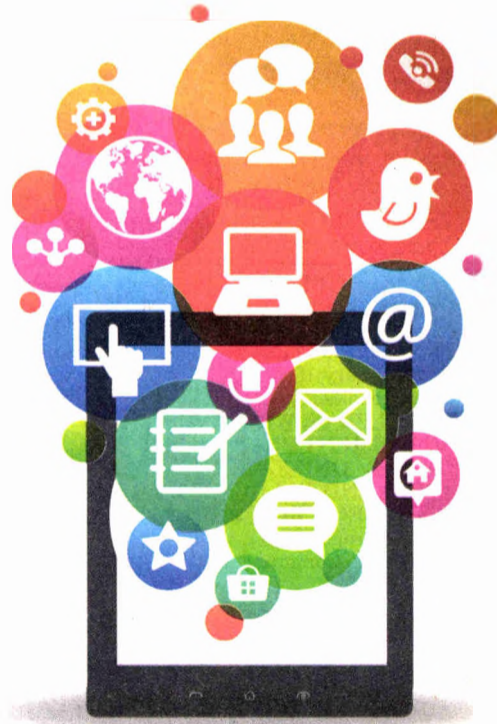
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MONYKA MURPHY

Camden Murphy, a junior at Novi High School, was the Speedo East Junior National champ in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi teen Murphy setting standards on national level; eyes U.S. Olympic Trials

Austin, Texas. Andrew, now 17, with pro sponsors such as Mutual of Omaha and adidas, holds 78 national age-group records.

Another first

And not to be outdone, the 6-foot, 185-pound Murphy came back to win the 200 butterfly using his crisp and powerful underwater dolphin kicks with a commanding two-second win in 1:44.31.

Both his 100 and 200 butterfly times were state age-group records

See MURPHY, Page B3

Those daily 45-minute commutes to Waterford and back are paying dividends for Camden Murphy.

The 16-year-old junior from Novi High School posted a breakthrough performance last month at the USA Swimming Speedo East Winter National Championship when he captured both the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events at Georgia Tech University's McCauley Aquatic Center in Atlanta.

Murphy, entering his fourth season as a member of the Kingfish Aquatic Club, posted a time of 47.21 in the 100 butterfly prelims and came back to capture the finals in 46.25, a 1.56-second personal improvement and 0.96 seconds faster than the current Michigan High School Athletic Association all-class

record of 47.21.

Murphy also held the short course junior national mark in the 100 butterfly for approximately an hour before age-group sensation Michael Andrew of Lawrence, Kan., who turned pro at age 14, regained the record by 0.02 seconds Dec. 11 at the Speedo West Junior Nationals in

BOYS BASKETBALL

6-0 Mustangs seize Holiday title

Zimbo nets 21 in 54-39 victory vs. Black Hawks

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It was a December to remember for Northville boys basketball as the host Mustangs capped off a 6-0 month Dec. 29 with a convincing 54-39 victory over Bloomfield Hills.

"I thought this was our best overall game from start to finish against a really good team," said Northville coach Todd Sander, whose team earned the Northville Holiday Basketball Tournament title. "We really defended well and I thought took them out of some of their stuff early on in the first half and made them work for every shot and score that they got."

After going 1-of-12 from the floor and scoring just two points Dec. 27 in a 51-48 first-round overtime win over Walled Lake Northern, Northville senior guard Justin Zimbo made personal amends by scoring a game-high 21 points.

The crafty 6-foot left-hander made 7-of-10 shots from the field, including five shots from 3-point range.

"I was just off," Zimbo said of his outing against Northern. "Every night is



BRAD EMONS

The Northville boys basketball team won the Holiday Tournament crown Dec. 29 with a 54-39 win over Bloomfield Hills.

different. You're going to have cold nights, you're going to have hot nights. Tonight was obviously a lot better for our team and myself."

Northville, paced by Zimbo's three triples, put the Black Hawks on their heels by jumping out to an 18-9 first-quarter advantage in the championship game, which was delayed a day because of icy weather Dec. 28.

Bloomfield Hills closed the deficit to 28-21 at halftime and trailed by only five, 36-31, after three quarters thanks to a triple by junior guard Justin Henry with 22 seconds left.

But that was as close as

the Black Hawks could get as Zimbo nailed back-to-back triples to spark an 18-8 fourth-quarter run.

"He's a winner, he's a leader," Sander said of the senior guard. "He's the type of kid that we can give a hard time about a day like (Dec. 27) and he comes back ready ... to fill it up."

Senior forward Nick Wilds, coming off a 22-point outing against Northern, contributed 10 points, while senior forward Justin Gibbons added nine points and eight rebounds.

See MUSTANGS, Page B3

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Northville's Robertson cut above in OHL rookie class

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Despite turning 16 in September, Jason Robertson is one of the youngest players in the Ontario Hockey League.

But the Northville resident is playing well beyond his years while making a considerable impact during his rookie season for the Kingston Frontenacs, who occupy first place in the East Division of the OHL's Eastern Conference at 23-11-2.

The right winger currently ranks fifth on the team in scoring with 16 goals, including three power-play goals, to go along with eight assists for 24 points.

"Scoring goals is part of my game and, more than anything else, I try and create plays," Robertson said. "I try to finish them and start them. The coach wants me to be a goal-scorer and create plays."

Robertson also owns a plus-2 rating and ranks among the top 10 OHL rookie scorers. He holds the distinction of being top rookie scorer born in 1999.

Late last month, Robertson had a nine-game point streak end, but rebounded the next game for a natural hat trick and one assist against the Sault



KINGSTON FRONTENACS

Northville resident Jason Robertson, 16, is enjoying a productive rookie season with the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs.

Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

Great start

"First of all, no 16-year-old is expected to have 15 goals by Christmas and he's done a great job of continuing to get better each and every day since he's gotten here," Kingston coach Paul McFarland said. "I think the better he plays away from the puck, the more scoring chances he gets."

"As far as what we like about him is that he's got great hockey sense and he's a driven player. He's not satisfied with a good first half of the season.

See ROBERTSON, Page B2

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GIRLS BASKETBALL



Northville's Roan Haines (right) takes the ball to the basket against a Dexter defender.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dreadnaughts steal victory away from Northville, 41-38

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The Northville girls basketball team would like to have this one back. The underdog Mustangs held a five-point lead with only 2:24 left, but committed six costly turnovers over the final two critical minutes and Dexter rallied for a 41-38 win Dec. 29 in the finals of the Northville Holiday Basketball Tournament.

It was the first loss in six starts for Northville. The Dreadnaughts (5-1) nailed eight straight free throws over the last 90 seconds, coupled with a go-ahead basket from Taylor Olson with only 0:30 remaining, to spark an 8-0 run and secure the victory.

Following the setback, in which Northville fought back from a 13-3 first-quarter deficit, the mood was somewhat subdued in the locker room afterward.

"The kids were down," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "We were 5-0 going in. I think they were fully confident going in and feeling good about themselves. I told them, 'Hey, it's one game.' We did the opposite to Wayne (Memorial) a couple of weeks ago when we came back and won at the end. Those things happen, but I told them, 'Hey, Dexter is one of the better teams in the Ann Arbor area, for sure, one of the two or three best teams and I said, 'Guys, we can play with those guys' and now wipe this away, take a couple of days off before school gets back and the division starts up.' And that's the big thing. I told them there are bigger prizes and the division is one of the bigger prizes."

Senior forward Anna Love scored 10 of her team-high 17 points in the second half to lead Dexter. She made six straight free throws, including a pair with 11.2 seconds left, to put the Dreadnaughts up by five, 41-36.

Olson, a senior guard, con-



Jessica Moorman (left) dribbles against Dexter's Hannah Wing.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

tributed 11 points, while senior guard Cayla Schlaff had nine (all on triples).

"When you get situations like this, you've got to try and figure out how to make some plays to try and get back in the game," Dexter coach Mike Bavineau said. "We were able to make a couple, but that was certainly an ugly game, certainly not the way we wanted to play. We wanted to play a little more better, a little more smooth. We didn't, but we figured out a way to grit it out and get a win. I guess that's what good teams do. They don't necessarily play their best, but figure out ways to win. I thought Northville played great. We were pretty fortunate."

Junior forward Brook Adams paced the Mustangs with 16 points. Her conventional three-point play with 5:36 remaining in the game gave Northville its biggest lead of the night, 34-27.

"Brook has been playing really well lately," Gudith said. "The last two or three games, she's really been assertive attacking basket and she's a good foul shooter. And she's really made some big shots down the stretch for us the past couple of weeks. It's nice to see her turn that corner."

Northville rallied in the third quarter with a 16-3 run to take a 29-25 lead as Adams

scored seven and sophomore guard Roan Haines added five of her seven.

But Haines fouled out late the final quarter and her absence down the stretch as another able ball-handler against Dexter's full-court pressure was noticeable.

Northville had a total of 20 turnovers, while shooting 11-of-30 from the floor (36.6 percent). But the Mustangs connected on 16-of-19 free throws (84.2 percent).

"Offensively, we were able to attack and get to the basket," Gudith said. "We got to the foul line in the second half to keep our lead going. But the last two minutes down the stretch their pressure, I think, got to us and we coughed it up a couple of times."

After trailing by 10 after one quarter and 22-13 at halftime, Northville regrouped and resorted to a zone defense to try to slow down the Dreadnaughts.

"Teams are going to play zone defenses to force you to shoot from the perimeter," said Bavineau, whose team was 12-of-38 from the floor (31.5 percent) and 14-of-18 from the line (77.7 percent). "If you don't knock shots down and you don't try and get on the offensive glass, you're going to make your job that much harder."

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ROBERTSON

Continued from Page B1

He wants to continue to improve and develop his whole game."

Robertson, born in California, moved to Northville at age 10 and played youth hockey for three different teams, including Detroit Little Caesars, the USA Selects '99 and the '98 Kings Selects U16 (in his final bantam-age season).

Robertson, accompanied by his mother Mercedes, then packed his bags for the Greater Toronto Hockey League, where he played last season for the Don Mills Flyers.

Attracting the attention of OHL scouts, Robertson tallied 23 goals and 33 assists (61 points) while helping his minor midget team reach the finals of the OHL Cup, impressing with 11 goals in the playoffs.

Great competition

"I went to Toronto because I wanted to get drafted in the OHL, so I made a decision to play in the OHL and, by going to Toronto, I could play better hockey," said Robertson, who went in the fourth round (62nd overall) to the Frontenacs.

Instead of opting for a possible landing spot with an American junior team in either the USHL or NAHL, which could eventually lead to a college scholarship, Robertson decided he was best suited to play in one of Canada's top three junior circuits and give up his NCAA eligibility.

"I wanted to play in the highest place possible and the OHL was that way to go, so I chose the OHL," Robertson said. "We sat down many hours, my parents and I, but in the end we just made a decision that I want to play in the National Hockey League. And in order to do that, you've got to play the best hockey possible and that's what it really came down to."

Robertson is four years younger than some of his competitors and teammates in the OHL, which allow roster spots for players as old as 20. But he has adapted well to his role, despite his youth.

Learning curve

"I just had to learn from my teammates, the coaches and the organization to adjust as far as the speed and style of play," Robertson said.

McFarland said Robertson has blended in well and has been accepted by his teammates.

"He's a quiet kid, quiet and confident, who definitely believes in himself," McFarland said. "He goes about it the right way and he's fit in very well with the whole team. It's not always easy for young guys to feel like they belong right away. But right from the start, he's continued to fit in well with the older guys and gained their respect with his play and has handled himself very well away from the rink."

Robertson began playing organized hockey at age 6. He has an older brother Michael, 17, who plays for Detroit Belle Tire, while his younger brother Nicholas, 14, plays in the GTHL.

Robertson has continued his schooling by taking online classes, which allows him a flexible schedule to practice, while living with a billet family in Kingston.

"It's different, but I kind of lived like this last year with mom in Toronto away from my family in Detroit," Robertson said. "But it's given me more responsibility and given me a chance to really adapt to a bigger responsibility and bigger roles."

Eyes the NHL

Robertson will be draft eligible for the NHL in 2017 and his dream is to play there one day. His favorite NHL team is the New Jersey Devils and his favorite player is the ageless wonder, 43-year-old Jaromir Jagr of the Florida Panthers.

With his size and reach, the 6-foot-2, 182-pound Robertson impressed the Frontenacs' scouts and coaches while competing for a roster spot during training camp.

"He definitely came in and made a huge impression," McFarland said. "At the time, when a player comes in and makes a team out of camp, it's a great story for him. He put the time in last summer and was in a lot better shape. He needs to improve in all areas, but he's off to a great start for us and he's part of our success in the first half of the season."

Robertson would probably be the first to admit hockey is both his life and his only hobby.

"Other than school, I like to hang out with my teammates, bunch of good guys," Robertson said.

And as far first half of his OHL season?

"It's going great right now," Robertson said. "I want to keep it up."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, Jan. 8
South Lyon at Northville, 7 p.m.
Salem at Novi, 7 p.m.
Detroit CC at DeLaSalle, 7:30 p.m.
Liggett at Franklin Road, 7:30 p.m.
S.L. East at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Howell at Milford, 7 p.m.
W.L. Northern at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 11
Franklin Rd. at Bradford Academy, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.
Novi at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
Detroit CC at A.A. Richard, 7 p.m.
Harper Wds. at Franklin Rd., 7 p.m.
Stevenson at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Milford at Hartland, 7 p.m.
Lakeland at Kettering, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15
Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
South Lyon at Novi, 7 p.m.
Salem at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
Milford at Grand Blanc, 7 p.m.
Wat. Mott at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
Detroit CC at Country Day, 7 p.m.
Oak. Christ. at Franklin Rd., 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday, Jan. 8
Liggett at Franklin Road, 6 p.m.
Northville at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Novi at Salem, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
Milford at Howell, 7 p.m.
Lakeland at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12
Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
S.L. East at Novi, 7 p.m.
South Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Hartland at Milford, 7 p.m.
Kettering at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15
Luth. N'west at Franklin Rd., 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
Novi at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
S.L. East at Salem, 7 p.m.
Grand Blanc at Milford, 7 p.m.
Lakeland at Wat. Mott, 7 p.m.
BOYS HOCKEY
Thursday, Jan. 7
Northville vs. Salem
at Novi Ice Arena, 7:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8
Novi at Calumet, 7 p.m.
Detroit CC vs. U-D Jesuit
at Hazel Park Arena, 7 p.m.
Lakeland vs. Bay Area
at Bay County Civic, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9
Novi at Hancock, 1 p.m.
Milford vs. Lakeland
at Lakeland Ice Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Northville vs. Stevenson
at Novi Ice Arena, 6 p.m.
South Lyon vs. Franklin
at Kensington Valley I.H., 7 p.m.
Detroit CC vs. Cranbrook
at USA Hockey Arena, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 11
Northville vs. Canton
at Arctic Edge, TBA.
Wednesday, Jan. 13
South Lyon vs. Brighton
at Kensington Valley I.H., 6 p.m.
Novi vs. Salem
at Ply. Cultural Center, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15
South Lyon vs. Sag. Heritage
at Kensington Valley I.H., 5:30 p.m.
Northville vs. Churchill
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Lakeland vs. Howell
at Lakeland Ice Arena, 6:20 p.m.
Milford vs. Pinckney
at Hartland Sports Ctr., 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16
Northville vs. Novi
at Detroit's Clark Park, 4 p.m.
GIRLS HOCKEY
Thursday, Jan. 7
Northville vs. Country Day
at Edgar Arena, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Jan. 9
Novi at B.C. Western Inv., 8:30 a.m.
South Lyon Team Duals, 9 a.m.
Northville, Milford
at A.A. Huron Inv., 9 a.m.
Detroit CC Super Duals, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 13
N'ville, Novi at Salem Quad, 5:30 p.m.
South Lyon at S.L. East, 5:30 p.m.
Milford Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Lakeland at W.L. Central, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15
Detroit CC at Brighton, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16
N'ville, Novi at Chelsea Inv., 9 a.m.
Milford at Dakota Inv., 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 17
CC vs. Hartland, Grandville
at CMU's McGuirk Arena, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 7
Pinckney at S. Lyon (East), 6 p.m.
Milford at W.L. Central, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9
Lakeland at Brighton Inv., 7:30 a.m.
Novi at W. Bloomfield, 7:30 a.m.
Northville Quad, noon.
Detroit CC at Salem Inv., TBA.
Thursday, Jan. 14
Northville at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
South Lyon at Novi, 6:30 p.m.
Hartland at Milford, 6:30 p.m.
W.L. Northern at Lakeland, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15
South Lyon at Wayne Inv., TBA.
Saturday, Jan. 16
CC at E. Grand Rapids Inv., noon.
South Lyon at Wayne Inv., noon.
PREP GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Jan. 7
Northville at Brighton, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12
Northville at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16
Carpus Inv. at Lakeland, TBA.
PREP BOWLING
Thursday, Jan. 7
Detroit CC vs. U-D Jesuit
at Bowl One, 3:30 p.m.
(at Striking Lanes)
Milford vs. Brighton, 3:30 p.m.
S.L. East vs. Howell, 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8
(at Wonderland Lanes)
Lakeland vs. W.L. Central, 3 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 9
(at Canton's Super Bowl)
CC at Plymouth Tourney, 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 11
(at Canton's Super Bowl)
Northville vs. John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
(at South Lyon's Pinz Bowl)
South Lyon vs. Brighton, 3:30 p.m.
Milford vs. S.L. East, 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12
(at Town 'N Country Lanes)
Novi vs. Canton, 3:30 p.m.
Northville vs. Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15
Detroit CC vs. DeLaSalle
at Oak Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16
(at Howell Bow-E-Drome)
Milford vs. Howell, 10 a.m.
South Lyon vs. Pinckney, 10 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 17
Oakland County Tourney
at Astro Lanes, 8 a.m.
COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Jan. 9
Novi Invitational, TBA.
Wednesday, Jan. 13
N'ville, Novi at Stevenson, 6 p.m.
South Lyon at S.L. East, 6 p.m.
Milford at Pinckney Quad, 6 p.m.
Lakeland at W.L. Northern, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16
Plymouth Invitational, TBA.
TBA - time to be announced.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Adams guard torches Novi in 68-63 win

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Rochester Adams featured a one-man wrecking crew Dec. 29 against Novi in the 19th annual Roundball Classic at Harper Woods.

Spencer Littleton, a 6-foot-3 shooting guard, lit it up for a game-high 38 points as Adams held off the Wildcats, 68-63.

The Duquesne University connected on five 3-pointers and went 9-of-10 from the foul line as the Highlanders, expected to be ranked among the top 10 in Class A, im-

proved to 4-0 overall. Joey Ciniti added 13 points for Adams, which trailed 16-15 after one quarter and 33-32 at halftime before taking a 46-45 advantage heading into the final quarter.

Novi senior point guard Kam Hankerson, a Wisconsin-Green Bay signee, scored 17 of his team-high 21 points in the opening half.

Sophomore guard Traveon Maddox added 19 points, while senior forward Johnny Davis and Naji Ozeir chipped in 11 and 10, respectively, for the Wildcats (3-3) who were outscored 22-18 in the fourth

quarter. Adams made 18-of-20 free throws (90 percent) on the night, while Novi was 10-of-15 (66.6 percent).

"It was a hard-fought game on both sides and we took a top 10 team to the limit," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "Littleton is a heck of a player. We just couldn't get enough stops defensively when we needed to and we missed some key shots. But playing a team like this will only help us moving forward."

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Staying in touch with your finances

One week into 2016 and by now we have probably broken or forgotten just about every New Year's resolution we've made. The holidays are behind us and our day-to-day routine is back to the norm. That being said, every year at this time I take the opportunity to remind you there are two things that will significantly help you.

The first is to do a personal family balance sheet. A personal family balance sheet is nothing more than a listing of all your assets and liabilities. Subtracting assets from liabilities gives you your net worth. That number is important, particularly for those who do personal family balance sheets at least once a year. You can see if your finances are moving in the right direction or the wrong direction.

One of the mistakes in doing a personal family balance sheet is overestimating the value of assets. This is particularly true when it comes to collectibles. Just because you think an autographed baseball signed by Al Kaline is worth \$10,000 doesn't make it so. It is important that you value an asset not at what you think it's worth, but what someone else will actually pay for it. In most cases, I tell people not to include collectibles in their personal family balance sheet. For some people with significant value in their collectibles, those



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

obviously should be valued. The true value is not what you think they're worth, but what someone would be willing to pay.

The same is true with your home. Many people overestimate the value of their home. You can use some of the real estate websites, such as Zillow, to get an estimate for your home. To overvalue your home may make you feel good, but it won't help you in understanding your finances.

The other document that everyone should do is a cash flow statement. A cash flow statement is nothing more than a statement that keeps track of what comes into the family household and what goes out. Particularly from an expense standpoint, it is important that you know what is coming out of the family finances. If it actually costs you \$5,000 a month to live, but you estimate it only costing \$3,000, you will run into problems down the road. It is important to be accurate when doing these statements.

You ought to be able to determine within a few hundred dollars every month where your money is going. I cannot stress enough how important it is to know what it costs you

to live. In doing any sort of retirement planning, whether someone is in retirement or preparing for retirement, what it costs to live a month is a key element. It doesn't matter what it costs your next-door neighbor to live a month or what the national average is; those are immaterial. The key is what it costs you to live a month.

It is not sufficient to do a personal family balance sheet and a cash flow statement once and then forget about them. At a minimum, you should do them every six months. This will allow you to stay in touch with your personal financial affairs. I believe once you start getting in touch with your finances, it will create a domino effect and you'll be surprised how fast things can improve from a financial standpoint.

Like everything else in life, the first step is the most difficult. The first time you do a personal family balance sheet or cash flow statement, it will take some time. Once the first ones are completed, future statements are much easier. Being in touch with your finances will result in more money in your pocket, exactly where it belongs.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Send in apps now to sell fireworks this year

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

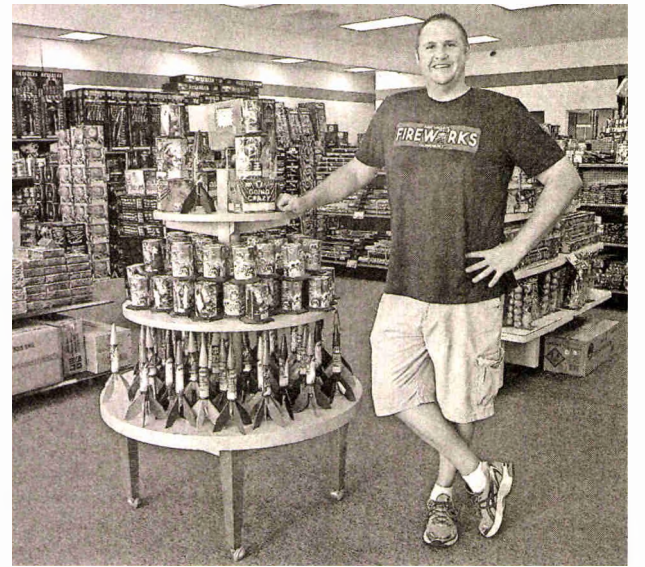
The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Bureau of Fire Services is now accepting applications for those interested in selling fireworks in 2016.

Most communities have seen an influx of tents, shipping containers and brick-and-mortar stores opening since the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2011. For the most part, at least locally, those businesses open in late spring and stick around through the July 4 holiday, traditionally the most popular time for Michigan residents to launch the explosions of red, white and blue.

Historically, Michigan has banned anything that's loud or launches into the air. The 2011 law changed that, giving the OK to formerly prohibited type of fireworks capable of flying high in the air and exploding with a loud bang: bottle rockets, reloadable shell devices, missile-type rockets, roman candles, firecrackers, single-tube devices with report and more.

Jeff Cunmulaj was among those who took advantage of the new law. He opened Jeff's Fireworks in Howell and, last year, a second location in Highland Township. He said 90 percent of what he sold falls under the new consumer law. Eric Konopka, a financial adviser, was another to take advantage of the new law. Last year, he sold fireworks in Lyon Township, Plymouth and Canton.

"No one stands up and claps when I finish a round of golf," he said.



FILE PHOTO
Eric Konopka opened a Michigan Fireworks Co. storefront for the Independence Day holiday season in Lyon Township last year. Anyone interested in selling consumer-grade fireworks must apply with the state first.

"They all stand up and clap and cheer at the end of my fireworks shows."

Selling fireworks, however, isn't as simple as just setting up shop.

The state requires people be licensed to do so and have various reporting requirements.

All consumer fireworks applications and required plans must be submitted by midnight, April 1. Low-impact registrations can be submitted at any time, but must be completed at least 10 days prior to sales. For permanent structures, like a storefront, the application fee is \$1,000. For temporary facilities, like tents, it's \$600 to apply.

State officials said the application process is similar to last year, with minor updates.

The 2016 applicants will continue to have the ability to report their monthly sales and submit their safety fees online. However, applications will be denied for any

applicants who have unpaid safety fees or are missing reports (all zero sales must be reported for the 2015 certificate fireworks season).

When submitting documents for 2016 applications, applicants must submit all of the required documents at the time of application or the application will be denied. Also, each document submitted must include the 2016 Certificate number that was issued during the application process.

To start the log-in and application process, go to the Bureau of Fire Services website and click on the Fireworks link, then "Consumer Fireworks Application and Low Impact Fireworks Registration" to apply.

Call 517-241-8847 or 517-373-7441 or email fireworks@michigan.gov for more information.

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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 **AUTONEUM SITE PLAN NUMBER 14-80. FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLANDS PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 12 SOUTH OF THIRTEEN MILE ROAD AND BETWEEN HAGGERTY ROAD AND CABOT DRIVE.** The subject property is approximately 7.64 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct a 2-story office/research & development building,



consisting of 47,170 square feet of office space, 31,404 square feet of high bay and technical areas and 8,132 square feet of warehouse area. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 22-12-200-023, 22-12-200-024

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.

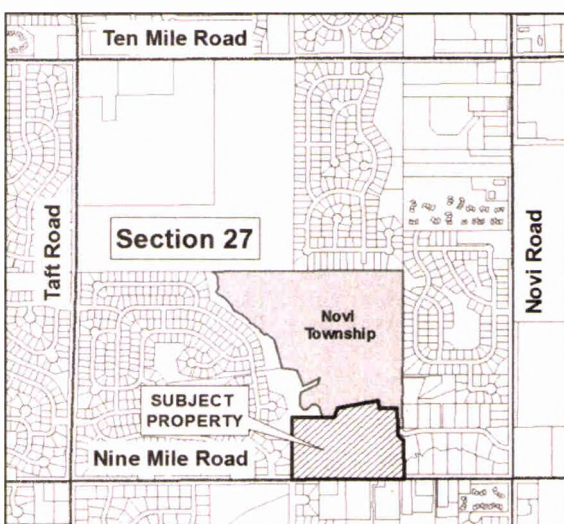
Published January 7, 2016
Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published: January 7, 2016

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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 **MONTEBELLO ESTATES JSP 15-76 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLANDS PERMIT, WETLANDS PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED R-3. ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND IS LOCATED IN SECTION 27, WEST OF NOVI ROAD AND NORTH OF NINE MILE ROAD.** The applicant is proposing a 33 unit single-family detached residential development on a 26.94 acre property. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.



Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-27-452-001

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: January 7, 2016

LO-0000288118 3x8

Welcome the new year by letting go

The whole of human life is a process of letting go. As children, we let go of old friends to make room for new ones, let go of our parents' homes to make our own mark in the world. We let go of old for the sake of the new, we let go of our needs for the sake of the family's, let go of our children so they, too, can make their mark in the world.

As the letting go in our youth seemingly leads to expansion of our outer world (creating a family, home and all the material comforts of the world), the letting go in our later years leads to expansion of our inner world, if we let it. We go full-circle and end up where we started. We may go back to what used to inspire us, invest in our growth, rediscover ourselves or redefine our purpose. All of this prepares us for the ultimate letting go, letting go of our body and returning to the source.

There is a flow to life; to resist that flow is to cause suffering, but to dive in the flow is to gain momentum in finding our truth. A letting go that makes us more of who we are; one that brings ease and lightens the load is a good letting go.

Here are the five key points to ease the process:

Shift your perspective
Letting go is painful when our focus is on what we are giving up. However, when we shift the focus on what we are getting or where we are headed it can give us that much needed relief.

It is better to focus on where we are going instead of where we have been. We can choose how we see the process. If we keep our eyes focused on the rose that has just



Meena Puri
GUEST COLUMNIST

Realize that you do not have to do it all and figure it all out! Why would you impose on your soul to figure out the why of others?

Think of letting go as the ultimate act of self-love. You are only responsible for your actions. Do what you know to do. Create boundaries, cut the emotional cords and invest time in unlocking the treasure that lies within you. That is when the answers will come.

Recognize the process
Realize that resistance is not the final picture. It means you are not there yet — yet being the operative word — and the process is underway. The resistance does not have to mean anything other than that it is natural, it is movement and it is superficial and transient.

The human purpose is evolution as it paves the road to our next life. Letting go is not giving up, it is becoming more of who we are. It is not emptying, it is approaching our true self which is fulfilling.

What we let go becomes part of ourselves, strengthening and carving us into our true self — much like the leaves, when fallen, become part of the tree, strengthening its roots and sustaining it for years to come. It is a beautiful process that continuously fills the gaps and comes back to us multi-fold.

Meena Puri, certified yoga and meditation teacher and registered ayurvedic practitioner, is founder of The Yoga School of Milford and Ayurvedic Healing Center. For more information, go to www.theyogaschool.com or www.ayurvedichealingcenter.com or call 248-685-3489.

bloomed instead of the bud that it was before, we enjoy the flower.

The truth of the rose lies in its bloom and the fragrance it shares. In the same way, our essence/truth is in our deeper self, our inner self. Every experience that takes us closer to our true self is a good experience. Life is an evergreen rose bush, new roses continue to bloom.

Be in the moment

We are usually frightened after or in anticipation of what will happen, but very rarely in the moment. As we master staying in the moment, we are continuously letting go of the moment past and are not anticipating the next.

So we can begin to let all our life become one big letting go experience.

Be quick and adaptable

By not reacting, we can turn any situation around and create an exhilarating victory for ourselves.

This all comes from developing and culturing our nervous system through self-care, self-investment and meditation practices.

Be vulnerable

This is our ultimate strength and defense as it brings lightness, freedom, flow and happiness.

Allow yourself to feel what you feel. Let go of clutter, grudges, limiting beliefs and notice how you feel. Become empty of all that is weighing you down and get full again with what you consciously choose.

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Make sure your résumé is ready for 2016

BY MATT TARPEY
CAREERBUILDER

If you're one of the millions of people whose New Year's resolution list includes getting a new job, the first step is sprucing up that old résumé. Here are some key considerations to ensure that your résumé is up to date in 2016.

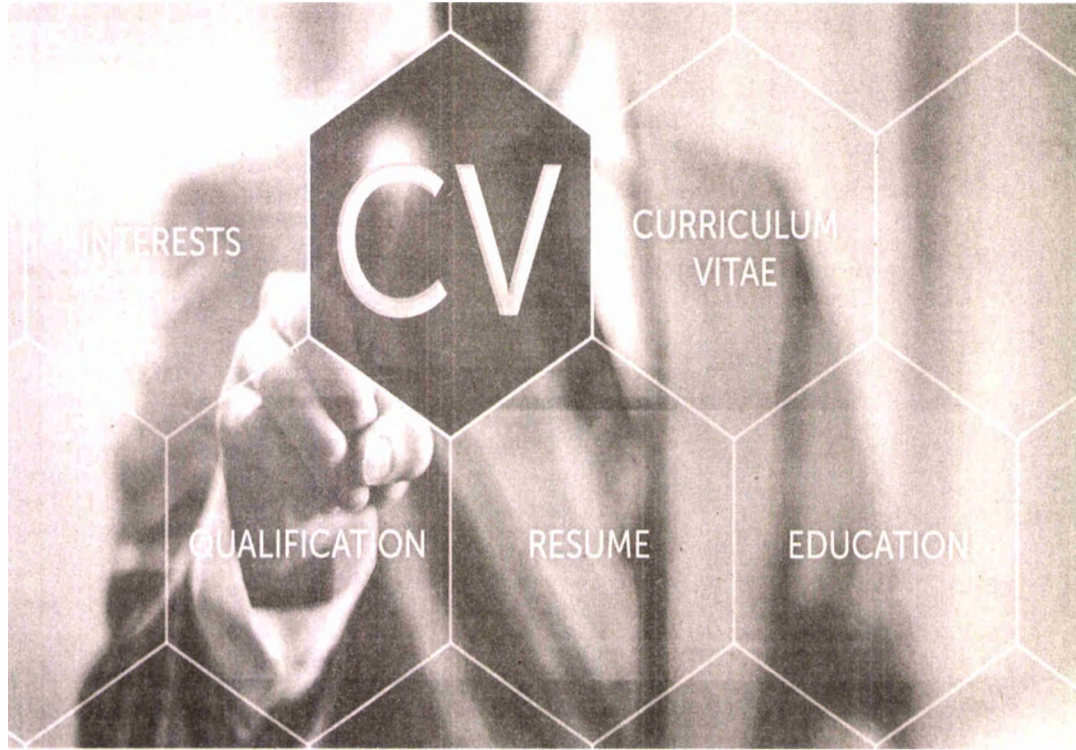
Mobile compatibility

Much of a job seeker's searching and applying can now be done with mobile technology, and much of the employer's side of the process has gone mobile as well. Luckily, the systems and tools employers use will often take care of adjusting your document to fit a smaller screen.

There is a chance that your résumé will be read on a smartphone or tablet, so be sure to take that into consideration, especially in terms of layout and style. Above all, make sure you're using Web-safe fonts to help ensure that the content is correctly transferred.

Cross-channel consistency

One thing that always stands out to an employer on a résumé is a URL to a job seeker's professional webpage or online profile. You already know that recruiters and employers are likely to look at



THINKSTOCK

your Web presence. Providing the relevant links simply makes it easier for them and demonstrates that you have nothing to hide.

However, keep in mind that any page you link to effectively becomes a part of your résumé. That doesn't mean you need to maintain a stilted, professional tone across all platforms, but there should be a clear, consistent undertone of respect and professionalism.

Customization

This isn't exactly a new trend, but it remains one of the most important. Just as you can probably spot a

cookie-cutter job posting or email, employers can tell if they're reading a generalized version of your résumé.

A good strategy for easy customization is to create a master résumé, which includes every single piece of information any employer might want to know about you. Then, for each new job application, copy and paste the portions that relate to the specific opportunity. After fine-tuning some phrasing to tie your content back to the position, you'll have a freshly tailored résumé.

Executive summaries

Whether to include an ob-

jective statement on a résumé is a question that has plagued job seekers for years. While there's no universal answer, there are alternatives. One that is increasing in popularity is the executive summary.

The executive summary is a brief overview of your skills and noteworthy accomplishments, all of which are supported by the information in the rest of your résumé. Essentially, it is your elevator pitch in print. One of the chief benefits is that an executive summary focuses on what you offer the employer, as opposed to an objective statement that emphasizes your personal goals.

Minimalism

In the early stages of the hiring process, recruiters and employers typically don't spend much time on individual résumés. Only after the initial quick pass will they really delve into the details.

With this in mind, keep your résumé simple. Providing too much detail at the point when an employer is looking only for broad strokes can actually have an adverse effect, making it harder for them to find the information they want. Include the most relevant content on your official résumé, and reserve the rest for your professional website. This way, your résumé doesn't get bogged down with too much text.

There are rarely sudden, sweeping changes to the characteristics that make an ideal résumé. Nor are there hard-and-fast style guidelines that get thrown out and rewritten each year. However, making these small adjustments to keep your résumé up to date is still an effective way to increase the likelihood that you'll land a great new job in 2016.

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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Jennifer: (734) 464-2211

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- ACROSS 1 Tuna salad ingredient... 5 Remove by vaporizing... 12 Tough guy's display... 20 Holiday preludes... 21 One heralding a new era... 22 Refusing to face reality... 23 Game with sticks and wheeled skates... 25 Differs in opinion... 26 Choke up... 27 Settled up... 28 Suffix with minimal... 29 Flatten... 30 See... 31 Public sale of seized property... 37 Bother... 38 Le dernier... 39 Rock music genre... 40 Communist Mao... 41 Keyword that helps people find an online video... 46 Economic divides... 52 Bar, legally... 53 Parcels... 55 Foe of Frodo... 56 Tahiti... 57 Free TV ad... 59 Bills or Jets... 62 Started the poker pot... 63 Largest city in Yemen... 66 La... 68 What G-rated films are suitable for... 71 Old cloth... 72 What awards may be laid out on... 75 Last stage... 77 Despite this... 78 Sommeliers' bottles... 80 Partakes of... 81 Ogles... 82 Self-help book... 84 Shrewish... 86 Pitcher's stat... 88 Potpourri... 89 Old flier over the Atl... 91 K.P. veggie... 93 Efface... 97 Antiterrorism legislation of 2001... 101 Combat vehicles in a hobby shop... 103 Felony hated by MADD... 104 Road service gp... 106 Neither here... 107 In-favor vote... 108 Bell Labs, for one... 116 Gen... 117 Trebek of TV... 118 Wahl of TV... 119 Fuentes of baseball... 120 Arthur of tennis... 122 Atomic group... 125 Things hidden in nine answers in this puzzle... 129 Did surgery... 130 Gruel base... 131 Cookie often taken apart... 132 Cuddled-up couples... 133 Flourish... 134 Couples up... DOWN 1 French sea... 2 Fatty fruits... 3 Shouts... 4 Nobel city... 5 Rough husk... 6 Kosh... 7 B'Gosh... 8 Old Renault... 9 Terminus rival... 10 I need grub!... 11 Cook in fat... 12 Center... 13 Cartoonist... 14 PC inserts... 15 So Fine... 16 With neon or xenon... 17 Exodus peak item... 18 Seder staple... 19 NFL Hall of Famer... 24 Holders used during breakfast... 28 Privy to... 30 Soul's Marvin... 32 Bard's eye... 33 Jostled (for) British music co... 35 Pyle's org... 36 So-so grade... 42 November gem... 43 Taxi cabbie played by Danza... 44 Forage crop... 45 Styling goop... 47 Oversew jointly... 48 Gimlet liquor... 49 Errant... 50 Make glad... 51 Fen plants... 54 RR stop... 58 Goblin, e.g... 61 Unknown by Nile reptile... 63 Whale's half-rise out of the water... 64 Iris ring... 65 Bonehead... 67 Scullery... 69 Gang gun... 70 Different... 73 Lead-in to friendly... 74 Brain test, for short... 76 Pin drop... 79 NCO in the... 83 Rocky top... 85 So sorry... 87 Sanctuary... 89 Acerbic... 90 Unyieldingly insistent type... 92 Big name in lens care... 94 In whatever location... 95 Like kebabs... 96 Morales in movies... 98 Ore... 99 Son of Adam... 100 Ecru or fawn... 102 Slew... 105 Stellar... 108 Navarro of Ben-Hur... 109 Split to hitch... 110 Monica of tennis... 111 Apply... 112 Listens to... 113 Link up with... 114 Agenda bits... 115 Puffs... 121 Tuck away... 123 Ripken of baseball... 124 Pickup's kin... 125 Soft lump... 126 Northern Thai... 127 Stately tree... 128 Distress call

19x19 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-134.

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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Crossword Answers - MAYOR, BOILOFF, MACHISMO, EVES, USHERER, DENIAL, ROLLERHOCKEY, DISSENTS, CLOSER, PAID, ISM, RAZE, GAS, GOVERNMENTAUCTION, ADD, GRI, EMO, TSE, YOUTUBETAG, INCOME, GAPS, ESTOP, DOLES, ORC, ISLE, PSA, NFLTEAM, ANTED, SANA, TOYA, ALLAGES, RAG, PRIZETABLE, FINALPHASE, YET, CARAFES, EATS, EYES, HOWTO, NAGGING, ERA, OLIO, SST, TATER, ERASE, PATRIOTACT, MODEL, TANKS, DUI, AAA, NOR, YEA, RESEARCH, INSTITUTE, WWI, ALEX, KEN, TITO, ASHE, MOLECULE, GREEKLETTERS, OPERATED, OATMEAL, OREO, NESTLERS, BLOSSOM, WEDS

Word Search Answers - H, E, X, P, E, C, T, A, T, I, O, N, S, I, E, M, I, T, T, A, U, L, D, L, A, N, G, S, Y, N, E, H, A, P, P, Y, B, A, L, L, O, O, N, S, H, O, L, I, D, A, Y, B, E, G, I, N, N, I, N, G, H, O, P, E, C, E, L, E, B, R, A, T, I, O, N, S, J, A, N, U, A, R, Y, C, H, A, M, P, A, G, N, E, J, O, Y, C, L, O, C, K, M, E, M, O, R, I, E, S, C, O, N, F, E, T, T, I, M, I, D, N, I, G, H, T, C, O, U, N, T, D, O, W, N, M, O, M, E, N, T, O, U, S, C, R, O, W, D, N, E, W, D, A, N, C, I, N, G, N, O, I, S, E, M, A, K, E, R, E, N, D, I, N, G, O, L, D, E, R, E, X, P, E, C, T, A, T, I, O, N, S, P, A, R, A, D, E, S, F, A, M, I, L, Y, P, A, R, T, I, E, S, F, O, O, D, P, L, A, N, S, F, O, O, T, B, A, L, L, R, E, S, O, L, U, T, I, O, N, S, F, R, E, S, H, S, I, N, G, I, N, G, F, R, I, E, N, D, S, T, I, M, E, G, A, M, E, S, T, O, A, S, T, Y, E, A, R

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- Three bedroom, three bathrooms in desirable community
- Large master suite with walk in closet
- Lots of storage
- Beautifully landscaped with wood deck

MLS 215106602 248.684.1065 \$239,900



Charming Three Bedroom!

- Three bedrooms, one bathroom
- Open floor plan
- Large wooded lot with covered front porch
- First floor laundry

MLS 215129387 248.684.1065 \$104,000



Enjoy the Lake Community Lifestyle!

- Four bedroom, one bathroom across from White Lake
- Spacious master bedroom, large great room
- Secluded property
- Fenced yard

MLS 215104521 248.684.1065 \$150,000



Brand new home waiting for you!

- Four bedrooms, three and half bathrooms on over two and half acres
- Large Kitchen with granite counter and island
- Two story great room
- Hardwood flooring throughout

MLS 215091055 248.684.1065 \$599,900



Custom Built Home in Lake Neighborhood!

- Three bedrooms, two and half baths
- Skylights, natural fireplace, ceramic floor
- Wrap around deck
- Heated Garage

MLS 215129136 248.684.1065 \$260,000



Just minutes from Milford!

- Custom home on five lush acres
- Four bedrooms, Five bathrooms
- First floor laundry, pantry, dining room and office.
- Finished walkout with bedroom, bathroom, second laundry, kitchen and wet bar.

MLS 215075647 248.684.1065 \$610,000



Charming Home in Dunham Lake!

- Four Bedroom, Two Bath Dutch Colonial
- .40 Acre Lot
- Short Walk to Lake
- New roof and many more updates

MLS 216000479 248.684.1065 \$209,900



Brick Ranch in the Village of Milford!

- Three Bedrooms, Two Full Baths
- Wood Floors Throughout
- Finished Basement with Full Bath
- Extra Large Garage with Workshop

MLS 21510002 248.684.1065 \$160,000

"Real Estate One and my agent exceeded my expectations throughout the whole process" TK

RENTALS

HomeFinder.com

Apartments For Rent

FOWLERVILLE - Washington Square Apts. 2 bdrm 2 bath, \$825/mo + 1 1/2 month deposit. No pets or smoking. Call Haleigh at 517-521-3412

San Marino Apartments Spas for Rent. Hours 9-5pm 248-685-1524

Homes For Rent

Farmington Hills 3br/2ba ranch, 3 car gar, 2 acres, 2,500 sq. ft. \$1750/mo+ sec. dep. 586-805-2300

Hartland Condo 1br \$575/mo + Dep w/ credit. A/C & Laundry. no pets. 810-632-9244

Rooms For Rent

NORTHVILLE or PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN 1st week with full deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. \$95/wkly. Security deposit. 734-355-6453 248-305-9944

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