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THURSDAY
December 17,
2009
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NORTHVILLE RECORD

online at hometownlife.com



A passion for health
Special section

ON THE RECORD

Blood drive

Blood Banks in Southeast Michigan are at dangerously low levels because donations are low. Northville Schools are helping fill this need by hosting a series of Red Cross blood drives, including one from 2-8 p.m. on Jan. 6 at Meads Mill Middle School. Go to www.givelife.org and enter sponsor code: NorthvilleSchools, then select Meads Mill.

Holiday Slam

Attention poetry lovers: There will be a Holiday Slam on Dec. 22 at Solid Grounds CoffeeHouse at 8 p.m. The list opens at 7:30. There will be an open mic followed by the poetry slam. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased outside the shop the day of the event.

Art classes

Winter class registration has begun at the Northville Art House. Classes for children as well as adults are offered in a variety of techniques and mediums. Visit the Art House website at www.northvillearts.org for more information or call (248) 344-0497.

Santa at Posh

Santa will be at Salon Posh in Northville on Saturday, Dec. 19, for Make a Wish Foundation from 3-4 p.m. Come see Santa and support the Make a Wish foundation.

Food drive

Northville Square Public Market will host a Gleaners food drive through Dec. 19. Anyone who brings in two canned goods will be entered into a drawing for a gift bag filled with over \$100 worth of items from the market vendors at the Northville Square Public Market located at 133 W. Main Street in Downtown Northville. The winner will be drawn on Dec. 19 and does not have to be present to win.

Northville Square Public Market just opened six weeks ago and is open through the holiday season on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Please refer the Facebook page located at the "Northville Square Public Market" or contact via email at northvillesquarepublicmarket@gmail.com for further details.

There are several local vendors selling organic and gluten-free foods, chocolate, cheese, granola, dog food and dog clothes, frames, stylish recycled jewelry and trendy accessories, Amish furniture, pottery, floral arrangements, soaps and candles, decorative holiday home accessories, personalized ceramics and ornaments, and doll clothes.

CELEBRATION ENDS SATURDAY EVENING



Ellie and Tim Broe of Northville, who are celebrating the Jewish holiday Chanukkah this week, lighted the fifth candle on their menorah on Tuesday night. The celebration ends Saturday evening.

PHOTO BY PAM FLEMING/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Local residents explain true meaning of Chanukkah

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Ellie and Tim Broe of Northville, who refer to themselves as Jews for Jesus, will be lighting the seventh candle on their menorah tonight in celebration of Chanukkah.

The Jewish holiday started at sundown Dec. 11 and runs through sundown Saturday evening.

Each candle represents a Biblical scripture verse.

On Tuesday evening, friends of the Broes, Lynn Armbruster of Plymouth Township and Helen Murphy of Novi, talked about what the holiday means to Messianic Jews or those who embrace both Judaism and Christianity.

"Chanukkah is a great story," Murphy said. "It takes place between Alexander the Great and the

Please see CELEBRATION, A6

City may receive \$685,000 grant

States waiting for Congress to approve funding

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

If Congress approves the Transportation Act, the city of Northville has received a conditional commitment from the Michigan Department of Transportation to receive a \$685,880 grant for its \$2 million streetscape enhancement project.

The Northville Historic District Commission reviewed the project at its meeting last night after already seeing it once at the commission's October meeting.

Lori Ward, executive director of the Northville Downtown Development Authority, said the Transportation Act has been in existence for 12 years, and that she believes it's just a matter of timing before Congress reauthorizes the funding.

MDOT officials met recently with DDA and city staff members and said that the grant, which is a reimbursement grant, could be considered an Advance Construction Project. This means that the work could be done in 2010, with the reimbursement to come in 2011.

"This is the first time ever that the MDOT has done this (tentatively award money through an Advance Construction Project)," said Pat Sullivan, city manager.

MDOT has advised city and authority staff to accept the grant, which may or may not be awarded.

Bonds for the \$2 million sidewalk and street improvement project are scheduled to be issued in January.

PROJECT TO BEGIN IN JUNE

The project is supposed to begin with Mary Alexander Court after the fourth of July next year, turning the court into a two-way street. Feedback needs to be obtained from businesses affected by the change, however, before construction takes place.

Next, construction would take place on Center Street south of Main Street. In April 2011, the Main Street sidewalk and street improvements would begin.

"We would start east and head west," Ward said. Improvements on Center Street north of

Please see GRANT, A13

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GANNETT

School aid cut of \$127 per pupil on hold - temporarily

BY NATHAN MEMOIAN
CORRESPONDENT

Michigan school districts received news from Gov. Jennifer Granholm's office last week, that she temporary halted her own \$127 per pupil protraction reduction in school aid payments.

Granholm said an unexpected change in the School Aid Fund led her to pause the \$127-per-pupil cut, providing temporary financial relief for school districts around the state.

The reduction is to be withheld from the state's Dec. 20 disbursement sent to all state school districts. Granholm initiated the additional cuts last October, just days before signing the new

state budget into law. Treasury officials warned her that declining state revenues could lead to a potential \$212 million shortfall in the FY 2010 school aid budget.

According to the governor's office, surplus revenue became available recently when an unexpected increase in non-homestead property tax values occurred, and because school districts spent less money than was authorized in 2009.

Dr. Leonard Rezmierski, Northville's school superintendent, said the temporary reprieve of the \$127-per-student cut applies only for December. The state's final payment for this year

Please see AID, A9

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Resident complains about leaves in street before pickup

Public safety, image, taxpayer issues cited

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Longtime Northville resident Beth Beson felt so strongly about the issue that she came to city council twice.

The issue? She believes that the city's fall leaf pickup program that ended a few weeks ago is not operating effectively and wants city leaders to do something next fall.

She's tired of leaves piled up in downtown streets every year way before the pickup date, saying they prevent shoppers from parking, are a public safety hazard and an eyesore.

"The plan's not working," Beson said.

Believe it or not, the annual leaf pickup program usually costs the city about \$56,000 a year for two scheduled pickups outside residents' homes. This year, due to economic conditions, the pickup was cut back to only once at a cost of about \$36,000.

Beson doesn't understand why residents are allowed to rake their leaves into the streets so many days before their scheduled pickup date and wants the city to enforce the rules next year.

"I equate it to putting your garbage out days before your scheduled pickup," Beson said. "People don't do that. We've got more class than that as a city."

WHAT RESIDENT PROPOSES

Beson thinks the leaves should not be allowed to be swept into the streets until the weekend before the area's scheduled pickup week. The city divides the chore into three areas.

"Having clean streets is a public safety issue, plus we pay taxes for this program to operate properly," she said.

A 25-year resident of Northville, Beson said, "I understand people want to put their leaves in the street, but the city should have a plan to keep the streets clean."

Beson said the leaf pickup schedule is posted in the Northville Matters city newsletter that goes out to all residents, and that it's also posted on the city's Web site. So, people can't plead ignorance.

The Web site clearly states: To prevent drainage and possible flooding problems, please

do not rake leaves until the weekend prior to pickup.

"People get a notice if their sidewalks aren't cleared from snow," she said. "Why not the leaves, too?"

She's not necessarily in favor of imposing fines against residents who cover the sidewalk and street too early, just leaving a notice to the offending resident as a reminder.

"I feel it's the responsibility of the leaders of the community to do what they say they will do," Beson said.

People who don't want to wait until their scheduled pickup week, which ended the week of Dec. 7, or miss the pickup can place their leaves into proper compost bags or cans and leave them at the curb.

pfleming@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 260

How Has Your Holiday Season Been?

Probably alot better than the families that Northville Civic Concern helps out every week. These caring businesses have donated to and supported Northville Civic Concern. Some like Teten and Country Eyecare, Gardenviews and Northville Candle have even sponsored their own fundraisers to help Civic Concern. Please support them as well.

Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas

Happy Chanukah

Happy New Year

Happy Holidays

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11 PM Christmas Eve

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Snorkeling scouts: Northville troop takes to the water

Novi instructor volunteers time to teach youths

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

It may be cold outside, but recently, some Northville Boy Scouts were learning snorkeling at a local pool.

The program, which took place at the Hillside Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School, was part of one of the merit badges the boys earned in Troop 755 that meets at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street.

The snorkeling and swimming training was organized by Bill Phillips, assistant scoutmaster, Eagle Scout advisor and water safety instructor. Mike Poggione of Adventure Scuba and Snorkel Center in Novi volunteered his time to teach the scouts. Poggione also

provided equipment for the program.

The class also includes instruction in competitive swimming, with about 20 scouts involved between the two activities.

The same scouts came to the pool last spring, with many not even knowing how to swim. They developed their swimming skills further at camp over the summer, then learn more swimming and snorkeling skills in the fall. They also take a swim test while at Boy Scout camp.

"They learn all the basic strokes as well as water safety," Phillips said. "They learn how to use a life preserver and reaching techniques."

The boys receive a snorkeling patch and certification when they finish the class.

"It's kind of a neat class," Phillips said.

Poggione explained to the boys that if they had an air hose for scuba diving that it would go on the right side, and the snorkeling tube is on the left so the two don't get tangled up.

Keys to proper snorkeling is to spray a defogger in the

mask and make sure the air tube is clear before placing it in your mouth.

When using fins, your knees should be slightly bent with your arms either to your sides or out in front of you.

The scouts attend about three classes at the pool each year.

Ben Schonek, an Eagle

Scout, a state qualifier from the Northville Swim Team, teaches the competitive swimming class.

Andrew Slatin, 15, a Life Scout, didn't know how to swim before he took the class about a year and a half ago.

"Now, he's an instructor in the class," Phillips said.

The scouts learn about dan-

gers in the water such as hypothermia and hyperventilation.

The Northville Parks and Recreation staff also assists in the aquatics program.

"Scouting in this community is off the charts," Phillips said.

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PHOTO BY PAM FLEMING/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Mike Poggione of Adventure Scuba and Snorkel Center in Novi instructs Boy Scouts from Troop 755 in Northville at the Hillside Recreation Center Pool recently. Scouts pictured, from left, are Andrew Fultrone, Troy Stacer and Joey Nelson.

Movies at the Marquis

THE CLASSICS ARE BACK ON THE MARQUIS THEATRE'S BIG SCREEN.

All shows begin at 7:30pm, doors open at 6:45pm.

Date:	Movie:	Ticket Sponsor:	On-sale Date:
Jan 16	North by Northwest (1959)	Long Plumbing, Heating, Kitchen & Bath, 190 E. Main	Jan 2
Jan 23	My Fair Lady (1964)	Edwards Café & Caterer, 115 E. Main	Jan 9
Jan 30	The Thomas Crown Affair (1968)	Starring the Gallery, 118 W. Main	Jan 16
Feb 6	The Philadelphia Story (1940)	Orin Jewelers, 101 E. Main	Jan 23
Feb 13	Roman Holiday (1953)	Rifle's Homestyle Restaurant, 160 E. Main	Jan 30
Feb 20	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)	Wine Sync, 122 W. Main	Feb 6
Feb 27	That Touch of Mink (1962)	Alexander's Custom Clothiers, 124 W. Main	Feb 13
March 6	Charade (1963)	Sincerely Yours, Inc., 110 N. Center	Feb 20
March 13	Paris When It Sizzles (1964)	Sizzling Sticks, 144 Mary Alexander Ct.	Feb 27
March 20	Vertigo (1958)	Poole's Tavern, 157 E. Main	March 6
March 27	Easter Parade (1948)	Gardenviews, 202 W. Main	March 13

Tickets (\$3/ticket) are available for purchase exclusively at ticket-sponsor locations. The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all guests five years and older. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2010 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

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8:30 pm: Traditional Worship
"The Greatest Gift"
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Planning a New Year's celebration? Check back Dec. 24 for the "New Year's Resolutions and Party Planning" special page!

HOLIDAY & NEW YEAR'S TREATS

CHOCOLATE TOPS HOLIDAY COOKIE TRAYS

From bittersweet and semi-sweet to white and dark, chocolate is by far one of the most popular baking ingredients, and for good reason. These festive recipes from America's Dairy Farmers use several different types of chocolate. Look for a good-quality chocolate with a higher percentage of cocoa – it will deliver the best flavor and melt better.

Visit ButterIsBest.com for more baking tips and holiday cookie and candy recipes made with real butter. While there, sign up for the daily holiday cookie e-newsletter, "Better Baking with Butter," available to subscribers from Nov. 27 through Dec. 24.

Whisk eggs and sugar together in large saucepan until mixture thickens. Add butter slowly, whisking to blend. Gently mix in coconut and vanilla extract with wooden spoon. Sprinkle flour evenly over mixture and blend well.

Place pan over medium heat and cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick and dry, about 10 minutes. Transfer mixture to large bowl, cover and refrigerate until cool; 3 to 4 hours.

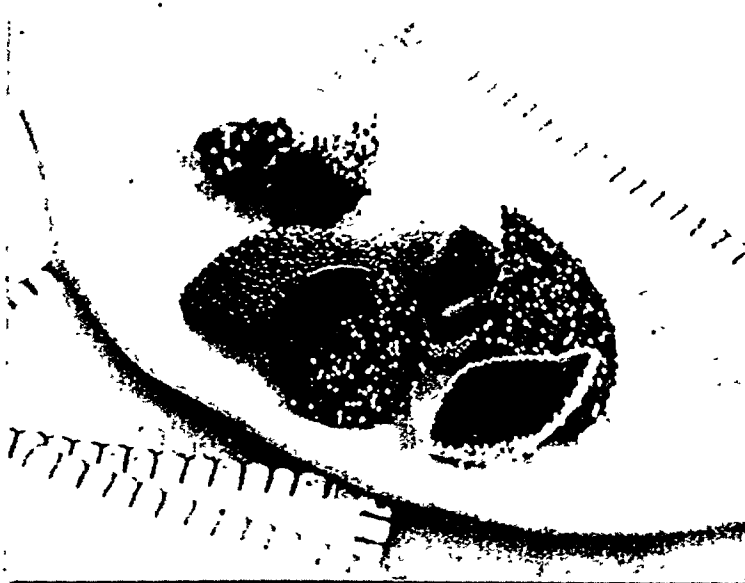
Preheat oven to 350°F. Shape about 2 tablespoons of dough into small "mountain" shapes and place on parchment-lined cookie sheets. Bake 18 to 22 minutes, rotating pans halfway through baking, until lightly browned. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Melt bittersweet chocolate in small saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Dip pointy ends of macaroons in chocolate, leaving small area around the bottom exposed. Place cookies on wax paper and let stand until chocolate is firm. Melt white chocolate over low heat in clean saucepan, stirring constantly. Dip top points of each cookie into white chocolate to add "snow cap." Allow white chocolate to set at least 3 hours. Store in airtight container in refrigerator for up to 3 days.

WINTERMINT WAFERS

Makes 3 dozen cookies

Chocolate Cookies
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1 cup confectioners' sugar
1 teaspoon peppermint extract
1/2 teaspoon salt



Wintermint Wafers

1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/2 cups flour

Chocolate Coating
1 pound semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
1 teaspoon peppermint extract

Cookies:

In large bowl, beat butter and confectioners' sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Stir in peppermint extract followed by salt and cocoa powder; mix. Add flour and mix to incorporate.

Divide dough in two pieces and place each on large sheet of plastic wrap. Flatten into 1/2-inch thick discs, wrap and refrigerate until firm enough to roll out, about 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove chilled dough, place disc between two sheets of parchment; roll out to 1/8-inch thick. Cut desired shapes and place on parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake 5 to 6 minutes. Remove

cookies from oven; cool on pan 3 to 4 minutes. Remove to wire rack to cool completely.

Coating:

Place chocolate in large microwave-safe dish. Microwave 30 seconds on high, stir and continue to microwave in 10- to 20-second intervals, stirring after each until chocolate is melted and smooth. Stir in peppermint extract.

To frost cookies, place one cookie on slotted spatula, carefully dip into the chocolate, coating completely; lift cookie out. Hold cookie on spatula, allowing excess chocolate to drip off. Place cookie onto wire cooling rack to let chocolate set. Repeat with remaining cookies.

Place coated cookies in freezer for 1 hour to set before storing or serving. Store cookies in airtight container for up to 1 week, or in freezer for up to 3 weeks.

— Courtesy of Family Features



CHAMPAGNE TOAST FIT FOR A FESTIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Champagne is as much a part of New Year's celebrations as countdowns and the ball dropping in Times Square. Those hosting a New Year's party this year might want to consider the following recipe for "Champagne Punch" from A.J. Rathbun's "Good Spirits" (Harvard Common Press).

CHAMPAGNE PUNCH

Serves 10

6 ounces freshly squeezed orange juice
4 ounces simple syrup (see below)
2 ounces freshly squeezed lime juice
2 ounces freshly squeezed lemon juice
6 ounces white rum
6 ounces dark rum
125 fluid ounce bottle of champagne
Orange, lime and lemon slice for garnish
Ice (in block form if possible; if not, large chunks)

1. Add the ice to a large punch bowl. If using chunks (as opposed to a large block of ice), fill the bowl just under halfway.
2. Add the orange juice, simple syrup, lime juice, and lemon juice. With a large spoon or ladle, stir 10 times.
3. Add the light and dark rums. Stir 10 more times.
4. Add the champagne, but not too quickly. Enjoy the moment. Add a goodly amount of orange, lime and lemon slices. Stir, but only once.
5. Ladle into punch glasses or festive goblets. Try to ensure that every guest gets a slice of fruit and a smile.

SIMPLE SYRUP

Makes 4 1/2 cups

2 1/2 cups water
3 cups sugar

1. Add the water and sugar to a medium-size saucepan. Stirring occasionally, bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat. Lower the heat a bit, keeping the mixture at a low boil for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

2. Turn off the heat; and let the syrup cool completely in the pan. Store in a clean, airtight container in the refrigerator.

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EDUCATION



New Cooke School principal Mary Meldrum shares a moment with student Ben Young on a recent Thursday afternoon. Meldrum has been principal of the 165 student school for special needs students since the beginning of the academic year. Cooke's students come from communities all over western Wayne County.

New Cooke School principal enjoying her 'special' job

She feels connection to students

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Mary Meldrum loves working with children with special needs.

And, she has for most of life.

Now she's the new supervisor and principal at Cooke School, one of two schools for special needs children in Northville. Joining the school district in late August, she succeeds Marilyn Bachorik, who retired at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

"We had a family friend growing up who had Down's syndrome, and I was one of her favorite people," Meldrum said. "She would come back from Special Olympics and want to give me all of her medals."

While she was in college, one of her young cousins was diagnosed with autism.

A native of Algonac, Mich., just south of Port Huron, Meldrum now lives in St. Clair Shores.

Her mother, Dolores, was a homemaker, and her father, Brian, is an electrician at an area hospital.

FINDING HER NICHE

Meldrum has a bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis on cognitive impairment from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in education from Wayne State University.

She also has an education specialist degree in school administration with a focus on principalship from Saginaw Valley State University and will complete her director and supervisor of special education approval certification this month.

"I was the first person in my immediate family to go to college," she said.

Meldrum went back and forth on what to do after high school.

"I wanted to be a teacher, and then I thought, 'No, maybe I'll be a physical therapist.' I observed a physical therapist and decided I didn't want to do that. I didn't like the fact that you had to kind of hurt people to help them. I also explored occupational and then speech therapy, but I came back to teaching."

A SUMMER AWAKENING

While at CMU, Meldrum worked at the Fowler Center in Mayville, a summer camp for children and adults with disabilities.

"Everything is barrier-free there," she said. "Wheelchairs can even go into the tree house. After working there, I realized that this is where my skills lie, and this is what I love to do."

She finds working with those with special needs rewarding because she can see she makes a difference in their lives.

"I've always been able to understand and form relationships quite quickly with our students, which is not always the easiest thing to do," Meldrum said. "This is something I was meant to do. You learn as many lessons from the students as you teach. They teach you what's important in life."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

She has nine years of experience as a special education teacher for moderately cognitively impaired and severely cognitively impaired students at the Macomb County Intermediate School District's Keith Bovenschen School in Warren.

She also brings leadership experience to the

ABOUT COOKE SCHOOL

Cooke School is one of two special education centers in Northville. The other is Old Village School. Both programs are staffed by Northville Public Schools' educators and funded through the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. Cooke serves about 165 students from 14 local school districts in Western Wayne County. The population includes students who are severely cognitively impaired, severely multiply impaired, and dual-diagnosed students who are both cognitively and emotionally impaired. Cooke students may attend school through age 25, when they transition to post-secondary programs and are connected with adult agencies.

Cooke position, having served as an administrative intern at Bovenschen and filling in as a substitute administrator.

Meldrum was named the Macomb County Parent Advisory Special Education Teacher of the Year in 2002 (only her second year as a teacher) and is a member of the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Executive Board.

She is a co-creator of the Bovenschen School New Teacher Mentor Group and served from 2007-2009 as facilitator for the Macomb County Cognitively Impaired Curriculum Committee and as a member of the Michigan Statewide Cognitively Impaired Curriculum Committee.

"Mary comes to Cooke with outstanding credentials as both a teacher and a leader," said Northville Director for Special Services Lynne Mossoian. "She is committed to working in partnership with teachers, staff, parents and students to create a school community where students feel safe, valued and successful."

"Everybody has been so welcoming, and I love Northville," Meldrum said.

She's been trying to get to know staff and students at Cooke as well as students' parents and have them get to know her with Mornings with Mary, which included 10 staff members at a time. She also had a brunch for Cooke students' parents.

Meldrum has applied for a grant for a program on positive behavior support, a new initiative. She is also focusing on the curriculum, especially literacy, since there are now state standards for special needs students.

"Our school also focuses a lot on what students will do after school, such as where they'll live and work," she said. "We have a transition coordinator that works a lot with the families."

FAMILY AND LEISURE INTERESTS

Meldrum is single and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She has a 5-year-old niece, Mackenzie, and a 4-year-old nephew, Logan, who belong to her brother, Brian, and his wife. Her brother, Kevin, is getting ready to enlist in the Army.

She likes to go dancing, shopping, walking, camping and canoeing.

"I'm excited to join the Cooke School community and look forward to learning and growing alongside our students, staff and families," Meldrum said. "I love working with young adults and watching them as they gain independence, develop their strengths and build the confidence and skills to become contributing members in their communities."

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Northville Foundation accepting applications for innovative grants

The Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) announced that it has approved and released \$8,500 for Innovative Grants for the 2009/2010 school year. The goal of these grants is to provide funding to support innovative educational opportunities to enhance learning for Northville Public School students. Northville Public Schools teachers and staff can apply for an Innovative Grant by completing an application and submitting it to NEF by Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Grants will be awarded through a competitive review process lead by an impartial

review panel. Grants will be evaluated for factors such as: (i) is the project innovative and/or does it offer a unique approach to learning or teaching; (ii) the degree to which the project improves student learning; (iii) does the project offer a specific relationship to state benchmarks in a curriculum content area or school improvement plan?

Successful applicants will be notified Feb. 16. All grants awarded must be completed by May 15.

NEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that attracts, manages and

distributes charitable gifts to provide educational opportunities that enhance Northville Public Schools' commitment to excellence.

If you are interested in learning more about Northville Educational Foundation please visit the NEF web page at www.northville.k12.mi.us/district/educational-foundation.asp. Additionally, you can contact Jan Purcell at (248) 344-8458, e-mail NEF@northvilleschools.org or mail Northville Educational Foundation, c/o Northville Public Schools, 501 W. Main, Room 310, Northville, MI 48167.



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Balancing act

The Dazzling Mills Family brought an entertaining show of juggling and unicycle riding to Northville's Old Village School on Nov. 18. Here Steve Mills helps student Ronny Wyatt learn how to balance a cone of newspaper on the palm of his hand.

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Red Wings and the red kettle

From left, Mike Babcock, head coach of the Detroit Red Wings; Maj. John Turner, The Salvation Army; and Ken Holland, executive vice president and general manager for the Red Wings at Hiller's Market in downtown Northville on the evening of Dec. 8. Holland is also The Salvation Army's honorary Red Kettle Chairman.



Detroit Red Wings player Jonathan Ericsson; Peggy Abraham, 18, of Northville; Kaitlyn MacDonald, 19, of Northville; and Red Wings player Ville Leino at Kroger in Northville Township on Dec. 8 when the two Detroit Red Wings teammates came out for a Salvation Army bell-ringing competition between Red Wings' coach Mike Babcock and vice president and general manager Ken Holland at the Northville Hiller's Market. The Hiller's Market bellringers won the competition.



Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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ORNELLA N. BALAGNA

Age 92, Dec. 10, 2009. Funeral held Dec. 15 at Holy Family Church, Novi. Donations in her memory can be made to Third Order of Mary Marist Mission 29 Isabella St. Boston, MA. 02116-5216. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

BARBARA J. BOEGLER

Age 83, December 6, 2009. Funeral was held on December 9, 2009. Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association. Leave an online sympathy message at www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

JACOB L. DURLING

Age 85, of Frankfort and Brighton, passed away, December 10, 2009. Jacob was born on March 5, 1924, in Royal Oak, son of the late Joseph and Bessie (Abbott) Durling. He served with honor during WWII as a pilot with the Army Air Force. Jacob retired from Ford Motor Co. in 1977 after 33 years of service. He was also very active in education with the Novi Schools. Jacob is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Alice; his loving children: Jay (Genette) Durling, Judy (Gary) Boyer; 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



JOSEPH V. HUVAR

Age 79, of South Lyon, passed away December 6, 2009 at his home. Joseph was born March 9, 1930, in Detroit to the late Joseph Anton and Mary Ann (Polach) Huvar. He studied at the Meinzinger Foundation Art School in Detroit and was a retired commercial artist for the Yellow pages. Joseph proudly served in the US Air Force, was a member of the Fine Arts Society, a member of Sokol Detroit, and was a Certified Dowsler. He enjoyed the outdoors, art, animals, and was a man about town. He will be dearly missed by his sister, Mary (Gino) Abaldo of Venice, Florida; his sons, Eric and Robert Huvar; and many friends and neighbors. A time of gathering will be held Saturday, December 19 from 1-3pm with a memorial service beginning at 3pm at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 59255 10 Mile, South Lyon. 248.446.1171

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The first seven "filled" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$3 per line. You may place a photo of your loved one for an additional cost of \$25. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flag, religious symbols, etc.).

Deadlines: Tuesday at 10am for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

DR. RALPH H. KUMMLER

Age 69, of Commerce Twp., passed away unexpectedly on December 7, 2009 at Sinai-Grace Hospital. Ralph was born on November 1, 1940 in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of Rudy and Trudy Kummeler. He is survived by Jean, his loving wife of forty-seven years, sons, Randy (Ann), Brad (Mackenzie), Jeff (Kim), grandchildren, Ryan, Krista, Brady, Camden and Brandon. He is also survived by his sisters, Judy (Jerry) Restaino and Barbara (Tony) Traficant. Dr. Kummeler is a Dean Emeritus from the College of Engineering at Wayne State University, where he has served for over thirty-nine years. A Funeral Service will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church, 12685 W. Highland Road, Hartland, on Friday, December 11, at 11AM. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, Wednesday 6-9PM, Thursday 3-9PM and after 10:30AM at the church on Friday. Memorials may be made in his name to the Ralph and Jean Scholarship Fund at Wayne State University, College of Engineering, 5050 Anthony Wayne Dr., Detroit, MI 48202. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit: www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

MARIE L. LAWRENCE

Age 95, Dec. 1, 2009. Funeral held Dec. 5. Donation in Marie's memory can be made to Wixom Friends of the Library or Harper Woods Friends of the Library. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

C. BRUCE McDONNELL

Age 88, Dec. 8, 2009. Funeral held Dec. 14 at St. James Catholic Church, Novi. Donations may be made to St. James Church or St. John Hospice. Online condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

ED NABOZNY

Age 83, December 9, 2009. Funeral held Saturday, December 12, 2009 at St. James Church, Novi. Donations may be made to Angela Hospice. View online condolences at www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

ROY L. PATTERSON

Age 75, of Highland, December 7, 2009. A Funeral Service was held at Lynch & Sons, Milford on December 10th, at 11AM. Memorials to the Highland Goodfellows or to Community Sharing. For further information please call 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

ROBERT J. PETERSON

A resident of Colonial Acres, South Lyon, MI, died peacefully after a short illness on December 9, 2009. Previously he had been a resident of Grosse Pointe City and a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church for fifty years. Until his retirement in 1987, Mr. Peterson headed his own Company marketing his patented item to specialty and department stores throughout the U.S. and abroad. A graduate of University of Detroit High School and the University, he was drafted into military service prior to Pearl Harbor. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Major after serving in Panama, C.Z., and as a Squadron Executive Officer with the 20th Air Force on Saipan, Marianas Islands. He was a member of the 73rd Bomb Wing Assoc., Senior Men's Club of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Boat Club, and life member of VFW (Bruce Post). He is survived by sons Robert (Jr.), Norman (Sherry), David and daughter Lois A. (Jeffrey) Konz. Also, 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and step daughter Mrs. Deborah Redd of Marietta, GA. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Evelyn Zimmer Peterson, his second wife Rose Ellen Roth Peterson, his brother Edwin J. and sister Margaret Lois Peterson. A Memorial Gathering will be held on December 23, Wednesday, from 4 - 7 p.m. with the memorial funeral service at 7 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street (Ten Mile), South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice or the Salvation Army. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

ROBERT RIVERS

Age 86, of Commerce Twp., December 9, 2009. Funeral from St. Mary's Catholic Church, Milford, on Friday, December 18th, at 11AM. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

PAUL R. STEVENS

Age 88, of Northville, passed away Dec. 13, 2009. Loving father of Karen Travers and Scott Stevens. A graveside service will be held Dec 21 at Noon in Rural Hill Cemetery. Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

HERBERT L. WARE

Age 93, of Northville, passed away December 11, 2009. He was born January 8, 1916 in Northville to Walter and Mabel (Spaulding) Ware. Herbert a graduate of Northville High School, lived his entire life on Novi Street; first in his childhood home, then moving a few blocks down to the home he raised his own children in. He was united in marriage to Madeline V. (Lemmon) Ware on August 21, 1935 and they were married 63 loving years until her death in 1999. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Northville for 61 years. Herb, a retired plumber, enjoyed fishing and hunting. He is survived by his children Douglas (Alice) Ware, Sandra (Larry) Snowgold, and Cynthia (Ed) Hammond; 6 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, his brother Irvin Ware, and his sisters Geraldine McKay and Maxine Onorato. A funeral service was held Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville. Pastor Jonathan Wilkes from the First Baptist Church officiated the service. Mr. Ware was laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to First Baptist Church, 217 N. Wing, Northville, MI 48167.

ELMER HOWARD WRISKA

Age 89, passed away Dec. 9, 2009. Funeral service held Dec. 12 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

Residents offer perspective

How Jewish holiday is celebrated

Editor's note: The following historical perspective on this week's Jewish holiday Chanukkah was written by Lynn Armbruster of Plymouth Township and Helen Murphy of Novi. Friends of Tim and Ellie Broe of Northville.

Chanukkah actually means dedication. Traditionally, it is known as the Festival of Lights because of the lighting of the nine-branch candelabra called a menorah or Hanukkah every night of the eight-day festival.

Chanukkah reminds us of a miracle that occurred during the second century B.C.E., not of oil or lights, but of how a small Jewish remnant overcame the powerful Syrian army.

People give gifts and gelt (money) to each other and especially to the children. There are special games played using the dreidel. It has four Hebrew letters on its sides that stand for "nes gadol haya sham," which means "a great miracle happened there." We say special Chanukkah prayers and sing Chanukkah songs.

A legend developed that there was only enough oil to light the temple for one day, and miraculously it lasted eight days. In actuality, the Jewish people celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

In 336 B.C.E., Alexander the Great became King of Macedonia and Greece. Although he was only 20 years old, the young king was

already a brilliant general. The Greeks soon ruled the near east, west Asia and north Africa.

In 198 B.C.E., Judea was conquered by the Syrian, Antiochus the Great and in 175 B.C.E. Antiochus Epiphanes ascended the throne of Syria. Instead of calling him "Epiphanes," the Jewish people nicknamed him "Epimanes" — the madman. So hungry was he for power, he claimed to be the manifestation of God. Some of them even suggested that the God of Israel and Zeus might be worshipped side by side. But faithful Jews would not exchange their belief in the true God of Torah for a foreign culture and heathen gods.

Infuriated that this small stubborn people should stand in his way, Antiochus became obsessed with the idea of converting the population of Judea into Zeus-worshipping Greeks. He marched into Jerusalem, defiled the temple and slaughtered hundreds of faithful Jews. He issued a decree that the temple be turned into a shrine of Zeus, and that sacrifices of non-kosher animals, like pigs, be offered on the altar to his god. He decreed that any Jew found observing Torah should be put to death.

Jews were forbidden to observe the Sabbath, to circumcise their sons, to study the scriptures. They were ordered to eat foods forbidden by Torah and to sacrifice upon heathen altars which sprang up in every town in Judea. The

officers of Antiochus brought torture and death. It was a tragic time for faithful Jews.

CHANGE BEGINS IN MODIN

Change began in the village of Modin, where Mattathias Maccabee lived with his five sons. When the king's officers came to Modin, they asked Mattathias to be the first to sacrifice to Zeus. His answer was "God forbid that we should forsake the law and ordinances. We will not hear from the king's words to go from our religion either to the right hand or the left."

Immediately after this daring declaration, he and his sons fled to the hills. Not long afterward, Mattathias died and his son, Judah Maccabee, Judah the Hammer, became the new leader of the revolt.

The men under Judah's command were no match for the well-trained forces of the Syrians, but they had courage and faith in the living God. Armed with faith and with a detailed knowledge of the country, Judah led his men in a series of brilliant guerrilla raids. After three years of fighting and four decisive battles, Judah and his army were able to clear Judea of Syrians.

They took possession of Jerusalem, cleansed the temple and rededicated it to the worship of the Lord God of Israel. What followed was the Feast of Dedication — Chanukkah.

Later, the Zealot party advocated war to liberate Israel from Rome, and they used the Maccabees as their inspiration of how a small group of Jews could defeat a much larger and better-equipped nation.

CELEBRATION

FROM PAGE A1

start of the Roman Empire."

Alexander the Great was a conqueror and ruler at the age of 20, Tim Broe said. When he died, he had no son, so his kingdom was divided between four generals. Israel was in the middle of two of the generals and was taken over by the Syrians, who worshipped Zeus. "They wanted whoever they conquered to worship Zeus as well," Tim Broe said. "But the Hebrews wouldn't stand for that. So the ruler of Israel made up his mind that he would persecute them and kill them if they didn't."

The temple in Israel at that time is important because it represented the presence of God. "It was God's foothold on earth," Tim Broe said. The temple was desecrated.

JEWS WERE MONOTHEISTIC

One of the things that distinguished the Jews from others at the time was that they were monotheistic, meaning they believed in only one God.

"All the other people believed in many gods," Murphy said. "This was a big deal. The Syrian general knew this, so he was trying to force the issue that he was God."

REDEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

So the celebration of Chanukkah is about the rededication of the temple after it was desecrated. "The Syrians went in and made sacrifices of pigs, which is considered an unclean animal in the Jewish religion," Murphy said. "It was unbelievably sacrilegious to do that. They took down sacred objects and put up symbols of their gods. They defiled the

POTATO LATKES

2 cups grated raw potatoes, packed
1 egg
1/2 cup flour
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
Vegetable oil for frying
Small onion, finely chopped
1/2 teaspoon pepper
Peel and grate potatoes. Sprinkle and mix with baking soda. Let stand for a few minutes. Squeeze liquid out of potatoes. Mix all ingredients together. Drop spoonfuls into the hot frying pan and flatten the latkes into oval shapes. When golden brown, turn over. When ready, dry on paper towel and serve immediately. Serve plain or with applesauce and sour cream.

most sacred place of the Jews."

THE HOLY OIL

Tim Broe explained that as the temple was getting rededicated, the Jews had to make the holy oil, which takes time to make, and they only had one day to make it, yet it burned for eight days. "That's the celebration of lights in regard to Chanukkah," he said.

"The big miracle is not really that the oil lasted eight days, but that this farmer, basically the Maccabees and his son, stood up to the Syrian army," he said. "A Jewish band of brothers fought off this huge army and began to win battles. That's the real miracle of Chanukkah."

They were beating this powerful, well-trained army in many battles, they recaptured Jerusalem and they began to

rededicate the temple. "And they rededicated themselves back to God," he said.

"The Chanukkah lights also represent the fact that Jesus is the past, present and future light of the world," Armbruster said.

More traditional Jews see Jesus as just a prophet and celebrate Chanukkah for just the miracle of the oil lasting eight days, Tim Broe said. "They also don't celebrate the rededication of the temple," he said.

A Jew that believes in Jesus is not a "converted" Jew, but a completed Jew, Tim Broe said.

As far as traditions, potato latkes or pancakes are served during Chanukkah, while children play with a toy called a dreidel.

"The dreidel has four Hebrew letters which stand for 'A great miracle happened there,'" Murphy said. "The miracle was that a few overcame many with God's help."

THE SERVANT CANDLE

"The biggest tradition for us is our rededication to Christ, and the center candle, which is white, is the servant candle on the menorah," Tim Broe said. "Christ came to us as a servant. I am here to do my father's will, and the white candle lights all the other candles (which are blue) and is a reflection of us on how we should serve others in having the light of Christ in us."

The Broes, Armbruster and Murphy all attend the Congregation Shema Yisrael, which meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church in Bloomfield Hills. For more information, go to www.shema.com.

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How to guard against Medicare fraud

Dear Savvy Senior

The television program "60 Minutes" recently did a disturbing segment on the problem of Medicare fraud, which has raised some questions for me. What are the steps Medicare recipients need to take if they suspect fraud, and what can be done to prevent it from happening?

Suspicious Charlie

Dear Charlie

Medicare fraud has been a big problem for many years, but because of the national health care debate going on right now it has gotten a lot more attention lately. Here's what you should know.

MEDICARE FRAUD

It's estimated that Medicare fraud cost taxpayers a staggering \$60 billion a year, making it one of the most profitable crimes in America. In a nut shell, Medicare fraud happens when Medicare is purposely billed by greedy doctors, shady health care providers or scam artists for services or supplies that were never provided or received. While there are many types of Medicare fraud, one of the most common schemes is phony billing for durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, orthopedic braces, oxygen generators, breathing machines, air mattresses and more.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The best way for you to spot

Medicare fraud is to review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSN) or your Explanation of Medicare Benefits (EOMB) whenever you get them. Be on the lookout for things like charges for medical services or equipment you didn't get, dates of services and charges that look unfamiliar, or if you were billed for the same thing twice. See Medicare.gov/basics/SummaryNotice.asp for help on reading your MSN.

If you do spot any unusual or questionable charges, your first step is to contact your doctor or health care provider. The charge may just be a simple billing error. If, however, you can't resolve the problem with the provider, your next step is to report the ques-

tionable charges to Medicare at 800-633-4227. And if you suspect fraud, contact the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Fraud hotline at 800-447-8477. It's also a good idea to report it to the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft hotline at 877-438-4338.

When you call, have the MSN or EOMB with the questionable charges handy because you'll need to give them: your Medicare card number; the physician, supplier, and/or facility name where the service was supposedly provided; the date the service was rendered; the payment amount approved and paid by Medicare; as well as the reason you think Medicare shouldn't have paid. And as an

incentive, if the suspicious activity you report turns out to be fraud, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice also offers a variety of tips to help you protect yourself from becoming a victim of Medicare fraud, including:

- Guard your Medicare and Social Security numbers. Treat them like you would treat your credit cards. If your Medicare card is lost or stolen, report it immediately to Social Security (800-772-1213) who will send you a replacement.

- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare number.

- Don't let anyone borrow or pay

to use your Medicare ID card.

- Walk away if people approach you in parking lots, shopping centers, or other public areas and offer free services, groceries, transportation, or other items in exchange for your Medicare number.

- Hang up the phone if someone calls you claiming to be conducting a health survey and asks for Medicare number.

- Don't give your information to telephone marketers who claim to be from Medicare or Social Security asking for payment over the phone or Internet.

Savvy Tips: Visit www.smpre-source.org or call 877-808-2468. Visit StopMedicareFraud.gov.

Send your senior questions to Savvy Senior, PO Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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Middle School Group

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(248) 685-3560 www.AboutSouthHill.com
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
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Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Children and Youth Groups Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
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11166 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48380
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bible Ministries 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages 7:00 p.m.

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238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
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248-348-9030

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(248) 349-1144
8 Mile & Taft Roads
Worship:
8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Steve Buck
www.fumcnorthville.org

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
40000 Six Mile Rd., Northville
248-374-7400
Sunday Worship:
Traditionist: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Contemporary 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Nursery & Sunday School during the 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. services
www.wardchurch.org
Service Broadcast Sunday 11 a.m.
WRETLAM 560, The WMAZ Word Station.

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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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
200 E. Main St. of Northville (248) 349-0911
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Children's Church Available at All Services
Youth League Prog. Wed. 6:15 to 7:15, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Stages Place Ministry - Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Karl Gisa, Senior Pastor
Rev. James P. Rostol, Associate Pastor
www.fpcnorthville.org

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- Missouri Synod
Our Savior Lutheran School - Pre-school thru 8th grade
11001 West Hill Rd. #111, Harland, MI 48129
(248) 887-1300
Sunday Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:00 a.m.
Christopher Thomas, Pastor • 248-887-1300
Web: www.our-savior.org

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Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod
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Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor • 349-0565

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46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Reverend George Charnley, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7778

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1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
www.fairthcommunity-novi.org
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21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mbcoc.org
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Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod) Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8810 • 486-4335 • Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church
22200 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon (at 1 Mile Road)
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Refuel Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
Youth at 6:30 p.m.
Rev. David Brown, Pastor
248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippep.org

The Church of Christ
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyoncc.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Rob Callicott, Pastor

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
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Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

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Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor
Rev. Henry Sands, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 349-8847 • www.holyfamilynovi.org

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty, Novi • Phone 427-1175
Sundays 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist • Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Ray Baben, Interim Rector
www.churchoftheholycross.com

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Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
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www.oakpointe.org

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Phone: 248-437-2983
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Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
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Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
Email: fbcsouthlyon@comcast.net

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10:30 a.m. - Morning Service
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9:30 AM - Eucharist with Contemporary Music
11:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music

Twin sisters sell their pasta at Great Harvest Bread Co.

Family business expands to western suburbs

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Diane Allan and Debbie Moran not only look alike but also think alike.

The identical twins, whose maiden name is Oliverio, say they finish each other's sentences, and the two are in business together, creating Italian specialties.

The business, known as Pasta e Pasta, is a family owned and operated home-made pasta and sauce business. Translated, it means "Pasta is just Pasta."

Recently, the duo took up shop in the back of the Great Harvest Bread Company on E. Main Street in downtown Northville.

The two (Allan lives in Northville; Moran resides in Ann Arbor) can be found at the bread store from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursdays.

Their line also includes gnocchi and ravioli, gift baskets, toasted pine nuts, dried cranberries and toasted walnuts. These nuts and berries can be used in pasta recipes. They have a few recipes available as well — some from the Oliverio twins and some from customers.

"We started selling at the Northville Farmer's Market in August and joined the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market in September," Moran said. "Now that the Northville market has ended for the season, Julie and David Cole from Great Harvest are allowing us to sell our products at their store during the winter. We thought it would complement the bread."

They are still selling their items at the Ann Arbor market on Wednesdays through December and on Saturdays year-round.

PASTA E PASTA RECIPES

Basic Sauce Suggestions:

Saute ½ cup of olive oil and 1-2 tablespoons of butter. If you'd like, you can add chicken stock or reduced white wine. Next, add any of the following: garlic, lemon, sun-dried tomatoes, marinated artichokes, fresh or marinated mushrooms, toasted pine nuts, onion, basil, peaches, pears, any fresh vegetables (zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, etc.) and any type of cheese (romano, gorgonzola, mozzarella, goat cheese).

Then, cook your favorite type of Pasta e Pasta noodles and simply add your favorite sauce from above. Recipe is for 12 ozs. of pasta.

Chicken-Bacon-

Goat Cheese Pasta:

Use the spinach or mixed Pasta e Pasta with this dish.

You will need one package of boneless/skinless chicken thighs or breasts, ¾ cup of olive oil, one clove of garlic, fresh thyme, two-three pieces of bacon, 3-4 tablespoons of goat cheese, one package of spinach or mixed blend pasta, freshly grated pecorino romano cheese.

Saute one package of the chicken; salt and pepper to taste with the garlic, olive oil and thyme. Cook bacon until crispy. Add cut-up bacon and fat from the bacon to the cut-up chicken. Mix in goat cheese.

For more recipes, e-mail Diane Allan and Debbie Moran at TheOliverioTwins@pasta-e-pasta.com or go to www.pasta-e-pasta.com.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE

The sisters sell five different types of pasta — egg, spinach, tomato basil, whole wheat and a mixed blend of all of them. They have two different kinds of ravioli — a spinach ricotta and a pumpkin. Two different kinds of gnocchi (which is like an Italian dumpling) are also available — potato and potato/spinach.

Finally, they sell two different kinds of sauce — a marinara and a blush.

"The blush sauce has just a touch of cream and cheeses added," Moran said.

Since the gnocchi, ravioli and sauces are fresh with no preservatives, they are sold frozen.

"If we put them in a jar we'd have to add acidic acid, and we don't want to do that," Moran said.

COUSIN STARTED COMPANY

The twins partnered with their cousin, Carlo De Angelis, who started the company in 1992. The factory is in Chesterfield on the east side of Metro Detroit, and several locations on the east side also sell the product.

"There are a lot of Italians on this side of town, too, so we decided to start selling in the western suburbs," Allan said.

Rodney Falsetti of Novi is a new regular customer of Pasta e Pasta products. Recently, he bought the wide egg noodles. "I use them with a chicken parmesan dish of mine, and they're really good."

The two plan to put together a cookbook soon with some of their delicious Italian recipes.

pfleming2@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011 ext. 260



JOHN HEIDER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Twin sisters Diane Allan, left, and Debbie Moran are selling Pasta e Pasta, which their family business manufactures, at Northville's Great Harvest Bread Co. on Thursdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tuscan Cafe owner purchases South Lyon's Gallery Cafe

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

If Will Hundley encounters the same acceptance he received after opening his first cafe in Northville, South Lyon will have another welcomed face in the downtown mix.

Hundley, 26, is the new owner of the Gallery Cafe at the corner of Lake and Lafayette. He purchased the business from well-known proprietors Lee Ann and Ed Tolinski and spent his first day behind the counter Dec. 1.

The Tolinskis owned the business for more than two years and Lee Ann said the sale happened quickly.

She said because of financial reasons the couple was forced to sell the business by the end of year. Lee Ann said as part of the business sale she and Ed were to give next-day possession of the cafe.

"When Ed and I went to work Monday we didn't know we wouldn't be going to work the next day," she said. "I didn't get to say goodbye."

"I'd like to say thank you to all of the people who have supported us for all these years."

The downtown coffee shop and lunch destination marks the second cafe for Hundley. He is the owner of Tuscan Cafe in downtown Northville.

Some of Tuscan Cafe's accolades in Northville include voted best coffee in Northville and best latte in the Metro Detroit area.

Another Northville favorite Hundley will bring to his new South Lyon location is a full offering of Zingerman's Deli of Ann Arbor products including breads, bagels and sandwiches.

"I think they will do really good here," Hundley said.

Along with Zingerman's Deli sandwiches, Hundley's lunch menu will feature fresh, made-to-order salads and soups. Hundley can also special order Zingerman's Deli products for customers.

The cafe will serve fresh cakes, pastries, scones and other assorted baked goods.

But what is the nearest to Hundley is coffee, and he says he is bringing the best to town.

The cafe will feature his personal line of coffees.

"We have really good roasters," he said. "We take pride in what they do."

Other hot beverages include teas and hot cocoas made with Ghirardelli chocolate.

And Hundley stresses, if it was your favorite before, you will still be able to receive your special drink under the new ownership.

Hundley said he wasn't aggressively looking to expand his business, but when he saw the location for sale and continued visiting, he knew this was the right spot for him. He feels the shop and the town is similar to what he is used to in Northville. Hundley said he loves the atmosphere, ambiance and looks forward to meeting the regulars.

"We had some fantastic regular customers," Lee Ann said. "We would have never made it as long as we did if it wasn't for them."

Hundley also hopes to capitalize on the vibrancy penetrating the downtown. Hundley plans on staying open until 9 p.m. weekly, offering another day-to-evening destination for area residents.

Hundley said he keeps his Northville location open even later, and hopes to develop the following and night-time des-



HAL GOULD STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Will Hundley is the new owner of the Gallery Cafe, at the corner of Lake and Lafayette in downtown South Lyon.

tinuation demand at the South Lyon location.

Hundley likes to call his cafe a good place to coffee-and-dine, rather than wine-and-dine a date.

Will and mother, Terri Hundley, will remain constant faces at both locations, something Northville patrons have become accustomed to.

"It's what I eat, sleep and breathe," he said.

Lee Ann said she wishes the new cafe owner well, and

stresses to the community to support local businesses.

She said she is thankful Will came forward, otherwise it would have been an empty storefront at the hub of the downtown. Lee Ann's wish now is for the downtown to thrive, but she said in order for this to happen, people have to support their local businesses. She said for many niche downtown businesses the South Lyon traffic isn't coming.

"Everybody thinks their

neighbor is coming," she said. "People don't understand the need to support our businesses."

Tolinski said she will continue to live in and support the South Lyon community, and she has high hopes for the Cafe's new owner.

"If anyone has a shot at keeping this place going, maybe it's him," Tolinski said.

vmitchell@gannett.com
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2009 CHRISTMAS
TOUR SCHEDULE

This year, the Center Stage Dancers performed at the following dates and locations:

Nov. 13: Oakmont of Northville
Nov. 14: Berkley Court in Livonia
Nov. 20: Northville Lighted Parade
Nov. 22: Bloomfield Nursing Center
Dec. 4: Novi Manor
Dec. 5: Brighton Gardens in Plymouth
Dec. 6: Alterra Wynwood in Northville
Dec. 11: Manor of Farmington in Farmington Hills
Dec. 12: Boford Hospital Stroke Clinic
Dec. 13: Grand Court of Novi
Dec. 15: Northville High School
Dec. 17: Methodist Home for Boys in Redford



Dancers from the Center Stage Dance Company in Northville Township performed Dec. 14 at the Grand Court Nursing Home in Novi. Pictured, from left, are Shayna Raspbury and twins Sydney and Skylar Purvis.

Northville's Center Stage Dancers spread holiday joy across area

Girls perform for audiences young, old

BY PAN FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Like sugar plum fairies, girls from the Center Stage Dance Company in Northville Township are spreading holiday joy again this year.

For the 18th year, dancers from the studio at 43334 W. Seven Mile Road have been performing a dance revue titled "The Nutty Nutcracker" at local nursing homes, hospitals, a parade, school and a home for juveniles.

"Center Stage Dance Company continues their annual tradition of touring to nursing homes, children's residences and senior centers during the holiday season," said Lisa Shapiro from the studio.

Their final performance will be this evening at the Methodist Home of Boys in Redford.

"Families bring a potluck dinner and share time, talent and great food with the boys and staff of this vital facility," Shapiro said. "As the studio's charity-of-choice, they will be the recipients of the dancers' fund-raising effort during the Northville's 2009 Victorian Festival with their Dancing for Dollars booth."

OFFERING THEIR TIME

The annual Christmas Tour is informal in its presentation as the primary goal is to spend time with the residents. Dancers wear simple (and inexpensive) costumes and sign up for the shows that best fit their busy family schedules. Parents and dancers assume the role of hosts at the different venues, giving maximum attention and priority to the people they are there to entertain and visit.

The Northville High School show was dedicated to the parents and families of the dancers.

"Our youngest stars, the preschool dancers, get a chance to perform in a casual environment and a jump start on the importance of sharing their talents with others," Shapiro said.

The tour is also an educational opportunity for several of the studio's high-school-age dancers. Choreography for many of the dances is done by high school students who work as apprentices in the classroom.

Pieces are presented in July to the full staff, who begins working with their students at the end of September. Additionally, the graduating senior class, along with senior faculty, act as emcees for each of the shows

"So much value is attached to this tour that was born in 1989, but its greatest benefit is the wonderful gift of time that is given to people who need it," Shapiro said.

'THE NUTTY NUTCRACKER'

The story of "The Nutcracker Suite" was first danced in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1892. The famous ballet, scored by Tchaikovsky, and choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov didn't become popular in the United States until George Balanchine presented his interpretation in 1954. Since then, many adaptations have been staged.

Center Stage Dance Co. debuted its version in 2007.

Titled "The Nutty Nutcracker," it is inspired, of course, by the traditional story, but the twist was the brainchild of Ericka Osswald, owner of Center Stage Dance Studio in New Bedford, Mass.

She shared her holiday show idea with an industry magazine writer and the Northville dance studio was one of the lucky recipients of her vision.

As in the original tale, the opening scene is the Christmas party where Clara is given a nutcracker doll by her Uncle Drosselmaier. Dancers get the audience in the party mood with "La Fiesta" and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

THE STORY'S FINALE

The party comes to an end, and Clara drifts off to sleep clutching her precious nutcracker doll. As in the original "Nutcracker" story, she begins to dream, and the Center Stage Dancers begin to dance to "You Gotta Get Up" and "Dreamgirls."

Deeply asleep, Clara dreams that her nutcracker doll comes to life as a prince.

In the Center Stage version, the bad guys are evil pirates (instead of rats). When they threaten to whisk her away, she tells them to watch out because her boyfriend is back. Center Stage Dance hip-hopers then jam to "Go Girlfriend," jazz dancers perform "My Boyfriend's Back," and ballerinas dance to "Pirates of the Caribbean." (The good guys win of course.) The audience then follows them on their trip to the Land of Snow and the Land of Sweets.

What a journey. But it's time for Clara to wake up and go home. Jazz dancers perform to "Who Says You Can't Go Home" by Bon Jovi!

"We have a tradition at Center Stage Dance Co. of closing all of our shows with our signature piece, 'Amazing Grace,'" Shapiro said.

For information about asking the Center Stage Dancers to perform for your nursing home, assisted living, hospital or institution, call (248) 380-1666.

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AID

FROM PAGE A1

is set for Dec. 20, with six more monthly state aid checks coming from January to June next year.

"If we were to receive the \$127 per student back into our budget, it would total almost \$1 million. But the governor only postponed a one-month reduction, and that may or may not make it through a state revenue meeting in Lansing next month," he said.

The district still has to contend with the significant impact of two earlier cuts that took place last fall. The initial state aid cut was \$165 per student, followed by the

20(j) funding cuts of \$365 per student. Those two reductions accounted for a \$3.4 million loss of state aid to the district.

But it was the governor's last-minute additional cut of \$127 per student that sent school districts into a fast tailspin. As state legislators fought over ways to restore the state's \$3 billion deficit last September, school districts experienced the biggest cuts in decades.

"That's why the governor's reprieve for one month is really not helping much right now, Rezmierski said. "Other than to make us wait one more month before we can move forward with our new budget while still having to deal with the two earlier

cuts."

John Street, director of business and finance for Northville schools, said the temporary relief from the governor sounds good, but there really isn't reason to jump up and shout because it won't have a significant effect on the district since it is only a temporary delay.

"We really don't plan on it becoming a reality. It's not an amount we can count on through an entire year, and

uncertainty is not something we can build into a budget," Street said.

Northville was one of the hardest hit districts in the state after last October's cuts, suffering an unexpected loss of \$4.3 million to its 2009-10 budget. The state's new budget slashed \$613 from each of Northville's 7,014 students.

With the dire budget cuts, the district held four Managing Our Future forums, with the final one

held this past Monday at Northville High School. The purpose was to present as much information to the community at large in those meetings about all the possible options the district can take to help overcome the state aid cuts.

Surveys were handed out to attending parents and staff asking which educational services and programs they most wanted to see kept intact. The survey can also be

completed online by visiting the district Web site. The survey deadline is Dec. 18.

Data from the surveys will be compiled and studied by the district office. The recommendations will be presented to the school board this coming January, and the board will begin the process of reviewing and voting on those recommendations.

Nathan Menoian is a free-lance writer living in Milford

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Northville Collision taking steps to 'go green'

Shop owner uses solar panels, different paints

BY PAM FLEWING
STAFF WRITER

Bob Ahern believes in going green, and we're not talking Christmas trees.

The Northville Collision owner has gone environmentally friendly recently, installed solar panels on the roof, converted to water-based paints for cleaner emissions and used motion-activated lights in his parts room.

With Michigan becoming the "Green Peninsula" and the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, going on through tomorrow, the Northville business is in step with the times.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Northville Collision, located at 700 Doheny Drive just east of the viaduct near the Chamber of Commerce office, will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

Ahern said he decided to make the investment in solar panels to lower his energy usage at the shop because, "I'm just kind of geared that way. I'm trying to do the right thing and protect the environment. I saw this as the right time to put the solar panels up."

He admitted that the payback time on the panels is a little steep, but he believes it's worth it in the long run.

"It will take a few years before I break even on what I spent on the panels and the money I'll save on energy costs," Ahern said. "But, eventually, I'll be generating a lot of power for free." He estimates he'll be able to save 15-20 percent of his power use.

PLANS TO ADD MORE

Ahern has 30-40 panels now and plans to add more within the next year on his roof. Currently, the panels provide about 5.5 kilowatts of power. He also purchased the panels from a Michigan company. This year, tax incentives on the purchase of the panels from the federal government and Detroit Edison, will also help Ahern when he files his taxes next year.

WATER-BASED PAINTS

Although paint manufacturers are working on the clear



PHOTOS BY JOANNE DEP STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob Ahern, owner of Northville Collision, recently expanded his solar power panels on the roof of his Doheny Dr. shop. Ahern's roof now sports panels capable of generating 5.5 kilowatts of electricity. On a recent sunny Saturday afternoon, the shop was generating more electricity than it needed and was able to "sell" it back to DTE. The setup cost a total of \$45,000, but with tax incentives, almost 60 percent will be deductible.

coats, currently, water-based paints are only available in colored paints in auto refinishing. The danger with regular vehicular paint are VOCs or volatile organic compounds, which are harmful to the environment.

"The fumes come off the paint while it's drying," Ahern said. "And, in auto refinishing, 80 percent of the VOCs are in the color coat, with only 20 percent in the clear coat. So, with the water-based paints, we're doing away with 80 percent of VOCs."

Ahern said paint companies will probably be able to offer all water-based paints within the next year or so.

IN-SHOP LIGHTING

Ahern didn't stop with the solar panels and paint. He's

WHAT'S THE CONFERENCE ABOUT?

In 2012, the Kyoto Protocol to prevent climate changes and global warming runs out. To keep the process in line, there is an urgent need for a new climate protocol. At the Dec. 7-18 conference in Copenhagen, parties of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) meet for the last time on a government level before the climate agreement needs to be renewed. Therefore, the Climate Conference in Copenhagen is essential for the world's climate, and the Danish government and UNFCCC are putting forth a hard effort to make the meeting a success. The goal is to end up with a Copenhagen Protocol to prevent global warming and climate changes. About 8000 people are expected in Copenhagen for the meeting.

also installed higher-efficiency lighting in his shop, using all compact florescent lights and installing lights with timers.

"When you walk into the parts room, the lights will turn on and then turn off in two minutes," he said. "We've gone all through the facility

and done this."

Local business owners who would like to talk to Ahern about some of his environmental measures can contact him at (248) 349-1090.

pflew@annett.com
(248) 437-2011 ext 260



In an effort to reduce his shop's impact on the environment, Northville Collision's Bob Ahern is now using water-based paints when re-painting cars' panels. Envirobase paints are made in the U.S.

Smile – you're probably on surveillance camera

Sometimes technology helps us and sometimes it hurts us. This is nowhere more apparent than in the proliferation of video clip sharing sites like YouTube. These sites show glimpses of us at our best and at our worst.



Jeff Livermore

It seems that everyone has a video camera or a video phone that gets pulled out when- ever something unusual happens. We are filmed at every major shopping mall and some entertainment venues.

Recently a clip was put up on YouTube about some fans behaving badly at a local sporting event. The fans appeared to be intoxicated and argumentative. Someone sitting near them at the event pulled out their camera and began filming once a disturbance broke out. Every bad word and gesture was caught on film and have now been viewed by thousands of people. The availability of cheap video cameras and ubiquitous cell phone cameras

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

combined with the ubiquitous presence of security cameras means that we are being filmed much more than we think. Consider how fast television news shows are able to show video shot at malls, arenas, and even wilderness areas. We need to be much more conscious of being filmed.

Perhaps the greatest increase in surveillance cameras has been the installation of traffic cameras at intersections. I work just over two miles from home but pass through four intersections that are under video surveillance. Each of these intersections has at least four cameras mounted overhead. If I take the back way out of my subdivision I still get filmed at least times. I have been trying to find a route to get more three miles from home without being photographed and I cannot do it. The number of cameras is just incredible.

The level of video surveillance in malls, banks, restaurants, and entertainment venues is also increasing. In many cases, the businesses

put a monitor in view of their customers to make them aware that they are being observed. Surveillance videos have been used to document crimes and perceived injustice. How many people watched the Rodney King video that framed a national debate. How many of us were moved by the video of a Chinese dissident standing down a tank in Tiananmen Square? Video footage is changing our world whether we are ready or not. Videos are changing how we teach college students. I use videos in some of my classes at Walsh. It is

very simple to include a link to a clip in my PowerPoint slides and there is a quick transition from lecture to viewing. A succinct and humorous video clip can bring a lesson to life in ways that I cannot as a lecturer.

Videos clips have many positive uses in our society. Many artists use YouTube to promote their work. I have browsed clips to determine if a song or CD is worth the money before I purchase it. When I was younger you had to be in front of your television at the specified time catch your favorite

show. Now you can watch almost any show at any time over the Internet. The same rule applies to watching videos that people submit to sites like YouTube. YouTube video clips can help keep families together. My niece posted a clip of my grand-nephew singing the "Wheels on the Bus go round and round" which helped our geographically dispersed family to connect. It was a great clip and a moment captured forever by a cell phone camera and shared. Constantly being on camera is changing our political landscape and our

sense of privacy. Cameras used to raise a sense of outrage but now very few of us even notice the addition of new cameras into our world. We are being watched more and more and might as well smile for the camera.

Jeffrey A. Livermore, PhD is an associate professor at Walsh College. He teaches in the BIT, Information Assurance, and Doctorate of Management in Executive Leadership programs and is currently researching the ethics of teaching information security. He can be reached at jlivermore@walshcollege.edu

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Submit. Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com, by fax to (248) 685-2892, or by mail to Church Events/ Northville- Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's news paper.

Church of the Holy Family

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holysf.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 7 p.m. Tuesday, 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
ADOPTIVE PARENT NETWORKING MEETING
Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month
Details: Free informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.

Crosspointe Meadows Church

Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org
Sunday Worship: 11:15 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.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship, 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments, 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship, 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
Tuesday Schedule: Tuesday 9:30-11:15 a.m.

Women of the Word Bible Study with child-care available for through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study
Wednesday Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast
Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tae Kwon Do
Women of the Word
Time/Date: 9:25-11:15 a.m.
Details: The W.O.W. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study welcomes you to their study of the Book of Exodus. There is a \$15 registration fee, which includes interdenominational study materials. Childcare will be available in the morning for children through age 5.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m.
Worship Service
ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

Faith Community Presbyterian

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit 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 Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church

Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptist-churchofnovi.org
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month.

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH EVENTS

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpres-nville.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Time: 9:30, 11 a.m.
WALKING IN THE PARK
Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. every Saturday
Location: Meet at the Visitor's Center of Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads)
Details: Group meets for lunch afterwards.
Contact: Sue (734) 459-0016
SINGLE PLACE MINISTRIES
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. social time; 7:45 p.m. opening; 8-9 p.m. program, every Thursday.
Details: Informative and entertaining programs of interest to singles; \$5 per person. Check Web site for details singleplace.org.

First United Methodist of Northville

A Stephen Ministry church
Location: 777 W. Eight Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or fumcnorthville.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Time: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Details: Rev. Dr. Steve Buck
Healing hour at 10:15 a.m.
HEALING SERVICE
Time/Date: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month
RADICAL JOY
Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. first and third Thursday of every month.
Details: All women seeking to strengthen their faith and connect with other women are invited to attend, irrespective of church affiliation. Crafters and Vendors are needed.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Location: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565
SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

Livonia Church of Christ

Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: For further information, please contact NSO Douglas K. Wells at (313) 964-6595.

Meadowbrook Congregational

Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Sermon: Having a Plan
Church School: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
MERRY WIDOWS LUNCHEON
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sundays
Christmas Eve Services
Time/Date: 6 p.m. family; 9 p.m. traditional candle lighting

Northville Christian Assembly

Location: 41355 Six Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-9030
SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9-10 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children
9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium
10:15 a.m. Contemporary service in worship center; children's super church on the second level (208/210)
TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY
8:45-10:30 a.m. (café)
WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT
7 p.m.: Adult elective classes; jr. and sr. high student ministries; children's programs (M-Pact Girls Club & Royal Rangers Boys Club) Nursery and Preschool Program on Sundays and Wednesdays Home of Northville Christian School (day care; preschool through eighth grade) - contact (248) 348-9031

Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life

Location: Novi
Contact: www.novijewishcenter.com e-mail: rabbi@novijewishcenter.com or call (248) 790-6075.

Novi United Methodist

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Time: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion

Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
PEACE VIGIL
Time/Date: Noon, first Sunday of every month
Location: In front of the church
Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
ADVENT SERVICE
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

Oak Pointe Church

Location: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
WORSHIP SERVICES
Time: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday
RENEW LIFE MINISTRIES
Time/Date: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday
Details: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning and change from a Christian perspective.
Contact: For more information or to register call (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org.
CHARMED INFLUENCE
Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Details: Studying the book "Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage".
Contact: Joy Ruby at joy@oakpointe.org or call the church.

Orchard Hills Baptist Church

Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
PRESCHOOL/KIDS CHOIR
Time/Date: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday
Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, ext. 221

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

Location: 770 Thayer, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olvnorthville.org
SATURDAY WORSHIP
Time: 5 p.m.
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Time: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

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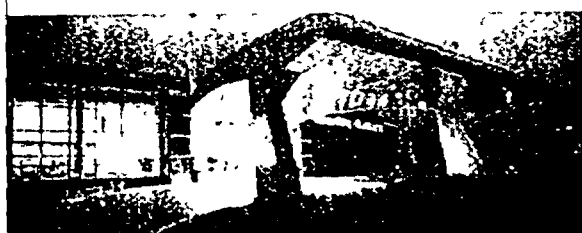


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Northville Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.
Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com, by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Northville Record, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Marquis Theatre

Location: 135 E. Main Street, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-8110 or visit our web site www.northvillmarquistheatre.com

"Pinocchio"

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 19-20, 26-27, Jan. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday Dec. 28-30
Details: The story of how a wooden puppet becomes a real boy. Tickets are \$8.50. Please no children under 3 years old. Group and reserved seating for 20 or more.

Guitarist Roy Scoutz

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
Location: Tizami Su, 146 Centermain Street, Northville
Contact: (248) 735-0101

Gardeners Of Northville & Novi Club Meeting

MEETING
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11
Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street
Details: Social time and garden lecture - "In Full Bloom: Flowers and Plants in Art." Guest will be Linda Well of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The public is welcome.
Contact: gardenersnorthville-novi.org or Renee (248) 231-2334

Early Learning Series

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m.
Location: Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main Street
Details: Information series for parents with children ages birth to 5 years returns with Nora Thompson, educational consultant, presenting "Considering the Importance of Children's Experiences in the World Outside: Jan. 19 - Practical Strategies for Talking with Young Children; and March 16 - What Comes Next? A Dialogue About School Readiness. Free child care for children 33 months and toilet trained (preregister).
Contact: (248) 344-8465

Northville Newcomers & Neighbors MEET & GREET

Time/Date: 10 a.m. first Tuesday of each month
Location: Member's homes or other venues
Details: All welcome to socialize, meet and greet friends and neighbors and learn about the activities Northville Newcomers has to offer.
Contact: Paula Lund at (734) 404-5120

Mill Race Historical Village

Location: 215 Griswold Ave., north of Main Street near Ford Field
Details: Office open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday-Friday. Village buildings open 1-4 p.m., Sundays, mid-June to mid-Oct.
Contact: (248) 348-1845
Weekly Events
 (*Grounds closed to public)
Thursday: 9 a.m. Archives Open; 7 p.m. Historical Society Board Meeting
Friday: 9 a.m. Archives Open
Saturday: 6 p.m. Private Party
Tuesday: Office Closed for Christmas until Jan. 4
Wednesday: Office Closed for Christmas; 6:45 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation Group

Solid Grounds Coffeehouse

Location: 133 W. Main St.
OPEN MIC NIGHT
Time/Date: 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday
ROGER PONDER & DELL SMITH (blues and folk singer/songwriters)
Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Thursday
CAROL SMALLWOOD (classical guitarist)
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon every Saturday
SINGLES MINGLE (socialize with local singles in a relaxing environment)
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month
Contact: (248) 348-9737

Northville Sports Den

Location: Northville Town Square, West Main Street
Contact: (248) 347-5993 or www.northvillesportsden.com
MY TRIVA LIVE
TIME: 7:30 p.m. Mondays
OPEN MIC WITH GREG STRYKER
TIME: 9 p.m. Tuesdays
KARAOKE WITH CHIP
TIME: 9 p.m. Wednesdays
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
TIME: 10 p.m. Saturdays
CHURCH PROGRAM
TIME: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Details: 10 percent of your bill back to your church with proof of church's program

The Art House

Open 1-5 p.m. every Thursday-Sunday; 1-9 p.m. on "First Fridays" of the month.

Location: 215 Cady St.

Details: Admission to Art House shows is always free and open to the public.
Contact: Northville Art House (248) 344-0497 or northvillearts.org

PRESCHOOL CLASS

Time/Date: 1:30-2:30 p.m., Fridays
Details: Wear grubbies, as these classes can be messy! Preschool Art Exploration (Experiment with Mixed Media) Age: 3-5 yrs Fascinated by shiny, sticky & gooey stuff? The joy of creative thinking & self-expression are brought to life using paper, paint, clay and glue. Together, construct projects that develop fine motor skills & enhance creative development. Materials fee of \$6 payable to instructor. Instructor: Christine Laginess. \$33/\$43 per session
LEARN TO DRAW
Time/Date: 1:30-2:30 p.m., Saturdays
Details: Drawing and Illustration. Ages 5-9 years. Bring a favorite toy and learn how to draw! Or a still life of fun objects will be set up for the students. Learn to draw from life objects. Look past what an object seems to be and instead see the myriad of shapes and color that comprise our visible world. Students will develop illustration techniques: line drawing, shading, stippling and use various materials in their exploration of this fundamental artist skills. Supply list will be provided to the student. Also a great class for home-schoolers. Instructor: Dawn Johnson \$50/\$60 per session
CREATIVE KIDS
Time/Date: 10-11:30 a.m., Second Saturdays
Details: The joy of creative thinking and self-expression are brought to life in this class. Art activities including drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media will be offered in conjunction with the current professional exhibits on display in the Art House Gallery. Instructor: Staff Age: 5-10 years \$18/\$20 per date.

POTENTIAL POTTERS

Time/Date: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Saturdays
Details: Invent new shapes while exploring hand building techniques using clay. Encourage small motor development and hand-eye coordination, creating and molding animals, figures, cups or boxes with stoneware. All work will be glazed and fired using food safe materials. Materials fee of \$10 payable to instructor. Instructor: Christine Laginess Age: 4-7 years \$40/\$50 per session
INTERMEDIATE SCULPTURE
Time/Date: 11-12:30 p.m., Saturdays

Details: Expand knowledge of ceramics as you explore sculpting techniques and begin to use a potter's wheel! Express yourself creatively as you make action figures, wild, wacky or realistic animals; or caricatures of yourself or friends in clay! These are just a few of the possibilities you can create as you stretch your imagination with ceramic stoneware. Your creations will be finished using clay slips and fired, using food safe glazes. Materials fee of \$10 payable to instructor. Instructor: Christine Laginess, Age: 8-13 years, \$50/\$60 per session
YOU CAN PAINT WITH WATERCOLORS!
Time/Date: 4-5:30 p.m., Thursdays
Details: Learn balance, composition, color and value as you experiment with watercolor to create original pieces of art on a small scale. No prior drawing or painting skills are necessary! Material fee of \$2 per session, payable to instructor. Instructor: Julie Woodard, an accomplished artist. Age: 10-15 yrs \$18/\$20 per class

DRAWING AND ILLUSTRATION FOR BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE
Time/Date: 4-5:30 p.m., Mondays or 3-4:30 p.m., Saturdays
Details: Look past what an object seems to be and instead see the myriad of shapes and color that comprise our visible world. Students will develop illustration techniques: line drawing, shading,

stippling and use various materials in their exploration of this fundamental artist skill. Supply list will be provided to the student. Also a great class for home-schoolers. Instructor: Dawn Johnson Age 10-15 yrs

CLASSES FOR THE FAMILY EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS IN YOUR ART

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m., Sundays
Details: Learn to let go of preconceived notions and embrace serendipity, exploring a whole new visual world! This class will explore the use of alternative materials in art, applying both non-traditional media and traditional media in non-traditional ways. You will experience drawing a live model in addition to a still life setting as we loosen up and have fun with new approaches to creating art! This class is for anyone from middle school to old school. All supplies provided. Material fee of \$15 payable to instructor. Instructor: Award winning artist, Jeff Cancelosi, Age: 12 and up \$66/\$72 per session.

ADULT SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fridays
Details: This beginner and intermediate class will teach the basics of ceramic sculpture. Students will be able to work on a subject that interests them... face, figure, or animal. All sculpture will be finished with oxides or slips and fired in a kiln. Please bring several photos or ideas to the first class. \$15 Material fee per session, payable to instructor. Instructor: Christine Laginess \$98/108 per session

Maybury State Park

Location: Eight Mile Road (between Beck and Napier roads) State Park
 motor vehicle permit required for park entry; \$6 daily, \$24 annually (\$6 annually for seniors 65 and older.)
Contact: (248) 349-8390, Friends of Maybury (248) 349-3858 or FriendsOfMaybury.org.

Genitt's Little Theater

Location: 108 E. Main St.
Contact: Call for reservations (248) 349-0522 or genitts.com
ACTING WORKSHOPS
DATE: We will open any date for 10 or more.

REGIONAL EVENTS

BaseLine Folk Society Open Mic

Location: JWH Center for the Arts/ Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Time/Date: Saturday, Dec. 19
 Performance begins at 7 p.m.; open mic sign-up from 6:15-6:45 p.m. Open mic evenings are every third Saturday of the month through May 2010
Details: Acoustical folk music with open mic for up to eight performers. Admission is \$5. Memberships are \$25 for individuals; \$50 for families; good for the entire Sept.-May season.
Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, BaseLine Folk Society, at (248) 347-6881 or mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Woodrusters Ballroom Dance Club

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m. lessons, 8:30-11:30 p.m. dance every Saturday
Location: Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington roads, Livonia
Details: Lessons are \$6, dance with live music is \$6, cost for both is \$10.
Contact: Joe Castrodale (248) 968-5197

Rock Financial Showplace

Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 348-5600
29th Annual Cycle World International Motorcycle Show
Time/Date: noon-9 p.m. Jan. 1; 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 2; and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 3
Contact: 800-331-5706
Ultimate Fishing Show
Time/Date: 2-9:30 p.m. Jan. 7; noon-9:30 a.m. Jan. 8; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Jan. 9; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 10

Christmas, Cocoa, Cookies & Comedy Snack Theatre

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 19-22 and 27-30
Location: Historic Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road (about two miles east of U.S. 23)
Details: The Phoenix Players Phire Phires' presentation is fun for the whole family, a great way to entertain kids while they're on school break. Tickets are \$8 for adults; \$5 for children; includes seat, show and snacks.
Contact: 810-588-3662 for reservations (only 50 seats available per show).



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chocolate extravaganza

Above, Ettie Ann Hirth helps to give out samples of Kathy Sugiyama's chocolates during the Dec. 8 Chocolate Extravaganza at the Northville Community Senior Center. At left, Kathy Sugiyama presented a chocolate extravaganza for about forty attendees. Sugiyama had samples of the chocolates and truffles that she makes for her business and also demonstrated how some of the creations were put together - like this chocolate tool and haircare set.



GRANT

FROM PAGE A1

Main Street would complete the project before the 2011 Victorian Festival in September.

A construction schedule is being proposed that would have the least impact on downtown businesses. Plus, the sidewalk improvements on Main Street would coincide with street improvements planned by the Department of Public Works.

"It was JJR's recommendation to stay out of the downtown area in 2010 (as far as the construction project)," said Greg Presley, DDA chair. (JJR is the Ann Arbor landscape architecture firm designing the project.)

If the federal grant money is awarded, the State Historic Preservation Office would be involved in the project, since the federal dollars are distributed by the state.

MORE PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED

One of the issues with the Mary Alexander Court changes is that seven parking spaces will be lost. Allison Long of Long Plumbing said she has talked to a few of the businesses along Mary Alexander Court that are not pleased about the thought of losing these spaces.

"Bill Abbott, the chiropractor whose office is on the court, said some of his patients have

physical limitations that require them to park close to his office, and the restaurants needs those spaces for those picking up carry out orders," she said.

Carolann Ayers, DDA board member, said a lot of people don't realize that Mary Alexander Court is part of the project.

Sullivan said he thinks business owners on Mary Alexander Court need to be invited to a meeting about the project. Construction documents on the court won't be ready until February, so there is plenty of time for public input, Ward said.

The court improvements would take four to five weeks, according to Ward.

The Northville Central Business Association does not meet in December, but Ward said some discussions about the Mary Alexander Court project have taken place with NCBA leadership. David Cole of Great Harvest Bread Co. is the current president.

Sullivan said if the federal reimbursement grant is awarded to the city, that would mean that MDOT officials have to look at the plan and have an inspector on site.

"It will add some red tape, but it will be well worth it," he said. "If we get a \$685,000 on a \$2 million project, that will be fantastic."

pfieming@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 260

Plank's Classical Ballet Academy
 & Sports Conditioning

Artistic Director: Jamie Marie Plank

Open House Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009
1:00pm-5:00pm

Pre-School Through Adult
 Private Instruction Available

Classes offered in Russian (Vaganova) Technique
 Pointe, Variations, Character and Pilates
 Adult Classes offered in Ballet & Pilates

Skaters class available:
 This class is specifically designed to enhance the ice skater through the discipline of ballet, conditioning and stretch

Walk-ins Welcome
 Open during the holiday, please call for dates and times.

45285 Grand River Ave., Novi, Michigan 48375
 (248) 305-7272 E-mail: pcba@mac.com
 Corner of Taft & Grand River Ave., located behind Michigan Chandelier

Listings: Etc. includes Meetings; Senior Events; Library Lines; Parks and Rec; Volunteering; Support Groups; Clubs and Groups; and Health Events. Please visit our Web site (hometownlife.com) to view the complete listing.

Submit. Send item submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Northville Record, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Tuesday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

MEETINGS

Northville Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: Second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Old Village School

City of Northville

CITY COUNCIL

Date: First and third Monday of the month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall, 215 W. Main St.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

Date: Third Tuesday of each month

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: City Hall Meeting Room A, on lower level, 215 W. Main St.

Contact: downtownnorthville.com

PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: First and third Tuesday of month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall

HOUSING COMMISSION

Date: Second Wednesday of every month

Time: 3 p.m.

Location: Allen Terrace, 401 High St.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Date: Third Wednesday of month

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: City Hall

ARTS COMMISSION

Date: Second Wednesday of every month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Art House, 215 W. Cady St.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Date: First Monday of every month

Time: 8 a.m.

Details: Individuals and organizations invited to attend.

Location: Northville City Hall, Meeting Room B

Northville Township

PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: Last Tuesday of month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Township Hall, 44405 West Six Mile

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date: Third Thursday of month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Township Hall

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Date: Third Wednesday of month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Township Hall

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Date: Third Monday of month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Township Hall

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

Date: Second Tuesday of every month

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile Road

Contact: Sue Campbell (248) 344-1618

SENIOR EVENTS

Senior Community Center

Location: 303 W. Main St.

Contact: (248) 349-4140

THURSDAY

8 a.m.: Walking Club

9 a.m. TOPS; Massage by appt.

10 a.m.: Yoga

11 a.m.: Cribbage

Noon: Walking Club

12:30 p.m.: Pinochle

FRIDAY

8 a.m.: Walking Club

11 a.m.: Poker

11:30 a.m.: Walking Club

Noon: Walking Club

1 p.m.: Movie

MONDAY

8 a.m.: Walking Club

9:30 a.m.: Mah Jongg

10 a.m.: Beginning Line Dance; Oxyse

11 a.m.: Adv. Line Dance

Noon: Walking Club

12:30 p.m.: Pinochle/Euchre

7:15 p.m.: Tai Chi

TUESDAY

8 a.m.: Walking Club

10:30 a.m.: Yoga

11:30 a.m.: Walking Club

Noon: Walking Club

12:30 p.m.: Pinochle

WEDNESDAY

8 a.m.: Walking Club

9 a.m.: Foot Reflexology by appt.

10 a.m.: Oxyse

11 a.m.: Strength Training

11:30 a.m.: Walking Club

Noon: Bridge; Walking Club

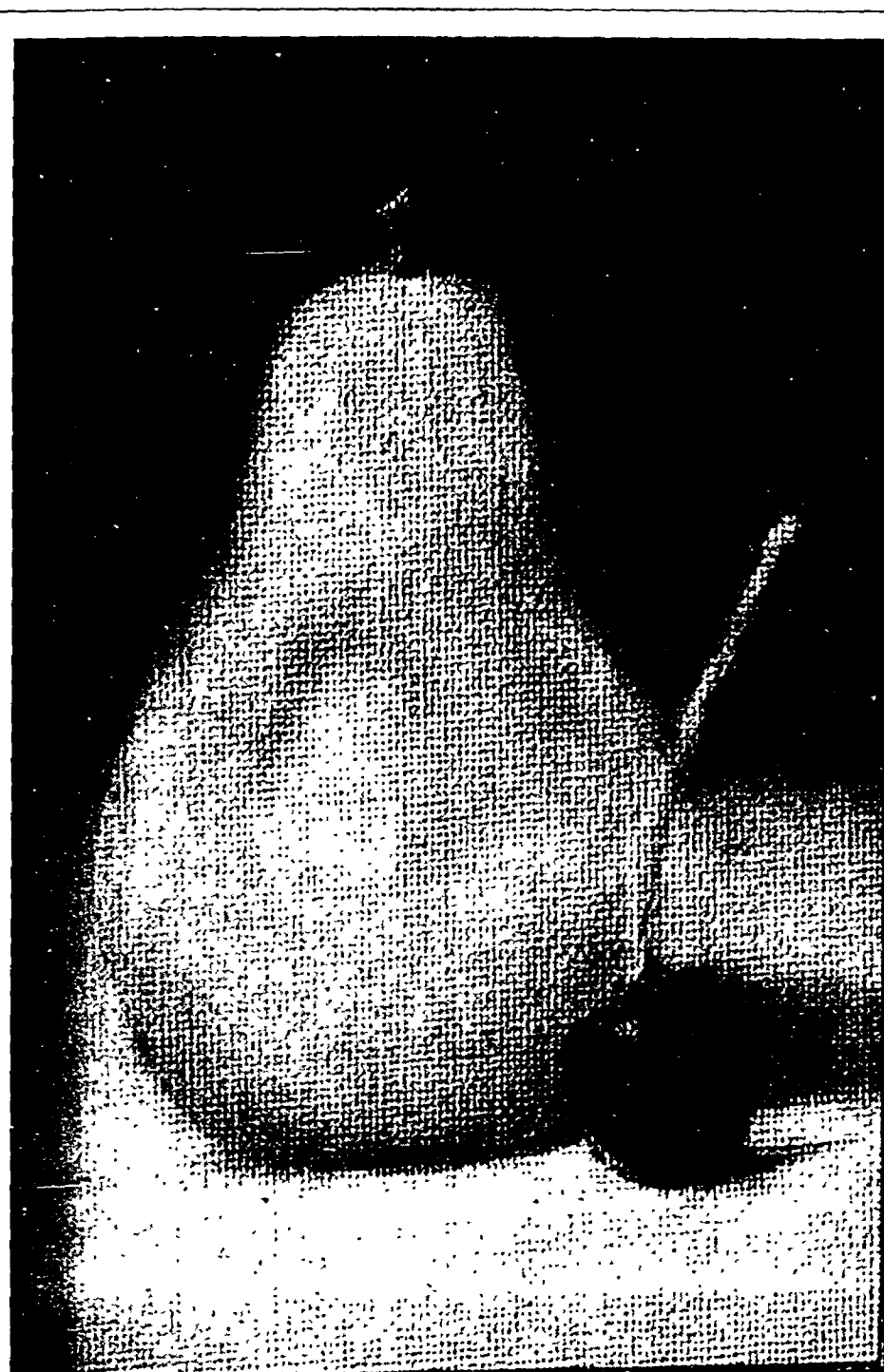
1 p.m.: Cribbage

7 p.m.: Bridge

CO-ED ADULT 50+ OPEN VOLLEYBALL

TIME/DAYS: 10 a.m.-noon Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside



"CHERRY/PEAR" OIL BY AMY FELL BURFORD

Favorite Things

The Muses -- a group of artists from Novi, Northville, Huntington Woods, Ann Arbor and South Lyon -- gather each Tuesday to do life drawings/paintings using a variety of mediums. Their current show, Favorite Things, at Picasso's Cafe, reflects a variety of subjects, still life, landscape and figurative. Picasso's is located at 39915 Grand River Avenue in Novi. Hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. The exhibit runs through Jan. 30. Phone (248) 982-7041 for more information.

Details: All levels of play welcome; bring your friends;

\$1.

Contact: Northville Parks and Recreation (248) 449-9947

ADULT 50+ FUN CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. every Tuesday

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside

Details: Games scored to 15 points with creative team

rotation; \$1 per session; all skill levels welcome.

Contact: Northville Parks and Recreation (248) 449-9947

CO-ED ADULT 50+ OPEN BASKETBALL

TIME/DAY: 10 a.m.-noon each Thursday

Location: Senior Community Center

Details: All levels of play welcome; bring your friends;

\$1.

Contact: Northville Parks and Recreation (248) 449-9947

HEALTH WALKING

Date: Monday-Friday

Time: 8-10 a.m.

Location: Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

PILATES CLASS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. each Tuesday

BUNCO

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month

Details: Call Senior Community Center 24 hours in

advance to register; \$1 per person.

FRIDAY FLICKS

Time: 1 p.m. every Friday

Details: Cost is \$1.

LIBRARY LINES

Northville District Library

Location: 212 W. Cady St., near Northville City Hall

Time/Day: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5

p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Contact: (248) 349-3020 or northvillelibrary.org for

information regarding programs and library materials.

Teens! Winter Library Arcade

Time/Date: Saturday, Dec. 19 from noon-2 p.m.

Details: Teens, grades 6-12, warm up your gaming

skills at the Library Arcade. Rock Band on XBOX

360 and Super Smash Brothers and Mario Kart on

the Wii.

Bring your own handheld games to play. Please call

to register.

Foreign Films

Time/Date: Monday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Details: Enjoy "The Harmonists", a German film with

English subtitles. A musical drama based on the true

story of a comedic barbershop sextet, who are a

sensation in pre-World War II Germany. Their fortunes

changes after Hitler comes to power.

Winter Break Movies & Munchies for Kids

Time/Date: Tuesday, Dec. 29 at noon

Details: Looking for something fun to do during school

winter break? Bring your lunch to the library and enjoy

a movie! Snacks and beverages provided. All ages wel-

come, children ages 4 and younger must attend with

caregiver. No registration needed. Due to space limita-

tions, we cannot accommodate daycare, preschool or

after school care groups. Feature presentation: "Hotel

for Dogs". Dreamworks. Rated: PG. Running time: 100

mins.

Little Me Storytime

Time/Date: Friday, Dec. 18 from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Details: Little ones, from 10 months to 2 years, along

with parents and caregivers enjoy music, simple stories

and playtime with Miss Dorie. No registration needed.

Winter Storytimes

Time/Date: Varied

Details: For details about winter storytimes, please

visit www.northvillelibrary.org or call the library at 248-

349-3020. Registration for certain storytimes begins in

January.

PARKS AND REC

Northville Parks and Recreation

Location: 775 N. Center St. (back entrance of Hillside

Middle School)

Contact: For registration and information on camps,

classes and activities call (248) 349-0203 or visit northvilleparksandrec.org

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

DATE/Time: 7 p.m. second Wednesday, every other

month beginning in Jan.

Location: Northville Township Hall, 44405 W. Six Mile

Road

OPEN FAMILY BASKETBALL

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. every Sunday Sept.-April

Location: Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Details: \$2 Per person

OPEN 40+ BASKETBALL

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. every Wednesday

Location: Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Details: \$3 Per person

OPEN ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. every Thursday

9 a.m. noon every Saturday Sept.-April

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside

Details: \$4 Per person

OPEN BADMINTON

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside

Details: \$9 Per person, includes birds. Competitive style

Badminton, all skill levels welcome, 8 Courts

OPEN PICKLEBALL

Time/Date: noon every Monday; 6-8 p.m. every

Saturday

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside

Details: \$3 Per person Monday

\$4 Per person Saturday

OPEN TABLE TENNIS

Time/Date: Noon-4 p.m. every Saturday

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside

Details: \$5 Per person, 8 tables available. All skill levels

welcome

OPEN CO-ED 50+ VOLLEYBALL

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon every Mon, Wed, Fri

Location: Recreation Center at Hillside

Details: \$1 Per person, all skill levels welcome. Bring

your friends

OPEN 50+ PICKLEBALL

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. every Monday

Location: Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Details: \$2 Per person, Paddles and balls available

Contact: (248) 449-9947 for more info on all above

open activities.

VOLUNTEERING

ARBOR HOSPICE

Details: Seeking compassionate, caring individuals to join our Volunteer Team in support of patients and families by holding a hand, sharing a story, or creating a special moment. Take the first step in this life-affirming experience by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator.

Contact: (248) 348-4980 or mgrysko@arborhospice.org.

Friends of the Northville District Library

Details: There are openings for our Board of Directors.

The Friends are volunteers who promote reading, sup-

port programs in the library and financially support

projects not covered by the library's budget. Board

members attend a monthly meeting and serve on a

committee. If interested, send a letter to Paul Snyder,

president of the Friends, c/o Northville District Library,

212 W. Cady St., Northville, 48167.

Heartland Hospice Volunteers Needed

Time: Day and evening training classes

Location: 28588 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 475,



PHOTO BY PAW FLEMING FOR THE NORTHVILLE RECORD

On the run

The annual Jingle Bell Run on the chilly morning of Dec. 5 drew a large crowd of runners and walkers in downtown Northville. Proceeds from the event went toward arthritis research. For results, go to www.JingleBellRun.com.

Anxiety Disorder Support Group

TIME/DAY: 7:30 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia

Details: Aim for Recovery offers support and recovery for those suffering with anxiety disorders and their families. Meetings consist of planned behavioral lessons and discussions. Educational material will be available. Donations for the program and materials are accepted.

Contact: Robert Diedrich at robtddrich@msn.com

Crohn's and Colitis Support Group

Date: First and third Wednesday of each month
Time: 7-9 p.m.

Location: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
Details: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.

Contact: Al Biggs (313) 805-7605 or Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of A.M.E.R.I.C.A. (888) 737-2322.

Food Addicts Anonymous Information Session

Details: Twelve-step program for individuals suffering from food obsession, over eating, under eating, and bulimia; weekly meetings held in Canton, Ann Arbor and other metro Detroit areas; no dues, fees or weigh-ins; everyone welcome including those who think they have food problems or are concerned about someone who may.

Contact: (734) 913-9614 or foodaddicts.org

New Hope Center for Grief Support

Details: The groups meet on a regular basis in various locations. All services for offered at no cost.

Contact: (248) 348-0115 or go to <http://newhopecenter.net>

CIRCLES OF HOPE

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month

Location: First Church of the Nazarene 21260 Haggerty Road, Northville

Details: Ongoing support group for widows and widowers; group divides into three sections depending on stage of grief; meets same time as children's support group

NEW HOPE FOR KIDZ AND TEENS SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month

Details: Meets at the same time and location as adult group; for children ages 3-18 who have lost a loved one; kids divided into different age groups.

STARTING AGAIN

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday of each month

Location: Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road

Details: Ongoing support group for widows and widowers who are facing the empty nest, either still working or recently retired.

WAYFARERS

Time/Date: 2-3 p.m. second Wednesday of each month

Location: Ward Presbyterian Church, Room A107

Details: For semi-retired or retired widows and widowers.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Time/Date: Noon third Wednesday of each month

Details: This is a monthly lunch group for widows and widowers; locations vary, call Ed Drost at (734) 261-8045 for more information.

PARENTS OF HOPE

Details: Small groups for parents who have lost a child are offered at some of our From Grief to New Hope workshops. Monthly support groups are also offered at the following times and locations:

LIVINGSTON COUNTY PARENTS OF HOPE

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month

Location: Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, 9455 Hilton Road, Brighton

OAKLAND COUNTY PARENTS OF HOPE

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Location: Orchard Lake Community Church, 5171 Commerce Road, Orchard Lake

From Grief to New Hope

Time/Date: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays nights

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty Road, Northville

Details: New Hope Center for Grief Support will be offering an eight week grief workshop. This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Cathy Clough, director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a presentation about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Attendees will be placed in groups with others who have had similar losses. The workshop will meet for eight consecutive Tuesday nights.

Contact: For registration information call the church at (248) 626-3620. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call (248) 348-0115.

Time/Date: 7-8:45 p.m. Mondays

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church located at 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church is sponsoring a free, eight-week grief workshop, open to the community and presented by John O'Shaughnessy from New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a talk about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Each person will be placed in a group with others who have had similar losses.

Contact: (734) 453-0326 x 221.

Psychotherapy and Counseling Services, Northville Counseling Center

ANXIETY/AGORAPHOBIA/PANIC ATTACK SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: Second Wednesday of each month

Details: Call (734) 420-8175 for more information

CO-DEPENDENCY CLASS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. every Tuesday

Details: The focus of each session will be helpful for those who came from a dysfunctional, co-dependent or alcoholic parent situation. Various topics presented each week with time for sharing, guidance and supportive tools. Cost is \$12 per session.

Schoolcraft College Women's Resource Center

Location: Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads

Contact: For more information, and to register, call (734) 462-4443, e-mail wrc@schoolcraft.edu or visit schoolcraft.edu/wrc.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month

Location: Women's Resource Center, Room 225 McDowell Center

Details: Open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce; first meeting each month is group discussion; second meeting features a guest speaker; no fee or registration required.

Space for Changing Families

A nonsectarian community service of the National Council of Jewish Women/Greater Detroit Section

Divorce Support Group

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. every Tuesday

Location: Hooper Evaluations Building, 26400 Lahser Road, Suite 306, Southfield.

Details: Help for men and women dealing with the many conflicted feelings regarding divorce and separation. Led by a trained facilitator, Andy Mather. Fee is \$5 per session. Pre-registration required. Call (248) 355-3300, Ext. 0

Widowed Friends Support Group

Details: Widowed Friends of the Archdiocese of Detroit is a peer support group.

Contact: For more information, call Marilyn at (586) 739-9406

Widowed Men

Meet for Breakfast

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays

Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia (1/4 mile north of Five Mile Road)

Details: This is an informal peer group where men have an opportunity to meet with other widowed men who are ready to help you cope or become involved in the other activities planned by Widowed Friends of AOD.

Contact: Dick (313) 534-0399.

Young Adults

Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Thursday

Details: Susan McKenna, a life coach, author and motivational speaker, is hosting a support group exclusively for young adults (high school through 20's). The major issues that this age group deals with are issues with parents; anxiety and/or depression; lack of motivation or low self esteem; relationship problems. A group support system which will offer discussion, information and offer ways to encourage a problem solving tools will motivate those wishing to be happy and successful. Sessions are \$12

Contact: Register by calling 734-420-8175.

CLUBS AND GROUPS

AAUW, Northville/Novi Branch

Contact: For information e-mail Harriet Sawyer, membership Vice President at sawyerh@wowway.com or call (734) 420-3270.

Beautiful Singles Hiking

TIME/DAY: 9:30 a.m. first and third Sunday of the month

Location: Maybury State Park

Details: Join singles of all ages for hiking and other activities.

Contact: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/BSHiking/> or Bill at (586) 909-6938

Camera Club

Date: Second Tuesday of every month

Contact: Tom James of Northville Camera at northvillecamera@sbcglobal.net or Northville Arts Commission (248) 449-9950

Gardeners Of Northville and Novi

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of month, Sept-May

Location: Northville Art House at 215 W. Cady Street, Northville

Details: Visitors welcome.

Contact: Marcia (248) 349-2352 or visit gardeners-northville-novi.org

Great Books Discussion Group

Time/Date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. first and third Thursday of every month

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library, Five Mile and Farmington Road

Details: Discuss novels, plays, poetry and nonfiction Reading Poetry by Mark Strand. Goody Night.

Contact: (248) 349-3121

Northville Book Club

Time/Date: 7 p.m. one Friday per month

Location: Splid Grounds Coffee House, 133 W. Main St., Suite 222

Details: Reading "The Autobiography of My Mother" by Jamaica Kincaid.

Contact: northvillebookclub@gmail.com

Northville Democrats Club

Contact: www.northvilledem.com

NDC Officers and Board of Trustee's Meeting

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Jan. 10

Location: Home of Chuck & Susan Nichols, 44099

Deep Hollow Circle, Northville Township.

Details: Although this meeting is primarily for the Club's officers and trustees, all Club members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP at 248-465-1995 or at SCraig27@comcast.net if you will be attending.

NDC Showing of "An Inconvenient Truth"

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Jan. 12

Details: Pizza and salad restaurant in downtown Northville. Stay tuned for further details

Northville Genealogical Society

RESEARCH HELP

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. every Monday and by appointment

Location: Northville District Library, Local History Room

Details: Individual help on genealogy is offered by society members

Contact: Tille Van Sickle (734) 595-7806 or <http://rootsweb.com/~mings>

MONTHLY MEETING

Time/Date: 1:15 p.m. computer genealogy class, 2:30 p.m. general meeting, second Sunday of month.

Location: Northville District Library, Carlos Meeting Room, 212 W. Cady St

TE DEUM BELL CHOR AND CHRISTMAS TEA

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Dec. 18

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED FILMMAKER LINDA CHAPMAN

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Jan. 8

Location: First Presbyterian Church

PARLOR GAMES MIXER

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Jan. 22

Location: First Presbyterian Church

Contact: Karen Poulos (248) 349-4684 or wpkp@comcast.net

TEA PARTIES-DIANA KRESEL

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Feb. 5

Location: First Presbyterian Church

LINCOLN ASSASSINATION-JERRY MAXWELL

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Feb. 19

Location: First Presbyterian Church

STAGING YOUR GARDEN-EVERYTHING GROWS

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. March 5

Location: First Presbyterian Church

ANNUAL MEETING and LUNCHEON

Time/Date: 12:30 p.m. March 19

HEALTH EVENTS

Botsford

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S LOOK GOOD ... FEEL BETTER PROGRAM

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, second Monday of each month

Location: Botsford Cancer Center located at 27900 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills

Details: Are you experiencing skin, facial and nail changes during your cancer treatment? Botsford Hospital's Cancer Center is offering an American Cancer Society program called Look Good... Feel Better that provides information and cosmetic advice to women battling cancer. This program is a free, supportive, informative and enjoyable first step toward renewed self-esteem, self-confidence and emotional recovery for female cancer patients undergoing radiation or chemotherapy. The session includes hands-on instruction on makeup, skin care and suggestions for using wigs, turbans and scarves. It also includes tips on nail care during treatment. Further, a makeup gift bag will be donated to all participants. Sessions are limited to 12 people and are open to any woman undergoing cancer treatment in the area. Pre-registration is required. Look Good... Feel Better is offered through a partnership of the American Cancer Society, the Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association and the National Cosmetology Association.

Contact: For more information or to register, please call Jeri Davis, MLSW, at (248) 473-4813.

THURSDAY
December 17,
2009

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Cal Stone, editor
(248) 437-2011
cstone@gannett.com

LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

OUR VIEWS

Price we pay for drunken driving still far too steep

How would you feel if you knew that one of every 140 drivers sobered your way as too drunk to drive? That's a sobering thought as you leave a party this holiday season.

That's being a little misleading with statistics. But it illustrates a point. Despite improvements, there are still too many drunken drivers out there. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD, estimates that about one out of every 140 drivers is arrested for drunken driving in a year.

That only counts the number of arrests, not those who luckily make it home without incident.

Here's the good news: The number of Americans dying in traffic accidents — particularly those crashes involving drinking drivers — is steadily declining.

Nationally, the death rate for fatal accidents involving alcohol has declined by 38 percent since 1991. For those younger than 21, the death rate has declined by an even more dramatic 55 percent.

Here's the bad news: There were still 37,261 traffic fatalities in the United States last year. That's more than 100 lives lost every day. Of those, 11,773 were killed in an accident involving a driver with an illegal blood alcohol content, which is 0.08 for many states, including Michigan.

That means every week we are losing about 226 people to drunken driving.

The numbers are getting better, but they are far from acceptable. Drinking combined with speed and inexperience are prime reasons motor vehicle fatalities top the list for the cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 20.

Bringing this number closer to home, Michigan lost 282 lives last year because of accidents involving alcohol. Of those victims, 47 — essentially one a week — were under the age of 21.

Those are a lot of futures needlessly cut short.

The statistics are grim, but they are also promising. Not only has the trend gone down over the decades, it dropped steadily last year, when alcohol-related traffic deaths for young people declined by nearly 10 percent.

That means that a lot of efforts — stricter enforcement, better education, perhaps even better roads — apparently have a positive effect. MADD is one of the most powerful advocates against drunken driving. Since it started its advocacy campaigns in 1980, it claims that drinking-related fatalities have dropped by 50 percent.

Driving in the United States, in fact, is relatively safe. The National Highway Safety Transportation Administration reports that we suffer fewer than 1.5 deaths for every 100 million miles driven. That's a number far better than much of the world.

But our numbers will be even better if we continue to reduce the number of drunken drivers on the road. It is imperative to identify and concentrate on those efforts that work.

Tougher laws make sense, and there is reason to believe that swift and certain consequences are helpful. But there is a growing school of thought that we can't "jail our way" out of the problem. Likewise, there is ample evidence that problem drinkers will continue to drive even when their licenses are suspended or revoked.

What else can be done? Many support easily identifiable license plates for cars owned or operated by those who have had driving privileges suspended.

Another suggestion is to increase penalties based on the size of the offender's blood-alcohol content, much like speeding tickets are handled.

Another tactic for repeat offenders is to install Breathalyzer-type devices that prevent a car from being started after an operator has been drinking.

There is also a push to further restrict nighttime driving privileges for teenagers.

None of these solutions is perfect, but all must be considered. The price we continue to pay on our highways remains too steep.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your Christmas wish?



Good health, safety, and God's protection."

Chrys Kohl
Northville



"For my husband to find a job."

Josie Conder
Northville



"Getting together with the family. We have a big gathering on Christmas eve."

Lottie Nelson
Northville



"Goodwill toward men and peace and a Merry Christmas."

Dave Kohl
Northville

LETTERS

Problem with school finances

It amazes me at the outpouring of support parents in the Northville Public Schools community have shown in reference to the huge education budget cuts that legislators are making in Lansing. However, in all due respect, parents are going after the wrong people.

Sure, our legislators are making school districts crunch their budgets even more tightly, but where were the parents in this community over the past few years when the Northville Public Schools was spending money on unnecessary items and approved salary increases for the administrators?

Parents would be shocked if they did a little bit of research and found out how much waste already exists in the school district. This is not the time to be running to Lansing and demanding more money for schools.

According to Northville Public Schools general fund, revenue of \$66 million exists. Now Lansing wants to cut roughly \$4 million which would bring the total district revenue to just above \$62 million. District officials continue to send listserv messages about how these cuts are going to have such an impact on the students.

Now the school board is talking about cutting transportation and school programs. But if Northville is having such a financial situation, then why has the board approved pay raises for the administrators over the past couple of years? It has been known for quite some time that drastic cuts were coming to schools but the board continue to spend money elsewhere besides the classroom.

Dr. Rezmierski not only makes more than the governor but also has a monthly allowance of \$500 and a company vehicle. Why are cuts not being made at the top? The real reason district officials are scaring parents is because they don't want to be forced to cut their own salaries.

Since many community members fail to show up at the school board meetings, decisions are able to be made easily without anyone in the community finding out about the wasteful spending. Take for instance this new access door security system installed throughout the district over the summer.

Money for this came from the remaining 2004 bond issue approved by voters. While this was not a necessity for the district, when officials were notified about aging equipment in the TV broadcasting studio at the high school, officials ignored the request made for replacement of equipment that is failing and will not last until another bond issue.

This is a clear example of district officials not spending money in the classroom. If this access system was truly needed, then instead of a CCTV security system installed a couple of years ago, this could have been completed with the security grant money received to complete the project. All I am asking is that parents do more research, demand questions from the board and start holding the school board accountable to the decisions made in this district over the past

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Northville Record, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178.

Fax: (248) 437-3386.

E-mail: cstone@gannett.com.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

few years that unfortunately are going to have a consequence on every student in this district.

Blake Govan
Northville

A view of America

Is the pursuit of liberty for Americans in peril, painted into a corner in feeding dependencies and a cascading debt by an in-your-face Congressional supervision? Deadly to an economy is unbalanced government employment combined with heavy public debt and taxation and centralized control of basic services. A Congressional rush to wholesale indebtedness accelerates America down a road to bondage in selling the nation to others — the add-insult in a proposal to ransom our troops with taxes rather than dump some binding socialistic programs.

Leftist political interest groups have gained power in America, almost in a replay of Mussolini's fascist Italians in 1933. He promised "enlightened government control of industry," and passing out sweet words to visceral and gullible countrymen hid devious intent. The American special interests simply whipsaw the elected to serve them. The organized dominate governmental employee unions, the militant units of organized labor and especially ACORN with emerging interest in the voting processes. Such highly political groupies leverage government policy with sharp elbows and bottomless agendas to pillage a public purse. A dizzy American electorate has offered no formal defense.

Now, limping Michigan illustrates where "to be organized is to be subsidized," nurturing dependencies — and the downhill results speak loudly. Human freedom is lifted up only with acceptance of responsibility. With decline in personal responsibility, skills shrink and potential disappears. Dependency is a terrible handicap, leading eventually to frustration and anger. Lansing politicians have roosted with decades of political resistance to serious action on functional educational failure and lately with important cities twisted

into job-free zones. Unfortunately, more financial distress is coming to Michigan directly from this Congress.

Hope is slipping for another struggling Ivy League alumnus occupying our oval office. Wistfully, with fleeting but awesome memories of hero presidents since WWII, I view President Obama stuck in a role much like Tony Soprano in "The Sopranos." His cast is filled with a large, grandstanding family of czars. Many disturbing characters placed by, or selected for him, may be more menacing and dangerous to America and him than any partisan opposition. Still, only full control or suppression of free speech and complete absence of legitimate critics can our country tumble too badly.

Government bureaucracies flourish to manipulate something, someone or for political employment. Not one government bureaucracy has shown dynamic success; they tend to be only sinkholes in quicksand as ciphers of money. The highly touted War on Poverty created more of it by destroying families and promoting dependency. National health care is the new maneuver to rearrange bureaucrats and advance crippling power over each American's life and liberty. America's most noble profession given a possible political push toward impersonal neglect and diminished praiseworthiness. The ballooning cost will be borne by unaffiliated taxpaying citizens, (certainly senior citizens, the unconscious or other doleful bystanders). The stinkiest part of the health care load is scheduled to be delivered and dropped on Americans in 2013.

Uncritical national media readers and newspapers drag like lead sinkers with politically scripted messages. Most disturbing is the new political armor formed to answer legitimate political criticism with suggestions of racism to place a plague upon disagreement. These were ideas manufactured by Chicago American Communist Saul Alinsky and related works by Cloward/Piven doctrine designed to impoverish America with ACORN in control.

Brilliant Jefferson would term our stewardship "drifting and unimpressive." He cautioned for America to remain free it must be gifted enough to recognize poor leadership leads to poor outcomes. Too often, used-up officeholders arrogantly linger for decades with always declining sensibilities thriving on party money lifted from the treasury as pork for votes.

Our nation needs challengers to intervene for every elected position — new patriots committed to fight apathy, actively stand up, step out, study, then compete for improvement at every level of governance of our Republic. Benign neglect by capable, informed, and especially articulate Americans is no longer an option. The general public sees the potholes among incumbents which must be the most vital shovel-ready projects for 2010 and 2012.

I'll go and buy a happy meal and restore good humor.

Jim Nowka
Northville

NORTHVILLE
RECORD



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Community Executive Editor | Director of
Editor / Publisher | Advertising

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices, on the Web at hometownlife.com.

Northville Township residents protest proposed changes at Islamic center

Aren't the rules put in place to protect homeowners from just this sort of thing. The people are there because they like the neighborhood they moved into. If they wanted to live next to a noisy place with constant traffic they would have moved into a smaller sub with much lower taxes. Leave the rules alone; we all want them enforced not varied.

James Brady

How to avoid a chimney fire

Interesting info. What does "seasoned wood" mean? Also, how much can I expect to pay for a professional chimney cleaning? Do I just find a company in the phone book to do this?

bow_wow

PUBLIC SAFETY

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP POLICE REPORT

GPS unit stolen from car

1 A 59-year-old resident of Aspen Ridge Drive reported to police at 11 a.m. on Nov. 29 that sometime between Nov. 27 and Nov. 29 someone stole the Garmin GPS unit that was stuck to the dashboard of his vehicle.

The man was not sure where the theft occurred. There were no signs of forced entry into the vehicle. He believes Garmin staff can track the unit once he supplies the serial number. The unit was valued at \$300.

Suspended license driver

2 A 22-year-old Ann Arbor man was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license and possession of drug paraphernalia at 12:53 a.m. on Dec. 3 at the Meijer parking lot at 20401 Haggerty Road.

While on patrol, an officer saw a vehicle parked away from other vehicle in the lot. Upon running the plate, the officer learned that the vehicle's owner had a warrant for his arrest out of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office.

The man said he was installing a car stereo he had just purchased. When asked if there was anything in the car that he shouldn't have he admitted to having a bowl (referring to marijuana) in the car. Police found a glass marijuana pipe with residue in the center console and two metallic marijuana grinders.

In a pouch attached to the driver's side sun visor were a glass marijuana pipe with residue and rolling papers.

Costume, boots stolen

3 A 49-year-old resident of Preswick Circle told police at 6 p.m. on Nov. 28 that someone may have entered her vehicle, although nothing appeared to be missing. Then on Dec. 3, the woman called and said that an Indian costume and pair of dress boots were missing from a shopping bag in the back seat of the vehicle. The costume was valued at \$150, and the boots were valued at \$100.

Driving while intoxicated

4 An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested for operating while intoxicated and minor in posses-

sion at 2:11 a.m. on Dec. 4 at Haggerty and Eight Mile roads.

Police saw the driver cross over the yellow line while in the left through lane. The vehicle then moved to the right through lane. The car also had a defective license plate light, and the driver also struck a large box sitting in the right through lane.

Purse stolen from car

5 A 29-year-old resident of Waterwheel Road told police that sometime between 7 and 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 that someone smashed the window on the passenger's side of his vehicle and took his wife's purse.

The Naturalizer purse contained \$200 in cash, a \$100 cell phone, gift cards, debit/credit cards and her driver's license.

Window smashed on truck

An officer was dispatched to meet with a 24-year-old resident on Cedar Lake Circle about a possible larceny from auto that the woman believed occurred between 11 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7:30 a.m. Dec. 7.

The resident told the officer that she parked her vehicle in the parking lot, and when she left for work the next morning she noticed that her passenger-side front window was shattered.

Nothing was missing from the vehicle. The window was valued at \$500.

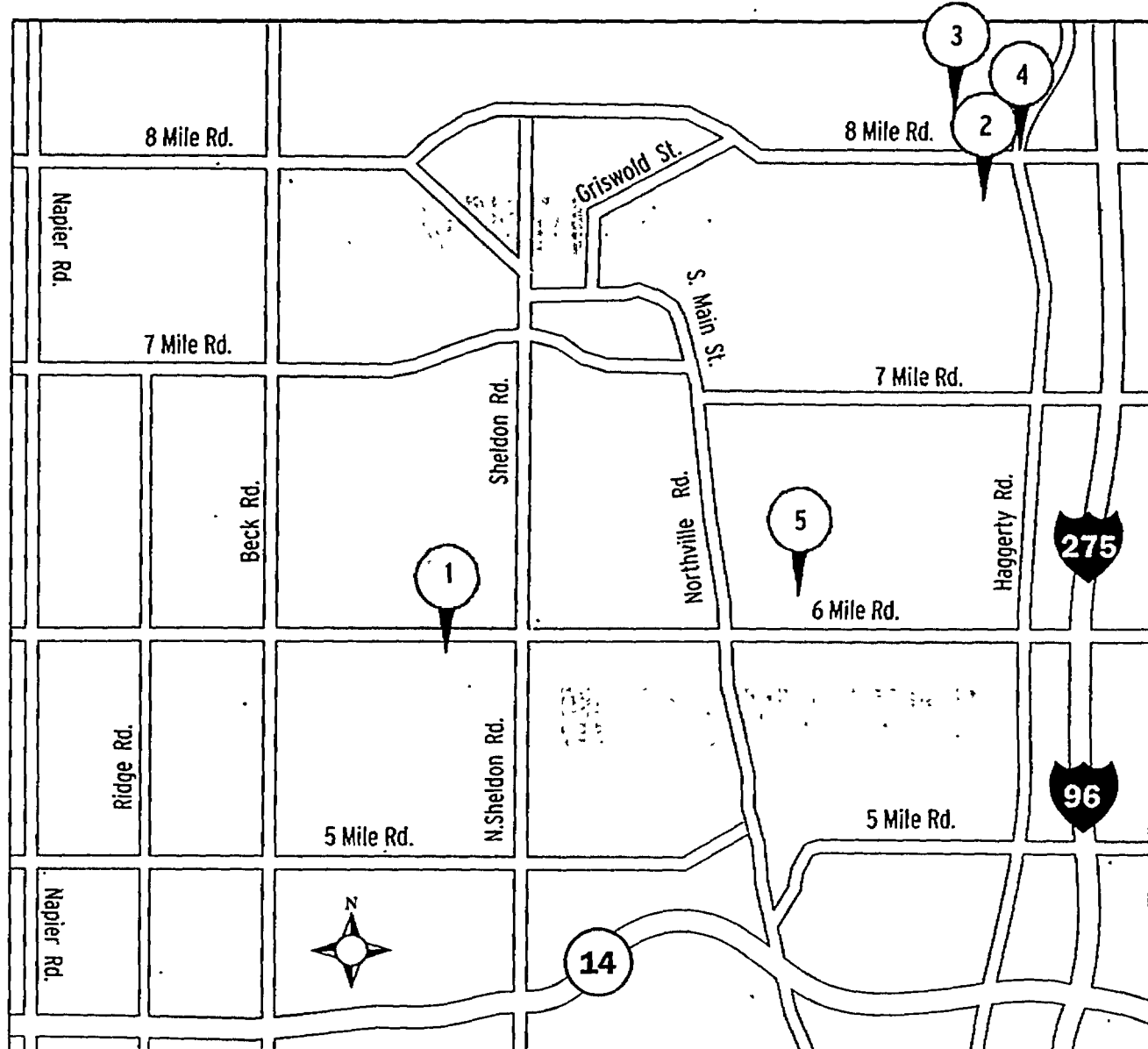
Theft at Meijer reported

A 19-year-old Novi man was arrested for retail fraud at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Meijer store at 20401 Haggerty Road.

Store detectives were walking the sales floor when they saw the man select a two knives from the sporting goods department.

He then opened the packaging of both knives and concealed one in his right coat pocket. He then selected "2 Pacs Greatest Hits" CD and concealed that in the front of his blue jeans.

Next, he selected a magazine and value pack of Curve Crush cologne, unwrapped the cologne and concealed the packaging under the maga-



zine. Finally, he concealed the cologne inside his left blue jean pocket.

Detectives also found a pair of forceps in his pocket he had stolen. The man admitted to being under the influence of heroin at the time of his arrest. One knife was valued at \$17.99. The cologne was valued at \$30. The other knife was valued at \$9.99. The CD was valued at \$22.99. The forceps were valued at \$1.99.

Police also found some unused hypodermic needles in the man's car and a cat named Smokey.

Damage to property

A 45-year-old Novi man who works for Superb Custom Homes reported that six windows facing the rear of a residence at 17598 Parkshore Drive were damaged between 11 a.m. Dec. 8 and 10:49 a.m. Dec. 9.

Damage was estimated at \$2,000.

The home, which is currently under construction, appeared to have been shot at with a BB gun.

Suspended license driver

A 25-year-old Northville Township woman was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license at 11:20 a.m. Dec. 9 at Seven Mile and Haggerty roads.

Police arrived at the scene of a property damage accident at the intersection. The woman told police the accident occurred because her brakes failed on her vehicle. Instead of hitting the car in front of her, she drove over the curb but could not avoid hitting a street sign.

Coins stolen from console
A 34-year-old resident of 19697 Northridge Drive told

police that someone stole some coins from the console of his vehicle between 10 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11 a.m. Dec. 11.

Although only a small amount of coins had been stolen, the man just wanted police to be aware of the theft.

He estimated the value of the coins to be \$15.

Compiled by staff writer Pam Fleming

An Invisible Killer in Your Home

"Though the weather outside is frightful..."

Just a few days ago I walked outside and the cold air literally took my breath away. Everyone has experienced the feeling of walking (some running) to your vehicle, holding your breath, not wanting to inhale the frigid air. That's when I know it's cold outside. Many people enjoy the cold; then there are normal people like myself who would rather live in southern California. Whether we like it or not, Michiganders are forced to deal with the cold weather so let's review some safety guidelines regarding the cold temperatures.

HYPOTHERMIA/FROSTBITE

Hypothermia occurs when the body drops below 95 degrees. Signs and symptoms include: slurred speech, cool skin, excessive shivering, confusion and decreased extremity movement. If not treated hypothermia can become severe and ultimately lead to death. Frostbite results from decreased blood flow and heat delivery to body tissues. Frostbite most commonly affects fingers, toes, ears, and the nose. Symptoms include: burning or numbness and a pale or red coloration. Hypothermia and frostbite can be prevented by dressing and operating appropriately in cold weather. If you are experiencing symptoms of hypothermia or frostbite, quickly move yourself to a warm environment and Call 911. The fire department (which is trained in emergency medical care) will respond, evaluate your condition and render proper care.

CLOTHING

It goes without saying that people need to bundle-up when it's cold outside. When going outside, be sure to dress in multiple layers, with your outermost layer being water and wind proof. A winter hat should always be worn, because your head contributes to the greatest source of heat loss in the cold (30-40%) and remember to protect your fingers, ears, and nose. If you are still not sure how to dress for the cold, talk to people that spend many hours outside in the cold such as; construction workers, postal delivery personnel, ice fishermen and hunters.

OPERATIONS

While outside in the cold, it is important to keep moving. Movement increases blood circulation, which in turn generates heat for your body.

If you are outside and don't have the opportunity to move often, take frequent breaks in a warm environment. It is also important not to consume alcohol in the cold, because alcohol causes vasodilation, which prevents the body from naturally warming itself.

Your Northville Township Fire Department responds to many cold weather related emergencies. With proper preparation you can be prepared to handle anything "old man winter" throws at you and avoid becoming a victim.

Use these tips to ensure a safe and, most importantly, warm winter season.

Jason Raschke is a firefighter with the Northville Township Fire Department. He can be reached at jraschke@twp.northville.mi.us or (248) 348-5807.

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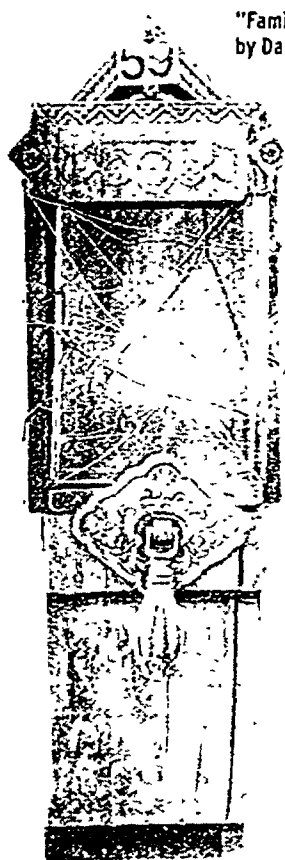


PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Civic concern

Above, the many volunteers who made Sat. Dec. 12th's Northville Civic Concern Distribution Day possible. At right, Northville High senior and Rotary Interact member Kathryn Best helps to carry out bags of gifts for needy families on Sat. Dec. 12 during Northville Civic Concern's annual Christmas Distribution Day. More than 100 families' holiday needs were met by the generous donations of individuals, families and church groups.

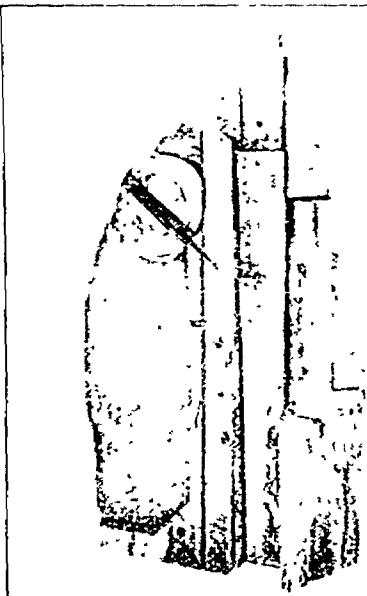


"Family Secret #59"
by Darcel Deneau



"Trail Head" by Todd Erickson

"Park Place"
by Joan
Painter Jones



"Midst of the Garden" by Mike Kapetan

Made of Wood

Wood might seem a basic element, but an artist can transform it into something altogether unexpected. In the hands of 13 local and national artists joining together in the Art House's new show, wood has been cut, chopped, burned, sculpted, glued, joined, screwed, polished, and painted. The base material may be the same. The pieces, however, reflect their creators' unique visions, showcasing an extraordinary diversity of perspective. Participating artists are Larry Cressman, Darcel Deneau, Gary Elanko, Todd Erickson, Larry Fox, Joe Fugate, Joan Painter Jones, Mike Kapetan, Teresa Petersen, Victor Pytko, Gene Smith, Joe Trippi, and Larry Zdeb. The show will open with a reception Friday, Jan. 8, from 6-9 p.m. (Please note the "Second Friday" opening due to the holidays). The show will continue through Jan. 30 during the Art House Gallery hours (Wednesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m.). For additional information, call (248) 344-0497, or visit www.northvillearts.org. The Art House is located at 215 W. Cady Street and is a facility of the Northville Arts Commission. Admission to Art House shows is always free and open to the public.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Handcrafts

Karri Mohr, of the Painted Garden in Milford, works on painting a slate garden plaque at Dec. 11's Handcrafter's Expo inside the Northville Community Senior Center.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Silver Strength

There are a lot of smiles all around as Silver Strength instructor Kirsten Ryan, right, leads her Wednesday morning group, including Linda Schwelbus, through a beginning warmup step in place. The exercise group, intended for older people seeking to keep fit, takes place each Wednesday at the Northville Community Senior Center. Call the Northville Parks and Recreation at (248) 449-9951 for more information.

Local parade horses featured in holiday event

Harmony Acres ended its 2009 parade season with its seventh appearance in the 83rd annual America's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which marched down Woodward Avenue from Mack to Congress in Detroit on Nov. 26.

The Arabian horses and their riders were decked out in their finest Christmas costumes as they rode down the two mile parade route.

Harmony Acres was number 12 to step off in the Detroit parade lineup and was included in the first hour's syndicated broadcast that reached 78 million viewers nationwide.

The group has ridden in more than 400 of the country's largest

parades, including all of Detroit's major parades.

Riders in the Detroit event included Nancy Harm of Salem Township who is breeder and trainer of the horses. She was dressed in white leather and crystal western costume to match her horse Tarifa.

Paige Marken of Salem rode Harmony Sadefa and was dressed in red leather and crystal costume.

Kathleen Marken of Salem rode Harmony Sadefa and was also dressed in red.

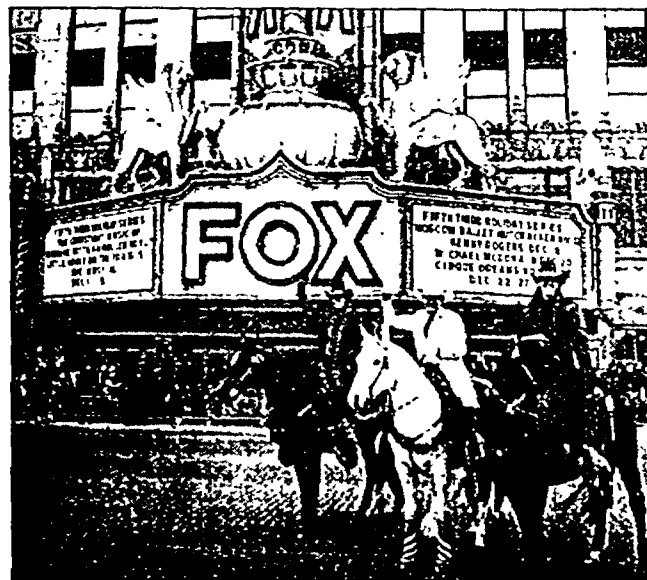
Local girls that carried Harmony Acres Banner included Rebecca and Claire Rimatzki, Libby Richardson and Briana Parkyn all of Salem Township. They were

dressed in red leather fringe western jackets and red cowgirl hats topped by Santa hats.

Debbie Buck and Mariah Parkyn of Salem were escorts also dressed in red leather fringe jackets and hats.

Harmony Acres also rode in Royal Oak's Holiday Magic Parade, televised on Fox 2, and Toledo's Holiday Parade.

The group's next appearance will be at the North American Horse Fest held at the Rock Expo Center in Novi on Dec. 11-13, representing the Arabian Horse Breed and the Milwaukee Great Circus Parade, which they participated in last July.



DAVE FISHER

Harmony Acres riders wave to the crowd in front of the Fox during America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit.



Holiday party

The Northville Chamber of Commerce had its annual holiday party the evening of Dec. 2 at a model home in the Steeplechase subdivision just north of Six Mile Road near Ridge Road. Members brought a nonperishable food item for Northville Civic Concern to the event. Pictured, from left, are Lynne Badeen of Comerica Bank in Northville; Dan DeLano of Edward Jones in Northville; and Patricia Mallon, an attorney in Northville.

PHOTO BY PAN FLEMING | NORTHVILLE RECORD

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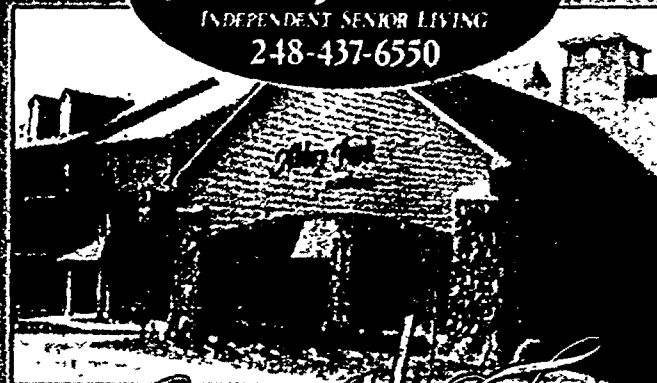
Soup of the Day: Clam Chowder

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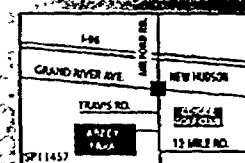
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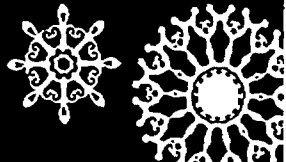
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SIMON

In appreciation

Margene Colutter, owner of downtown Northville's Pendleton shop will have a Customer Appreciation event tomorrow and Saturday at the store at 117 N. Center Street. The store will provide customers a gift with any \$100 purchase, and all women's sweaters and knitwear will be 30 percent off on these days. If a customer calls (248) 596-9820 to RSVP for the event, staff will reserve a beautiful Christmas ornament for them. Complimentary gift wrapping and refreshments will also be available.



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NORTHVILLE BIRTH



Shields

Bryan and Gayle Shields of Katy, Texas announce the birth of their son, Ethan Dennis Shields, born July 8, 2009 in Houston, Texas.

Grandparents are Peggy and the late Dennis Shields of Northville Township and Alan and Sheryl Jones of Boca Raton, Fla.

McCotter honored by Michigan bankers

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, received the 2009 Economic Impact Award from the Michigan Bankers Association on Thursday.

The Economic Impact Award recognizes public officials for their leadership on matters of public policy that support and encourage a vibrant Michigan economy.

State Rep. Brian Calley, R-Portland, also received the award.

"These leaders understand the serious economic challenges faced by banks and businesses across Michigan," said Dennis Koons, president and CEO of the Lansing-based Michigan Bankers Association. "They support legislation and initiatives advancing Michigan's economic livelihood."

McCotter was honored for his efforts on preserving and promoting manufacturing and small businesses as well as reducing taxes and the size and scope of government.

Calley was recognized for his decade as a community banker, assisting hundreds of small businesses and his in-depth understanding of the challenges facing small businesses in Michigan.

The awards were presented during the MBA's Bank Management and Directors Conference at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

The Michigan Bankers Association is the voice of the Michigan banking industry. Comprised of Michigan financial institutions with more than 3,400 branches located throughout the state, the MBA promotes strong communities and economic activity in Michigan by advancing a positive business environment.

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O 2.0, 2.5, 6.15, 9.25

O THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G)

11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:45, 9:05

FR/SAT LS 11:25

BOHMY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG)

11:40, 2:20, 4:40, 6:55, 9:15

FR/SAT LS 11:35

EVERYBODY'S FINE (PG-13)

FR/SUN-TH 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:30

SAT 7:20, 9:30 FR/SAT LS 11:40

OLD DOGS (PG) 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25

FR/SAT LS 11:30

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON (PG-13)

11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13)

11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

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Classes offered in Novi (Grand River & Meadowbrook Roads)
Winter registration now in progress. Classes start January 4.

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Diabetes: It's good to know your enemy

It was a busy Monday morning at my medical practice, and "David" was the next patient on my schedule. David was a regular patient of mine, but had skipped his annual appointment and I had not seen him in over a year.

As I entered the exam room I was shocked to see that David had lost about 65 pounds. He believed it was because of his dental issues, and the subsequent changes he had made in his diet to compensate for these issues. My evaluation of him and immediate lab work showed that he had Type 2 Diabetes. As we talked, I learned that he was unaware of his condition.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes whereby the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin that is produced. Nearly 8 percent of the population of the United States has diabetes and 30 % of those affected do not know they have it, just like David. The symptoms are usually subtle; only rarely manifesting as increased thirst, increased urination, increased hunger and ironically weight loss.

GETTING SCREENED FOR DIABETES.

If you who are over 45, or have a strong family history of diabetes, you should discuss a regular screening schedule with your primary care physician. If you are overweight or have an increased abdominal girth (40 inches in men and 35 inches in women) you should be tested. If you are Hispanic, African American, Asian American or American Indian; or if you have had any heart disease or vascular disease it is important to get checked.

Diabetes when left uncontrolled can damage organs from head to toe due to the damage of blood vessels and nerves. Damage to large blood vessels means risk of stroke, heart attack and peripheral artery disease; and small blood vessel damage affects the eyes and kidneys. Working with your primary care doctor to get regular blood work, and screenings of your eyes and feet is important.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT PREVENTION.

The good news is that people with pre-diabetes can prevent the development of type 2 diabetes by making changes in their diet and

DOCTOR'S ADVICE

If you who are over 45, or have a strong family history of diabetes, you should discuss a regular screening schedule with your primary care physician. If you are overweight or have an increased abdominal girth (40 inches in men and 35 inches in women) you should be tested. If you are Hispanic, African American, Asian American or American Indian; or if you have had any heart disease or vascular disease it is important to get checked.

increasing their level of physical activity. They may even be able to return their blood glucose levels to the normal range.

A diabetes "meal plan" is a guide that tells you how much and what kinds of food you can choose to eat at meals and snack times. A good meal plan should fit in with your schedule and eating habits. The right meal plan will help you improve your blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers and also help keep your weight on track.

People with diabetes have to take extra care to make sure that their food is balanced with insulin, oral medications and exercise to help manage their blood glucose levels. Your family doctor can provide you with information to help you create a meal plan that is best for you. When you make healthy food choices, you will improve your overall health and you can even prevent complications such as heart disease and some cancers.

So, David was placed on insulin and we created a smart diet plan. He has gained some of his healthy weight back and his glucose levels are improving continually as he follows through.

The key to success is coordinated teamwork between you and your doctor for a better understanding of the disease. You can defeat diabetes.

Dr. Nisha Chellam is a board certified internal medicine physician on staff at Providence Park Hospital in Novi and Providence Hospital in Southfield. Dr. Chellam completed her training in Internal Medicine at Wayne State University. She has great interest in collaborative medicine, whereby the patient takes an active and integral part in their own care.



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2009 Mothers' Club of Northville All Aglow - Illumination for Education

The 15th annual holiday fundraising event, *All Aglow ~ Illumination for Education* was held on Friday, December 4th at Old Church Square. *All Aglow* raised funds for the Northville school children by offering tree lights as a symbol to honor or memorialize someone who has touched your life.

The ceremony included a holiday sing-a-long with the Hillside and Meads Mill choirs and complimentary hot chocolate and cookies.

Mothers' Club of Northville is a nonprofit organization that has been working to support Northville school children since 1935. Through its fundraising last year, it was able to donate more than \$30,000 to Northville schools.

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THURSDAY
December 17,
2009

SECTION B
(NR)

Jeff Thomson, editor (248) 437-2011
Ext. 229, jthomson@hometownlife.com

LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com



Mustangs drop two tough hockey games

■ South Lyon, Howell each get the best of Northville

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Northville Mustangs are getting tired of seeing a 6-4 score go against them.

The boys hockey team, coached by Jeff Hatley, dropped two games this week, falling to South Lyon and Howell. Both games ended with a 6-4 tally against the Mustangs.

"It was frustrating losing two games back-to-back where we were tied in the third period," said Hatley. "We are close and getting better."

Against South Lyon last Friday, the Mustangs found themselves in a 0-0 knot after the first period before taking a second-period lead with 8:25 left as sophomore Clay Neal earned

his first varsity goal for a 1-0 lead. Freshman Riley Marotta and senior Max McHugh earned assists.

But the lead wouldn't last long, and neither did Northville's luck. The Mustangs found themselves on a 5-on-3 power play against the Lions and pressuring offensively when one of the South Lyon penalties expired. The Lions defender came out of the box just as the puck bounced over a Northville defenseman's stick and skittered down the ice, leading the a South Lyon break-away and a goal that tied the game, 1-1. South Lyon took the lead just 26 seconds later when they iced the puck but earned an unintentional whistle from the referee, causing a face off in the Northville end of the rink. The

Lions won the face off and immediately scored, stepping out to a 2-1 advantage.

The Mustangs didn't give up, however, and tied the game in the third period on a power play as Robbie Thornburg took a pass from Matt Rosiar and found the back of the net to knot the game up, 2-2. Rosiar and Joe Close were credited with assists.

The Lions bounced back, scoring two goals for a 4-2 lead before the Mustangs were able to tie the game up on goal by Close and Stephen Champagne. Assists were credited to Tyler Marotta and Matt DeSpirit and two to Rosiar.

With less than a minute left in the game, the Lions snagged a loose puck at the blue line and skated in for the goal and a 5-4 lead. They

ON TAP

The Mustangs are slated to be back in action when they compete in the Holiday Invitational December 28 and 29.

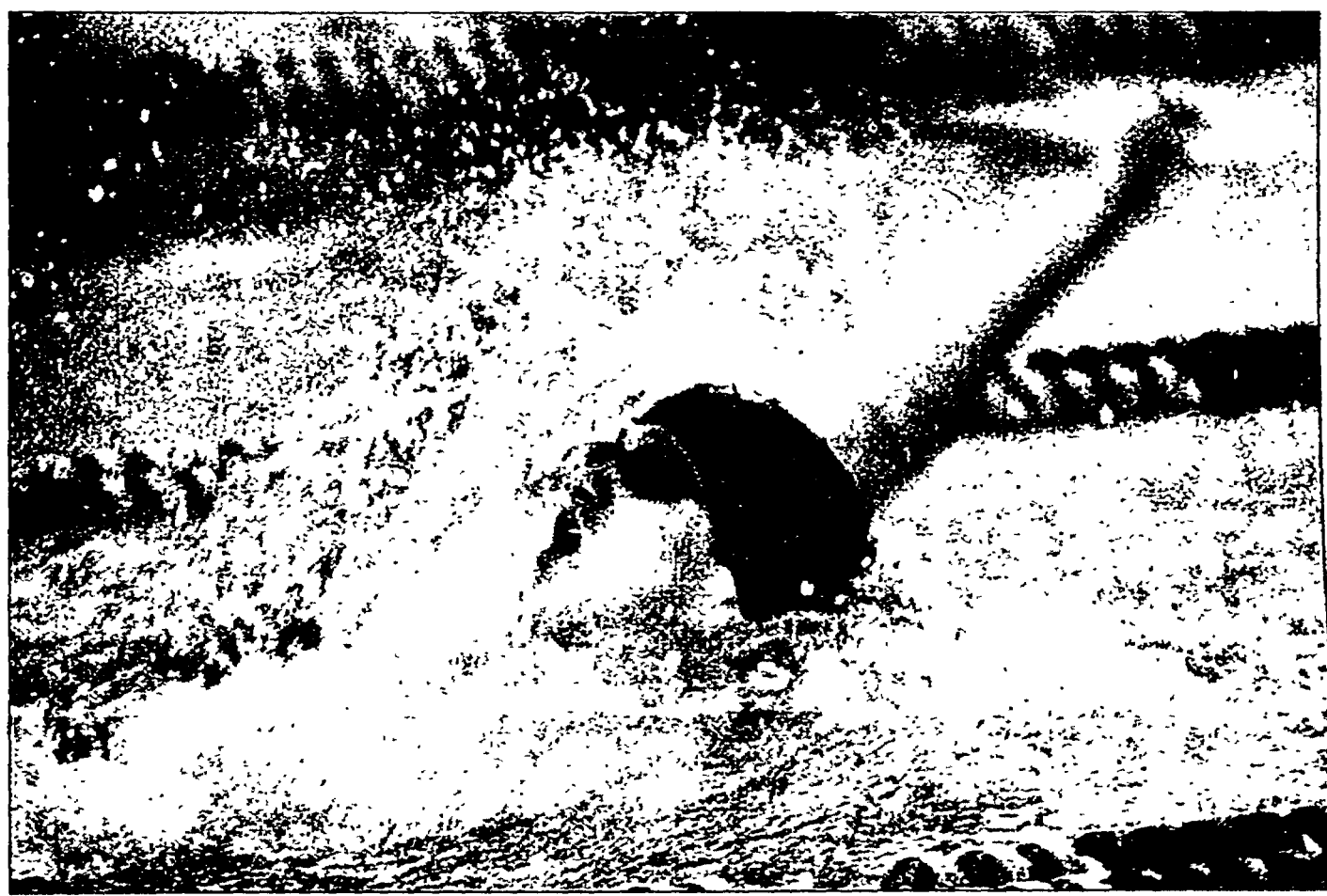
scored an open net goal with five seconds left in the contest.

Northville is averaging three penalties a game and almost six power plays per contest.

"That says a lot about our players' attitudes and self discipline," said Hatley. "Our special teams have been on the plus side for us in four of five games."

Hatley said he's not about to give up on his team, which started the season 2-0 but has

Please see **HOCKEY, B5**



Mustang John Lubisco swims the backstroke in the 200 meter medley relay.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grapplers have strong showing

■ Jon Nelson goes 7-0 over last week's competitions

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

In last week's edition of the Northville Record, it was not reported that senior Josh Wright placed third in the Grand Blanc tournament in the 145-pound weight class. -- Editor

The Northville Mustangs wrestlers are showcasing their scrappy style this year, earning some very tough wins in the opening events of the winter season.

The Northville grapplers went 1-1 at a quad meet held at Catholic Central last week before two wins and three losses in the Todd Schoenhide Team Tournament, which the Mustangs hosted last Saturday.

The Mustangs are currently 3-5 on the season.

"That's a misleading stat," said Northville coach Bob Boshoven. "The level of competition they have faced early on is much tougher than previous years. They are continuing to challenge themselves to compete with the top level teams."

Northville, so far this year, has taken on Catholic Central, which is ranked third in Division I this year, as well as Canton, ranked ninth in Division I, and Swan Valley, ranked first in Division III. Yesterday, after the sports section deadline, Northville was slated to take on John Glenn, which is ranked sixth in Division I this season.

The Mustangs saw plenty of tough competition at the Todd Schoenhide tournament this past Saturday, hosting teams such as Brighton, Monroe, L'Anse Creuse, Saline and Marysville. In that tournament, the grapplers earned a 2-3 record, toppling Marysville, 59-15, and Saline, 39-33. They lost to L'Anse, 37-26, Monroe, 41-30, and Brighton, 31-24.

The mustangs had key performances from Ian Stirtion, who wrestles in the 103-pound weight class, as he went 5-0 with three pins after suffering from an illness all week only to recover in time for the tournament.

Bobby Lahiff, a versatile wrestler who can grapple in both 189 and 215, also went 5-0 during the tournament, collecting three pins and two 4-0 decisions. Lahiff did not give up a single point throughout his five matches.

Steve Widzinski went 4-1, earning three pins

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

Tankers topple Brother Rice

■ Eighth ranked Northville has no problem with ninth ranked Warriors

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

Rankings don't mean much, and no one points that out quicker than Northville boys swimming head coach Rich Bennetts.

The Northville Mustangs are currently ranked eighth for Division I schools in the state of Michigan. Ranked ninth is Brother Rice. Last week when the two teams met, the final score was so lopsided in favor of Northville, it was as though the Warriors forgot how good they were supposed to be. The Mustangs walked away with a 129-57 decision.

But Bennetts said that it's not the last his squad will see of Brother Rice, nor is it their best swimming.

"We have been fortunate enough to beat brother Rice four

ON TAP

The Mustangs will be hitting the pool again today when they travel to Livonia Churchill at 6 p.m.

years in a row in a dual meet, and have yet to finish ahead of them at the state meet," Bennetts said. "Obviously they will be a much different team come March. It is up to us as a team to keep our fit on the gas, don't let up and keep working hard."

Bennetts isn't going to take anything away from his team though. He's happy with the way the Mustangs have started off their season.

"Overall, I felt we had a real strong effort," he said. "At this point in the season, it is nice to see the guys go out there and

compete. We have the ability to become a real good team this season."

The Mustangs earned several first place finishes in the victory.

In the 200 medley relay, the team of John Lubisco, BoFeng Zhang, Ben Schoenek and AJ Aquinto notched a first with a time of 1:44.71. In the 200 free, Nate Lunn and John Blickle went one, two with times of 1:51.15 and 1:52.15, respectively.

Northville's Schoenek finished second in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:06.79, just behind Brother Rice's Robbie Biskup's 2:04.52. The Mustangs earned a victory in the 50 free, with Will Greenlee winning in 23.27 seconds.

Northville earned first and second in diving, with Kevin

Please see **SWIM, B4**



Northville High boys' swim head coach Rich Bennetts urges on his swimmers during their Dec. 10 meet against Brother Rice.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Bowling squads open up season

■ Mustangs girls, boys put up good numbers in Early Bird Tournament

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Northville Mustangs girls and boys bowling teams have plenty of skill and know how to use it. The squads, coached by Jerry Harris, turned in some tough numbers against a field of 14 teams when they competed in the Early Bird Tournament. The next day, the boys took a tough loss to a very good Walled Lake Northern team while the girls escaped with a convincing win.

"The team put in a good performance," said Harris, but added that both teams have room for improvement. "The topics that we'll be focusing on in practice the week is repetition and spare shooting."

The boys fell to Walled Lake Northern in the opening dual meet of the season, but showcased their skill with their top two bowlers putting up 192s each. Captain Garret Baughman and Jacob Snow led their team and helped the squad make some adjustments throughout the day, but the Mustangs couldn't hold on and watched as the victory slipped away from them. Northville collected 802 and 779 team points in

ON TAP

The Northville girls and boys bowling teams will be back at the lanes today when they travel to the Plymouth Super Bowl to compete at 3:30 p.m. The team will then take a break until early January.

the loss.

The girls, on the other hand, collected 30 points in a full sweep of their Walled Lake foes, following the lead of rookie varsity bowler Brittany Browsers, who threw a 205 to help her team to victory. Captain Marie Samson was strong as well, recording a 204 in the victory. Northville, as a team, earned 827 points and 730 points on the day.

In the Early Bird Tournament, the girls squad collected an eighth place finish with 3,147 total points. Regina was the overall winner with 3,561 points, while Troy finished second and Royal Oak was third.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Bowlers aiming high

■ Bowling teams focused on constant improvement

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Northville Mustangs girls and boys bowling teams have their sights set on some lofty goals this season and neither team intends on backing down until those goals are met.

Jerry Harris, the coach of both teams for Northville, said that his teams hope to earn a berth to the state finals tournament this year and, at the very least, earn a trip for two boys and two girls as singles competitors.

"Our team goals are to win the division and to go to the state (finals tournament)," said Harris. "To make them a reality, we have to teach the kids to be able to focus more and to follow through."

The boys team returns a very strong bowler in Ian Lovdahl, who is expected to lead his team this year along with Garret Baughman—both are seniors. The Mustangs have six other seniors on this year's varsity team, as well as three juniors. Seniors this year include Jake Pacion, Jacob Snow, Andrew Ukrop, Chris Peters and Paul Gibson. Juniors are Brad Currier, Ryan Benoit and Michael Truong.

The girls squad returns Marie Samson, Jessie Sammut and Shelby

ON TAP

Coach: Jerry Harris
Last year: Girls squad won division title
Key returning players: Boys squad returns Ian Lovdal and Garrett Baughman and girls return Marie Samson, Jessie Sammut and Shelby Curlew
Goals: To earn a trip to state finals tournament for both the girls and boys teams and at least two boys and two girls to state finals as singles competitors
Challenges: Bringing new bowlers up to speed and getting them ready for varsity competition

Curlew from a team that won their division last season. All three are seniors this year. Another senior on the varsity squad is Lindsey Funfgeld, while Rachel Beger and Kristen Muzzillo make up the junior contingent this season. Sophomores on the varsity team are Brittany Browsers and Margaret Stewart.

One game the two squads will be looking forward to is cross-town rival Novi.

"Their coach and I have a great relationship," noted Harris.

He added that all the teams in the division this year are going to be challenging.

"All the teams are tough on any given day, but also can be beat on any given day," he said. "It's all about our attitude."

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News

WEEK AHEAD

NOVI HS

Boys Basketball

All games are at 7 p.m.

Thu 12/17/09 @ Livonia Churchill

Fri 12/18/09 Saline

Girls Basketball

All games are at 7 p.m.

Thu 12/17/09 Livonia Churchill

Ice Hockey

Home games at Novi Ice Arena

Fri 12/18/09 6:30 p.m. @ Clarkston Invite

- Davison

Sat 12/19/09 6:30 p.m. @ Clarkston Invite

- Clarkston or Cranbrook

Boys and Girls Bowling

All meets are at 3:30 p.m. unless noted

Thu 12/17/09 @ John Glenn (Super Bowl)

Wrestling

Fri 12/18/09 @ Oakland County Wrestling

Sat 12/19/09 @ Oakland County Wrestling

(Milford)

NORTHVILLE HS

Boys Basketball

All Games at 7 p.m.

Thu 12/17/09 @ John Glenn High School

Girls Basketball

All games at 7 p.m.

Thu 12/17/09 John Glenn High School

Boys and Girls Bowling

Thu 12/17/09 @ Plymouth Super Bowl 3:30 p.m.

Boys swimming and diving

Thu 12/17/09 @ Churchill High School 6:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Sat 12/19/09 @ Franklin High School 9 a.m.

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WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

between the 215 and 285 classes, while Nuck Mudar went 3-1 with three pins between the 171 and 189 brackets.

Another wrestler who stood out last week was Jon Nelson, who wrestles at 152. Nelson not only went 5-0 during the tournament, col-

lecting three pins, he also snagged two pins during the quad meet at Catholic Central to go 7-0 for the week. Two teams chose to take voids against Nelson instead of wrestling against him.

The quad meet at Catholic Central found the Mustangs falling to Canton, 52-19, while beating Walled Lake Western, 54-21.

Greg Lorrain went 2-0

on the day in the 119-point weight class, earning an 11-3 decision against Canton and a pin against Walled Lake Western. Mudar also showcased a 2-0 display of talent, collecting a hard-fought 6-4 decision against Canton and a pin against his Walled Lake foe.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News

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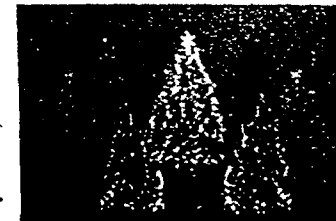
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Tankers want top four finish

■ Northville swimmers and divers have high hopes

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Northville Mustangs boys swimming and diving team has never been in the habit of setting unrealistic goals under the tutelage of 11th-year head coach Rich Bennetts. That's why when Bennetts says he believes his team can win the Central Division, win the Kensington Conference and take a top-four finish at the state finals, his team should believe it, too.

"We have very good numbers this year with 47 swimmers and six divers, so we should have a lot to choose from," said Bennetts. "Getting over the ugliness of last year is something we have focused on from the first practice."

Last year the team finished 9-2 overall and took second place in the Central Division and in the conference, but a bad state meet showing found the team finishing 12th overall.

"Finishing outside of the top 10 at states is not acceptable for this program," said Bennetts.

But last year is behind the team, and the seniors and other tankers are looking ahead to what this year could potentially bring.

Captains Chris LaFayette, Nate Lunn and John Blickle will be charged with leading their team in some very tough meets, including Livonia Stevenson—Northville's long-time swimming and diving rival.

In addition to the Spartans, the Northville tankers will face Ann Arbor Pioneer, Saline, Zeeland, Grosse Pointe South and Brother Rice this season. All of those teams are ranked in the top 10 in either Division I or Division II this year.

"We have a lot to prove this year and my hope is that our juniors and seniors realize the importance of working hard at practice and being confident,"



Ben Schoenek swims the 200 meter individual medley on Dec. 10.

ON TAP

Coach: Rich Bennetts

Last year's record: 9-2

Key returning players: Ben Schoenek, John Lubisco, Nate Lunn, John Blickle, Chris LaFayette, Kevin Bain and Will Price

Goals: Win division, win conference and top four finish at state finals

Challenges: Getting over disappointment of last year and a very tough schedule (six teams that are ranked in the top 10 in either Division I or II)

said Bennetts.

Some key members of this year's team are Ben Schoenek, John Lubisco, Kevin Bain, Will Price, AJ Aquinto, Anthony Adamowicz, Ryan Winkler, Alex Miller, Tim Shea, BoFeng Zhang, William Greenlee, Alec Wagner, Eric

Ostrowski, Zach Taylor, Todd Truran and Dawson Laabs.

Other members of the team include: Cameron Albrandt, Akbar Ariswala, Phillip Bondy, Sam Boyea, Will Brandin, Travis Cole, Steven Collareno, Trevor Corn, Adam Curry, Will Dixon, Josh DuFrense, Patrick Dunn, Jack Fielden, Brandon Fields, Nick Hayes, Zach Hetu, Austin Hunt, RJ Holloway, Alex Joslin, Christopher Kim, Dennis Kim, Alex Kim, Connor Koblinski, Spencer Koblinski, Patrick Kornmyer, Alex Latta, John Lubisco, Harry Master, Kyle McCormick, Mike Miller, Alex Miller, Spencer Miller, Spiro Morris, Greg Putman, Sergio Reyes, Jacob Schipper, Ben Schoenek, Humza Siddiqui, Matt Smelt, Zach Taylor, Todd Truran, Glen Vargo and Aaron Zalewski.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville Mustang Dennis Kim swims the 200 meter freestyle in Northville's Dec. 10 home meet against Birmingham Brother Rice.

SWIM

FROM PAGE B1

Bain earning 256 points and Will Price collecting 233.

In the 100 fly, Greenlee took first in 57.16 seconds, while Schoenek was second in 57.18 and Lunn was third in 57.34. Taking first in the 100 free was Brother Rice's Biskup in 49.48, while Northville's John Lubisco took second with a 50.05. In the 500 free, Blickle swam a 5:01.68 for first while Tim Shea finished second for

Northville in 5:08.66.

The team of Aquinto, Lunn, Ryan Winkler and Greenlee combined their talents for a first in the 200 free relay with a time of 1:33.98, while the team of Lunn, Schoenek, Blickle and Lubisco took first in the 400 free relay in 3:25.38.

Northville finished out individual events with first place finishes by Lubisco in the 100 backstroke in 1:00.47 and Zhang in the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.89. Anthony Adamowicz took second in the breaststroke in a time of 1:08.18.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News



Adam Curry swims the breaststroke on Dec. 10.

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Winner Ian Forstyh (#26) leads the way for over 1,000 runners in the start of last year's Super 5K run.

Novi's Running Fit hosts 11th Annual Super 5K Road Race

Get off your duff, and get ready to run! Feb. 7 marks the 44th annual American Professional Football Super Bowl game and the 11th consecutive Super 5K Road Race, which will start and finish near Running Fit's newest location within the Novi Town Center.

Running Fit completed their move of the Novi location shortly after last year's race. The new store resides on Eleven Mile Road, two doors down from Bonfish Grill and facing Grand River Avenue. It is larger and in a more visible location within the Town Center.

The weather in years past has varied from sunny and mild to frigid, snowy and windy. Race director, Randy Step, says that the race has seen growth each year and expects more than 2,000 participants in 2010. Custom Super 5K finisher pint glasses will be awarded to the first 1,500 finishers, and football fan or not, he welcomes and encourages one and all to come on out and "earn the best spot on the couch!"

No matter where competitors finish, an abundance of post race food including hot wings served by the Hooter's girls will be waiting for all of the participants at the finish.

If you're not in shape to partake in a 5K event, Step has that covered too. Winter 2010 Running 101 classes will begin in January at Running Fit stores located in Novi and Ann Arbor.

Novi store manager Rachel Ingle assures that while winter conditions can be challenging at times, safety is a priority. Ingle elaborates as she explains that classes run on maintained sidewalks in the Town Center in addition to having the ability to seek shelter under awnings that provide cover from Michigan's imminent snow.

Additionally, as in previous years, race participants can anticipate the opportunity to take advantage of great bargains in the store race weekend.

Start the New Year off right. Whether you're new to running or an old vet, having a goal, running with friends and engaging in a little competition keeps us fresh and begging for more. To register and learn more about the Super 5K and Winter Running 101 classes, please visit <http://www.runsuperbowl.com/> and <http://www.runningfit.net/> or call (734) 929-9027.

Mustangs fall in defensive struggle

Girls basketball team hopes to rebound this week

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

It was the kind of game that coaches love to see but hate to lose.

The Northville Mustangs girls basketball team struggled to find their offensive capabilities last week when they opened the season against the Walled Lake Northern Knights. By the time they started knocking down shots, the Knights were finding their range as well.

The end result was a 74-64 loss for the Mustangs, dropping them to 0-1 to begin their season.

"For the first game, I was pleased with the half-court and transition defense we played,"

said Todd Gudith, the Mustangs' second-year head coach.

"Northern didn't get much on us. However, we have to make sure we continue to play aggressive defensively, but smarter and limit our fouls."

Penalties were a problem for the Mustangs, who led the game at the half, 20-16. According to Gudith, the Knights scored almost half their points from the foul line. The Knights converted on 18-of-30 shots from the charity stripe while Northville was given just 12 opportunities and scored on five of them.

"Every time we made a good play on defense, we almost immediately gave them the ball back," said Gudith. "That made it hard to get into any rhythm

offensively. We worked too hard to get the ball to just give it right back. We've got to value each possession."

The Mustangs found themselves slipping in the third quarter, despite an improved offensive showing that netted them 17 points. The Knights, however, poured in 20 to cut Northville's lead to 37-36. It was the final quarter that found Northville's offensive capabilities beginning to shine through, but their defensive pressure giving away as the Knights outscored them 38-27 to clinch the victory.

The Mustangs were led by senior Katherine Jansen, who scored 12 points in the losing effort. Junior Megan Gertley snagged eight rebounds while

ON TAP

The Mustangs will be back in action when they take on the John Glenn Rockets today at 7 p.m. at Northville High School. The team, 0-1 so far this year, will then be off until Dec. 29 when they visit the Chelsea Bulldogs.

Jansen grabbed six. Senior guard Tori Wright and junior Katie Giacomini had four steals each.

Northville was shorthanded throughout the entire contest, dressing only nine players because of injuries to senior Julia Ramey and junior Beth Roach, who are both expected to be back on the hardwood this week.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Girls cagers hope to challenge for division

Squad has to overcome inexperience

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

Experience. In high school basketball, it's often the name of the game.

That's why second-year head coach Todd Gudith will be putting in plenty of time to give his young team as much experience as they can muster. The Northville Mustangs enter this season with 11 players on their roster. Eight of them, said Gudith, have little or no varsity experience.

"Try to get them up to speed and contributing will ultimately be the main challenge," he said.

Having just 11 players on the squad this year could be considered a weakness by many pundits, but Gudith views it as a positive for his squad.

"Our biggest strength might be that we only have 11 girls, but they all want to be here and learn," he said. "They know that with only 11 players, everyone is going to have to step up in order to contribute for us to be successful."

So far, he said, the team chemistry has been really good. They are working together to absorb everything the coaching staff is throwing at them.

"The most work for us right now is getting the underclassmen to understand how hard

you have to keep playing at this level. You can't take a possession off," Gudith said. "It's a process and it may take a little while, but I think we've got the right group that will surprise some people as we move forward."

That's why the team set the goal of challenging for the Central Division title. They're not settling with simply stating they want a better record than last year's 5-5 division showing.

Gudith's squad hasn't yet announced any captains.

"We ultimately want everyone to step up and hold each other accountable," he said.

This year's team consists of three seniors, four juniors, three sophomores and a lone freshman. The seniors are Katherine Jansen, Tori Wright and Julia Ramey and the juniors are Katie Giacomini, Beth Roach, Sarah Tuohy and Megan Gertley. Sophomores on this year's team are Meredith Williams, Alexandra Moynes and Alyssa Bates, and the single freshman is Kendra Brenner.

"With the number of newcomers, inexperience is our weakness at this point," Gudith reiterated. "But everyone will see court time throughout the season and hopefully we will grow as a team because everyone knows that they will have a hand in our success. We are not counting on one individual to carry us, we

DETAILS

Head coach: Todd Gudith

Last year's record: 11-10

Key returning players: Tori Wright, Katherine Jansen, Julia Ramey, Katie Giacomini and Megan Gertley

Goals: Challenge for the division, show improvement over last season as they build the program

Challenges: Eight out of 11 girls have little or no varsity experience

expect different players to step up on offense and defense throughout the season."

Gudith didn't hesitate when he added that there will be some good, healthy competition at practice for playing time this season.

The Mustangs already have a few dates circled on their calendar—Novi and Salem are especially notable.

"Novi will present our biggest challenge within the division because they bring back four starters," said Gudith. "Salem always has a team ready to play and returns three seniors with a lot of game experience."

Games like that will no doubt get the Mustangs their goal of experience quickly. What they'll do with it, only time will tell.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE A1

fallen to a 2-3 record.

"I believe in this team and like the work ethic and competitiveness of the players," he said.

A day earlier, the Mustangs were in a tough situation against the Howell Highlanders, a team that was ranked fourth in Division I while Northville was ranked eighth.

The Mustangs jumped to a 1-0 lead in the first period on a score by Thornburg from Kyle Sargent. The Highlanders didn't let the lead last long, adding a score of their own to tie the game, 1-1, heading into the second period.

The game found the teams nearly perfectly matched on many levels, and stayed tied by the end of two periods, 4-4. Northville had scoring from Mike Scorzo, Close and McHugh. Assists were given to Brady Marotta, Sargent and Rosiar.

The difference came in the third period with the Highlanders' offense notching two goals for the 6-4 lead and their defense playing stifling against the Mustangs.

The Mustangs went 2-for-2 on power plays in the contest while killing both of Howell's power play attempts.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

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Northville tumblers have eye on top-10 finish

■ Mustangs have talent, drive to succeed

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

Erin McWatt knows what it takes to build a top-10 team.

For the past seven years, McWatt has patrolled the hardwood floor of the Northville gym, directing gymnasts on the beam, the floor and the bars. She has pushed them to be their best and, in the process, has built a program that for the past four seasons has finished in the top 10 in the state finals.

The key?
"We need to make sure we take one meet at a time, and remember everything is practice until we get to states in March," said McWatt.

Because the Mustangs don't boast a massive team—just 10 girls this year—they also have to find ways to step up when the need calls for it.

"With a small team, we need to make sure girls step up to the plate in the event of an injury to a key all-around performer, and we need to be sure we're taking care of ourselves physically. It's a challenge peaking at the right time."

The Mustangs were looking forward to starting their season Dec. 16 when they visited Plymouth High School. There, the squad could showcase some of its talent. The event where they will be the most impressive, said McWatt, is the beam.

"We really work hard at this event, in particular, because it's such a challenge for most gymnasts," McWatt admitted.

Helping lead the team this year are two senior captains: Michelle Steslicki and Amy O'Brien. Other members of the squad include seniors Cassidy Winter, MaKenna Pohl and Brittany Kronner as well as juniors Katie Parks, Caitlin Stojkov and Allison Kemp. The lone sophomore

DETAILS

Coach: Erin McWatt

Last year's record: 7-1

Key returning players: MaKenna Pohl and Allison Kemp

Goals: To qualify as many individuals as possible in each event to Regionals; to place among the top-10 teams in the state for the fourth year in a row
Challenges: The team is down two experienced competitors this year due to multi-sport commitments

on this year's team is Victoria Clay, and this year's single freshman is Taylor Dempsey.

There will be plenty of talented teams on the schedule this year for the Mustangs to compete against.

"We really enjoy competing with all the teams," said McWatt. "Although Farmington United is not in our conference, we look forward to meets with them. We also enjoy seeing teams from the west side of the state before we get to the state finals. Farmington is a tough team, and Grand Ledge has won back-to-back state titles, so it's nice to be up against the best in order to help realize our best."

One of the joys of coaching a small team of talented girls like this one, said McWatt, is the closeness that develops between everyone.

"I have (10) individuals who genuinely love and support one another," she said. "They're true friends inside and outside the gym."

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

Cagers hope to earn Central Division title

■ Squad wants to build on strong ending to last year's season

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

With six players returning from last season's 8-13 Northville boys basketball team, you don't have to look far to find someone who will tell you they don't plan on having a repeat performance.

This year's squad, coached by Todd Sander in his second year at the varsity level, has set some serious goals for themselves and plan on using the thumps they experienced last year as the driving fuel to reach them.

The Mustangs started last season with a dismal 1-8 record before starting to find their rhythm and then winning five of their last seven games. That momentum will hopefully carry over to this year as the Mustangs search for a Central Division, a Lakes Conference and a district tournament title.

"We need to buy-in and commit to playing defense and play unselfishly on offense," said Sander. "We need to trust our teammates, both on offense and defense. Trust has been emphasized in our practices thus far."

Trust is something Sander knows plenty about. Last year, in his first year as the varsity coach for Northville after six seasons coaching the junior varsity squad, he brought up four sophomores who ended up being asked to play significant roles.

Those sophomores—now juniors—include All-Conference selection Bryce Groshek (5-foot-10-inches). He, along with seniors Tim Hasse (6-3), who was honorable mention All-Conference last year, and junior Andrew Baldwin (6-3), were team-leading scorers last year. Joining them will be senior Makis Eatmon (6-5) and juniors Al Myers (6-2) and Spencer Devine (6-2).

Those six will form the core of Northville's squad this year, feeding off the fire that burns inside them from each loss they took last year.

Their teammates this year include juniors Levi Perry (6-0), Mike Wegzyn (6-6), Ryan Owen (6-0) and Curtis Bourne (6-1) as well as sophomores Jeffrey Bertley (5-11), Brett MacDonald (6-2) and Andrew Poterala (6-2).

The biggest challenge Sander sees his team facing is learning how to take their game to the next level.

"We had our share of growing pains last year with four sophomores forced into playing significant roles," said Sander. "There is no guarantee of success this year just because we return most of our scorers and starters. It's about working hard on defense every possession and playing together on offense. If we do those two things, success should follow."

This year's schedule won't be an easy one for the Mustangs. The Central Division is expected to be extremely balanced with strong teams from top to bottom.

Sander said his squad will match up well, but there are no "gimmies" for them to count on.

"In our division, any team will be capable of being any other any night," he said. "South Lyon is the defending conference champion, so we would like revenge there. Novi is our obvious cross-town rival, and they beat us twice last year. That is always a fun game to be a part of."

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

DETAILS

Head coach: Todd Sander

Last year's record: 8-13

Key returning players: Makis Eatmon, Tim Hasse, Al Myers, Bryce Groshek, Andrew Baldwin and Spencer Devine

Goals: Win the division, win the conference tournament and then win the district tournaments
Challenges: Taking the next step



Northville senior Makis Eatmon (10) wins the opening tip off against Walled Lake Northern during the Mustangs' opening game.

First game is tough loss for Mustangs

■ Boys cage squad looks ahead after falling to WL Northern

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

It was a tough loss, but one that has shown the Northville Mustangs boys basketball team exactly what they need to work on in order to win.

The Mustangs, coached by Todd Sander in his second year at the varsity level, fell to the Walled Lake Northern Knights in a non-conference showdown, 67-57.

"We displayed a lot of fight tonight, and that is a good sign," said Sander. "We never quit and twice rallied from double digit deficits. I was proud of our effort."

The Mustangs found themselves trailing early in the game, 14-11, but rallied back in the second quarter to trail by just one, 24-23. The Knights, however, wouldn't be denied, edging their way to a two-point lead in the third quarter before finally putting Northville away with a 19-point fourth period showing as the Mustangs gathered just 10 points.

"Walled Lake is a very talented team, and they will compete for their division title," Sander said. "They show very well from the perimeter, and that is going to happen sometimes. You have to give them credit."

ON TAP

The Northville boys basketball team is on the road today with a 7 p.m. tip scheduled against John Glenn. The Mustangs will then be off until December 29.

The Knights hit 10 three-point shots throughout the contest and led by double digits twice. Walled Lake was up by 10 in the second quarter before Northville cut their lead to one before the half-time buzzer, and then went up against by 11 in the third quarter before Northville was able to tie it.

The Mustangs were led in scoring by Tim Hasse, a senior outside shooter who netted 15 points, including a 3-for-7 performance from the three-point line. He snagged nine rebounds as well.

Andrew Baldwin added 13 points, nine rebounds and five assists in the losing effort and put in a perfect 5-for-5 from the free throw line. Al Myers notched nine points and Bryce Groshek collected eight second-half points to help the Mustangs.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.



Northville senior Tim Hasse (23) pulls up for a shot during a loss to Walled Lake Northern last week.

NORTHVILLE SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball training program

Franklin Road Christian High School will host a six-week spring training 2010 baseball program for players in grades first through 12th from Feb. 7 to March 21. Franklin Road Christian Head Coach Mike Harris will direct the program in conjunction with the U.S. Baseball Academy. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching and catching at a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks.

Space is limited. Registration is now under way. For more information, visit www.USBBaseballAcademy.com, or call toll-free 866-622-4487.

Novi Ice Arena to host

Suburban Hockey Schools holiday clinics

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct their popular three-day Holiday Clinics at Novi Ice Arena and Dec. 21-23. Classes include Power Skating and Puck Handling clinics for mites (ages 6-8) and Power Skating and Stick Skills for squirts (ages 9-10).

The Mite Power Skating and Puck Handling (noon-1:30 p.m.) clinic will focus on individual skill development with an emphasis on balance and edge control, as well as stickhandling and puck control.

The Squirt Power Skating and Stick Skills (1:30-3 p.m.) clinic will develop skating skills with a focus on control, power, acceleration and speed,

in addition to working on stickhandling, passing and shooting skills.

"The Holiday Clinics are a great opportunity for kids to develop their individual skills that they don't always have a chance to work on in their team practices and a good way for them to stay sharp over the winter break," said Suburban Hockey Schools director Ryan Pardoski.

Each Suburban Hockey Schools Holiday Clinic has limited enrollment with players grouped by age and ability level and includes 1.5 hours of ice time per day. The cost of each player clinic is \$105.

For more information on the Holiday Clinics click on www.suburbanhockeyschools.com or call (248) 478-1600.

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Name of Debtor	Case Number	Tax Identification Number	Other Names Used by Debtors in the Past 5 Years
Remediation and Liability Management Corp., Inc. (a subsidiary of General Motors Corporation)	09-50029 (RJG)	34-2525430	Upson Land Development Corporation
Environmental Corporate Remediation Company, Inc. (a subsidiary of General Motors Corporation)	09-50030 (RJG)	41-1650769	GM National Hawaii, Inc., NCRS Hawaii, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on December 2, 2009, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Court") having jurisdiction over the chapter 11 cases of Remediation and Liability Management Company, Inc. and Environmental Corporate Remediation Company, Inc. as debtors in possession (each subsidiaries of General Motors Corporation) (collectively, the "REALM/ENCORE Debtors") entered an order (the "Bar Date Order") establishing February 1, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) as the last date and time for each person or entity (including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, and trusts) to file a proof of claim ("Proof of Claim") based on prepetition claims against any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors (the "Bar Date").

The Bar Date Order, the Bar Date and the procedures set forth below for the filing of Proofs of Claim apply to all claims against the REALM/ENCORE Debtors that arose prior to October 9, 2009, the date on which the REALM/ENCORE Debtors commenced their cases under chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The REALM/ENCORE Debtors were subsidiaries of GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION. The properties owned by the REALM/ENCORE Debtors, which are listed below, may have been known to you as property of General Motors Corporation.

If you have any questions relating to this Notice, please feel free to contact the Debtors at 1-888-314-9667 or by e-mail at claims@motorliquidation.com. In addition, you may contact the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors through its website at www.motorliquidation.com/creditorscommittee.com or at 1-212-715-3275.

YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING WHETHER YOU SHOULD FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM.

1. WHO MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM

YOU MUST file a Proof of Claim to vote on a chapter 11 plan filed by the REALM/ENCORE Debtors or to share in any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors' estates if you have a claim that arose prior to October 9, 2009. Acts or omissions that occurred before October 9, 2009 may give rise to claims against the REALM/ENCORE Debtors that must be filed by February 1, 2010, notwithstanding that such claims may not have matured or become fixed or liquidated or certain prior to October 9, 2009.

Pursuant to section 101(4) of the Bankruptcy Code and as used in this Notice, the word "claim" means: (a) a right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, undisputed, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, secured, or unsecured; or (b) a right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach gives rise to a right to payment, whether or not such right is an equitable remedy as reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

YOU SHOULD NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CLAIM

2. WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

All Proofs of Claim must be filed so as to be actually received on or before February 1, 2010 at the following address:

If by first-class mail, to:
The Garden City Group, Inc.
Attn: Motors Liquidation Company
Claims Processing
5151 Blazer Parkway, Suite A
Dublin, Ohio 43017

If by hand delivery to:
United States Bankruptcy Court, SDNY
One Bowling Green, Room 514
New York, New York 10004

Proofs of Claim will be deemed timely filed only if actually received by The Garden City Group, Inc. or the Court on or before February 1, 2010. Proofs of Claim may not be delivered by facsimile, telecopy, or electronic mail transmission.

3. WHAT TO FILE
If you file a Proof of Claim, your filed Proof of Claim must: (i) be written in the English language; (ii) be denominated in dollars; (iii) conform substantially to Official Bankruptcy Form No. 10 ("Proof of Claim Form"); (iv) state the REALM/ENCORE Debtor against which it is filed; (v) set forth the factual basis for the alleged claim; (vi) include supporting documentation or an explanation as to why such documentation is not available; and (vii) be signed by the claimant or, if the claimant is not an individual, by an authorized agent of the claimant.

Proof of Claim Forms may be obtained at www.uscourts.gov/bk/forms/ or www.motorliquidation.com

YOU SHOULD ATTACH TO YOUR COMPLETED PROOF OF CLAIM FORM COPIES OF ANY WRITINGS UPON WHICH YOUR CLAIM IS BASED. IF THE DOCUMENTS ARE VOLUMINOUS, YOU SHOULD ATTACH A SUMMARY.

4. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM BY THE APPLICABLE BAR DATE

If you do not file a Proof of Claim on or before February 1, 2010 in the appropriate form in accordance with the procedures described in this Notice for any claim you wish to assert, you will be forever prohibited and forbidden from asserting the claim in the future, and each of the Debtors and their respective chapter 11 estates, successors, and property will be forever discharged from and will not be liable or responsible for anything relating to the claim, and you will not be permitted to vote to accept or reject any chapter 11 plan filed in these chapter 11 cases, receive any distribution in any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors' chapter 11 cases on account of your claim, or receive further notices with respect to any of the REALM/ENCORE Debtors' chapter 11 cases.

A holder of a possible claim should consult an attorney as to whether the holder should file a Proof of Claim.

DATED December 2, 2009 BY ORDER OF THE COURT
New York, New York

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10013
Telephone: (212) 310-5000
Facsimile: (212) 310-5007

ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

LIST OF PROPERTIES

Site Name	Address	City, State Zip
6560 CASS AVENUE (NEW CENTER COMPLEX)	6560 CASS AVENUE	DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202
BAY CITY CROTTY STREET	1001 WOODSIDE AVENUE	BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48708
DANVILLE CENTRAL FOUNDRY LANDFILL	174 G STREET	DANVILLE, ILLINOIS 61832
DELPHI COLDWATER ROAD (LANDFILL & WWTP CLOSURE)	WWTP AT 6220 HORTON STREET, LANDFILL AT 1245 EAST	FLINT, MICHIGAN 48905
DELPHI SAGINAW PLANT 2 LANDFILL	79 WEST CENTER STREET	SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48603
ELYRIA LANDFILL (LORAIN)	1400 LOWELL STREET	ELYRIA, OHIO 44035
FORMER DELCO CHASSIS PLANT	12950 ECKLES ROAD	LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150
GMPT - TOLEDO REALM PARCEL	1455 WEST ALEXIS ROAD	TOLEDO, OHIO 43612
GREENPONT LANDFILL	77, 79 WEST CENTER STREET AND 1305, 1307 GABRIEL	SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48602
LEEDS ASSEMBLY LAND	CASPI SOUTH OF 6817 STADIUM DRIVE	KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64129
LEY CREEK SITE (SALINA)	FACTORY AVENUE AND/OR MALLOY ROAD EAST	SALINA, NEW YORK 13099
LINDEN ROAD	1200 SOUTH LINDEN ROAD	FLINT TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN 48932
PEREGRINE - COLDWATER ROAD (PLANT)	1245 EAST COLDWATER ROAD (G-1245 EAST COLDWATER ROAD)	FLINT, MICHIGAN 48905
SOUTH LAGOON (MORAIN COMPLEX)	3801 DRYDEN	MORAIN, OHIO 45439
SUNNYSIDE FIELD (LAND ALONG STANLEY ROAD)	STANLEY ROAD	MT MORRIS, MICHIGAN 48858
TEXTILE ROAD LAND	BUNTON & TEXTILE ROADS	YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197
TONAWANDA LANDFILL	2530 KENMORE AVENUE	TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14207
VACANT LAND SOUTH OF VAN BORN	5000 ECORSE ROAD	BELLEVIEW, MICHIGAN 48111

Novi's Mullins leads the pack

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Novi's Jackie Mullins didn't finish the year like a typical freshman.

The Wildcat turned in the top performance from the area athletes and finished 12th at the State Finals, earning All-State honors. Mullins conquered the course at Michigan International Speedway in 18:42.2.

Mullins is the 2009 girls cross country Runner of the Year.

"I have had a blast coaching Jackie so far," said coach Marsha Reid. "She has natural talent and has the experience of running previously. The biggest adjustment for Jackie was learning how to run a complete 5,000-meter race. She ran well in the middle school, but the distance is different."

"I think she always knew that she could run the way she did, but I think she spent a lot of time learning how to race."

Reid said she knew Mullins had the talent to be a special runner, but it was something Mullins had to figure out for herself.

"I actually did have an idea that Jackie was capable of putting in the performances she did. I think Jackie was more unsure than me," said Reid. "I am looking forward to seeing what she can do in the future. She has the potential to continue to improve."

"I guess we can just wait and see what comes next."

FIRST TEAM

Lauren Kettle, Milford

The junior Maverick pushed hard for Runner of the Year honors. She finished KLAA Conference runner-up, hitting the finish line in 18:29. She ran through the flu at regionals but still placed 10th to help the team qualify for states. She finished 19th in team scoring and 24th overall to achieve All-State honors at the State Finals. During the season, she won titles at the Fremont Hill and Bale Invite and at the Linden Cross Country Classic.

"Lauren is the classic good to great story," said head coach Brian Salyers. "After two quality seasons, she took her training and competition to another level this year. This progress yielded a couple Invitational wins, a plethora of medals, a trip with her teammates to the State Finals and the highly coveted All-State distinction." Rachel Hofsess, Milford

The Maverick senior put in a solid season capped with a trip to the State Finals. One of her best finishes came at regionals, where she claimed 13th place to help the Mavs advance and finish 18th at state. Her personal best time was 20:08 against Pinckney.

"Rachel was the senior glue that held this team together," said Salyers. "She was the one always working hard, encouraging others and instilling the traditions into the team. Nobody was more responsible for our team

returning to compete at the State Finals than Rachel." Gina McNamara, Northville

The Mustang sophomore led the charge at state, finishing in 19:46 to claim 43rd in team scoring and 52nd overall. Northville finished 21st as a team. Her season highlights included a fourth-place finish at the conference meet, fifth at regionals and a few individual titles at meets during the season.

"She had an amazing second year," said coach Nancy Smith. "Gina showed determination and hard work pays off. She was a leader on the team, motivating a young team to improve and advance to the State Finals." Katie Vandervoort, Northville

The Mustang freshman made quite a splash down the stretch. She was ninth at the Conference finals and at the regionals before finishing 55th overall at states.

"Katie had an amazing first season with no previous experience," said Smith. "She is a naturally talented runner who stepped up for the team and ran competitively each time she stepped on the course." Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER | NORTHVILLE RECORD

Northville's Gina McNamara finished first for the Mustangs in a cross country meet against Salem on Sept. 9.

ALL-AREA CROSS COUNTRY

Runner of the Year

Jackie Mullins, Novi freshman

First Team

Lauren Kettle, Milford junior

Rachel Hofsess, Milford senior

Morgan Bridgewater, Lakeland

sophomore

Gina McNamara, Northville

sophomore

Katie Vandervoort, Northville

freshman

Second Team

Maggie Sadler, South Lyon

sophomore

Alex Rodriguez, Northville fresh-

man

Erin Dunne, Northville freshman

Mikaela Jaklic, Milford freshman

Brittany Greenleaf, Milford

sophomore

Reighan Fisher, Lakeland fresh-

man

Raechel Moore, Lakeland junior

Honorable Mention

Alexandra Drayback, Northville

freshman

Claire Courtney, Northville fresh-

man

Emily Sklar, Northville junior

Brooke McMahan, Novi senior

Caitlin Millis, South Lyon sopho-

more

Christina Swain, South Lyon

sophomore

Gretchen Gorman, South Lyon

freshman

Katie Beaber, South Lyon fresh-

man

Megan Hoorn, South Lyon East

junior

Sarah Sherman, South Lyon East

junior

Courtney Collins, South Lyon

East sophomore

Jennie Feigley, Milford sopho-

more

Alana Noone, Milford sophomore

Shayna Joyner, Milford freshman

Sara MacDonald, Lakeland

sophomore

The Eagle sophomore improved throughout the season. She finished 17th at the count meet, 12 at the KLAA Conference meet and sixth at the regional meet. She ended the year by finishing 60th at the State Finals.

"She is a great competitor who gives her all," said head coach John Kababik. "She's a sophomore who started out the

season as our third or fourth runner, but quickly improved as our best runner most of the year."

SECOND TEAM

Alex Rodriguez, Northville

The Mustang freshman was 18th at the KLAA Conference finals and 15th at regionals to help the Mustangs advance to the State Finals. She finished 164th at state.

Erin Dunne, Northville

The Northville freshman finished seventh at the KLAA Conference finals and 16th at regionals as the Mustangs advanced to the State Finals. She was the fourth finisher for the Mustangs at state in 112th place.

Maggie Sadler, South Lyon

She was the team MVP for the Lions. Her best time was 20:22, and she finished first at a pair of dual meets during the season.

Mikaela Jaklic, Milford

The freshman Maverick finished 27th at the KLAA Conference meet, 20th at regionals to help Milford move to the State Finals. She finished 86th in team point and 106th overall at Michigan International Speedway. Her best time was 20:14 at the conference meet.

Brittany Greenleaf, Milford

The Maverick sophomore was 39th at Oakland County, 29th at the conference meet and 21st at regionals. She finished 115th in team scoring and 150th overall at the State Finals. Her best time was 20:18 at the conference meet.

Reighan Fisher, Lakeland

The freshman Eagle put together a strong season, placing 25th at the county meet, 20th at KLAA Conference meet and 12th at regionals. She capped the season with a trip to the State Finals where she placed 99th.

Raechel Moore, Lakeland

The Lakeland junior finished 29th at the county meet and 28th at the regional meet. She was one of the top-three finishers for Lakeland throughout the season.

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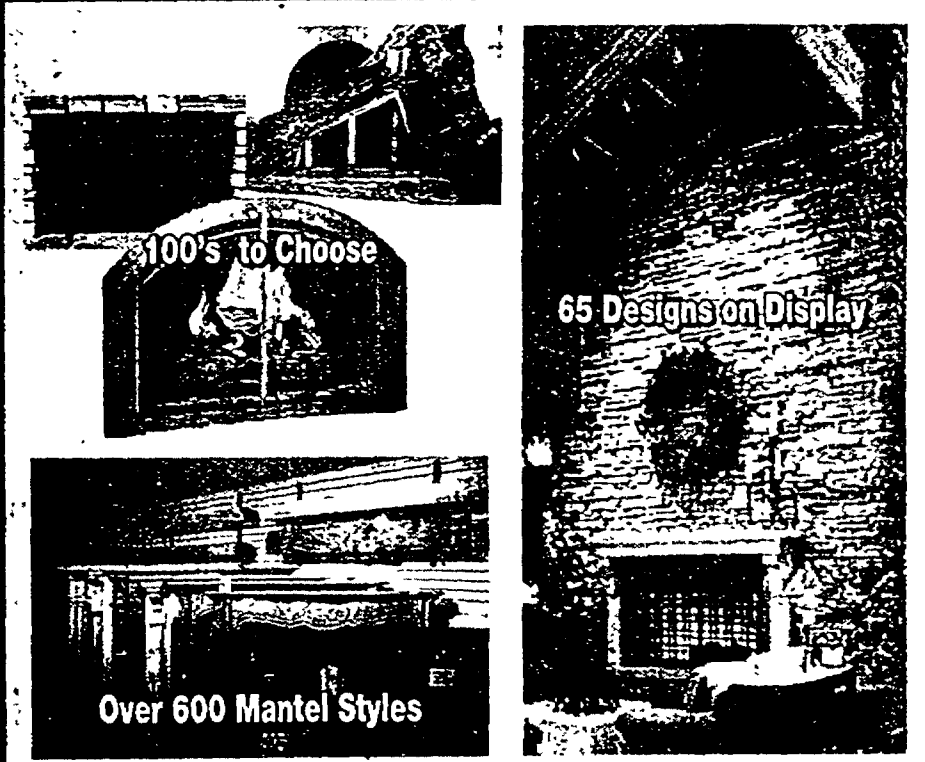
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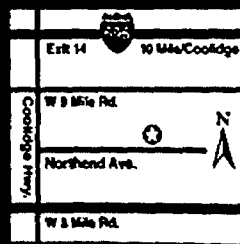
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Cheer team looking to win division, conference

■ Northville squad returns a slew of talented girls

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The members of the Northville Mustangs competitive cheerleading squad know they not only have the talent to compete this season, they have more than enough to win.

That's why the team, coached by Mindy Gentz in her sixth year at the helm, has set some very inspired goals for themselves. First on the list? A KLA Central Division championship, followed by a Kensington Conference title. The squad doesn't plan on stopping there, looking for advancement through the post-season and to the state finals.

"(We have to) stay focused and committed to the goals," said Gentz about making the team goals a reality this year. In addition, she added the team has to "make weekly improvements," and "increase the numbers competing in each round."

The team will be relying not only on their talent this season, but also on the leadership

DETAILS

Head Coach: Mindy Gentz
Key returning players: Morgan Breault, Katie Steinberg, Alex Romano, Melissa Scott, Anna Lanzetta, Delaney King and Megan Callahan

This year's goals: Win division and conference, advance through districts and regionals to State finals

This year's biggest challenges: Continuing to push ourselves to perform at a higher level

and veteran status many of the girls have this season.

"Our strength lies in the experience we are able to bring to the floor this season," Gentz commented. "Our focus area this season will be our precision and attention to details."

Leading the team on the floor will be captains seniors Melissa Scott and Shelby Mamo and juniors Katie Steinberg and Morgan Breault.

Seniors on this year's team are Celia Charlois, Anna Lanzetta and Alex Roach and juniors Jessica Enyeart, Allie Hartnagel, Alex Saad and Alyssa Wierzbicki. Sophomores on this year's team include Megan Callahan, Clare Else, Delaney King, Janine Kjolhede, Samantha Mullen, Rachel Polanski, Alex Romano, Katie Step and Rensy Wu while Abby Hayek, Molly Morris, Katie Morris and Jordyn Trotter make up the freshman contingent.

The Northville Mustangs will be looking forward to taking on Novi this season, as always, and have their eye on the Brighton and Northville invitationals to showcase their talent.

This year's toughest competition? It's no surprise that Hartland is the first team Gentz thinks of as they are perennial contenders for the state title.

"Our toughest competition will be Hartland, at the (Kensington Lakes Activities) Association finals and the district meet, and the teams from the west side of the state that we will go up against at the regional meet," Gentz said.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News

Cheer squad starts season off in style

■ Squad already scoring higher than same time last year

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Northville Mustangs cheerleading team isn't pulling any punches this year.

The squad, coached by Mindy Gentz, has already turned in scores that are higher than this time last year, and they're only looking to improve.

"As it still early in the season, we are still working to complete our round three material," said Gentz. "Once that round has been finished, we will see a significant increase in our scores."

The Mustangs opened their season last week with 661.3552 points from the judges when the squad traveled to Grand Blanc. Less than a week later, they pushed those points to 670.4888 in the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan Scholarship Invitational.

"The team's goal for the CCCAM Invite was to improve on their scores from Grand Blanc," noted Gentz. "They accomplished the goal. We are at a good place for this time in the season."

Against Grand Blanc, the Northville Mustangs earned 210 points in their first round scoring and 213.8552 in the second round. The third round notched the team 237.5 points.

In the CCCAM Invitational, the girls saw improvement in the first and third round scoring, picking up 212.8 and 247.1 points, respectively. The second round points were awarded at

ON TAP

The Mustangs competitive cheerleading team will be back in action January 6 when they take on South Lyon in a Central Division competition.

210.5888. Overall, the Mustangs finished 10th in Division I against some very competitive teams.

"CCCAM holds meets at multiple locations around the state," said Gentz. "We elect to attend the meet at Stoney Creek to give our team the experience of competing against the top Division I teams. Going in, we know that we are competing on a higher level and are satisfied with our results."

Gentz admits that her team could compete at a site with a lower level of competition and, thus, finish higher than 10th, but she said its preferable to compete with the best teams.

"It is more important for our team to be challenged and really compete against the top teams," Gentz said.

Over the course of the next week, the Mustangs will be focusing on their round three material with the goal of being completely prepared when the team's schedule resumes in January.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS
HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS**

The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on the following days in observance of the holidays:

Thursday, December 24th
Friday, December 25th
Friday, January 1st, 2010

Residents wishing to pay their taxes before year-end can do so up until closing at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, December 31, 2009.

The Department of Public Safety (Police and Fire) will remain open.

Pub 55, December 10 & 17, 2009

Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk

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Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature.

Christa Shops For You is a personal shopping service, grocery shopping service, event planning, house sitting, pet sitting, and errand services company -- basically about anything and everything someone would like to accomplish throughout their busy day. My services provide time and convenience to clients, so they can do more of what they really want, with their day. I actually save my clients money because they only get items they ask for, not what catches their eye along the way. For example, with the grocery shopping, I only get what is on the list, nothing more.

How did you first decide to open your business?

I have been providing shopping and event planning services to friends and family for over 20 years. About five years ago life presented me with an opportunity to go into business for myself, so I took it.

Why did you choose this area?

I live in Northville, grew up in Livonia and am very familiar with the people and the area. I believe Northville is a great community and I am thrilled to have my business based here.

What makes your business unique?

The outstanding customer service coupled with the variety of tasks I can accomplish for my clients. My true passion is helping people have a better work/life balance. If I can help them achieve that, then I am thrilled.

How has it changed since you opened?

When I first opened, the primary focus was grocery shopping. Everyone hates to do it, so I thought that would be the primary need for clients. Over the years I have had so many different requests for things, that I have expanded. I still have grocery clients, but now I also provide house sitting, more event planning and pet sitting.

With my house sitting, it's primarily for vacationers, or what I call snowbirds. I check the house as often as the owner would like me to. In the winter with my snowbirds, if the weather is rough, I check more often. Don't want a furnace going out!

For the event planning, I do as little or as much as a client would like. I have done the full-scale event, as well as just some running around for a dinner party. It just all depends on what the client needs.

Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

When I first started, I had a lovely client who wanted some bed pillows. She was very specific about what she wanted. I found the pillows, and when I delivered them, she didn't like them. So I did more searching and came back to her with my car literally full of pillow options. She chose two she liked, and I returned the rest. I learned that although we think we know what we want, sometimes it's not exactly right. My client called



Christa Williams shops for produce at Northville's Hiller's Market. Williams owns "Christa Shops for You" and works as a personal shopper and errand-runner for her clients. She's had her company since 2005.

DETAILS

Business Name: Christa Shops For You
Address: N/A
Your Name/Title: Christa Williams/owner
Your Hometown: Northville
Business Opened When: January 2005
Number of Employees: one
Hours of Operation: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday or as needed
Your Business Specialty: personal shopping, event planning, house sitting, pet sitting
Phone: (734) 420-1618
Website: www.christashopsforyou.com

me a few months later and asked me to find her accent pillows. I now fondly call her my "pillow lady".

How has the recent economy affected your business?

I have been very fortunate in that the economy has not adversely affected my bottom line. I am not growing as quickly as I had initially predicted when I started. However, my client base has increased each year, and I think a large part of that is due to what I can offer a client, besides just the shopping. As

clients' needs have changed, I too have tried to adapt to fit their needs.

Any advice for business owners?

Love what you do. A client knows if you are passionate about your work, or if it's just a chore for you. If you love what you do, even the most difficult situation won't seem nearly as daunting.

What's in store for the future of your business?

A larger online presence. In the past year I have gone through a rebranding phase. I updated my logo, created

Oakland County offers business workshops

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

Future Workshops
(AM) Morning Class 9 a.m. to 12/12:30 p.m.
(PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. to 9/9:30 p.m.

January 2010
7 - Pre-Business Research Workshop

14 - Fundamentals of Starting a Business
21 - Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan
26 - Legal and Financial Basics for Small Business

28 - Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business
February 2010

9 - Pre-Business Research (PM)
16 - Start A Business (PM)
17 - Team SBA Financing Roundtable

23 - Write A Business Plan (PM)
24 - WBE Certification Orientation
25 - Small Business Loan Workshop

The Web site address for Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services Workshops is www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

Walsh winter registration under way

Registration for winter courses that begin Jan. 4 is under way at all Walsh College campuses, with no appointment necessary on Walk-In Wednesdays. Students can enroll now in a new Master of Management degree program and a new MBA master's in finance dual degree program.

Walsh continues "Walk-In Wednesdays", where prospective students can meet with an academic advisor, review transcripts, and register for classes on a walk-in basis at the Troy, Novi, or Clinton Township campuses from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call (800) WALSH-01, or e-mail admissions@walshcollege.edu.

The 33-credit Master of Management (MM) degree offered at the Troy and Novi campuses focuses on managing resources in a broad spectrum of management within for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Human resources, financial management, marketing, information security, project management and communications are among the courses. Students can also select a management concentration of study. For more information and a list

of courses, please visit www.walshcollege.edu/MM.

A new dual master's degree program in Business Administration (MBA) and Finance (Master of Science in Finance) can be completed within a shorter timeframe than enrollment in each separate degree program. Students are required to take 22 classes for 66 semester credits required for both degrees. The distinctive MBA encompasses accounting, finance, management, and related disciplines. The MSF covers all aspects of finance, a blend of accounting, economics, and finance, and the study of economic theory. For more information and a list of courses, please visit www.walshcollege.edu/MBA-MSF.

Among the new courses are Real Estate Principles, an undergraduate course focusing residential real estate; and an Entrepreneurship Seminar for graduate students, exploring the entrepreneurial success process.

Partnering to send laptops to troops

Michigan computer services company Vision Computer Solutions and Clarity Quest Marketing, an Ann Arbor-based marketing agency, have teamed with Jim "Doc" Payne to donate 30 notebook computers to troops serving overseas.

Payne acquired the used laptops which were in working order except for hard drives. Vision Computer Solutions and Clarity Quest made a donation to replace the hard drives. Payne will refurbish the laptops which will be sent to units in Afghanistan and Iraq, with the bulk going to Marines being deployed in Afghanistan.

"Troops serving overseas have plenty of wireless bandwidth, but very few public computers which they can access," said Payne who has refurbished over 600 laptops for military personnel to date.

"As a technology company with several employees who have served in the military, we jumped on the chance to provide soldiers with means to stay in touch with families and friends via laptops, especially during extended stays overseas," said David Marino, president of Vision Computer Solutions.

"We are happy during this holiday season to be able to make a difference to servicemen and women who are serving so bravely and often away from their families for long periods of time," said Christine Slocumb, president of Clarity Quest Marketing.

To make a donation for future laptop donations, please email Jim Payne at jim-payne35@hotmail.com.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Specialized, personal care

Adam M. Ziff, D.O. enhances OB/GYN practice by offering urogynecology services to West Oakland women for life-long, well-rounded care

BY ALISON BERGSIEKER
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Preventative care for women usually starts with an annual visit to the gynecologist for a wellness checkup.

But the health needs of women don't stop there. Some women see several other specialists to treat individual issues along with visits to their family physician, a cycle that can cause disconnection along the way.

One local specialist, Adam M. Ziff, D.O., recognizes the importance and convenience of providing his patients more than just general care.

With a well-established OB/GYN practice based in Farmington Hills and Novi, Dr. Ziff also offers patients specialized urogynecology services, focusing on common bladder problems and pelvic floor disorders.

"There are very few gynecologists that specialize in urogynecologic problems, yet they affect millions of women," Dr. Ziff said. "Many women are comfortable seeing a gynecologist, so it makes sense to see a provider who not only understands the problem, but who is also an expert in treating women."

Dr. Ziff's specialized training is an important benefit to local women, as bladder problems and pelvic floor disorders are common but often not discussed.

"These are conditions women often don't talk about, aren't aware of, or don't know what to do with," Dr. Ziff said.

Common bladder control problems and pelvic floor disorders include urinary incontinence (leaking urine), overactive bladder, bulges in the vagina (known as prolapse), interstitial cystitis (painful bladder syndrome) and other issues that can affect sexuality.

"It's an embarrassing topic that people don't want to bring up to families or their doctors," Dr. Ziff said. "That's where I feel that I excel. I offer real patient-oriented care that's com-

passionate and understanding, because I treat these problems every single day."

The scope of urogynecologic issues is great, but there is limited awareness.

Dr. Ziff also explains that urinary incontinence is one of the top reasons seniors are admitted to nursing homes. This occurs because the caretakers of the seniors have trouble handling the problem. Nearly 18 million women in the United

States suffer from stress incontinence, meaning they leak urine upon coughing, sneezing, laughing, sitting or standing.

While urinary incontinence can severely affect a woman's quality of life, Dr. Ziff is able to provide excellent treatment options.

Dr. Ziff recognized the need to pursue this subspecialty during his OB/GYN residency. His established professional background includes a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri, along with additional coursework related to urogynecology. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Expert general care

Dr. Ziff offers the best in general obstetric and gynecologic care from adolescence to menopause and beyond. He performs routine annual exams offering age-appropriate screenings and immunizations, manages normal and high-risk pregnancies,



PHOTOS BY ALISON BERGSIEKER

Dr. Ziff and Medical Assistant Mary Donlin fill a patient's prescription electronically. This added convenience allows patients to pick up prescriptions immediately at their pharmacy of choice.

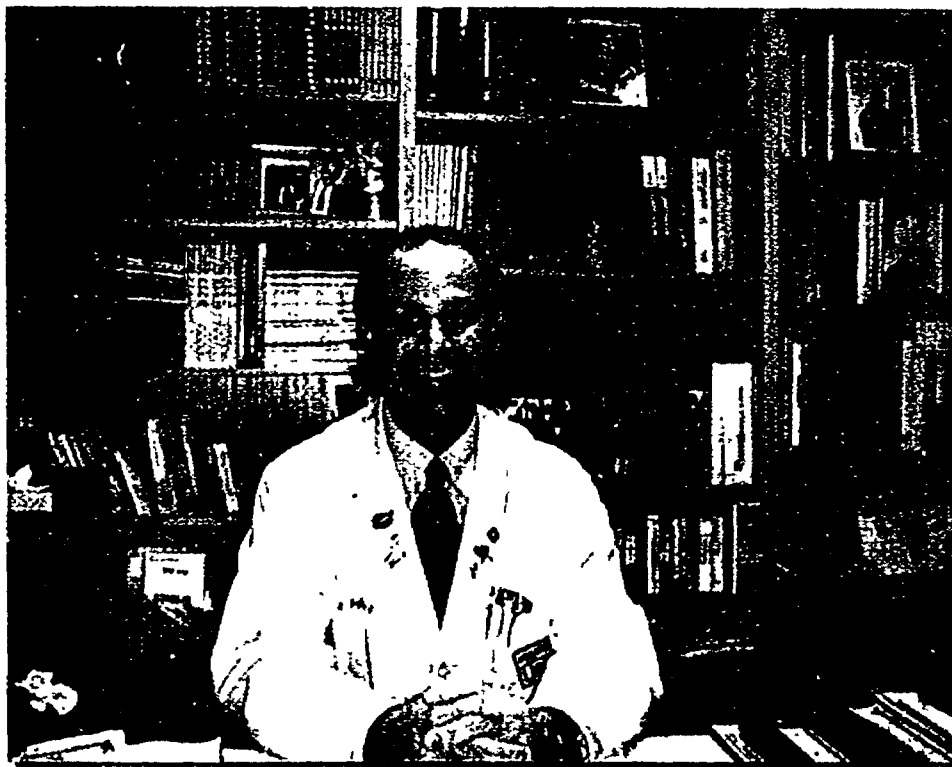
delivers at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital, prescribes all forms of birth control, and has a full-service lab and ultrasound available at both office locations.

He also provides counseling to high-risk teenagers, patients considering pregnancy or those having trouble with infertility, along with counseling on general health and wellness. Dr. Ziff performs some surgeries in-office under local anesthesia, including tubal ligations, or Essure, for permanent sterilization, and endometrial ablation, or Novasure, for heavy menstrual bleeding.

A member of the medical staff at Beaumont Hospitals, Dr. Ziff has access to an expert community of health care providers and specialists that hold the highest standards in medical care. All of Beaumont's services are available to patients residing in Milford, South Lyon, Northville and Novi.

"I think Beaumont excels as far as resources I can offer my patients," Dr. Ziff said. "Patients receive complete care without having to look outside Beaumont Hospitals."

Consider Dr. Ziff for your future health care needs. New patients are conveniently scheduled within 48 hours of request for appointment. Office hours at both locations are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Adam M. Ziff, D.O.
Beaumont Hospitals
Medical Staff Member

www.farmingtonhillsobgyn.com

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Dr. Ziff offers general OB/GYN services and also specialized urogynecology services, focusing on common bladder problems and pelvic floor disorders.

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Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

STOP BEING DRAINED BY A CO-WORKER



WORKWISE

by
Mildred L.
Culp

critical cost-saver, or pay poorly. Spherion Corp. recently released results from a survey of 2,519 employed adults who were at least 18 years old. An enormous 66 percent of employees would likely refer a friend.

What's the value in these referrals? Some companies, such as ReTargeter L.L.C., in Silicon Valley, simply can't afford to pay fees -- it's not even nine months old -- but probably will when established. Arjun Dev Arora, CEO and founder, is benefiting from the helpful start-up community now, but, as he expands, he comments, "I'd have no qualms about paying a referral fee to someone who helped land us quality talent."

How much is trust worth? Timothy Latham, managing director of Director Resourcing Ltd.,

in London, England, maintains that the value is significant. "Our whole business is about referrals to jobs," he says. "We run a massive refer-a-friend program in commercial real estate and construction." Payment for referrals ultimately placed is around \$4,000 (or more). He further states that employers are missing out on the excellent sourcing employees can do among people they know.

According to Spherion, about 26 percent of employers offer such bonuses. However, they might seem tepid in comparison with the ones Latham gives. Jason Keith, a senior Public Relations manager at Vistaprint N.V., in Lexington, Mass., reports that in the domestic United States, his company pays \$1,500 if the person hired brings experience, \$500 if not.

Another source, who requested not to be named, won a \$200 bonus for finding a technical publications manager, but she had to apply for the money. "Filing for the bonus was more complicated than filing my taxes," she recalls.

John Hedtke of JV Communications in Eugene, Ore., received a \$2,000 bonus at a company in Orange County, Calif., for referring a manager. He thought \$3,000 would be better. "Past companies I'd worked for had paid similar

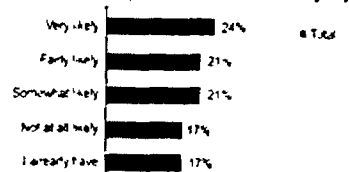
amounts 15 years ago," he says, "so this didn't feel like it had moved with the times." Nonetheless, he felt that he received \$2,000 plus a good boss -- "so I just can't kick about this at all." In fact, they're still friends.

People who manage company budgets know that \$200 and \$500 buy very, very little in terms of labor of any kind, including temporary or contract. Trust still seems to come cheap. Is the economy the problem? Kelly Kay, a San Francisco-based global managing partner at Heidrick & Struggles International Inc., points out that companies are striving to retain their best, which means that it can be difficult to lure them away. It also means that "the notion of a talent market that overwhelmingly favors the buyer is an illusion."

Latham mentions that referral programs "can be very useful, but they're limited by the extent to which employees participate. Our view is that the future lies in the creation of industry and/or functional 'mass refer-a-friend' initiatives reaching far beyond a single employer. Outside of our field, I can see room for financial and marketing functions as well as pharmaceutical industry programs, to start."

Of course, if trust is invaluable, maybe you

Likelihood of Referring a Friend to Your Company



can't put a price tag on it. If companies can't, or simply won't, pony up to recognize the contribution -- or reward it only with incentives -- they may very well be making a statement about the hiring process, that it really doesn't have value. Referring a friend deserves to be rewarded, if only because it contributes mightily to a culture of trust.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp welcomes your questions at culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2009 Passage Media.)

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Deadline for Issue of Thursday, December 24th:
Liners: Monday, December 21st at 4 pm
Display: Friday, December 18th at noon
Obituaries: Monday, December 21st at 10 am

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46 Cal. page
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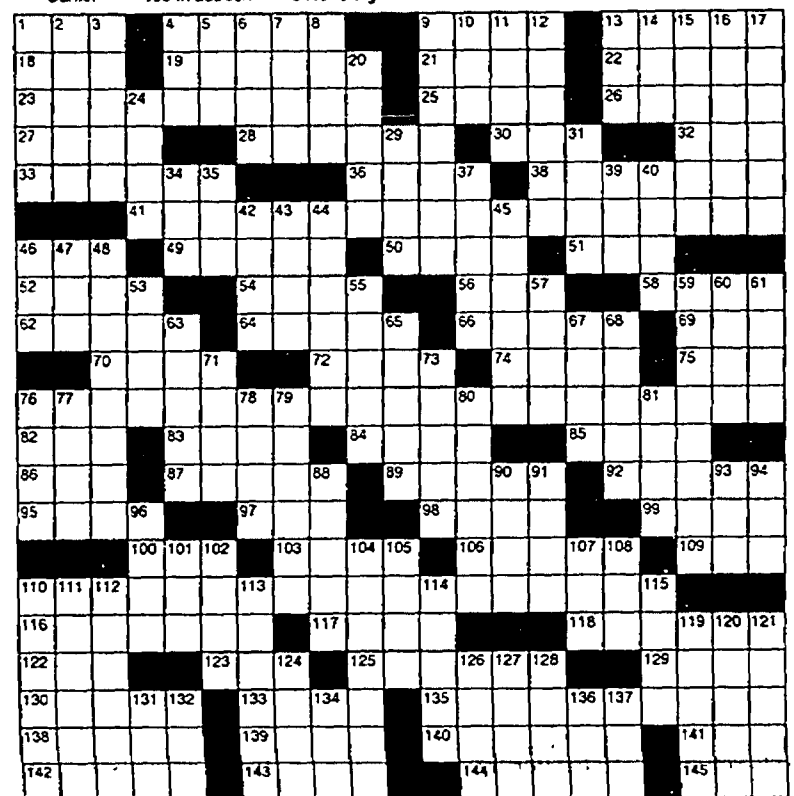
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83 Overwhelm
84 Pound of poetry
85 Story
86 "Holy cow!"
87 Actress
89 Eisenhower or Perot
92 Busybody
95 Colbie's concern
97 Dadasm founder
98 Dra ned
99 Singer
100 Carier or Vanderbilt
103 In addition

106 Chemist
109 Savvy
110 Part 3 of remark
116 Studio
117 Port —
118 Shoe part
122 — Beta
123 Director
125 Joins forces
129 Moro of Italy
130 Clerical title
133 Indication
135 End of remark
138 Register
139 Burdon or
140 Change
141 First zoo?
142 Poor
143 Salt serving
144 Subdued
145 "Brand New" (71 hr)

DOWN
1 "Wheel of Fortune" host
2 Split and neck
3 Necklace part
4 Ramsky-Korsakov's "Le Coc"
5 News org

6 Guns the engine
7 Recruit-to-be's status
8 AKC rejects
9 Cheese-board choice
10 Capek play
11 Faith or Sander
12 Sphere
13 Sampras stroke
14 — Locka, FL
15 Sea or strat
16 Rodeo horse
17 Pulled hard
20 "Fie!"
24 — me
29 Army officer
31 Pro foe
34 Compass pt.
35 Alien or Raed
37 Usa rollerblades
38 Concealed
40 At a distance
42 Lab item
43 Grasso or Wilcox
44 Swung a sickle
45 "Goldfinger" character
46 Stout relative

47 Baslica feature
48 Cupid, for one
53 Feel certain
55 Move smoothly
57 Winthered
59 — hour
60 Apollo's instrument
61 1492 or 1776
63 Sward stuff
65 Hungarian composer
67 Penny
68 At present
71 Relative of pre-
73 — throat
76 Grant or Laune
77 Nautical adverb
78 Salad ingredient
79 Set up for a fall
80 Zapotec's home
81 Marge in the fridge
88 Excellent grade
90 Grad
91 Caligula's nephew
93 Constrain
94 Nile
96 Author Road
101 — tai
102 First name in fashion
104 Loyal
105 Frigga's fellow
107 Backpack abbr.
108 Tokyo, once
110 Occur
111 Natural gas component
112 Actress
113 Cleared the slate
114 Turn of phrase
115 Navy warner
119 Dagger's partner
120 Put on a pedestal
121 Famous
122 App-pg
124 Actress
126 Iam of True Value
127 Singer
128 Mock
131 Post
132 TV Tarzan
134 "M*A*S*H" extras
136 When Pierre prespires
137 Nounshed



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Answer to Last Week's Puzzle

KIA FOAL CPA ABS FRA
ITSA ERGO RESIDUE LIEW
DANCING AT LUGNASIA YEA
SLEET RIED AMB MILK
ORDERIS SIEED ODEISE
MUNA TEA YEGG
LILA COMING HOME NADIR
IDEIST WINERY EWAN ORE
DIAPER STEEL LEVI WEN
YETO ADE SILAS NNE
GAIN WALKING TALL STEW
RUIN BELLIE BOA OTITO
EGG ENOIS MELBA NARRIO
EEL RAINY DREL SE WATINE
DRAWL GIOING WY WAY WOOD
SAFE NAIT ERIC
RAIVINE NERIAL SPARISE
ABIEL GUS ALIAS VALILLI
BIIG RAGHNGWITHTHEMOIN
IDIA LITERATE CUIRE POPIE
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Washer/dryer \$550/mo. Sec. Deposit specials. Bad credit okay 248-302-8629

FOWLerville - Luxury 1 br
Includes all appliances + washer/dryer, also wireless internet. \$550/mo. Call after 6pm, 517-404-890

HARTLAND - Over 1 & 2 Br.
(2br w/garage) & laundry, no pets. 810-632-5834, or 810-629-0343

HIGHLAND - Newly remodeled.
1 & 2 bdrm, \$475-\$525. No pets! Small complex in quiet area. Andy 248-514-5858

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MILFORD, 1-96 area, 2 br.
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SOUTH LYON/BRIGHTON AREA 3 br apt, 1 full bath, utilities incl Brighton area schools. \$800 per mo. Security dep req. For more info or to make appt. call 248-486-8110 Mon-Fri 9-5

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BRIGHTON - Unique upscale
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BRIGHTON, Open floor plan,
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BRIGHTON - 1 MONTH FREE
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FARMINGTON HILLS: 2 bdrm,
2 new baths, appliances, carpet. Plenty of storage. Washer/dryer, walk-in closets. \$850/mo + sec. Now! 586-915-8576

HIGHLAND CONDO - 2 bdrm,
1 bath, large master & living room, patio, all appliances, very nice! \$675/mo, plus security (248) 887-4254

MILFORD VILLAGE - 2 bdrm,
2 bath, luxury condo. Totally renovated Granite, hardwood floors \$1250. 248-345-9164

NORTHVILLE - 7 Mile &
Northridge Condo - 2 Bdrms, 1 Master Bdrm/private bath, bath, carpet, central air, laundry facilities, pool, Spacious Upper, Northville Schools, Water included. One yr lease. New Carpet & paint thru-out. No pets, Immediate Occupancy \$800. 248-361-3341

HAMBURG - Country duplex
on 1 acre \$675/mo No pets. 734-449-2239, 734-260-1244

HAMBURG/PINCKNEY AREA
2 br duplex, \$550 No dogs. 734-662-8669 734-878-6884

HARTLAND 2br, upper, s/r,
lg yard, no pets/smoking \$575/mo 810-632-5314

HARTLAND - 2 br, ranch
unit, air, garage, no pets. \$700/mo, 1/2 rent for 90 days w/13 mo. lease.

NICE AREA! 734-497-0960

NEW HUDSON - 2 BR, 1 bath,
private entrance, lg yard. Pay own utilities. Immediate occupancy! \$600/mo + \$625 sec. dep. 248-437-1660

NORTHVILLE Private, quiet,
garden setting, 1 br., new carpet, washer & dryer, \$625 incl. utilities and lawn care. Parking for 1 car only, no pets. 248-880-9903

NORTHVILLE Upper duplex,
2 br., C/A, appliances incl. No dogs \$800/mo 248-921-5827

NORTHVILLE: Clean & Quiet
2 bdrm, near downtown. Must See! \$575 + security. No dogs. (248) 474-2096

SOUTH LYON - Attractive 2
BR, Heat & water incl. \$595 + sec. Immediate availability! (734) 453-1735

BRIGHTON, \$1125/mo - 3 br.,
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BRIGHTON, Small 2 br.,
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or not. Also, extra Br. in main home for rent. 810-599-4541

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s/r, w/d, no pets/smoking \$825/mo. (810) 632-5314

HARTLAND: Cozy little 2
bdrm home on Lakefront, all sports Tyrone Lake. Clean, all appls. 5583 Mabley Hill Rd \$700/mo, 248-685-1406

HOLLY Charming 4 br.,
fenced yard Walk to town! City water \$950. 248-421-9777

HOWELL Lease/Option 4 br.,
2.5 bath, 1,800sq ft., 2.5 car garage, C/A, gas fireplace, all appliances. Hidden Creek Sub \$1,500+ dep. 248-755-5472

HOWELL Near downtown,
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HOWELL - 2 BR, appliances,
c/a, no smoking/pets \$650/mo. 517-546-4214

HOWELL - In country, 3+ BR,
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SOUTH LYON - 3 bdrm ranch,
1.5 baths, attached gar, on 1 acre, A/C, W/D, dishwasher, no pets. \$995/mo + sec. Call: (313) 218-7744

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house, appliances. \$850/mo \$300/sec 248-437-0660

SOUTH LYON: Newer 3-4
bdrm, 2.5 bath, great room, fireplace 1st floor laundry, bsmt, 3 car (248) 214-5889

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REAL ESTATE

Realtors see upside to tax credit extension

BY JULIE BROWN
OGE STAFF WRITER

The National Association of Realtors Nov. 5 commended the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for passing a bill that includes an extension and expansion of the current homebuyer tax credit as an important step in ensuring a real estate and economic recovery.

Gary Reggish, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, is pleased. Reggish, a Livonia resident and broker/owner of Remerica United Realty in Novi, noted NAR has made a good case for the credit.

"I think that that is great news," said Reggish, just back from the NAR convention in San Diego, Calif. The earlier credit had made a "significant difference and positive impact on the market," he said.

Reggish said demand for homes has increased, stabilizing values in the lower-end starter home market. The FHA is the predominant lending instrument now, he said, as compared to 2005 or so when loans were conventional.

You can now get into a home for 3.5 percent down, and finance closing costs with the credit, said Reggish, who's worked in real estate 10 years.

Realtor Debbie Horner is also pleased but has some misgivings. Horner, a Realtor with Century 21 Hartford in Farmington, noted the \$6,500 credit for the step-up buyer. Many owe more on their home than it's worth, said Farmington Hills resident Horner.

Such owners have no equity and are "a sizable amount upside down," she said.

The bill would extend the present \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers through April 30, 2010.

Current homeowners are eligible for a \$6,500 tax credit



through April 30, provided they have lived in the home they are selling, or have sold, as principal residence for five consecutive years in the past eight years. If potential buyers have a binding contract on or before that date, they will have until July 1 to close the transaction.

Horner said some owners bought when they were a couple and now have one or two children and want a colonial with more space. They may be \$40,000-\$50,000 upside down: "They just can't sell their first home," she said.

Lenders aren't allowing lease payments as income to qualify. "They have to qualify for their existing home and for a new home," she said.

One buyer of hers bought a home for around \$200,000 in Farmington, and must now qualify for a new home. That will be for a lesser amount, although in this market the dollar goes farther.

You can, for example, get a \$350,000 home for perhaps

\$225,000, she said.

"Your first-time homebuyer can certainly take advantage of that. That's a good thing that can be utilized," Horner said.

First-time buyers usually need money for the down payment and closing costs, and Horner would like to see the tax credit available for those. "That covers a good percentage of that 10 percent down." Closing costs also run several thousand dollars, and could be covered.

Lenders won't allow gifts from parents to be included for such buyers, she said.

"It's good that they get it," she said of the credit, which can go for furniture or home repairs. She's not convinced it will stimulate the housing market sufficiently: "I think it would make a huge impact if they could use it for the transaction," said Horner, who's worked in real estate 15 years.

Reggish said the extension will boost home sales. "Absolutely it will. It pro-

vides them the opportunity to take advantage of historically low prices." Those in a position to buy and move into a larger home do themselves a disservice by postponing action, he said.

"Buy a house," he urged. "Buy two. Prices are good, why stop at one?"

Income limits for eligible homebuyers are expanded to \$125,000 for single buyers and \$225,000 for couples. The purchase price of the home cannot exceed \$800,000. To help guard against fraud, buyers are required to attach documentation of purchase to their tax return.

"Realtors appreciate the swift action by Congress to extend the home buyer tax credit and expand it to some current homeowners," said NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate in Dallas-Fort Worth. "As the leading advocate of housing and

real estate issues, we urge President Obama to sign this legislation into law quickly to keep the momentum going in the fragile recovery of the nation's housing market."

McMillan praised the efforts of several senators to put the recovery above politics. They are Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont.; Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; and Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

NAR economists estimate that the current tax credit has contributed approximately \$22 billion to the general economy, and approximately two million people will take advantage of the tax credit this year.

"The substantial rise in home sales we've seen over the past few months proves that the tax credit is working and is being used by buyers who were waiting for the right opportunity to get into the market," McMillan said. "This important incentive is helping to stabilize the housing market, stimulate the economy and create new jobs in communities all across our great nation. Extending and expanding the homebuyer tax credit will enable even more families to take advantage of current low interest rates and affordable prices to invest in their future through homeownership."

Detailed information about provisions in the tax credit legislation is available on Realtor.org.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

Tax credits a help on clubhouse work?

Q: I understand that there is some new federal statute that might help our condominium association get some credits for fixing up our clubhouse. Do you have any information?

A: In February 2009, President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which



Robert Meisner

is referred to as the stimulus bill, which made significant changes to energy-efficiency tax credits.

Relevant federal tax credits are

divided into two sections of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 25(C), Credit for Non-Business Property, allows for a tax credit of 30 percent of the cost of certain residential energy efficient investments such as new windows. However, federal tax credits applied under this section are subject to a maximum credit of \$1,000 per taxpayer over 2009 and 2010. The second section is Section 25(D), Credit for Residential Energy Efficient Property, which allows for a tax credit of 30 percent of the cost for certain alternative energy investments such as solar and geothermal power. The tax credit being 30 percent applies to purchases and improvements made between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2010. There are various qualifications and time constraints, and you are best advised to consult with your tax adviser as to whether your association would benefit or be able to take credits as a result of the stimulus tax credit package.

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■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA)

presents Boot Camp Sales Training on six Monday mornings, Jan. 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8, and 15, from 9-11 a.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills.

Dave Tear, Head Coach of Sales Coaches' Corner, will present suggestions on how to set expectations and stay in control of the sale; how to ask the tough questions and qualify your prospects; how to stop selling on price and start making money; how to stop relying on prospects to return on their own and how to get prospects off the fence.

Registration is \$750 per person for

all six sessions. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents a Certified Graduate course on Building Codes, Standards and Guidelines on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills.

Don Pratt, CGR, CGB, of Wake-Pratt Construction, will present how to successfully navigate building codes, standards and guidelines. The course is based on the International Residential Code (IRC) and the National

Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) Residential Construction Performance Guidelines. Topics to be covered include the evolution of building codes, code administration and enforcement, construction planning and plan review, locating and interpreting required information, and how performance guidelines achieve quality construction. This course counts toward CGA and GMB designations.

Registration is \$155 for members of BIA's NAHB Professional Remodeler, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org.

HOMES SOLD - WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 24-28, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	
1690 Aberdeen St	\$177,000
50651 Colchester Ct	\$405,000
43902 Cranford Ave	\$175,000
4195 Eka Ct	\$135,000
44243 Fair Oaks Dr	\$160,000
51350 Ford Rd	\$125,000
46083 Graysstone Ln	\$164,000
45269 Horseshoe Cr	\$110,000
50186 Jackson Ln	\$291,000
50256 Jackson Ln	\$230,000

2173 Lone Wolf Ln	\$135,000
5908 Meadowview Dr	\$248,000
41300 Northwind Dr	\$50,000
7484 Pointe Dr	\$148,000
4156 Pond Run	\$165,000
3316 Riverside Ct	\$169,000
42285 Trend Dr	\$220,000
1630 Walnut Ridge Cr	\$160,000
884 Wildwood Ln	\$136,000
42183 Woodcreek Ln	\$232,000
Garden City	
973 Belton St	\$46,000
29507 Cambridge St	\$95,000
5949 Gorman St	\$44,000
5747 Harrison St	\$17,000
29851 John Mack St	\$50,000
29467 Meadow Ln	\$82,000
31024 Rosslyn Ave	\$60,000
Livonia	
14051 Alexander St	\$97,000
9620 Arcen St	\$120,000

14271 Berwick St	\$160,000
32969 Brookside Cir	\$160,000
17104 Camden St	\$87,000
17100 Dolores St	\$25,000
33009 Fargo St	\$160,000
38636 Glenharry Dr	\$135,000
33146 Greenwood St	\$170,000
14128 Ingram St	\$178,000
28723 Jacquelyn Dr	\$178,000
36032 Leon St	\$135,000
9924 Mayfield St	\$85,000
30677 Mayville St	\$165,000
9375 Patton St	\$144,000
31642 Pembroke St	\$67,000
14405 Ramblerwood St	\$135,000
31517 Scone St	\$90,000
16077 Swathmore Ln	\$190,000
Northville	
39463 Champion Ct	\$230,000
39481 Edgewater Dr	\$160,000
520 Grace St	\$195,000

29474 Springwater Dr	\$135,000
48820 Wellsley Ct	\$166,000
Plymouth	
46356 Barrington Rd	\$214,000
12619 Beacon Hill Ct	\$400,000
50451 Beechwood Ct	\$88,000
405 Bunk St	\$460,000
9251 Brookline Ave	\$130,000
1045 Carol Ave	\$105,000
1875 Elmhurst Ave	\$124,000
13962 Knochview Ct	\$300,000
625 Sunset St	\$230,000
14864 Thornridge Dr	\$183,000
9380 Village Manor Dr	\$289,000
9600 Wellington Dr	\$172,000
50800 Weston Dr	\$325,000
9711 Woodgrove Dr	\$260,000
Redford	
13438 Arnold	\$170,000
14804 Beech Daly Rd	\$80,000
18644 Beech Daly Rd	\$38,000

15926 Delaware Ave	\$50,000
16136 Delaware Ave	\$66,000
17678 Denby	\$38,000
20455 Fox	\$30,000
20429 Gaylord	\$56,000
18258 Kinkoch	\$12,000
15928 Leona Dr	\$47,000
18284 Norborne	\$20,000
9631 Salem	\$41,000
Westland	
33340 Anita Dr	\$122,000
29104 Badet St	\$82,000
38514 Deer Creek Blvd	\$93,000
32421 Grandview Ave	\$103,000
36000 Hazelwood St	\$47,000
984 Mitchell Dr	\$174,000
503 N Hanlon St	\$110,000
1523 Raymer St	\$65,000
32719 Steinhauer St	\$85,000

HOMES SOLD - OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 8-11, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Auburn Hills	
3031 Carly Ct	\$42,000
2347 Old Salem Ct	\$96,000
Beverly Hills	
15836 Briarwood Ave	\$106,000
3190 Downing Pl	\$209,000
17465 Kelsie Ave	\$195,000
Birmingham	
1201 Cole St	\$170,000
1862 E Lincoln St	\$175,000
1628 E Melton Rd	\$160,000
1872 Humphrey Ave	\$140,000
390 S Adams Rd	\$130,000
1760 Sheffield Rd	\$110,000
460 Southfield Rd	\$212,000
1506 Yorkshire Rd	\$520,000
Bloomfield Township	
1928 Kingsmill Rd	\$70,000
783 Robinhood Dr	\$194,000
2830 Rossmore Cir	\$151,000
3595 Wabeco Road	\$265,000

Clarkston	
7937 Brookwood Dr	\$225,000
8103 Deerwood Rd	\$165,000
8417 Elton Dr	\$262,000
7108 Golden Hill Ct	\$134,000
6950 Hulsdon Dr	\$600,000
9797 Morning Mist Dr	\$265,000
5188 Old Cove Rd	\$168,000
6668 Snow Apple Dr	\$107,000
7134 Snow Meadow Dr	\$158,000
5013 Spring Meadow Dr	\$140,000
Commerce Township	
1706 Point St	\$260,000
4864 Tremont Dr	\$182,000
Davison	
7202 Ormond Rd	\$200,000
Farmington Hills	
21429 Avenhill St	\$99,000
33184 Biddlestone Ln	\$239,000
32425 Dohany Dr	\$187,000
25054 Pinalco Ct	\$99,000
37890 Thames Dr	\$168,000
23657 Tuck Rd	\$166,000
Lake Orion	
461 Bellevue Ave	\$222,000
3647 Forest Spring Dr	\$217,000
429 Franklin Wright Blvd	\$347,000
1597 Oneda Trl	\$235,000
3624 Park Meadow Dr	\$316,000
3711 Rolling Hills Rd	\$201,000
36 W Flint St	\$175,000

3748 Waldon Rd	\$115,000
Warren	
3245 Central Blvd	\$2,000
1172 Eagle Nest Dr	\$165,000
327 Trotter Trl	\$675,000
1855 Wiron Trl	\$130,000
Novi	
40016 Crosswinds	\$85,000
1681 Harbor Cr	\$150,000
25800 Peninsula Dr	\$415,000
24950 Portsmouth Ave	\$220,000
24450 Saybrook Ct	\$490,000
23639 Stonehenge Blvd	\$55,000
22846 Talford St	\$97,000
Oakland Township	
5760 Cobb Creek Rd	\$225,000
377 Oakbridge Dr	\$265,000
5843 Wellwood Dr	\$813,000
3712 Woodmonte Dr	\$93,000
Oxford	
102 Denison St	\$125,000
1086 Mill Valley Ct	\$137,000
1342 Pondview Ln	\$137,000
1216 Poppy Hill Dr	\$218,000
Rochester	
402 East St	\$160,000
436 Romeo Rd	\$30,000
111 S Helen Ave	\$157,000
7791 Terra Ln	\$315,000
1361 Tulberry Cr	\$335,000
Rochester Hills	

1714 Arcadian Dr	\$322,000
3563 Blue Heron Ln	\$360,000
3559 Cedar Shake Dr	\$361,000
3293 Empire Dr	\$261,000
658 Fieldstone Dr	\$167,000
2962 Hartline Dr	\$69,000
542 Kenilworth Dr	\$169,000
1683 Lodge Pole Ln	\$112,000
661 Oakbrook W	\$62,000
1704 Snowden Cr	\$312,000
2834 Steamboat Springs Dr	\$251,000
1292 Tracely	\$165,000
2086 Westworth Dr	\$275,000
South Lyon	
1159 Horseshoe Dr	\$260,000
Southfield	
21446 Avon Ln	\$177,000
29289 Everett St	\$80,000
22508 Hawthorn Ln	\$10,000
17440 Madison St	\$105,000
19592 Nadol Dr	\$123,000
30095 Pleasant Trl	\$69,000
27537 Stahelin Rd	\$69,000
Troy	
2182 Continental Dr	\$230,000
1903 Fleetwood Dr	\$175,000
1598 Hamlet Dr	\$440,000
2023 Haverford Dr	\$505,000
2561 Limerick Dr	\$225,000
2891 Rock Dr	\$155,000
2939 Roundtree Dr	\$116,000

1861 Shepherds Dr	\$187,000
1888 Wygate Dr	\$525,000
Walled Lake	
417 Gamma Rd	\$115,000
432 Market St	\$70,000
462 Old Pine Way	\$124,000
Waterford	
3663 Baybrook Dr	\$97,000
3420 Clayton Ave	\$12,000
6653 Doyon Dr S	\$176,000
6502 Forestside Dr	\$134,000
4266 Lakes Dr	\$130,000
1758 Meadowview Dr	\$129,000
2935 Saint Jude Dr	\$195,000
2829 Swan	\$195,000
West Bloomfield	
7030 10th Hill Dr	\$280,000
39370 Englewood Ct	\$413,000
6680 Harco Pl	\$210,000
3940 Maple Blvd	\$275,000
15511 Patterson St	\$81,000
6773 Stonebridge Ct	\$400,000
7304 Westchester	\$122,000
6315 Wood Pond Rd	\$235,000
White Lake	
95 Lisa Cr	\$189,000
1201 Rossmore Ln	\$135,000
8125 Sequoia Ln	\$75,000
Wolverine Lake	
942 Dunreath St	\$124,000

KNOW THE SCORE
Check out the numbers in today's Sports

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



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SALES RESULTS REFLECT STEADY IMPROVEMENT, AUTOMAKERS SAY

AdvertisingFeature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

U.S. auto sales clocked in about flat in November compared with a year ago -- and in line with widespread expectations that the market will only gradually creep upward for at least the next year. But industry executives and analysts mostly chose to interpret the American auto market as a glass half-full.

November sales were 747,000 units. "It could be worse," said Jessica Caldwell, director of pricing and industry analysis Edmunds.com, in Santa Monica, Calif. "The fact that sales are stabilizing and increasing bit by bit each month is good news. The fact that they're not getting worse is a definite sign of promise."

Ken Czubay, Ford's U.S. sales chief, said: "The black clouds are clearing and we have guarded optimism for December." Nevertheless, a sales chief of the year's best-performing brand was among those holding a minority view. "We were, quite frankly, hoping that the economy and overall industry would have bounced back a bit more than we are seeing right now," said Dave Zuchowski, vice president of sales for Hyundai Motor America.

Giving the overall nod to optimistic shading were a couple important factors besides the sales numbers per se. First, the closely watched seasonally adjusted

annual rate of sales inched upward to 10.9 million units compared with 10.8 million units in October and a pace of 10.4 million units in November 2008.

"The month was notable in that the industry succeeded the 2008 pace for only the second time this year -- and more notable because it was the first time the industry exceeded last year's pace" without benefit of last summer's federal "cash for clunkers" program that created a sales spike in July and August, said Robert Carter, group vice president of the Toyota division of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. "That's a real good sign for the industry."

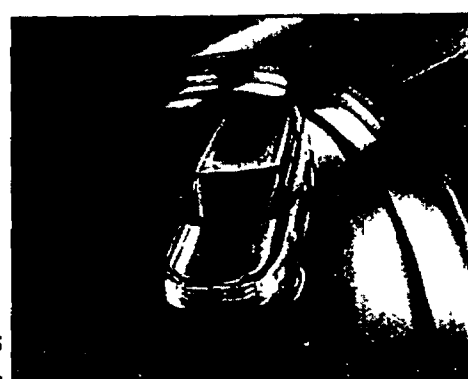
Second, commentators today interpreted the mixed economic tea leaves as positive on balance for the U.S. auto industry, fueling their collective conviction that a continued ever-so-gradual recovery is in the cards.

"There's a modest economic recovery that is underway," said Emily Kolinski Morris, Ford's chief economist. "Slow but sure is the best way to describe consumer and business activity." Kolinski Morris and others cited favorable recent indicators including upticks in consumer income, spending and confidence as well as some stabilization in the housing market, a weak dollar that encourages exports, the



Ford's Flex is one of the new vehicles that has helped revive the brand.

The new Chevrolet Equinox is one of the hot sellers that helped GM post a respectable November.



strengthening of U.S. corporate balance sheets, and a string of stronger monthly readings of activity by the American manufacturing sector.

On the other side of the ledger looms one huge offsetting factor: the ever-increasing rate of U.S. unemployment, which continues to dampen any economic recovery as well as keep a lid on rosier expectations for the near future. "Jobs remain top of mind, holding spending in check," Kolinski Morris said. Other negative indicators are credit conditions that "are still tight as banks remain cautious," according to Michael DiGiovanni, executive director of global industry analysis for General Motors. But Caldwell dismissed concerns that joblessness and other stubborn weak spots in the economy could introduce a "double-dip" recession that some economists still fear.

"I don't see that happening today," she said. "It looks like things are on their way to being steady." Caldwell and others cited a number of underlying reasons for coming down on the side of their optimistic interpretation of November results and portents for the future.

For one thing, she said, the spate of new and very recent products coming out of

Ford and GM are being almost universally embraced by American consumers -- suggesting that as the two strongest domestic automakers continue to introduce new and upgraded models, their prospects will continue to improve. They include the Ford Flex and Chevrolet Camaro, Buick LaCrosse and Cadillac SRX.

"It's easy to take for granted that these products would do well and are selling," Caldwell said. "They easily could not be doing well. They've been promising us better products for some time, made for the U.S. market, more evolutionary -- and it looks like they're doing that." Stable gasoline prices over the last year and a half, within the range of \$2.50 to \$3 a gallon, also have caused American consumers to take closer looks at segments such as pickup trucks and large sport-utility vehicles that got slammed by \$4-a-gallon gasoline in the summer of 2008.

"People who need that type of vehicle now are getting more comfortable with the stabilization of oil prices," said GM's DiGiovanni. "We're benefiting from a nice lull at the pump." However, DiGiovanni also noted GM's forecast for a long-term re-escalation of oil prices as global economies recover.

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