

Novi News

BLOWING THE WHISTLE



OFFICIATING RANKS TAKE A HIT
SPECIAL REPORT, B1

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Mom-2-Mom sale on tap

Novi Community Education's Child Care and Preschool is hosting its annual Mom-2-Mom Sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16, in the Novi High School Atrium. Admission is \$2 per adult and children younger than age 12 are free.

Sellers may call to rent a table and/or rack space. Tables are \$20 (five feet round) and rack space may be rented for an additional \$10. All large items are kept next to the seller with no extra fee. Items accepted for sellers to sell range from maternity, baby, toddlers and children up to pre-teen.

For more information, contact Community Education - Child Care at 248-449-1713. All admission proceeds will benefit the Child Care programs.

Ice dancers skate different paths to date with destiny

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Madison Chock and Evan Bates and Cortney Mansour and Michal Ceska have a date with destiny.

They set their course long ago and this week the two ice dance teams will compete against each other, plus three more teams from the Novi Ice Arena, as well as teams from all over the world on their sport's biggest stage, the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships. Ice dance performances are scheduled to take place March 30-31.

All the world championship ice dance competitors have arrived at this point by virtue of hard work, dedication and the number of points they have

accrued from other competitions during the season. They are all at the rink five days a week, skating up to four hours per day and also working out and taking ballroom dance and ballet lessons off-ice a few days per week, but their paths can differ immensely — not only from whence they came, but how they found their partner and the challenges they have faced both separately and together.

This is evident in the stories of Chock and Bates — who placed second at worlds last year and have been coached by Igor Shpilband at the Novi Ice Arena since 2012 — and Mansour and Ceska, who have never been to worlds together and only



SUSAN BROMLEY
Cortney Mansour and Michal Ceska train at the Novi Ice Arena. They will represent the Czech Republic in ice dancing at the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Boston this week.

See DANCERS, Page A3

Safety alerts

Novi Public Safety let's people know right away if there's a problem on the roadways. Sign up to get email or text alerts online at nixle.com to find out if there's an accident causing traffic backups or road closures.

Back-handed shot



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sanjit Gohri puts some body English on a shot as he plays a game of table tennis March 1 with fellow Novi High sophomore Sanidhya Singh. The pair were part of Novi's after-school Ping Pong Club, which meets each Tuesday after school. The group hopes to have a tournament soon against the team from Walled Lake Western.

MDOT: Earliest closure date for I-275 project is April 15

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The earliest motorists can expect a shutdown of part of I-275 this spring is April 15, though an exact date still has not yet been decided.

That was one of the announcements made by one Michigan Department of Transportation official March 23 during a presentation given to members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce on the looming construction project.

"We're planning sometime

here in April. We don't have the exact date," said Adam Penzenstadler, a projects and contracts administration engineer for MDOT and a Livonia resident. "They can start putting out barrels and start bridge-work as soon as they get awarded, which could be early April. But they can't ... close down the freeway until April 15. That would be the earliest that they can close the freeway."

Once the contract is awarded, that contractor will have a certain number of days to complete the project this season and

will set the schedule accordingly.

Southbound I-275 between Five Mile and the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange will close first, leaving motorists headed in that direction to find an alternate route. Northbound traffic will be maintained until the southbound section of roadway is complete and will then shut down while southbound will open. Work will go until the fall.

Work will include concrete pavement replacement, repair of concrete shoulders, drainage improvements, guardrail re-

placement, rehabilitation of 16 bridges along the freeway, sign work and Intelligent Transportation System work, which consists of the electronic message board signs. Landscaping will also be done.

The freeway carries about 177,000 vehicles on it a day, making it one of the highest traveled roads in the state, Penzenstadler said.

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Coach takes five teams to World Figure Skating Championship

Susan Bromley
Staff Writer

Igor Shpilband looks like a proud father as he snapped multiple group photos Friday of 10 grinning young men and women at the Novi Ice Arena.

They are not his biological offspring, but as one of the best ice dance coaches on the planet, they are his progeny, of a sort. He has guided, supported and spent a great deal of time with these athletes and he is accompanying them this week to the 2016 ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Boston.

"It's been a long week, a long year," Shpilband said with a wan smile as he sat down at last to talk in the room at the rink where, the night before, a send-off party was held celebrating the teams going to worlds.

"I feel very strong about these five teams. They are very well-prepared and I hope they will skate at the top of their ability and I think they are ready to do that," he said. "The only thing they can control is their best performance."

Shpilband instructs 12 ice dancing teams at the Novi Ice Arena and the five teams he is sending to worlds came from all over the globe to train here full time. They are Madison Chock and Evan Bates, representing the U.S.; Isabella Tobias and Ilya Tkachenko, representing Israel; Penny Coomes and Nicholas Buckland, representing the United Kingdom; Cortney Mansour and Michal Ceska, representing the Czech Republic; and Kavita Lorenz and Joti Polizoakis, representing Germany. Each team must have at least

one athlete that is a native of the country for which it is competing.

No other club, Shpilband said, has this many teams going to the World Championships. The skaters share in common not only a training center, but a passion and dedication to their sport. And, of course, their coach.

Journey to the top

Shpilband, 51, was born in Moscow and competed in ice dance with success at a young age, winning silver and gold medals consecutively at the 1982 and 1983 World Junior Championships with his former partner, Tatiana Gladkova. He retired from competition in 1986 and, four years later, defected to the U.S., taking up coaching at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills in 1990. He remained there until 2003, when he moved to the Arctic Edge Arena in Canton. There, with Marina Zueva, he coached highly successful teams, including Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani.

He parted ways with Zueva and the Arctic Edge in 2012, moving over to Novi Ice Arena and bringing with him star pupils Chock and Bates.

He soon attracted more teams in the figure skating discipline. The sport featuring ballroom dancing on ice differs vastly from pairs skating. There are no jumps or throws in ice dancing, which requires close proximity of partners at all times (usually touching) and spins in a dance hold. The types of lifts and even music, which must have a definitive rhythm or beat, are also in contrast to pairs skating.

Building champions

Shpilband calls ice dancing a complex sport, requiring great balance,

speed, acrobatic movements and strong physical ability.

"That's only the start, because the sport has progressed so much in the last 20 years," he said. "You also have to be able to connect to the music, move well, train and dance in ballet and ballroom dancing skills and express any type of music on the ice."

Shpilband likes to begin coaching athletes early in order to build a strong base and to give them the time needed to develop individual skating skills before pairing them with a partner. He works with students as young as ages 7-9. His current youngest team member is 11.

He notes he began working with Chock, 23, long ago, and in her saw the passion and commitment that is needed of a champion.

"Everyone has strengths and weaknesses," Shpilband said. "If you start at a young age, you can work on all their skills. The things kids are learning nowadays is hard to learn when you get older. The acrobatic stuff is impossible to learn at a certain age."

Individual strengths and weaknesses are a challenge in matching two athletes.

"You have to have the right partner," Shpilband said. "You can have a great skater, but if (they don't have) a good match, you see one partner holding back another. That's why you see teams splitting up and looking for a perfect match. One will outgrow the other or not keep the same interest; one is more serious than the other. It's a full-time commitment, they are here all day, you have to be committed. There are a lot of sacrifices, they come from all over the world, they've left family and made financial sacrifices — ice and coaches are expensive."

Shpilband has his own



Igor Shpilband at the Novi Ice Arena, where he coaches five of the ice dance teams that will perform in the World Figure Skating Championships this week in Boston.

team of coaches, 10 others who assist him with the skaters in a variety of ways. On-ice during training sessions with him daily is Adrienne Lenda, plus there are coaches for ballroom and ballet dancing and even theater for expression, in addition to the various skating coaches.

Work hard, breathe easy

On the ice by 6:45 a.m. Monday through Friday, Shpilband stays there until 3:30 p.m. every day, giving lessons and working around school schedules, doctor and dentist appointments and more. Off-ice, he spends hours looking for music, editing music, choreographing routines and creating stories to be told.

He must craft a short program and long program for each team to perform each season. They must all have different elements and be unique from previous years and other team performances.

"It's a great moment when you feel, 'Today I created something new, entirely different and something no one has done before,'" Shpilband said.

Creating new programs takes place in spring and summer, typically. At this point, the end of the season and the culmination of their year, all that is left to do is execute. The coach be-

lieves his five teams are very well-prepared to do just that at the 2016 World Figure Skating Championships in Boston, where are scheduled to perform March 30-31.

"When skaters are performing, they are not nervous. The work has been done, they are ready," Shpilband said.

Advice or motivation for each team is individual. He notes that each competition is different and the chapter of life is also unique for the skaters — for some it may be their first world championship, for some it may be their last. The goal may be to place in the top 20 or the goal may be to be crowned champion, but for all his teams, Shpilband's wish is the same.

"You want them to do their best," he said. "Every time they do the program, you do it with them, in your head and in your heart. I can't hold my breath, because with five teams, I would not be breathing by the end of the competition. ... My biggest frustration would be if I feel I could have done something better and didn't do my job 100 percent. Luckily, I don't feel like that very often. I'm happy with all my teams and the improvement they've made. I can't wait for the judges and the world to see."

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DANCERS

Continued from Page A1

moved to Novi six months ago to train under Shpilband.

Mansour, 21, a native of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, has been skating since she was 2 years old.

"Where I'm from, everyone skates," Mansour said. "We like to say we can skate before we can walk. We do skating for school trips. It's a thing."

Indeed, Mansour comes from a family of skaters, with an aunt in Ice Capades gaining the most success. Mansour changed from singles skating to ice dancing early on and moved to Florida with her family when she was 12. Three years ago, she was in New Jersey training, when she knew it was time for a change and a new partner. She moved to Toronto.

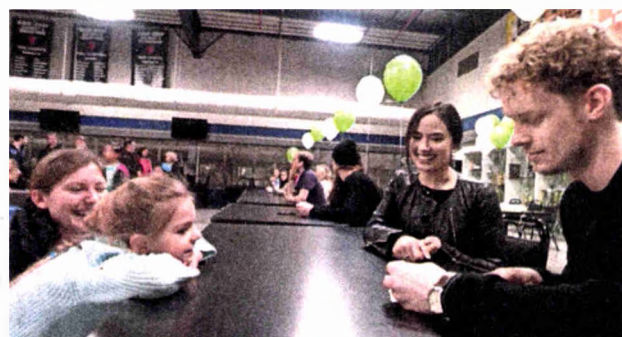
More than 4,000 miles away across the Atlantic Ocean, Ceska was also at a turning point. The son of a figure skater and younger brother of a hockey player, Ceska found himself off the ice for the first time since he was 4 and started singles skating. He had taken up ice dance at 15, a sport that gives an opportunity to achieve something bigger in the Czech Republic. Five years later, after his partner lost interest in the sport, he had no one to skate with.

"I felt horrible," he said. "If you spend most of your life on ice, you just need it."

Making a match, move

In ice dancing, finding the right partner can be a challenge. Mansour checked off a list of considerations: "Do your body types and lines match? Is there a connection? Are you compatible on the ice? Do you look good together?"

Her coaches and his wanted to answer those questions. Mansour flew to Europe for a tryout with Ceska. Ten days later, the match con-



SUSAN BROMLEY
Evan Bates and Madison Chock, World Champions-bound ice dancers, sign autographs for Sally Tsybulevsky, 4, also a figure skater, as her mother, Oxana Tsybulevsky, looks on at the Novi Ice Arena.

firmed, he moved to Canada. Two years later, after a plateau, the pair moved to the U.S.

"This season was crucial for us; we really needed to qualify for worlds," Mansour said. "We needed to get out of our comfort zones and push ourselves. Igor is one of the best in the world, if not the best."

Shpilband agreed to train the couple, but it was the end of October and the competitive season started in September. They moved into a hotel for a week and then moved from apartment to apartment, staying with skaters, until they got an apartment in Novi.

Their off-ice challenge of finding a place to live was not their biggest change, however. Mid-season, they had plenty of on-ice changes usually done in late spring/early summer.

Skaters must get a new routine every year, for both their short program (2:50) and free skate (four minutes) that they perform at every competition. Shpilband was not a fan of the music and choreography that his new team brought, established by their previous coaches. He reworked it.

"We kept changing the music to be bigger and better," said Ceska, 23. "We changed the whole long program. It was a difficult time. The short dance, the music stayed, but not the choreography. ... It's a never-ending story; you try to improve the program as it goes."

Though they strug-

gled, their goal was accomplished — they achieved enough points at competitions, including the European Championships in January, where they placed 13th, to qualify for worlds.

"Our whole season is building to this one competition and we want to have our best dance to this moment," Mansour said. "I think we're pretty confident going in. It helps to calm our nerves. We know we're prepared, but a lot of excitement builds as you get closer and a little nervous energy is good."

Life in a bubble

While Mansour and Ceska's primary goal was to make it to worlds, Chock and Bates want to reach the podium there again, perhaps at the top this time, with five years behind them as partners, the last four in Novi with Shpilband as their coach.

Chock began skating as a 5-year-old in California and, after taking up ice dancing, her parents took job transfers to Michigan so she could train with Shpilband.

"When we were getting ready to move across the country, my parents asked repeatedly, 'Are you sure? Are you sure?'" said Chock, now 23. "How sure is any 13-year-old when they are making a life decision? But indeed, it was the right one."

Bates, an Ann Arbor native, began skating when he was 4 and took up ice dancing as a 9-year-old, even though he didn't like much about it,

because he and his sister received free lessons for the first year under new coaches.

"After a few years, we got a little bit of success and that is always fun," said Bates, 27. "It's easy to keep going when you're doing well."

However, he calls the world of ice skating "a bubble" and Chock concurs. Bates described life as taking the shape of a pyramid, starting with a wider base of people and experiences outside of skating and narrowing as the focus moves to making it to the top.

Skaters at the level they have reached have devoted many hours and much financial sacrifice has been made for their sport. Mansour was home-schooled. Chock had to take some online classes in order to fulfill credits to become a 2010 Novi High School graduate. With skating a bigger priority than education, Ceska never graduated high school. He and Mansour are financially supported by her parents as they pursue the dream.

"We are the fortunate ones, because it has turned out well," Bates said of himself and Chock. "It starts as a hobby, then becomes more serious and, eventually, it's a job. There are a lot of resources that go into it. It's expensive and you can't do anything else if you are pursuing it at the elite level. Most kids can't go to school full time and then it doesn't work out for everyone. You have to make sure the child really wants to do it. You have to listen to your kids."

He says he loves it now and Chock agrees she has no regrets, but adds that she doesn't know if she would put her own children into the sport.

A new chapter

Chock and Bates formed a successful partnership in 2011, after Greg Zeurlein, her ice dancing partner of four years, decided to retire

from competition (he is now part of their coaching team) and after Bates suffered a crippling injury.

His Achilles tendon severed by a skate blade, Bates was off the ice for half a year. During that time, he found himself wondering if he even wanted to skate anymore. He had already competed in the Olympics and skating had dominated his entire life. He took the time as an opportunity to attend college and meet people that were not skaters and experienced life outside of skating, realizing he enjoyed that. When he did finally return to the rink, he realized he had missed the life he knew, too.

Still, the chemistry with his former partner had changed. Ten months after the injury occurred, Bates was back to 100 percent, but in need of a new partner.

Into the picture came Chock. "I started skating with Maddy and it was like a new life and a new chapter," said Bates, who, like Ceska, is not in an off-ice relationship with his on-ice partner. "The chemistry was immediate and I started enjoying skating a lot more than I did before. It was serendipitous that it all happened at the same time. There are not a lot of partners to choose from at the top level. To have the opportunity is like life working out the way it is supposed to."

It has worked very well for them. In 2012, they relocated to the Novi Ice Arena with Shpilband. Since then, they have competed at the 2014 Olympics, won the 2015 U.S. Championship and earned a medal in numerous other competitions, including a silver at last year's worlds.

"We'd like to be on the podium again, but there are a lot of good teams," Chock said. "We're going to fight for that top spot."

Chasing the dream

Cheering them on in Boston will be their families. Ceska's family will sit this one out, as he laughs, "it's kind of far." But he will hear lots of support from Mansour's family, many of whom live in Boston or are from the area. Mansour agreed to skate for the Czech Republic to fulfill her partner's dream of representing his native country in skating, something he at one time doubted he would ever be able to do.

"I am proud to represent the Czech Republic," Mansour said. "I feel the support, it feels great and it's like a third home now. We get more competition experience, because there are not as many teams. It's more controlled if you represent the U.S. or Canada. This way, we can pick our own path."

And they have chosen their own path, just as Chock and Bates and all the teams heading to worlds in Boston have, with the one common denominator being their leader, Shpilband — and their passion for pursuing the dream.

"It's all worth it," Mansour said. "I just think the experience you get from it is so unique and something to really cherish. To get to travel the world is an incredible thing. You get to soak in the different cultures and you get to meet great people from all over the place and we are chasing after a dream we have been dreaming of forever. It's always the Olympics, those big rings you want to get to."

Chock and Evans agree that's where they want to get to also and none of the skaters know what lies beyond Pyeong-Chang, South Korea, in 2018. That is outside the bubble and farther than tunnel vision allows a glimpse.

For now, the World Championship in Boston is in sharp focus.

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Teaching children in an ever-changing world

In 1975, I was a sophomore in college. I remember sitting in my friend's dorm room while he showed me his latest gadget. It was a cassette tape recorder and player. He said that it was the wave of the future. I, who owned the ever-reliable eight-track tape recorder and player, told him he was crazy. I knew that cassettes would never take over the world.

In 1977, Ken Olson, one of the co-founders of Digital Equipment, said, in an off-handed sort of way, "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

I was reading a book recent-



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

ly and I stumbled upon this quote: "The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be."

I am not sure that the future was ever very certain, but it does seem that today things are changing very quickly — and that worries me. It worries me because, as the superintendent of the Novi Community School District, I am responsible for making sure that the

students in our care are prepared for the world in which they will live. I worry because I want to make sure that we are doing the right things in our district to prepare our students for the future.

How is the world changing? In 10 years it is predicted that the No. 1 English speaking country in the world will be ... China. Who would have predicted that 60 years ago? Or 40 years ago? Or 20 years ago?

How is the world changing? The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that today's learners will have 10-14 jobs by their 38th birthday.

While I cannot know the

future, I can control what happens now. Our commitment in the Novi Community School District is to make sure that our students have the skills and knowledge to navigate whatever the future may bring. That requires that we raise our expectations for every student in our district. No longer can we be satisfied that only a certain percentage of our students achieve at a high level. Now we must work to ensure that all students challenge themselves.

I can work to ensure that every teacher has the knowledge and skills to support every student in their class. Ev-

ery student must succeed, not just a chosen few.

The future is what we make it. We may not know the future, but we can be confident that we will be prepared for the future. Some things that we cherish will have to be put away — like my old eight-track tape player. But new things will come to replace them.

And here in the Novi Community School District, we will be ready.

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

Novi High School inducts new NHS members

At total of 82 students from Novi High School were inducted into membership of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held at the school March 14.

Members were selected by a Faculty Council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Madelyn Gardner, Novi High School graduate of the class of 2008 and former officer of Novi's National Honor Society, was the keynote speaker for the event. Gardner emphasized how the standards of scholarship, leadership, character and service are so important as students continue with their college education and career choices for a fulfilling life.

The new inductees join a group of 120 previous members of the organization at Novi High School.

"National Honor Society members are chosen for and then expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community," said Barbara Clift, chapter adviser. "They are the leaders in the school who display honesty, integrity, compassion and scholarship."

The new inductees are: Sai



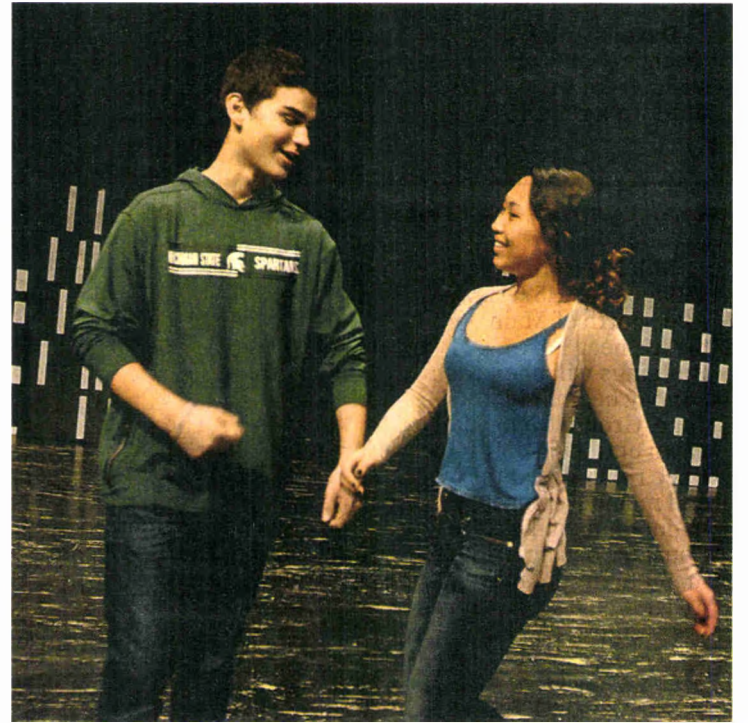
MEGHANA MALLAVARAM

Dominic Gatson is about to receive his Certificate of Membership from National Honor Society adviser Barbara Clift. The current officers are looking on. At the podium is Aarish Medhora. From left, seated at the table, are Brendan Campbell, Megan Hartmus, Mya Brown, Jessica Wu, Maya Grandstaff and Joston Rodrigues.

Abhuri, Molly Anderson, Maya Balaji, Connor Betts, Mihir Bhandange, Subarna Bhat-tacharya, Ashley Bishop, Julie Braeuner, Madison Burt, Max Cai, Lauren Chapman, Rachel Chen, Robert Chen, Aneesh Cherukuri, Riya Chhabra, Aditya Chitta, Claire Cornellier, Hanna Dong, Kate Dowd, Kareen Faisal, Nicholas Forkey, Danielle Fox, Shaily Fozdar, Dominic Gatson, Kyle Geiger, Nathan Graff, Sahana Gubbi, Mehak Gulati, Jaime Gustitus, Hannah Hood-Blaxill, Chad Howell, Shruthi Ilango, Supraja Kalva, Bhavya Kamepalli, Blake King, Emily Kline, Harika Kolluri, Selinah Liang, Audrey Ling, Prarthana Loka, Andrew Lu, Caitlin Mathew,

Nimalan Murugan, Venkatesh Nagalla, Sophie Pebbles, Akash Polakampalli, Arjun Raman, Aditya Ravi, Shradha Reddy, Ben Robbins, Karena Roest, Kiran Rushton, Maithalee Sathe, Alex Schafer, Andrew Schafer, Shilpi Shah, Junwon Shin, Clay Simmon, Sarav Noor Singh, Sanidhya Singh, Prianka Subrahmanyam, Ronit Tiwary, Johnathan Toloff, Vikram Val-lapareddy, Ashwin Vangipuram, Berj Vartanian, Nikith Veluru, Victoria Vianuera, Sarah Wang, Andrew Wells, Alex Wen, Matthew Williams, Kristen Worden, James Wu, Robert Xu, Katherine Xie, Nikhil Yadati, Tian Yeung, Alice Ying, Min Jae You, Carolyn Zhang and Steven Zhang.

Not quite ready for prom time



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tommy Warner greets Unie Guy at the center of the stage March 21 during a rehearsal for the Novi High School Prom Fashion Show. Students tried out their moves and placements on the stage at Fuerst Auditorium that day as they got ready for the next day's show. Novi High's prom is April 30.

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Drop-In Morning Storytime

Time/Date: 10:15-10:45 a.m. Thursday, March 31 through May 5

Details: Storytime fun for toddlers and preschoolers! All ages welcome. Caregivers must accompany children 3 and younger. We cannot accommodate special groups due to space limitations. Just drop in!

Sustainable Landscaping

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31

Details: Drew Lathin, general manager of Creating Sustainable Landscapes, describes core concepts of sustainable landscaping, and highlights the importance of using native plants and rain gardens.

Make Sushi with Ming for Adults

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, April 4

Details: Chef Ming teaches about rolled sushi, from Urimaki to California rolls. Make

LIBRARY LINES

your own began roll and enjoy! Space is limited. Register at 248-349-3020 or online at www.northvillelibrary.org

Downloading eBooks & More with your Kindle Fire

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6

Details: Bring your Kindle Fire and learn how to download free eBooks, eMagazines and music from the library. Amazon Appstore sign-in and library card required. Space is limited. Register.

Poem Journey with Poet Joyce Benvenuto

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7

Details: Celebrate National Poetry Month with Poet Joyce Benvenuto, who will share poems and stories from her new book "Poem Journey: More Poems & Prose from Along Old Grand River" about the generations who have lived on Grand River, both the

river and the road.

Relationship Matter\$ with Mark Robinson

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13

Details: "Handling Sales Pitches" How to protect your interests before you transfer your account or buy an investment like an annuity, IRA or mutual fund. Register online or phone.

Tween Event: Sock Caterpillars

Time/Date: 4:15-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 20

Details: Just for Tweens ages 9-12! Make a fun no-sew, so cute sock caterpillar. Registration begins April 1. Limit 30 attendees. 248-349-3020.

Kidz Time for grades 1-3

Time/Date: 4:30-5:15 p.m. Thursday, April 21

Details: Join this fun program featuring stories, games and crafts about ugly vegetables. Registration begins April 1.

Northville Genealogical Society to host speakers in April

The Genealogical Society will meet at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, April 10, with speakers addressing researching Ohio and immigration and naturalization.

The meeting at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady, will feature Mary Hazlett, who has completed extensive research in Ohio and will share how to effectively conduct own research on Ohio ancestors. Also on tap is Kathy Petlewski, a genealogical specialist at the Plymouth District Library, who will talk about research into immigration and naturalization.

The public is invited to attend, free of charge. The roundtable, "Researching in Ohio," will begin at 1:15 p.m., a short business meeting and refreshments at 2:30 p.m., followed by Petlewski at 3 p.m.

Petlewski is the genealogical and local history expert at the Plymouth Library and has been a genealogist for over 50 years. She writes a column for the National Genealogical Society magazine.

Individual help on genealogy is offered 1-3 p.m. each Monday and also by appointment in the Local History Room at the Northville District Library. For more information, contact Grace Wilfong at 248-349-9079 or go to www.rootsweb.com/~mings.

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MILL RACE MATTERS

Mill Race Historical Village is at 215 Griswold Ave., north of Main Street, near Ford Field. Buildings will open each Sunday beginning in June. Grounds open daily dawn until dusk. Mill Race relies on rentals and memberships to maintain the village. Consider becoming a member or making a donation today; go to www.millracenorthville.org for details.

Upcoming events

Lecture Series: Michigan Lumbering Days and Camp Life: 7 p.m. April 13. No fee. Donations accepted. This lecture sponsored by the Northville Gallery and Northville Spice Merchants. Lecture Series sponsored by the Water Wheel Centre.

Lecture Series: Women's Suffrage: Michigan Women in the Chautauqua Community: 7 p.m. April 27. No fee. Donations accepted. This lecture sponsored by Starving the Gallery and Kindred Spirits Senior Care. Lecture Series sponsored by the Water Wheel Centre.

Vintage Jewelry Tea:

1-3:30 p.m. May 1. SOLD OUT

General Info

Website: www.millracenorthville.org

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

Rentals: Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or Church for a wedding or party. Many

dates are available. More information on our website.

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

Archives: The archives are open Monday and Tuesday.

Office: The office is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millracenorthville.org.

ON CAMPUS

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Approximately 2,000 students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

Michael Fang of Novi, **Spencer Whitehead** of Novi and **Joseph Iaquinio** of Commerce Township made the list.

Grand Valley State

» More than 1,000 Grand Valley State University students participated in commencement ceremonies Dec. 12 at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Students who graduated at the conclusion of the fall 2015 semester in December include:

From Commerce Township: **Ian S. Farquhar**, BS; **Kaitlyn M. Hudspeth**, BBA; **Stacie A. Michaud**, BBA; and **Keri L. Woody**, BSN.

From Northville: **Shaylyn M. Brady**, BS; **Alexander R. Bush**, BS; **Jacqueline P. Gress**, MSA; **Rachel C. Jurczynski**, BS; **Brian A. Makowski**, BS; **Katelyn M. Meck**, BS; and **Victoria E. Smith**, BS.

From Novi: **Tsvetelina P. Atanasova**, BS; **Alexander J. Brizard**, BS; **Derek J. E'lon**, EDS; **Jake S. Gauruder**, BBA; **Sibrey A. McManus**, BBA; and **John S. Shoop**, BS.

University of Minnesota

Alyssa M. Mandilk of Commerce Township has been named to the 2015 fall semester dean's list. She is in the College of Continuing Education.

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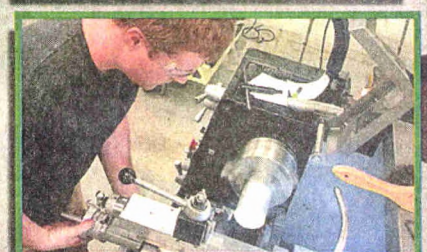
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Shamrocks win first robotics competition

Philip Allmen
Staff Writer

The Detroit Catholic Central robotics teams pulled out its first victory.

The Shamrocks, No. 5907, formed this year with 23 students. Led by five seniors, the team is chock full of underclassmen: three sophomores and 15 freshmen. The team is coached by Joe Lemieux, a Fiat-Chrysler engineer; Heather Vingsness, physics teacher; and Ben Ahronheim, computer science teacher.

The team took part in a district tournament March 24-25 in Livonia and came out with a victory.

"Winning our first ever competition in our rookie year was incredible," Vingsness said. "We were very fortunate to be partnered with such experienced teams."



The Catholic Central Shamrocks won their inaugural FIRST robotics competition.

The Shamrocks compete in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a robotics competition where students build a robot to compete against other schools. This year's theme is FIRST Stronghold, where the team gets six weeks to build a robot, then storm an opponent's castle while defending its own.

Robots had to cross

opponent's defenses, which may include moats, ramparts, gates, rock walls, etc., and throw boulders into their castle. Once the castle was weakened, the team can earn bonus points by climbing it.

"The team put in 20-plus hours per week for six weeks in constructing this year's robot, doing tasks including setting up a wireless robotics network, using a drill press

and bandsaw to assemble our aluminum frame, wiring the robot to a motorcycle battery and sewing a team mascot costume," Vingsness said.

In the Livonia tournament, the event starts with a round-robin type qualifier, where teams are ranked based on their won-loss record and point total. Coming out that, Catholic Central placed 21st out of 40 teams and a 6-6 record.

Vingsness said some game-time issues with wheels shattering and a battery shaking loose caused some problems for the team.

CC students Mark Didonato and Keaton Mulcahy were glad to be at the FIRST in Michigan District Event last Saturday, competing among 40 high school robotics teams.

"We're doing very well," Didonato said Sat-

urday morning. Didonato, 17, is a CC senior who lives in Ann Arbor.

"We have a certain amount of ranking points. We still have a couple competitions left," said Didonato, who plans to study electrical engineering at Kettering University and pursue a General Motors internship. He noted it helps with engineering study and college scholarships.

"I would say it's a lot more friendly than I thought it would be," Didonato said of the Churchill-based competition. "Even on the opposing team, they would help us out."

On the second day during the elimination brackets, the top teams choose alliances to continue the competition. The top-ranked team, No. 1023 Bedford Express from Temperance, picked No. 27 Rush from Clarkston and the Shamrocks as

alliance partners. The alliance was unstoppable, cruising through the tournament undefeated.

Team members spent the day running their robots, scouting upcoming opponents and taking notes on opposing strategies.

In the finals, the Shamrocks faced some local competition: No. 503 Frog Force from Novi and No. 548 Robostangs from Northville, who were in an alliance with No. 5695 Heavy Duty Eagles from Redford.

In addition to winning the district, the Shamrocks also received the Rookie Inspiration Award sponsored by National Instruments.

Catholic Central will compete at its second competition April 8-9 at Woodhaven High School in Brownstown.

Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Novi team reaches finals at robotics district event



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi High School students and Frog Force robotics team members Liwen Chen (left) and Eric Mazza lift their team's robot into the competition ring Friday at Livonia Churchill High. Schools from all over southeast Michigan gathered at the school that day to go head-to-head in FIRST robotics team competition. Novi's team has won the Chairman's Award for the last six years, a prize given to the team with one of the highest performing robots and staff during a competition.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frog Force team members (far left) control their robot in the tournament area. Robots had to scoop up, carry and then shoot balls into a basket area in order to gain points. Robots, under the control of their human programmers, also had to dodge obstacles and other robots.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Supporters of Novi High cheer on from the stands at Livonia Churchill.

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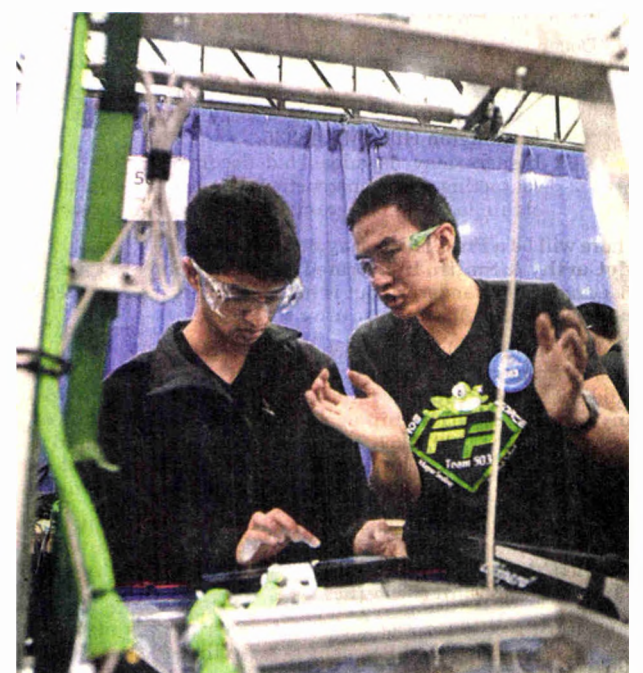
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Frog Force team members Anil Palepu (left) and Liwen Chen go over some information before getting their robot ready for the games. The team advanced to the finals.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Driver misses highway, nearly hits cop

A driver who was struggling to find the expressway but almost hit a police officer's patrol unit was stopped by the officer at 3:12 a.m. March 18 on North Kavovich Drive, near West Oaks and Novi Road, after failing to yield to traffic.

The officer smelled intoxicants coming from the vehicle and asked the woman how much alcohol she had consumed. She said not too much, then stated she had a couple of drinks, then advised she'd had approximately three rum and Cokes within about four hours, a report stated. She later noted she'd had six rum and Cokes, as well as a shot.

She told the officer she had not seen his vehicle and was having difficulty locating the expressway. He instructed her to exit the vehicle and observed that her pants were covered in vomit, as well as the inside of her door and floor of her vehicle. A preliminary Breathalyzer test showed she had a blood-alcohol content of 0.097 percent, over the legal limit. In Michigan, the legal limit is 0.08 percent. She was arrested for operating while intoxicated and also cited for failure to yield to traffic.

ed for operating while intoxicated and also cited for failure to yield to traffic.

'Real tired'

An alleged drunken driver crashed into a "Novi Shopping Center" sign at about 3:48 a.m. March 21 on northbound M-5, south of 12 Mile Road, destroying it.

An officer responded to the scene of the accident and met with the suspect, who was sitting in his family's vehicle, which met him at the location after the crash. He was propping himself up on the side of the vehicle and said he was fine other than a small cut on his hand.

The officer could smell intoxicants coming from the man and asked if he'd been drinking, to which he stated he had a couple of beers. He said he was on his way home from work and was "real tired" and crashed off the side of the road. A preliminary Breathalyzer test showed he had a blood-alcohol content of 0.17 percent. He was arrested for operating while intoxicated, causing an accident.

Egged

A motorist said he was egged at about 11:15 p.m. March 19 while on west-

bound 10 Mile Road, approaching Taft. He reported the incident to police the following day, saying an unknown dark SUV drove past him east-bound and threw at least two eggs at his vehicle. He believes teen-aged kids are responsible.

Multiple chips were observed to the driver's side quarter-panel and egg had also dried on the windshield, driver's side mirror and other painted surfaces. He estimates repairs could reach a couple of thousand dollars. A report was made for insurance documentation. There are no suspects.

Belt or bust

An attempt to retrieve a belt resulted in the arrests of two individuals.

Novi Police were alerted to a disturbance on Maryland Avenue in the Novi Meadows trailer park at about 12:18 a.m. March 19, where the complainant reported a group of people were trying to get inside the residence and threatening to harm the homeowner.

The suspects' vehicle, a gray Charger, left the scene and was located on Napier, south of 10 Mile Road, and stopped. The four individuals in the

car were questioned and said they were coming from Meijer. A female suspect then admitted she was trying to get her belt back from her friend. She said she did not threaten anyone.

The officer could smell intoxicants, as well as burned marijuana, coming from the vehicle. A preliminary Breathalyzer test of an underage person in the car showed she had a blood-alcohol content of 0.103 percent. She said she'd been drinking liquor at her mother's house a few hours prior. An open fifth of vodka was located under the front passenger seat and was disposed of. She was arrested for minor in possession of alcohol via consumption and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. The driver was arrested for driving while license suspended.

Mom and dad's beer

A call about a suspicious truck parked on Trans X Road at about 8:03 p.m. March 22 turned out to be three males "hanging out" drinking beer and in possession of marijuana. They all admitted drinking and three opened half-drunk beers were found, as well as an unopened can of beer and a bottle of beer that came

from one of the subject's parents' refrigerator without their knowledge.

There was also a glass jar containing marijuana. Preliminary Breathalyzer tests did not register blood-alcohol content. One of the subjects was arrested for minor in possession and another was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Unregistered since 2008

A woman whose vehicle had not been registered in the past eight years was stopped by a Novi police officer at 3:06 p.m. March 18, on northbound M-5, north of 13 Mile Road, after it was noted the vehicle had a yellow registration tab and rusty plate. The woman admitted her vehicle had not been registered since 2008 and she did not have a valid license. Six grams of marijuana were located in the glove compartment. The woman was arrested for driving while license suspended and possession of marijuana.

Wise to wire fraud

A hair salon owner did not fall victim to a fraud attempt.

The man told police he received a call shortly after noon March 19 from

a suspect with an accent claiming he worked for DTE Energy and that the man needed to go to a CVS, withdraw cash and wire it to them in order to pay off an energy bill debt or the power to his business would be shut off.

He is in good standing on his bills and did not send any money to the apparent scammer.

Job fail

Police were called at about 11:50 a.m. March 19 to a business on Heslip Drive after the owner reported a man he did not hire was refusing to leave the premises.

The owner reported that he had the suspect do detailing on a vehicle to test whether he met the standards to be hired. When the work was found not to be up to par, the suspect was told he would be paid for the work he performed and a check would be mailed, but he wasn't going to be hired. The man disagreed with the evaluation, but was gone by the time police arrived. Contacted by phone, he told the officer he should have been paid that day if he was fired as he believes he was already hired and paid by the hour.

-- By Susan Bromley

Protect yourself from 'doxing' and other illegal activities

You know, I like to keep you up to speed (speed limit that is, never over the speed limit) and buckled up on the latest terms, catchphrases and all around slang. Well, there is a new term, or maybe it's not so new, but not being a millennial (someone born between 1980 and 2000), you may have not heard of it. Maybe this term is just more popular now because we hear about it in the media. This week the question came in: "What is doxing?"

The term "doxing" is slang for documents or "docs," which is the compiling of information in document form. "Doxing" is the use of the Internet to compile in-



Sgt. Michael Sura
ASK A TROOPER

formation on someone and then broadcast that information about the person. The information collected is usually what we put out about ourselves on social media websites. Some of the information is also obtained through illegal means such as hacking into computer systems. People who call themselves "hacktivists" (I think that one is self-explanatory) use this. That, in its simplest form, is what "doxing" is. I am sure the next

logical question would be: Is it legal? Let me answer that with a couple of questions for you: Is stalking someone illegal? Is cyberbullying, extortion and harassment against the law? Is using someone else's personal information for financial gain, otherwise known as identity theft, against the law? Yes, "doxing" is illegal. In other words, break the law and the men and women of law enforcement will "drop a case on you" (file a criminal complaint).

There are a number of things you can do to deter such attempts and stay safe. First, be aware of security and privacy settings on your accounts. Be selective about who you share

information with and limit how often you post about your location (especially if it's your home). Do not use the same password for multiple accounts. Routinely update computers, devices and software with the latest security fixes. Use anti-virus software. Pay close attention to links and attachments in email messages. Do not open anything that looks even remotely suspicious. If it's legitimate, the person can always send it again.

Also, be cautious of

social engineering with phone calls claiming to be from something familiar to you and asking for personal information. Add protection to your email, social media and online bank accounts using two-factor authentication techniques. Choose unique, strong passwords for each of your accounts and change your passwords regularly.

Be on the lookout for other people accessing your personal accounts. Monitor email and social media accounts for suspi-

cious messages or messages appearing from you, but that you did not send. Monitor bank and credit card accounts for unauthorized charges.

Remember, as always, that anything you post on social media might be used against you. Once it's online, you cannot take it back.

If you have questions or comments, email them to askatrooper12@gmail.com, or mail them to Ask A Trooper, Michigan State Police Brighton Post, 4337 Buno Road, Brighton, MI 48116.

CITY OF NOVI
REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LAND USE
OR SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
PSLU16-0002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applicant Rose Senior Living is requesting Special Land Use approval at 44225 Twelve Mile Ste C118 parcel 50-22-15-200-112. The applicant is requesting approval to use a portion of the parcel for service of alcoholic beverages in accordance with Section 2525 of the Zoning Ordinance. A public hearing will be held on **April 14, 2016 at 10:30 AM** in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan to consider the request. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department.

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 Ten Mile Road, Novi MI 48375 and must be received prior to **April 13, 2016**.

Published: March 31, 2016

LO-000277134 3x2.5

Novi Community Schools

Sealed bids for the Novi Community Schools' Bid Package #4A, consisting of the Novi High School Addition & Remodeling Project, will be received until **11:00 A.M.** Local time on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016** at the Novi Community Schools' Educational Services Building located at:

25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374
ATTN: Mr. Steve Barr, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations

Bids received after this time and date will not be considered or accepted and will be returned to the bidder unopened. Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

120: Painting

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP Architecture, Inc.** will be available for public inspection at the main office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room; Construction Association of Michigan (CAM); Reed Construction Data; and Builders Exchange Lansing.

Bid Documents will be available beginning at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 via the following:

- Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.
- Bidders may download bid documents from Gradebeam.com, free of charge, by contacting the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith at (248) 427-8400 to obtain log in information for access to the project documents.

There will be a Pre-Bid Meeting held on **Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the office of McCarthy & Smith, Inc.** located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The meeting is not mandatory, but is highly recommended. Attendees desiring to visit the site will have the opportunity to do so after the meeting.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00 41 26), Proposal Execution Form (Section 00 42 00), and the Iran Economics Sanctions Act Affidavit. **The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by Section 1267 of the Revised School Code, as amended, MCL 380.1267, and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. The Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form may be found in section 00 42 10 of the Bidding Requirements & General Conditions Manual.**

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Novi Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder may be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price.

Novi Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding, and to accept a bid other than the lowest bid.

Published: March 31, 2016

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(NW corner of Orchard Lake & 12 Mile Rds., corner store behind Starbucks)
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248-553-7720
watchbandsplus.com

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Election changes among new laws in last three months

Kathleen Gray
Michigan.com

In the last three months, several controversial bills were signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder, including changes to election law that could have an impact on thousands of voters.

The GOP-controlled Legislature, on mostly party-line votes, eliminated straight-ticket voting, which allows voters in most elections to fill in one circle on the ballot for either all Republican or all Democratic candidates. Local clerks opposed the change, saying the option helps speed voting lines, which tend to get quite long, especially in urban areas during presidential election years.

Voters have twice before repealed efforts by Republicans in the Legislature to end straight-ticket voting. But this time, legislators added an appropriation bill, which means it can't be repealed by a vote of the people.

Other election bills signed into law by Snyder include a restriction on local officials from communicating with voters about ballot proposals in the 60 days before an election. That



Julie Law and Eric Rasmussen of Milford finish up voting in Michigan's presidential primary March 8. Michigan Republicans amended several election laws in the Legislature's last session of the year.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

bill has been put on hold by a federal judge as an infringement on the speech of local officials. The House of Representatives passed a bill that clarified the issue by saying local officials can communicate — but not advocate — for a ballot proposal, and took away the 60-days before an election provision. But the bill has stalled in the Senate without a hearing.

Snyder also signed two bills into law this year that will send \$58 million to Flint to help pay water bills and to provide for a variety of other services for Flint residents who still are

having to deal with the public health crisis caused by lead leaching into their water system.

Other new laws include: the administration of ignition locking devices used for people who have been convicted of drunken driving; tax breaks for data storage centers, primarily benefiting a company moving into Kent County, and an expansion of the dark sky preserves program.

Bills passed in 2015, but signed this year
PA 251-252: (SB 616-617) Sales and use tax exemptions for a data storage center in Kent

County. Sponsors: Sens. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton; Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford.

PA 253-256: (SB 518-519 and HB 4742, 4744) Update references to the Uniform Interstate Family Law Act to comply with federal regulations. Sponsors: Sens. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford, and Judy Emmons, R-Sheridan; Reprs. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, and Clint Kesto, R-Commerce Township.

PA 257: (HB 4658) Allow for court-ordered collections of judgments against the state. Sponsor: Rep. Mike McCready, R-Birmingham.

PA 258-264: (SB 418, 425-426, 612-614 and HB 4685) Create a qualified airport fund and allow sales and use tax revenue generated from aviation fuel to go into the fund. Sponsors: Sens. Wayne Schmidt, R-Traverse City; Goeff Hansen, R-Hart; Rep. Earl Poleski, R-Jackson.

PA 265: (SB 446) Repeal the sunset on a law that gives the Natural Resources Commission authority to issue orders regarding the feeding of deer and elk during hunting season. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

PA 266-267: (SB 492-493) Allocate employer responsibilities between franchisor and franchisee. Sponsor: Sen. Jack Brandenburg, R-Harrison Township.

PA 268: (SB 13) Eliminate straight-ticket voting. Sponsor: Sen. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy.

PA 269: (SB 571) Prohibit local officials from talking about ballot proposals in the 60 days before an election; allow corporations, but not unions, to make deductions from employee paychecks for super PAC contributions; allow campaigns to shift money from one campaign cycle to another, in essence doubling the campaign finance limits for some candidates. Sponsor: Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake.

Bills passed and signed into law this year

PA 1: (HB 4983) Allow free entrance into state-operated public boating access sites on free fishing weekends. Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Rendon, R-Lake City.

PA 2: (HB 4604) Exempt certain agriculture practices from the soil erosion and sedimentation permit process. Sponsor: Rep. Brett Roberts, R-Charlotte.

PA 3: (HB 5220) Provide \$28 million for a variety of services related to the Flint water crisis. Sponsor: Rep. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing.

PA 4-5: (HB 4459-4460) Allow inclusion of emergency contact information on drivers licenses and state identification cards. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

PA 6: (HB 4535) Exempt law enforcement officers from the requirement of having to get licenses to purchase, carry or possess a pistol. Sponsor: Rep. Lana Theis, R-Brighton.

PA 7-8: (SB 232-233) Modify the definition of an auto dealer for sales and use tax purposes. Sponsor: Dave Robertson, R-Grand Blanc.

PA 9-10: (SB 539-540) Modify the administration and distribution of higher education promise zones. Sponsors: Sens. Goeff Hansen, R-Hart; Jim Ananich, D-Flint.

PA 11: (HB 5023) Expand the locations for dark sky preserves. Sponsor: Rep. Pete Petta, R-Presque Isle.

PA 12: (SB 328) Modify the grade and duties of state police law enforcement officers. Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton.

PA 13: (SB 303) Expand authority for the investment of money in perpetual care and maintenance funds for cemeteries and funerals. Sponsor: Sen. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy.

PA 14: (SB 394) Make multi-unit housing inspections discretionary, unless a complaint is received by a township. Sponsor: Sen. David Robertson, R-Grand Blanc.

PA 15: (SB 615) Prohibit one governmental entity from collecting a judgment against another municipality that has levied a tax to pay a legal judgment. Sponsor: Sen. Wayne Schmidt, R-Traverse City.

PA 16: (HB 4455) Modify the process for inspecting bridges. Sponsor: Rep. Ben Glardon, R-Owosso.

PA 17-20: (HB 5070-5071 and 5073) Define employer responsibility between franchisee and franchisor in wages and in the Occupational Safety Act. Sponsors: Reprs. Eric Leutheuser, R-Hillsdale; Pat Somerville, R-New Boston; Nancy Jenkins, R-Clayton; Daniela Garcia, R-Holland.

PA 21: (SB 513) Rename a bridge over U.S.-10 as the Seaman Aaron D. Ullom Memorial Bridge. Sponsor: Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland.

PA 22-23: (HB 4583) Modify the fee for motorcycle safety courses and waive the requirement for tests for people who have completed a safety course. Sponsor: Rep. Jim Tedder, R-Clarkson.

PA 24: (HB 136) A supplemental budget bill of \$30 million to help Flint residents with water bills. Sponsor: Sen. David Hildenbrand, R-Lowell.

PA 25: (HB 4888) Allow assessors to maintain property tax records electronically. Sponsor: Rep. Holly Hughes, R-White River Township.

PA 26: (SB 503) Modify the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act for adoptions. Sponsor: Sen. Judy Emmons, R-Sheridan.

PA 27: (HB 4758) Provide for mandatory redemption of drain financing bonds. Sponsor: Rep. Al Pscholka, R-Stevensville.

PA 28: (HB 4727) Revisе regulations for tall meteorological structures around airports. Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona.

PA 29-30: (SB 554-555) Allow for the use of electronic continuing education tracking services for health occupations. Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton.

PA 31: (SB 56) Modify the salary formula for judges. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

PA 32-34: (SB 176, 357, HB 4980) Provide for the Secretary of State to do oversight of ignition interlock devices for use by people who have been found guilty of drunken driving and set guidelines for punishment for providing false information about the devices. Sponsors: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton; Rep. Clint Kesto, R-Commerce Township.

PA 35: (SB 334) Waive the requirement for a written report of child abuse or neglect under certain circumstances when an online report form is used. Sponsor: Sen. Judy Emmons, R-Sheridan.

PA 36: (SB 588) Authorize tribal conservation officers to demand hunting, fishing or fur harvester's licenses. Sponsor: Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

PA 37: (SB 680) Name the new patient program center at the Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital the James K. Haveman Center for Activity, Rehabilitation and Therapy. Sponsor: Sen. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

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

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

COLEGROVE



DOUGLAS Age 67, passed away March 21, 2016. He was born December 7, 1948 in Southfield, son of the late Richard & Louise Colegrove. Doug was a proud Army veteran serving in the Vietnam war. He looked forward to his monthly poker/ fishing group and enjoyed square dancing with his wife. He will always be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. Doug is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Christine; his sons: Keith (Nora) Colegrove and Steve (Jaime) Colegrove; his loving granddaughter, Abigail and his brother, Paul (Sarah) Colegrove. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and loving friends.

www.phillipsfuneral.com

DUNMEAD



JAMES M. "JIM" Age 62 passed away suddenly on March 17, 2016 at his home. Jim worked in the transportation business for over four decades. Family was very important to him as he loved spending time with his kids. He was always a joker and enjoyed making people laugh. His hobbies included watching sports, going to his kids sporting events and loved Ohio State as well as the Browns and the Indians. Proud father of Corey Dunmead and Lindsay (Bobby) Oberschlake. Happy grandfather of one on the way; son of Joan and the late William Dunmead; brother of Bill (Peggy) Dunmead, Dave (Susan) Dunmead, and Cathy (Jim) Underwood. Jim is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Former husband of Connie Kogowski. Services were held at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (Btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Memorials may be made to Providence Heart Institute, c/o Providence Health Foundation, 47601 Grand River Ave., Ste. A207, Novi, MI 48374. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

LONN



JUNE ELIZABETH age 92 of Howell, Michigan and Fairhope, Alabama, passed away Sunday, March 27, 2016. She was born March 11, 1924 in Adrian, MI, daughter of Cecil and Lula (Moore) Adkins. Widow of the late Victor Lonngren. She is survived by her loving children, Judy (Bob) Annett of Howell, Vickie (Ian) MacDonald of Alabama, Patricia (Bart) Harper and Libby (Tom) Martin, both of Monroe, MI and Vic (Lynne) Lonngren of Brighton; also nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and special friend, Dave Bird. June enjoyed playing cards, cooking for her family and friends, traveling, spending time on the lake in Canada and her retirement in Alabama. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to the Livingston County Humane Society. Please sign the family's online guestbook at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

WEDENOJA



MARY J. (NEE BOYLE) Age 90, died on March 19, 2016. She had been living in Denver, Colorado, since 1999, and was a long-time resident at Brookdale Parkplace. She was born in Milford, Michigan, in 1925, to the late Vincent E. and Celia Boyle. She graduated from Milford High School in 1943. Many graduated from Cleary College with a business degree in 1944 and subsequently became their registrar. She then became an executive secretary for the Kaiser-Frazier car company in Ypsilanti, Michigan. While she was raising six children, she earned her teaching degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1969. As a student, her favorite place to write papers was next to the washing machine. She taught elementary school students in the Wayne-Westland school district in Michigan and in Lansing, Illinois, for many years before she retired. She also lived in Detroit, Flint, Wayne, Livonia, Plymouth, and Northville, Michigan; and in Lansing, Illinois. Mary was an avid and accomplished bridge player and investor, and she enjoyed watching tennis tournaments. Earlier in life she played tennis and also the piano. She had a creative side and a sharp mind. She loved to read. Mary had been known to advise people to "Make good memories." She will be dearly missed by her cherished family, friends, and acquaintances who have been fortunate to know and to love her. As she once commented, "What's not to like?" Mary was preceded in death by her husband Edwin, a former engineer at Ford Motor Co.; her brother Vincent T. Boyle; and her sister Nancy Wiernik. She is survived by her six children: Marilyn Wedenoja Ph.D., of Ann Arbor, MI; Linda, of Chicago, IL; Nancy (Phil) Calliguri, of Salt Lake City, UT; Edwin Jr., of Lakewood, CO; Kay (John Sullivan) Taylor, of Denver, CO; and Paul, of Guilderland, NY; her granddaughter Emma Taylor-Kilian, of Denver and Boulder, CO; her grand-pet Molly, of Denver, CO; her siblings Martin Boyle, of Milford, MI, and La Mesa, CA; Margaret (Bill) Hendriksen, of Kalamazoo, MI; Joyce Coe, of Walled Lake, MI; a number of grand and great grand step children; and dozens of nieces and nephews. A graveside memorial service and burial will take place at Saint Mary Cemetery in Milford, Michigan, this summer. Donations in Mary's memory can be made to: Mothers' Scholarship Fund at Eastern Michigan University www.emich.edu/foundation/ give Hillary for President campaign hillaryclinton.com/contribute/ donate Catholic Charities ccsem.org/ donate

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

Northville Christian Assembly

Location: 41355 Six Mile
Contact: 248-348-9030
Web: www.ncalife.org
Sundays: 9-10 a.m. Sunday School for adults/youth/children; 9 a.m. Contemporary service in sanctuary; 10:15 a.m.: Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210).
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.; Adult elective classes; junior and senior high ministries; children's programs, Nursery and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade); call 248-348-9031.

Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life

Details: Events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year — children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs and community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom and Leah Susskind; 248-790-6075; rabbi@novijewishcenter.com
Web: www.novijewishcenter.com

Novi United Methodist

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile,

Novi
Contact: 248-349-2652
Web: www.umcnovi.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Novi-United-Methodist-Church/59782031433>
Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday
Peace Vigil: noon first Sundays in front of the church. Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.

OakPointe Church

Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile, Novi
Contact: 248-912-0043
Web: www.oakpointe.org/lifegroups
Worship Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. Sunday.
ReNew Life Group Ministries: 7-9 p.m. Monday (groups meet weekly)
Women's Life Groups Ministries: 7 p.m. Tuesday; 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Men's Life Groups Ministries: 6 a.m. Friday; at the church and various locations

Oakland Baptist Church

Location: 23893 Beck Road, Novi
Contact: 248-982-4041
Web: www.oaklandbaptist-novi.org

Orchard Grove Community Church

Location: 850 Ladd Road,

Walled Lake
Contact: 248-926-6584
Web: www.orchardgrove.org

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township
Contact: 734-453-0326, Ext. 221

Our Lady of Victory

Location: 132 Orchard Drive, Northville
Contact: 248-349-2621
Web: www.olvnorthville.org
Saturday Worship: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church

Location: 54899 Eight Mile, Northville
Contact: 248-374-2268
Children (5-10) & Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Our Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Location: 1200 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Contact: pastor Bill Burke; 734-927-0891
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

Fox Run publication focuses on ecosystem

Nature's wonder found at the 108-acre Fox Run retirement community is celebrated and examined in Fox Run Ecos, an annual journal produced by residents and employees that helps people better understand the community's ecosystems and their nurturing impact on the greater Novi area.

"We want to stimulate interest and learning

about life in the fascinating nature worlds that exist within Fox Run," said resident Doreen Poupard, a former Novi city councilwoman who is a member of the publication's editorial board. "And we want to do it in a way that is easy to comprehend."

The content in Fox Run Ecos — supported by four-color photography —

covers a wide spectrum of nature-focused subject matter. For example, a story explains how plant resilience is achieved by injecting insecticide and fertilizer directly into Fox Run-planted trees and by sealing chemicals inside and quickly distributing throughout the tree trunk, branches and leaves.

Another story talks

about the manner in which selecting and nourishing diverse plants attract a variety of butterflies and hummingbirds.

Yet another story tells how water flow through Fox Run's campus nourishes social-ecological life systems in the neighboring Walled Lake and the Rouge River watershed.

"Our campus has a wonderful presence in that supports the entire city of Novi ecosystem," Poupard said. "We want to tell everyone about it."

Hundreds of copies of Fox Run Ecos are distributed to civic, business and nonprofit organizations, as well as to city of Novi, Oakland County, state of Michigan and U.S. elected government officials.

Recipient organizations often comment favorably about the publi-

cation, especially when it explains the interaction of Fox Run's ecosystems with neighboring Berry Lake Nature Preserve, Long Nature Park, Lakeshore Park and Pavilion Shores Park.

Joining Poupard on the Fox Run Ecos editorial board are Joslen Letscher, Brian Taylor, Leonard Gringlas and Don Boufford. Joslen Letscher is primary author and photographer. The publication is now in its fifth year.

Your Invitation to

Worship

Whitmore Lake

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
10774 Nine Mile Road
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

Novi

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

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Fr. Bob LaCroix, Pastor
Fr. Beto Espinoza, Associate
Parish Office: 349-6847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org

Milford

SAINT GEORGE'S
(an Episcopal Community)
"Practicing Jesus' Love, Daily"

- Communion 8am & 10am, Sundays
- Nursery, Sunday School 10am
- Bible Study 10:30am, Mondays

stgeorgesmilford.org
801 E. Commerce Street, Milford 48381

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Preschool, Pre-K & Kdg. - Mo. Synod
620 General Motors Rd., Milford
Church office: (248) 684-0895

Worship Services: Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Bible Study: Sunday 10:45 a.m.
Rev. Martin Dressler

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
www.faithcommunity-novi.org

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM
"Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
40700 W. Ten Mile Rd. 248-427-1175

Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm
Good Friday Prayer Service 9:30 am
Saturday Easter Vigil 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday 8 am & 10 am
www.holycrossnovi.org

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
VISITORS WELCOME!
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-684-5695
Pastor Steve Swayze

Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Young Adults Dinner/Bible Study, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
Awana, 3 yrs old thru 5th grade (Sept.-March)
and youth group for 6th grade and older
Website: milfordbaptist.org

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pastor Bryant Anderson
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805
www.milfordpc.org

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School age 3 thru 5th grade @ 10 a.m.
Youth Group 10 am - Grades 6-12
A heritage of area worship since 1836

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mbccc.org

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

OAK POINTE CHURCH
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Saturday Worship 5:15 p.m.,
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone (248) 912-0043
www.oakpointe.org

First Church of Christ, Scientist
All are welcome at all services
905 E. Commerce St. Milford, MI 48381

Sunday Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School ages 3-20: 10:30 am
Children's room: Wed & Sun services
Wednesday service: 7:30 pm 248-685-7266

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, 6 pm
Children's Church: 10:30 am
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults

248-684-2798
milfordumc.net

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

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
41671 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor
248-349-2652
www.umcnovi.com
"Loving God, loving each other and living our core values"

OAKPOINTE |milford
CHURCH
1250 South Hill Rd.
(248) 685-3560 www.opcmilford.org

Contemporary Worship Service: Sunday 9:15 am & 11:15 am
Adventurous Children's Program: Sunday 9:15 am & 11:15 am
The Rock (Middle School) Thursdays 6:30-8:30 pm, Sundays 9:15 am
707 (High School) Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm
Women, Men and Life Groups Various Schedules

Freedom Life Church
Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is Freedom Cor 3:7
1208 E. Commerce, Milford
Worship: Sun 11am, Wed 7pm

We are here through Christ Jesus
to provide Freedom to those who
are hurting, diseased, addicted
LO-000267475 and depressed.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
205 E. Lake (10 Mile) (248) 437-2875
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Playroom available
Kids/Youth Connection Sundays 6:30 p.m.
Mid-Week Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org

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

South Lyon

Northville

First United (248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Taft Road)
Northville, Michigan

Worship Times: September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor
www.turnednorthville.org

WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168
248.374.7400

Sunday Worship Services
9 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.

4 different music styles from classic to modern
www.wardchurch.org

The Church of Christ
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyonccc.org

9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Troy Singleton, Minister

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Terry Nelson

437-8810 • 486-4335
Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m

Our Saviour Apostolic Lutheran Church
54899 8 Mile Rd. at Currie Rd. Northville, MI 48167
248-374-2268

Sunday Worship:
Sunday School at 9:45
10:30 am Fellowship/Coffee
11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 pm
Pastor Andy Whitten
oursaviouralc.com

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
133 Orchard Dr., Northville

WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610
Religious Education 349-2559
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2983

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:30 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Rob Freshour / Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks
Website: www.fbcsoouthlyon.com
• Email: fbcsoouthlyon@sbglobal.net
LO-000268882

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship, 9:30 am.
Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am.
248-349-0911

first united 640 S. Lafayette
methodist church (248) 437-0760
south lyon, mi

Worship: 8:15am, 10:45am,
11am & 6:30pm
Sunday School: 9:30am
Rev. Sondra Willobe, Lead Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
59255 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM
Rev. Thomas Scherger
248-573-7320
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy.
at Liberty St.

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651

Brighton

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www.hsccc.net
at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd.
810-231-9199

Fr. John Rocus, Pastor
Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Please visit our Shroud of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop

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Northville senior creates club for special-needs students

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Growing up, Northville High School 12th-grader Camille Tish loved spending time with her cousin Ellie, who has special needs. Their quality time together, as well as other volunteer experiences, solidified Tish's interest in working with special education students.

"I wanted to do more with the special-needs students at school, but there weren't any clubs that would allow me to do this," Tish said.

After brainstorming ideas with special education teacher John Campbell last year, the Smiles for Students Club was created with the purpose of building friendships between special needs students and peer mentors.

"What they needed most was a social club where they can work on improving social skills by interacting with other



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Smiles for Students club meets in Northville High's cafeteria.

high schoolers," Tish said about her school's special education students. "They needed a way to feel a part of Northville."

Smiles for Students meets 2:30-3:30 p.m. every other Monday. On average, each meeting attracts around 50 students and can include games, crafts, fort build-

ing, animal therapy, field trips and much more.

This year, Tish is the student adviser and 11th-grader Mary Curran took on the role of president, so she can learn the position before Tish leaves for college.

"I've always been involved with peer mentorship through middle school and high school,



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A group of Northville High School students enjoys a blanket fort during a gathering of the Smiles for Students club in the school's cafeteria. The group, which brings together special education students with their peer mentors, meets once a month for some fun and fellowship. From left are NHS students Claire Matthews, Anoushka Ravindran, Shannon McKee and Braden Plakas.

so joining this club worked out perfectly for me," Curran said.

In addition to Campbell, Kelsey Mikiciuk and Karin Hogan are now also teacher advisers for the club.

"It's been great to see how successful the club has become," Tish said.

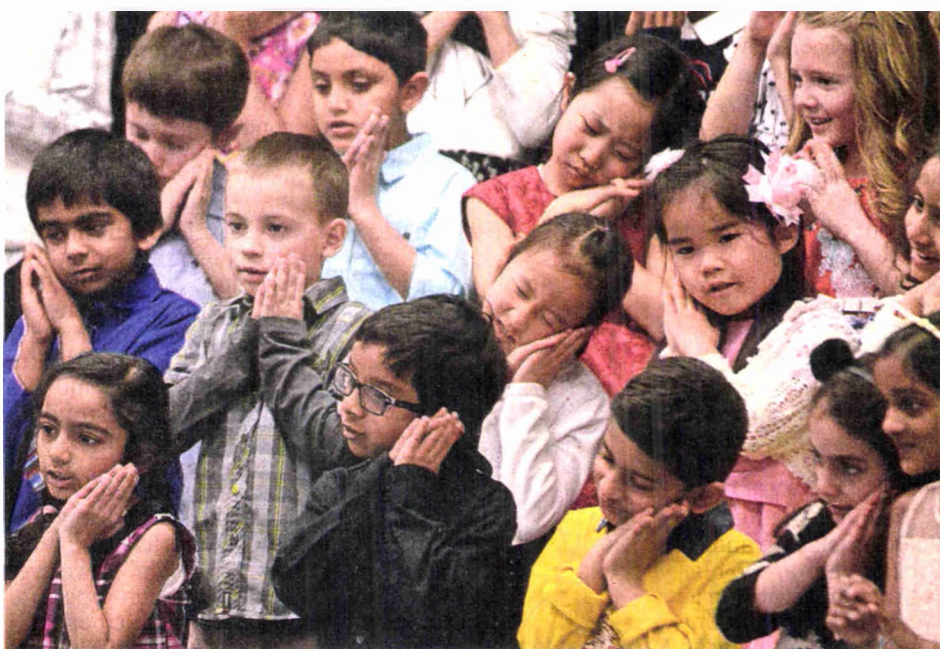
"We have great officers, which will ensure that it will go on for many years."

Tish plans to pursue

special education, specifically high school level, at Vanderbilt University in the fall.

dnalexander@hometownlife.com
248-860-4183

Spring musical entertains



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Woods first-graders sing and perform some choreography for their March 22 "Look How Far We've Come!" spring musical. The effort, led by music teacher Julia Saeli, included songs about learning how to say hello in different languages, planting seeds for spring growth and the fact that spelling the word "hippopotamus" is really tough to do.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Woods Elementary School parents raise their cameras and smart phones to record their kids' spring musical "Look How Far We've Come!"

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE

PROPOSED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Northville Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The Planning Commission will consider a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD), on the Northwest corner of 5 Mile and Beck Roads, 47500 Five Mile Road (Parcel ID#77-068-99-0001-705). The site is 53 acres. The mixed use development identifies proposed uses as retail, entertainment, hotel, offices and residential.

The public is invited to attend this hearing, provide their comments and ask questions. Written comments regarding the proposal will be received by the Township Planning Commission, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

Eric Lark, Chair
Planning Commission

Published: March 31, 2016

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE

A SPECIAL LAND USE PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Northville Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The Planning Commission will consider a Special Land Use request from Belle Tire to construct an automotive service center on an outlot at the north end of the Meijer store. The General Business (B-3) zoning district requires a special land use for an automotive service center.

The public is invited to attend this hearing, provide their comments and ask questions. Written comments regarding the proposal will be received by the Township Planning Commission, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

Eric Lark, Chair
Planning Commission

Published: March 31, 2016

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OUR VIEW

Home improvement scams common in springtime; many target senior citizens

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard is warning people to watch for door-to-door home improvement scam artists, a perennial spring problem. Scammers can strike at any time, although they're especially prevalent in spring.

Such scammers often target seniors, Bouchard noted, as those seniors are often home alone. "They often are unable to do some of the jobs that are being pitched to them," he said.

Driveway and roof repair are often two common pitches. In many cases, two scammers will approach the home, with one asking to use the bathroom and then taking advantage of the absence to steal items such as jewelry or blank checks from the back of a checkbook.

"Sometimes they try to gain access to the house for

nefarious purposes. Never let somebody in your house ever that you don't know," Bouchard said.

When it comes to high-pressure tactics to sign a contract, "There's no rush," he said, noting reputable businesses will be around in the future to do business with. "Most are bonded, insured and they have references."

In some cases, a scammer will climb up on a roof, hit it with a hammer to do damage and then pressure a senior who's unable to look for herself, Bouchard said. Sealing of driveways is often done by scammers using cheap black paint that doesn't last.

If you feel threatened, don't hesitate to call police, Bouchard said, noting they'd rather check out situations that prove harmless later rather than have someone be victimized. You should always read a con-

tract carefully and can take your time by asking a son, daughter or trustworthy neighbor to review the contract as well prior to signing anything.

Bouchard also touts the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan as a source of business information. The local BBB is online at www.bbb.org/detroit/ and also takes calls at 248-223-9400. Its general email is info@easternmichiganbbb.org.

The Oakland County sheriff recommends you ask about bonding and insurance — for example, what will happen if a hired worker falls and is injured.

References should also always be checked out thoroughly, he added. Don't let your springtime be one in which you're victimized by a home improvement scammer.

LETTERS

Service with a smile

During the election campaign and on voting days, I used to stand outside the precinct in rain or snow supporting my candidates. But this time on March 8, I wanted to see and have experience how the voting process works inside the voting hall. So I volunteered to work inside with the team. I found the team members knowledgeable and helpful about the voting process and very cordial to voters.

The voting started at 7 a.m., but the team started working by 5:30 a.m. Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius and Deputy City Clerk Cortney

Hanson were already at the job at an early morning hour to see all the precincts are well prepared to receive the voters at 7 a.m.

I found them and their staff always available throughout the day. Everything went very well at my precinct. By 8 p.m. I was exhausted and tired. But when I went to return some of the election stuff at the city office, I found Maryanne and Cortney smiling and helping their staff. I could feel the passion in them to serve the community. Wow, that is dedication and loyalty to the office and community they serve. I applaud them and say "they are my heroes."

God bless them.

Ramesh Verma
trustee and secretary,
Novi Library board

If the shoe fits

Who do you know who fits this description: Someone who makes offensive insults. Someone who insults to maintain a competitive edge. Or perhaps someone who uses insult to deflect or silence hecklers.

Comedian Don Rickles comes to mind. His style kept his career alive for many years.

Now we have the Don Rickles of the Republican Party, Donald Trump. He uses the same insulting style as he campaigns to become the president of the United States. If he is nominated by his fellow Republicans, it will surely derail the future success of the Republican Party.

Someone may be able to entertain with festive insult but you cannot address our present day global concerns and leaders with insult comedy — even if you feel as if the

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

behavior fits.

Jim Brenner
Redford

Man up, governor

I believe the Republican legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder are to blame for the Flint water crisis. We voted down the Emergency Manager Law and within a month a few sentences were changed

and money was added to the bill and it became law against the will of the people. Was it legal? Yes. Was it moral? No. Has it improved lives? No.

They shouldn't blame the EPA because our "Create-a-Bigger-Emergency-Manager" didn't make sure all the guidelines and procedures were in place before the switch was made. If the EPA had asserted itself, our leaders would have claimed government overreach including the fact that the Republicans have three candidates running for President who want to get rid of the EPA.

Part of the Republican mantra is individual responsibility. It's time for the governor to "man-up and resign."

Terry Cannon
Livonia

Younger seniors need housing

I would encourage the Northville Planning Commission to not approve the development of the Stonecrest Senior Living

Facility. We already have Oakmont on Seven Mile Road and the new Beacon Square facility at Eight Mile and Haggerty. If another assisted living facility is to go in, the downtown area would not be my choice of locations.

Northville has a lot of land west of Beck Road which is suitable for this. I am a senior in my 60s. I would like to see some condos for younger seniors my age to go in somewhere along the Seven Mile corridor where the Northville state hospital is located. The needs of younger seniors my age are not being met in Northville. I now own a large home in Northville and would like to relocate in Northville to a one-level ranch home with a basement. There are no new ranch type houses or condos available in Northville to meet my needs. And there are very few ranch-type homes available period.

Carol Maynard
Northville

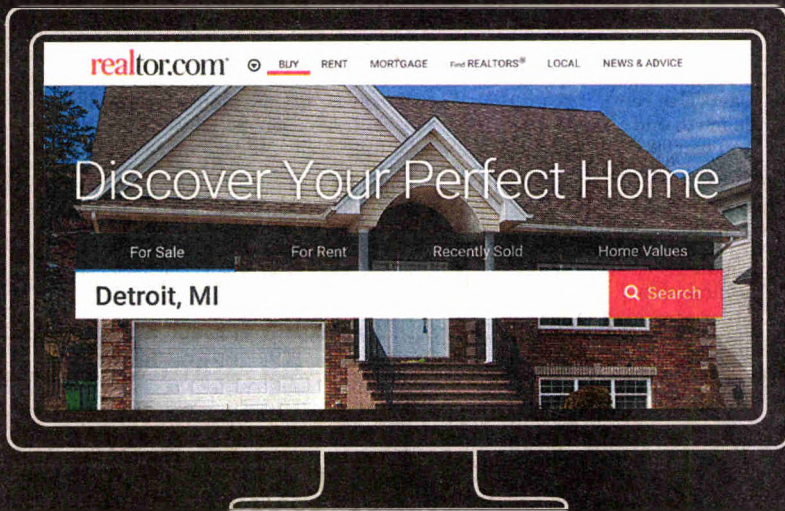
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two-year-old Andrew Sladewski shows off the spoils of the hunt. Andrew came to the marshmallow drop with mom and dad, Krysten and Brian Sladewski of Northville.

Children flock to marshmallow drop

Like swallows to Capistrano, thousands of kids converged Friday on Nankin Mills in Westland, hoping to grab a piece of Easter heaven.

They were there for the 32nd annual Marshmallow Drop, during which more than 20,000 marshmallows were dropped from the sky. The children raced around gathering the marshmallows, which

were redeemable for prizes.

"Wayne County's Marshmallow Drop has been a cherished family tradition for 32 years," Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said. "The Marshmallow Drop kicks off a highly anticipated season of fun activities for our Parks Division ... it really is an exciting time for the entire family to enjoy."

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

Concert sneak peek

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5.
Details: The Novi Choralaires announce its "Sneak Peek" spring show "Songs of Nature" at the Novi Public Library at 45255 W. 10 Mile Road. Join in for some favorite songs that you are sure to recognize — there will be favorites for everyone in the audience. Free.

For more information about the Choralaires and its concerts, go to novichoralaires.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/novichoralaires.

Recognizing and Managing Heart Failure

Time/Date: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5
Details: Free presentation at Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Novi Campus, Outpatient Building, Conference Room A. Learn about congestive heart failure and current treatment options. For more information, call St. John Providence CareLink at 888-751-5465 to register.

Garden club

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7 p.m. program, Monday, April 11

Details: Gardeners of Northville and Novi will host Jane Riddle of Lodi Farms, Ann Arbor, speaking about companion gardening. Lodi Farms has been in business since 1988 and has continued to grow in landscaping to garden rooms, from trees to annuals. Guests \$5. Held at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road. Use door No. 43.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mom2Mom sale

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16
Details: Novi Community Education's Child Care and Preschool is hosting its annual Mom2Mom Sale in the Novi High School Atrium. Admission is \$2 per adult and children younger than age 12 are free. Sellers may call to rent a table and/or rack space. Tables are \$20 (five feet round) and rack space may be rented for an additional \$10. All large items are kept next to the seller with no extra fee.

Items accepted for sellers to sell range from maternity, baby, toddlers and children up to pre-teen. For more information, contact Community Education - Child Care at 248-449-1713. All admission proceeds will benefit the Child Care programs.

K-9 Veterans Day event

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, April 16
Details: The Michigan War Dog Memorial will host a K-9 Veterans Day event. Invited speakers to discuss the value of working with a K-9, OCS K-9 unit, National Association of Professional Canine Handlers, WCC K-9's and K-9 Pipper from Traverse City Airport. Immediately following the event, there will be the unveiling of a war dog plaque in the memory of Rob Wurtz.

The program will take place at the memorial, 25805 Milford Road, Lyon Township. For more information, contact Phil Weitlauf at pweitlauf@gmx.com or 248-685-8307.

Band, orchestra fundraiser

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 17
Details: Tom Holzer Ford and Novi High School are partnering in Ford's Drive 4 UR School

event at Novi High School, in the parking lot off of 10 Mile. Anyone can support the Novi High School Orchestra and Band by taking a test drive in any brand new Ford vehicle.

For every test drive taken, Ford Motor Co. will donate \$20 to the orchestra/band, with a \$6,000 cap. To date, Ford dealerships across the United States have helped raised more than \$30 million for local schools and nonprofits through this program.

Foreign exchange meeting

Time/Date: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18
Details: Educatius International Exchange Students program is seeking families in Novi Community Schools that are interested in cultural diversity and hosting an exchange student for the 2016-17 school year.

Open house for more information and to see the students that are available for hosting will be available at the Novi Public Library. Contact Michelle Compton at 586-737-7069 or michelle.educati-us@gmail.com with questions.

Dementia workshop

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, April 20 through May 25

Details: The Area Agency on Aging 1-B and the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter host free educational workshops for families caring for someone with a dementia-related illness, such as Alzheimer's disease. The Creating Confident Caregivers program is a six-week workshop series at the Novi Civic Center.

Caregivers will learn how to: reduce caregiver related stress; improve caregiver confidence; create a positive caregiving environment; plan daily activities for your loved one based on their

strengths; and deal with behaviors caused by dementia and its effects on the brain. Advance registration is required. To register, call the AAA 1-B at 800-852-7795. For more details or additional information, go to www.aaalb.com.

Comedy for a Cause

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 29
Details: Come show your support for deployed military troops. Big Tommy's will host a fundraiser for Troops Need Love Too, a Michigan nonprofit supporting deployed military. The evening features 10 comedians performing; two are veterans. 50/50 and silent auction planned, as well. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Call 248-762-1151 for tickets. Big Tommy's is at 40380 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

Preschool registration

Details: Novi Community Education is accepting preschool registration for the 2016-17 school year at its Community Education Building at 25425 Taft Road, located in the Community Education office in Novi Meadows. Classes will begin Sept. 6 in the New Early Childhood Education Center at 25745 Taft Road.

Students who will be age 3, 4 or 5 by Dec 1 are eligible to enroll. All-day classes (meet two, three or five days a week) and half-day classes (meet five, three or two days a week) are available. Registration is ongoing until the classes are full. Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport. Class times and fees are online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/communityed/preschool/. For more information, call the Novi Community Education Preschool office at 248-449-1713.

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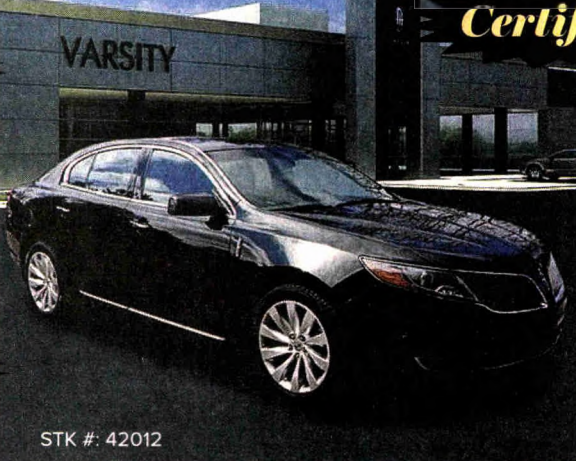
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PREP BASEBALL PREVIEW

Mustangs hit oasis in Florida

Novi, Catholic Central, Franklin Road all look for stellar seasons

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Northville baseball coach John Kostrzewa took a page out of Jim Harbaugh's playbook when it comes to spring break. Kostrzewa took his varsity team this

week to historic Dodgertown, former longtime spring training site of the Brooklyn and L.A. Dodgers in Vero Beach, Fla.

The six-day trip, which coincided with Northville's spring break, gave the Mustangs a chance to use the batting cages, practice fields and bullpen

INSIDE

Team capsules for area squads, B4

mounds, along with on-site lodging and dining.

"Coming down has helped a lot, because we wouldn't be getting anything

See **BASEBALL**, Page B4



SCOTT CONFER

Novi senior shortstop Scott Beaton earned first team All-Area honors.

BLOWING THE WHISTLE

KICK IN THE GUT

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Go to any scholastic, club-level or rec league athletic event in any city or town across Michigan and you will find one constant: one (or more) referee who is there to ensure fair play and following of the rules. A team might be short of players or lack an assistant coach, but without a man or woman in the proverbial striped shirt, there is no game or match or meet.

In recent years, officials in all sports have come under fire, whether from overheated parents, increased social media or disrespectful players and coaches. Many leagues and governing bodies are having a difficult time finding enough adults to act as officials for youth sports events.

Observer & Eccentric reporters conducted a variety of interviews in the last several weeks, with referees, officials, executives and others who are involved in the recruitment and training of sports officials. We found that, while many still enjoy the unique thrill of being part of the game, others are being driven from the playing field, some haunted by the killing two years ago of local soccer referee John Bienowicz.

Today begins a two-part package of stories, "Blowing the Whistle." Come back April 7 for the second installment.

INSIDE

- » Young official says education key to improving attitudes, B2
- » Former player, coach sees his sport from a new angle, B3

COMING APRIL 7

- » 'You don't have a horse in the race,' referee says
- » Former prep player moves straight into officiating
- » Teenaged umpire talks about leaving game for good
- » MHSAA makes recruiting, retaining officials top priority



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As much as Mario D'Agostino (left) and Kevin Winningham love calling soccer games at High Velocity Sports in Canton and at other area venues, their patience is being tested by parents and others who jump at any chance to criticize dedicated refs.

Veteran soccer refs blame social media, culture of disrespect and 'win-at-all-costs' mentality for dwindling pool of officials

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Mario D'Agostino's hands trembled as he held them up, presenting the ultimate irony. One of his wrists was adorned with a yellow and orange wrist band with a simple but direct message: "Respect the Game."

The veteran youth and high school soccer official — the referee coordinator at High Velocity Sports in Canton — had just witnessed a troubling incident in which a young female soccer ref was verbally abused following a game by off-the-rail parents and coaches.

"I got parents up there that are just berating the referee and it's a young girl," D'Agostino said during a recent interview at the Michigan Avenue soccer facility. "They're just going crazy. There's a coach who just is ripping into me, telling me 'Have you ever played soccer? Have you ever been in a stadium?' That has absolutely nothing to do with youth soccer.

"My hands are shaking right now because I just got done with the confrontation. This is U-7 boys up here right now ... this is the problems we're having. The parents are

up there all screaming and yelling at the referee."

According to D'Agostino and fellow soccer official Kevin Winningham, also a familiar face at High Velocity as assistant head referee for the Canton Soccer Club, such attacks are on the rise almost every day.

Walking away

As unchecked attacks in social media now carry over to real life conflict, as venom escalates, the number of registered soccer officials across the board is plummeting.

Winningham said annual attrition is at about 25 percent. Just as troubling, fewer are signing up with the United States Soccer Federation. "These kinds of problems we have with parents," D'Agostino said. "Just verbally abusing these children to the point where they're not interested in being out there."

Who could blame them? No one would want to be faced with maximum abuse for a few bucks more than the minimum wage.

"If a parent, if a player, would step in to become a



BRAD EMONS

Bob Czech (center) has been officiating for more than 30 years and heads the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials group. Working on his crew at a recent basketball game are Plymouth's Paul Woodard (left) and Southfield's Darcy Gitchuway.

Longtime official keeps things in Czech

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With more than 30 years of experience, Bob Czech has virtually seen it all as a registered high school official.

The 60-year-old from Berkley, a retired Detroit police officer who also worked for Farmer's Insurance for 10 years in auto theft claims, remains as an active Michigan High School Athletic Association official while working behind the scenes as an assignor for the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials group.

The officiating landscape has changed dramatically over the past 30 years for Czech, who is now an assign-

or for the 24-school Kensington Lakes Activities Association in both basketball and football. He is also a baseball and softball assignor for the 23-school Oakland Activities Association.

"When I first started out, all the officials had to call the A.D.s and get their games," Czech said. "Then, a few years later, I got a call from George Lovich (former Livonia Franklin A.D.) and he wanted me to become an assignor.

"George Lovich, Ron Holland (former North Farmington A.D.) and Paul Cummings (Salem A.D.) —

See **CZECH**, Page B2

See **REFEREES**, Page B2

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BLOWING THE WHISTLE


On any given Saturday, Mario D'Agostino (left) and Kevin Winningham expect to work several games, at the very least. Every year, fewer are returning to officiate contests in youth, high school and adult rec leagues.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REFEREES

Continued from Page B1

referee," Winningham said, "they would have a greater understanding of a game, as well as a greater respect for those who are working games — whether it's an 11-year-old girl upstairs or a 50-year-old guy out on the field."

Nodding emphatically in agreement was D'Agostino. "I think one of the greatest things that I wish could happen is that every parent or coach could officiate a game," D'Agostino said. "Put them behind the whistle. And I guarantee you their perspective of the game would totally change, in all sports. To see what it's like to make that split-second decision."

Remembering John

Both Canton men always wear the "Respect the Game" wristband when they officiate contests. And they do plenty, at the youth and club levels and for the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

"I always make it a point to roll it up (almost to his fingers) during my captain's meeting," Winningham said. "Just to make a point: 'We're here to respect the game, gentlemen.'"

Yet there are times when both men can't help but wonder what's happening, why violence, trash talk and overall unruly behavior directed at refs of all ages is threatening the lifeblood of their sport.

That unwanted element already is costing much more than that. D'Agostino and Winningham also wear their wristbands as a constant reminder of dear friend John Bienowicz, a Westland man and longtime official who was fatally punched in the head in summer 2014 by an angry player during an adult amateur league contest in Livonia.

Bienowicz lost his life because the player, Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn, went berserk when Bienowicz issued a red card against him (thus ejecting him from the match).

Saad eventually pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and is serving 8-15 years in prison.



Whenever and wherever Mario D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham go to officiate soccer games, they wear these wristbands to honor the memory of friend and fellow referee John Bienowicz.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Earlier this year, a player who had been kicked out of a men's game in Argentina reportedly was so upset that he retrieved a gun from his personal belongings, marched back on to the pitch and shot the referee to death.

"Why should we be fearful for our lives now when we officiate games?" D'Agostino said. "We have our families telling us (to give up refereeing) ... my wife's saying that. But she knows and (Winningham's) wife knows, it's imbedded in us. It really means a lot for us to do these games."

"But yet we've got family members now who are telling us to slow down a little bit? When you need to be escorted to your car after a game by an athletic director, after a high

school game, that's really, really bad. That's what it's getting to right now."

What now?

Another thing it's getting to is a crossroads for soccer lifers such as D'Agostino and Winningham, who routinely pack each Saturday with an endless string of games to call simply because not enough refs are in the mix.

"They want to limit us to three or four (games), but there's nobody there," Winningham said. "We keep saying yes. (This is) our weekend; we both work (regular jobs), we have wives at home ... I do it

See REFEREES, Page B3

College player says education the key to curbing anger

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It isn't just middle-aged guys such as Mario D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham that have some issues with the way soccer referees are treated in the anything goes world of 2016.

Yes, even 20-somethings don't like the current landscape where every perceived misstep by an official is videotaped for the social media masses to peruse. Or where every so-called soccer "expert" can anonymously rip a ref and start the snowball of anger rolling down the hill.

One of them is Tyler Winningham, a longtime soccer player even though he is in his early 20s. He was part of the Canton varsity boys soccer state championship team in 2011 and also competed with the Canton Soccer Club.

After high school, he's played at Schoolcraft College and Lawrence Technological University and also refs and coaches the sport at the club soccer level.

Although Tyler Winningham was unable to attend a recent roundtable discussion at High Velocity Sports, he responded via email to several questions that also were delved into by D'Agostino and Kevin Winningham.

Q: As a player, referee and coach, do you have a unique perspective in how you deal with game officials?

TW: I think being a player, referee and coach does give me a unique perspective towards how I deal with game officials. I think when you coach vs. play vs. ref at the different levels available, it makes things frustrating but enjoyable. At each level you have a different expectations of the referees. I coach U-9 and U-10 boys, so I will rarely yell at referees at that level because they are typically either new young referees who are nervous and do not know exactly what they are doing or they are older referees who only walk all game because they are far out of their prime. The expectation when I play in college or semi-pro, you are expecting to have top officials and you respect those game officials much more because for the most part, they are very competent but you do have to understand that referees will make mistakes at all levels.

Q: Have you considered stepping away from being a referee due to the increasing safety concerns, with highly publicized stories about soccer refs being killed or injured by fans and players?

TW: I have never considered stepping away from refereeing due to increasing safety concerns. I understand the safety and understand that players and fans can be stupid, but I have also come to realize that when players and coaches and fans are yelling, there is usually a reason. Yes, some yell for stupid reasons because they do not understand the game. But for the most part, certain coaches and players only yell because maybe you did mess up. One thing that I try to focus on when I



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Tyler Winningham works a soccer game during the 2015 Canton Cup. He also plays and coaches the sport, giving him a unique perspective on the way officials are treated.

"I understand the safety and understand that players and fans can be stupid, but ... when players and coaches and fans are yelling, there is usually a reason."

TYLER WINNINGHAM

am refereeing is game management. When events happen and safety becomes an issue, it usually is because the build up of events. It isn't just a one time sporadic moment. When issues arise during the game, players/parents/coaches yelling at the officials or each other, parents being disrespectful and ruining the atmosphere, those things need to be taken care of right away. When they are not properly taken care of or handled, they escalate to a point that is no longer controllable and the referee crew is then in danger. Game management starting from the moment you arrive at a game to the moment you leave a game is a key to staying safe and maintaining a smooth game.

Q: How much do you connect with your dad about these issues? Are you seeing these issues the same way or differently? Please explain why, either way.

TW: I think my dad and I partially agree with the issues. There are multiple aspects to the issues going on and the dwindling of referees. The two main things I see are the culture we live in and the thinness of skin my people now a days. I have thick skin. Kevin has thick skin. Mario has thick skin. Referees today have very thin skin. One small com-

See EDUCATION, Page B3

CZECH

Continued from Page B1

those guys mentored me and got me into it."

Changes in the wind

Czech said the procedure for booking games took a different course during "the late 1980s and early 1990s."

"It's changed a lot ... how you get your games, how you get trained, coaches, behavior of parents, etc, etc," Czech said.

The MDAO boasts more than 400 members, "but a lot of guys belong to two or three different associations," whether it's Downriver or the East Side, according to Czech.

Another challenge Czech and MDAO faced came in 2008, when the MSHAA lost its gender equity lawsuit, forcing equidating girls and boys seasons. Volleyball moved from the winter to the fall, while

girls basketball went from fall to winter, among other changes.

"They're working more than they have before," Czech said. "And obviously, if they're older, it's a little rougher on the body. Whereas before you'd work the girls (games) in the fall and the boys in the winter, so you only worked a couple of times a week. Some of these guys are working three and four times a week, maybe five."

Many officials have had to transition during the week back and forth between boys and girls basketball games, which can also be a challenge and an adjustment.

"The boys game is much faster, but the rules are the same," Czech said. "You have to interpret the rules the same. The boys game is obviously faster than the girls, so you have to adjust a little bit, but like I said, the rules are the same. We generally have to be neutral. Boys are stronger, so

they're going to be able to take a little more hitting and bumping a little bit, whereas females aren't quite as strong, so you have to adjust a little bit."

Knowing the rulebook

Officials also have to adapt year-to-year to rules changes and points of emphasis handed down from both the MHSAA and the National Federation of High School Associations.

"From the people in Lansing (MHSAA), Mark Uyl and Nate Hampton, they're the ones that kind of give us guidance," Czech said. "They're kind of like our bosses. They give us feedback and they just tell us what we need to do. Kind of like a teacher when a principal tells them to do something. Well, the principal is the boss, right?"

In the KLAA, varsity football and basketball officials are paid normally \$60 to \$65 per game, while it's \$45 to \$50 for freshman and JV.

"We're a little behind other states because we just haven't caught up, but hopefully we'll catch up eventually," Czech said.

Czech said his biggest challenge now is recruiting younger officials.

"The problem is the average age of the officials here is between 53 and 57, so we need some more young guys," he said. "We keep reaching out to the seniors and the coaches at the high schools. We talk to them and say, 'Hey, do you have any seniors that are going to graduate, stay in town and go to college, like Wayne (State), Oakland (University), anywhere?' We say, 'Hey, want to become an official?' If you played high school sports, we want to train and mentor you. It's the local associations that have to go out and hustle the guys."

Ongoing shortage

The shortage of officials remains an ongoing concern

for Czech, particularly from an assignor's standpoint.

"Basketball, we're kind of OK, but we need more and football we need some more," he said. "The problem is baseball. We don't nearly have enough baseball umpires. It's at 4 o'clock and it's in the spring when it's cold. It doesn't warm up around here until the middle of May, so the first two or three weeks it's ice cold. And it's 4 o'clock in the afternoon and most people are working unless you're retired or work midnights."

The MDAO assignor said there are a couple of necessary components to in becoming a registered MHSAA official.

"You got to have thick skin and common sense," Czech said. "And be like in your job ... flexible. It's an avocation, not a vocation."

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BLOWING THE WHISTLE

This official has a new appreciation for the job

Former player, coach sees wrestling competition from a whole new angle

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

When a friend pushed the idea of being a wrestling official, Zaim Cunmulaj decided to give it a try. He was not enamored with the job after his initial experience.

"By the time I was done, I said, 'This not for me; it's too hard,'" Cunmulaj said. "He said: 'Don't worry; it's hard for everybody at first.'

"I went home and was exhausted, mentally and physically. He pushed me into hanging in there. I came back. I'm very glad I did come back."

Cunmulaj, 45, recently completed his third season of officiating matches at the middle and high school levels.

An all-state wrestler at North Farmington High School and former college football player, Cunmulaj is still fit and looks as if he could compete today.

After a period of adjustment, Cunmulaj adapted to the rigors of being back on the mats.

"Everyone thinks officiating is easy," he said. "It's difficult to do, to be in the right spot at the right time. In wrestling, you have to anticipate what the next move is going to be."

"It's a lot harder than what I thought it would be. Being an official now, I look at the game a lot differently. I'll go, 'Wow, that has to be hard on the referee, taking all that heat.'

"We're human. Sure, I've made mistakes. But I totally look at the officiating differently than I did."

Playing experience helps

It helps in the case of Cunmulaj, who was a heavyweight wrestler and a defensive lineman at East Carolina University, to know the sport and have competed in it.

He also is an assistant football coach and was the wrestling head coach at North Farmington in the 1990s, but there's still more to being a good official.

"It's a challenge to know all the rules," he said. "You have to know them in a split second. You can't open the book. You have to be ready to go or coaches are all over you."

"They'll take advantage of you if they see you don't know the rules. They'll let you know and that will travel (throughout the coaching ranks)."

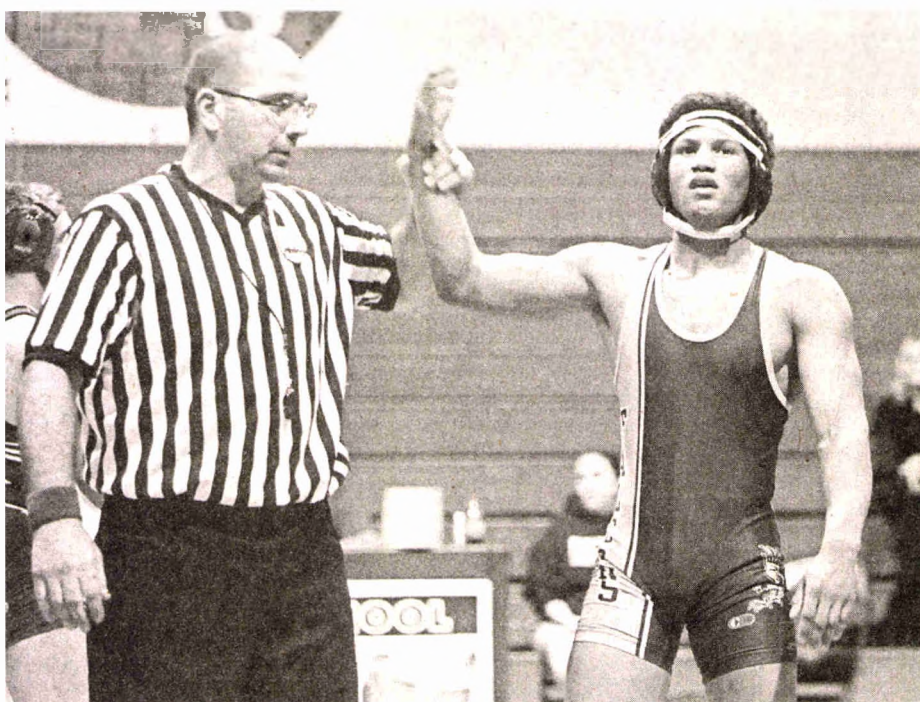
"There was a lot of stuff I had to learn. A lot of stuff had changed since I had wrestled. There are changes every year to the rule book."

Cunmulaj recalled one incident when an understanding coach took the time to share his knowledge with him.

"This what kept me in officiating," Cunmulaj said. "I had



Cunmulaj



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Zaim Cunmulaj declares Farmington's Gyasi Davis the winner during a match this past season.



Zaim Cunmulaj referees a match during the Farmington Public Schools tournament.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

made a mistake. He said, 'Let me open the book and explain it to you.' He was wonderful. He didn't scream at me; I didn't have to put my guard up."

"He said: 'Please, stay with it. We're glad to have you in the sport.' It was encouraging and it helped."

The right balance

Cunmulaj tries to find the right balance between being an authority figure and a calm, understanding figure, too.

Other officials and coaches have told him it helps to have the deep voice he does, he noted.

"I try to be as invisible as possible," Cunmulaj said. "If I make a mistake, I'll walk over and apologize and say, 'I'm sorry; I didn't see that.' I try to combine the two things and get the best of two worlds for the coaches and the referees."

"There was one incident this

year at a tournament. A guy was hanging on the railing. He leaned over and screamed something at me. I said, 'Sir, if you want to stay in the gym, you might want to sit down.' He sat down."

"He came to me later and said: 'I'm sorry about what I said.' I said: 'I understand; everybody gets upset sometimes.'

Sometimes, Cunmulaj's reputation precedes him with coaches who've seen the tape of him wrestling a black bear 20 years ago at a promotional event.

"I look back and say, 'What was I thinking?'" Cunmulaj said. "A couple guys wrestled him before me. As soon I got up there, (the owner) told the bear to stand up. My eyes opened like half-dollars."

"We kind of wrestled around. He was just kind of playing. It was something to

remember. "As a young referee, you get a lot of good feedback from coaches. Some have said, jokingly, if I did make a mistake, they weren't going to tell me."

It's no good to yell

The worst thing an athlete or spectator can do is yell at an official, according to Cunmulaj, a resident of Walled Lake.

"I've never had a problem with that," he said. "Most coaches seem to do a good job of keeping spectators in line. It's something that happens in every sport."

"You walk into any gym and hear that. You just have to let it roll off your back. You just kind of block it out."

"I've seen kids sitting there yelling at referees. I'll walk over to him and say, 'Coach, this guy or that guy needs to watch what he's doing or keep it to himself.' I've had very

little problems with anybody." As a former coach, a major motivation for Cunmulaj being an official is to encourage and help young people.

"When a match is over and a guy walks by with his head down, I'll ask, 'What year are you?' I'll say, 'I didn't do very well as a freshman, either. Keep your head up and stick with it. You're a very good wrestler,'" Cunmulaj said. "Most of the time, he'll pick his head up and smile."

Like most sports, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is in need of more officials in wrestling, he added.

"Some guys are getting ready to retire," Cunmulaj said. "We need to get more younger guys involved, guys younger than me or just out of high school."

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EDUCATION

Continued from Page B2

plaint from a coach or parent throws (other refs) off their game and they feel shaken up. After they feel shaken up, everything goes downhill from there and they keep making bad decision after bad decision and that escalates the situation and parents/coaches get heated when the referees are bad. At the

same time the culture we live in now is ignorant. People feel the need to speak out about anything and everything. Most of the parents yelling have no idea what they are yelling about. Parents are competitive and get way into the game. Instead of enjoying the game and watching their son or daughter run around and play soccer, they just want to win and yell as loud as they can for no real reason.

Q: In your opinion, what

needs to happen for this current situation to be alleviated?

TW: Players, coaches and parents need to be educated. There is a current system in place, but it is a very loose and relaxed system. FIFA and U.S. Soccer has had movements like 'Say No to Racism' or 'Respect the Game.' The English Football Association released a commercial last year about parents yelling at youth games magnifying how embarrassing it is and how

you ruin the entire game for everyone. But not enough is being done for referees. It either has to start from the top at U.S. Soccer or it needs to start from the clubs. Everyone knows that the treatment of referees is terrible. Referees are verbally abused, (and) physically abused in certain situations. But is has become a problem that no one wants to resolve. When an issue does come up about a referee being assaulted, abused, killed, as a referee

community we are aware. MSYSA is aware. But U.S. Soccer, the top dog, is not doing enough to protect soccer referees or educating parents and players. I do not include coaches in that because coaches nowadays have to take a referee portion test/module when they get new licenses so coaches are very knowledgeable on the laws of the game."

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REFEREES

Continued from Page B2

because I love this game. This is a beautiful game.

"There's nothing better than having a kid when he was 10-11 years old and then you get to see him play at 14 or 15 and then you get to watch him play in high school."

Chiming in was D'Agostino, agreeing that "there's not enough referees to officiate all these games. Guys like us, who it's meaning a lot, are doing way too many games than what we should be. We hate saying no; we love doing what we do. But by the sixth or seventh game on a Saturday afternoon, we're exhausted."

But both men acknowledge they need some help on the pitch. Is it ever going to happen?

Winningham would like to see more parents consider give officiating a try, perhaps

even the players as they mature. Doing just that was his own son Tyler, a member of Canton High School's 2011 state championship team.

"I would love other parents, other people, who have worked the game, to come back," Winningham said. "They're just not anymore and the reason is, 'Why do I want to go stand out there and get yelled at for an hour-and-a-half and get belittled by people, when I could be doing something better?'"

"We need re-education and re-commitment to what this game is all about, which is teaching kids life skills."

Basic values

That means people returning to tried and true values such as showing some respect for authority. Also putting cellphones into pockets instead of videotaping every move an official makes — good or bad.

And don't forget good old-

fashioned communication rather than confrontation. Still, despite honest efforts to reverse the trend, nastiness continues.

"The clubs are doing a much better job compared to a decade ago, communicating what is expected," Winningham said. "But there's no accountability to what is expected."

"So they tell (the parents), don't approach your coach, have a 24-hour rule before you approach a coach about a problem with your son or daughter. Don't yell at the coach, don't yell at the players on the field. Let the coach coach the kids."

"So all of those are great things. But many times, during tryouts when they communicate that at the beginning of the season, once the season begins, all of that accountability goes out the window, it's just a free-fall for parents to say whatever they want to." As the young official found

out first-hand on this particular day at High Velocity, that lowly standard applies to those whose kids are playing for a rec league participation trophy — those who probably never will compete for a World Cup someday.

"We give little \$2 trophies to these little kids that are absolutely meaningless in a weird sense," D'Agostino said. "But it seems like it's so much for these parents."

Inexpensive trophies aside, today's "win at any cost" mentality is something that troubles both veteran refs.

"That's something I just can't understand," D'Agostino said. "I just think it also comes with maturity and age. The younger (parents) tend to be a little bit worse because of the fact they are new to the sport and a lot think their (children) are superstars, that they're going to be playing in the big leagues someday."

"When it all comes down to it, it's just a game."

Win off the field

What's the big deal about 10-year-old kids winning when there are so many other positives to be gleaned from an hour or two on a soccer field?

"That shouldn't be the ultimate goal," Winningham said with a nod. "The ultimate goal should be fun, development of our kids, friendships, developing skills of communication, commitment, hard work and discipline. And it's all about the trophy."

Perhaps what should be doled out instead are those wristbands to respect the game — and each other.

They hope it isn't too late for that already.

"Unless some changes are going to be made, I don't see it getting better," D'Agostino said. "I really don't. ... Society changes. It really starts in the home."

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PREP BASEBALL

10 innings: Wildcats edge Walled Lake Western

Beaton earns victory in relief for Novi in 4-3 non-conference win

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi came through with a game-winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning Monday to beat visiting Walled Lake Western, 4-3, in the first game of a scheduled baseball doubleheader.

The nightcap was postponed due to the length of the opener and because of darkness.

The Wildcats, who improved to 2-1 overall, got an RBI ground out from Connor Hood that scored Tyler VanKirk with the game-winning run.

Scott Beaton was the winning pitcher in relief, going four scoreless innings. The senior right-hander allowed one hit, walked one and struck out two. Beaton also went 2-for-5 at the plate.

Starting pitcher Alec Bageris gave up one run (unearned) on just three hits. He struck out four and walked two

before giving way to Johnny Bean, who gave up two earned runs on two hits and two walks in two innings of work.

Bageris also went 2-for-3 with two RBI, while Beaton went 2-for-5. Joey Carn reached base safely three times with a hit and two walks.

The loss dropped Walled Lake Western to 0-1.

NOVI 3-2, TROY ATHENS 1-9: With its brand new all-turf infield unveiled, the Wildcats (1-1) launched their 2016 season Saturday at home by splitting a doubleheader against Troy Athens (1-1).

The Wildcats got five scoreless innings from starter Zac Colliau to win the opener, but the Redhawks bounced back to win the nightcap as Brendan Genereau went 2-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

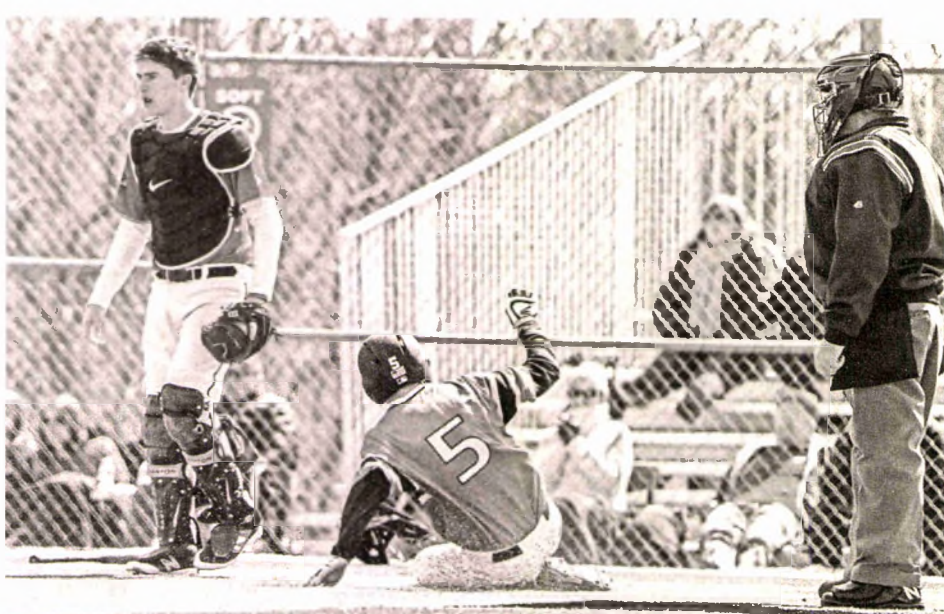
Colliau, a senior, struck out five and allowed just three hits without a walk to pick up the win. Reliever Scott Beaton, who gave up one earned run, earned the save as he gave up one earned run on four hits over the final two innings. Beaton struck out two and did not allow a walk.

Novi's Jack Reilly paced the offense, going 2-for-2 with a pair of runs, while Andy Mizerowski added an RBI and reached base on a walk.

In the second game, middle reliever Kyle Sweeney pitched three scoreless innings in the Athens triumph.

Jeremy Patrick added to the Redhawks' nine-hit attack, going 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

Reilly, the losing pitcher, had an RBI double and walk, while Beaton and Joey Carn both scored a run. Six different Wildcats collected hits in the setback.



SCOTT CONFER

Novi's Joey Carn slides in safely at home for a run in the second game of a twinbill Saturday against Troy Athens.

PREP BASEBALL TEAM CAPSULES



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Miami (Ohio) recruit Grant Hartwig returns on the mound for Detroit Catholic Central.

NORTHVILLE

Head coach: John Kostrzewa, 12th year.
League: KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division).
Last year's record: 28-3.
Titles won last year: Central Division, Kensington Conference and KLAAs Association.
Notable losses to graduation: Tyler Lowe (Player of the Year), Evan Flohr (first team All-Area), Ian Borthwick (first team All-Area), Dugan Darnell (first team All-Area), Connor Walters.
Leading returnees: Zach Prystash, Sr. OF-P (second team All-Area; .418; 5-0 1.71 ERA); Chris Dunn Sr. OF-P (all-KLAA; .295; 6-0, 1.28 ERA); Kevin Morrissey, Jr. Inf. P (.404); David Dillon, Sr. P-Inf.; Michael Lyons, Jr. Inf.; Zac Osauer, Sr. C; Diaz Sanderson, Sr. P-OF; Nathan Wixon, Jr. Inf.; Willie Yanagi, Sr. Inf.; Andrew Blazo, Sr. P-OF; Billy Flohr, Jr. C.
Promising newcomers: Connor Ziparo, Jr. 1B-P; Aram Shahrigian, Jr. Inf.; Luke Skillman, Jr. 1B; Jack Sargent, Soph. OF.
Kostrzewa's outlook: "We have some pretty good seniors coming back, especially Dunn and Prystash (who) combined were 11-0 last year. From a fundamental standpoint, like with every team, it's going to take a little time because we've got a lot of new faces. And just jelling those new faces is always going to take a little bit of time because we're not senior laden. I expect to be very competitive when it's all said and done. It will be a little bit of a learning curve I expect early on, just because of the newness of things."

NOVI

Head coach: Rick Green, 17th year.
League: KLAAs Kensington (Central Division).
Last year's record: 14-23-1.
Notable losses to graduation: Brendan Wexler (second team All-Area), Adam Tobias (second team All-Area), Michael Mitchell, Michael Ninkovich, Jason Pastoor.
Leading returnees: Scott Beaton, Sr. SS-P (captain; first team All-Area; .351; 15 RBIs, 19 runs); Joey Carn, Sr. 2B (assistant captain; .318); Jack Colliau, Sr. P-Inf. (assistant captain; 5-2, 1.65 ERA); Spencer VanKirk, Sr. CF (assistant captain); Andy Mizerowski, Sr. C; Alec Bageris, Jr. P-Inf.-OF; Connor Hood, Sr. OF; Noah Matthews, Sr. C-P-OF; Jack Reilly, Sr. 1B-P.
Promising newcomers: Cam Czapski, Jr. Inf.-P; Nate Lys, Jr. OF-P; Mike Hirt, Jr. C-P; Zach Perpich, Jr. Utility; Johnny Bean, Soph. Inf.-P; Tyler VanKirk, Soph. OF-P; Shinyu Imamura, Soph. P-Inf.
Green's outlook: "I think our team will be much improved. We have a lot of experience coming back from our playoff run last year. We got pretty good experience playing Brighton and winning that game and losing to Catholic Central. Zac Colliau pitched that playoff game last year against Brighton and that helped us out a lot coming into this season. It will build his confidence up being our number one pitcher. Mizerowski behind the plate is really playing well and has improved since last year. I don't think anybody possibly could be better at shortstop than Beaton as far as his hands and the accuracy of his throws. And with (Spencer) VanKirk in center, with his speed (he) has a lot of range out there. And with Joey Carn (second base), we'll be solidified up the middle. I think we're going to compete for our division, hopefully, and do some damage in the playoffs."

DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL

Head coach: Dan Michaels, third year.
League: Catholic League (Central Division).
Last year's record: 22-20.
Titles won last year: Division 1 district.
Notable losses graduation: Jordan Jenkins (second team All-Area), Justin Green, Jack Hintze, Mike Scott.
Leading returnees: Grant Hartwig, Sr. C-P (first team All-Area; .375; 5-5, 1.44 ERA); Dante Toppi, Sr. P-OF (second team All-Area; 9-2, 2.10 ERA; .331, 23 RBIs); Nick Marcon, Sr. SS; Sean Garcia, Sr. P; Anthony Esser, Sr. OF; Luke Hargis, Sr. OF-P.
Promising newcomers: Matt Stinebiser, Soph. C-3B.
Michaels' outlook: "Grant Hartwig and Dante Toppi have been our top two performing pitchers for the last two years. As sophomores and juniors, they were both all-Catholic and we're expecting them to basically take the lead again this year. Four of our top five pitchers are returning from last year. Garcia and Hargis will be our three and four (pitchers). I'll be brutally honest... if we can halfway consistently hit, I'm expecting us to compete with everybody and anybody anytime, including the Catholic League. If



MIKE HARRIS

First team All-Area baseball selection Gavin Harris returns for Franklin Road Christian.

our guys pitch like they've pitched in years past and we can just get serviceable hitting consistently, I'm feeling comfortable we can compete in this Catholic League."

FRANKLIN ROAD CHRISTIAN

Head coach: Mike Harris, ninth year.
League: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).
Last year's record: 18-9.
Titles won last year: Division 4 district and region.
Notable losses to graduation: Kyle Harris (first team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Gavin Harris, Sr. P-Inf. (first team All-Area; .465; 37 runs, 22 RBIs); Evan Lorey, Jr. CF (second team All-Area; .400, 22 RBIs, 22 runs); Matt Lorey, Jr. P-OF (.397); Paul Alex, Jr. C (.318, 12 RBIs).
Promising newcomer: Nick Suchezky, Jr. P-Inf.
Harris' outlook: "Gavin Harris will be the ace of the staff. His fastball averages 82-85 mph with a top velocity of 86. Matt Lorey will give us a very good one-two punch on the mound. He's a very solid right-hander that can throw three pitches for strikes. He will also likely bat lead-off. Evan Lorey will take over in center and provide our outfield with solid defense and the ability to get after the ball. Evan will also get quality innings on the mound as a left-hander. Paul Alex will take over the catching responsibilities and will bat in the four-hole this spring. Nick Suchezky will add to what should be a deep pitching staff, as well as provide solid defense on the infield."

BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

accomplished up there based on what the weather has been like," said Kostrzewa, now entering his 12th season as head coach. "We've been able to do a lot of things in a number of different ways - team-building, as well as baseball-related skills."

The Mustangs, who open their regular season Monday, April 4, at home against University of Detroit-Jesuit, are coming off a 28-3 season which ended in a disappointing 6-0 Division 1 pre-district loss to Brighton.

But the defending Central Division, Kensington Conference and KLAAs Association champions hope to reload despite losing their top two pitchers to graduation in Evan Flohr (8-1, 1.26 ERA) and Ian Borthwick (7-0, 1.09 ERA), along with All-Area Player of the Year Tyler Lowe (.450, 44 RBIs).

Despite those key losses, the cupboard is far from bare as back-up starters Zach Prystash, a junior, and Chris Dunn, a senior, combined for an 11-0 record. Junior pitcher and infielder Kevin Morrissey (.404) also returns.

Prystash, who bats lead-off, hit .418 en route to all-KLAA honors.

"I think we'll be pretty athletic with some of the new guys that we've added," Kostrzewa said. "Some of the juniors we have like Morrissey and (Nathan) Wixon have improved a lot since last year to this year, so they're going to contribute more and get more playing time this year."

Shamrocks aces

Novi Detroit Catholic Central (22-20) missed the Catholic League playoffs last year, but made a run all the way to the Division 1 regional final before falling to eventual state champion Harland, 3-2.

The Shamrocks have arguably the best one-two pitching combination in the area in seniors Grant Hartwig, who has signed with Miami (Ohio) Univer-



JOHN KOSTRZEWA

Northville returns (from left) Kevin Morrissey, a junior, and seniors Zach Prystash and Chris Dunn.

sity, and Dante Toppi.

The 6-foot-4 Hartwig, who also catches and hit .375, went 5-5 on the mound with an earned-run average of 1.44 (with a 3:1 strikeout-to-walk ratio).

Toppi, a 6-2 right-hander, went 9-2 with a 2.10 ERA.

CC also returns senior shortstop Nick Marcon, along with senior outfielders Anthony Esser and Luke Hargis, both of whom pitch. Senior Sean Garcia will also see time on the mound.

"I really think they have a chance to get into that Catholic League playoff this year," CC coach Dan Michaels said. "We won 14 of our last 15 and, when we got a few hits here and there and we said, 'Holy cow, we can actually do this.' That's what it boils down to - key hits are contagious. I bet we hit .220 as a team last year. We just need serviceable hitting and I think we can be right there."

Novi gets jump

The Wildcats (14-23-1) pulled off the upset of the Division 1 tourney last year by downing host Brighton before falling to Catholic Central in the district

final.

Novi, which split a season-opening doubleheader Saturday at home against Troy Athens, will be led by senior Scott Beaton, a smooth fielding shortstop who batted .351 with 19 runs scored and 15 RBIs.

Beaton will be the team's captain, assisted by senior returnees Joey Carn, a second baseman who batted .318; Zac Colliau, the team's No. 1 starter who went 5-2 with a 1.65 ERA; and center fielder Spencer VanKirk.

"I think pitching and defense are our strong suit," 17th-year Novi coach Rick Green said. "We're going to have to hit the ball better than we did last year. But I really believe if we can score three or four runs a game, I think we'll win some ballgames."

Warriors reload

Novi Franklin Road Christian (18-9) went all the way to the Division 4 state quarterfinals last June before falling to Uby, 3-1.

The biggest loss will be replacing senior third baseman Kyle Harris, an all-state player who paced the Warriors in all offensive categories, including batting average (.519), RBIs (46), runs (37) and homers (six, including two grand slams).

Kyle Harris moved to play at Spring Arbor University, while senior Gavin Harris, a pitcher and middle infielder, is headed there next year as well after hitting .465 with 37 runs and 22 RBIs.

Lawrence Tech recruit Matt Lorey, the No. 2 starter, also brings a potent bat to the lineup after hitting .397 as the Warriors hope to challenge perennial state power Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett and Sterling Heights Parkway Christian in the Red Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

"Pitching, defense and timely hitting from our top four or five batters will determine how far we go," ninth-year Franklin Road coach Mike Harris said.

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PREP LACROSSE

Novi girls cruise past River Rats in opener

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi senior captain Gina Salemi scored nine goals, while junior captain Katie McMaster added seven in a 20-6 season-opening girls lacrosse victory March 24 over visiting Ann Arbor Huron.

Other goal scorers for the Wildcats, who jumped out to a 14-6 half-time advantage, were sophomores Hannah Richardson and Heather Garcia and freshmen Katie Novell and Alexa Cotter.

Senior Cecilia Hong anchored the defense, while junior goalie Mariah Smthye made nine saves.

TROY 10, NOVI 6 (BOYS): The host Colts (0-1) held off a late rally by the Wildcats (0-2) to earn the non-conference victory Saturday.

Griffin Sparling scored a pair of goals, while Anthony Zugaro, Ian Patterson, Scott Latham and Michael Leone each added one for Novi.

Nate Tu chipped in two assists, while Latham, Sparling and Leone had one each.

Goalie Peter Miner had 10 saves in a losing cause.

"After losing the Saline game in the manner we did (12-3), I was concerned that the team might start to doubt themselves," Novi first-year coach Chris Johnson said. "We started the Troy game by falling behind. I was proud of the boys for battling the way they did in Troy. The team showed a lot of fight, we just ran out of clock. Our offense had a ton of momentum and really started to click in the final quarter. We are looking forward to a big break before our next contest. It should allow us to get healthy and work on certain things."

SALINE 12, NOVI 3 (BOYS): The host Hornets (1-0) earned the season-opening victory over the Wildcats (0-1) in a non-conference encounter March 23.

Griffin Sparling, Anthony Zugaro and Michael Leone all scored a goal, while Ian Patterson had an assist for Novi. Goalties Peter Miner and Kendrick Scherer combined for 12 saves with seven and five, respectively.

ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Versatile Moorman led Northville to best season ever

Junior forward named Player of the Year

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Northville girls basketball reached new heights this season by winning the first Class A regional title in school history.

And one player that brought all the intangibles to the table was 5-foot-11 junior forward Jessica Moorman, who was a big reason the Mustangs finished 21-4 overall before being ousted by eventual state champion Warren Cousino in the quarterfinals.

The three-year starter and co-captain, named All-Area Player of the Year, averaged a team-best 11.8 points per game to go with 4.1 rebounds and 2.7 steals (led team).

Moorman also was an adept ball-handler who could throw over the top and break full-court pressure.

"She is our top offensive threat," Northville coach Todd Gudith said of the two-time all-Kensington Lakes Activities Association selection. "She does a great job of getting to the rim, but can also stop and make pull-up jumpers."

And because of her long arms, Moorman also became a disruptive force defensive end of the floor, which helped Northville win the KLAA Central Division and district titles.

First team

Ellie Mackay, Soph. G, Novi: She averaged 17.3 points, two assists, 3.5 rebounds and 3.5 rebounds per game for the Wildcats (16-5).

Even more impressive was Mackay's free-throw shooting (82 percent), which included a 17-of-17 performance against Livonia Stevenson and 22 foul shots made against Walled Lake Western, second all-time for a single game in the MHSAA record books.

"Ellie is a point guard who looks to score," Novi coach Bill Kelp said of the all-KLAA and honorable mention all-state player. "Ellie not only runs the offense, but also scores by either driving or shooting. She has become a better ball-handler this year and more aggressive going to the basket. Has the desire to keep improving and playing at the next level. She is a gym rat. Very coachable. It will be fun watching her the next two years."

Peyton Jones, Sr. G, South Lyon East: She was the area's most prolific scorer, averaging 20.3 points per game while shooting 40 percent from 3-point range and 41 percent overall.

The all-KLAA pick also connected on 79 percent from the line and averaged 3.7 rebounds per game.

"Peyton has been a very consistent scorer, despite getting the attention of the top defender on opposing teams," East coach Rob Leadley said. "She is an outstanding shooter with great range, but she can also get to the rim. Peyton worked extremely hard in the off-season to hone her skills and her efforts have paid off in an outstanding senior season."

Mallory Barrett, Jr. G, Milford: She led the Mavericks to a Class A district title while averaging 12.4 points, five rebounds, 4.8 steals and 1.8 assists per game.

The all-KLAA selection also shot 41 percent from the floor and had a steal/turnover ratio of 1.64.

"Mallory is a kid who leads by example," Milford coach David Browne said. "She puts in work to better herself in the off-season and it has paid off each year. She is a leader in the classroom as well, where she holds high marks. She is the type of athlete on the court with the ability to take over a game. She is our best player, but you would never know it talking to her. She is an extremely humble and coachable kid."

Hannah Rayburn, Sr. G, Franklin Road Christian: She averaged 16 points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals per game as the Warriors captured a Class D district title.

The team MVP and all-MIAC first team selection scored 27 points, including five triples, in the district final. Rayburn also shot 45 percent from 3-point line and 72 per-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Northville junior forward Jessica Moorman (left) was named All-Area Player of the Year.

2015-16 ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Jessica Moorman, Jr. F
Northville

FIRST TEAM
Ellie Mackay, Soph. G, Novi
Peyton Jones, Sr. G
South Lyon East
Mallory Barrett, Jr. G, Milford
Hannah Rayburn, Sr. G
Franklin Road
Brook Adams, Jr. C
Northville

SECOND TEAM
Kendall Dillon, Soph. G
Northville
Allie Lipson, Sr. C, Novi
Molly Stec, Sr. G, Lakeland
Roan Haines, Soph. G-F
Northville
Abby Jones, Jr. C
South Lyon East

HONORABLE MENTION
Northville: Lindsey Rathsburg, Sr. F; **Novi:** Cara Ninkovich, Jr. G; **Franklin Road Christian:** Danielle Fusco, Sr. G; Reagan Mumford, Jr. F; **South Lyon East:** Abby Jones, Jr. C; **South Lyon:** Samantha Swain, Jr. G; **Milford:** Brynne Gustafson, Sr. C; Allison Smith, Fr. F; **Lakeland:** Skylar Baer, Soph. F.

cent from the foul stripe. "Hannah was one of 20 girls from the state selected to shoot in the 3-point shootout during the state championship games," Franklin Road coach Tiffany Butler said. "Hannah is a phenomenal athlete and student; she maintains a 3.9 GPA. She has received a scholarship to Concordia University, where she will play basketball and softball."

Brook Adams, Jr. F, Northville: Despite suffering a broken thumb midway through the season, the 6-footer averaged eight points, 4.8 rebounds and 1.9 blocks per game.

The three-year varsity player and two-year starter also earned all-KLAA honors.

"Brook made the switch to playing in the post this season and adjusted well," Gudith said. "Her height was a big advantage for us this year. She has the ability to take a player off the dribble, but has 3-point range, which is rare for a post player her size. Defensively, Brook gets a lot of blocks or alters a bunch of shots when teams try to go inside."

Second team

Kendall Dillon, Soph. G, Northville: The two-year varsity starter, who made a full-time move to point guard this season, averaged 6.8 points and a team-best 2.9 assists per game, while shooting 30 percent from 3-point range en route to all-KLAA honors.

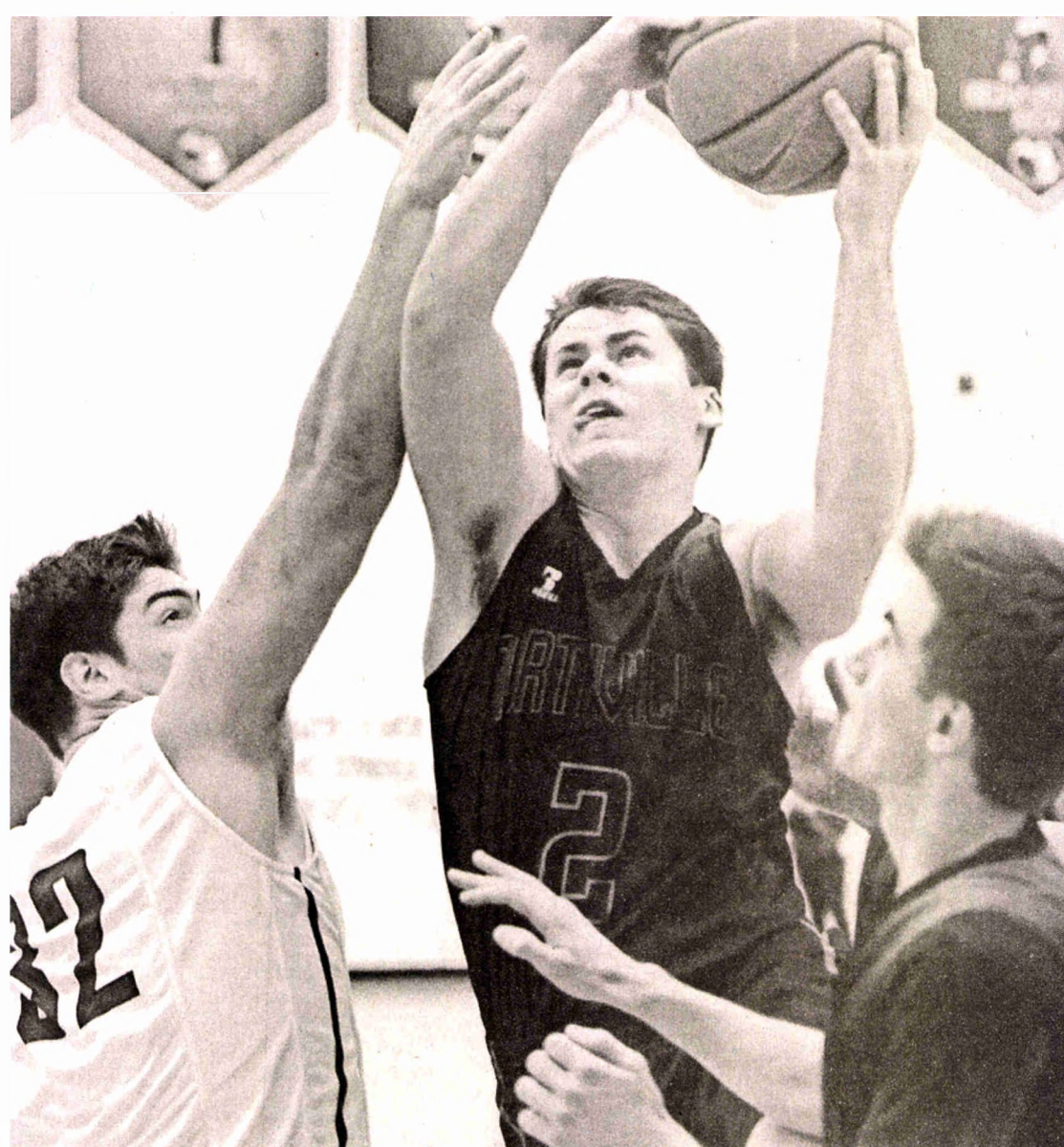
Allie Lipson, Sr. C, Novi: The third-year varsity player, an all-KLAA selection, proved to be a hard-working post player, averaging nine points, eight rebounds, two steals and one block.

Molly Stec, Sr. G, Lakeland: An All-KLAA honorable mention pick, she appeared in more than 80 games during her four-year varsity career, averaging six points and four rebounds per game as a senior, while being the Eagles' 3-point leader.

Roan Haines, Soph. G-F, Northville: An honorable mention all-KLAA pick, she averaged 6.6 points and 4.7 rebounds per game. She was also second on the team in steals (2.7).

Danielle Waranauckas, Sr. G, South Lyon East: An all-KLAA choice, she set the single-season assist record (3.7 per game) for the Cougars while averaging 5.3 points, 2.9 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game. She also hit 68 percent of her free throws.

ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Northville senior guard Justin Zimbo (middle) earned All-Area Player of the Year honors.

Zimbo proved again to be Northville's point of attack

Senior guard earns Player of Year honors

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When Northville boys basketball coach Todd Sander talks about Justin Zimbo, he refers to him having the "it" factor.

And whether Zimbo was on the gridiron as the team's quarterback or at the point guard position on the hardwood, the 6-foot senior proved he could take the controls.

"Justin was our go-to guy; he's a leader," Sander said of the all-KLAA selection. "You would never think it talking to him off the court, but he's one of the most fierce competitors I've ever coached. We kind of went as he did, for the most part, in most games."

Zimbo, named All-Area Player of the Year, averaged 16.5 points per game while shooting 54 percent from the field, including 41 percent from 3-point range. He also made 78 percent of his free throws to go along with 3.5 steals and 2.5 assists per game.

"He needed to fill a lot of roles for us this year, but certainly he stepped up and was our leading scorer," Sander said.

As the Mustangs' starting quarterback, Zimbo accounted for 2,286 total yards in offense, leading Northville to a 9-0 regular season and a 10-1 overall record.

In basketball, Northville finished 21-2 overall, giving Zimbo a 31-3 record combined in the two sports.

"What a tremendous way for Justin to finish off his spectacular athletic career at Northville," Sander said. "He was one of our key scorers, but so much more to our team. He's a quiet leader that comes ready to work every day. He willed our team to more than a couple victories when we really needed someone to step up. Unlimited range shooting the basketball and one of the most clutch free-throw shooters I have coached."

First team

Justin Gibbons, Sr. F, Northville: An all-KLAA pick who is getting recruiting interest from a number of MIAA schools, he averaged 15.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.5 steals per game.

"We are so happy for Gibbons and the season that he had for our team," Sander said. "He puts in so much of his own time working on his skill set, training and conditioning. His work ethic is a model for all of our younger players. We needed him to do everything for our team, score the basketball, defend and rebound. He is among our leaders in almost every statis-

2015-16 ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Justin Zimbo, Sr. G
Northville

FIRST TEAM
Justin Gibbons, Sr. F
Northville
Josh Remstad, Sr. F
South Lyon
Traveon Maddox Jr.
Soph. G, Novi
Austin Hearn, Sr. G
Franklin Road
Travis Seka, Sr. G, Lakeland

SECOND TEAM
Nick Wilds, Sr. F, Northville
Joshua Bause, Sr. C
Franklin Road
Gio Genrich, Jr. G, Detroit CC
C.J. Baird, Jr. F, Detroit CC
Naji Ozeir, Sr. F, Novi

HONORABLE MENTION
Northville: Jake Justice, Jr. G; Kevin Morrissey, Jr. G; **Novi:** Kam Hankerson, Sr. G; Alec Bageris, Jr. F; Jay Duarte, Sr. C; **Detroit CC:** Tyler Laurentius, Sr. G; Tom Smulsky, Sr. C; **Franklin Road Christian:** Joshua Betcher, Sr. F; **South Lyon:** Ethan Townsley, Sr. F; Ben Call, Soph. G; **South Lyon East:** Luke Trent, Sr. F; Josh Smith, Sr. G; **Lakeland:** Martin Sinishtaj, Sr. F; Cass Phillips, Soph. C; **Milford:** Aiden Warzecha, Soph. G; Zachary Jones, Jr. G; Dominic Dawson, Jr. G.

tical category and he had a knack for making big timely plays."

Josh Remstad, Sr. F, South Lyon: An all-KLAA choice, he averaged 14.5 points, while shooting 46 percent from the field, including 21 3-pointers, and 67 percent from the foul line.

"Josh had an outstanding senior season for us," South Lyon coach Doug Host said. "We asked him to do a lot at both ends of the floor, in terms of controlling the boards at the defensive end and sometimes checking the other team's best player if that player had some size, and then offensively, really our offense ran through him."

"He did a great job of giving us an efficient post presence and also had the ability to take opposing bigs out to the perimeter. Additionally, he always brought a lot of fight to the floor."

Traveon Maddox Jr., Soph. G, Novi: He got consistently better as the season wore on as he averaged 16.5 points, 6.5 rebounds, three assists and 2.6 steals per game.

"He's got the unique ability to get to the basket and finish, but he's threat from deep," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "Playing up last year as a freshman, he kind of got the feel for everything. Early on he had some highlight games for us in the 20s as far as his scor-

ing ability. What turned it on for us down the stretch was not only his scoring, but his rebounding and getting others involved."

Austin Hearn, Sr. G, Franklin Road Christian: An all-MIAC selection, finished his career scoring more than 1,000 points while leading the Warriors to a 16-7 record and the first Class D district championship in school history.

Hearn averaged 17.5 points, along with 5.9 assists per game and seven rebounds per game.

"Austin is an outstanding athlete and his athletic ability allows him to do so many things defensively and offensively," Franklin Road coach Matt Mikel said. "He's a good shooter, but gets to the basket pretty much when he wants and distributes the ball and gets his teammates involved as well. He creates a lot of shots for his shooters with his dribble penetration."

Travis Seka, Sr. G, Lakeland: An all-KLAA honoree, he was the straw that stirred the drink for the Eagles (14-8) as he averaged 10 points, four assists, 3.5 rebounds and three steals per game.

"Travis has been our most improved player this season," Lakeland coach Bob Brugger said. "He has been the catalyst for our offense. His greatest attribute is his ability to drive and feed our post players for easy baskets. Travis was the player that we depended on to make things happen in crunch time."

Second team

Nick Wilds, Sr. C, Northville: An all-KLAA pick, he did the dirty work inside as he averaged nine points, 7.5 rebounds (including four offensive per game) and 3.5 steals, while shooting 77 percent from the foul line.

Joshua Bause, Sr. C, Franklin Road Christian: An all-MIAC selection, he averaged a 12.5 points and 15 rebounds per game for the Class D district champions. He shot 47 percent from the floor in the MIAC.

Gio Genrich, Jr. G, Detroit CC: An all-league pick in the Catholic League, he was the team's leading scorer, averaging 12.4 points per game while shooting 37.5 percent from 3-point range (36-of-96).

C.J. Baird, Jr. F, Detroit CC: An all-Catholic League selection, he was the Shamrocks' second leading scorer at 11 points per game, shooting 50 percent from the field (89-of-177), while averaging 5.4 rebounds per game.

Naji Ozeir, Sr. F, Novi: He scored inside and outside, averaging 10.5 points, 7.8 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game. In the Wildcats' state tourney run, Ozeir averaged a double-double in four games.



The Novi Home & Garden Show is this weekend.

Novi Home & Garden Show this weekend at Showplace

With the sales of previously owned homes the highest since 2006 and home remodeling activity increasing, the best place to become educated on interior and exterior enhancements is April 1-3 at the Novi Home & Garden Show.

On hand will be roofing specialists, window, door and garage experts and the best of the best general contractors for any and all home upgrades.

At the Detroit area's largest home and garden show, attendees can walk through 20,000 square feet of stunning landscape exhibits highlighting beautiful pergolas, fanciful water features, outrageous outdoor kitchens and distinctive and unique plantings.

In addition to a record number of exhibitors, the Plant Michigan Green Seminar Stage will have speakers on

yards, plants and tree care, designing outdoor entertaining areas and grilling advice. Go to novihomeshow.com for a schedule of speakers.

Some exhibits at the 2016 event include:

» Great Lakes Vineyards — Growing your own wine grapes is not only possible, but beautiful! Great Lakes Vineyards, a Michigan-based company, will exhibit a post and trellis mini-vineyard system and will have winemakers on hand to answer any questions.

» EcoGranite — Using 100-percent recycled natural stone products, Livonia-based EcoGranite will showcase a built-in barbecue with recycled granite veneer, as well as a large fire pit complete with lid and cooking grate.

» Tiki Republic — Beverages always taste better when served from a tiki bar! Marys-

ville-based Tiki Republic serves up some fun with its exhibit featuring an "Island Breeze" bar and surfboard countertop.

The Novi Home & Garden Show is 2-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., in Novi. Adult admission (ages 13 and older) is \$10; seniors (ages 55 and older) is \$9; and children ages 12 and younger free. Parking is not included in ticket price.

For more information, advance tickets and coupons, go to www.novihomeshow.com. Coupon for \$1 off admission available at metro Detroit Dunkin' Donuts locations, Great Lakes Ace Hardware locations, Indoor Outdoor Resource magazine and Detroit Newspaper Homestyle section.

State spends \$1.4 million to lure supplier firm to Novi

Matthew Dolan
Michigan.com

The state's economic development arm announced it would spend \$1.4 million to lure the headquarters of an Ohio-based auto supplier to Novi, which could lead to an estimated 140 jobs in the region.

Warren, Ohio-based Stoneridge is expected to transfer 70 jobs to Michigan in the process. In exchange for the \$1.4-million state grant, Stoneridge may also hire up to an additional 70 jobs to support growth at its Novi headquarters, according to the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Stoneridge — a global designer and manufacturer of electrical and electronic components, modules and systems for the automotive market — is expected to make a capital investment worth more than \$5.1 million. The company is seeking to move its growing headquarters outside Detroit to be closer to

customers in the metro area, which is seen as a hotbed for the automotive industry's future.

"This is a logical step in the ongoing transformation of Stoneridge as we continue to seek ways to serve our global customers better and pursue opportunities for long-term growth," Jon DeGaynor, the company's president and CEO, said in a news release. "This new company headquarters location will foster greater collaboration by bringing a larger portion of our leadership team and critical functions together as we work on developing new solutions for customers."

The Michigan Strategic Fund run by the MEDC approved the Stoneridge measure at a board meeting last week. A Stoneridge spokesman said in a message that the company had no comment beyond its news release.

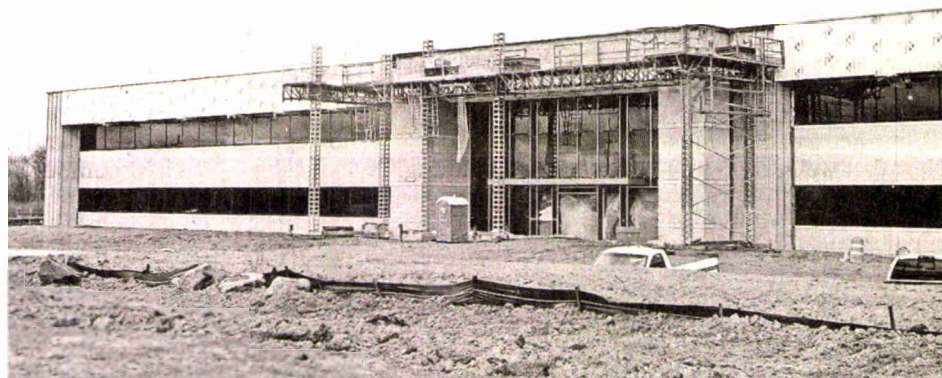
Stoneridge expects to receive training support from Oakland County

Michigan Works! valued at \$700,000. The city of Novi has offered a property tax abatement with an undisclosed value for the 38,000-square-foot project near M-5 and 13 Mile Road. City spokeswoman Sheryl Walsh declined to provide an estimate for the value of the abatement, saying the issue will be discussed publicly April 18 before the Novi City Council.

Stoneridge's existing sales office in Novi is expected to be combined with the new corporate facility near the current location in Novi. The move will affect all employees — primarily in the finance and information technology departments — at the company's current headquarters in Ohio.

Stoneridge officials said the company will keep its manufacturing facility in Lexington, Ohio. The company has approximately 4,100 employees worldwide across 27 locations in 12 countries.

Office space almost available



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An office complex is taking taking shape at 26999 Meadowbrook Road in Novi. The two-level building is being built on a nearly eight-acre lot and was sold in 2013 for more than \$700,000.

Co-signing a loan can leave you on the hook if it goes into default

The other day, a client contacted me with an issue. Unfortunately, I had to give the client some bad news. The client's situation is that about five years ago, after her daughter got married, she co-signed a loan so that her daughter and her new son-in-law could start a business. The loan was for 10 years and, for the first few years, payments were made on time. Unfortunately, about a year or so ago, the daughter and son-in-law got divorced and closed their business. According to the divorce settlement, the husband assumed responsibility for the loan.

Not unexpectedly, about six months after the divorce, they each filed for bankruptcy; as a result, their liability on the business loan was discharged. Unfortunately, no one in the divorce proceedings took into consideration that my client had co-signed the loan. As a result, the bank contacted her and informed her that unless she paid the loan, they would begin legal proceedings.

My unfortunate job was to inform my client that she is responsible for the loan. Although her now ex-son-in-law and daughter were legally discharged from the loan, that had no effect on my client. As a result, as I informed her she was responsible for the



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

loan.

At least a few times a year, I am faced with the issue of having to inform a co-signer that they are responsible for a loan. Many people are under the misconception that if the primary signer of the loan goes into bankruptcy and receives a discharge, that somehow that discharge applies to the co-signer; it does not. In fact, if you take a step back, that is the reason why banks and other financial institutions many times will require a co-signer in order to approve the loan. I always tell people before you co-sign a loan, you have to accept the very real possibility that you can legally be on the hook to repay that loan. That is why I always say you better thoroughly think it through.

I recognize that family and friends want to help each other and, obviously, that is a good thing. However, when it comes to co-signing a loan, you definitely have to think through the consequences. If you are forced to repay the loan, how will it affect you financially? If it would cause financial distress, then you probably should

pass on the co-signing. If it would have minimal impact, then that is another thing.

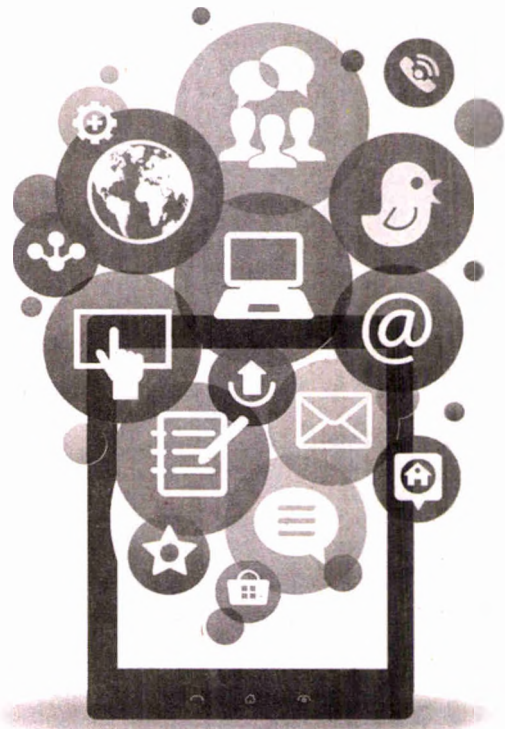
There is a reason why banks and financial institutions ask for co-signers — they're not sure that the individual requesting the loan has the wherewithal and the financial resources to repay the loan. You always have to think twice before you co-sign. If the bank doesn't think that they have the wherewithal to repay the loan, it should cause you to seriously think about your decision.

When it comes to dealing with banks or financial institutions, you can negotiate some of the terms. For example, I recently dealt with a client who was co-signing a loan for one of her children. We were able to work with the bank to limit my client's obligation to the first two years of the loan. If the loan was paid on time for the first two years, she would be removed as a co-signer. We were able to limit her liability and that's something that you may also want to consider.

Good luck!

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

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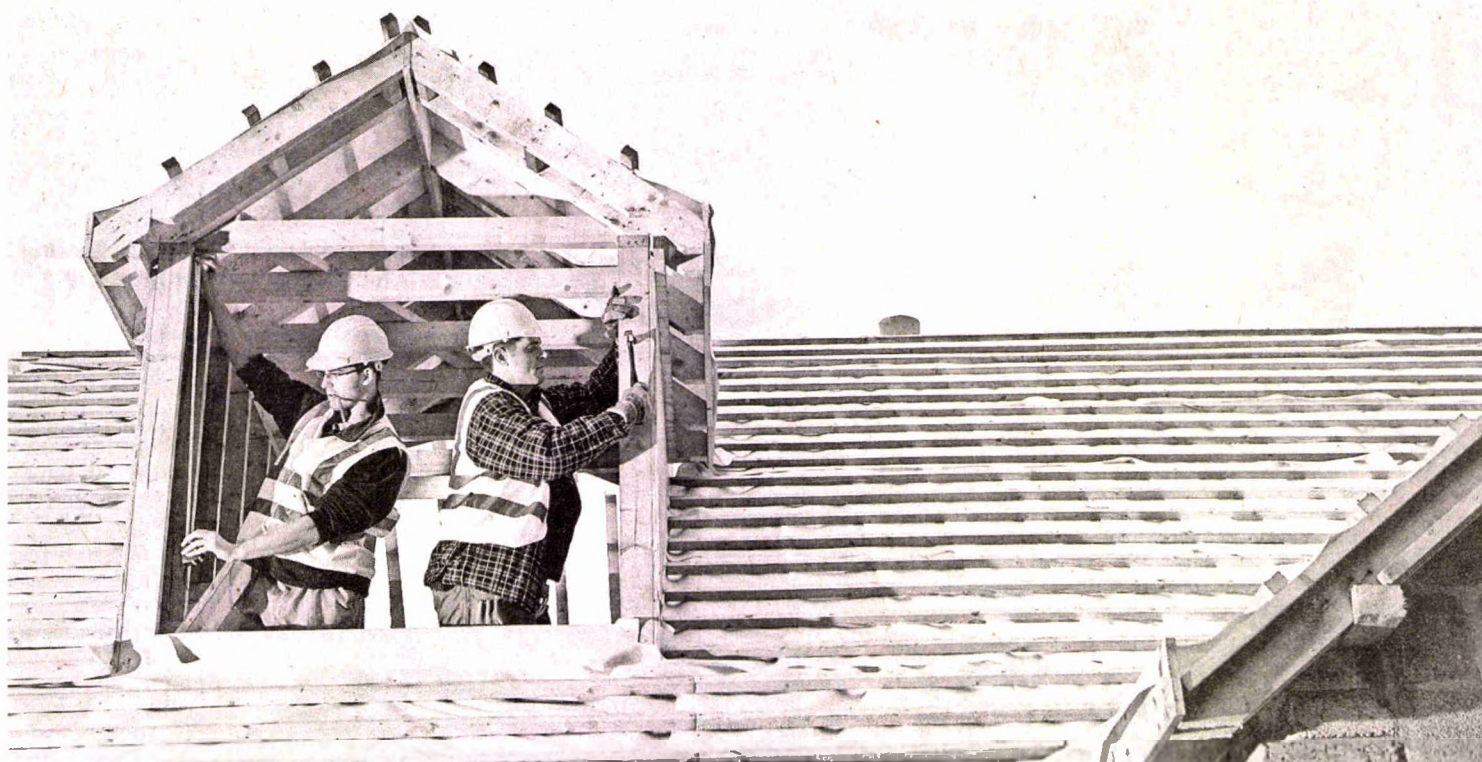
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Building of new homes is increasing.

GETTY IMAGES/BANANASTOCK RF

SE Michigan new housing report shows upswing in building

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

With some late reporting by municipalities in the four-county area, the final total for new single-family home permits issued in 2015 (4,316) across Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties nearly matched the total in 2014 (4,321). When multi-family activity is added to the totals, 2015 (5,658) saw its best year for permit activity dating back to 2006 (6,962).

"It is very encouraging," said Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan. "To have such a strong start to the calendar year. What a difference a decade makes. Now that we're on the upswing, that's very exciting for our builders and I'm sure the citizens of Michigan."

Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and reported in the HBA Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report, a total of 603 single-family permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in the two-month, January-February 2016 time frame. That's the highest two-month total to start a calendar year since

January-February 2006 (1,025).

Activity was 70 percent higher compared to January-February 2015's total of 354 permits, reflecting in-part the much milder weather this year compared to last. Oakland County leads this year's fast start with 254 new home permits and 162 multi-family permits issued in January-February.

Said Stoskopf of the encouraging news, "No. 1, it's people being employed." Roofers, carpenters, those who lay carpet and others go to work when home building picks up.

"There's people that need to work to do those jobs," he said. Also, the new homeowners begin to think about major retail purchases such as a couch or a refrigerator.

"It's showing up in retail outlets," said Stoskopf, adding, "Typically, new homes have a higher value for the unit because of newer materials" than do existing homes.

That translates to higher property taxes which in turn benefit school systems, he said.

"The more people you have

working, the more service jobs you have. That restaurant on the corner has people working," Stoskopf said. "The other benefit of people working is all the service jobs."

Working people often need a place to go for lunch, he noted, boosting the local economy.

As for lessons to be learned from the Great Recession, Stoskopf notes it's his own opinion people got tied up in thinking "everybody was entitled to buy a home."

His daughter and son-in-law, in their 20s, are now working out what a down payment on a home should be as well as their other expenses. Their question is "What can we afford and figure out the right number?"

He noted there were some predatory lending practices. "If we don't learn that from the Great Recession, we're doomed to repeat it." There are people on both sides of the political aisle now, Stoskopf said, who say home ownership should be unrealistically high, such as 70-80 percent.

Some people either don't want or can't afford a home, he said. There was a housing "bubble nationwide," in the Great Recession, he said, although auto sales were a major factor locally.

"People stop making cars,

they get laid off. It's really auto manufacturing that's the primary driver still in southeast Michigan," Stoskopf said.

Based on the econometrics used in the forecast calculations, the HBA/ASA New Housing Permit Forecast projects a total of 3,087 permits will be issued in the six-month, March-to-August time frame, which represents an increase of 23 percent over the actual permits issued during the same period in 2015 (2,504).

In the midst of that forecast is the projection for May. If the prediction holds, May 2016 would see over 600 new home permits issued in a single month. This would be the first time since July 2006 (718) that permits exceeded that threshold, according to the HBA.

The HBA's monthly new housing permit forecast is sponsored by ASA, asabuildersupply.com, an area business.

Stoskopf also encourages attendance at the April 1-3 Spring Home & Garden Show of the HBA, held at Suburban Collection Showplace on Grand River Avenue in Novi. You can get home ideas and talk to contractors there, he noted.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
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Stoskopf

Realtor survey: Suburban homes hold their appeal

Over three-quarters of surveyed households would purchase a single-family home if they were to buy in the next six months, and 79 percent of renters would choose to buy outside of an urban area, according to the second installment of the National Association of Realtors new quarterly consumer survey. The survey also found that confidence about now being a good time to buy is waning amongst renters, particularly in the West — where prices have solidly risen.

In NAR's first quarter *Housing Opportunities and Market Experience (HOME)* survey, respondents were asked about their confidence in the U.S. economy and various questions about their housing expectations and preferences, including a question on if they were to purchase a house in the next six months, what type of home and in what area would they choose to buy.

The survey data reveals an overwhelming consumer preference for single-family homes in suburban areas. Most current homeowners (85 percent) and 75 percent of renters said they would purchase a single-family home, while only 15 percent of homeowners and 21 percent of renters said that would buy in an urban area.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says the survey findings call attention to the glaring need for more supply of single-family homes. "The American Dream for most consumers is not a cramped, 500-square-foot condo in the middle of the city, but instead a larger home within close proximity to the jobs and en-

tertainment an urban area provides," he said. "While this is not a new discovery, supply and demand imbalances and unhealthy levels of price growth in several metro areas have made buying an affordable home an onerous task for far too many first-time buyers and middle-class families."

According to Yun, it's time for home builders to double their focus on constructing single-family homes. With millennials increasingly buying in the suburbs — as NAR reported earlier this month — tight inventory and affordability concerns will likely worsen without significant headway made in housing starts in relation to job creation.

Renters lose optimism about now being a good time to buy

Heading into the spring buying season, NAR's survey found that compared to the December 2015 survey the same share of homeowners (82 percent) but fewer renters (62 percent versus 68 percent last quarter) believe that now is a good time to buy.

"A high number of homeowners are expressing that it's a good time to buy and this sentiment is no doubt being fueled by the \$4.4 trillion in housing equity accumulation in the past three years," Yun said. "On the other hand, accelerating home prices and the perceived difficulty in obtaining a mortgage appears to be tugging at the confidence of renters."

Overall, respondents over the age of 65, those living in the Midwest and those with incomes over \$100,000 were

the most optimistic about buying now.

Among current homeowners, fewer (56 percent) believe it is a good time to sell compared to the fourth quarter of 2015 (61 percent). Amidst steep price increases and tight supply, respondents in the West were the most likely to think now is a good time to sell, while also being the least likely to think now is a good time to buy.

Slightly fewer households think the U.S. economy is improving

Among all households in the survey, less than half believe the economy is improving (48 percent), down from 50 percent in last quarter's survey. Renters, those living in urban areas and respondents with lower incomes were the most optimistic.

The HOME survey's monthly Personal Financial Outlook Index of all households has slightly dipped (to 58.1) since December (59.6), but is mostly unchanged from March 2015 — reflecting stable confidence that respondents' financial situation will be better in six months. Currently, renters, younger and lower income households and those living in urban areas are more optimistic about their future financial situation.

Location matters depending on lifestyle

Across all age groups, when asked about their future buying preferences, survey responses were closely tied to each generation's typical lifestyle, with younger buyers

being more likely to consider buying a single-family home. Not surprisingly, renters and younger buyers would for the most part purchase larger homes, whereas older buyers would purchase similar or smaller sized homes.

Highlighting the apparent appetite for some older households to downsize and live in the city, respondents over the age of 65 were the most likely to consider a condo and nearly as likely as respondents under the age of 35 to consider purchasing in an urban area.

Most respondents indicated their preference to stay in a similar area to their current living situation if they were to buy in the next six months. Over two-thirds of those living in rural areas and 75 percent of those living in suburban areas would buy in a similar area. Only those living in an urban area would be more likely to move elsewhere, with a suburban area within 20 miles of the city being the most frequent choice of urban buyers moving to another type of area.

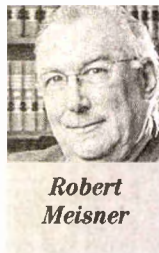
About NAR's HOME survey

In January through early March 2016, a sample of U.S. households was surveyed via random-digit dial, including half via cell phones and the other half via land lines. The survey was conducted by an established survey research firm, TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence. Each month approximately 900 qualified households responded to the survey. The data was compiled for this report and a total of 2,781 household responses are represented.

Management company needs to earn its keep

Q: Our board is considering a law firm who has indicated that they represent a magnitude of associations, but it is hard to get them to call us back. Our management company recommended them, and says that a lot of management companies recommend them; what are your thoughts on this?

A: Some management companies recommend the same law firm over and over again notwithstanding how well they perform because they have a "special" relationship with them. Accordingly, the law firm doesn't have to work very hard to get clients or, for that matter, retain them, because they know that they have a constant source of referral from management companies with whom they have a close relationship and, in many instances, the law firm will never pursue any claims that the association might have against the management company. You are best advised to consider another management company as well as another law firm who will give you service that you deserve and who need not be complacent in providing you with what you are entitled to when an issue arises within the management company.



Robert Meisner

Q: We have a Declaration for our homeowners association but, unfortunately, it does not have any provision for amending the Restrictions Section. What is going to take to amend our restrictions and can the board use its rule making power to impose any new restrictions?

A: Based upon a recent Michigan Court of Appeals decision, the absence of an amendment provision in the original Declaration of Restrictions for a subdivision lawfully precluded the HOA from later amending its Declaration with less than unanimous consent to impose additional restrictions on the homeowners. The court said that the amendment provisions and restrictive covenants and by-laws will be enforced as written and if there is no provision requiring less than unanimity, it will be required. Again, this is something that you should consult with your community association attorney about before engaging on this issue.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

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

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayne Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

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Make your cover letter stand out

BY MATT TARPEY
 CAREERBUILDER

Writing a résumé can be tricky, but it seems like a walk in the park compared with writing a cover letter.

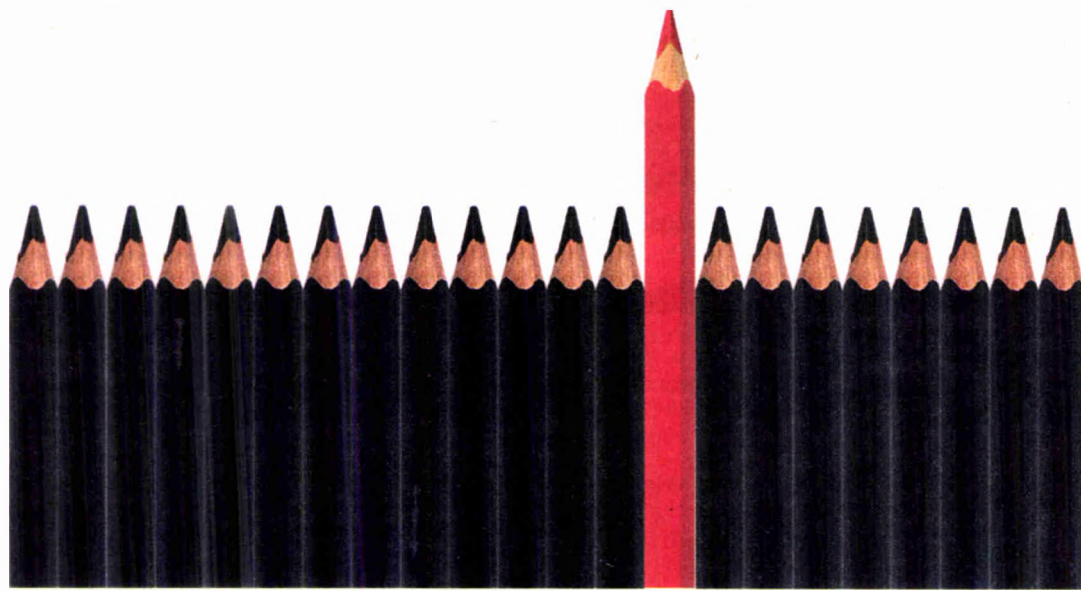
What's the secret? Here are five tricks to writing a standout cover letter — and getting it noticed by hiring managers.

1. Get rid of the fluff.

A cover letter gives you the opportunity to speak more expansively than you can on a résumé or application form, but there are still limits. Remember, hiring managers aren't obligated to read your cover letter — it's up to you to grab their interest.

"Keep it concise and focus on areas of your background that are connected to the opportunity," says Allie Basilica, social media director at Atrium Staffing. "Recruiters (and) managers rarely look at résumés and cover letters for more than one or two minutes.

"Often when people are trying to sell themselves, they use more verbose language than they ever would in another setting," she says. "Most positions in the business world require candidates who are succinct and efficient, and a wordy cover letter portrays the opposite message."



THINKSTOCK

2. Tell them something new.

If your cover letter doesn't add anything that hiring managers couldn't find on your résumé, then it's not worth their time or yours. "Use the cover letter as an opportunity to sell attributes that would make you a good fit for the position you are applying for that cannot be seen with a quick glance at your résumé," Basilica says.

This is your chance to make the case for why you are the best fit for the position. Connect the dots laid out on your résumé, and give examples of how you've implemented the

skills necessary for the job and the results you've attained from past experiences.

3. Research the company.

Personalizing your cover letter means more than just replacing the company name. It's important to tie the skills and experience listed on your résumé to the position you're applying for — and to do that, you need to know something about the company.

"Demonstrate that you've done your research," says Trevor Simm, founder and president of OpalStaff and

Talos Solutions. "Take some time to thoughtfully review the company's website and media coverage to get a feel for its solutions, services, culture and operations, and then find a way to reference this in your cover letter as a reason you are the perfect fit for the job."

4. Don't make it just about you.

Another key difference between a résumé and a quality cover letter is the focus. Your résumé should be all about you — the skills you've acquired and the results you've achieved. Your cover letter,

on the other hand, should tie it back to the company and explain how you can address its specific needs.

"Focus on how the company will benefit from your expertise and not (on) selling yourself," Simm suggests. "Your cover letter should show how you're a skilled and qualified candidate, but it's more important to explain what value you bring to the company. Avoid using 'I' or 'me,' and instead (share) how you'll provide solutions for the company's challenges. Doing this will illustrate why you're the best candidate for the job without you having to explicitly say so."

5. Take your time.

Above all, it's important to be patient and careful when writing your cover letter. "Avoid being in a rush to send off a letter," says Crystal Olivaria, a writer for CareerConversationalist.com, an online community and resource center for students. "Your cover letter is often the first impression a potential employer has of you. You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Take the time to do it right."

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

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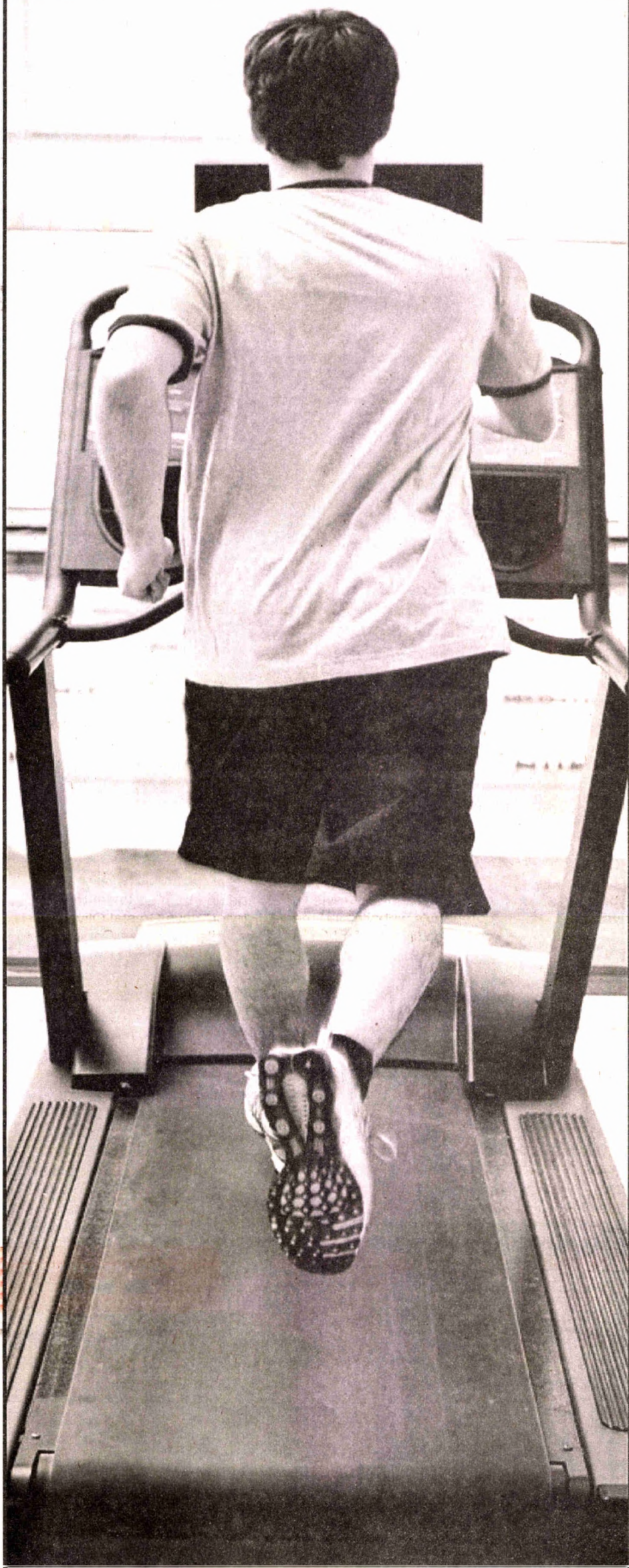
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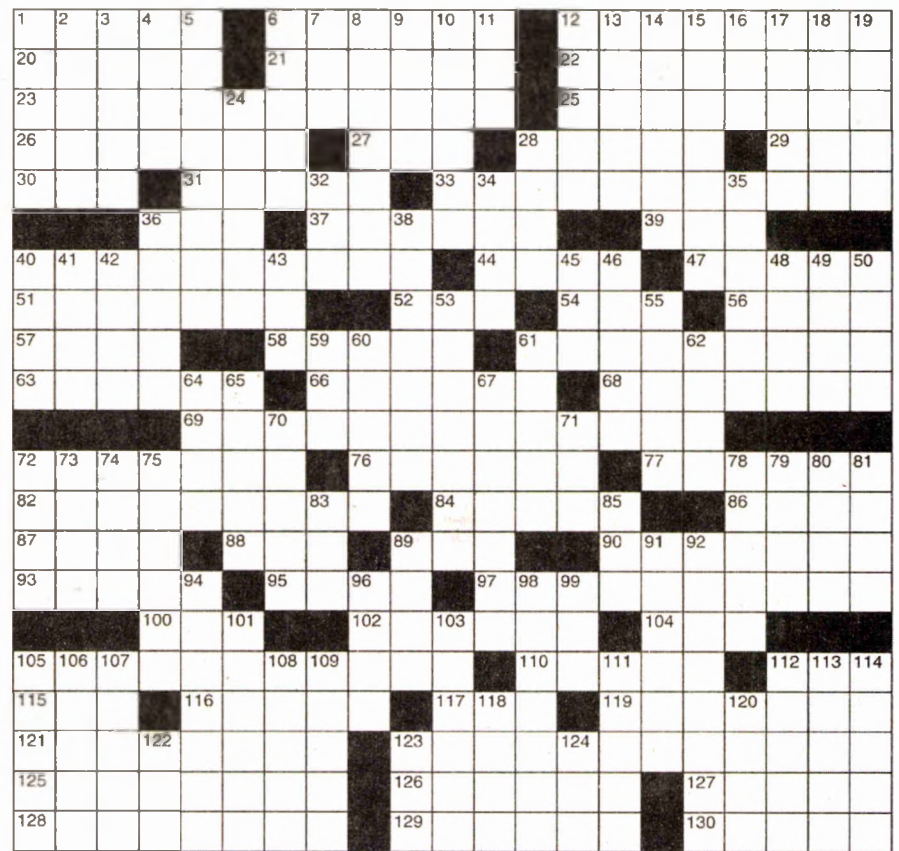
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pre-Easter seasons
 - 6 Confront boldly
 - 12 Entrée accompanier
 - 20 Into pieces
 - 21 "— & Greg" (old sitcom)
 - 22 Baseballer Roberto
 - 23 Style for Twiggy or Halle Berry
 - 25 Turned away from sin
 - 26 Remove with a dustpan, say
 - 27 Mate of Mom
 - 28 Dead duck
 - 29 Jestful sort
 - 30 Kin of -ette
 - 31 Prelude
 - 33 Kitschy lawn decoration
 - 36 Blasting inits.
 - 37 Matador
 - 39 Low mark
 - 40 Diet Coke alternative
 - 44 Banjos' cousins, in brief
 - 47 Boxer Roberto
 - 51 Duncan of dance
 - 52 L.A. winter hrs.
 - 54 Bit of web video gear
 - 56 Burrito kin
 - 57 "American Pie" actress
 - 58 Aesop's language
 - 61 Robert Louis Stevenson short story, with "The"
 - 63 POW's place
 - 66 Difficult trial
 - 68 Prize taker
 - 69 Credits for currying favor
 - 72 World Series month
 - 76 Goal
 - 77 Yard dividers
 - 82 Grimm story
 - 84 Born earlier
 - 86 Roof edge
 - 87 Took a plane
 - 88 — Z (the works)
 - 89 Part of 55-Down: Abbr.
 - 90 One issuing a revision
 - 93 Deer daddies
 - 95 Film's Kazan
 - 97 Cookie baker in a tree
 - 100 Part of UNLV
 - 102 Least confined
 - 104 Horace's "— Poetica"
 - 105 Swimmer with a long, flattened snout
 - 110 Singer — Marie
 - 112 Destroy the inside of
 - 115 Lacto- — diet
 - 116 Like some perfect games
 - 117 Wide shoe spec
 - 119 With regard to pitch
 - 121 New film's initial
 - 122 Showings
 - 123 Spago restaurateur
 - 125 Licorice-tasting liqueur
 - 126 One way to serve café
 - 127 — Lauder
 - 128 Alcoves
 - 129 Surgical inserts
 - 130 Performers
- DOWN**
- 1 Little slip-up
 - 2 Sweeping stories
 - 3 Greek island
 - 4 Duet + one
 - 5 Enter by foot
 - 6 Change to fit
 - 7 Greek letter
 - 8 One of four on a sedan
 - 9 Kind of whale
 - 10 Smear mark
 - 11 Design on skin, in brief
 - 12 Atlantic fish
 - 13 Actress Graft
 - 14 Rely
 - 15 Appeared
 - 16 Woodsy lair
 - 17 Bisected
 - 18 Iron output
 - 19 Bush row
 - 24 Stalking sort
 - 28 Totally get
 - 32 Artery: Abbr.
 - 34 In — (mired)
 - 35 Fix, as a dog
 - 36 — wave
 - 38 Lured
 - 40 Is in session
 - 41 Jr.'s exam
 - 42 — avis (oddy)
 - 43 Sharp turn
 - 45 Green start?
 - 46 The Devil
 - 48 Police action
 - 49 Crest
 - 50 "Negative"
 - 53 BBQ pest
 - 55 Weekday letters
 - 59 Propel a boat
 - 60 Golfer Els
 - 61 Tow-headed
 - 62 Emit coherent light
 - 64 Big name in advice
 - 65 Garbo of film
 - 67 Hulking and dumb, maybe
 - 70 Elocute
 - 71 Mineral suffix
 - 72 Does in
 - 73 City in Colombia
 - 74 Arena area
 - 75 "1984" writer
 - 78 Gets closer
 - 79 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
 - 80 Stunt puller
 - 81 Knieval
 - 83 Online "Ha!"
 - 85 Wipe
 - 89 Jamie of TV
 - 91 Intend to do
 - 92 Crazy
 - 94 Holy French ladies
 - 96 "— all possible ..."
 - 98 Singer Gloria
 - 99 Summer, in Savoy
 - 101 Hog noises
 - 103 Just manage
 - 105 Really succeed
 - 106 Like lambs
 - 107 Of the fifth element
 - 108 Novelist Nevil
 - 109 Tap-dancer Gregory
 - 111 Les — -Unis
 - 112 Thigh-rotating muscle, informally
 - 113 Peptic disorder
 - 114 Moppets
 - 118 Her, to Henri
 - 120 Lhasa — (small dog)
 - 122 Wind dir.
 - 123 Used to be
 - 124 "Shoo!"



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

SUDOKU

			5	6				
	2							1
		3	1	9	2			
3		4	8		7	5		1
1		5	3		2	6		7
			6	9		3	8	
	7							5
			4		1			

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	6	7	1	5	4	2	2	8
3	8	9	2	6	7	4	1	5
5	1	3	7	6	9	2	4	8
7	8	9	2	3	5	6	1	4
6	3	4	5	1	9	7	8	2
2	8	7	5	2	1	6	4	9
3	4	6	8	9	5	7	2	1
4	9	2	6	8	1	3	5	7
5	1	3	4	6	1	8	7	2
8	2	6	3	7	8	4	1	5

CREDIT CARD WORD SEARCH

I D S Y R E F S N A R T T I M I L P T L
A D Z I C L T P L V D R O W S S A P E A
P E E C N O B R E D L O H D R A C E C U
A K C D R T N N O I T A D I L A V E N N
G U K N N E Z S J Y B P C Y C L E F A N
Y I T P A A D I O Y M A J T P C L H L A
O G O H E N R I N L R D E T S U J D A W
C N U L O Y I B T T I E E J R N G V B K
I I B H K R C F S W R D C C O M P A N Y
T D P U U M I N T J G O A E T V O I D Y
S Y L L R E M Z O N D N D T I T E T C C
A S F R E E Z E A I U V I U I P N P F T
L E W Y U Y A Z M T T O A L C O T W R P
P C E B I A M U D B I C C R L T N B A U
R U L F R I A W U C C E O A C I I O B U R
M R M A M N L I A T E R N S A A B R D K
J E B I E N C R Y P T I O N N Z B U Y N
K D N Z V L E C A S H B A C K A M L B A
S I A V D D M E R C H A N T E A R K E B
M D K B P F C M T N E M E E R G A T B N

WORDS

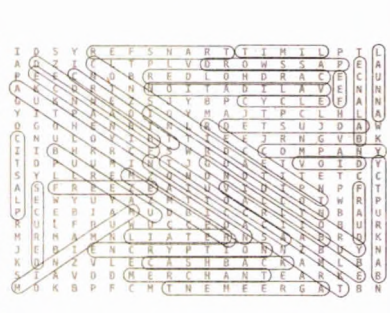
- ACCOUNT
- ADJUSTED
- AGREEMENT
- ANNUAL
- AUTHORIZATION
- BALANCE
- BANKRUPTCY
- BILLING
- BRANDED
- BUREAU
- CARDHOLDER
- CASH BACK
- COMPANY
- CONSOLIDATION
- CREDIT
- CYCLE
- ENCRYPTION
- FEE
- FINANCE
- FRAUD
- FREEZE
- INTRODUCTORY
- LIMIT
- MEMBER
- MERCHANT
- MINIMUM
- PASSWORD
- PLASTIC
- RECEIPT
- RETAIL
- SECURED
- TRANSACTION
- TRANSFER
- VALIDATION
- VARIABLE
- VOID

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

L	E	N	T	S	A	C	C	O	S	T	S	I	D	E	D	I	S	H
A	P	A	R	T	D	H	A	R	M	A	C	L	E	M	E	N	T	E
P	I	X	I	E	H	A	I	R	C	U	T	R	E	P	E	N	T	E
S	C	O	O	P	D	A	D	G	O	N	E	R	W	A	G	E	S	
E	S	S	I	N	T	R	O	R	O	D	E	E						
S	P	R	I	T	Z	E	R	O	U	K	E	S	O	U	R	A	N	
I	S	A	D	O	R	A	P	S	T	C	A	M	T	A	C	O		
T	A	R	A	G	R	E	E	K	B	O	T	T	L	E	I	M	P	
S	T	A	L	A	G	O	R	D	E	A	L	A	W	A	R	D	E	
O	C	T	O	B	E	R	I	N	T	E	N	T	F	E	N	C	E	
F	A	I	R	Y	T	A	L	E	L	D	E	R	L	E	A	V	E	
F	L	E	W	A	T	O	F	R	I	U	P	D	A	T	E	R		
S	I	R	E	S	E	L	I	T	A	K	E	E	B	L	E	R	E	
L	A	S	F	R	E	E	S	T	A	R	S							
G	O	B	L	I	N	S	H	A	R	K	T	E	E	N	A	G	U	
O	V	O	N	O	H	I	T	E	E	E	T	O	N	A	L	L		
F	I	R	S	T	R	U	N	W	O	L	F	G	A	N	G	P	U	
A	N	I	S	E	T	T	E	A	U	L	A	I	T	E	E	S	T	
R	E	C	E	S	S	E	S	S	T	E	N	T	S	I	D	O	E	

Word Search Answers



Car Report

Buick Tries To Extend Reach with Millennials Via New Encore, Including theSkimm Marketing Gambit



By Dale Buss

Encore is a huge success for Buick in a number of ways. It came on the market in 2013 just as the compact-crossover utility segment was exploding, positioning Buick squarely in the middle of a hot market that has helped the brand explode up the charts not only in sales but in the overall importance of the Buick franchise to General Motors. Meantime, of course, the lack of such a vehicle for Cadillac has really taxed the



Using theSkimm to market the new Encore.

GM luxury brand.

Also, Encore helped Buick conquest younger consumers at a much faster rate than perhaps any Buick nameplate before it. The brand has been trying for decades, actually, to skew younger, but no matter what Buick did with its sedans and even with its large SUV, the

Enclave, the basic demographics of its customer didn't shift all that much.

Encore has given Buick a lure with which to attract buyers who are both younger at heart and younger in reality. There are plenty of aging boomers who are buyers of Encore, but there also is a significant cohort of millennials who are attracted not only to the vehicle itself, to its amenities and convenience, but also increasingly to the Buick brand vibe.

You know that vibe — the one that has been exemplified and consistently reinforced by the "That's not a Buick" marketing campaign. Hatched a couple of years ago during Buick's annual sponsorship of March Madness, the campaign has been cleverly executed and, more important, has forced viewers to confront the very question it is asking: Do they really understand the kind of vehicles that Buick is putting out there these days, what they look like, how they ride — and how they're different from the stereotypes that younger consumers might have?

"It's a strategy that's been working to get consumers to reconsider their perceptions of Buick," Molly Peck, marketing director for Buick, told me. "And we've evolved it a tiny bit lately in that we've got all of this new product and all of this great

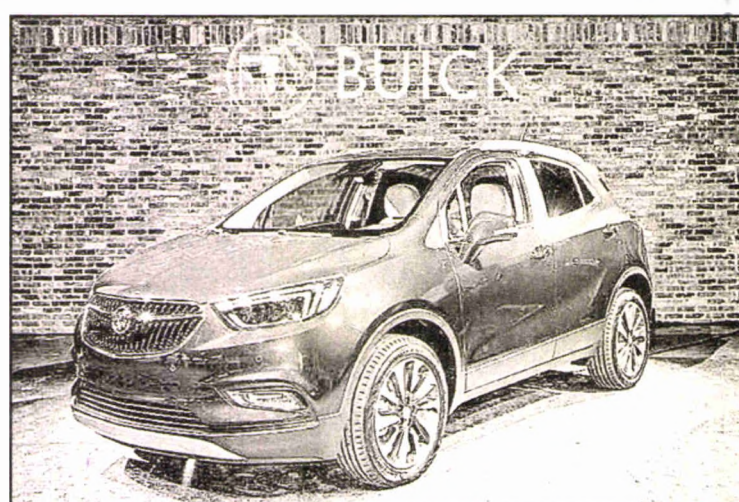
technology, so we're starting to pay off the question [and recast it] as, 'Is That a Buick?'"

"We're making more of a declaration of what consumers can expect from Buick, such as a brand new convertible, Cascada, and the Buick remote-link app."

Plus, she noted, Buick has four important new-vehicle launches this year: Cascada, the China-built Envision mid-sized SUV due in June, a new version of the LaCrosse sedan — and a new version of the Encore.

As part of the Encore's marketing launch, Buick already has done something interesting. Encore already was the most female- and youngest-skewing nameplate Buick has ever had. So now GM's near-premium marque is pressing its advantage in a deal with theSkimm, the New York-based daily email news digest that is aimed at the millennial women Buick has been wooing — and winning — lately.

To extend the more traditional unveiling of the 2017 version of Encore at the New York International Auto Show press preview, Buick revealed the not-before-displayed model to readers of theSkimm in a late-March edition. Click on the oh-so-lightly promotional line, "Skimm'd for a late-night drive" at the top of the email and readers were redirected to an Instagram photo



Buick unveiled the 2017 Encore in New York.

of the new Encore including the seal-of-approval hashtag #skimm spotted.

"We really liked the communication on theSkimm," Peck told me about the tie-in with the news aggregator, which was launched in 2014 by two former NBC News producers who wanted to curate news for time-pressed peers in an intelligent, digestible, slightly cheeky round-up with an attitude and voice.

"It's savvy. It's funny. It's informed. It's inclusive. And we think of those as attributes of the Buick brand too. And as we talked with them about this, the Encore was a perfect fit for that."

The brand's first integration with theSkimm started in the previous week, when each day Buick, as theSkimm's exclusive

automotive advertiser, depicted the typical reader "featured with her Buick, living her life," as Peck described the digital marketing plan.

Not only does theSkimm help Buick index higher with coveted millennial female car buyers or those considering a vehicle purchase, Peck said — the ultimate "conquest" consumer for Buick — but the site's high mobile consumption is crucial too.

"Mobile is super important to our consumers, especially younger consumers," she explained. "Over 60 percent of our traffic on the Buick.com mobile site is people who haven't been to Buick.com before."

And now, many of those are women coming from theSkimm.

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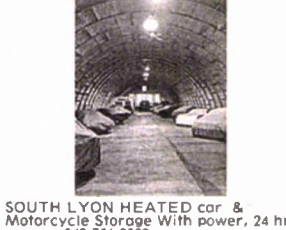
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Beautiful Lakefront Ranch!

- * Three bedroom, three bathroom, Ranch
- * Finished basement with family room, wet bar and full bath
- * Heated garage and heated attached shed
- * Enjoy boating, paddle boarding and fishing

MLS 216021919 248.684.1065 \$325,000



Gorgeous Custom Built Colonial!

- * Five bedroom, four and half bathrooms
- * Beautiful gourmet kitchen with a temperature controlled wine cellar
- * Finished basement with complete kitchen, bedroom and bathroom
- * Attached three car garage with workshop

MLS 216023646 248.684.1065 \$575,000



OPEN HOUSE SUN APR. 3RD 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Welcome Home!

- * Four bedrooms, two and half baths on 1.84 acres
- * Two story ceramic foyer with vaulted ceiling
- * First floor laundry
- * Finished three car garage

MLS 216010457 248.684.1065 \$420,000



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

MLS 216021905 248.684.1065 \$599,999



Beautiful Cape Cod in Desirable Sub!

- * Four bedroom, two and half bathroom
- * Located on a quiet, wooded, low traffic Cul-De-Sac
- * First floor master bedroom
- * Many updates throughout

MLS 216004901 248.684.1065 \$314,900



OPEN HOUSE SAT APR 2ND 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Beautifully Updated Cape Cod!

- * Three bedrooms, three and half bathrooms, on 2.44 Acres
- * Kitchen with Granite and wood floors
- * First floor master suite and laundry
- * Finished walkout basement

MLS 216020646 248.684.1065 \$380,000



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 216002405 248.684.1065 \$594,900



Super Ranch!

- * Three bedroom, one and half bathroom, Ranch on a wooded lot
- * Lake Privileges on Wolverine Lake
- * Spacious kitchen with ceramic floors
- * Finished lower level with walkout with family room, half bath and laundry room

MLS 216026439 248.684.1065 \$195,000



This is not Ranch but looks like it!

- * Four bedrooms, two bathrooms
- * Completely Updated
- * Great yard for pets or children
- * Move in Ready

MLS 216021055 248.684.1065 \$194,900



Great Condo in heart of Milford

- * Soaring ceiling and open floor plan
- * Huge master suite with walk-in closet
- * Attached garage with storage space
- * Walking distance to Downtown Milford

MLS 216009668 248.684.1065 \$137,900



Located in a Desirable Sub!

- * Five bedroom, three and half bath stunning Colonial
- * Granite kitchen and mud room
- * New wood floors and carpet throughout
- * Fabulous home, great location

MLS 216007214 248.684.1065 \$524,500



Beautiful Updated Ranch!

- * Five bedroom, three bathroom on one acre
- * Stone fireplace, updates throughout
- * Two car garage with workshop
- * A must see!

MLS 216017385 248.684.1065 \$230,000

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- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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- 8 Way Power Seat
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- Rear Vision Camera
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/Built in Wi-Fi
- 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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ALL NEW DESIGN!

MSRP \$21,995*
STARTING AS LOW AS... \$19,991*



STK# 161719

- 1.4L Turbo Engine
- 6 Speed Automatic Transmission
- 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Rear Vision Camera
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

\$139/MO*

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MSRP \$32,650*
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- 3.6L V6 Engine
- 6 Speed Automatic
- 8 Passenger Seating
- Powers Drivers Seat with Lumbar Support
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

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ALL NEW DESIGN!

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STK# 170003

- 1.5L 4 Cyl Engine
- Automatic Transmission
- Power Windows/Locks
- Cruise Control
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/Built in Wi-Fi
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

\$237/MO*

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2016 SILVERADO DOUBLE CAB 4X4 LT

MSRP \$42,020*
STARTING AS LOW AS... \$34,309*



STK# 160868

- Ecotec3 4.3L V6 Engine
- Automatic Transmission
- GM Spray-in Bedliner
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Aluminum Wheels
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

\$139/MO*

24 MONTH LEASE WITH \$1,299 DOWN

2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO CREW CAB 1 LT 4X4

MSRP \$45,230*
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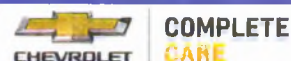
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- Ecotec3 4.3L V6 Engine
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