

Novi News

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Bill passed for new park

Rep. Kathy Crawford, R-Novi, last week voted for House Bill 4078, which authorizes funding from the state Natural Resources Trust Fund to create a new park in Novi; now it goes to the Senate for consideration.

The grant will provide \$385,000 for the acquisition of 10 acres of land located at 12 Mile Road east of Napier Road.

The area will be designated as the city of Novi North-west Neighborhood Park. While still in the planning stages, the park would have potential features such as open space, play structures and a picnic shelter.

Navigate economy

Prepare for transitions and potential heightened volatility in 2015 with the program Outlook 2015: In Transit. It will be presented by Jeremy Olen 7-8:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Novi Public Library (45255 W. 10 Mile). Coffee and desserts will be served. Register at www.center4fm.com or call 248-449-2800.



Novi Fire Station 2 personnel, including Fire Protection Officer Kevin Pierce (left) and Firefighter Loren Mitchell, will be helping out neighbors in Walled Lake through an automatic mutual aid agreement.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leftover local road repairs planned for spring

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The city of Novi is planning to finish up some local road improvements that were scheduled for last fall, but were delayed because the hired contractor could not fit them in before winter arrived.

The Novi City Council awarded a \$431,235 construction contract Monday for the 2014 Neighborhood Road Program-Contract 1A for asphalt to Nagle Paving to finish up the annual project to repair local streets.

According to Novi Public Services Director Rob Hayes, the original construction contract allowed the city to remove work from the contract. Two change orders removing the incomplete portions of the project were issued in January, resulting in a decrease of \$500,225 for the original Contract 1 project. The remaining work was rebid as 2014 Neighborhood Roads Contract 1A.

According to Public Works Senior Engineering Manager Brian Coburn, there were three contracts for the 2014 program and one went to Pavex. It was understood the projects that Pavex were in charge of would be completed by Nov. 9, 2014.

"Unfortunately, the contractor has not met that schedule or any of the subsequent progress schedules that have been provided," Coburn said in a late October memorandum to his supervisor, Rob Hayes.

Pavex's part of the overall road project included all of the streets in Haverhill Farm subdivision, as well as segments of Malott, Le Bost and Wedgewood drives, which are slated to be completed as part of the new contract with Nagle.

It is anticipated this project will be completed by summer 2015.

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FIGHTING FIRES WITH EACH OTHER

Agreement will help both Novi and Walled Lake with fire services

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The city of Novi has entered into another important automatic mutual aid agreement, this time with the city of Walled Lake, in order to ensure better and safer overall services for the north side of the community.

Last month, Novi City Council unanimously approved the Fire Department Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement between Novi and Walled Lake. In his recommendation to the council, Novi Director of EMS and Fire Operations Jeff Johnson said the AMA prepositions extra resources at no cost to either city.

"This coverage provides a safer working environment at these labor-intensive fires and offers sound risk management practices," Johnson said.



Novi's Fire Station 2 on 13 Mile, west of Novi Road.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The AMA agreement provides an engine or ladder from Walled Lake and sends it automatically to any con-

firmed structure fire (e.g. multiple calls of smoke/

See FIRES, Page A2

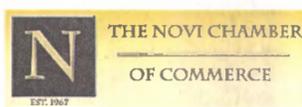
Toast of the Town: Light shines on six Novi businesses

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

There are well over 3,100 businesses in Novi and six exemplary ones will be officially recognized at the Toast of the Town gala at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Baronette Renaissance Hotel (southeast corner of Novi and 12 Mile roads).

The annual Novi Business Recognition Awards Gala, hosted by the Novi Chamber of Commerce and held since 2008, will put the limelight on businesses in three categories among two divisions - large (more than 50 employees) and small (50 or fewer employees). The business must be located in the city and be a member of the Novi chamber.

This year's winners are (large) Toll Brothers, Community Builder; Danlaw Inc., Best Place to Work; Hines Park Ford, Customer Service Excellence; and (small) Two Men and a Truck, Community Builder;



Civil & Environmental Consultants, Best Place to Work; and Miller Vein, Customer Service Excellence.

Laura Royston, Novi's economic development director, said there are so many great businesses doing great things, adding it's nice to let someone else recognize them and toot their horn for them.

"I have an opportunity to visit many companies in Novi and I am constantly surprised at how they will go above and beyond to create a wonderful work environment for employees or the level of service they will provide to keep their customers happy," Royston said. "The public in general may be unaware of what a company does as a great employer or community partner and the

Novi Chamber Business Recognition Awards is a great opportunity to share their story while honoring them."

A committee of community representatives reviewed all nominations and selected the winners. Each will receive an award at the Toast of the Town gala; recognition in *Novi Today*, the official quarterly publication of the city of Novi, distributed to 27,000 residences and businesses in Novi; a profile in the Novi Chamber of Commerce News e-blast; and recognition in the city of Novi e-Biz monthly online newsletter to more than 3,000 recipients.

"Novi is great because of many things, not the least of which are the many businesses that call Novi home," Mayor Bob Gatt said.

Toast of the Town is open to the public and will include strolling appetizers and dinner, live music from the Jesse Pal-

See TOAST, Page A2

THE CATEGORIES

1. Community Builder: Businesses that partner with others to enhance the Novi community. Partnerships could include involvement with nonprofit organizations, schools, service clubs, the city of Novi or other organizations and associations that further business interest.

2. Best Place to Work: Businesses that create an optimal working environment for their employees. Examples could include businesses that have taken efforts to create a pleasant work environment, innovation or career advancement.

3. Customer Service Excellence: Businesses that demonstrate a commitment to excel in all areas of customer service to ensure customer satisfaction. Company attributes could include the ability to interact effectively with customers and exceed expectations on a continuous basis or a passion that runs through the company to address customer service.

INDEX

Business.....	B6
Crossword Puzzle.....	B8
Education.....	A4
Homes.....	B8
Jobs.....	B9
Opinion.....	A14
Obituaries.....	A12
Services.....	B8
Sports.....	B1
Wheels.....	B8

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FIRES

Continued from Page A1

flames visible) in the northern sectors of Novi Fire Station 2 area. In return, Novi will automatically provide a fire engine or ladder with two firefighters to Walled Lake within its city limits.

Novi has entered into similar agreements with the city of Wixom and

city of Northville. It also currently has two mutual aid agreements, one with Oakland County (32 fire departments in Oakland County) and the other with western Wayne County (19 fire departments from Oakland and Wayne counties).

Johnson said the AMA is different than the Oakland County and Western Wayne Inter-Local/Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreements, which Novi has

been committed to for more than 30 years.

"The difference with MABAS is that multiple alarms have to be called when a structure fire or other large-scale event requires more resources (e.g. second, third, fourth or fifth alarm)," he said. "With AMA, the resources are automatically provided at no cost."

Other features behind the agreement include the immediate response

of a minimum two-person firefighting crew with fire apparatus to structure fires and the fact that the locations of assets from a neighboring community are closer to respond and assist one another.

The agreement allows the two departments to utilize a crew for initial fire attack or a rapid intervention team to back firefighting crews (two in-two out) and provides immediate

resources without having to take extra steps to call and further delay the response.

In addition, the operations will be safer by having the extra resources and personnel to back up the initial fire attack, which will also help both fire departments in meeting the National Fire Protection Association recommendation standard for minimum staffing and crews to effectively operate at

a working structure fire.

Johnson also said the "Insurance Service Office rating schedule utilized by the insurance industry recognizes communities with AMA and count these additional resources in the overall rating schedule. This may help to reduce the city of Novi's fire rating."

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TOAST

Continued from Page A1

ter Jazz Trio, live and silent auctions and a raffle.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$550 for a table of eight before Feb. 21; \$85 and \$625, respectively, after.

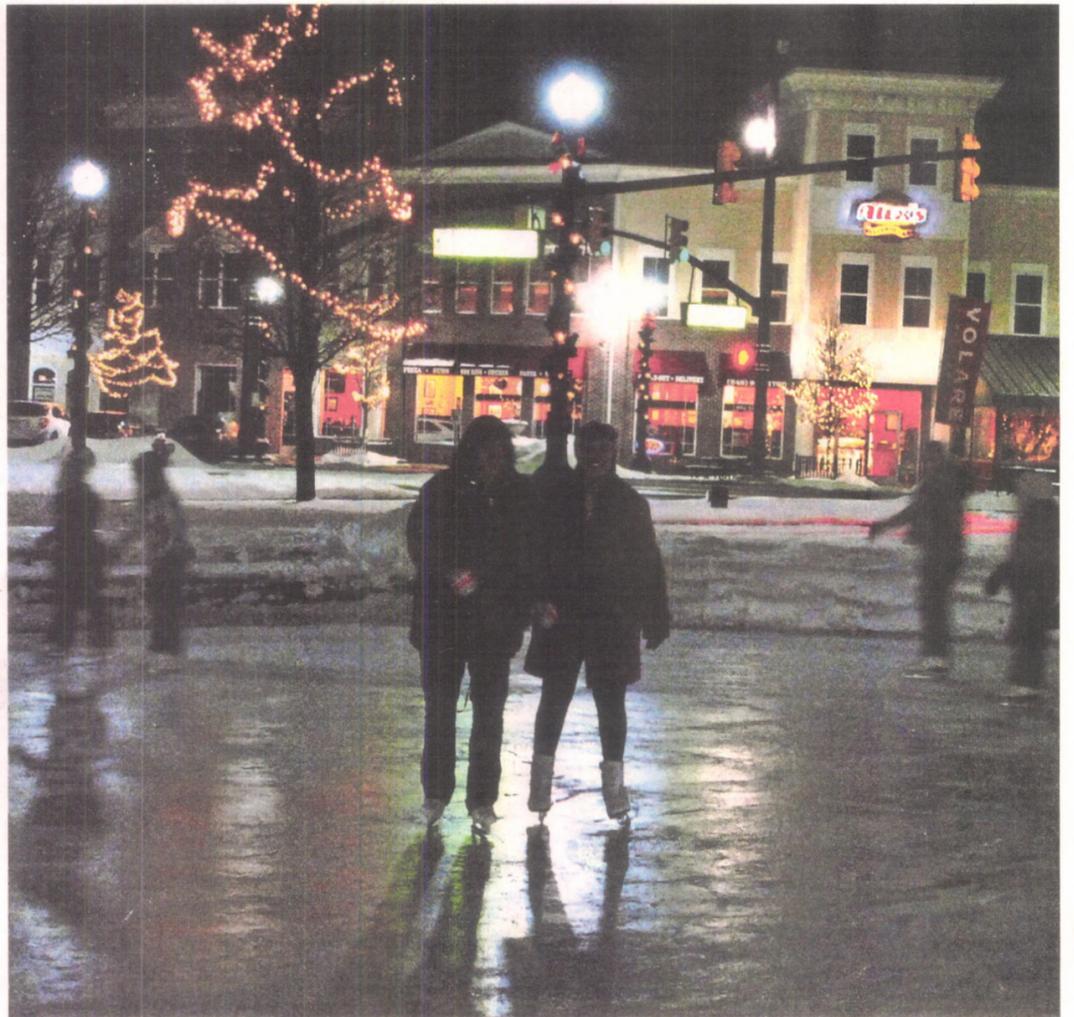
This year's event will

be emceed by Northville resident Chuck Gaidica and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Oak Pointe Church.

Got to www.novitchamber.com for tickets or call the Novi Chamber of Commerce at 248-349-3743.

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Skate Night



CURTIS DROGMILLER

The city of Wixom held its annual Skate Night on Jan. 22. It was smooth skating for kids of all ages in front of city hall as they skated on the frozen pond, with beverages and snacks provided for all.

NOVI NEWS

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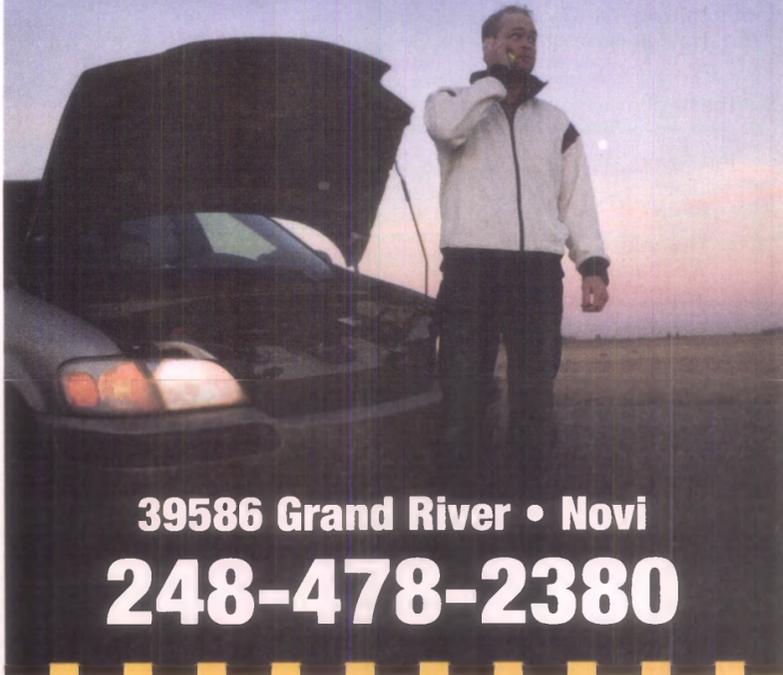
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Report hails Novi as a great city for families

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Novi is a great city for families, so much so that it was ranked as the best in Michigan by the website Apartment List.

In the last month, Apartment List dug into data to identify the 100 Best Cities for Families nationwide, with a look at the top cities in Michigan.

The analysis centered on four factors that research has identified as the most important to families: safety, housing cost, school quality and child friendliness.

"While the top 10 cities nationwide were primarily suburbs of cities like Dallas, Minneapolis, Indianapolis and Chicago, two Michigan cities made the top 25 on the national list," according to Apartment List.

The report stated,

"Novi: This diverse, fast-growing city northwest of Detroit ranked No. 1 in Michigan and No. 14 in the nation for families. Crime rates are low, school quality is high and more than a quarter of Novi's nearly 58,000 residents are under 18 years old. Novi also scored high for affordability, with typical rents for a two-bedroom \$18 below national averages. Plus household incomes are high, with a growing number of international research and technology companies. Novi has even become known as Little Tokyo thanks to its large community of Japanese residents, many here to work at companies based in their home country."

This selection comes as no surprise to lifelong resident and state Rep. Kathy Crawford.

"I think Novi has al-

ways been a great place for families, but we have seldom been recognized in a positive way until recent years," Crawford said.

She said what's good about Novi is that it has balance, "with businesses, industry, parks, library, churches, resources, programs, exemplary schools, superior law enforcement, health providers and much more - all laser-focused on serving a diverse population of all ages."

"Balance is something that many communities do not have," she added. "There are countless desirable things in Novi for everyone, so it not surprising at all to me that Novi is among the top best Michigan cities for families."

The Novi Community School District plays a big part in this selection.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Firefighter Mike Peters lets Asher Trost, 3, take a turn on the fire hose during the Fall for Novi event. Public safety played a big part in Novi's selection as a great place for families to live.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Matthews said officials strive toward making the school district the best it can be for all of its students and families.

"I think our schools

are very attractive to families," he said. "Students in all of our schools achieve at a high level. Our students achieve because we have great teachers and adminis-

trators who work very hard to make sure positive things go on in our classrooms every day."

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Second source



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Construction continued last month on the Novi Water Storage Facility at the northeast corner of 12 Mile and Park. The \$3 million project was approved by city council in summer 2014 and is designed to reduce the cost of water to Novi customers by giving them another source at peak usage times instead of relying on Detroit Water and Sewerage. The facility is to be finished by spring.

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Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth, MI 48170

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Western students to help rebuild the Motor City

Twenty-eight students plan March 27-28 to donate more than \$25,000 to help rebuild Detroit with the help of Motor City Blight Busters at Walled Lake Western (600 Beck Road).

Over the past 35 years, Walled Lake Western High School student activities have donated more than \$500,000 to various charities through volleyball marathon, an annual overnight fundraiser featuring volleyball and many other activities throughout the night for more than 300 Western students.

"Each year, our small group of dedicated student leaders donate to a cause that's bigger than ourselves," said Ryan Tate, president of Western's student activities class.

Leah Hashisaka, a student activities leader, said they chose Motor City Blight Busters because "we want to take part in the improvement of the city that our families could live in one day."

Motor City Blight Busters was selected through a comprehensive process of research, charity presentations



W.L. Western students worked at the Motor City Blight Busters project on a recent Saturday.

"We at Blight Busters are excited to be working with our new friends from Walled Lake Western High," George said. "Our goal is to stabilize and revitalize Detroit by bringing people together from the city and the suburbs in an effort to not only stabilize and beautify Detroit, but to create ownership both in our business district and in our neighborhoods. This donation will help Blight Busters continue all of its programs and projects."

Tate explained the students raise \$100 each as their entrance fee into the event then, if they would like to, they raise more money to win prizes during the event.

Brad Scheck, Western teacher and student activities adviser, noted the student activities group is also looking for donations in the form of food, prizes, entertainment and monetary donations for the event March 27-28 and for Motor City Blight Busters.

Those interested in supporting VBM can go to www.wlwbm.com for more information.

and voting. After hearing a presentation by John George, the founder of Motor City

Blight Busters, Western students selected them because they could relate to the grass-

roots mission to rebuild and reinvigorate the city of Detroit.

Integrate physical activity into daily school practice

In January, I walked 41.2 miles. I walked 14 different times during the month and averaged just over 15 minutes a mile.

I know this because I use an app on my phone called Runkeeper that tracks how far and how fast I walk. I've used this particular app - there are a lot of apps that do the same thing - since September 2009. In that time, I have logged 4,196 miles.

I walk because I am trying to stay healthy, lose weight and learn to relax.

But recently it has been driven home to me that one of the most important benefits of exercise is that it makes my brain function better - and we all know I need that.



Steve Matthews
 SUPER TALK

I spend a lot of time sitting - in a car, in my office or in my house. I know I need to move more. But I just assumed the benefits of moving more were to help me burn off calories or reduce my stress. While the physical benefits of exercise are well known, there is a growing body of research that connects exercise with improving brain function.

So this spring, the Novi Community School District and the Novi Public Library

have teamed up to explore the connection between exercise and the brain - and we want our community to get involved.

The library and school district have created the "Students for Success - A School District Reading Together" program. The library and the school district have found a book that we are encouraging all Novi school district residents to read. Then April 28, the author will visit Novi to discuss the book with our school district community.

The book *Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*, written by Dr. John Ratey, a Harvard University faculty member, is an exploration of the connection

between exercise and the brain's performance. Ratey shows how even moderate exercise will supercharge mental circuits to beat stress, sharpen thinking, enhance memory and much more.

Books are available at the Novi Public Library and from our school libraries, as well. We have placed several copies at each of our schools that can be checked out so that as many people as possible can read this book and participate in our community conversation.

This research has implications for us as we think about how we structure our school day. Are we expecting students to stay still while at the same time expecting them to be

alert, think critically and learn well? Perhaps we need to examine what our school day looks like and how we can begin to integrate some of the lessons about physical activity into our daily school practice.

I invite you to participate with us in this community reading activity. Occasionally on these very cold winter days, I tell myself that I really don't need to go for walk. But then I think about how much my brain will benefit and out I go. Once I get started, it is really not that cold outside.

Steve Matthews is superintendent of Novi Community Schools. He can be reached at 248-449-1204 or smatthews@novischools.net.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Arabo named one of 40 under 40

Melody Saroki Arabo, a teacher in the Walled Lake Schools and the reigning Michigan Teacher of the Year, was selected by a public online vote as winner of the Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 under 40 Class of 2015.

The announcement was made Feb. 4 at Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's State of the County address held at the Marriott Auburn Hills Pontiac at Centerpoint. As the winner, Arabo was given the honor of introducing Patterson to the crowd of about 500 people.

"It is a true honor to represent the 2015 class of Oakland County's Elite 40 under 40, especially considering the caliber of talent, dedication and professionalism of my fellow class members," Arabo said. "I take great pride in calling Oakland County my family's home and I am thrilled to be an ambassador for all it has to offer."

NHS Cabaret showcases Northville talent. Students from the nationally recognized Northville High School vocal music department will present their annual Cabaret at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28. The NHS cafeteria will be turned into a nightclub-style venue where students will perform a variety of solo and small group songs, dance and instrumental stylings. With more than 20 acts, this evening promises festive, diverse entertainment for all ages. Light refreshments will be served. Advance reservations are recommended. For tickets (\$15 each) and information, email nhscabaret2015@gmail.com.

'A Day in the Life of a Novi Student'

Novi Community Schools Invites you to join Novi elementary schools for "A Day in the Life of a Novi Student!" and see how the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People are integrated into the culture of Novi's schools.

The events are scheduled for Parkview Elementary - Thursday, Feb. 26 (9:15-11:30 a.m.); Village Oaks Elementary - Friday, Feb. 27 (9:15-11:30 a.m.); Orchard Hills Elementary - Tuesday, March 3 (8:45-11 a.m.); Deerfield Elementary - Wednesday, March 4 (9:15-11:30 a.m.); Novi Meadows Elementary - Thursday, March 5 (8:20-10:35 a.m.); and Novi Woods Elementary - Friday, March 6 (8:45-11 a.m.).

A Growing Place open house

A Growing Place Preschool (40700 W. 10 Mile, Novi) will hold its annual open house from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 28. It will include free activities, crafts and snacks while giving prospective parents an opportunity to visit the school, meet the staff and learn about the classes and programs offered.

A Growing Place Preschool will continue to offer a Young 5's program, full and half-day preschool classes for 3's and 4's as well as pre-kindergarten sessions for children going off to kindergarten next fall. For more information, call 248-471-2333

Evans scholarships awarded

For two area students, caddying was more than just a summer job - it was an opportunity to earn the gift of a lifetime: a college education. Northville High's Jonathon Stott and Walled Lake Northern's Molly Stachurski were among a group of students from Michigan who interviewed for the

Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship, a full, four-year housing and tuition college scholarship awarded to golf caddies, Jan. 8 at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills. The group of 25 were all awarded the scholarship and will begin college as Evans Scholars this fall.

Evans Scholars are chosen based on demonstrating a strong caddie record, excellent academics, outstanding character and financial need. The scholarship is valued at more than \$80,000 over four years. Selected students will attend a university where the foundation owns and operates an Evans Scholarship House, including Michigan State University and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Starchurski plans to attend University of Michigan and was sponsored by Oakland Hills Country Club. Stott plans to attend Michigan State University and was sponsored by Meadowbrook Country Club.

Northville High School information session

Come and discover what it means to be a Mustang by taking part in the Northville High School Community Information Session 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22. Tour the state-of-the-art, technology-equipped high school with student leaders as your guides.

Meet with academic department chairs and representatives from athletic teams, student clubs, and music and art programs, as well as current students, administrators and parents.

While the session is geared toward incoming freshmen for the 2015-16 academic year, families with students of all ages, as well as community members, are welcome to attend.

Northville High School is located at 45700 Six Mile. For more information, call 248-344-

3800 or go to http://nhs.northvilleschools.org/.

WLCS names Teachers of the Year for 2014-15

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District announced the District Teachers of the Year for 2014-15 at the Feb. 5 Board of Education meeting: Martha Rogers (Dublin Elementary School); Paula Mather (Sarah Banks Middle School); and Mary Hüllberger (Walled Lake Northern High School).

"Our teachers practice the philosophies 'every child, every day' and 'whatever it takes' to ensure each of Walled Lake Schools' students is receiving the services and experiences needed to excel," said Kenneth Gutman, superintendent. "Walled Lake teachers differentiate their instruction, use technology and other tools so students are engaged in learning, communicate and collaborate with parents and so much more. The 2014-15 Teachers of the Year know their students well and deliver instruction to help each of them succeed."

Walled Lake art students awarded

High school art students from Walled Lake Northern High School and Walled Lake Western High School recently entered their work into the Southeastern Michigan Region of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The students listed below were recognized during the Scholastics Award ceremony Feb. 10 at The College for Creative Studies and their art work is on display from through March 6. Student art will be on display from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Anisa Rakaj, Walled Lake Western High School senior, earned two very prestigious awards: Best in Show Portfolio and The American Vision Award. Her Gold Key

Portfolio and individual Gold Key pieces will go on to New York to be judged nationally. She took home four Gold Key awards and four Silver Key Awards. Rakaj has earned a full ride scholarship to College for Creative Studies based on her portfolio.

The American Vision Award winners are chosen as the Best of Show from all of the artwork entered in this year's Southeastern Michigan Regional competition. Each regional program across the country selects the five most outstanding works of art from their Gold Key recipients. These five young artists represent the region on the national level as American Vision nominees. A national panel selects one of the nominated works from each region as the American Vision Award Recipient for 2015.

Sidney Smith, Walled Lake Western High School senior, also won a

Gold Key Portfolio. From Walled Lake Northern High School, Ashley Koenig won a Gold Key award, two Silver Key awards and an Honorable Mention; and Sierra Chadwick won a Gold Key award.

Additional winners from WL Western include: Mackenzie Abele, Gold Key Photography and Honorable Mention Photography; Nicole Czarnecki, Gold Key Photography and Honorable Mention Photography; Alicia Krappf, Honorable Mention Painting and Honorable Mention Drawing and Illustration; Mckenna O'Malley, Honorable Mention Photography; Christopher Stefan Gold Key Design; Kayla Strange, Silver Key Drawing and Illustration; and Anisa Rakaj, Gold Key Painting and Silver Key Painting.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have an impressive legacy dating back to 1923.

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2015 People's Choice Awards Hey, Novi! It's Time to Pick Your PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...Best Places To Eat... Best Place For Great Service. This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll. Join in on the Balloting!

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

All Entries Must Be Received By February 20th

A long journey of love renews each morning

Daily walk helps keeps 70-year relationship strong

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, it's worth remembering a simple act of love can mean so much.

For passersby on Eight Mile Road in Northville, the sight each morning of the elderly couple walking down the sidewalk together and then exchanging a kiss in

parting is a perfect example.

Northville resident John Pankopf walks his wife Dawn to her teaching job at Cooke School daily. Although back surgery has left him using a walker to get around, John said it's important for them to start their day together.

"It gives us a chance to talk," Dawn said.

They leave their home off of Eight Mile around 7:30 a.m. and make their way toward Taft Road. Wind, rain or snow can't stop them from the daily trek - and they've been

doing this for a long time.

Both are in their late 70s and have lived in Northville since 1986, raising three children. They are originally from the Pittsburgh area and came to Michigan for work. Dawn has spent her adult life as a teacher and John also still works as a business administrator in a local dentist office.

They've known each other for 70 years. Both say having a lot in common and enjoying each others' company have played key parts in their

long relationship. So do the daily walks.

School crossing guard Doris Booth is one who has seen the couple each morning. The sight of them always brightens up her day. She said many in the community know of the Pankopfs' daily walks and agree it's great to see them.

"When they part, he gives her a kiss goodbye. I just think it's so sweet and touching," Booth said.

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Twitter: @lhuhman



Northville resident John Pankopf walks his wife Dawn each morning to her teaching job at Cooke School.

LONNIE HUZHMAN

Novi family's missing cat found after four months

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

It took four months, but a Novi family's missing cat was safely returned.

The Paulk family moved in September to Novi. Shortly after, the family's cat, Milo, went missing, leaving them in despair.

"It was a difficult year with losing some family members, so Milo going missing was another sad thing for us to deal with," Laura Paulk said.

Family members conducted an extensive search for Milo throughout the fall, got help from friends and posted fliers around the community. Although they got some telephone calls about possible sightings of Milo, he never turned up.

"We had given up hope," Paulk said.

It was around Christmas when Milo finally did turn up at a home near Nine Mile and Beck roads, a mile or so away from the family's home in the 10 Mile and Taft roads area. Christine Constantine was house-sitting at her aunt's Northville home when she spotted Milo outside.

Her aunt has cats of her own and had placed food and shelter outside the house. This attracted Milo and, as an animal lover, Constantine began taking care of him.

"I started noticing this orange cat outside and he seemed friendly enough," she said.

She looked after him for three weeks and



Christine Constantine (left) helped to get Milo the cat back to his Novi owners after a four-month absence. The cat ran away from his owners, Laura Paulk (center) and her family, in the fall. He was found near Beck and Nine Mile roads, almost two miles from the Paulks' house off 10 Mile.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

posted his picture on Facebook, reporting he was missing. However, it was during a visit to the veterinarian that she found a lead to his owners. Paulk had sent out word of their cat being missing through the

website www.lostmydoggie.com. A flier with Milo's picture was posted in a local vet office.

"I noticed the picture right away because he has very striking features," Constantine said of Milo.

She called Paulk and they compared their knowledge of Milo's behavior, which revealed his identity. He finally made it home in mid-January.

"We were so excited to have him back," Paulk

said.

Mostly an indoor cat, Milo was in relatively good shape upon his return. A visit to the vet cleared him of any health issues. However, his attitude has changed a little bit.

Paulk's son Anthony said Milo looked normal, but was acting different. "He's more cuddly," he said.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NOVI / WIXOM

Crawford looks forward to working on 2015-16 Action Plan

State Rep. Kathy Crawford, R- Novi, recently participated in a Capitol news conference to announce important priorities for the current legislative session.

House Republican lawmakers outlined their top priorities as the 2015-16 legislative session gets underway. Crawford, R- Novi, said she looks forward to working on policy and speaking with constituents about how best to implement the plan.

"The Action Plan gives us a great benchmark to go by as we work on legislation this term," Crawford said. "I was pleased to see mention of children and senior issues in the plan. As a member of the House committee on Families, Children and Seniors, as well as a career advocate for seniors, I am eager to continue to give voices to these two groups at the state level."

Crawford also serves on the House committee on Workforce Talent and Development and said she was excited to see skilled trades a focus in the plan.

"It is time that we really focus on students in this state who might be interested in skilled trades but not have the opportunity to learn the skills. Michigan has numerous unfilled positions and now we can foster the talent to fill those positions."

The GOP's Action Plan for the new legislative session can be accessed at http://gophouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ActionPlan_2015.pdf.

Firefighters work to extinguish muscular diseases

For more than 60 years, firefighters have taken to the streets throughout the summer months, gathering donations in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's mission toward finding cures and treatments for neuro-muscular diseases. In 2014, more than 30 stations in Michigan participated in the Fill the Boot campaign. Generous support from fire fighters and people of the community has helped make the Fill the Boot campaign one of MDA's most successful programs.

Novi Local 3232 contributed \$2,370 last year.

Sixty-one years of friendship and support received from national sponsor the International Association of Fire Fighters and partner the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union strengthens each year. MDA is grateful to have a strong connection with heroes of the community that continue to inspire and set ambitious fundraising goals every year.

Since 1954, IAFF has raised more than \$500 million in support of the MDA's cause. In 2014, firefighters across Michigan brought in a combined total of \$234,126 for MDA.

Backyard, pool, spa show returns March 20

The 20th annual Novi Backyard, Pool & Spa Show returns to the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi March 20-22.

"Winter is not over but homeowners will have the opportunity to see inground and above ground pools, hot tubs, spas and backyard environments for fun this summer," said Richard Martin, president of Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, Michigan Chapter. "Many of our exhibitors provide design, equipment, construction, servicing and refurbishing for homeowners that want to swim, exercise or just

entertain in their backyard."

Hundreds of ideas, products and services are available from the major outdoor living environment categories including inground and above ground pools, spas, swim spas, hot tubs, saunas, decks, patios, fencing, outdoor kitchens and living spaces, landscaping, water features, brick paving, decorative concrete, patio furniture and accessories.

Homeowners will find the information they need about building and buying a pool or spa at show exhibits. Experts are available with tips and advice on purchasing, planning, maintenance, safety and landscaping.

Show hours are 3-9 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8; \$4 for children 6-14; and children 5 and under admitted free. Discount coupons for \$2 off adult admission are available at show's website. On site parking is available for a fee. For show information, visit www.NoviPoolShow.com or call 734-398-9700.

World champion coming to Gracie Barra Novi

Gracie Barra Novi announced that professor Flavio Almeida will be coming to the school to train its students and guests as part of their grand opening event Feb. 14. Classes with Almeida will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Almeida is a black belt student of Carlos Gracie Jr., one of the most renowned legends in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. The Gracie family is credited with bringing the martial art to national fame and recognition in Brazil and later worldwide.

Grace Barra Novi recently opened its doors under the instruction of first-degree black belt instructor professor James Burchfield and is currently accepting new students.

Brazilian jiu-jitsu is an ancient form of martial art and focuses on grappling and ground work and was the initial idea behind the Ultimate Fighting Championship, to determine which martial art worked best in real world scenarios. For more information, call 248-957-9597.

What's on your bucket list?

Looking for ways to ensure 2015 is a great year? Creating a bucket list is a good way to start. A bucket list, whether big, small or random, notes things you most want to do, goals you want to achieve and dreams you hope to fulfill while making the most of life experiences. Achieving bucket list items initiates conversations, revitalizes direction and provides a feeling of self-satisfaction.

"The beauty of creating of bucket list is actually the process of putting items in writing," said Karen Kapchonick, Novi's Older Adult Services manager. "Putting things in writing seems to hold us more accountable for achieving them."

Novi citizens ages 55 and older are encouraged to share their bucket list items via www.cityofnovi.org, at the Older Adult Services Office (45175 10 Mile) and at the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. Novi's bucket list will be on display through April 30.

Those who add to the list will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates. Success stories will be shared in a future edition of the *Enhance* newsletter, online at www.cityofnovi.org and at both the Older Adult Services Office and Meadowbrook Activity Center.

For more information, contact Kapchonick at 248-347-0414 or kkapchonick@cityofnovi.org.

Too cold



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A freezing afternoon finds not much going on at Novi's Lakeshore Park, only a few shadows from unused playground equipment. With wind chills in the minus range, the only thing that will draw more visitors to the park is a good amount of snow for skiers and sledders.

Solomon Northrup's America

Free-born African-American Solomon Northrup was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Learn about the inspiration behind the movie *12 Years a Slave* and life in the 19th century at the Wixom Public Library at 6 p.m. Feb. 18. February is Black History Month.

Presented by Dr. Roy E. Finkenbine, University of Detroit Mercy, professor of history, who teaches African-American and 19th century American history. He is a specialist on slavery, abolition, the Civil War and the Underground Railroad.

Pre-register by stopping by the library (49015 Pontiac Trail); call 248-624-2512 or register online at wixomlibrary.org.

Chocolate Fest at Fox Run

Residents of Fox Run retirement community in Novi will feast on hundreds of chocolate delicacies prepared by the nation's finest chefs Friday, Feb. 13, when they celebrate a pre-Valentine's Day Chocolate Fest by basking in the nostalgia and romanticism of chocolate. The event will be held 4-6:30 p.m. in the Fireside and Signatures restaurants on the Fox Run campus (41000 13 Mile).

Family members of residents who have flown into Novi will also participate (and there promises to be a few "surprises," according to the participating chefs).

Kevin Cunningham, director of Dining Services and a chocolatier who admits to having a constant craving for truffles and cheesecakes, will create many of the chocolate masterpieces himself as part of this "History of Chocolate" extravaganza. Fox Run's Chefs de Cuisine have assisted Cunningham by gathering chocolate recipes and history from around the world. The final presentation will challenge some of the best chocolatiers across the globe.

Late, Locked-In & Loud

The Novi Youth Council & the Novi Public Library, in partnership with Novi Police and Fire departments, invites Novi students in grades 5-8 to a lock-in at the library 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

The event, which is open to 300 students, encourages all in attendance to enjoy an electronic-free evening with food, including pizza provided by Tony Saccos of Novi, giveaways, activities and more for \$10.

Registration is available now and can be done online at www.cityofnovi.org or by sending \$10 cash or check (per student) with the com-

pleted permission slip payable to city of Novi, mailed to Community Relations, 45175 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. A confirmation email will be sent out Feb. 23 to all families that have registered.

For more information, call the Community Relations office at 248-347-0416.

Special events offered by Novi's Older Adult Services

Don't let cold weather and a bit of snow diminish fun this winter; treat yourself to a warm meal, entertainment and friendship by attending a special event hosted by city of Novi Older Adult Services.

Tickets are on sale now for events offered throughout the winter (and spring) and are \$7 per Novi resident and \$8.50 per non-resident unless otherwise noted. Attendees must be 55 years or older. All events take place at the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.

Shamrock Smash Luncheon - noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 17: Irish or not, you are invited to a wee bit o' blarney at the St. Patrick's Day celebration. Enjoy a traditional Irish meal and entertainment and let the luck o' the Irish be with you. Ticket deadline is March 11.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game Luncheon - noon to 2 p.m. Monday, April 6: Tigers fans, you're on deck. Join other loyal fans at this opening game celebration with a stadium style lunch, entertainment from Joel Palmer and then stay to watch the game and cheer the Tigers to victory. Ticket deadline is March 31

Kentucky Derby - 4-6 p.m. Saturday, May 2: Hear the roar of the crowd and the high energy announcers at Churchill Downs as they witness the most exciting two minutes in sports. Attendees will have fun horsing around the Meadowbrook Activity Center doing Derby Day activities along with dinner and watching the big event. Ticket deadline is April 27. Resident price is \$7.50 and non-resident price is \$9. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance at the city of Novi Older Adult Services office located in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile.

For more information about upcoming events and programs, go to www.cityofnovi.org or call city of Novi Older Adult Services at 248-347-0414.

Police academy begins March 4

The creation 18 years ago of the Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy

affords citizens the opportunity to learn about their local police department and take a behind the scenes look at what law enforcement work is all about. Participants also gain an insider's knowledge of the police agency, enabling them to make informed decisions on issues affecting the police and the community.

The academy is a joint venture between the Novi, Milford, Walled Lake, South Lyon, Wolverine Lake and Wixom police departments. Applications are currently being accepted for this free academy, scheduled to begin March 4. Those interested can find the application on cityofnovi.org. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of one of the participating jurisdictions.

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

Classes are scheduled 6:30-9:30 p.m. each Wednesday, March 4 through May 13. The first class will meet at the Novi Police Training Center. The registration deadline is Feb. 20. For more information, contact Det. Sgt. Scott Baetens at 248-347-0530.

Lakes Area Chamber hosting 'Frozen' event

What better way to spend a chilly Sunday afternoon in February than hanging out with your favorite character from the Disney movie *Frozen*? The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with chamber member Wonderland Lanes for an afternoon of family fun that will include the chance for parents to take pictures of their children with Elsa, Anna and Olaf from the movie. Participants are encouraged to dress like their favorite *Frozen* characters.

The event will be held Sunday, Feb. 22, with check-in beginning at 1 p.m. and bowling 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Winter Wonder Bowl (8265 Richardson Road in Commerce) will feature crazy bowling games for all ages, kid's karaoke, a 50/50 drawing and awards. The cost for ages 5-17 is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; for ages 18 and up the cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Advance registration is available

by calling the Lakes Area Chamber at 248-624-2826. The bowler registration form is also available online at www.lakesarea.chamber.com.

A coat drive will be held during the event, and participants are asked to bring clean, gently used coats and new hats, gloves and scarves to be donated to the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford.

Veterans benefit counseling

In 2010, a nationwide Veterans Administration survey found fewer than half of all veterans understood their benefits, including medical care, college tuition reimbursement and pension or disability payments. City of Novi Older Adult Services has partnered with the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America to increase awareness of VA benefits and medical care for those who qualify.

Bonnie Williams, a service officer from MPVA, will host free, 30-minute, one-on-one counseling sessions 1-3 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month - Feb. 23, March 23 and April 27 - at the Meadowbrook Activity Center (25075 Meadowbrook Road). To schedule an appointment, call 248-347-0414 or stop by Older Adult Services office in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile.

For more information about Veterans Benefit Counseling, contact Sandy Fisher, Social Services coordinator, at 248-347-0414 or sfisher@cityofnovi.org. To learn about additional older adult social and educational programs, go to www.cityofnovi.org.

Scrapbook for a cause at library

Kick the creativity into gear and get your paper, stickers and cardstock ready by joining the Novi Public Library from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, for 12 hours of scrapbooking fun.

To partake in this day full of craft making, each individual will pay \$30 for a six-foot table. Consultants from Creative Memories and Close to My heart will be on hand to help with any creativity needs. Crafters will get the opportunity to enjoy lunch, make and takes and giveaways. All proceeds will go toward the library to support future programming opportunities.

If you would like to participate in this scrapbooking event, call 248-869-7204 or register or go to www.novilibrary.org.

Novi Farmers Market continues through winter

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GRASTEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat Timothy and related grass pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. GRASTEK may be prescribed for persons 5 through 65 years of age who are allergic to grass pollen.

GRASTEK is taken for about 12 weeks before grass pollen season and throughout grass pollen season. GRASTEK may also be taken daily for 3 years to provide a sustained effect for a fourth year in which you do not have to take GRASTEK.

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- Do not take GRASTEK if you or your child has severe unstable, or uncontrolled asthma; had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included trouble breathing, dizziness or fainting, or rapid or weak heartbeat; had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before; has ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis or is allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in GRASTEK.
- For home use of GRASTEK, your doctor will prescribe epinephrine if you or your child has a severe allergic reaction after taking GRASTEK. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information.
- The first dose of GRASTEK must be taken in the doctor's office. After taking the first dose, you or your child will be watched for at least 30 minutes by a healthcare professional for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.
- Children should be given each tablet of GRASTEK by an adult.
- You should tell your doctor about any medicines you or your child take.
- Stop GRASTEK and contact your doctor if you or your child has any of the following after taking GRASTEK: Any type of a serious allergic reaction; heartburn, difficulty swallowing or pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens; any mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.
- The most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please read the Brief Summary on the following page for more detailed information.

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BRIEFS

Continued from Page A8

ers Market was so successful — with hundreds of people enjoying fresh vegetables, flowers and other items throughout the summer and fall — that the market will continue through the winter with gourmet foods and artisan items indoors at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile.

The winter market will take place twice monthly from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the following Saturdays: Feb. 21; March 7 and 21; and April 4 and 18.

The market will showcase an expanded selection of Michigan food products, as well as selected artisans with items to complement the home. Patrons will find foods, decor and gifts for holiday entertaining.

To stay in the know about the Novi Farmers Market, including recipes, vendor features and more, like it on Facebook.

For more information, contact manager RoseAnna Twitchell at 248-347-0400 or www.rtwitchell@cityofnovi.org.

Coffee with the Superintendent

Join Novi Schools Superintendent Steve Matthews for Coffee with the Superintendent at the Novi Public Library in the Board Room 202 on: March 9 (6:30 p.m.); March 11 (10:15 a.m.); April 13 (6:30 p.m.); April 15 (10:15 a.m.); May 11 (6:30 p.m.); and May 13 (10:15 a.m.).

NORTHVILLE

Chamber welcomes Freep columnist

The Northville Chamber of Commerce welcomes Rochelle Riley, *Detroit Free Press* columnist, to a chamber luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Northville Hills Golf Club (15565 Bay Hill Drive). Event

sponsors are ATI Physical Therapy and Patti Mullen, Remerica Home-town One. Cost is \$25 for chamber members; \$28 for non-members. Lunch includes Northville Hills Michigan Cherry Salad with chicken, soup, rolls and coffee/hot tea.

Riley's columns have appeared in the *Free Press* and at www.freep.com since 2000. She writes passionately about responsible government, community responsibility, public education, race, film and Michigan's reading crisis. Winner of numerous awards for writing, Riley is a sought after speaker and the Northville chamber is delighted to welcome her to meet with members of the community.

Reservations and payment may be made by contacting the Northville Chamber of Commerce at 248-349-7640 or by email at tracisincoc@northville.org.

Fewer tax materials at the library

Due to budget cuts at the Internal Revenue Service, the Northville District Library will see a major reduction in the number of printed federal tax materials received for residents this year.

Only Forms 1040, 1040A and 1040 EZ will be shipped to the library. One set of reproducible forms and one copy of Publication 17 will also be shipped. However, no instruction booklets to complete the forms will be received.

The government is asking taxpayers to file online or visit the IRS site (www.irs.gov/Forms) where forms can be downloaded and printed. To request forms and publications to be mailed, go to <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Forms-and-Publications-by-U.S.-Mail> or call 1-800-829-3676.

As in the past, free tax assistance for seniors can be found at the Northville Community Senior Center through AARP Tax-Aide, on Thursdays from

Feb. 5 to April 9, by appointment; call 248-305-2851.

State tax forms and publications can be found online at <http://www.michigan.gov/taxes>. The library expects to see state tax forms arriving in February.

Chamber Night at Tipping Point Theatre

Support the Northville Chamber of Commerce and the Tipping Point Theater by attending *Leaving Iowa* by Tim Clue and Spike Manton at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at the theater (361 E. Cady Street).

Newspaper columnist Don Browning is searching for the perfect spot to scatter his dad's ashes. Join him on a solo journey across the Midwest, remembering the zany vacations he took with his dad, mom and sister. Through memories of corn fields, tourist traps and sibling conflicts, he rediscovers his love and admiration for his dad. Leaving Iowa is a rewarding journey that goes beyond nostalgia into the very nature of families and the experiences that bind us together.

"Since this production is a memory play so much of it takes place in flashbacks in the son, Don's, memory. This allows for an opportunity to see the backstory of the characters. It also allows for more freedom and creativity in the characters and scenes," said director Beth Torrey. "Audiences can expect to laugh a lot and also be touched by this story. It is also extremely relatable to all who hasn't taken some kind of family road trip at some point in their life."

Leaving Iowa runs through March 8. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, with matinees at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. A special matinee performance has been added at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Tickets are \$29 to \$32 for adults and \$27 to \$30 for students and senior citizens, and are available now by calling the box office at 248-347-0003.

Fireman's Ball set for Feb. 14

The Northville Township Firefighters Charity Fund presents the 12th annual Fireman's Ball from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 14, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

The evening includes dinner, drinks, dancing with live music from the Killer Flamingos, a raffle and silent and live auctions. Hosted by special guest Dan Miller of WJBK-TV (Channel 2) and the voice of the Detroit Lions, all proceeds will benefit the Northville Township Firefighters Charity Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

For more information, call 734-219-3961, email admin@ntffcharityfund.com or go to www.NTFFCharityFund.com.

Meet with Heise

State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions from noon to 1 p.m. at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady.

Beginning this month, Heise's office hours will be the second Monday every other month rather than each month; however, he will continue to hold coffee hours the third Friday of each month.

Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office. Residents are invited to call toll free 855-REPKURT or email KurtHeise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Ninth annual Member Exhibition

The Northville Art House presents its ninth annual Member Exhibition showcasing more

than 70 works of art in this all-media, non-juried member show. This exhibition was developed to showcase local talent and to say "thank you" to everyone who is supporting the growth and creativity of the arts in our community.

New, emerging and experienced artists come together to present some of their favorite works of art in this highly anticipated exhibition. This exhibit continues through Feb. 27 during Art House Gallery hours (noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday).

For additional information, call 248-344-0497 or go to www.northvillearthouse.org. The Art House is located at 215 W. Cady Street and is a facility of the Northville Arts Commission. Admission to Art House exhibits is always free and open to the public.

Barnes & Noble presenting authors

Michigan author Paul Flower wrote a suspense novel, *The Redeeming Power of Brain Surgery*, set in Michigan that has been dubbed "rural noir" by reviewers. He has a book signing 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Barnes & Noble (1711 Haggerty, Northville).

Some call it agile, some call it lean. Richard Sheridan and his team call it joyful — and it produces results, business and otherwise. Six Inc. magazine revenue growth awards, invites to the White House, speaking engagements around the nation, numerous articles and culture awards and so much interest they are doing a tour a day of his Menlo Software Factory.

Sheridan visits Barnes & Noble March 18 for a storytelling event. Sheridan will offer a discussion and Q&A followed by a book signing. RSVP is not necessary, however recommended. For more information, please contact Gayle Townsend at 248-348-1274.

Becoming a Love & Logic Parent

Love and Logic is a philosophy of raising and teaching children that allows adults to be happier, empowered and more skilled in the interactions with children. Love allows children to grow through their mistakes. Logic allows children to live with the consequences of their choices.

Northville Youth Assistance is presenting a series of Love and Logic four-session workshops (select one):

» Wednesdays, March 4-25, 7-8:30 p.m. Silver Springs Elementary School.

The fee is \$20 per person. Contact the NYA office at 248-344-1618 if this presents a financial hardship. Pre-registration is required.

Blues @ The Elks

Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in Plymouth will present Blues @ The Elks the second Tuesday of each month in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society and Jazz @ The Elks the last Tuesday of each month. The Dennis Tini Quartet returns Feb. 24.

The Lodge is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth Township. For more information call 734-453-1780 or go to www.plymouthelks1780.com.

Rotary's Little Libraries

Northville Rotary is initiating the installation of Little Libraries, small book depositories where community members can exchange books. The Rotarians would like to establish six locations throughout the Northville community and seeking suggestions as to where the locations might be. Rotarians are encouraging other organizations to volunteer and assist in this effort as well.

For more information, contact John Kelly at john@kellykellylaw.com or 248-348-0496.

Brief Summary



GRASTEK®

Timothy Grass Pollen Allergen Extract
Tablet for Sublingual Use 2800 BAU

Carefully read the Medication Guide before you or your child start taking GRASTEK and each time you get a refill. This Brief Summary does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if there is something you do not understand or you want to learn more about GRASTEK.

What is the most important information I should know about GRASTEK?

GRASTEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Stop taking GRASTEK and get medical treatment right away if you or your child has any of the following symptoms after taking GRASTEK:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For home administration of GRASTEK, your doctor will prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine, a medicine you can inject if you or your child has a severe allergic reaction after taking GRASTEK. Your doctor will train and instruct you on the proper use of auto-injectable epinephrine. Talk to your doctor or read the epinephrine patient information if you have any questions about the use of auto-injectable epinephrine.

What is GRASTEK?

GRASTEK is a prescription medicine used for sublingual (under the tongue) immunotherapy to treat Timothy and related grass pollen allergies that can cause sneezing, runny or itchy nose, stuffy or congested nose, or itchy and watery eyes. GRASTEK may be prescribed for persons 5 through 65 years of age who are allergic to grass pollen. GRASTEK is taken for about 12 weeks before grass pollen season and throughout grass pollen season. GRASTEK may also be taken daily for 3 years to provide a sustained effect for a fourth year in which you do not have to take GRASTEK. GRASTEK is NOT a medication that gives immediate relief for symptoms of grass allergy.

Who should not take GRASTEK?

You or your child should not take GRASTEK if:

- You or your child has severe, unstable or uncontrolled asthma
- You or your child had a severe allergic reaction in the past that included any of these symptoms:
 - o Trouble breathing
 - o Dizziness or fainting
 - o Rapid or weak heartbeat
- You or your child has ever had difficulty with breathing due to swelling of the throat or upper airway after using any sublingual immunotherapy before.
- You or your child has ever been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis.
- You or your child is allergic to any of the inactive ingredients contained in GRASTEK. The inactive

ingredients contained in GRASTEK are: gelatin, mannitol and sodium hydroxide.

What should I tell my doctor before taking GRASTEK?

Your doctor may decide that GRASTEK is not the best treatment if:

- You or your child has asthma, depending on how severe it is.
- You or your child suffers from lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- You or your child suffers from heart disease such as coronary artery disease, an irregular heart rhythm, or you have hypertension that is not well controlled.
- You or your daughter is pregnant, plans to become pregnant during the time you will be taking GRASTEK, or is breast-feeding.
- You or your child is unable or unwilling to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to treat a severe allergic reaction to GRASTEK.
- You or your child is taking certain medicines that enhance the likelihood of a severe reaction, or interfere with the treatment of a severe reaction. These medicines include:
 - o beta blockers and alpha-blockers (prescribed for high blood pressure)
 - o cardiac glycosides (prescribed for heart failure or problems with heart rhythm)
 - o diuretics (prescribed for heart conditions and high blood pressure)
 - o ergot alkaloids (prescribed for migraine headache)
 - o monoamine oxidase inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants (prescribed for depression)
 - o thyroid hormone (prescribed for low thyroid activity).

You should tell your doctor if you or your child is taking or has recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription and herbal supplements. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new supply of GRASTEK. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking GRASTEK.

Are there any reasons to stop taking GRASTEK?

Stop GRASTEK and contact your doctor if you or your child has any of the following after taking GRASTEK:

- Any type of a serious allergic reaction
- Throat tightness that worsens or swelling of the tongue or throat that causes trouble speaking, breathing or swallowing
- Asthma or any other breathing condition that gets worse
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin
- Heartburn, difficulty swallowing, pain with swallowing, or chest pain that does not go away or worsens

Also, stop taking GRASTEK following: mouth surgery procedures (such as tooth removal), or if you develop any mouth infections, ulcers or cuts in the mouth or throat.

How should I take GRASTEK?

Take GRASTEK exactly as your doctor tells you.

GRASTEK is a prescription medicine that is placed under the tongue.

- Take the tablet from the blister package after carefully removing the foil with dry hands.
- Place the tablet immediately under the tongue. Allow it to remain there until completely dissolved. Do not swallow for at least 1 minute.
- Do not take GRASTEK with food or beverage. Food and beverage should not be taken for the following 5 minutes.

- Wash hands after taking the tablet.

Take the first tablet of GRASTEK in your doctor's office. After taking the first tablet, you or your child will be watched for at least 30 minutes for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.

If you tolerate the first dose of GRASTEK, you or your child will continue GRASTEK therapy at home by taking one tablet every day. Children should be given each tablet of GRASTEK by an adult who will watch for any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.

Take GRASTEK as prescribed by your doctor until the end of the treatment course. If you forget to take GRASTEK, do not take a double dose. Take the next dose at your normal scheduled time the next day. If you miss more than one dose of GRASTEK, contact your healthcare provider before restarting.

What are the possible side effects of GRASTEK?

In children and adults, the most commonly reported side effects were itching of the mouth, lips, or tongue, swelling under the tongue, or throat irritation. These side effects, by themselves, were not dangerous or life-threatening. GRASTEK can cause severe allergic reactions that may be life-threatening. Symptoms of allergic reactions to GRASTEK include:

- Trouble breathing
- Throat tightness or swelling
- Trouble swallowing or speaking
- Dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or weak heartbeat
- Severe stomach cramps or pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Severe flushing or itching of the skin

For additional information on the possible side effects of GRASTEK, talk with your doctor or pharmacist. You may report side effects to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GRASTEK. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about GRASTEK that was written for healthcare professionals. For more information go to www.grastek.com or call toll-free at 1-800-622-4477.

The Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Manufactured for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by: Catalent Pharma Solutions Limited, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 8RU UK

For more detailed information, please read the Prescribing Information. usmg-mk7243-sb-1404r000 Revised: 04/2014

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School's smoking walkie-talkie brings firefighters

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

A malfunctioning walkie-talkie led to firefighters being called Monday morning to Thornton Creek Elementary School on the report of smoke.

In an email blast sent out to the Northville Public Schools community, Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said, "For your information, there was a malfunction with a walkie-talkie radio unit this morning at Thornton Creek that produced smoke. As a precautionary measure, the Fire Department was contacted and students in the pre-K classrooms were temporarily moved to the cafeteria while the issue was investigated."

The Novi Police and Fire departments arrived at the school shortly after the smoke

appeared. Thornton Creek is located on Nine Mile Road.

The incident took place at 9:20 a.m. and students were able to return to their classrooms by approximately 10 a.m. Gallagher said students arriving by bus for the Early Childhood program did have wait on the bus temporarily until the all-clear was given.

The cause behind the smoke is not known just yet.

"The cause of the walkie-talkie malfunction is being researched with the vendor and steps are being taken to check remaining batteries and charging units prior to further use," Gallagher said. "The students, staff and families of Thornton Creek handled this situation calmly, with a focus on student safety."

lhuhman@hometownlife.com

Construction tools stolen

Tools, such as nail guns and saws, were stolen from a site in the 39000 block of Seven Mile Road over the weekend of Jan. 16-19.

Two different companies had tools and equipment stolen from them. Tracks from a vehicle were found in the snow that Monday. There are no suspects at this time, but the case remains open.

NORTHVILLE POLICE BRIEFS

Computer theft

A Novi man had \$3,800 worth of computer equipment stolen from his rental car while it was parked on Main Street in Northville.

The Northville City Police were told about the incident Jan. 17. The equipment was in the backseat and there was no reported signs of forced entry.

Sign stolen

A home address sign was stolen Jan. 16 from a

home on High Street.

The sign had the address and was in blue lettering. The homeowner told Northville City Police that he went to dinner and then found it missing upon arrival back home. The street sign has been stolen in the past.

Marijuana possession

Passing on a double yellow led to the arrest for marijuana possession.

A 23-year-old Livonia

man was stopped Jan. 22 along Seven Mile Road near Silver Springs Drive by Northville Township Police for the illegal traffic move. The police reported spotting a baggie with what appeared to be marijuana inside it while the driver was grabbing his documents. When asked, he said, "Oh, it's just a little marijuana."

The man's car was also impounded.

- By Lonnie Huhman

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Tires stolen

A Novi man found his vehicle running with the tires half off.

The man, who lives at Pavilion Court Apartments, discovered Dec. 28 his Chrysler 300S with the wheels splayed out at angles while the engine was on. He called Novi Police to file a report. Upon further investigation, the lug nuts were found to be taken off the vehicle and it appeared as if someone tried to back it

out, causing the tires to partly come off.

Construction tools stolen

A contractor had an air compressor, saw and nail gun stolen from a Novi home he was working on.

The theft was reported Dec. 29 from a home on Danyas Way. The contractor hid the tools overnight in a closet inside the locked home. Novi Police did not report any signs of a forced entry, but the owner of the tools told

police the locks were easily opened with a credit card, which he had done before.

Police had little evidence and the owner of the tools did not have the serial numbers for the equipment.

Breaking and entering

A breaking and entering was reported at a Novi apartment on Portside Drive, with cash and personal items stolen.

Novi Police responded

to the residence after a call from the occupant, who was out of town at the time of the thefts. The victim told police he arrived home Dec. 28 and found the sliding door unlocked, yet told police he had locked it before leaving days earlier.

A tin box containing a \$100 bill and a wrist watch were stolen. There was no evidence as to how the suspect gained entry.

- By Lonnie Huhman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on two variance requests by the property owner at 206 Randolph Creek, Northville, Michigan. 206 Randolph Creek, parcel number 48-002-01-0585-305, is a relatively new lot that is accessed off of the north side of Randolph Street in the R-1B zoning district. The applicant is constructing a new home and is seeking two dimensional variances to allow construction of the home.

One variance is to allow a new front porch in the required front yard setback. The City's Building Official has determined that per Section 15.01 of the Northville Zoning Ordinance, the required front yard setback in this district is 25 feet. The location of the proposed front porch is setback 22.77 feet from the property line. Therefore, a variance for 2.23 feet is requested from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The second variance is to allow lot coverage of 33.6%. The City's Building Official has determined that per Section 15.01 of the Northville Zoning Ordinance, the maximum lot coverage for this district is 30%. Therefore, a variance for 3.6% is requested from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902, as part of the regular City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comment on the variance requests. Written comments regarding the variance requests should be directed to the City of Northville at the above address.

A copy of the variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The City of Northville will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with special needs at the meeting upon seven days notice to the City of Northville.

ROLLAND STAPLETON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS CHAIRPERSON

DIANNE MASSA
CITY CLERK

Publish: February 12, 2015

LO-000220712 3x4.5

CITY OF NORTHVILLE

2015 BOARD OF REVIEW

WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review of the City of Northville, Wayne and Oakland Counties, will meet at the City Hall, 215 West Main Street, for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the 2015 Assessment Rolls of the City of Northville on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015:	9:00 a.m. Administrative Meeting
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015:	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2015:	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015:	1:00 p.m. for deliberations

Unless otherwise specified the dates above are for Public Hearings

Pursuant to Act 165 of 1971 and based on the proposed changes to assessed values for 2015, the Wayne and Oakland County Equalization Departments have set the following tentative equalization factors relative to the 2015 Real and Personal Property Assessments: **WAYNE COUNTY** - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00. **OAKLAND COUNTY** - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00

Mail-in Petitions must be received by March 11, 2015 before 5:00 p.m. ALL TAXPAYERS wishing to petition their property's taxable value or assessment in person with the Board of Review will be seen by **APPOINTMENT ONLY. To ensure every appeal is heard it is requested that appointments be scheduled prior to Tuesday, March 3, 2015.** Please contact the City of Northville Tax Department at (248) 449-9901 for an appointment or with any questions you may have regarding your 2015 taxable or assessed value.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Publish: February 12, 19, and 26, 2015

LO-000230415 3x4.5

ENTRY BLANK



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

We Need Your Input On the Best Places To Shop... Best Places To Eat... Best Place For Great Service, This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll. Join in on the Balloting!

Drop Off or Mail In to: People's Choice Awards - Northville Record, 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi, MI 48377

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

FOOD OUTLETS

- Best speciality coffeehouse _____
- Best place for breakfast _____
- Best Sunday brunch _____
- Best fast food restaurant _____
- Best family restaurant _____
- Best place for soup _____
- Best salad bar _____
- Best place for burgers _____
- Best place for hot dogs/coneys _____
- Best place for subs _____
- Best place for ice cream _____
- Best place for chicken _____
- Best quality dining restaurant _____
- Best place for desserts _____
- Best Italian restaurant _____
- Best place for seafood _____
- Best oriental restaurant _____
- Best Tex-Mex restaurant _____
- Best place for pizza _____
- Best place for steak _____
- Best place for barbeque ribs _____
- Best wine selection(restaurant) _____
- Best beer selection(restaurant) _____
- Best place for romantic dinner _____
- Best after work meeting place _____
- Best sports bar _____
- Best Mediterranean food _____

BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Best hair salon _____
- Best place to bank _____
- Best real estate company _____
- Best auto service _____
- Best oil change shop _____
- Best collision shop _____
- Best insurance (agency) _____
- Best veterinary service _____
- Best travel agency _____
- Best child care service _____
- Best house painter _____
- Best landscaping company _____
- Best health/fitness company _____
- Best waitress/waiter (include restaurant) _____
- Best tanning salon _____
- Best accountant _____
- Best chiropractor _____
- Best doctor _____
- Best dentist _____
- Best eye care _____
- Best dance studio _____
- Best fitness provider _____
- Best pet supply store _____
- Best art gallery store _____

BEST RETAIL STORES

- Best pharmacy _____
- Best bakery/baked goods _____
- Best floral shop _____
- Best grocery store _____
- Best party store _____
- Best jewelry store _____
- Best lumber yard _____
- Best beer selection (store) _____
- Best wine selection (store) _____
- Best children's wear _____
- Best men's wear _____
- Best women's wear _____
- Best resale/consignment shop _____
- Best sporting goods _____
- Best antique store _____
- Best hardware/home improvement store _____
- Best home décor _____
- Best yoga studio _____

All Entries Must Be Received By February 20th

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar information to cstone@hometownlife.com by noon Monday to be included in Thursday's publication. The calendar is also available online at www.hometownlife.com.

Brightmoor Christian

Location: M-5 and 13 Mile, Novi.
Contact: 248-668-7014 or CelebrateRecovery@brightmoorcc.org.
Web: www.brightmoorchurch.org.

Celebrate Recovery

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Mondays.
Details: Worship, teaching or testimony and open-share recovery groups. Organizers offer the principles and tools to bring healing for the hurts, deliverance from life-controlling habits and freedom from the hang-ups that keep us from developing strong and healthy relations with God and others. Enter at Door D on the south side of the building. No cost; free child care is available for children birth through fifth grade. Pre-register.

Church of the Holy Family

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road.
Contact: 248-349-8847 or holymfamilynovi.org.
Mass Schedule
Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday through Friday; 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 6:30 p.m. Saturday

(Spanish).
Holy days: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment.
Priests: the Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and the Rev. Beto Espinoza, associate pastor.
AA: 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

Crosspointe Meadows

Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile.
Contact: 248-669-9400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit crosspointemeadows.org.
Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages.
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center

Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile, Northville.
Contact: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org.

Emmanuel Lutheran

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia.
Web: www.emmanuel-livonia.org.
Contact: 248-442-8822.
Sunday worship: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Youth group: 7 p.m. Wednesdays.
Special Needs Ministry: Contact Judy Cook, 248-442-8822.
Women's Coffee Break Bible Study: 10-11:30 a.m. Mondays - "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them" by John Ortberg
Adult Bible Class: 11 a.m. Sundays - "Seeing Grey in a World of Black and White" by Adam Hamilton
Ash Wednesday Worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Feb 18, 11 am and 7 pm
Bible Studies: "WHY? Making Sense of God's Will" by Adam Hamilton; 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays, beginning Feb. 22; 10 a.m. Mondays (Women's Coffee Break); 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile.
Contact: 248-349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Northville

Location: 217 N. Wing.
Contact: 248-348-1020.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays.
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month.

First Church of the Nazarene

Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile.
Contact: 248-348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org.
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Classic worship service, Adult Bible Fellowship classes and Children's Sunday School; 11 a.m. Contemporary worship service with Kids Church, Teen Worship Service and Adult Bible Fellowship classes. Cafe is open from 9:15-11 a.m.; 6 p.m. Evening Traditional Service.
Thursday: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group and Bible Study.
Tuesday: 9:25 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study - the Books of Ruth and Esther
Wednesday: 5:30 p.m. family dinner; 6:30 p.m. Caravan Scouting program for ages 4 through fourth grade; Club 56 for fifth and sixth graders; Surge Youth Group, Bible Study with Pastor Troy Ogle; and Little Critters for preschool age.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 E. Main.
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org.
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (for all ages).

First Presbyterian Church

Location: 205 E. Lake St. (corner of Wells and 10 Mile), South Lyon.
Contact: 248-437-2875.

First Presbyterian Church

Location: 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington.

First United Methodist Church of Northville

Location: 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville.
Contact: 248-349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org.
Sunday Worship (September-May): 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School (September-May): 9:15 a.m. Nursery 12th grade; 11 a.m. Nursery-sixth grade.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Location: 41415 Nine Mile, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi.
Contact: 248-349-0565.
Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible study; 10 a.m. worship.

Holy Cross Episcopal

Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile.
Contact: 248-427-1175 or holycrossnovi@gmail.com; visit holycrossnovi.org.
Sunday Worship: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m. worship service.
Alzheimer's Support Group: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month.

Hope Lutheran Church

Location: 39200 W. 12 Mile (east of Haggerty), Farmington Hills.

Lakes Baptist Church

Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake.

Livonia Church of Christ

Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia.
Contact: 248-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Legacy Church

(formerly First Baptist Church and Orchard Hills Baptist Church)
Location: 23455 Novi Road, Novi.
Contact: pastor Jon Hix, 248-349-5665 or visit www.legacychurch.us.
Sunday School/Small Groups for all ages: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Services: 11 a.m.
Bible Study/Prayer: Wednesday 7 p.m.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile.
Contact: the Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister, at 248-348-7757; visit mbccc.org; or email to office@mbccc.org.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Church School and Nursery Care: provided during worship.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.

NorthRidge Church

Location: 49555 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth.
Phone: 734-233-3621.
Email: pheaton@northridgechurch.com.

Northville Christian Assembly

Location: 41355 Six Mile.
Contact: 248-348-9030; 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 Avrohhom and Leah Susskind at 248-790-6075 or rabbi@novijewishcenter.com; www.novijewishcenter.com.

Novi United Methodist

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile.
Contact: 248-349-2652 or visit umcrovi.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 of every month.
Peace Vigil: noon first Sunday of every month in front of the church. Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.

Oak Pointe 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.

Orchard Grove Community Church

Location: 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake.
Contact: 248-926-6584; 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 or 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 at 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.

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church

Location: 54899 Eight Mile, Northville.

Pentecostals of Novi

Location: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile.
Contact: 248-697-8158 or visit www.thepentecostalsofnovi.org.

Plymouth St. John's Episcopal Church

Location: 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth.
Contact: 734-453-0190, Ext. 16,

or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org.

Praise Baptist Church

Location: 45000 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth.
Contact: 734-748-3898.

Prince of Peace Lutheran

Location: 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills.
Phone: 248-553-3380
Fall Support Groups: Hosting two separate fall support groups: "Hope for Tomorrow" for those grieving and "Through the Fire" for those needing divorce recovery. These free support groups will meet at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the fellowship hall area. These classes will offer strength, courage and hope to individuals as they go through the process of grief and/or divorce. Space is limited. Please call the church office to pre-register or for more information.

St. James Catholic

Location: 46325 10 Mile, Novi.
Contact: 248-347-7778.
Pastor: Monsignor John Kasza.
Mass schedule: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday.

St. John Lutheran Church

Location: 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills.
Contact: 248-474-0584 or visit stjohn-lutheran.com.
Saturday Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 9, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran

Location: 201 Elm St., Northville.
Contact: 248-349-3140.

Unity of Farmington Hills

Location: 32500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington.
Contact: 248-737-9191; Administrative Director at unityfh.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Farmington

Location: 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills.
Contact: www.uufarmington.org.
Details: This religious education program is open to the public and currently enrolling new students. Classes are grouped into grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 with age-specific education materials for all.
Contact: Jennifer Teed at 248-478-7272 or dre@uufarmington.org
Details: Six weeks exploring different topics like religion, philosophy, science, health, social and political issues. No advance registration necessary; a \$5 donation is suggested. Drop in and pick the class that interests you most at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Farmington.
Contact: 248-478-7272 or uufarmington.org/uucf/re-lifespan.

Multigenerational Services:

6:45 p.m. Fridays.
Details: Family members of all ages can gather for drumming, chanting, and meditation followed by a brief participatory worship service which could include stories, songs and sharing. A religious education activity will follow, such as an art project, music, dance, game or theater. The evening will close with a light snack and a short time to socialize, ending at 8:30 p.m.

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville (behind the shopping center at the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty)
Web: www.wardchurch.org.
Contact: 248-374-7400.

Sunday Worship: 8 a.m. Liturgical in the Chapel; 9:30 a.m. Contemporary in the Sanctuary; 11 a.m. Traditional in the Sanctuary; 11a.m. Post-Contemporary in Knox Hall.

Sunday Groups and Classes: Nursery, Children's and Middle School programs available on Sunday mornings. High School Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. Sunday Morning Adult Life Classes also available.

FX: A Family Experience: An interactive family production where participants ignite conversations in the home on important topics to help kids and their parents follow God together. First Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Knox Hall, September-May.
Service Broadcasts: Live at <http://live.wardchurch.org> at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays for live interactive video web-streaming. Also, the Traditional Service is broadcast every week on WRDT-AM 560 at 11 a.m.

High kickin'



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Novi High School varsity pom pon squad put their best foot forward during their Jan. 16 halftime routine at the Wildcats' basketball game.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

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

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

ARTUSHIN, EVA MARIE

May 1, 1917 - January 30, 2015
L. J. Griffin Funeral Home Northrop Sassaman Chapel

BROSSOIT, THERESA
Age 71, of Shelby Twp., formerly of Brighton, passed away February 8, 2015. Full obit at casterlinefuneralhome.com

BULLOCK, CAROL

July 16, 1942 - Jan. 31, 2015
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

CARMICHAEL, MARY
June 1, 1959 - February 6, 2015.
Arrangements by: PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME. www.phillipsfuneral.com



DUNN, JERRY M.

January 28, 2015, age 73. Beloved husband of Susan. Dear father of Jeffrey Dunn and Jennifer (Douglas) Wagner. Grandfather of Cassidy, Kerrigan, Kirsten, Shannon, Brendan, Bridg and Caitlin. Brother of James P. (Diana) and Danny (Kathleen) Dunn. Funeral service was held Monday, February 2, 2015. Donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at www.michaeljfox.org. Share memories at www.schrader-howell.com

EGNER, RICHARD

Oct. 20, 1934 - Jan. 15, 2015
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

GUSTINA, ARTHUR P.

Age 99, of Fowlerville, died Tuesday, January 27, 2015, just sixteen days short of his 100th birthday. He was born February 12, 1915 in Dungen, Ohio to John and Jennie (DeRoya) Giustina, the youngest of three siblings. He met his wife Helen, also of Ohio, at a local dance hall and they were blessed to be husband and wife for 74 years. She preceded him in death on November 16, 2011. He was a retired tool and die maker, he and Helen retired and lived in Highland, MI for 27 years. He was a parishioner of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, St. Agnes Catholic Church and a member the Knights of Columbus. His hobbies included gardening, bowling, hunting, playing cards, camping and being a faithful fan of the Tigers and Red Wings. Surviving are two daughters: Rosemary (Roger) Cahaney of Fowlerville and Rita Bates of Castle Rock, Colorado, two sons: John (Grace) Gustina of Lansing and Art (Peggy) Gustina of Lapeer, nine grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister Violet Salvador and brother Hector Gustine. Mass of the Christian Burial will be Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church with Fr. Nathaniel Sokol officiating. Interment in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Visitation from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday, February 13, 2015 at Niblack Funeral Home, where the Rosary will be recited at 7pm. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Agnes Christian Service. www.niblackfuneralhome.com



HENNESSEY, RICHARD

Sept. 4, 1929 - Feb. 4, 2015
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

HERRICK, JESSIE A.
March 10, 1919 - February 2, 2015
L. J. Griffin Funeral Home Northrop Sassaman Chapel

ORGAN, MARGARET

Sept. 14, 1924 - Feb. 7, 2015
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

PILCH, WILLARD

March 21, 1928 - Feb. 6, 2015
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



SHERMAN, DONALD J.

As it must to all men, death came on February 2, 2015 to Donald, a resident of Lansing and Northville. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years Glenna, cherished children Gregory, Michael, Jane, Anne, John, Jaclyn and Kate. Proud grandpa of 12 and great-grandpa of 12. Also survived by dear sister Patricia Ann Slivensky of Lansing. Don's services were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are appreciated to the CS Mott Children's Hospital. Please share a memory with the family at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

Local lawmakers serve on new Asian Pacific American Caucus

Several western Wayne County lawmakers were among a group of legislators who gathered Jan. 27 for the first meeting of the recently formed Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus.

The bipartisan group is composed of members of the Michigan Legislature who identify as Asian Pacific American and members who represent districts with large concentrations of Asian Pacific American residents.

Serving on the committee are Sen. Hoon-Yung Hoppgood, D-Taylor, whose district includes Westland; Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, whose district includes Wayne, Livonia, Canton, Plymouth

and Plymouth Township; and Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, whose district includes Canton.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the new Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus," Hoppgood said. "Asian Pacific Americans comprise the fastest growing population in Michigan and legislators need to work together on the issues affecting the entire community. I am confident that my fellow caucus members and I will be able to do just that."

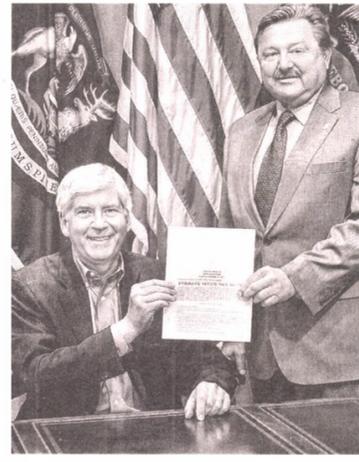
The caucus will work to advance policies and initiatives to provide for the full participation of Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan and to address the

needs and concerns of the Asian American community.

As part of its mission, the caucus will work to educate other members of the Legislature about the contributions and concerns of the Asian Pacific American community in Michigan.

In addition to Hoppgood, Colbeck, Pagan, Chang and Singh, other members of the Caucus include Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake; Sen. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy; Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor; and Reps. Martin Howrylak, R-Troy, Christine Greig, D-Farmington, Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor and Adam Zemke, D-Ann Arbor.

Protecting state's water resources



State Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, and Gov. Rick Snyder (seated) hold Public Act 537 of 2014 at a ceremony bill signing by the governor last week. The measure, sponsored by Kowall, is part of a package of bills addressing the problems caused by non-native species to Michigan's ecosystems.

Your Invitation to

Worship

Brighton

HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
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 Shrine of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop

Milford

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Preschool, Pre-K & Kdg. - Mo. Synod
620 General Motors Rd., Milford
Church office: (248) 684-0895
Worship Services: Sunday 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Bible Study: Sunday 9:45 am
Nursery Available
Rev. Martin Dressler

Novi

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

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

Livonia

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

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
VISITORS WELCOME!
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-684-5695
Pastor Steve Swagatz
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 am • Sunday Worship - 11 am
Young Adults Dinner/Bible Study Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
Awake, 3 yrs old thru 5th grade (Sept.-March)
and Youth Group for 6th grade and older
Website: milfordbaptist.org

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
Sunday Worship 7:45 am & 10 am
Healing Service Wednesday 11:45 am
Rev. Ann Webber, Rector
holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Whitmore Lake

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

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

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

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
680 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48357
248-887-1311 • www.myhmc.com
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Kids Church: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 11:00 a.m.
Wed is MS Youth Night: 6:30 p.m.
Griefshare, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 6:00 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
"Living God, loving each other and living our core values"

South Lyon

New Hudson

NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
56730 Grand River Avenue • New Hudson MI 48165
(248) 437-6212 • Gerald S. Hunter, Pastor
Sunday School & Bible Class - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
www.newhudsonumc.org

OAKPOINTE |milford
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) Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm, Sundays 9:15 am
The 707 (High School) Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm
Women, Men and Life Groups Various Schedules

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

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

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
57855 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48165
Phone 248-474-9108
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
Website: http://www.newhopeuu.org

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48380
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9 am & 11:15 am
Wed. Kids-6:30 pm/Adults-6:45 pm
Also Small Groups / Ministry Teams

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

Northville

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

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
to drugs and depressed.

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

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

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN
Experience Life Each Week
Sunday Worship - 9:00 am & 10:15 am
Sunday School and Children's Programs
www.ncalife.org
41355 Six Mile Road
248-348-9030

First United Methodist Church
(248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Taff Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times: September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woodley, Lead Pastor
www.fumcnorthville.org

first united methodist church south lyon, mi
640 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760
Worship: 8:15 am, 10:45 am,
11 am & 6:30 pm
Sunday School: 9:40 am
Rev. Sandra Willobee, Lead Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

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

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

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

Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
59255 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Education Hour 10:15 AM
Rev. Bart Muller, Pastor
248-573-7320
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon
248-486-0400
www.ecrossroads.net
Service Times
8:45am, 10:00am & 11:30am
Christmas Eve Services
5:30pm & 7pm

OUR SAVIOUR APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
54899 8 Mile Rd. at Currie Rd. Northville, MI 48167
248-374-2268
Sunday Worship:
9:45 am Children's & Adult's Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship/Coffee
11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 pm
Pastor Andy Whitten
oursaviouralca.com

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

For more information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-926-2219 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

OUR VIEW

Bullying won't stop until you get involved

Michigan ranks too high in bullying stats

"It takes one to know one" is an old expression, usually derogatory and meaning that the subject to which it is directed is exhibiting the same behavior that person is criticizing. But in the case of Jordan Roberts, a former Bloomfield Hills resident, that expression would be one of empathy.

Roberts' production company has created a film about bullying, *White Rabbit*, which will have a special showing Feb. 12 at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak. The showing is a fundraiser for anti-bullying, a subject that Roberts is well familiar with from her days in St. Louis in sixth grade.

"I went from having a lot of friends in school to moving to a new area and having no friends and being afraid of going to school," she said.

That's a particularly relevant comment. In a report released last week, WalletHub said a nationwide survey of students found that Michigan ranked 17th in the percentage of students who have missed school due to fear of being bullied.

The report was released Feb. 9 to coincide with Stop Bullying Day.

That WalletHub figure, if it is to be believed, is shocking in a state which has taken steps to deal with bullying and it is one that ought to motivate parents and school personnel to redouble those efforts.

The state Legislature recently added cyber bullying to the state's 2011 anti-bullying measure called Matt's School Law. According to WalletHub, Michigan ranked 38th in the percentage of students who were bullied on school property and 39th in the percentage bullied online.

While we all think we know what bullying is, consider this information from a government website: Bullying involves "unwanted aggressive behavior," whether perceived or real. It involves an "imbalance of power" that can include everything from threats to rumors, physical or verbal attacks or even exclusion from a group.

According to the Risk Behavior Surveillance System of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20 percent of students experienced bullying tactics in 2013.

So what are we going to do about it? The state law requires training and that school personnel be able to deal with the problem. It requires that incidents be investigated promptly and that educational programs be offered.

One such program that Attorney General Bill Schuette has taken statewide is "OK to Say," a way of telling students that it is a good thing to report threatening behavior. Those programs also explain to students the dangers of sexting and other cyber bullying behaviors - including the fact that they could go to jail for re-posting revealing photos of other students.

Ultimately, it will be up to parents to take an active role in teaching their children the consequences of bullying and how to deal with it. Online suggestions for doing so include talking about making friends, setting rules for behavior, monitoring Internet use of their children and discussing age-appropriate Internet use.

Parents want to know that the schools they send their children to are safe. Our children are vulnerable at any age. Bullying destroys the nurturing environment needed for learning.

Roberts says that her film leaves the viewer feeling hopeful and that there is something that can be done about bullying.

Make that true by getting involved in your local school.

Ultimately, it will be up to parents to take an active role in teaching their children the consequences of bullying and how to deal with it. Online suggestions for doing so include talking about making friends, setting rules for behavior, monitoring Internet use of their children and discussing age-appropriate Internet use.

NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

Asked at Novi and Northville businesses that will play a key role come Valentine's Day.



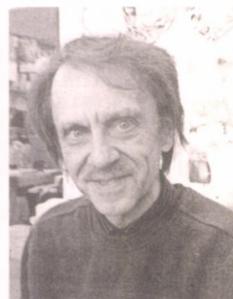
"It's about sharing the passion for romance with others who come to the flower shop and also seeing the faces of people light up when they receive flowers as a gift from a loved one."

Lee Ann Adam
Novi (Flower Alley)



"It's about helping either single people or couples find ways to enhance their Valentine's Day."

Harper Berry
Novi (Lover's Lane)



"It's the one time of year where people really want to express their love and we get to be part of that. It's refreshing and, although we are busy, it's always fun."

Larry Podpora
Northville
(Donna and Larry's Flowers)



"It means helping someone bring some love into a loved one's life by helping them reach out with some beautiful flowers. This is a special time of year for us."

Donna Podpora
Northville
(Donna and Larry's Flowers)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last year's voters smartest ever

In a recent article in your Opinion page, the writer states his whole case on an NBC *Wall Street Journal* opinion poll. Really? The two most biased, liberal-minded organizations in the U.S.

Additionally, several other polls say differently. But the only real poll that counts comes out of the voting booths. Liberals are still in denial as to what the heck happened this year, hence calling them "stupid" as did this reader.

Let's look at some facts. President Obama literally sent a check to West Africa via executive privilege for \$8 billion for a disease that has now passed. Check it out. Want to guess where our money went? It went into the hands of the leaders over there.

Think how many roads and schools could have been fixed with this money?

And are we to believe 65 percent of the American voting public is OK with this? Not.

Let's talk about what the same reader thinks the public is in favor of. He thinks we are OK allowing millions of illegal immigrants to come across the border at will - who do not have a lot of money, but do have a lot of diseases such as measles and even a few terrorists.

Additionally, these same people are put into schools, where they don't understand the language the teacher is speaking and ultimately drop out of school, only to hang around on street corners, which of course leads to many bad things. Some of these illegals were even bused all around the U.S.

Who pays and pays for all this free care? The smart voters do, that's who.

With the stroke of the pen, President Obama made this entire tidal wave legal and even more attractive to people south of our border. So we are now made to believe, according to this poll, we are OK with this? Not.

I could go on and on, but I only hope the voters stay as smart for the next election and hope we can still save our country.

Paul Thal
Novi

Protect our rights

If the media reports about the National Security Agency's warrantless spying program are true, our Constitution and our republic are in serious danger.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution is non-negotiable. It protects Americans from being searched by the government without a warrant and for good reason. Before independence, American colonists were subject to "general warrants" by the British government. The king's agents could search anyone whenever they felt like it, without suspicion of any wrongdoing.

The current NSA spying program is exactly the same. Government bureaucrats can spy on your phone calls, chats, Internet searches and emails. That's un-American.

State Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Auburn Hills, has a solution. His bill - HB 5420 - would protect the Fourth Amendment rights of Michiganders by banning Michigan state agencies from complying with the NSA's warrantless spying program.

Rep. McMillin's bill is a common sense way to protect our

inalienable rights. But HB 5420 is stuck in the House Judiciary Committee. Our representatives should pass this bill and uphold their oath to the Constitution.

Government bureaucrats have no right to spy on me or any other American without a warrant. I encourage all my fellow Michiganders to pressure their representatives to pass HB 5420. Our Constitution hangs in the balance

Matthew Webb
Westland

Arming bureaucrats

I object to the premise that bureaucrats need to be armed, especially with firepower that exceeds common reason. These untrained personnel have not been trained nor authorized to use weapons against the citizens of this state.

Even worse, is that bureaucrats are beholden to special interest groups that seek to criminalize the rights of the general public.

This smacks of the Nazi regime of the 1930s. History is repeating itself - and not in a good way.

Pointing out the foibles of politicians is akin to a perceived anarchy. We, as a free people, need to expose the abuses of those currently sitting in power. Of course, standing up for one's right will ultimately incur the wrath of paid-off judges and other politicians who have been bought and paid for by corporate interests.

Randy Zeilinger
Garden City

Being flooded

I am very curious as to how these children manage to make it to the U.S. It is a grueling journey and I can't believe that a 6-year-old could make this trip on his/her own. My son, who resides in Guatemala, says there is little or no information on this there.

It seems that suddenly our country is being flooded with these children and I do not understand how this has come to be the case. Any information you are able to provide would be of interest to the community, I'm certain.

I am deeply opposed to being financially responsible for illegal immigrants when so many citizens are desperate for help and the constant refrain from various agencies is that they lack the financial resources. Something seems to be very wrong when resources can be found for non-U.S. citizens, but not for U.S. citizens. In the end, all the money comes from the U.S. taxpayer.

Lynn Markowitz
Farmington Hills

Have I got this right?

Milwaukee has had vouchers for 23 years and the United States Department of Education ranks them among the very worst urban schools in the country.

Sweden has had privatization and choice for 30 years. They rank below the United States on international testing and are in the process of changing to a public school system.

Chile was schooled in vouchers and choice by none other than Milton Friedman, the father of choice and vouchers. They are no longer financing private schools with public money.

Both "No Child Left Behind" and "Race to the Top" have been abject failures. Yet, Detroit

News columnist Ingrid Jacques, in the face of charter school failure nationwide wants more choice and vouchers.

What passes for "reform" in this country is an unmitigated disaster. For too long, we have listened to corporatists, who wish to profit through privatization of American schools and a few wealthy and well-intentioned citizens who are unschooled in how children learn (Bill Gates and Eli Broad).

We need to look for improvement by emulating our high-performing schools (Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut) and Finland, a top performing nation that is subjected to standardized testing a grand total of once in the educational life of a student.

Al Churchill
Livonia

Protect retirees

Congress has passed a trillion dollar omnibus spending bill that includes giving trustees of multi-employer pension plans the ability to cut pensions earned by 1.5 million workers and retirees. Many pensions will be cut by up to 50 percent to retirees who are in no position to make up for the monthly shortfalls they will be sorely missing in order to be financial secure.

On behalf of the workers and retirees who read your newspaper, I feel you should publish an editorial telling members of Congress they should hold hearings early in the new Congress to explore better solutions other than cutting pension benefits.

Reportedly, Congress acted out of concern about the \$42.4 billion that the PBGC says it is short for needed payouts if at-risk multi-employer pension plans failed. Does this remedy open the door for the PBGC and single-employer pension plan sponsors to seek the same relief?

Congress did not stipulate that this change applied to multi-employer plans only. It enacted the law in a way that it changed ERISA to permit the change to some underfunded multi-employer plans but did not add the word "only." Therefore, Congress did not preclude underfunded single-employer plans from being de-risked by allowing pension sponsors to cut retiree pension benefits in the future. Tell Congress it needs to amend the provision to protect single-employer pension plan retirees.

Dennis Keblaitis
Canton

Opinions shared

I appreciate the thoughtful, honest opinions voiced in letters from Hannah Provence Donigan. A recent letter by Vincent Ziegler attacked her opinion, saying "I can find no other reference to the president's race or ethnicity in any other letters to the editor." Perhaps not, but no other president has been challenged as to his birth or citizenship, and why do you suppose that is? The letter also states "there are few, if any 'fine achievements' with this president."

How do you expect our president to accomplish anything with a Congress whose stated main goal is to not support him? It's amazing that he has accomplished anything at all, but somehow he has. Thank you, Hannah Provence Donigan, for publicly stating opinions shared by many others

Khaya Davidson
Farmington Hills

Black history lessons should be taught at school and at home, too

Tears streamed down my daughter Olivia's cheeks as she watched a video unfold on YouTube. She ran from our home office and burst into the kitchen trembling.

"Why would he do that to her? Why does he hate her so much?"

"Turn it off, Daddy, I can't go back in there."

Olivia, 7, was watching YouTube with the best of intentions. Her class was learning about Black History Month and she was excited to see if there were any videos about the Drinking Gourd.

Olivia doesn't often come home from school enthralled with the notion of homework, but she was this time.

She talked rapid fire about what she had learned earlier that day, making a case for extra computer time.

"People sang a special song to follow the gourd



Larry Ruehlen

north," Olivia said. "They'd go at night with Miss Tubman and follow the stars."

That seemed to be the sum total of Olivia's knowledge on the subject of slavery before she sat down in my office chair. A quick search revealed a bunch of related content and younger brother Mark, 5, squeezed alongside Olivia to see whatever it was that had earned extra screen time.

I made the mistake of drifting back to work and the screams came 10 minutes later.

The children were watching something on Harriett Tubman and her role in the Underground Railroad. Olivia bolted in horror at the depiction of



a slave getting whipped. The slave screamed in agony as her back ripped open with each lash, begging for mercy that didn't come.

That scene launched a long and difficult conversation that I hadn't even considered having with our children. I like to think I'm doing my part to raise enlightened children and all kinds of topics have been open for discussion. Cancer, religion, death, work ethic, stealing, money and love have all been dinner-table conversation. Just last week, Mark asked if it was OK for a boy to marry a girl to

marry a girl. I looked at my wife Robin for a nod of approval before answering. It is OK, I said, and even legal in some states, but most of the time men marry women. The explanation must have sufficed, because the conversation quickly turned to something less controversial: Mark's love of cheeseburgers.

The discussion of slavery was different. In fact, it was almost urgent.

Olivia's best friend is black. They hit it off the first day of kindergarten and never looked back. We recently moved nearly 60 miles away, but the girls still exchange messages and even went out for lunch over Christmas break.

Olivia and Mark needed to make sense of something that makes no sense in the eyes of a child.

How could a person own someone else?

Why would they want to?

Was it legal?

How long did it last?

Why didn't someone stop it?

Did our family own slaves?

My wife and I answered every question they asked and it went on for a full 30 minutes.

Our answers were basic and to the point.

People owned slaves because they were greedy. They made slaves work for free so they could get rich.

It was legal, but our country went to war over slavery and President Abraham Lincoln and the north won. Eventually, all the slaves were free.

Mark asked if a little boy could be taken from his parents and I said yes, slaves could be sold as their owners saw fit.

More tears fell.

What about the gourd, Olivia asked. Why didn't they run away?

White people had guns, we said, and runaway slaves were chased down and even killed for trying to get to freedom.

Olivia and Mark seemed hurt by the whole thing – not the history lesson, but the fact that slavery had happened at all.

Up to now, we hadn't confronted the issue of race in our household. We have simply told our children to be friends with whomever they liked and repeated that skin color doesn't matter.

The truth is all, children need to know about this ugly chapter of American history and parents shouldn't depend only upon schools to tell it.

Larry Ruehlen is managing editor of digital content & audience development at O&E Media. He welcomes feedback at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

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A traditional approach

Griffin family brings changes to Northrup-Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The Griffin family's approach in taking over the ownership of the Northrup-Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville was the same one that has helped them serve other communities so well.

"Every community deserves a place that will help them honor a family member," said David Griffin, who operates the family-owned business, L. J. Griffin Funeral Home Inc., with his brother Larry and mother Gerry.

One mission of this longtime community business is "honoring the achievements of loved ones and celebrating the life you shared together are the cornerstones of healing after loss."

Last March, the Griffins became the new proprietors of the home located at Northville and Seven Mile roads. John Sassaman, the former owner, died last year, but he was able to be part of the planning and upgrades the Griffins have

put into the building.

They now want to get the word out to the community that they are here to serve. They offer a range of quality services that fit any budget — and they're open to all faiths.

The Griffin family has a long history in metro Detroit. They have other locations in Westland, Livonia and Canton. David said they have built a tradition on high ethics and supporting the community that goes back years.

In 1954, Larry and Gerry Griffin opened the doors to their first funeral home in Detroit. Working together as licensed funeral directors, they understood the meaning of commitment and provided quality service to all families.

As a licensed funeral home director, Gerry was a rare breed in a profession dominated at the time by men. During her career, she was a leader among female funeral directors.

Their family grew during the years as they built the business. It was

the concept of family that made them successful.

Larry died last year, leaving behind his wife and sons to carry on that tradition. Gerry still helps out in various capacities and both sons manage the locations. A Griffin family member is always involved in some part of each service.

David understands the importance of supporting the community in which he lives and does business, so during the updating of the Northville location he looked to it. From his wife's design ideas to getting the lumber from the Northville Lumber Yard and the stained glass from Tiffany's, the renovations have taken on a local touch.

The first upgrade one will notice is the new roof. Once inside, one is greeted by a warm fireplace and spacious sitting areas. New furnishings and a crystal chandelier give it an elegant look.

An open house will take place after Easter, giving everyone a chance



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Griffin family has been well-established at their Griffin Funeral Home in Northville since last March. With their mother Gerry are brothers Larry (right) and David. Their funeral home is located at the southwest corner of Northville and Seven Mile roads.

to see what the Griffins are bringing to the community.

"The open house will allow the community to come in and see what

we've done here," David said.

The L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Northrup-Sassaman Chapel, is located at 19091 North-

ville Road and its number is 248-348-1233.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com
517-294-4215
Twitter: @lhuhman

Participants sought for statewide Community Conversation on jobs

The League of Women Voters, Northwest Wayne County, in concert with Citizens for Peace of Livonia, is hosting a Community Conversation for the Center for Michigan, a non-partisan group in Lansing, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia.

These conversations are conducted statewide. Attendees have the opportunity to weigh in on issues presented during the conversation. The results are com-

piled into a report by the Center for Michigan and the report is given to state legislators. The findings from these conversations have resulted in the passage of several laws in recent years.

The topic is Challenges to Upward Mobility in the job market. Twenty-five to 50 participants are being sought for the conversation to speak to their experiences starting out in Michigan's work force, seeking and maintaining a job and succeeding in Michigan's job market.

Participants may include the unemployed, underemployed, young professionals, those looking to change careers, employers, entrepreneurs, as well as workforce development and service professionals.

Due to the limited seating, it is essential that participants RSVP to Angela Ryan at cruiserryan@ameritech.net or 734-591-0995 or Colleen Mills at cmills0079@yahoo.com or 734-425-0079 no later than Feb. 15.

New retirement saving option invests in U.S. treasuries

As long as I have been in the financial world, I've encouraged people to save for their retirement.

Retirement is a brand new concept. After all, just think of what life expectancy was 100 years ago. Today, retirement is a major issue and something that everyone needs to be concerned with.

Over the years, there have been changes to the way one can save for retirement. There are now more tax-favored options than ever before. The newest retirement vehicle, which took effect this year, is myRA (My Retirement Account).

My Retirement Account is sponsored by the U.S. Treasury Department. It is similar (from a tax standpoint) to a Roth IRA in that you deposit post-tax money and the money grows and can be withdrawn tax-free.

The rules with regard to withdrawals are also similar to a Roth IRA — the money has to stay within the myRA for five years and can be withdrawn after age 59½. However, there are exceptions.

In order to qualify for a contribution to myRA, household income for those married has to be



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

less than \$191,000. For single taxpayers, household income has to be less than \$129,000.

Unfortunately, you cannot send a check to open an account nor can you have a direct deposit from your checking account. The only way to open a myRA account is payroll deduction through your employer. This is not an employer-sponsored plan and employers do not contribute money, nor will they administer the plan. It is no different than any payroll plan you may have through work.

The maximum annual contribution to a myRA is \$5,500. In addition, the plan does have a little quirk. Once the value of your account exceeds \$15,000, then the money has to be transferred into a traditional Roth IRA.

Unlike a Roth IRA — where you select your investment options — myRA is invested in U.S. treasuries.

One of the beauties of this plan is the fact that there are no costs to open the account. In addition, there are very low minimums to establish the

plan. You can start the plan with as low as \$25 and ongoing automatic payroll deductions can virtually be any amount.

In addition, because the myRA is invested in securities backed by the U.S. treasuries, your account value will not decrease.

Although I'm always in favor of new retirement options, investors need to be cautious about the myRA. The money is invested in U.S. treasury obligations and, on the whole, when you factor in inflation and increased cost of living, this investment generally doesn't keep up.

I believe a traditional Roth IRA with investment options offers a better chance for growth. However, for a conservative investor who does not like principal fluctuation, myRA is something to consider.

For more information about myRA, visit the U.S. Treasury's website www.myRA.treasury.gov.

You cannot save too much money for retirement. Therefore, no matter what type of retirement vehicle you start with, 401(k), myRA or a Roth IRA, the key is to start saving as soon as you can and as much as you can.

Good luck.

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Taste of Northville registration underway

The Northville Chamber of Commerce is now accepting registrations for the annual Taste of Northville Business Showcase Event, presented by Community Financial Credit Union, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Northville High School.

The showcase will feature interactive exhibits from retail, service and nonprofit businesses at this fun family-themed event. This year's theme will

celebrate the "Wearing of the Northville Green" (St. Patrick's Day). The early bird registration fee of \$175 (chamber members' discount) includes booth space, table, chairs, set up assistance and four tickets to the event.

Schoolcraft offering small business seminars

The Michigan Small Business Development Center of Schoolcraft College announces the 2015 winter schedule for small business start-up and growth seminars in metro Detroit

through April.

The "Entrepreneur Series," is designed to provide entrepreneurs the education and tools to launch a successful small business. The series consists of the following five classes which can also be taken individually: Starting a Business; Writing a Business Plan; Marketing Your Business; Financial Management; and Business Legal Issues.

The series will be held March 4 through April 1 at Schoolcraft College, Radcliff campus, Garden City.

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50 SHADES OF GREY (R)
11:00, 12:00, 1:45, 3:10, 4:30, 6:20,
7:15, 9:10, 10:00

FRI/SAT LS 11:30

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

FRI/SAT LS 11:15

JUPITER ASCENDING (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50

FRI/SAT LS 11:50

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS:
SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG)

11:30, 2:00, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00

SEVENTH SON (PG-13)

FRI/SUN 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15

SAT 4:40, 7:00, 9:15

MON 11:40, 2:15, 9:15

TUE 11:40, 2:15, 4:40

WED 11:40, 2:15

AMERICAN SNIPER (R)
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Oakland County to debut 9-1-1 texting for emergencies

By Robert Allen
Michigan.com

For some emergencies, calling 9-1-1 isn't the most feasible option.

You could risk tipping off your location to a home burglar. You could be stuck in back country, where the cellphone signal is so weak that a call won't connect. Or, perhaps, you can't hear.

In these and other cases, texting can be a lifesaver. In Oakland County, it's about to become an option.

"We want to have the latest and best technology that will allow us to help people when they call 9-1-1 or text 9-1-1 or make any contact to get help," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said.

In the first three months of 2014, there were 21,683 attempts to text to 9-1-1 across the U.S., with 272 of them in Michigan, according to TeleCommunication Systems, the company working with Oakland County and wireless service providers to enable text to 9-1-1.

But the usual response was a bounce-back message: "Make a voice call to 9-1-1 for help; text to 9-1-1 is not available."

Through most of Michigan and the U.S.,



Oakland County Fire and EMS quality assurance supervisor Ryan Cohee oversees police quality assurance supervisor Jaime Seling.

calling 9-1-1 is the only reliable way to get emergency help from police, fire or emergency medical services, despite the widespread use of cellphones that text and send photos and video. But dispatch centers are catching up, as Oakland County planned to begin receiving text messages by the end of January.

It's only for Short Message Service; no iMessages or SnapChats. And they're asking people to use it only in a pinch.

"Call when you can;

text when you can't," said Mel Maier, chief of emergency management operations for the Sheriff's Office.

The text to 9-1-1 service works much like any text-message conversation, with the operator using a web browser to respond within seconds.

Officials emphasize that it's much more effi-

cient to have a phone conversation, if possible. But even a text of "Help" and nothing else will generate a response to the location triangulated using cell towers — as is done now with phone conversations, Maier said.

Because of cooperation with service providers such as Verizon Wire-

less and technology already in place, text to 9-1-1 won't be any more expensive to operate than the existing service.

"There's no extra cost right now for the county to incur on this," Maier said.

The Oakland County dispatch center provides services for a number of communities which contract police services through the county.

But to ensure text to 9-1-1 works everywhere inside the county lines, it's providing service for every Oakland County dispatch center.

Officials said the service is to be especially helpful for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, as previous technology such as Text Telephone and relay services become less popular.

Oakland County is the second-busiest dispatch center in the state, next to Detroit, Maier said. Detroit police Sgt. Michael Woody said the department has looked into text to 9-1-1, but has such a high call volume that more innovation would be needed.

The text to 9-1-1 service is a temporary fix as dispatch centers go digital, opening floodgates for data such as live video and all manner of readings of vehicles, human vital signs and more.

In 10 years, you might be doing Skype or FaceTime with your 9-1-1 operator.

Consumer technology has rapidly outpaced what's available to the nation's roughly 6,000 emergency dispatch centers; the first iPhone was released in 2007 and texting started gaining traction before that.

Last year, 84 percent of the 9-1-1 calls to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office came through cellphones, Maier said. An increasing number of phones offer video and image transfers.

The shift to the next generation has taken time because the dispatch centers are run by local governments based on standards from pre-cellular days. And innovation will take money, security and interoperability among local sites.

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Novi's Alex Felice gets fouled grabbing the rebound by the Mustangs' Kendall Dillon (left) as Emily Maresh converges on the play.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville trips rival Novi with 57-42 win

Mustangs end Wildcats' 10-game winning streak

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Northville had the revenge factor working in its favor Friday night against boys basketball rival Novi.

The Mustangs were playing at home and trying to make amends for a 62-54 loss Jan. 16 to the KLAA Central Division leaders.

It was mission accomplished as the Mustangs snapped Novi's 10-game winning streak with a convincing 57-42 victory.

Novi fell to 11-3 overall and dropped into a first-place tie with Salem in the KLAA Central with a 7-1 mark.

Northville (9-5) moved into third place all alone in the division at 4-4.

"I think in the second half, it was all about defense," said Northville coach Todd Sander, whose team outscored the Wildcats 17-6 in the third quarter after leading 27-25 at halftime. "The guys really gutted it out and (assistant) coach (Sean) Turner did a spectacular job getting our match-ups correct with who we wanted guarding with all of their skill guys. We were able to lock them down the second half."

Northville senior guard David Morrissey nailed a pair of 3-pointers to spark the third-quarter assault, while sophomore guard Jack Burke also came off the bench to contribute

See SNAPPED, Page B3

Hoops thriller

Novi's Felice sinks two clutch free throws to stall Mustangs

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

After missing a wide-open layup coming off a perfectly designed out-of-bounds play with only 14.6 seconds left that could have given Novi the lead, Alex Felice got her reprieve.

After teammate Ellie Mackay's shot was rejected by Northville's Emily Maresh in the lane, Felice grabbed possession of the ball, was fouled and found herself at the free-throw line with the game on the line and only 6.4 seconds left.

"I don't know, the pressure kind of got to me and I was like, 'This is my senior year, I've got make these to beat Northville in my last attempt,'" Felice said.

It was nothing but net, timeout and swish again by the senior forward as the visiting Wildcats pulled out a wild 33-32 victory in a game in which Novi never led until the two game-winning free throws.

Northville had one last chance to answer, but Novi's Allie Lipson came up with a timely steal near mid-court to seal the the KLAA Central triumph,

leaving both teams at 9-5 overall and 4-4 in the division.

Novi won despite hitting only 6-of-24 shots from the floor (25 percent). But the Wildcats made up for it by sinking 13-of-14 free throws. The only miss from the foul came with 5:56 left in the third quarter.

And it was by guess who?

"I air-balled that one that we didn't make, but I'm glad I made the last two," said Felice, who finished with five points.

See THRILLER, Page B3



Novi's Naji Ozeir (left) and Northville's Ryan Roberts go up for the opening tip in Friday's KLAA Central Division clash.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shamrock, Novi swimmers impress at Oakland County meet

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Novi High boys swim teams wanted to use Saturday's Oakland County Championships at Lake Orion as a springboard for the remainder of the season.

And the two area schools did not disappoint in field loaded with state champions.

Birmingham Brother Rice, the defending MHSAA Division 1 state champion, repeated as county champion with 363 team points, while defending Division 2 state champ Birmingham Seaholm was runner-up with 293. Defending Division 3 state champ Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook with third with 234.

CC and Novi, meanwhile, took the fourth and fifth slots in the 24-school field with 165 and 164, respectively.

It was another big day for CC senior Jack Walsh, who shattered his own meet record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:50.02. The Stanford University signee successfully



Novi's Narayan Manivannan earned a state qualifying time in the 100-yard breaststroke at Saturday's Oakland County Championships.

JIN SHI

defended his title in the 100 backstroke (50.54) as well.

Walsh also led the Shamrocks to a fifth-place finish in both the 200 medley relay (1:39.37) and 400 freestyle relay

(3:18.47).

Other top eight finishers for CC included Matt Loniewski, who took fifth in the 100 breaststroke (59.80), and Grayson Arnold, who placed eighth in

the 50 freestyle (22.13).

Novi's top performer on the day was junior Ryan Katulski, who placed runner-up in the 50 freestyle to Troy's Zachary Chen (21.22) with a school record time of 21.69.

Katulski also added a fourth in the 100 freestyle (48.06) and teamed with Joey Berman, Narayan Manivannan and Arthur Shi for fourth in the 200 medley relay (1:38.18), only 0.04 seconds off the school record.

"This was an amazing meet for us," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "It was beyond my wildest dreams that we would be swimming this fast so early in the season. To be setting school records and having such big time drops before we have begun our taper phase of the season is unheard of."

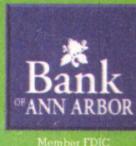
Novi's 200 freestyle relay team of Katulski, Toraki Maehata, Shi and Siddhardha Kareddy contributed a fourth in the 200 freestyle relay with a state cut of 1:29.39.

See COUNTY, Page B4

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Novi goes 2-for-2 in Public Showcase

Hofelich goes wild with 6-point night; Mustangs fall, 2-1

Brad Hofelich figured prominently in Novi's 8-3 victory Sunday over Salem in the Michigan Public School Hockey Showcase held at Chelsea's Arctic Coliseum.

The senior forward enjoyed a six-point night with three third-period goals to go along with three assists as the state-ranked Wildcats improved to 14-6-1 overall.

Novi, ranked No. 4 in Division 2, jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead on goals by Nik Tewilliager (from Bryan Fegert and Brennan Wexler) and Brennan Martin, on a power play from Hofelich and Drake Shepard, at 5:12 and 8:47, respectively.

The Wildcats, who outshot Salem 36-26, added two more goals in the second period to lead 4-3, with Baxter scoring twice, the first with Hofelich and Ryan Turner assisting at 12:24 and the second at 14:19 from Cyr and Baxter.

Salem (8-9-3) countered with goals from Matt Schaumburger (unassisted at 8:06); Zach Newsome (from



Northville's Brett Ridener (left) and Hartland's Kyle Mazur collide during Friday's game at Novi Ice Arena.

Noah Willer at 16:33; and Willer (from Zach Golezniak at 16:54).

But Novi put it away with four unanswered third-period goals - Hofelich (from Baxter and Fegert at 6:21); Hofelich on a power play (from

Wexler at 9:28); Tewilliager on an empty-netter (from Cyr and Alec Wells at 14:25); and Hofelich on another power play (from Baxter and Fegert at 15:21).

Novi goalie Josh Richardson made 23 saves.

HARTLAND 2, NORTHVILLE 1: Goaltending took center stage Friday night as the Eagles (12-7-2) edged the Mustangs (14-5-2) in a match-up of state-ranked teams at Novi Ice Arena.

The Eagles, No. 10 in Division 2, got a sterling performance from goaltender Christian Spengler, who made 32 saves.

Not to be outdone was Northville senior Chance Boutin, who turned away 33-of-35 Hartland shots only to be ambushed by Trevor Murray's unassisted goal with just 42 seconds remaining to break the 1-1 deadlock.

Hartland jumped out to a 1-0 lead at 12:30 of the first period on Nick Snyder's goal from Spencer Anderson, but Northville answered on Jack Meacham's goal from P.J. Schnepf and Nick Williams with only 43 seconds remaining in the second. "I thought we battled really hard. The guys all seemed to come to work," said Northville coach Clint Robert, whose No. 4-ranked Division 1 team suffered its third straight defeat. "It was the first game this week that where we put three periods together. It was really heck of a goaltending battle. I thought both goalies played great on both ends. Unfortunately, they snuck one in the last 40 seconds of the game."

NOVI 5, ESCANABA 3: Nik Tewilliager racked up four assists as the Wildcats (13-6-1) battled back from an early third-period deficit Feb. 5 to beat the Eskymos (12-7-1) in the opener of the Michigan Public School Hockey Showcase at Chelsea's Arctic Coliseum.

Novi fell behind 3-2 at the 1:30 mark of the final period when Chris Lemire scored for the Eskymos from Levi Wunder, who notched his third assist of the game and 65th point of the season.

But Novi roared back on Bryan Fegert's game-tying goal with only 7:51 remaining from Brendan Wexler and Tewilliager.

Just 48 seconds later on the next shift, Jake Cyr put Novi ahead for keeps with a goal from Brad Hofelich and Brennan Martin.

The Wildcats, ranked No. 4 in Division 2, added an empty-netter with 39 seconds left on Wexler's goal from Tewilliager and Patrick Wojtylo.

Novi led 2-1 after one period on goals by Brad Hofelich (from Tewilliager at 6:29) and Wexler (from Alec Wells and Tewilliager at 9:45).

The Eskymos, ranked No. 13 in Division 2, got a goal from Paul Carne from Wunder at 13:36 of the first period and tied it at 2-2 at 4:00 of the second period on Charlie Zurbemo's goal from Wunder.

SALINE 3, NORTHVILLE 2: The Hornets (16-3) jumped out to a 3-0 first-period advantage Feb. 5 and held on for a Public School Hockey Showcase victory over the state-ranked Mustangs (14-4-2) at Arctic Coliseum in Chelsea.

Two of Saline's goal came via the power play as Owen Helber and Ethan Peitz both finished with a goal and assist. Grant Ellis had the other goal for the Hornets.

The Mustangs got a second-period goal from Jack Meacham, assisted by Alec Melucci and Alec Morgan, to trim Saline's lead to 3-1.

Melucci then cut the deficit to 3-2 with a goal in the third from Meacham and Morgan, but the Mustangs were unable to tally the equalizer.

CC gets emotional win vs. Grandville

Fallen Bulldogs star Fischer remembered in semifinal rematch

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The game was secondary as far as the Novi Detroit Catholic hockey team was concerned in its emotional meeting Saturday afternoon against Grandville in Grand Rapids.

Three-time defending Division 1 state champion CC improved to 14-5-1 overall by tallying three goals in the final period to secure a 4-1 victory over the Bulldogs at Van Andel Arena.

The teams paid tribute prior to the game to Ryan Fischer, who died unexpectedly 11 months ago because of an enlarged heart the morning of the MHSAA Division 1 state semifinal, when the two teams met at Plymouth's Compuware Arena (won by CC, 3-0).

CC players wore commemorative jerseys, held a pregame Mass and huddled together with the Grandville players near the rink for a group prayer just prior to the puck being dropped.

The Shamrocks, who

also presented a signed No. 11 CC jersey, raised \$1,450 to go toward a scholarship fund in the name of Fischer, who was a three-sport letter winner and had been accepted by the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point.

After a scoreless opening period, senior Kyle McCullough got the Shamrocks on the board with a second-period goal.

CC would go on to add three more goals in the final period, including a pair from Andrew Spiegel and another from Brian Kearns, who also finished with an assist. Other assists for the Shamrocks went to Mitch Ossowski, Andrew Lane and Luc Krasicky.

Spencer Wright went all the way in goal for CC.

The loss dropped Grandville, ranked No. 8 in Division 1, to 15-3-2 overall.

FOREST HILLS CENTRAL 2, DETROIT CC 1: Top-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central (13-5-1) ran into a hot goaltender Friday night as Luke Gaudette made 42 saves to enable host Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central (17-2) to earn the upset victory at Patterson Ice Arena.

The Rangers, ranked No. 3 in Division 3, led 1-0 after two periods on Noah Foreman and Connor Foreman and Chris Kramer.

The Shamrocks tied it in the third period on Dillon Jones' goal assisted by Brian Kearns.

Forest Hills Central won it on Ben Scholle's goal in the final period from Patrick Lunt and Nicholas Allen.

Detroit CC goaltender Alec Calvaruso made 16 saves.

Ann Arbor Pioneer ices Northville girls

Mustangs downed in Michigan Metro H.S. Hockey League, 7-4

Allison Strassburg racked up six points, while Kathryn Wissman contributed a hat trick Saturday to propel host Ann Arbor Pioneer to a 7-4 Michigan Metro Hockey League win over Northville at Veterans Arena.

Shay Pinhey chipped in with a goal and two assists, while Elizabeth Stitham also tallied a goal as Pioneer improved to 5-11 overall and 5-11 in Division 1 of the Metro.

The Mustangs, who trailed 3-2 after one period and 5-3 after two, got a pair of goals and one assist from both Marisha Hackett and Grace Healey.

Hailey Gross and Olivia Lesh each contributed an assist for Northville, which slipped to 3-13 overall and 2-13 in Division 1 of the Metro.

Annette Taylor started in goal for Northville, playing the first two periods, before giving way to Isobel Bush in the third.

Lucy Fuller went all in the way in goal for Pioneer.

MERCY 8, NORTHVILLE 3: Megan Kerr recorded a goal and two assists, but Michigan Metro Division 2 leader Farmington Hills Mercy (10-2-1, 10-2-1) came away with the victory Feb. 5 over the Mustangs (3-12, 2-12) at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Mary Reeber scored two goals and added an assist for the Marlins. Also adding a goal and assist for Mercy were Julia McAree, Maddie Jones, Natalie Vaitas and Sophie VanAckar.

Elena Ervin also tallied a goal, while Natalie Cieslak, Hannah Hamilton and Emily McCann collected two assists apiece.

Moe Hackett and Emily Comben each contributed a goal and assist for the Mustangs. Lauren Masse also added an assist.

Katy Kouvaris went all 45 minutes in goal for the Marlins, while Isobel Bush made 22 saves for the Mustangs.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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Friday, Feb. 13
Northville at S. Lyon East, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.
St. Mary at Detroit CC, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin Road at Univ.-Liggett, 7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17
A.A. Richard at Detroit CC, 7 p.m.
Roeper at Franklin Road, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 20
Franklin Road at Inter-City, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Friday, Feb. 13
S. Lyon East at Northville, 7 p.m.
Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Franklin Rd. at Univ.-Liggett, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17
Franklin Road at Roeper, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 20
Franklin Road at Inter-City, 5:30 p.m.
- BOYS HOCKEY**
Friday, Feb. 13
Novi vs. Franklin at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
(MIHL Trenton Showcase)
Northville vs. Houghton, 10 a.m.
CC vs. Toledo St. Francis, 4:20 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 14
(MIHL Trenton Showcase)
Northville vs. Detroit CC, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17
Novi vs. Plymouth at Novi Ice Arena, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 18
Detroit CC vs. DeLaSalle at Mt. Clemens Arena, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS HOCKEY**
Saturday, Feb. 14
Northville vs. Ladywood at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 19
Northville vs. Warren Regina at Fraser Hockeyland, 5:40 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 21
Northville vs. Ply.-Canton-Salem at Novi Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
Saturday, Feb. 14
(MHSAA Individual District)
Novi, Northville, Detroit CC at Westland Glenn, 10 a.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 21
(MHSAA Individual Regional)
Division 1 at Saline, 10 a.m.
- BOYS SWIMMING**
Thursday, Feb. 12
Stevenson at Northville, 6:30 p.m.
Novi at South Lyon East, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit CC vs. Notre Dame Prep at Livonia Community Rec. Ctr., 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 13
MISCA meet at EMU, noon.
- Thursday, Feb. 19
Detroit CC vs. U-D Jesuit at Livonia Comm. Rec. Ctr., 7 p.m.
- Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21
KLAAs Central Division Meet at South Lyon East, 4 p.m. & noon.
- PREP SKIING**
Thursday, Feb. 12
(at Westland's Vision Lanes)
Novi vs. John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
Northville vs. Canton, 3:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 16
CC at Sterling Mixed Doubles, 3:30 p.m.
- (at Canton's Super Bowl)
Novi vs. Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
Northville vs. Salem, 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 20
KLAAs Association Tourney, TBA.
- Saturday, Feb. 21
CHSL Tourney at Oak Lanes, 9 a.m.
- GYMNASTICS**
Saturday, Feb. 21
KLAAs Association Meet, TBA.
- PREP SKIING**
Thursday, Feb. 12
Regional at Mt. Brighton, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17
SEMSEL Meet at Pine Knob, 9 a.m.
- COMPETITIVE CHEER**
(MHSAA District Tourney)
Friday, Feb. 20
Division 1 at Hartland, 6 p.m.
TBA - To be announced.

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Champ fuels CC win over Rice

Kozlowski's free throws secure 58-56 triumph vs. Central Division foe

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

With a player named Champ, the Novi Detroit Catholic Central's boys basketball team couldn't go wrong in its rematch Tuesday night with rival Birmingham Brother Rice.

Senior point guard Champ Kozlowski led the way with a team-high 16 points, including the game-winning free throws with only 4.2 seconds remaining, to give the host Shamrocks a 58-56 Catholic League Central Division victory.

The 5-foot-10 Kozlowski, who went 7-of-7 from the line, was fouled on a drive to the basket when the Shamrocks milked the clock for the final shot after the Warriors tied it on a pair of free throws with 40 seconds left.

Rice was then unable to get a shot at the rim as time expired.

"It was Champ's best game of the year, no doubt about it," said CC coach Bill Dyer, whose team led 28-23 at half-time and 48-38 after three quarters. "He's playing with a lot of confidence right now and he was 7-of-7 from the free throw line. He really took good care of the ball for us. He played great for us tonight."

Senior forward Ike Marchie and sophomore forward C.J. Baird added 13 and 10 points, respectively, as CC improved to 5-7 overall and 2-4 in the Central.

Rice (9-4, 3-3) got a game-high 19 points from Kevin Hayes, while Dominic Downs and Nick Bielke added 17 and 10, respectively.

CC made 13-of-18 free throws, while Rice was 14-of-18.



Catholic Central's Champ Kozlowski goes in for the layup against Birmingham Brother Rice.

DENNIS BARNES

"Our energy level was pretty high," Dyer said. "We had a pretty good group and scored 20 points in the third quarter, which was our best quarter of the year, I think. We had some balanced scoring."

The Shamrocks avenged a 59-53 overtime loss Jan. 16 to the host Warriors.

"It was a very similar game than the last time," Dyer said. "We were up by double digits. The last time we were up seven after three (quarters) and this time we went up 10. But they fought back. They have a lot of seniors and the game got close last time and we didn't finish, but this time we finished."

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN 53, FRANKLIN ROAD 49: In a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division game Friday, Eric Unger scored a game-high 26 points to lead visiting Auburn Hills Oakland Christian (6-6, 4-4) past Novi Franklin Road Christian (5-9, 2-7).

The Warriors' leading scorer, junior guard Austin Hearn, went down in the second quarter with a hyper-extended arm and did not return.

Franklin Road got a team-high 14 points from Maxwell Holleman.

NORTHVILLE 58, STEVENSON 47: Senior

guard David Morrissey pumped in 17 points and senior center Ryan Roberts added 12 Feb. 4 to power the Mustangs (8-5, 3-4) past Livonia Stevenson (4-8, 2-5) in a rescheduled KLA Central Division game. Justin Zimbo and Nick Wilds each added eight for Northville, which outscored the Spartans 16-7 in the final quarter.

Senior guards Noah Campbell and Jaalen Webber led Stevenson with 15 and 12 points, respectively. Stevenson made 4-of-7 from the foul line, while Northville was 9-of-12.

NOVI 61, SOUTH LYON 53: Senior guard Nick Hankerson scored nine of his 21 points in the decisive fourth quarter Feb. 3 to propel the first-place Wildcats (11-2, 7-0) past the visiting Lions (2-11, 1-6) in a KLA Central Division encounter.

Junior center Najj Ozeir added 17 points and 11 rebounds for Novi, which needed to 21-12 run in the final quarter to subdue South Lyon.

Senior Anton Skupin paced South Lyon with 13 points.

Novi was 20-of-27 from the foul line (74 percent), while the Mustangs hit 8-of-14 (57.1 percent).

South Lyon opened the third quarter with a 12-0 run to take a six-point lead and went into the final quarter with a 41-40 advantage.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN 87, FRANKLIN ROAD 49: Junior Marlo Brown led four players in double figures with a game-high 24 points Feb. 3 as state-ranked Southfield Christian (10-2, 8-0) rolled to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division win over visiting Novi Franklin Road Christian (5-8, 2-6).

Also scoring in double figures for the Eagles, scored No. 10 in Class D, were Brock Washington (15), Bryce Washington (13) and Kameron Gardner (12).

Junior guards Austin Hearn and Gavin Harris tallied 15 and 10 points, respectively, for the Warriors, who trailed 40-24 at halftime and 65-31 after three quarters. Franklin Road made 9-of-14.

Southfield Christian, the three-time defending Class D state champion, went 17-of-23 from the foul line (74 percent).

Novi was 15-of-17 free throws (88.2 percent), including 6-of-7 in the fourth quarter.

Ashley Tipinski and Arryn Dochenez paced Stevenson with 10 and eight points, respectively. The Spartans made 9-of-13 free throws (69.2 percent).

NOVI 44, SOUTH LYON 22: Alex Felice finished with 12 points, eight rebounds and four steals Feb. 3 as the Wildcats (8-5, 3-4) kept their KLA Kensington Conference playoff hopes afloat with a Central Division win over the host Lions (1-12, 0-7).

Felice, a senior forward, helped catapult the Wildcats to a 17-0 first-quarter run.

Freshman guard Ellie Mackay chipped in with eight points, three assists and three steals for Novi, which took advantage of 29 South Lyon turnovers.

The Wildcats made 14-of-32 shots from the floor (43.7 percent) and 15-of-26 from the foul line (57.6 percent).

South Lyon got seven points from senior Emily Heinrich.

THRILLER

Continued from Page B1

"That definitely won it, because I didn't play the best game. But the ending sure was good."

Novi was able to avenge a 35-31 loss Jan. 16 to the Mustangs.

The Wildcats, making just 3-of-14 shots, were fortunate only to be down 17-16 at half-time. Mackay, who led the Wildcats with 14 points, nailed eight straight free throws to keep things close.

"That's not surprising to me at all; that's one of the things where we've struggled in these close games," Novi coach Bill Kelp said of his team's shooting woes. "We've lost a couple games by a point, one by three and one by five. We've been in every game and, when we lose, we're shooting in the 20 percent range."

In the third quarter, Northville nailed three consecutive triples, two by sophomore forward Jessica Moorman (14 points) and another by freshman guard Kendall Dillon, to open up a 29-20 advantage with 2:24 left.

But the Wildcats clawed their way back to close within four, 29-25, entering the fourth quarter thanks to Carson Garguilo's triple with 19 seconds left.

Northville's only basket of the third quarter came from Dillon with 6:27 to make it 32-27. It was the last points the Mustangs would score as Novi would go on a 6-0 run to pull within one with 2:35 remaining thanks to two Mackay free throws.

"Ellie was huge," Kelp said. "She had our first eight points with free throws to start the game. It's something we've struggled with as well. And tonight they made them."

The Mustangs played possession basketball down the stretch trying to protect their slim lead.

"It was part milk the clock and make them come out and play some defense," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "We just needed a couple of buckets. We had a lead and, in this game, any lead is a good lead. Obviously, we wish we still had that nine-point lead that we had in the third quarter. But we knew they were going to chip away. We knew they weren't going to give up."

Still ahead 32-31, the Mustangs took an ill-advised shot from the wing with 1:25 remaining to give Novi possession.

"At the end there with a 1:20, that was not the shot we want-



Novi's Ellie Mackay (left) dribbles off the floor pressured by Northville's Mariah Modkins.

ed, obviously," Gudith said. "We were trying to milk clock at that point. In the middle of the (fourth) quarter, we were still trying to play a little bit and, if we can get a good shot, we'll take it. But with a 1:20 left, we knew they had to foul."

"It's end of game, (a) rivalry and it sometimes gets the better of them and then we make some silly mistakes out there. Part of it is experience. We had three freshmen on the floor out there late in the game. We haven't been really in a lot of tight games down the stretch like this where we have to make decisions every trip. We were about a minute away and let it slip out of our hands."

Novi missed three shots in the final 44.6 seconds, but always seemed to come up with the key rebound.

Northville finished with six 3-pointers to Novi's three.

"Nothing surprises me," Kelp said. "Todd (Gudith) does a great job over there and has a great, young team. They're just as young as us, but they have more experience. On paper, they have kids 6-foot who can shoot and do some things. I'm just really proud we battled with them. And we play hard. The kids play hard and that's all I care about."

Meanwhile, the Mustangs only went 2-of-4 from the foul line.

"We made five threes against them last time," Gudith said. "We can hit threes and we were on, but we didn't get to the line enough. Only four attempts isn't enough."

And when Felice stepped to the line with outcome in doubt, she said she wasn't paying attention to the loud crowd behind the basket trying to distract her. She only wanted to make amends for missing the layup just seconds earlier.

"Free throws come in handy," Felice said in her raspy voice. "Free throws win games and we work on it in practice."

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Franklin Road girls cagers get win

Eighth-grader Alexis Johnson scored 24 points and grabbed 13 rebounds Friday to power Novi Franklin Road Christian to a 62-55 Michigan Independent Athletic Conference girls basketball win over visiting Rochester Hills Lutheran Warriors.

The Warriors (8-6 overall and 4-4 in the MIAC Blue) also got 18 points from senior guard Katherine Larabell.

Louise Hohnstadd and Katie Irwin paced Lutheran Northwest (10-4) with 19 and

13 points, respectively.

Franklin Road made 12-of-17 free throws, while the Crusader connected on 18-of-25.

NORTHVILLE 39, STEVENSON 25: The Mustangs (9-4, 4-3) were offensively challenged for three quarters Feb. 4 before exploding with a 14-2 fourth-quarter run to beat visiting Livonia Stevenson (5-8, 3-4) in a KLA Central Division game.

"It was a dogfight all the way," said Northville coach Todd Gudith, whose team led 15-13 at halftime and 25-23 after three quarters. "We played well defensively."

"We had a ton of shots and could not score. We had lot of good looks, inside and outside; it didn't matter."

Sophomore Brook Adams and freshman Kendall Dillon paced Northville's scoring attack with 10 and nine points, respectively. The Mustangs made

15-of-17 free throws (88.2 percent), including 6-of-7 in the fourth quarter.

Ashley Tipinski and Arryn Dochenez paced Stevenson with 10 and eight points, respectively. The Spartans made 9-of-13 free throws (69.2 percent).

NOVI 44, SOUTH LYON 22: Alex Felice finished with 12 points, eight rebounds and four steals Feb. 3 as the Wildcats (8-5, 3-4) kept their KLA Kensington Conference playoff hopes afloat with a Central Division win over the host Lions (1-12, 0-7).

Felice, a senior forward, helped catapult the Wildcats to a 17-0 first-quarter run.

Freshman guard Ellie Mackay chipped in with eight points, three assists and three steals for Novi, which took advantage of 29 South Lyon turnovers.

The Wildcats made 14-of-32 shots from the floor (43.7 percent) and 15-of-26 from the foul line (57.6 percent).

South Lyon got seven points from senior Emily Heinrich.

Novi boys skiers wind up second in KLA

Mitch Goodman was the slalom champion as the Novi boys ski team took runner-up honors Monday in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championships at Mt. Brighton.

Goodman also placed sixth in giant slalom, while teammate Andrew Jamison placed eighth in slalom and ninth in giant slalom.

Meanwhile, the Wildcats girls team finished seventh as Unie Gu, Rachel Casaccia and Claire Krueger were the top finishers.

Alpine Valley meet

Temperatures dipped to six degrees Feb. 5 morning at Alpine Valley, but the Novi boys generated some heat on the slopes by finishing second in the Southeast Michigan Ski League division championships.

The Wildcats were led by Goodman, who placed second in a field of 61 in slalom, just

0.06 seconds behind Birmingham Brother Rice senior Rob Corte.

Andrew Jamison also added a 10th as Novi qualified for the SEMSL championships Thursday, Feb. 17, at Pine Knob.

With only one senior (Elaine Hamilton), the Novi girls captured fifth in the Alpine Valley Division championships led by Unie Gu, who placed 10th out of a slalom field of 68.

Gu became the first Wildcat to qualify for the SEMSL championships in the nine-year history of the program.

Wildcats earn split

Earlier in the week, the Novi boys and girls completed their SEMSL Alpine Valley Division schedule by splitting a double-dual with White Lake Lakeland and West Bloomfield.

In the boys giant slalom, Jamison and Goodman re-

corded the best times as Novi defeated West Bloomfield, 11-34, but fell to Lakeland, 18-23.

In the boys slalom, Goodman and Jamison led the way again as Novi beat Lakeland, 17-20, and the Lakers, 10-35. But Lakeland took totals based on the combined score, 28-30, while Novi downed West Bloomfield, 21-69.

Novi's boys finished with a 5-3 division dual record.

In the girls giant slalom, Rachel Casaccia and Gu earned top times for the Wildcats, who lost to Lakeland, 16-20, but defeated West Bloomfield, 16-26.

Gu and Casaccia were also the top Novi finishers in the slalom as Novi beat Lakeland, 17-20, and West Bloomfield, 18-23. But Lakeland edged the Eagles on the combined score, 26-27, while Novi toppled West Bloomfield, 34-59, to finish 3-5 in the division.

SNAPPED

Continued from Page B1

a triple as well.

Novi, meanwhile, went ice cold during the same stretch, hitting just 1-of-17 from the floor. The Wildcats were unable to get closer than 11 points the rest of the game.

"We talked about taking care of the basketball, playing under composure," said Novi coach Brandon Sinawi, whose team committed 15 turnovers during the first three quarters. "We played a good team tonight, yet we were having problems that we were dealing with. But the biggest problem was Northville tonight and they caused those turnovers."

We had some mishaps, some mental breakdowns, but they were in good spots."

For the game, Novi made just 27 percent of its field goal attempts (13-of-48).

"They forced us to take bad shots," Sinawi said. "They forced us to turn the ball over at times, so I give them all the credit. They were very well-prepared and did a great job in causing us to shoot 1-of-17. We were off, but we were off because of them."

The Wildcats' leading scorer, Najj Ozeir, went scoreless until only 3:11 remained in the game. The 6-foot-5 junior center had 18 points in the previous meeting and it was the first time all season he didn't reach double figures.

"I thought we put our kids in

a lot better spots in terms of who we wanted guarding their bigs and who we wanted to guard as far as their shooters," Sander said.

The 6-3 Morrissey, meanwhile, led all scorers with 20 points. He was 7-of-11 from the field.

"David is special player," Sander said. "We've been waiting for a night when he's just going to kind of take over and he showed it tonight. When we needed a big hoop, he found a way to get the ball up and it went in."

Junior guard Justin Zimbo and junior forward Nick Wilds chipped in 12 and 10 points, respectively, as the Mustangs made 18-of-43 shots from the field (41.6 percent) and 14-of-18 free throws (77.7 percent).

"As much as we've gone through this season, we've really uncovered that we're deeper than we thought than the first time we played them, which has allowed us more energy to finish games down the stretch when we really need to lock down and get a stop," Sander said.

Max Yanke, a senior guard, was Novi's top scorer with 12 points, nine coming in the first quarter. Senior guard Brad Dotinga added eight.

"I do think we need to improve on our offensive efficiency, taking care of the ball, of course, but taking better shots," Sinawi said. "In the 10-game streak, we've done that. We've had some really great opportunities to make some baskets and to put some

points on the board. But the last couple of games - coming off the South Lyon game and tonight - we just haven't been very efficient."

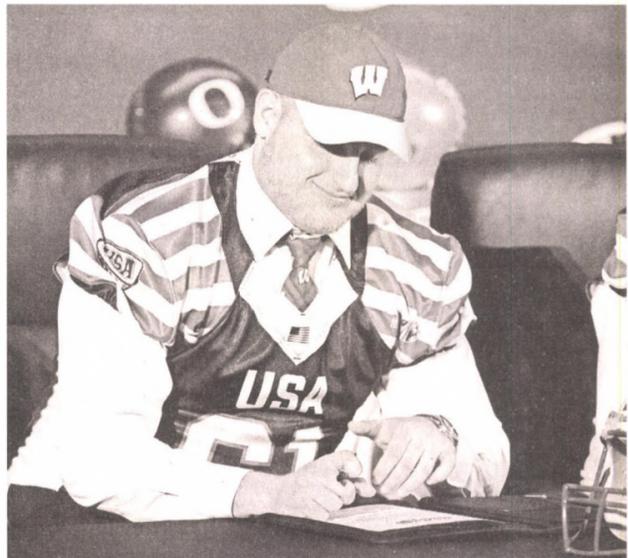
The Wildcats are now faced basically with a winner-take-all situation Tuesday for the KLA Central title, when they travel to face co-leader Salem (11-3, 7-1).

Getting the offense straightened out will be paramount for the Novi coach.

"We're going to concentrate on that because they (Salem) have good defenders, guys that can guard us," Sinawi said. "So we're hoping go in there, at a hostile environment and be better taking care of the basketball."

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Signing day



USA FOOTBALL

Northville High School offensive lineman David Moorman signed his letter of intent Feb. 4 with the University of Wisconsin during USA Football's National Signing Day breakfast held at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. The 6-foot-5, 290-pound Moorman was a member of the victorious Under-19 National Team, which earned a 35-0 win against an all-star team from Canada in the International Bowl held at University of Texas-Arlington. Moorman was also selected to play for Team Michigan in the second annual Ohio Michigan High School Border Classic on Saturday, June 13, at Wayne State University.

Northville swimmers edged for Wayne County title

Grosse Pointe South's Jacob Montague proved to be the difference Saturday as the host Blue Devils held off Northville to win the Wayne County Invitational boys swim meet.

Montague set meet records in the 200-yard individual medley (1:53.06) and 100 breaststroke (57.50) as Grosse Pointe South scored a team-high 380 points, while the Mustangs were runner-up with 361.5.

Montague also led the Blue Devils to victories in the 200 medley relay (1:39.84) and 200 freestyle relay (meet record 1:29.34).

Rounding out the top

five in the 19-school field were Plymouth (269), Livonia Stevenson (251) and University of Detroit-Jesuit (133.5).

Northville's top performer was James Xue, who took second in both the 200 freestyle (1:48.56) and 100 butterfly (54.70). He also teamed with Kirk Maibach, Mark Kaminski and Fred Schulz for second in the 400 freestyle relay (3:21.29).

The 200 medley relay team of Larry Zhao, Chris Geng, Troy Stacer and Nirek Sharma placed second in 1:44.76, while the foursome of Xue, Maibach, Sharma and Schulz was third in

the 200 freestyle relay (1:31.12).

"We had 33 swimmers make cuts for this meet, which is a great achievement," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "Unfortunately, as a team we swam very poorly overall. We did have nice swims from Schulz, Taiyo Ichikawa and Jack Breuch. We were able to get our 200 free relay state cut, so there were some positives."

Other top eight finishers for the Mustangs included: Maibach, second, 100 backstroke (56.18); Geng, second, 100 breaststroke (1:02.14) and fifth, 200 IM (2:09.1); Schulz fifth, 200 free-

style (1:50.67) and eighth, 500 freestyle (5:07.78); Kaminski, sixth, 100 freestyle (51.84); Ichikawa, fifth, 500 freestyle (5:06.22); Nikolai Arton, seventh 100 breaststroke (1:05.52); Zhao, eighth, 100 freestyle (51.86); and Yash Bajaj, eighth, 100 breaststroke (1:05.63).

"We have a problem of picking and choosing when we want to swim fast," Bennetts said. "It has been an issue now for the second year in a row. We have to realize that each and every meet is an opportunity to improve and build towards the end of the season."

"We missed an opportunity to get better today

and that is very disappointing. I give all the credit in the world to Grosse Pointe South."

WAYNE COUNTY INVITATIONAL BOYS SWIM MEET
Feb. 6-7 at Grosse Pointe South
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Grosse Pointe South, 380 points; 2. Northville, 361.5; 3. Plymouth, 269; 4. Livonia Stevenson, 251; 5. University of Detroit Jesuit, 133.5 (19 schools).

FINAL RESULTS
200-yard medley relay: 1. G.P. South (Ethan Briggs, Jacob Montague, Devin Francis, Robby Koueiter), 1:39.84; 2. Northville (Larry Zhao, Chris Geng, Troy Stacer, Nirek Sharma), 1:44.76.

200 freestyle: 1. Alex Lee (Stevenson), 1:48.18; 2. James Xue (Northville), 1:48.56; 3. Fred Schulz (Northville), 1:50.67; 13. Matthew Schafer (Northville), 1:54.21; 14. Jack Breuch (Northville), 1:54.63.

200 individual medley: 1. Montague (GPS), 1:53.06 (meet record); 5. Geng (Northville), 2:09.1; 10. Trevor DeGroot (Northville), 2:11.56; 12. Roman Grossi (Northville), 2:13.45; 14. Ancheng Da (Northville), 2:15.13.

50 freestyle: 1. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 21.18 (meet record); 13. Sharma (Northville),

23.71.

1-meter diving: 1. Ethan Burke (Livonia Churchill), 478.80 points (meet record).

100 butterfly: 1. D. Francis (GPS), 54.68; 2. Xue (Northville), 54.7; 14. John Duan (Northville), 59.84; 15. Stacer (Northville), 59.87; 16. Da (Northville), 1:01.41.

100 freestyle: 1. O'Dowd (Stevenson), 46.95 (meet record); 6. Mark Kaminski (Northville), 51.84; 8. Zhao (Northville), 51.86; 13. Sharma (Northville), 52.36.

500 freestyle: 1. Matt LaPorte (Stevenson), 4:52.23 (meet record); 5. Taiyo Ichikawa (Northville), 5:06.22; 8. Schulz (Northville), 5:07.28; 16. Nicholas Mouakel (Northville), 5:25.94.

200 freestyle relay: 1. G.P. South (D. Francis, Cam Francis, Montague, Koueiter), 1:29.34 (meet record); 3. Northville (Kirk Maibach, Xue, Sharma, Schulz), 1:31.12.

100 backstroke: 1. Brendan Wellman (Salem), 54.89; 2. Maibach (Northville), 56.18; 9. Zhao (Northville), 58.56; 13. Arthur Greenlee (Northville), 1:01.24.

100 breaststroke: 1. Montague (GPS), 57.5 (meet record); 2. Geng (Northville), 1:02.74; 7. Nikolai Arton (Northville), 1:05.52; 8. Yash Bajaj (Northville), 1:05.63; 11. Sho Kikumori (Northville), 1:06.74.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Lee, Eric Ferrara, Adam Goeddeke, O'Dowd), 3:17.73; 2. Northville (Xue, Kaminski, Schulz, Maibach), 3:21.29.

COUNTY

Continued from Page B1

Kareddy, a sophomore, placed seventh in the 100 butterfly (53.04) and eighth in the 200 IM (state cut 1:59.4), while the Wildcats' 400 freestyle relay team of Kareddy, Berman, James Popyk and Maehata finished eighth (3:20.99).

"I'm so happy for our guys right now," Pohlonski said. "We were close to

100 percent best times in the meet and it was fun to see some of our swimmers achieve the first state qualifying times of their careers. I hope this meet will give our boys confidence as we approach the championship meet phase of our season."

OAKLAND COUNTY BOYS SWIM MEET
Feb. 6-7 at Lake Orion
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Birmingham Brother Rice, 363 points; 2. Birmingham Seaholm, 293; 3. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, 234; 4. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 165; 5. Novi, 164; 6. Rochester Adams, 157; 7. Birmingham Groves, 151; 8. Troy, 139; 9. West Bloomfield, 119; 10. Clarkston, 115.

AREA RESULTS
200-yard medley relay: 1. Seaholm (Evan Burke, Jack Russell, Nick Ross, Enrique Hernandez), 1:34.98; 4. Novi (Joey Berman, Narayan Manivannan, Arthur Shi), 1:38.18 (state cut); 5. Catholic Central (Jack Walsh, Daniel Long, Matt Loniewski, Grayson Arnold), 1:39.37 (state cut).

200 freestyle: 1. Andrew Guan (Cranbrook), 1:42.48; 14. James Popyk (Novi), 1:49.73; 16. Ethan Bezzina (CC), 1:50.72.

200 individual medley: 1. Walsh (CC), 1:50.02 (meet record); 8. Siddhardha Kareddy (Novi), 1:59.4 (state cut); 12. Jonathan Lee (CC), 2:01.66 (state cut); 15. Long (CC), 2:02.06 (state cut).

50 freestyle: 1. Zachary Chen (Troy), 21.22; 2. Ryan Katulski (Novi), 21.69 (state cut); 8. Arnold (CC), 22.13 (state cut).

1-meter diving: 1. Shinya Kando (Adams), 430.55 (11 dives); 12. James Ciolli (Novi), 328.60; 14. Nathan Pellerito (Novi), 298.95.

100 butterfly: 1. Devon Nowicki (Lake Orion), 49.93; 7. Kareddy (Novi), 53.04 (state cut); 15. Shi (Novi), 55.01.

100 freestyle: 1. Ross (Seaholm), 46.95; 4. Katulski (Novi), 48.06 (state cut); 9. Arnold (CC), 48.81 (state cut); 10. Loniewski (CC), 48.85 (state cut).

500 freestyle: 1. Rudy Aguilar (Rice), 4:41.27; 13. Berman (Novi), 4:58.33; 16. Dan Vela (CC), 5:04.47.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Seaholm (Hernandez, Russell, Liam Little, Ross), 1:25.3 (meet record); 4. Novi (Katulski, Toraki Maehata, Shi, Kareddy), 1:29.39.

100 backstroke: 1. Walsh (CC), 50.54 (state cut); 11. Chris Barron (CC), 55.21 (state cut); 12. Berman (Novi), 55.41 (state cut).

100 breaststroke: 1. Burke (Seaholm), 58.57; 5. Loniewski (CC), 59.8 (state cut); 10. Lee (CC), 1:01.15 (state cut); 11. Long (CC), 1:01.28 (state cut); 12. Manivannan (Novi), 1:01.54 (state cut).

400 freestyle relay: 1. Rice (Aguilar, Bobby Powrie, Gust Kouvaris, Mark Blinstraub), 3:08.74; 5. Catholic Central (Walsh, Arnold, Loniewski, Bezzina), 3:18.47 (state cut); 8. Novi (Kareddy, Berman, Popyk, Maehata), 3:20.99 (state cut).

Novi tankers victorious in dual vs. Stevenson

Katulski leads way as Wildcats earn KLAA Central Division win

Livonia Stevenson came away with seven of 12 first-place finishes, but Novi walked away from the Spartans' home pool Feb. 5 with a 108-78 dual meet boys swim victory.

Junior Ryan Katulski paced the Wildcats with victories in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle events in 49.74 and 1:49.87, respectively. He also anchored a first-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay (3:26.65), joining Siddhardha Kareddy, Arthur Shi and Toraki Maehata.

James Ciolli led a Novi sweep in the 1-meter diving event with a total of 219.83 points, followed by teammates Nathan Pellerito (196.43) and Trey Richman (162.45).

The Wildcats' other first came from Gordy Williams in the 100 backstroke (59.41).

"I was very impressed with our team's toughness against Stevenson," said Novi coach Brent Pohlonski, whose team is 6-2 overall and 2-1 in the



Novi's Gordy Williams was victorious in the 100-yard backstroke (59.41) in a 108-78 dual victory over Stevenson.

JIN YUAN

division. "It is the phase of the season where it is difficult to post big time drops, but our boys gutted out their races and earned the points our team needed. As they have in every close meet, our divers came through with a one-two-three finish that gave us the boost we needed."

Stevenson was led by Jackson O'Dowd, who figured in four first-place finishes.

He captured the 50 freestyle (21.27) and 100 butterfly (53.86), while also being a member of

the Spartans' first-place 200 medley (1:45.68) and 200 freestyle relay (1:31.79) relay teams.

Matthew LaPorte added firsts in the 200 individual medley (2:08.53) and 500 freestyle (4:58.58), while Brian Smith captured the 100 breaststroke (1:06.13) as Stevenson slipped to 5-2 overall and 2-1 in the KLAA Central.

DUAL MEET SUMMARY
NOVI 108
LIVONIA STEVENSON 78
Feb. 5 at Stevenson
200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Adam Goeddeke, Brian Smith, Parker Wasielewski, Jackson O'Dowd), 1:45.68; 2.

Novi (Toraki Maehata, Narayan Manivannan, Joey Berman, Siddhardha Kareddy), 1:46.32; 3. Novi (Maxwell Williams, Gordy Williams, Phillip Billiu, James Popyk), 1:48.56.

200 freestyle: 1. Ryan Katulski (N), 1:49.87; 2. Alex Lee (LS), 1:49.89; 3. Eric Ferrara (LS), 1:53.07; 4. Maehata (N), 1:56.79; 5. Brian Son (N), 2:01.07.

200 individual medley: 1. Matthew LaPorte (LS), 2:08.53; 2. Alexander Yuan (N), 2:10.17; 3. Berman (N), 2:11.18; 4. M. Williams (N), 2:16.09; 5. Ben LaPorte (N), 2:17.18.

50 freestyle: 1. O'Dowd (LS), 21.27; 2. Kareddy (N), 23.7; 3. Arthur Shi (N), 24.07; 4. Phillip Billiu (N), 24.31; 5. Goeddeke (LS), 24.52.

1-meter diving: 1. James Ciolli (N), 219.83 points; 2. Nathan Pellerito (N), 196.43; 3. Trey Richman (N), 162.45; 4. Jacob Hall (LS), 120.998; 5. Victor Huang (LS), 114.68.

100 butterfly: 1. O'Dowd (LS), 53.86; 2. Billiu (N), 58.83; 3. M. Williams (N), 59.7; 4. Wasielewski (LS), 59.71; 5. Berman (N), 59.97.

100 freestyle: 1. Katulski (N), 49.74; 2.

Lee (LS), 50.81; 3. Ferrara (LS), 51.89; 4. Yuan (N), 52.8; 5. Shi (N), 52.8.

500 freestyle: 1. M. LaPorte (LS), 4:58.58; 2. Popyk (N), 5:10.54; 3. Kareddy (N), 5:16.93; 4. Benjamin LaPorte (LS), 5:17.44; 5. Erik Halboth (N), 5:29.91.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (O'Dowd, Goeddeke, Ferrara, Lee), 1:31.79; 2. Novi (Billiu, Shi, Yuan, Katulski), 1:34.19; 3. Novi (Son, Joel Kotyk, Manivannan, Tomoki Momya), 1:40.44.

100 backstroke: 1. G. Williams (N), 59.41; 2. Maehata (N), 1:00.88; 3. Wasielewski (LS), 1:00.91; 4. Popyk (N), 1:02.11; 5. Goeddeke (LS), 1:03.64.

100 breaststroke: 1. Brian Smith (LS), 1:06.13; 2. Manivannan (N), 1:06.14; 3. Edward Cheng (N), 1:12.03; 4. Maxwell Weng (N), 1:12.1; 5. Joey Ferraciolo (LS), 1:14.67.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Kareddy, Shi, Maehata, Katulski), 3:26.65; 2. Stevenson (M. LaPorte, Wasielewski, Ferrara, Lee), 3:27.64; 3. Novi (Popyk, Berman, M. Williams, Yuan), 3:30.82.

Dual meet records: Novi, 6-2 overall, 2-1 KLAA Central Division; Stevenson, 5-2 overall, 2-1 KLAA Central.

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Northville's Rich Bennetts sounded anything but the winning coach Feb. 5 following a 101-77 dual meet boys swim victory at home against Salem.

The Mustangs, who captured the meet's first nine events before Salem took the final three, improved to 8-1 overall and 3-0 in the KLAA's Central Division with the victory.

"We swam well to start the meet and then it all fell apart after the 500 freestyle," Bennetts said. "We need to be able to finish if we are to have any chance to win this thing (Kensington Conference meet Feb. 28)."

All was not lost, however, as Northville's Matthew Schafer earned an MHSAA Division 1 state qualifying time in the 500 freestyle with a first-place clocking of 4:54.72.

"I'm very excited for him," Bennetts said. "We did have some positives, but to end with such a thud like we did kind of



Northville's Matthew Schafer made his Division 1 state cut in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:54.72.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

takes away from what we did in the beginning. We will work on that a lot this upcoming week and see if we can improve next time."

Senior Fred Schulz, freshman Kirk Maibach and junior James Xue each figured in three firsts for Northville.

Schulz swept the 50 and 100 freestyles with times of 23.89 and 51.76, respectively, while Maibach added a win in both the 200 freestyle (1:51.42) and 100 butterfly (55.94).

The two also teamed up with Nirek Sharma for a victory in the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.86).

Xue also captured the 200 individual medley (2:02.48) and teamed up with Larry Zhao, Chris Geng and Mark Kaminski for first in the 200 medley relay (1:43.85).

The Mustangs' Christian Field also posted the top score in 1-meter diving (203.40 points).

Meanwhile, Salem's Brendan Wellman broke Northville's win streak

with a victory in the 100 backstroke (57.24).

The Rocks' Nicholas Landon got credit for a win in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.59) for the Rocks, while the foursome of Wellman, Collin Urbacsewski, Charles Liu and Phillip Collingwood got credit for a first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:38.97).

DUAL MEET SUMMARY
NORTHVILLE 101, SALEM 77
Feb. 5 at Northville
200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (Larry Zhao, Chris Geng, James Xue, Mark

Kaminski), 1:43.85; 2. Salem (Patrick Casey, Charles Liu, Brendan Wellman, Noah Fleming), 1:47.47; 3. Northville (Fred Schulz, Yash Bajaj, Troy Stacer, Nirek Sharma), 1:49.33.

200 freestyle: 1. Kirk Maibach (N), 1:51.42; 2. Matthew Schafer (N), 1:53.26; 3. Trevor DeGroot (N), 1:54.03; 4. Taiyo Ichikawa (N), 1:57.82; 5. Collin Urbacsewski (S), 2:02.35.

200 individual medley: 1. Xue (N), 2:02.48; 2. Geng (N), 2:11.08; 3. Bajaj (N), 2:11.75; 4. Liu (S), 2:11.8; 5. Phillip Collingwood (S), 2:13.76.

50 freestyle: 1. Schulz (N), 23.89; 2. Kaminski (N), 24.36; 3. Fleming (S), 24.51; 4. Sharma (N), 24.76; 5. Mike Scaramino (N), 25.14.

1-meter diving: 1. Christian Field (N), 203.40 points; 2. Michael Falzon (S), 190.00; 3. Jon Vary (S), 170.00; 4. Thomas Rys (N), 144.50; 5. Brendan Sibel (S), 142.20.

100 butterfly: 1. Maibach (N), 55.94; 2. Xue (N), 56.3; 3. Wellman (S), 57.75; 4. Urbacsewski (S), 59.17; 5. Ancheng Da (N), 1:01.21.

100 freestyle: 1. Schulz (N), 51.76; 2. Kaminski (N), 52.23; 3. Zhao (N), 52.83; 4. Liu (S), 53.83; 5. Fleming (S), 54.49.

500 freestyle: 1. Schafer (N), 4:54.72; 2. Collingwood (S), 5:15.9; 3. Jack Breuch (N), 5:17.5; 4. Connor Lepish (N), 5:30.11; 5. Brendan Casey (S), 5:37.67.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Maibach, Xue, Schulz, Sharma), 1:32.86; 2. Salem (Fleming, Casey, Urbacsewski, Collingwood), 1:38.77; 3. Northville (John Duan, Geng, Bajaj, Shane Boran), 1:38.88.

100 backstroke: 1. Wellman (S), 57.24; 2. Zhao (N), 58.96; 3. Casey (S), 1:00.63; 4. Arthur Greenlee (N), 1:01.19; 5. DeGroot (N), 1:01.91.

100 breaststroke: 1. Geng (N), 1:02.53; 2. Roman Grossi (N), 1:06.44; 3. Nikolai Arton (N), 1:06.44; 4. Bajaj (N), 1:07.36; 5. Sho Kikumori (N), 1:08.72.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Maibach, Kaminski, Zhao, DeGroot), 3:31.53; 2. Northville (Ichikawa, Stacer, Duan, Schafer), 3:36.4; 3. Salem (Urbacsewski, Liu, Wellman, Collingwood), 3:38.97.

Dual meet records: Northville, 8-1 overall, 3-0 KLAA Central Division; Salem, 0-3 KLAA Central.

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Northville gymnasts 12th at Canton Invite

The competition proved to be stiff as the Northville gymnastics team posted a team total of 130.65 en route to a 12th-place finish in Saturday's Canton Invitational held at Plymouth High School.

Rockford-Sparta captured the team title with a 145.10 to unseat the host Chiefs, the defending state champions.

Top performers for the Mustangs included Erin McCallum, vault (8.55); Claire Cotter, floor exercise (8.525); Grace Janowski, uneven bars (8.425); and Maggie Drag-

on, balance beam (8.325).

Host Livonia Blue scored a team-best 138.25 to topple Northville (131.15) and Waterford (129.75) in a tri-meet Feb. 4 at Churchill High School.

Neha Vallabhaneni recorded Northville's top score with 8.6 on the vault, followed by Janowski, uneven bars (8.45); McCallum, balance beam (8.4); and Brooke Stecker, floor exercise (8.4).

Northville stands 1-6 overall and 0-4 in the KLAA's Kensington Division.



No. 21: Shamrock grapplers first

Catholic League title win streak continues for Catholic Central

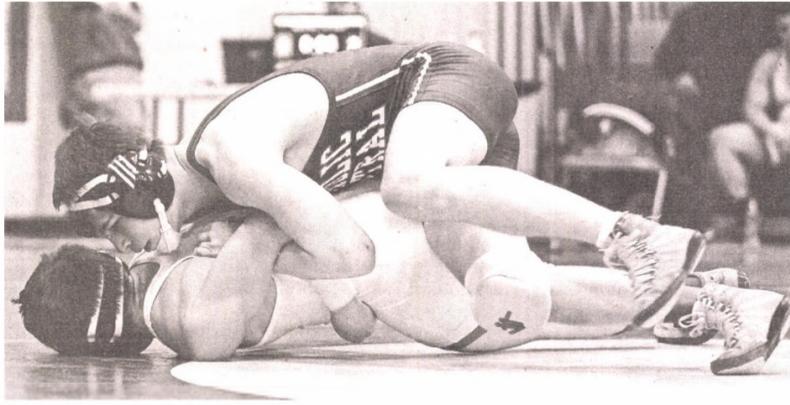
By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Make it 21 consecutive Catholic League titles for the Novi Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team. The Shamrocks, putting their varsity White squad on the mat Saturday at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, earned five individual crowns to edge Warren DeLaSalle for the title, 227.5-209.5. Orchard Lake St. Mary's finished third with 154.

Individual winners for the Shamrocks included Davis Rastigue (103 pounds), Josh Filban (112), Joe Lyon (119), Aidan Wagh (130) and Joe McGrath (135), while Tyler Morland (171), Conner Curnutte and Sam Giese (160) earned runner-up finishes.

Robert Brewer (152), Dillon DeJong (125) and Nicholas Jenkins (285) contributed thirds, while Matt Anderson (140), Jack Ross (189) and Jacob Rioux (145) took fourths.

"We've battled all year long with injuries and illness, so to win this



Catholic Central freshman Aidan Wagh captured the 130-pound title at the league tournament.

championship is rewarding," CC coach Mitch Hancock said. "This isn't the deepest of teams, but our guys competed today and continue to grow as athletes and young men each week. DeLaSalle has a great team and those young men aren't going to lay down for anyone. (Kevin Griffin) did a nice job all year in making sure our guys realize that the Catholic League championship is important to CC and our program."

The Great Escape

The Shamrocks, ranked No. 4 in the latest

MichiganGrappler.com Division 1 state rankings, made their first trip in eight years Thursday to Temperance Bedford and came away with a narrow 36-30 dual match win.

CC (18-3) got pins from Tommy Herrmann (125 pounds), Trevor Zdebski (130) and Morland (171), along with a 25-10 technical fall from Myles Amine (160).

Nick Giese (189) won by major decision, while Jenkins (285) won by decision. Stone Moscovic (103) won by void. "This was good for our guys. They had to

fight through some adversity and overcome a tough environment," said Hancock, who is 6-0 against Bedford during his eight years as coach. "This community has a lot of pride and they take their wrestling seriously. They won't lay down for anyone. We got outstuffed, they were tougher than us, our guys looked flat at certain weights. The good news is, all this happened and we still found a way to win and we have time to get healthy and our minds right for the postseason."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Novi girls bowlers prevail on tiebreaker

Wildcats upend Salem in Central dual match

Heather Gregory tallied Novi's final point as the Wildcats won the tiebreaker in a 15-15 deadlock Feb. 5 in girls bowling with Salem at Novi Bowl.

The Wildcats, who improved to 3-9 overall and 3-6 in the KLAA's Central Division, won by virtue of total pins on both Baker and regular games, 1,725-1,666. Salem (2-8, 3-10) took both Baker sets, 148-115 and 126-116, but the Wildcats captured both regular games, 718-673 and 776-719.

Novi captured two singles points in the first game and added three in the second.

Winning two points apiece for Novi were Emily Jennings, 185-124 and 172-143, and Madison Murphy, 136-108 and 113-97.

Gregory's 216-157 win secured the Wildcats' last point to force

the tiebreaker.

On the boys side, first-place Salem (12-1, 9-1), defeated the Wildcats (0-12, 0-9) in the KLAA Central Division match, 26-4.

Scott Pryson (224-193) and DiAndre Moreland (223-210) scored single points for the Wildcats.

Hrit all-tourney

Megan Hrit made all-tournament honors with scores of 199, 167 and 161 as the Novi girls finished seventh with a team total of 3,133 in Saturday's Valentine Invitational hosted by Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Wildcats boys wound up 14th overall with a total of 2,990 based on six Baker and three regular game totals. Ryan Rush was Novi's top finisher with games of 167, 157 and 192.

Brighton 3-peats in KLAA wrestling tournament

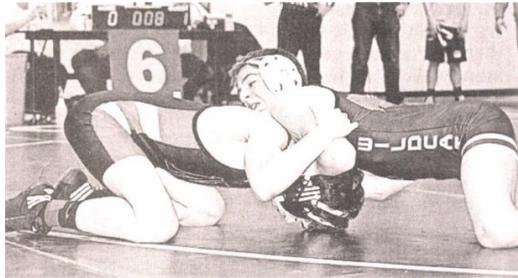
By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Brighton, the top ranked team in Division 1, reigned supreme for the third straight year Saturday in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association wrestling tournament at Howell.

The Bulldogs, who captured three individual weight classes, scored a team-high 257 points in the 24-team tournament with Walled Lake Central (237.5), Hartland (214), Westland John Glenn (162) and Grand Blanc (110.5) rounding out the top five.

Novi, meanwhile, finished 14th with 52 points, getting a sixth from freshman Zach Roach (103 pounds), a seventh from Jared Engbretson (285) and an eighth from Kyle Benkarski (152).

Roach defeated Plymouth's Tyler Campbell, 9-4, and Waterford Mott's Darian Lindemier, 4-0, while losing to White Lake Lakeland's Nolan Klapack, who finished third. Roach then lost his fifth place match to



Novi's Erik Wright (right) won his 119-pound consolation match, 5-3, against Northville's Jim Behe at Saturday's KLAA tournament in Howell.

Northville's Omar Lahbiki, 5-1.

Engbretson avenged a loss three days earlier to John Glenn's Avery Casey with a pin for seventh place. He also pinned John Dixon of South Lyon, while losing to Brighton's Eric Conquest, 5-3, and Plymouth's Michael Jordan, 5-1. Conquest and Jordan took fourth and fifth, respectively.

Benkarski defeated Pinckney's Wyatt Spittler, 10-8, but lost 16-9 to Salem's Caleb McCabe for seventh. He also suffered losses to third-

place finisher Corbin Moorer (Mott), 19-7, and fifth-place finisher Rick Laurence (John Glenn), 9-2.

The Wildcats posting 3-1 a record in the consolation bracket were Eric Wright (119), Evan Davis (135) and Cooper Smith (215).

Meanwhile, Northville placed 21st in the team standings with 30 points, led by Lahbiki's fifth-place finish at 103.

The Mustangs also got sevenths from senior captains Shunhe Wang (125) and Chris Koumariotis (145).

Wildcats swept

In a meeting of the four KLAA division winners Feb. 4, Novi fell in the semifinals to host Westland John Glenn, the South champ, 52-16, and then to KLAA North champ Walled Lake Central in the third-place match, 50-15.

Novi victors against Glenn (23-4) included Davis (135), sophomore Lincoln Cleary (140), Benkarski (152) and Neil Haakenson (160).

The Wildcats (16-10) got wins from Benkarski, Haakenson and Engbretson (285) against state-ranked Walled Lake Central (21-1).

Top-ranked Brighton (21-1) then defeated Central for the crown, 31-24.

In the fifth-place quad Feb. 4 at Canton, Northville defeated Mott, 52-27, while falling to the Chiefs, 45-23.

Jim Behe and Wang, both seniors, were double winners on the day for the Mustangs (7-12).

Bucknell-bound



Northville High senior Katie Childers recently signed an NCAA Division I letter of intent to play golf at Bucknell (Pa.) University. Childers, the team MVP, averaged 81.5 for 18 holes while earning runner-up finishes in the Division 1 regional and KLAA Association tournaments. The state qualifier also earned a top 10 tourney finish seven different times and finished in the top five on five occasions.

Novi Community Schools Novi, MI

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Novi Community Schools' Bid Package #1, **Consisting of the RE-BID OF THE WINDOW TREATMENTS AND HVAC WORK** will be received until **1:00 P.M. Local time on Tuesday, February 24, 2015** 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 the **RE-BID OF THE FOLLOWING** Bid Divisions:

- 130: Window Treatments (Deerfield, Novi Meadows, and Parkview Elementary School)
- 142: HVAC (Novi Meadows only)

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP Architecture, Inc.** are 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 are available beginning at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, February 9, 2015 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 login information for access to the project documents.

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.

SECTION 00 1113 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374 will receive sealed bid proposals until **3:00 p.m.** on March 2, 2015. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately following the deadline for submission for the following bid package:

Novi High School, Novi Middle School, Parkview Elementary School 2015 Athletic Improvements

Track and tennis construction, Little League baseball field, indoor track surfacing, and synthetic turf baseball

1. **Sealed bids must be addressed to:**
Novi Community School District
Educational Services Building
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374
Attn: Steven Barr
2. **Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud:**
Place: Novi Community School District
Educational Services Building
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374
Attn: Steven Barr
Date: March 2, 2015
Time: 3:00 p.m.
3. **Questions may be addressed to:**
 - a. Foresite Design, Inc.
Bruce Lemons, R.L.A. (248) 547-7757, blemons@foresitedesign.com
Mike Sims, (248) 547-7757, mike@foresitedesign.com
 - b. All questions must be submitted in writing utilizing "01 2619 Clarification Request" form. Clarifications requested orally will not be accepted.
4. **Bidding Documents may be viewed:**
Places: a. McGraw Hill Dodge Plan Room
b. Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room
c. Plante Moran Cresa e-builder site
• Contact Lamerra Hobbs- Lamerra.Hobbs@plantemoran.com or Christa Jarnot-christa.jarnot@plantemoran.com for access login and registration
Date: February 9, 2015
5. **Bidding Documents will be available for examination on or after February 9, 2015 at:**
Place: Foresite Design, Inc.
3269 Coolidge Highway
Berkley, MI 48072
Online: Via Plante Moran Cresa electronic transfer
Digital Drawings (.PDF) are at no cost. Digital Drawings in Autocad format are NOT available. Bidders are responsible to pay for their own documents costs, included shipping and handling, and printing costs are non-refundable.
6. **A non-mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held for all trades at the Novi Community School District Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374 on **February 16, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** Bidders will have the ability to walk the sites immediately following the pre-bid conference at their own discretion. Pre-bid conference minutes will be distributed to all known planholders, but Plante Moran, Foresite Design and the Novi Community School District will not be responsible for providing information to those not attending the pre-bid conference. Information disclosed in the pre-bid conference minutes will be considered part of the Bidding and Contract Documents. No bid(s) will be accepted after the above time and date. Bids received after the deadline will be returned unopened. Delivery of the bids is the responsibility of the bidder, whether by mail or in person. **The Novi Community School District is not responsible for delays or failures of any other party.**
The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and further reserves the right to award each proposal separately and to evaluate any or all bids on factors including but not limited to low bid and to the best advantage of the **Novi Community School District.**

Welcome, Hobby Lobby



A ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening of the Novu Hobby Lobby in the Novu Town Center was held Feb. 2. The store was honored at the event with an official Senate tribute, presented by Sen. Mike Kowall (third from right), R-White Lake, which read in part: "For more than 40 years, Hobby Lobby has emphasized family values over its own profits by allowing employees to worship and spend quality time with their children each Sunday. ... We applaud their accomplishments and long-term commitment to the Novu community and wish much continued success." Holding the ribbon are (from left) Jay Estes, district manager; Steve Nagy, manager; Kowall; Pete Auger, Novu city manager; and Lauren Royston, Novu Economic Development director.

New digs



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Work continues Jan. 7 at the location for the new General RV center at the former Ford Wixom plant headquarters. The facility, located at the northwest corner of Wixom Road and I-96, will feature an 83,000-square-foot building on the 30-acre site. The recreational vehicle sales and service business was formerly located less than a half-mile east.

Avoiding tax-time schemes to steal your identity

My mom always told me if it sounds to be good to be true, it is. But during tax season, the saying should really be "if something sounds too strange to be true, it is."

Each tax season, the IRS reports an increase in aggressive and sophisticated tax-related phishing schemes. It's important to understand phishing schemes and to what lengths criminals will go to appear legitimate.

The most routine scam involves phone calls from supposed "IRS officials" demanding immediate payment for current or back taxes via wire transfer or debit card. They also may try to secure personal information. But according to IRS.gov, the IRS will never call your home to dictate terms of payment and especially won't enforce a payment without the ability to appeal.

On the Internet, phishing scams are taken to an entirely new level. Emails are doctored to look professional and may feature IRS logos or link to a website that mirrors that of IRS.gov. Many times, the emails direct consumers to update their IRS file immediately in an attempt to steal private information.

The IRS never "initiates contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information." And it's just too strange to think a



Jon Gunnells
TECH SAVVY

government agency like the IRS ever would initiate contact via email.

Millennials may be slaves to their inboxes, but not everyone checks as routinely and not everyone has reliable or consistent Internet.

If the IRS or another government agency wants to contact you, chances are it will be through the mail.

And while this may not be "tech savvy" advice, keeping an eye on your mailbox is a great way to deter identify theft, particularly this month. Scammers and crooks know workers will be receiving W-2 forms and end-of-year summaries from banks and brokerages.

If you've hit mid-February and you're waiting on important tax information, check to make sure if it was lost or not sent, instead of being stolen for the personal and financial information.

If you suspect you are a victim of a tax-related phishing scam, you can report the attack at IRS.gov.

If you think you may be a victim of identity theft from stolen mail or other theft, visit FDIC.gov. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

has information and links to help you report the attacks to the Federal Trade Commission, credit reporting bureaus, financial institutions and local authorities.

Unlike tax phishing schemes, identity theft and other phishing schemes are year-round crimes. And the easiest way to protect yourself is by remembering "if it sounds too good or too strange to be true, it is."

Unsolicited emails from strangers claiming you have won the lottery or have inherited a large sum of money from a Nigerian prince are both too good and too strange to be true. So refrain from sending those strangers money via wire transfers or debit cards in order to claim your prize.

Think about it: Would a lottery ever require you to pay for a prize? That's the worst lottery ever.

Would a Nigerian prince really be sending you money? I don't know a lot about royalty or Nigeria. I know even less about Nigerian royalty, but I assume you do not become a rich Nigerian prince by sending Internet strangers money.

Free money from the Internet? That is definitely too good to be true.

Jon Gunnells is a social media manager for a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com.

BBB has advice on what to do when identity is compromised

Tens of millions of Americans could be victims of the latest corporate data breach, this one at Anthem Insurance. Unknown hackers apparently stole personal identifying information from current and former Anthem customers, including names, addresses, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and other information that can be used for identity theft.

Anthem has set up a separate website with information on the breach, but the Better Business Bureau recommends that consumers always go to a company's main website first and follow links from there. Scammers often take advantage of data breaches and subsequent confusion to set up spoof websites and send phishing emails.

BBB offers the following suggestions for consumers concerned that their PII has been stolen (also available at bbb.org/breach):

» Do not take a "wait and see" approach as you may have done with breaches involving credit card data. You must act quickly. Breaches involving Social Security numbers have the potential to be far more detrimental to victims, and the damage can be difficult to repair.

» Consider taking a preemptive strike by freezing your credit reports. This will not impact existing credit cards and financial accounts, but will create a roadblock for thieves seeking to create fraudulent



accounts using your personal information.

» At a minimum, if you know your Social Security number has been compromised, place a fraud alert on your credit reports. While less effective than a freeze, this will provide an extra layer of protection.

» Take advantage of the free credit monitoring services Anthem will be offering to breach victims. While this is not a preventative measure, this will alert you to new accounts or inquiries using your Social Security number so that you can act quickly to repair the damage.

» Vigilance is key. Regularly check your credit reports at annualcreditreport.com for unauthorized charges or other signs of fraud. (Note: This is the only free credit report option authorized by the Federal Trade Commission.)

» For more information and complete step-by-step guidance on repairing the damage caused by identity theft, visit the FTC's identity theft resources.

» Expect that scammers will take advantage of this data breach to send out phishing emails

and other messages that appear to be from Anthem, a credit bureau or other legitimate companies. Do not click on links from any email, text or social media messages about this or any other data breach.

For all businesses that collect customer information:

» Make sure you protect your customers' data. If a data breach can happen to a major corporation with significant data security measures in place, it can happen to any business.

» Check out BBB's updated online guide Data Security - Made Simpler for free information on how to create a data security plan.

According to its BBB Business Review, Anthem Inc. also operates as Wellpoint, Inc., Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield and Administar Federal, Inc. However, not all Blue Cross & Blue Shield companies are part of the Anthem network.

If you aren't sure if your insurer is affected by this data breach, call the number on the back of your card or go directly to your insurer's website.

NEWSMAKERS

Panpan Hu joins JRT

JRT has added to its web team with the addition of Panpan Hu as a JAVA Programmer.

Hu served as a software engineer in the hotel/hospitality industry in Florida before relocating to Michigan. As part of the JRT web team, Hu



Hu

will work with client dealer sites, as well as other various projects.

The Novi resident holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from

the University of Nebraska.

J.R. Thompson Co. is a creative marketing services firm specializing in planning, publishing, communications, web development and event marketing.

For more information, go to www.jrthompson.com.

The Oscars™

Win an Observer & Eccentric Movie Package

Go to hometownlife.com and select **The Oscar™ Contest** icon in the **featured content** section of the website.

Correctly Identify the Top 7 Oscar™ Categories

- Best Picture
- Best Actor in Leading Role
- Best Actress in a Leading Role
- Best Animated Feature Film
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role
- Best Director

Tie Breaker Categories

- Music (original score)
- Documentary Feature

and you could win!

GRAND PRIZE

- \$150 Netflix Gift Card
- \$50 Buddy's Pizza Gift Certificate
- Popcorn
- Movie Candy

2nd PLACE PRIZE

- \$60 Netflix Gift Card
- \$50 Buddy's Pizza Gift Certificate

3rd PLACE PRIZE

- \$30 Netflix Gift Card
- \$15 Buddy's Pizza Gift Certificate

All entries must be received by **Saturday, February 21, 2015 11:59 p.m.**

Choose correctly and you could **WIN!**

One entry per person/per household

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
hometownlife.com

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NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Plymouth Township home blends past, present well

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

A home built in the 1940s in Plymouth Township is a pleasing mix of the old and new. "It has the new amenities," said Realtor Chris Patrick of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel of Plymouth, speaking of the 46450 Shamrock Lane home in Plymouth Township. It was built in 1940 "and then they renovated it later."

The home is on an acre, and near both Plymouth Township Park and the Hilltop Golf Course. It's listed at \$489,000. Cove ceilings and archways speak to the home's older origins.

Realtor Patrick, the listing agent, noted the four bedrooms and three full baths. The home's in the Plymouth-Canton school district, and its sellers are relocating.

They've added paver walkways. The roof, from 2013, has a lifetime warranty.

The home's 3,100 square feet and has two furnaces from 2012 and 2014. Its kitchen was updated in the past, and boasts a large island which seats six or more, as well as skylights and a convection oven with gas stove top.

Patrick noted the cove ceilings, fireplace and hardwood floors in the living room, din-



DAN DEAN
Hardwood floors and archways give the 1940s era home character.

ing room and two bedrooms as pluses. "It's a short bike ride to downtown Plymouth," she said. "You don't find many with acreage and close to town."

The living room has a gas fireplace and opens on the dining room. There is a dual entrance to separate decks.

Both the first- and second-level baths were recently updated, Patrick noted. The master suite has a study area and a walk-in closet, with its glamour bath boasting a jetted tub.

Patrick is available at 734-546-9978.

In addition to the treed lot, there's an outdoor basketball court, and the deck has a newer ceramic tiled fire pit. The home has a finished lower level, first floor laundry and three and a half car garage.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



DAN DEAN
46450 Shamrock Lane in Plymouth Township is within walking distance of downtown and sits on 1.13 acres.



DAN DEAN
The kitchen features an island with seating for six.

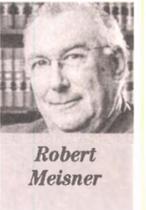
Forceful removal of squatters may be ill-advised

Q: I understand there a new law regarding squatters in Michigan. Can you give me any insight?

A: Effective Sept. 24, 2014, the new legislation 1) permits the use of force to remove squatters; 2) makes squatting a misdemeanor for the first offense and a felony thereafter; and 3) makes the felony punishable by fine of up to \$10,000. One should be cautioned, however, that forcibly removing a squatter may result in personal danger to the person removing the squatter and perhaps potential liability if excessive force is used.

Q: Can you sue someone who is not on the premises on a regular basis for nuisance?

A: Based upon a recent Michigan case, a landowner who was not in possession and does not participate in the activity which could be a nuisance is not liable for a nuisance. While the owner may have some responsibility, it does not rise to the level of a nuisance in terms of what transpired, which in that case was that the plaintiff's decedent was killed when her car hit a horse that was standing in the road and was kept on a farm by his brother and sister-in-law, and the horse had escaped from its stall more than 30 times over the course of seven years.



Robert Meisner

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.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 15-19, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

32046 Auburn Dr \$265,000
15562 Birwood Ave \$70,000
16950 Kirkshire Ave \$240,000
31036 Pickwick Ln \$322,000

BIRMINGHAM

1393 Cedar Dr \$490,000
2196 Derby Rd \$225,000
1942 E Lincoln St \$235,000
1798 Graefield Rd \$131,000
1971 Graefield Rd \$117,000
1768 Graefield Rd Unit 30 \$126,000
508 Graten St \$342,000
1165 Hillside Dr \$270,000
1324 Humphrey Ave \$232,000
519 Lewis St \$325,000
808 Madison St \$885,000
1828 Mansfield Rd \$235,000
1119 Pilgrim Ave \$600,000
600 Shepardsbush St \$1,305,000
600 W Brown St # 210 \$275,000
764 W Lincoln St \$350,000
2140 Yorkshire Rd \$212,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

5450 Lahser Rd \$335,000
1860 Cedar Hill Dr \$450,000
279 Millington Ct \$225,000
4064 W Orchard Hill Dr \$285,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

4187 Antique Ln \$418,000
2700 Aspen Ln \$225,000
3255 Berkshire Dr \$255,000
4694 Bernley Dr \$317,000
5710 Crabtree Rd \$275,000
4920 Dryden Ln \$380,000
6153 Eastmoor Rd \$299,000
1332 Forestglen Ct \$232,000
839 Helston Rd \$297,000
1365 Indian Mound W \$830,000
2100 Kemp Rd \$321,000
5137 Kings Gate Way \$410,000
7150 Lindenmere Dr \$446,000

6815 Mark Ct \$582,000
2664 McClintock Rd \$260,000
1870 Pine Ridge Ln \$419,000
1096 Rock Spring Rd \$360,000
3776 Shellmarr Ln \$525,000
3381 Squirrel Rd \$280,000
3718 Thornbrier Way \$365,000
3672 W Bradford Dr \$361,000
4049 W Maple Rd # A104 \$102,000
4043 W Maple Rd # D202 \$90,000
615 Windsor Run \$472,000
4850 Wye Oak Rd \$334,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP

1929 Alsup Ave \$223,000
6135 Ashland St \$148,000
3112 Belle Terre \$239,000
5097 Birkdale Dr \$328,000
300 Charlevoix St \$100,000
9533 Chaumont Dr \$252,000
3541 E Commerce Rd \$174,000
8050 Flagstaff St \$360,000
1901 Glen Iris Dr \$200,000
8542 Golf Lane Dr \$290,000
2145 Golfcrest Dr \$309,000
5948 Majestic Oaks Dr \$470,000
3201 Mandrake St \$82,000
2846 Pinto Dr \$172,000

FARMINGTON

23631 Bicking Ct \$126,000
32010 Grand River Ave \$42,000
31592 Marblehead Rd \$168,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

22181 Arbor Ln \$231,000
28264 Bayberry Rd \$191,000
22280 Cass St \$279,000
21706 Colgate St \$105,000
27654 E Echo Vly Unit 233 \$66,000
29346 Earth Ln \$580,000
22945 Fox Crk \$246,000
24928 Glen Orchard Dr \$374,000
37645 Glengrove Dr \$384,000
21675 Hamilton Ave \$43,000
22251 Harsdale Dr \$400,000
22117 Haynes Ave \$75,000
28732 Kirkside Ln \$220,000
29564 Mayfair Dr \$268,000
30791 Misty Pines Dr \$149,000
23105 Montclair St \$135,000

34182 Old Timber Ct \$263,000
26250 Orchard Lake Rd \$210,000
21244 Parker St \$155,000
24467 Penrose Dr \$180,000
31030 Ridgeway Dr \$230,000
29038 Summerwood Rd \$215,000
29222 Valley Bend Ct \$366,000
29001 W 11 Mile Rd \$180,000
32013 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 209 \$62,000
28422 W Eight Mile Rd \$26,000
32586 Woodvale \$537,000

FRANKLIN

30980 Franklin Rd \$220,000
32875 Wing Lake Rd \$229,000

HIGHLAND

155 N Saint John Rd \$90,000
3200 Ramada Dr \$440,000
3455 Ramada Dr \$216,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

18769 Alhambra Ave \$172,000

MILFORD

1690 Cooley Lake Rd \$335,000
743 E Liberty St \$202,000
3039 Old Plank Rd \$289,000
1635 Orban \$148,000
805 Panorama Dr \$170,000
2872 Rowe Rd \$279,000
170 Water St \$330,000

NORTHVILLE

48882 Castello Ct \$254,000
21221 E Glen Haven Cir \$143,000
21247 Eastfarm Ln \$260,000
38744 Harvard Ct \$410,000
42126 Pellston Dr \$127,000
52217 Pierce Dr \$100,000

NOVI

27651 Belgrave Pl \$266,000
41611 Blair Dr \$136,000
25483 Buckminster Dr \$280,000
41913 Canterbury Dr \$182,000
28059 Carlton Way Dr \$195,000
22323 Chelsea Ln \$175,000
41533 Cypress Way \$182,000
43152 Emerson Way \$289,000
23447 Greening Dr \$300,000
51149 Hallfield St \$297,000
28105 Hewes Ln \$231,000
41774 Independence Dr \$154,000

25782 Island Lake Dr \$575,000
25710 Laramie Dr \$500,000
51183 Luke Ln \$290,000
24760 Olde Orchard St \$108,000
42487 Park Ridge Rd \$230,000
41796 Primrose Dr \$172,000
41940 Quince Dr \$173,000
27484 Sloan St \$294,000
1127 South Lake Dr Unit 118 \$95,000
23785 Stonehenge Blvd \$120,000
26018 Whipple \$55,000

SOUTH LYON

130 Lyon Blvd \$140,000
52058 Red Cedar \$374,000
22899 Saint George Cir \$410,000
1054 Shetland Dr \$260,000
500 Willow Dr \$270,000
388 Winchester St \$176,000
58560 Winningway Cir S \$73,000

SOUTHFIELD

15842 Addison St \$128,000
28410 Brooks Ln \$111,000
29382 Candlewood Ln \$65,000
17692 E Goldwin St \$179,000
28415 Evergreen Rd \$98,000
29657 Fairfax St \$56,000
17359 Gateway Cir \$68,000
18455 Kesh St \$85,000
28384 Lady K Ct \$287,000
24639 Maryland St \$97,000
17389 Melrose St \$117,000
25426 Saint James \$120,000
28675 Streamwood Ln \$225,000
28029 Tavistock Trl \$195,000
28765 Tavistock Trl \$183,000

WHITE LAKE

11384 Brigham Ln \$150,000
921 Dacea Ct \$325,000
786 Golden Shrs \$355,000
9247 Hickorywood Dr \$147,000
603 Kent Ln \$390,000
44 Myrick St \$51,000
9499 Portage Trl \$105,000
9476 Thames Blvd \$219,000
8754 Townsend Dr \$242,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 6-10, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

1603 Aberdeen St \$203,000
43053 Avon Rd \$242,000
4180 Berkeley Ave \$128,000
2248 Berwick Dr \$185,000
2406 Brookfield St \$179,000
2677 Brookfield St \$175,000
6787 Brookshire Dr \$204,000
50595 Coolidge St \$327,000
41475 Copper Creek Dr \$185,000
43775 Cranford Ave \$209,000
1754 Dunston Rd \$254,000
6453 Durham Dr \$209,000
47125 Fairlawn Ct \$249,000
7048 Foxcreek Dr \$258,000
43948 Fredericksburg St \$169,000
2393 Lexington Cir N \$313,000
2255 Lexington Cir S \$310,000
43927 Marne Ct \$170,000
45714 Morningside Dr \$306,000
45499 Muirfield Dr \$340,000
6699 Old Haggerty Rd \$175,000
1921 Pincroft Dr \$134,000
7451 Pointe Dr \$205,000
41777 Princes Dr \$290,000
42299 Saratoga Cir \$163,000
44465 Saveny Dr \$70,000
51195 Sleepy Hollow Ln \$221,000
4155 Strathmore Ln \$215,000
4290 Timberline Dr \$271,000
44279 Vassar St \$217,000
47934 Wadebridge Ct \$430,000

1826 Willard Dr \$180,000
40734 Worthington Rd \$185,000

GARDEN CITY

2205 Belton St \$54,000
27713 Bock St \$120,000
6669 Cardwell St \$95,000
431 Gilman St \$110,000
30405 Hennepin St \$90,000
6700 Mansfield St \$89,000
221 Ross St \$96,000
858 Venoy Rd \$45,000

LIVONIA

14418 Arden St \$154,000
14994 Bainbridge St \$45,000
9750 Bassett St \$160,000
12031 Cardwell St \$95,000
14737 Country Club Dr \$170,000
11456 Deering St \$100,000
15375 Edlington St \$222,000
11774 Farmington Rd \$123,000
9083 Fremont St \$135,000
11014 Garden St \$119,000
31114 Grenada St \$134,000
31717 Hees St \$125,000
14100 Henry Ruff St \$180,000
16232 Houghton Dr \$292,000
30880 Industrial Rd \$280,000
8942 Knolson Ave \$215,000
38769 Lancaster St \$255,000
29522 Lori St \$139,000
15707 Loveland St \$212,000
29902 Lyndon St \$159,000
14803 Melvin St \$178,000
39118 Minton Ave \$157,000
30800 Munger Dr \$351,000
28455 N Clements Cir \$98,000
28482 N Clements Cir \$95,000
9013 Oporto St \$105,000
35172 Orangelawn St \$150,000

14568 Richfield St \$151,000
38115 Richland St \$147,000
38499 Richland St \$130,000
14526 Riverside St \$273,000
32520 Schoolcraft Rd \$205,000
35974 Scone St \$161,000
38568 Summers St \$175,000

NORTHVILLE

42373 Anchor Ct \$173,000
47562 Arbor Trl \$399,000
17023 Birchwood Dr \$343,000
44665 Broadmoor Cir N \$390,000
19537 Dartmouth Pl \$114,000
19706 Dearborn Ct \$135,000
632 East St \$180,000
375 Orchard Dr \$250,000
47104 Red Oak Dr \$495,000
50105 Venice Ct \$430,000
39582 Village Run Dr \$275,000

PLYMOUTH

576 Ann St \$223,000
11871 Appletree Dr \$315,000
1105 Carol Ave \$241,000
49573 Donovan Blvd \$168,000
42241 Mill Race Cir \$139,000
1782 Nantucket Rd \$250,000
40695 Newport Dr \$110,000
49750 Plymouth Way \$168,000
49822 Plymouth Way \$157,000
11749 Priscilla Ln \$223,000
45182 Turtlehead Dr \$271,000

REDFORD

9646 Brady \$107,000
25101 Cathedral \$75,000
25917 Dover \$90,000
14053 Fenton \$95,000
18839 Fox \$34,000
18233 Garfield \$43,000
15584 Lexington \$27,000

15408 Lola Dr \$14,000
16584 Lola Dr \$40,000
8822 Marion \$73,000
15725 Ryland \$82,000
18434 Sumner \$50,000

WAYNE

32625 Annapolis St \$40,000
35342 Ash St \$135,000
34605 Chestnut St \$107,000
34024 Currier St \$93,000
4037 Edmund St \$18,000
35312 Elm St \$25,000
36465 Glenwood Rd \$45,000
3876 Mildred St \$90,000
3311 Sophia St \$125,000
5327 Woodward St \$46,000

WESTLAND

1179 Abbey Ct \$145,000
2112 Alanson St \$35,000
38287 Carolan Blvd \$51,000
35677 Castlewood Ct \$75,000
243 Ethan Dr \$175,000
38149 Ford Rd \$115,000
5935 Huff St \$158,000
7358 Iroquois St \$125,000
35136 June Dr \$39,000
37512 Lang Ct \$133,000
28209 Mackenzie Dr \$124,000
5806 N Crown St \$67,000
35128 Nancy St \$66,000
36598 Rolf St \$120,000
207 S Carlson St \$140,000
38266 S Jean Ct \$133,000
38212 S Miller Cir \$110,000
1308 Shoemaker Dr \$52,000
1614 Shoemaker Dr \$53,000
1678 Shoemaker Dr \$52,000
39341 Surrey Heights Ct \$125,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Mortgage seminar

"A Mortgage Experience You Can Brag About" seminar will be held 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Livonia Library, 32777 Five Mile, sponsored by Keller Williams Realtors. Pertinent information on getting back into the market after a bankruptcy, short sale or foreclosure. New programs available for first-time homebuyers. Call Sheila Roma at 248-760-6785 or Debbi McLaughlin at 248-561-0077 by Feb. 19 to reserve a spot.

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. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Seminar each Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

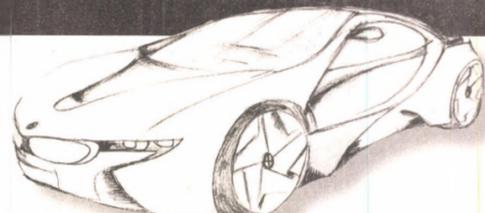
Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvalue-erealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Car Report

Jeep Comes Up Big in Role As Key Brand, At Home and Abroad.



By Dale Buss

Jeep just keeps on proving its mettle in its role as the key brand for Fiat Chrysler, both at home and abroad.

At home, Jeep led all other Fiat Chrysler brands — and most other brands in the entire U.S. auto industry — with its performance out of the box in January, with domestic sales rising by

envisioned when they introduced it last year.

And now on the heels of all that success comes the new Jeep Renegade, the small crossover that is being built in Italy in the same plant with the new Fiat 500X. Renegade surely will boost Jeep further as it addresses the key, fast-growing compact-SUV segment in the U.S. market — and abroad.

Speaking of abroad, Fiat Chrysler also chose Jeep to make its annual “statement” advertisement during the

raucously celebrating a century of life and the 100th anniversary of the brand.

The only all-new creative showed up in a spot for Jeep that effectively communicated the brand’s rising global ambitions — but also invited potential controversy. The 90-second advertisement operated on three different levels.

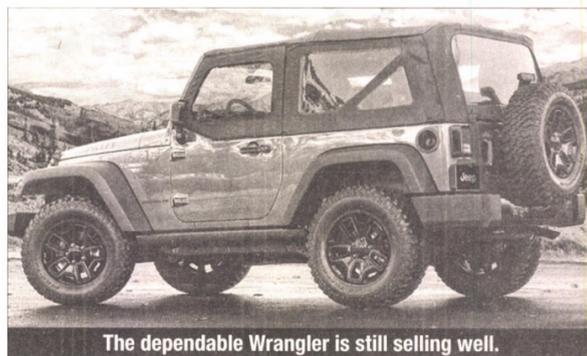
“Beautiful Lands” certainly presented the new Renegade. One of the last messages in the ad is the printed line, “America’s smallest, lightest SUV.”

The 90-second ad also served up an environmental message and ended with the tag lines, “The World Is a Gift. Play Responsibly.” Then, in a reference for which no further explanation is provided: “Water Is Life. Help Provide It.” Jeep explains its involvement in water.org in a news release.

And unfolding as it did against the strains of the Woody Guthrie-penned anthem, “This Land Is Your Land,” the Jeep ad also invited a potential raising of eyebrows in at least a couple of different ways.

For one thing, the ad, playing out over the first few stanzas of the song written by Guthrie in 1940, segued from a travelogue of beautiful scenes from across the United States into a global pastiche that included vistas of the Great Wall of China and the Christ the Redeemer statue overlooking Rio de Janeiro.

So, which land was made for you



The dependable Wrangler is still selling well.



Jeep hopes the all-new Renegade takes brand sales to a whole new level.

23 percent, to more than 51,000 units. That was about two-thirds more sales last month than the company’s next-best-performing brand, Ram, whose sales rose by 21 percent.

Jeep posted its 16th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains as Cherokee, Wrangler, Patriot and Compass each logged their best-ever sales for the month. The all-new Cherokee keeps looking like the huge hit Fiat Chrysler product planners

Big Game this year. The company actually ran three ads during the contest on NBC. Two of them already had appeared online and were making their TV debut: Fiat used humor in the tale of a peripatetic “blue pill” that highlighted the robust appeal of the relatively large Fiat 500X; and a spot for Dodge featured centenarians

Advertising Features

LG-2473860-01

Now is the BEST time to buy a new car



Best of all, credit is available. Look to your local dealer to find a high quality, fuel efficient vehicle. Your dealer knows your market and can help you get financing to meet your needs. If you need a new car, now is the time.

Visit your local dealership or cars.com to find a car today.



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
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A GANNETT COMPANY



Buick

★ **BUICK 2005** Lacrosse CXL Black, clean, well maintained, 182k miles, 25 MPG. \$4,950. 810-772-9277

Chevrolet

★ **'13 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD CREW CAB LTZ 4X4**
Duramax diesel, only 12,000 miles. \$45,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'14 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 EXTENDED CAB LTZ 4X4**
Leather, one owner, only 17,000 miles. \$35,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Chrysler-Plymouth

★ **PT CRUISER 2004 TOURING EDITION**
98,000 miles, clean, original owner, non-smoker, all maint/ serv. records. \$2,700. South Lyon. Call: (313) 319-8210

Dodge

★ **2004 DODGE DURANGO SLT 4X4**, trailer tow, loaded. \$4,750
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

★ **2005 DODGE RAM 1500 4X2**, 6 cyl., 168,000 mi. \$4,995
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

Ford

★ **'12 FORD EXPEDITION**
Certified, moonroof, leather, power boards. \$29,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'12 FORD MUSTANG GT COUPE**
Certified, leather, only 20,000 miles. \$24,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'12 FORD TRANS-IT CONNECT XLT**
5 passenger seating, ABS, like new. \$17,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Buick

★ **'10 BUICK LACROSSE CXL**
Leather, moonroof, only 30,000 miles. \$17,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Ford

★ **'08 FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER 4X4**
Full power, one owner, only 35,000 miles. \$17,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'13 FORD ESCAPE 4X4 2.0 ECOBOOST**
Perfect carfax, sunroof, certified. \$20,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Cash in with Classifieds 800-579-SELL

Ford

★ **'13 FORD FUSION TITANIUM 2.0**
Certified, moonroof, leather. \$20,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'14 FORD EXPEDITION EL LIMITED 4X4**
Certified, moonroof, navigation. 5 to choose, as low as \$43,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'14 FORD EXPLORER XLT**
Certified, moonroof, navigation. \$30,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'14 FORD FIESTA ST HATCHBACK**
Certified, moonroof, navigation. 15,000 miles. \$21,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'14 FORD FUSION TITANIUM AWD**
Certified, navigation, moonroof, 5 to choose from, as low as \$27,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **2003 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4X4**, 226,000 miles. \$3,750
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

★ **2004 FORD F-150 5.4L 4X2**, loaded, 188,000 miles. \$7,750
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

★ **2005 FORD EXCURSION 4X4**, diesel, lifted. \$13,995
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

★ **2005 FORD F-250 SD XLT 4X4**, diesel. \$14,750
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

★ **2014 FORD ESCAPE SE 4X4 2.0L**, Ecoboost, FWD. \$17,450
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

★ **'04 Jeep Liberty**
Call for details - Northville 248-349-3110

★ **'13 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4**
Full power, one owner, only 18,000 miles. \$27,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'13 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA 4X4**
Navigation, one owner, only 17,000 miles. \$33,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Jeep

★ **2008 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4X4**, AT, 79,000 mi. \$16,550
Call Scott Pratt 810-599-7283

Lexus

★ **'12 LEXUS RX 350 AWD**
Moonroof, navigation, only 17,000 miles. \$33,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Lincoln

★ **'09 LINCOLN MKZ AWD**
Moonroof, one owner, only 37,000 miles. \$16,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'13 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 4X4**
Moonroof, navigation, only 22,000 miles. \$41,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

★ **'13 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR L 4X4**
Moonroof, navigation, rear ent. \$44,995
Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

Mazda

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By Robert Half

One of the most effective tools in your job search is the informational interview. These meetings provide you with an opportunity to build your network of professional contacts, learn more about career paths that interest you and, ultimately, enhance your employment prospects.

Although they're not meant to elicit job offers, these discussions offer exposure to people who are in a hiring position or can recommend you to colleagues. As a result, it's critical to approach informational interviews the right way. Here are some tips to remember:

Reach out appropriately

Email or call the person you hope to interview with a concise explanation of who you are, why you're contacting him and what you hope to gain from the meeting. Be clear that you are seeking information only, not a job and ask for 30 minutes of time at most.

Because it's often hard to get the attention of someone you've never met, a referral from a mutual friend can help in setting up an informational interview.

Come with clear goals

Unlike a job interview, where a hiring manager would lead the discussion, you are the one



How informational interviews CAN help your career

responsible for setting up this meeting and driving the conversation. So, make sure you know what you want to gain from the discussion. Are you considering a switch to a management track and interested in what steps a person working in that role took in her career? Do you want to transition to a new information technology

specialty and garner inside tips for working in that area?

If you start the meeting with no objective, your contact will be inclined to cut the discussion short, so be sure to have targeted questions ready. For instance, if you are seeking advice on becoming a consultant, you might ask how the person got his start consulting or about the biggest challenges he has faced as a project professional.

Do your homework

Make sure you are knowledgeable about your contact before you meet. You should have at least a general understanding of the person's professional history and background on her employer. This will allow you to ask relevant questions and solicit appropriate assistance.

It's also likely you'll be asked about your own background and career interests, so be ready to talk about your goals and accomplishments.

Remember to listen

Have a sincere interest in what your contact has to say. The person is likely to offer more advice and more in-depth advice if he or she knows you are invested in the conversation. Even if his suggestions aren't what you wanted or expected to hear, respect the guidance given to you. Taking notes can help demonstrate your interest and help refresh your memory of the conversation later.

Don't ask for a job

While your ultimate objective may be to find a new job, you should never ask for one at an informational interview. The goal of the meeting is to build your knowledge about a particular topic. The person may feel deceived if you don't follow through with the intent of the discussion.

Even if you don't ask for work directly, you could be considered for an available opening or receive a referral to a manager who

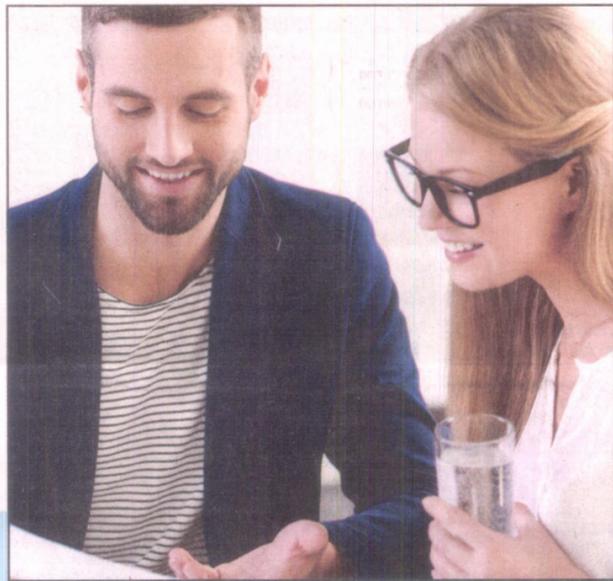
is hiring if you make the right impression.

Show your gratitude

If you have ever helped a colleague or sent someone a thoughtful gift only to receive no word of thanks, you know how discouraging it can be. The last thing you want to do is make a contact feel unappreciated, so be sure to send a thank-you note within a day or two of the meeting.

Informational interviews are a useful career strategy. Just be sure to prepare carefully, listen and follow through to create a lasting, positive impression with those you meet.

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- Documented record of success in a goal-oriented, highly accountable environment.
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