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RECORD

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'Country Cabaret'

The Northville High School choirs will take center stage at 7 p.m. on Saturday when they perform Country Cabaret 2013 in the NHS auditorium. The high-spirited show will include a dozen individual or group performances.

Cabaret-style seating (up to 10 people per table) and the sounds of country music will fill the school cafeteria. A light meal with a southern flair and refreshments are included in the ticket price of \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Contact Carol Grimmer at carol. grimmer@gmail.com for tickets.

In addition, the high school/middle school choir concert is slated for Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the NHS auditorium. Middle school students savor the opportunity to step up to the high school stage at this annual event. There is no charge for this concert.

Woman, 96, perishes after townhouse engulfed in fire

Attempts to save longtime Northville resident thwarted by intense flames

By Lonnle Huhman Staff Writer

A longtime Northville resident perished Monday morning in a fire that had fully engulfed her townhouse by the time firefighters arrived.

Emily Miller, 96, died in the blaze that left her King's Mill Co-operative townhouse off of Northville Road destroyed. Investigators are still looking into a cause, but it was reported the flames were especially intense in the kitchen area.

According to Northville Township Public Safety Director John Werth, the fire department received a call about a residential fire in the 18200 block of Jamestown Circle at 10:11 a.m. Firefighters arrived four minutes later to find flames shooting out of the windows.

Northville Township requested mutual aid from the Plymouth Township and Livonia fire departments.

The initial call came from a neighborhood maintenance worker. Werth said the man saw the fire and knew Mill-

Please see FIRE, A2



A burned window and the contents of an upstairs bedroom attest the intensity of the Monday morning fire at Northville Township's Kings Mill complex.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



See the Wings

Attention, Wing nuts! Win two tickets to the Red Wings vs. the Chicago Blackhawks on Sunday, March 3, at Joe Louis Arena.

It's simple. Go to the Don't Miss module on



Center Street to undergo improvements

> By Lonnle Huhman Staff Writer

The design phase of the S. Center Street Improvement project will move forward this spring and will eventually have resurface work completed from Cady Street to Seven Mile Road. According to Northville Public Works Director James Gallogly, the estimated project cost is \$320,000 and will be a resurfacing that will include cold milling, pavement, curb, and gutter repair, replacement of ADA sidewalk ramps and re-striping of the bike lanes. The intersections at Seven Mile and Cady will not be worked on. "The City of Northville has been fortunate to receive federal funding through Wayne County for approximately 80 percent of the cost for improvements to S. Center Street from Cady Street south to 7-Mile Road," he said in his report to City Council. To obtain federal funding the city is required to follow the Brooks Act when securing professional services, according to Gallogly. Under the act the city is required to request qualifications from interested engineering firms, select the best firm, and then negotiate appropriate fees to undertake the work with that firm. He also said the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has asked that the city select one consultant for design engineering and a different consultant for construction engineering.

hometownlife.com and click on Hometown, Hockeytown.

Record on Facebook

The Northville Record is now on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user and care about what is happening in the Northville community, visit our page and like us. It's a great way to stay connected to what's happening around town.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A still frame from a Northville Township police cruiser's camera shows the suspect, identified as Ypsilanti resident Gabriel Stevenson, as he sticks both his hands outside of his pickup truck's window — as ordered by the officer. Moments later, Stevenson ducked back into the cab of the pickup, got a firearm, and shot in the officers' direction.

Police say arson attempt against a foe led to shootout



By Kurt Kuban Staff Writer

Northville Township police officials provided the public on Thursday a look into an incident earlier in the week that ended with a Michigan State Police trooper fatally shooting 18-year-old Gabriel Vernon Stevenson of Ypsilanti.

Public Safety Director John Werth released a police cruiser video of the adrenalinelaced 21 minutes that began with a car bombing on Napier Road just north of Six Mile, an exchange of gunfire between Stevenson and Northville Township police officers, and a high speed chase through Salem Township that ended with Stevenson crashing into a home on Dixboro Road in Northfield Township. What wasn't seen on the video, however, was Stevenson being shot by the trooper from the Salem Township detachment.

Werth detailed the inci-

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Business.

dent that began about 2 a.m. on Feb. 12 when officers were patrolling in the area of Napier where there had been two previous arson attempts in December. Werth said officers noticed Stevenson's 1993 red Ford Ranger parked on the road near the location of the two previous arson attempts. The officers were using a new thermal imaging device located on the police cruiser's spot-

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Jobs.

FIRE

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er lived alone, so he attempted to make entry but could not because of the flames.

Emergency personnel were told Miller was in the home, so they immediately made entry. She was later found in her upstairs bedroom deceased. The neighboring units were also evacuated.

"It was an unfortunate outcome," Werth said.

The fire spread through the attic space into the neighboring homes and damaged the other units slightly. Werth said firefighters did a "tremendous job" containing and extinguishing the fire, preventing it from spreading to the other townhouses that connect to each other.

He said the investigation would also include determining whether or not a medical incident was involved prior to the death. The Wayne County Medical Exam-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville Township firefighters begin to stow away their gear after extinguishing a blaze at 18284 Jamestown Circle on Monday morning. A 96-year-old woman was killed in the fire. Fire fighting units from Plymouth Township and Livonia assisted in the effort to contain the fire as well.

> iner will conduct the autopsy.

Some of Miller's friends and family were at the scene and were devastated by the news that she had perished in the fire.

"I've known her most of my life and she was a dear person to everyone that knew her," said teary-eyed Kings Mill resident and family friend Kristin Ericson Dibble. "She was wonderful."

Miller's husband George passed away some time ago and she leaves behind two sons.

This is the second house fire fatality in Northville Township in 35 years.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

SHOOTING

Continued from page A1

light and located a "hot spot" in the area. Simultaneously, Northville Township Fire Department received a call from the next door neighbor about a car fire at the location. That's when the offi-

cers say Stevenson got back into his truck and headed towards Six Mile and began driving west. Officers pulled him over a short time later. The video shows the officers commanding Stevenson to hold his hands out of the vehicle, and then get out and get on the ground. That's when Stevenson reaches back into the truck, pulls out a handgun and fires at least one round at the officers. Officers returned fire, shooting about a dozen rounds at the truck. Stevenson sped away westbound at speeds exceeding 80 miles per hour. He crossed over Pontiac Trail, hit some ice, lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a home occupied by Annette Kovala and Kevin McGraw, who were sleeping at the time.

The video shows Stevenson trying to break into the home amid verbal commands from officers to get on the ground.

Although the video doesn't show it, Werth said Stevenson charged at the officers with a knife in his hand, and a Northville Township officer used a shotgun to fire four rubber bullets that Werth referred to as "bean bag rounds" into Stevenson's chest area.

"One of our officers used a less lethal method and shot him in the chest area," Werth said. "And it did not stop the individual. The individual then came towards and lunged at a Michigan State Police trooper when he was fatally shot."

Officers recovered the

"I am happy they responded

the way they were trained.



I come from a philosophy you play like you practice and when we practice and train we put emphasis into our firearms training, we put emphasis into our felony fire stop training, and our pursuit driving training. When I reviewed the tapes and look at what the officers did, they responded very well to the situation under great circumstances."

JOHN WERTH

Northville Township Public Safety Director

knife from Stevenson, and later found a .22 caliber handgun in his truck.

Werth said Washtenaw County is conducting an autopsy on Stevenson, and said the results will be released by Michigan State Police.

Werth also gave a little more information about why Stevenson was in the area. He said Stevenson and an 18-year-old Northville Township man who lives at the address where the car arson took place had been in a physical altercation last summer in Ypsilanti. An arson attempt took place on Dec. 2 at the home next door, and then another about a week later at the 18-year-old's home when someone used an accelerant, most likely gasoline, to set the fire. Werth said Stevenson had made a mistake and chose the wrong home in the first arson attempt. The Northville Township Fire Department responded to those incidents. Werth said Northville

Township Police are "very confident" Steven-

son was responsible for all three fires, including the car fire Tuesday morning.

"All we know is he went to great lengths to come out to this area and set three fires in Northville Township," he said.

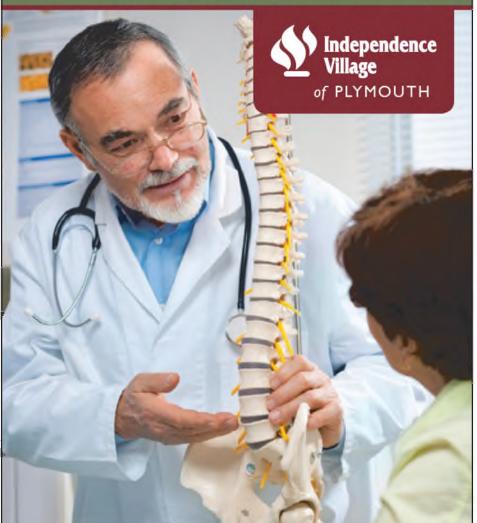
Werth said Michigan State Police has taken over the investigation. As for the Northville Township officers, Werth said they acted accordingly, and performed well in a life-threatening situation.

"I am happy they responded the way they were trained. I come from a philosophy you play like you practice and when we practice and train we put emphasis into our firearms training, we put emphasis into our felony fire stop training, and our pursuit driving training," Werth said. "When I reviewed the tapes and look at what the officers did, they responded very well to the situation under great circumstances."

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Silver Springs students run toward goal of purchasing new iPads

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

The Boosterthon Fun Run at Silver Springs Elementary was a big hit with the students as they worked to raise funds so the school can purchase iPads while getting some exercise at the same time.

On Friday, Feb. 15 the entire school participated in the Fun Run, which Silver Springs PTA and Dad's Club organized as their major fundraiser of the year.

The Fun Run was throughout the day and each grade went to the gym for nearly an hour. Students ran as many laps as they could, some up to 35 times around the gym. Principal Melissa Hunt said this was a demonstration of the students making good choices.

"This is a healthy way to help our school," said Hunt. "You can feel the energy and joy in the room.

Smiles and laughter filled the gym as the students ran to the music playing over the speakers, stopping every once in awhile to get a drink of water. Third-grader Caleb Jones described the event as "pretty cool" as he took a sip in between laps.

The "Friend Lap" was probably the highlight of the run for the students. This is where they would put their arms around a friend and then do a lap together.

"This is a lot of fun and it's going to help our school with getting iPads," Caleb said. "These



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyra Makie races around the gymnasium at Silver Springs Elementary on Feb. 15 during the "Boosterthon" fundraiser. The day-long effort, meant to encourage physical fitness and positive involvement in school activities, was teamed up with the fundraiser to purchase 50 iPads for use by Silver Springs students.

will help all of us learn."

The goal was to raise around \$30,000, according to Marty Testasecca, president of the Silver Springs Dad's Club.

"We can do this," he said of their thoughts as they moved forward with planning a fundraiser last fall.

And they did ... by a lot more. The students have received pledges in excess of \$42,000 to date. Hunt also challenged the students that if they got pledges from all 50 states, she would agree to get "slimed" at a later date. It only took the students six days to succeed in getting pledges from all 50 states (and 21 countries).

Since January 30, stu-



Kids participating in Silver Spring's Feb. 15 Boosterthon get high-fives from parents ringing their route.



Silver Springs students bust through a paper sign with their team's name on it at the beginning of the Feb. 15 Boosterthon.

dents have been getting pledges (and flat donations) while learning about making good choices in leadership, learning, fitness and character.

The funds will go

toward 50 new iPads, which can't be purchased under the conditions of the recently passed Technology Bond. These will be used for instructional learning and will be introduced in the school

in the next month or two. If you want to see Hunt get slimed, it should happen at the next schoolwide assembly.

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The Oak Pointe Players present

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EDUCATION

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NORTHVILLE SCHOOL BRIEFS

Booster raffle results

Thanks to the support of the Northville community, \$35,000 has been evenly divided between the Northville High School band and choir departments. The sixth annual Music Boosters' Raffle was held between September and December of 2012. Some 54 percent of available tickets were sold, which is an increase from 2011's raffle total. Ten winning tickets for cash prizes were drawn during the afterglow following the Dec. 20 holiday concert.

Proceeds will fund musical instrument purchase and repair, sheet music, recording equipment, classroom materials and professional support.

Curriculum Night

The Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Education and Extended Day programs will host Curriculum Night from 6:30-8 p.m., March 7 at the Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main Street, Northville.

The event is designed for families new to the programs, and will provide parents with information on the Early Childhood and Extended Day programs, curriculum and enrollment procedures.

Call the Early Childhood office to register at (248) 344-8465. For more information, visit www.northville.k12. mi.us/earlychildhood.

Hinoki open house

Hinoki International School, the first Japanese-English bilingual elementary public charter school in Michigan, will host an open house 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 36611 Curtis Road, Livonia, for prospective students and families enrolling for kindergarten through third grade in the 2013-14 school year.

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the school's two-way Japanese-English immersion program and curriculum, tour classrooms, and meet teachers, administrators, Hinoki school board members and parent volunteers. A brief presentation about two-way language immersion will start at 6 p.m.

Hinoki International School is a tuition-free public charter school with open enrollment to all students residing in Michigan, including Northville.

Scholarship applications

The local scholarship applications for seniors are now available online. All of the information can be found on the Northville High School website at http://nhs.northville.k12.mi.us/ node/111 and click on the "Scholarships" section.

The completed applications, with all supporting documentation, are due in the counseling office no later than Thursday, March 7 at 2 p.m. — no exceptions.

There are more than 30 local scholarship opportunities so please encourage your child to apply. Seniors should locate the necessary information online, complete the paperwork and turn it in by the deadline. If they have any questions they should contact Mrs. Purcell or their counselor.

Kindergarten signup

Northville Public Schools is now accepting kindergarten enrollment for fall 2013. If you have a child who will be 5 on or before Nov. 1, 2013, contact your local elementary school for enrollment information. If you are not sure what school your child will be attending, contact the district's Office of Instruction at (248) 344-8442 or visit www.northville.k12.mi.us.

The district will attempt to again offer a half-day kindergarten program. During the registration process, parents interested in the half-day program will be asked to complete the commitment form located on the district website at www. northville.k12.mi.us/node/584. Decisions about specific buildings and if there is enough interest for a half-day program will be finalized and communicated to parents in late May or early June.

A parent meeting for incoming 2013-14 kindergartners will take place at each school; following are the dates for each Kindergarten Parent Orientation and Round Up:

• Amerman, May 7 (parent orientation); May 10 (Round Up)

- Moraine, May 14; May 17
- Silver Springs, April 24; May 2
- Thornton Creek, May 6; May 9
- Ridge Wood, May 15; May 16
- Winchester, May 6; May 9

Enrollment forms can also be picked up directly at each building. All parents are asked to register their child in early registration By April 30.



District first technology upgrades include new server and network system

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Northville Public Schools will make its first big purchase under the Technology Bond project with the awarding of a \$451,644 contract to Sentinel Technologies for new server and storage area network systems. "It's an exciting night,"

Northville School's Human Resources Director David Rodgers said before the school board unanimously approved the recommendation at its Feb. 12 meeting.

Located at Hillside Middle School, Rodgers said the current server and storage system runs an antiquated operating system, and is very limited in capacity for storage space and speed of processing.

He said as is the case with most of the technology hardware being replaced, the existing servers/storage area network have served the district well, lasting well beyond their warranty and support contract periods. However, he added the system has outlived its useful life (period of reliability and longterm viability) in an educational landscape that is far more technological than ever.

"We will be able to have a server network with a modern user interface," Rodgers said.

The systems will be implemented and ready prior to the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

According to Rodgers, once the updates are implemented students and staff will be able to have more storage space for collaborative work, and the new system will



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville School District computer technician Kathy Meyer takes a look at one of the many out of date telephone system interfaces based at Hillside Middle School. The district will soon propose to replace this system, based on 20 year-old technology.

trict will also "be able to offer more cloud-based solutions to students and staff, as well."

The new storage system will substantially enhance the magnitude of the system's capacity in provisioning greater ability for students to maintain their ongoing digital classroom work, as opposed to submitting paper. For teachers, it offers a place to gather and archive digital curriculum to share with students and collaborate with colleagues.

"From a server standpoint, the district benefits from enhanced capability to dynamically allocate computer system resources to bring on more digital learning technologies and systems in the future," Rodgers said.

He added it will support the district's decision to provide secure access resources for "BYOD devices" regardless of whether they are in the building.

The school board also authorized district administration to contract through MERIT state educational procurement contracts for five years of VMWare licensing software and service support in the amount of \$175,078 and through REMC state educational procurement a nearly \$30,000 contract for Microsoft Server 2012 Data Center licensing and support.

"Another exciting improvement is the fact that with VMView technology, staff and students will have a greater level of secure and remote access to their files," Rodgers said.

Another added improvement is the system design supports the responsible approach of insuring that a contingency is in place should some major outage or failure occur. According to Rodgers, it provides for stabilization of the network and data access where essential services and access can be supported in the event of natural or accidental failure.

Other projects due for award consideration in the next month by the school board will include voice communication systems (phones) classroom audio/visual systems and

be able to handle the new demands of today's modern educational network. He said the disstructured cabling.

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Northville and Detroit students join forces to feed the hungry

Suburban students from Northville and inner-city students from Detroit are joining forces to learn more about world hunger and do something about it through the Kids Against Hunger Michigan Coalition "Michigan Project" and the Gleaners Community Food Bank Kids Helping Kids initiative.

The eight food packing events, which got underway in late-January and will continue through March, bring together elementary students from different experiences and cultures to work and learn side-by-side at Detroit area landmarks including the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn and Gleaners in Detroit, as well as the Jack Doheny Supplies warehouse in Northville.

Kids Against Hunger is an international, volunteerdriven organization dedicated to providing food to malnourished and starving children throughout the world, including right here in metro Detroit. The organization partners with local schools, churches and other community groups to organize food packing events where more than 20,000 meals can be assembled in a three-hour period. Through the Kids Against Hunger "Michigan Project," which specially tailors food-packing events to the school setting, Michigan school children have



Students from Northville's Amerman Elementary School and Detroit's Roberto Clemente Elementary School work together at Gleaners Community Food Bank to pack food for Kids Against Hunger.

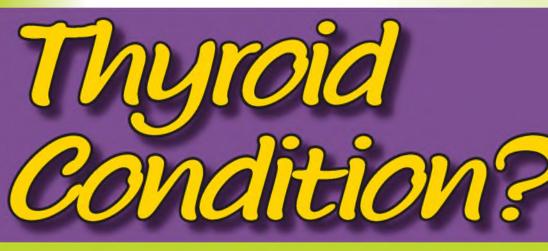
assembled more than three million meals. Since 2005, more than 5,500 Northville and Detroit students have worked together to pack over 750,000 meals.

Students from two of Northville's larger elementary schools - Amerman and Ridge Wood and their Detroit area partners will also take part in the Gleaners Kids Helping Kids initiative to ensure active participation by as many students as possible. Kids Helping Kids invites students to Gleaners for a tour of the food bank, an educational session, and a hands-on volunteer opportunity that benefits others in the community.

"We believe very strongly that Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids are an integral part of what makes our schools and our community strong," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "Just as we value exemplary academics, athletics, the arts and extra-curricular opportunities — the opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with students from inner-city communities in service to others empowers our students, strengthens relationships, builds awareness of our global society, and offers an incredible service experience for those students, teachers and community members who participate."

This marks the eighth year Northville and Detroit students are coming together to pack food for Kids Against Hunger, as part of a partnership with local non-profit organizations such as Bridgepointe, the Plymouth Kiwanis, the Conrad Charitable Foundation, Mothers' Club of Northville, and other local school and community groups.

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"Before I met you I was overweight and tired all the time. No one could tell what was wrong with me. I was hopeless. As of today, I've lost 40 pounds and my life has completely changed . I have energy all day long that I never thought I could get back. I am thrilled to feel normal again ." – Ellen S., Lake Orion

"My life was in turmoil before I met you. I was extremely depressed, gaining weight, no energy I felt horrible. My grandmother heard about the seminar and I went. The rest is history. I was amazed at how good I felt for the first time in years. Thank-you for taking the time to discover my problem. I am forever changed." – Lindsey H., Northville

"I could no longer do the many activities I once enjoyed. I knew something was wrong. People told me that this happens as you age and it's normal. So I tried to pretend everything was ok. My husband and I attended your seminar and I felt hopeful. The improvement I experienced was dramatic in just a few weeks. All of the symptoms I've struggled with began to fade away. I am back on my feet again." – Sane F., Novi

View More Testimonials at DrSladic.com

Night for Northville

(NR)

A6

The TurfClub will host the second "Night for Northville" from 8 p.m. to midnight on Feb. 23 at Northville Square, 133 W. Main St., Northville. This fundraiser will help pay for ongoing stadium improvements to Tom Holzer Ford Field. Phase II work will include renovating the restrooms, concessions, facilities, locker rooms, fencing and walkways.

The event will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, live music by The Shawn Riley Band and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$100 (\$70 is tax-deductible).

To purchase tickets, make a donation or for more information, visit www.gonorthvillemustangs.org. You can also contact Northville Public Schools athletic director Bryan Masi at masibr@northville.k12.mi.us or (248) 344-8414.

All donors who make a donation of more than \$500 will be permanently recognized on the Holzer Stadium recognition wall, which will be erected as part of Phase II.

Frog workshops

Friends of the Rouge seeks volunteers for its annual frog and toad survey of the Rouge River watershed. Volunteers learn how to recognize eight frog and toad calls commonly heard in Michigan in spring and are assigned a nearby area to survey by listening. Interested volunteers need to pre-register for one of four training workshops held in March.

The first workshop will take place from 10 a.m.noon, Saturday, March 2 at Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile Road.

Other workshops will take place from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 5 at Canton's Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway; 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 10 at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road; and 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 13 at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Anyone interested in learning about local wildlife and willing to learn the calls and devote a few evenings every month to listening is encouraged to sign up. People from all walks of life participate in the survey, including students, retirees, families (children five and older are welcome when accompanied by a par-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Valentine's Day

Anne Okonski enjoys a Valentine's Day gathering at the Northville Community Center on Feb. 13. Seniors gathered to sample a wide variety of chocolate treats, enjoy gift bags and compete in fun quiz on Valentine's Day traditions.

ticipating adult). Surveys must be done within the Rouge River watershed (survey blocks are assigned as close to volunteers as possible). For more information,

visit www.therouge.org or join FOTR on Facebook.

Youth football registration

The Northville Youth Football Association will open New Player Registration on Friday, Feb. 22nd. Registration will run through Monday, March 4. NYFA is made up of the Northville Colts and the Northville Stallions — which team you register for is decided by which middle school your child attends or will attend. Anyone in the Hillside boundaries will register for Colts and anyone in Meads Mill area will register for the Stallions. The Colts and Stallions each have four football teams and four cheer teams - Flag (6 and 7 year olds), Freshman (8 and 9 year olds), JV (10 and 11 year olds) and Varsity (12 and 13 year olds). An age-based lottery will be held for any team that has more registrations than available spots.

Registration for all football and cheer teams will be online at www.northvilleyouthfootball.com.

Townhall meeting

The Northville Democratic Club will host a townhall meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28 at Hillside Middle School.

The topic for the meeting will be full equality for LGBT citizens, as well as same sex marriage and other issues of equality. The featured speaker will be Emily Dievendorf, policy director, Equality Michigan. Dievendorf currently serves on the Ingham County Women's Commission. She is a graduate of the James Madison College at Michigan State University.

Emergency food available

The next distribution of emergency food by Plymouth Community United Way is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 21. The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides lowincome Plymouth and Northville residents with canned and nonperishable items.

All recipients must be pre-registered. This is a supplemental food program that may be used in addition to other assistance programs. Bridge Card holders automatically qualify, but need to pre-register. Recipients not currently on governmental assistance (food stamps, ADC and general) must provide documentation including proof of income and residency before receiving food on distribution days.

Distributions continue the third Thursday of each month from 9:30-11 a.m. at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth.

For information and to register, call Samantha Bray at (734) 453-6879, ext. 6, or send e-mail to unitedway@pcuw.org.

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www.Waltonwood.com

Lifting spirits with flowers

Northville designer has a way with garden blooms

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Rebecca Moore knows she is one of the fortunate few who loves her job.

The talented floral designer has spent the last five years working at Kroger at Six Mile and Haggerty in Northville Township.

"People do always comment on my flowers," said Moore, a Northville Township resident. "It's the first job I've had where I feel I get paid for community service. You're lifting spirits. You're always trying to lift spirits even if it's a sad occasion."

She and other area florists were recently busy with Valentine's Day orders.

"I would say roses are the No. 1 seller for Valentine's Day," said Moore, adding older customers often opt for carnations.

"Every once in a while, someone has to get out of the doghouse," she said of customers.

Her customers are mostly women, including one who recently wrote to the Record to praise Moore's work. Moore said women customers are more spontaneous.

"They have a tendency to spend more and trust in what you do," she said.

thing she loves: floral sales.



She said floral preferences are different with different generations.

"The younger generation doesn't really like the roses, probably because they're too traditional," said Moore, adding roses don't last as long as some other flowers.

She was semi-retired with the customer service and management skills needed when Kroger came calling.

"He gave me a gift," she said of God. "I love nature and I've always worked hard with my gardening."

Her faith helps her serve customers.

Moore and colleagues were excited about a "Heart to Heart" competition involving Michigan Krogers and charities.

"My reward would be to win that contest." She'd have the money, which includes sales to customers up to Valentine's Day, given to the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Kroger gives all the money to charity, with stores choosing the charity.

Moore didn't get a big bouquet of her own Feb. 14.

"I'm not a real Valentine's person, to be honest," she said. "It's not a part of my faith."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Kroger employee Rebecca Moore tends the Six Mile and Haggerty shop's floral department on Valentine's Day. Moore,

who expected a lot of flowers to be purchased that day, came out of semi-retirement five years ago to work at some-





STREET Continued from page A1

"The City of Northville is fortunate that so many companies are interested in working for this community," Gallogly said. "The qualifications, talent, and capacity of these firms are significant, and all seem to have the necessary experience in working with MDOT on federal aid projects for local governments." Eight firms bid for the project.

Gallogly recommended to city council a Flint firm, Rowe Professional Services, Inc., as the most qualified to perform the design phase of this project. The council was expected to make a decision Tuesday night on the \$22,612.00 contract for design engineering services on the S. Center Street Improvement Project.

He said Rowe best meets the city's needs.

"To get this project designed and programmed through MDOT for late summer /early fall it is important to award the design as soon as possible," Gallogly said.

lhuhman@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255



BRENNER, LOUIS

Age 87, passed away February 13, 2013. He was born on September 8,

1925, son of the late Jake Beckie Brenner. and Louis proudly served in the WWII Canadian Navy. He Roval worked at Southern Pacific Railway as a manager for several years prior to his retirement. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Shirley Brenner & his dear children: William Brenner, Beverly & John Alexander, & Joseph & Linda Brenner. Louis is also survived by his grandchildren: Meaghan, Elizabeth, & Perry. He was preceded in death by nine of his siblings. A Memorial service was held Tuesday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home. Memorial contributions requested in lieu of flowers to Active Faith Community Service, South Lyon. On-line guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com

DEMKOWICZ, SHARON D.

SHARON D. Age 69, passed away February 16, 2013. She was born on June 18, 1943, in Chicago, daughter of the late Mary Smallwood. Sharon was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother. She could often be found attending her grandchildren's activities. Sharon was a faithful fan of the Chicago Bears and the Chicago White Sox. The Demkowicz family would like to thank Heartland Hospice, Senior Helpers of Ann Arbor and U of M Cancer Center for their compassion while caring for Sharon. She is survived by her loving son Brian (Connie) Demkowicz; her adoring grandchildren: Gabrielle (Samual Holtman), Maegan, Dylan, Derek, Jared, Carly and Meggie. She is also survived by her great-granddaughter, Zooey, her sister Maureen (Jim) Smith and her loving extended family and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard in 2011 and her daughter, Danielle Schaadt in 2006. Visitation was held on Tuesday, February 19, from 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, February 20, at 11:00 A.M. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to U of M Cancer Center. **Online Guestbook**

KNAPP, JACK R. Of Delaware, OH passed peacefully to his eternal life on Mon-

day, Februay 11. Jack lived his life with such kindness. Father of Mark (Paige) Knapp of Rocky River, Ohio; Lisa Knapp (Flemming Budolfsen) of (Flemming Budolfsen) of Aalborg, Denmark; and Tina Knapp (Johnny Frandsen) of Frederikshavn, Denmark. Grandfather to Marcus, Liv Sofie, Emma, Silja, Jonas and Selma. Husband of 34 years to Krista Heins. Son of Geraldine Knapp and later father Franklin Junior Knapp. Brother of Gerald Knapp and Paul Knapp. Uncle to 15 nephews and nieces. Jack's one and only career after college was banking, starting in Detroit, then Baltimore and continuing in Columbus, most recently at Chase Bank, where he worked for 12 years. He grew up in New Hudson and South Lyon, Michigan. He graduated from Ferris State University and was a member of Delta Sigma Phi. Memorial gifts may be sent to Canine

Companions for Independence (www.cci.org)



LYKE, RUTH MARY

Age 94, of Riverview, formerly of East Windsor, CT & Northville, MI, passed away on February 7, 2013. She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lyke, Sr. Ruth is survived by her loving family; son, Robert Lyke, Jr. of Broad Brook, CT; daughter, Kathy (Gary) Lenza of Riverview, FL; grandchildren, Bobby (Cindy) of Bonifay, FL, Amy (Scott) of Riverview, FL; Rob (Holly) of Enfield, CT, and Chris (Jen) of Las Vegas, NV; great-grandchildren, Kyle, Taylor, Austin, Weston, Alec and Nora: great-great-grandson, Ruth was anxiously Karson. awaiting the birth of her greatgranddaughter next month.

SASENA, JAMES Oct. 31, 1931 - Feb. 11, 2013 obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

SIMMONS, LUEL, JR.

July 27, 1921 - February 1, 2013 obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

SIRDENIS, CHRISTOS GEORGE

Age 88, from South Lyon, Michigan, passed away on February 15, 2013, at 12:45am. Chris was with his loving Daughters: Kim Klebe and Laurie Newman, at the Addington Place Nursing Home, at the time of his death, where he passed peacefully, surrounded by love. Chris's son, Nick Sirdenis, who lives in Houghton, Michigan, was sending his love from afar. Chris was preceded in death by his loving wife Joyce and his grandson Noah Sirdenis who both passed in 2011. Chris is survived by his three children and their spouses: Nick & Julie Sirdenis, Kim & Dan Klebe and Laurie & Kurt Newman. He is also survived by his grandchildren Lacey Sirdenis Crocker & Nikko Sirdenis, Courtney & Nathan Klebe and Chelsie, Kaley and Sarah Hall. Chris was a baseball player in his younger years until WWII interrupted that career when he volunteered as medic for the Army Air Core. Chris received a Purple Heart as a medic and spent the better part of his mid twenties in a VA hospital in Allen Park, MI. After his health improved he started a career with the F.B. Wright Co. and also started a small trucking company with his wife until they retired to Pickerel Lake in Petoskey, MI in 1985. Chris was always happy and so grateful for everything he had. He always said there is a right and a wrong way and he always tried to do the right thing. He will be missed greatly here on earth but is awaited by many in heaven. Good bye sweet father, we will see you again. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

'Locked in' for Civic Concern



The Northville High School varsity bowling team held and "lock-in" fundraiser at Novi Bowl in Jan. to benefit Northville Civic Concern. Last year they raised \$1,500 for the charity, and this year they went a bit better and got \$2,600 in pledges and donations. From left are Coaches Jerry Harris and Kristin Muzzilo, Esha Badi, Coach Mike Sugiyama and Andi Young.

LIBRARY LINES

The Northville District Library, which is located at 212 W. Cady Street, has a number of upcoming programs. For more information about these events or about the library, call (248) 349-3020 or visit http://northville.lib.mi.us. Upcoming events include:

• DROP-IN MORNING STORYTIME

10;15 a.m., Thursdays, Feb. 21-Feb. 28 Details: Storytime fun for toddlers and preschoolers, all ages welcome to attend. Children 3 and younger must be accompanied by a caregiver.

• KIDZ TIME FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD GRADERS

4;30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21 Details: Fun after school program with stories, games and crafts. Call to register.

• THE SPIRIT OF AFRICAN AMERI-CAN ARTISTS

7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25 Details: Hear all about the lives and times of African American artists from the late nineteenth century to the present day, presented by a Detroit Institute of Arts speaker. Call to register.

• TWEEN SCRABBLE CRAFT

Time/Date: 4:15-5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Mar.

Details: Make clever and quirky Scrabble tile coasters. For tweens ages 9 – 12. Limit 30. Call to register at (248) 349-3020.

MILL RACE MATTERS

Mill Race Historical Village is located at 215 Griswold Avenue, north of Main Street near Ford Field.

• **DETAILS:** Office open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday-Friday. Archives open Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Village buildings open free to the public 1-4 p.m., Sundays, mid-June to mid-October.

• **CONTACT:** (248) 348-1845

The Historical Society needs your help. They are looking for a volunteer to run their popular Sunday Docent program which operates from June to October. The job involves recruiting docents, scheduling docents every Sunday, and coordinating the program with other staff. For more details, please call (248) 348-1845.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- (*Grounds closed to public)
- **Thursday:** 9 a.m. Archives Open; 7 p.m. NHS Board of Directors Meeting
- Friday: 9 a.m. Archives Open
- Sunday: 5:30 p.m. Venture Crew #8
- Monday: 10 a.m. Heirloom Rug Hookers;
- 7 p.m. Victorian Readers
- **Tuesday:** 9 a.m. Stone Gang; 7 p.m. Cub Scouts 755 Den #4
- Wednesday: 1 p.m. AAUW Bridge Group; 6:45 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation Group



www.phillipsfuneral.com

DUNCAN, LINDA

February 16, 2013 age 65. Services were held at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home. obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

> HINES, DENNIS R., SR.

Age 60, passed away February 15, 2013. He was born on August 6, 1952, in Detroit, son of the late Westwood & Gladys Hines. Dennis was an avid golfer and hunter and also enjoyed fishing. He could often be found donating his time and expertise helping his neighbors in Colonial Acres. Dennis was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will always be remembered for his great sense of humor and his willingness to help others. He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of nearly 30 years, Sheila; his loving children: Lanell (Walter) Duff, William Dennis Jr. (Becky), James, Nikki), Patrick (Amy) Cylkowski, David Cylkowski and Chrissy (James) Lawson; 14 grandchildren, three greatgrandchildren and one expected in October. He is also survived by his sisters: Elizabeth Montgomery, Wanda Ali and Linda (John) Miller. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Sonny, his brother inlaw, John Montgomery and his granddaughter, Heaven. Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 21, from 2:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNER-AL ĤOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon, MI 48178. Memorial donations may be made to Dennis' wife Sheila.

Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

JOHNSON, MICHELLE L.

Age 33, of Livonia, passed away surrounded by her loving family. www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

KUTCHER, GABRIELLA August 7, 1924 - Feb. 9, 2013 obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

MAISANO, JEROME

May 19, 1925 - February 9, 2013 obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

MOFFAT, JOHN ALBERT A long time resident of Milford, Michigan, passed away on February 14th, 2013. Mr. Moffat was born on April 16th, 1930 to John and Elizabeth Moffat of Detroit, Michigan He graduated from Denby High School in Detroit in 1948; earned a bachelors of arts degree from Michigan State Normal College (Eastern Michigan University) in 1951 and: a Masters' degree from Wayne State University in 1953. John Moffat then enlisted in the United States Army where he served with distinction as a Field Artillery Director in the Korean War Conflict. Upon return from Korea, Mr. Moffat was employed as a teacher for the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools system for over 30 years. Mr. Motfat met his wife, Grace Fox, formerly of Dormont Pennsylvania, and they settled in Milford, Michigan. Mr. Moffat is survived by his 3 children: Laura who currently resides in Milford, Daniel of Columbus, OH, and Paul of Lake Tahoe, CA. After the death of his much adored wife in 1966, and after retiring as a school teacher, John Moffat traveled the world as a cruise dance host and ship enthusiast. Mr. Moffat was an active member of the Milford United Methodist Church for many years. As a teacher, Mr. Moffat started several different clubs to keep students learning and motivated including, "The Explorers Club". John Moffat is remembered as a father, a grandfather, a dedicated teacher, a world traveler, and a treasured friend. He is also remembered as a very special grandparent to his 12 grandchildren and 4 great grand children. To read the obituary visit: www.GramerFuneralHome.com

OCHMAN VIRGINIA Age 84, passed on Feb. 16, 2013. Visitation Feb. 22, 3-8 p.m. Phillips Funeral Home. Mass Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m. Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 9565 Musch Rd.

TRASKOS, HELEN

Age 92, died Feb. 12, 2013. Graduate of Fordson High, Dearborn. Attended Wayne State Univ. Retired 1983, employed by AMA/ MVMA for 43 years. Service at 11:00am, Wed., March 6th at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Gifts to Ward Church, Deacon FD,

248-374-7400

TURNER, LARRY

Age 59, passed away February 10, 2013. A family service was held. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

ZAYTI, MARIAN F.

Age 92, of Townshend, Vermont previously of Northville, Michigan passed away February 17, 2013. She was born January 8, 1921 in Northville Township; daughter of Chester and Mary (Traub) Shoebridge. Marian graduated from Plymouth High School in 1938; she was a high school athlete who played on both the basketball and softball teams. She later attended the Henry Ford Arts School in Detroit. She was united in marriage to Benny Zayti on May 6, 1942; they were married for 46 loving years until his death in 1988. For many years, Marian was the Human Resources Coordinator for the Northville Public Schools; she retired in 1986. She was an active member of Our Lady of Victory Mother's Club. Marian loved to travel and enjoyed watching sports. She is survived by her daughters, Judy Slowik and Joyce (Brian) Berry; her grandchildren. Jennifer. Jessica (Rock), Matthew (Molly), Megan, Heather, and Jason; and her great granddaughter Julia. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter Janice Zavti, 2 brothers, and 4 sisters. A funeral mass will be held Friday, February 22, 2013 at 10:30am, with visitation beginning at 9:30am at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 133 Orchard, Northville. She will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Ceme-Memorial contributions tery. would be appreciated to Valley Cares Assisted Living, 461 Grafton, Townshend, VT 05353 or the Alzheimer's Association, 20300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076-4166. Share online condolences at: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

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NORTHVILLE POLICE BRIEFS

Starbucks trespassing

A man was cited for trespassing at Starbucks in downtown Northville.

On Feb. 15, Northville City Police were dispatched to the location on Main Street on the report of a intoxicated man asking for money. The police found a 54-year-old man inside the coffee shop matching the report. The shop manager went ahead and signed the trespassing notice and the man was cited.

He was later transported to the hospital after complaining of pain.

Debit card stolen

A woman had her debit card stolen while exercising at Planet Fitness. The 19-year-old Livonia woman told

Northville City Police that she left her purse inside an unsecured locker at the fitness center, which is located on E. Main Street in downtown Northville. A couple hours after she left the location she received a call from her credit union that said someone had used the card in Livonia at four different locations. The card was canceled. The case remains open and police are following up with Target in Livonia, where the card was used.

Officer discharges weapon

A Northville City Police officer discharged his weapon to put a sick animal out of its misery.

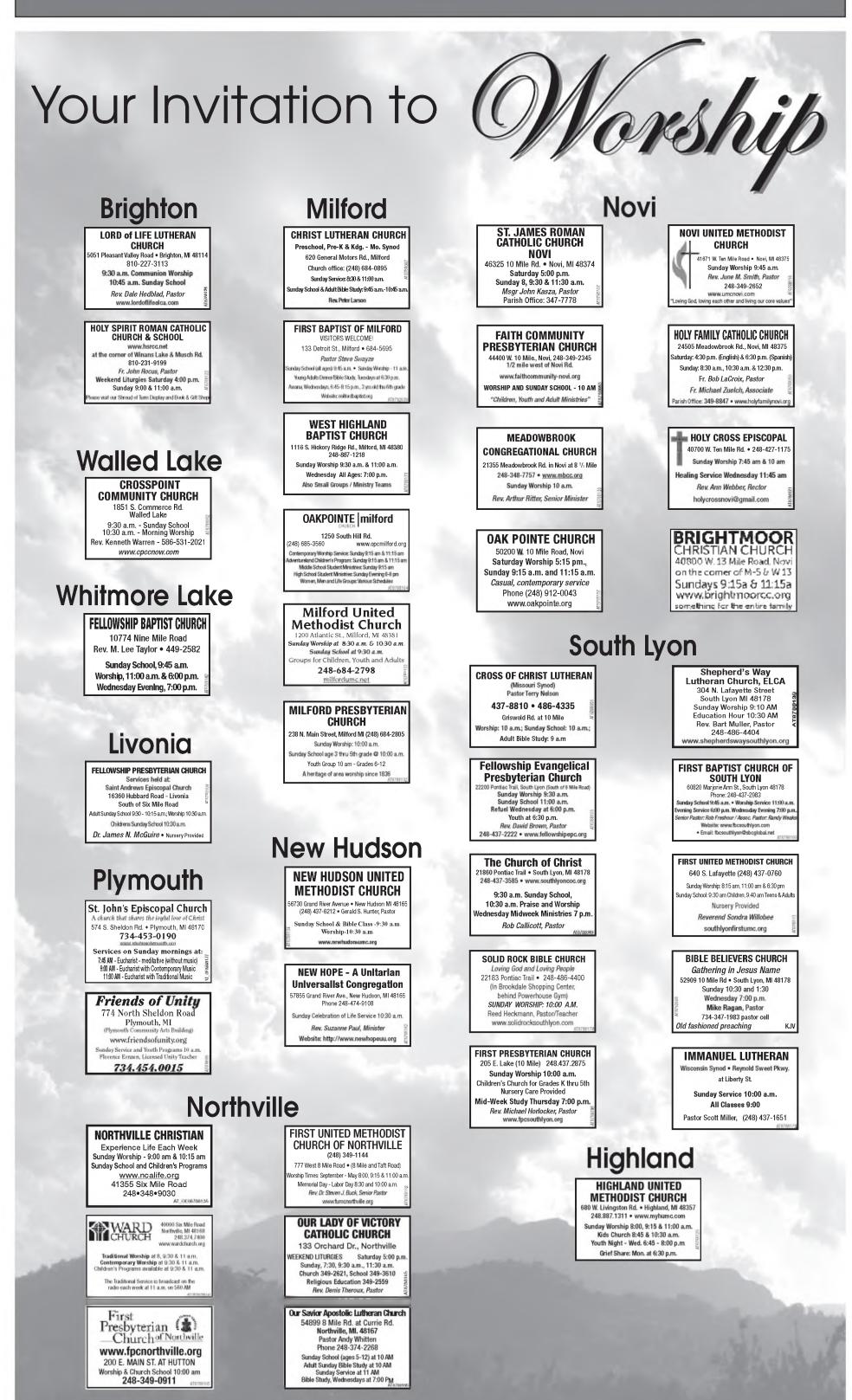
On Feb. 13, the police responded to a call of a sick raccoon at Taft Road and Lexington Boulevard. Upon arrival the police observed the raccoon convulsing in the road and it appeared to be sick, according to the report. It was taken to the grassy side of the road and shot twice, and was later disposed of at the DPW yard.

Suspended license

A Romulus man was cited for driving with a suspended license after being stopped for a broken headlight.

On Feb. 7, Northville City Police spotted the man near Center Street with the faulty headlight and stopped him at Sheldon. A check of the 49year-old man revealed he had a suspended driver's license.

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

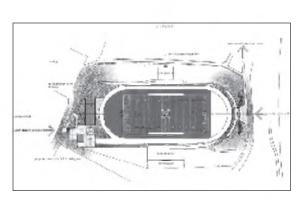


For more information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011, ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

OPINION

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

OUR VIEWS



An artist's rendering shows Phase II of Tom Holzer Ford Field, which will include renovations to the concession, restrooms and locker room facilities.

Building a source of pride A Night for Northville needs support

.

"If you build it, he will come." That is the famous line from the movie, *Field of Dreams*, in which a farmer (played by Kevin Costner) sets out on an improbable quest to build a baseball field in the middle of an Iowa corn field.

A group of 13 Northville community and business leaders, known as the Turf Club, faced such a daunting task when they set out a couple years ago to make more than a million dollars of upgrades to the Northville Public Schools athletic stadium on Eight Mile. The group's main charge was to help develop a plan with school district officials, and more importantly get the community behind the project.

At this point it is safe to say the Turf Club has been pretty successful. Phase I of the project, which included adding an artificial turf playing surface, is now in the rear-view mirror — thanks to a substantial financial contribution from Tom Holzer Ford and other donations from the community. The upgrades were completed by the time football season started in the fall, and the newly named Tom Holzer Ford Field became a source of great pride in the community.

Now the group is in the midst of fundraising for Phase II of the project, which will include renovating the concession area, restrooms and locker room facilities. The group has set a goal of raising an additional \$250,000 to do the work. In addition to the Tom Holzer Ford contribution and scoreboard advertisements, one of the main ways the Turf Club was able to raise money for Phase I was a special event called A Night for Northville. They raised more than \$41,000 at the event last year. The group will host the second A Night for Northville this weekend. It will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 23, at Northville Square Mall, 133 W. Main St. in downtown Northville. Tickets are \$100 per person (\$70 is tax-deductible) with delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, open bar, live entertainment from local favorite The Shawn Riley Band. There will also be two silent auctions. Some of the auction items include: Red Wings and University of Michigan football tickets, hotel stays, MGM Casino package, sports memorabilia, a television, fitness passes, pasta party, golf outings, epoxy floor, and much more. All of the money raised at the event will go toward Phase II renovations. Tickets will be available at the door, but advance purchase is recommended at www. NHSTurfClub.org. We understand not everyone can afford to spend \$100 to attend the event. But, for those who can, this is a great way to show community support. This is a cause that directly benefits the youth of this community. Not only do the high school teams use this field, but so do many little leaguers. Tom Holzer Ford CEO Connie Holzer summed it up perfectly last year when she signed the agreement to donate \$250,000 to the project. "Our children are our future and our future is our children," Holzer said at the time. "I want to do all I can to protect and educate these beautiful young minds. Let's put our helmets on for Turf Club.'

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you willing to pay 14 cents more per gallon for unleaded gas and higher vehicle registration fees — an average combined increase of about \$120 per vehicle — to fix the roads in Michigan, as Gov. Snyder has proposed?

We asked the question in downtown Northville



"I think there are alternatives to this that should be looked at before raising more prices."

Tim Nicholson Farmington Hills



"I'm undecided. The roads are in bad shape, but this might not be the right time to raise prices and fees."

Mary Keys Northville



"Yes, I think the roads are in bad shape, so something needs to be done."

Richard Terlaak Northville



"Yeah, I don't have a problem with it, but there should be some federal money that should help with it. Something needs to be done now."

Tom Voytal Northville

LETTERS

Put land on market

Well, here we go again with another Northville Township-owned property with "problems." The only thing our new prison property has going for it vs. the psychiatric hospital property is the purchase price: \$1 for 53 acres vs. \$23.5 million for 332 acres. The properties have much in common but only the psych property has a determined use, a park, for which the Board of Trustees has approved an \$82.5 million master plan. Meanwhile, we can't begin to implement this plan until we have the funds necessary to clean it up. The brownfield is expected to produce \$80 million over 30 years but yet another problem has arisen: the nonprofit status of the future tenant. In the meantime, police runs to this property are estimated to have cost \$150,000 last year. Expensive.

So now what are we doing? We're repeating the scenario, with the added complication of development strings attached to the prison property. Certainly the wishes of the residents should be considered in determining the future of this property. Several uses were mentioned in the recent Record editorial, one being park land. The township owns 569+ acres of public park land, and with Maybury Park, Hines Park and a lot of private subdivision parks, why would we even consider adding more, the maintenance of which would be our ongoing financial responsibility? Now an update: the demolition of the prison may start in April. Why are we spending money on this property? Where is this money coming from, and will it be worth the investment? Will the property then sell, and even more worrisome, what if it doesn't? Again, we don't have the money to take care of the psych property, but we're dividing our resources and investing in demolition on another property. How do we know that a developer couldn't make use of some of those not-so-very-old buildings? The basic problem here is that commercial land development is not the business of government. It is, however, what developers do, day in and day out, so let them do it. With these uncertain financial times, especially for municipalities, what the township really needs is a revenueproducing development. What we don't need is another money pit. Put the property on the market as-is, let a developer shoulder the cleanup costs, the development, and install a taxpaying tenant.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com Mail: Letters to the Editor, Northville Record, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178 Fax: (248) 437-3386 E-mail: kkuban@hometownlife. com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published Thursday. **Online:** Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www. hometownlife.com.

the highest per capita income, none of them are RTW states. Workers

Council. Voters, in good conscience, voted to keep our regional attractions, the zoo and the DIA, open to the public. How you can simply bypass this vote to do some of your pet projects is simply unconscionable. You should have listened to Nancy Darga, as she speaks for the majority who voted for this millage. I hope that many others who feel this way will contact members of the council or the mayor and tell them how you feel.

Karen Olson Northville

Selling 'counterintuitive'

I definitely feel the City of Northville selling the public property for the expansion of Poole's Tavern is not something I would like to see happen. Our downtown is such a nice family-friendly and inviting place to congregate, expanding the tavern at the expense of maintaining that community feeling seems counterin-



Kurt Kuban, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor **Grace Perry,** Director of Advertising

Kathryn Peltier

Northville Township

Heise's claims 'laughable'

I found the recent letter from Rep. Heise baffling. He says the actions of the last legislative session were intended to create jobs, but when you peel back the layers on the onion, what Republicans passed were job killing bills, starting with the "Right to Work" for less bill. Of the 10 states with the highest unemployment, six are RTW states. Of the 10 states with in RTW states make an average of \$1,500 per year less; 21 percent more people lack health insurance; and workplace deaths are 51 percent higher.

If government doesn't create jobs, Mr. Heise, then why did Republicans give corporate welfare to special business interests and CEOs in the form of juicy tax breaks, and transfer that cost to seniors by taxing pensions, eliminating child tax credits, eliminating some homestead tax credits, and instituting "legacy cost reforms" that make the teaching profession less desirable?

Businesses don't hire people just because they received a juicy tax break. Unless there is increased demand for your products or services, you hire no one. Your taxing seniors and middle class families takes massive amount of discretionary income out of the economy that is the economic engine of job growth. ...

Heise's job creation claims are laughable. His party lobbied relentlessly to "let Detroit go bankrupt." If President Obama hadn't taken the action he did to save the auto industry, Michigan's unemployment rate would likely be above 20 percent. The "thousands of new jobs" you spoke of are mainly from the resurgence of that industry; but it isn't a surprise that you are now trying to take credit for it.

Now Republicans are proposing the most regressive tax measures to make the middle class and the poor fix our roads. Increasing the sales tax by 2 percent (a tax that will never go away) and increasing car license fees on families will take even more spending out of the economy.

Once again, Heise's solution is to let the little people pay. What your letter shows, Mr. Heise, is that you aren't working to better the lot of Michigan families; you are more like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

> Steve Lawrence Northville

Leave money alone

Shame on you, Northville City

tuitive.

Aleta Lee Northville

Share in tax increases

Regarding Gov. Snyder's budget proposal calling for big gas tax and fee increases — what happened to the long-standing claim that Republicans were the anti-tax party? I recall when the oil companies first pushed prices above \$3 and \$4 a gallon during the Bush years. The Republicans called on then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm to suspend the gas tax whenever prices were above \$3. Now prices remain above \$3 all the time and this governor is calling for higher taxes. His claim of "you use the roads you should pay for the roads" sounds to me like Snyder making the average citizen pay the extra cost again. Oh, you might say businesses use the roads also and will pay these increases. However some, who use the roads the most, no doubt will be able to write off the cost as operating expense against their income tax and come out even.

The governor says that business should have tax parity with the individual taxpayer. Why not a dedicated increase on the income tax (individual and corporate) to fund road and bridge repair only? This would lower the increase ... And as they are public roads open to all more would help pay for them.

Then if your income is low (say by having your pension taxed or your tax deductions taken away) you don't pay as much. Also we won't have some write it off and get a free ride.

If you have income, you're in. That would be shared sacrifice. But this would mean Republicans saying "yes. we need the tax money" ...

If we will all share in the benefit as Snyder says, through safer roads, more jobs and a better future, we should all share in the cost and that includes business.

> Chuck Tindall Novi

online at hometownlife.com

We can raise road money without raising taxes

By Sen. Patrick Colbeck Guest Column

still recall my orientation session shortly after being elected. I was treated to a non-partisan symposium on the

need to raise taxes as the de facto solution for all of our budgetary ailments. In fact, the



Colbeck

options for transportation funding were not very innovative - raise gasoline taxes, raise sales taxes, create a new tire tax or raise registration fees.

As an advocate of consumption-driven tax policy, I understand the logic of tying these revenue sources with road funding. It is worth noting, though, that we already invoke "user fees" to fund our roads to the tune of \$.19/gallon (\$825 million) and close to \$1 billion from transportation-related registration fees, licenses and the like. Our total budget last year for transportation was around \$3.3 billion. The bulk of the difference between our user fees and the transportation budget was made up from federal funding.

Governor Rick Snyder has outlined the need for an additional \$1.2 billion in funding to improve our transportation infrastructure. Some studies indicate that our operations and maintenance funding levels need to be as high as \$6 billion to maintain our current road infrastructure, but let's assume that a yearly budget of \$4.5 billion will take care of business for the moment. Either way,

our state has purchased the equivalent of a larger home than we can afford because we forgot that we had to pay for ongoing expenses like utilities and property taxes after the house was built.

For the sake of simplicity, let's assume for the moment that there are no opportunities for expense reduction within the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). All indications are that MDOT is one of the leanest state transportation agencies in the nation. In fact, I requested a lean analysis of a typical highway construction project in the state and it returned no useful information whatsoever.

So, if we take "user fees" off the table, what other revenue opportunities do we have? For starters, our state economy is improving. The general fund (i.e. the money without any strings attached when it comes to appropriations) is forecast to yield a 5.4 percent increase from the fiscal year 2012-13 figure. This corresponds to roughly \$500 million. If we were to freeze spending for all agencies that depend upon the general fund, that \$500 million would be available to fund roads. When vou eliminate the onetime spending in our budget last year, that figure is even larger. Let's work with the \$500 million for the time being. We still need to find \$700 million.

Did you know that we pay \$833 million in debt payments every year? If we paid off our state "credit cards", we would have an additional \$833 million per year. Instead of paying interest to banks, we could

even start to earn interest that could help fund our roads. Perhaps, we should invest our economic growth "dividend" and even our rainy day fund to pay off our debt. Once the slate is clean in as little as two years, we can ramp up the appropriations for our roads.

When businesses run into financial trouble, in addition to looking for ways to cut expenses, they look for assets that can be leveraged to earn additional revenue. What assets do we have in the state of Michigan?

One of our best assets is our hardworking citizens. Finding jobs for the 411,000 unemployed citizens in our state would yield over \$1 billion in income tax alone. If we continue to promote progrowth economic policies as we have over the past two years and the federal government finally stops strangling the growth of the national economy, we will see additional economic growth "dividends", perhaps even enough to close the \$700 million gap. Let's not stop there, though. Let's keep thinking outside of the standard "taxes are the answer" box.

We have 10,711 bridges, 131 Secretary of State offices, 81 rest areas, 97 state parks, 829 boat access sites, 16 harbors and over 15,000 properties in the state "land bank". The National Counsel for State Legislators (NCSL) has identified advertising, concessions, naming rights and shared resources as incremental revenue opportunities for states.

What if we were to lease billboard space on our bridges? Billboard leases range from \$250 to \$1,800 per month depending on location.

We could raise an additional \$460 million per year in advertising revenue by simply adding another placard to our overpasses next to our current route signs. With a little creativity and ingenuity we could integrate these signs onto our highway overpasses without much disruption to the aesthetics of our roadways. One idea would be to sponsor a graphic design contest to make these signs a "feature of," not a "detraction from," our Pure Michigan campaign.

As for our other assets, we could lease advertising space at our Secretary of State offices. Our rest areas feature over 50 million visitors per year. Our state parks feature 24 million visitors. If we were to privatize the management of these assets, we could free up over \$20 million in general fund dollars and generate additional concessions revenue.

All told, there is the potential for over \$1.6 billion in new funding for roads, all without raising taxes.

Are there downside risks with these proposals? Yes. The key question, though, is do these risks outweigh the very real impacts to our taxpayers when taxes and registration fees go up or

the quality of our roads goes down.

Bottom line, before I ask our hardworking taxpayers to fork out another dime in transportation taxes, we need to take a hard look at all of our options. We should prioritize those options in a manner that recognizes that many of our citizens are already struggling to make ends meet. The path to modernizing our transportation infrastructure demands true innovation.

Patrick Colbeck is state senator for the 7th District, which includes most of the Northville community. He is from Canton.









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AG appeals dismissal of felony charges against ex-staffers

Attorney General Bill Schuette filed an appeal last week with the Michigan Court of Appeals challenging the dismissal of felony conspiracy charges against two former congressional staff members for their involvement in former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter's petition scandal.

On Jan. 18, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Margie Braxton dismissed the charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony filed against both defendants. The Attorney General's office opposed the dismissal. Don Yowchuang, 33, of Farmington Hills, who worked as deputy district director for the former congressman,



Seewald Yowchuang

pleaded no contest Nov. 27 before Braxton to 10 counts of forgery, a five-year felony, and six counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor. Yowchuang was sentenced by Braxton Jan. 18 to three years' probation. If he violates probation, he must serve the last year in a county jail or prison; complete 200 hours of community service; repay all court costs and fees; and, he is required to report any contact with police or loss of employment to his assigned probation officer.

Paul Seewald, 47, of Livonia, who worked as district director for the former congressman, pleaded guilty Nov. 27 before Braxton to nine counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail. Seewald was sentenced by Braxton Jan. 18 to the following: two years' probation; 100 hours of community service; repayment of all court costs and fees; and, he is required to report any contact with police or loss of employment to his assigned probation officer. On Aug. 9, Schuette

announced the results of an

investigation by the Attorney General's Public Integrity Unit into the alleged fraud surrounding nominating petitions filed in May 2012 on behalf of McCotter. Schuette explained the former congressman was "asleep at the switch" and that four staff members were to face criminal charges.

On Sept. 18, Lorianne O'Brady, 52, of Livonia, who worked as a scheduler to the former congressman, pleaded no contest in Wayne County's 16th District Court before Judge Kathleen J. McCann to five counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a misdemeanor. She was sentenced to 20 days in jail or 20 days in a work program. Following that sentence, she will serve 18 months' probation, with the first 12 months as reporting probation. O'Brady was also ordered to pay \$2,625 in fines and court costs.

Mary Melissa Turnbull, 58, of Howell, who was McCotter's district representative, was bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court where she faces one count of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner, a five-year felony, and one count of falsely signing a nominating petition as circulator, a 93-day misdemeanor.

Turnbull is next due in court for a final conference before Circuit Judge Leo Bowman on April 16. Her trial will begin June 3.



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CHRYSLER

'Embrace of Aging'

Famie film shares men's perspectives

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

On his 53rd birthday recently, Novi filmmaker Keith Famie had some thoughts on aging.

The 10-time Michigan Emmy award-winning director/producer is looking forward to the Sunday, Feb. 24, premiere of his The Embrace of Aging: The Male Perspective of Growing Old.

"I thought, Well, I should trv to do a documentary on this," he said.

Famie, a 1978 Farmington High School graduate who grew up in Farmington Hills, is doing a threepart series, the first on men and aging, then women and aging, and dying. Work is under way on the women's portion, part of which will be shown at the Feb. 24 premiere.

"It becomes chasing the Holy Grail, if you will, in a sense," he said of the extensive filming and interviews. It started with personal

curiosity.

Famie was adopted at age six weeks, and lost his adoptive father in 2003 to Alzheimer's. "That did have a profound

effect on me, no question," he said. The documentary has a lot on Alzheimer's.

His mom is going on 93. Famie met his biological parents at 35; his biological dad died at 92, and that mom's alive in Florida.

"Things start to change with our bodies," he said of middle age. With "co-morbidity," we realize, "things start to stack up. The dominoes start to fall. That's what takes you out of the game of life, really."

Famie sought both health experts and everyday men for The Embrace of Aging. His heart expert is in cardiology at the University of Michigan — and has heart disease himself.

Many facets to work

Famie has done earlier documentaries on ethnic groups in metro Detroit,

At the

work with

Italian, Polish, Arab-American, Asian-Indian and Greek. He's also explored veterans' issues for World War II and Vietnam veterans.

Men face issues like prostate cancer, and Famie said men also can lack social networks that women enjoy. "These are things women figure out a lot earlier than men."

Some men retire from work: "Then they're kind of lost. They don't have friendships."

As a baby boomer, Famie (also known for his time on Survivor in the Australian Outback) sees much interest in aging and mortality. "It's like a tsunami of aging population growing."

Some products marketed to boomers are essentially "snake oil," he said. "It really comes down to a lifestyle. It's hard, common-sense work."

He made a lot of great friends filming. One man is a clinical psychologist from Albuquerque who faces

PREMIERE

Tickets for the Feb. 24 premiere at Shriners Silver Garden Event Center in Southfield are available for \$75 each. Contact Visionalist Entertainment Productions at (248) 869-0096. Doors open at 5 p.m. For information, including the trailer, photos, stories of elements in production, visit www.embraceofaging.com.

both bladder cancer and the loss of his wife to cancer.

Famie filmed at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City with a police captain and a well-known restaurateur.

"It'll touch different people in different ways,' Famie said of his film. He hopes people will live healthier lives, and that women will understand what men go through. He's glad Chuck Gaidi-



Hometown Weeklies | Thursday, February 21, 2013

Novi filmmaker Keith Famie's excit- the past now. "I think ed about his "The Embrace of Aging: the other thing is I've The Male Perspective of Growing Old" premiering Feb. 24.

ca of WDIV TV Channel 4 will serve as master of ceremonies for the premiere. "A great guy," Famie said. "Happens to be a very close friend."

The aging documentary will be shown on Detroit's public television later this year, he said, likely late summer or early fall. He also wants men to see the women's film, on how women adapt to aging. Men may say, "Oh, wow, I need some new friends.' I think that's going to be a big impact."

He'll take a global approach on the dying portion, different countries and faiths. That will likely start closer to the end of the year. Famie's son, 20, and

daughter, 22, have worked

with dad on films, including travel. His son wants to be a biogenetic engineer, while his daughter studies criminal justice.

'Cherish friendships'

Famie has stopped eating gluten, and works out with more discipline than in

really learned to cherish friendships." he

said. He calls friends right away: "I really go out of the way spending time with my guy friends."

He praises his co-executive producers, Tom Rau of the Brighton area and Russell Ebeid. "Those guys are really important, as are our corporate sponsors," Famie said.

Stewart Francke, also featured in the film, will perform. Comedian Bill Mihalic, who has written for Jay Leno, will share thoughts on aging men. The event will highlight the work of the Bo Schembechler: Heart of a Champion Research Fund and Alzheimer's Association of Michigan.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Northville's Gaidica glad to help friend Famie as emcee

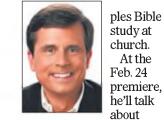
Chuck Gaidica, longtime WDIV Channel 4 weather forecaster, is proud of friend Keith Famie and Famie's films.

"I'm always amazed at what he's been able to accomplish," said Gaidica, a Northville Township resident. Famie's films have substance, he said, and are well researched.

"You don't see a lot of people doing that. I'm really proud of him as a friend," said Gaidica, a member of Oakpointe Church in Novi.

Gaidica will be master of ceremonies for the Feb. 24 premiere of Famie's The Embrace of Aging: The Male Perspective of Growing Old. Gaidica, 54, has seen the documentary.

"It's one of those things I can relate to," the television weatherman said. "It's intriguing to see what peo-



Gaidica

seniors. Gaidica is studying for a master's in ministry and leadership, and has helped bring children at Oakpointe into contact with seniors at facilities. "There are little things

we can do to connect with them," he said of seniors,

who are often lonely even if in good health.

"It's coming at me like a lot of other people like a freight train," Gaidica said of aging baby boomers. He agreed women often

cope with aging better. If his wife goes out to dinner with Gaidica, "she could leave for the bathroom and come out with three new friends."

Men sometimes put excess pressure on themselves, including as breadwinners, Gaidica added. His faith helps him in daily life,

including the Bible's teachings that life is beyond individual control and to focus on today, not worrying about tomorrow.

"If you can really believe the words, it's helpful, no question."

By Julie Brown



ple are doing in different parts of the world to stay healthy."

Gaidica finds men are asking themselves a lot of important questions on health and how they define success.

"I think I've probably expanded my (social) circle," he said. He's in a cou-





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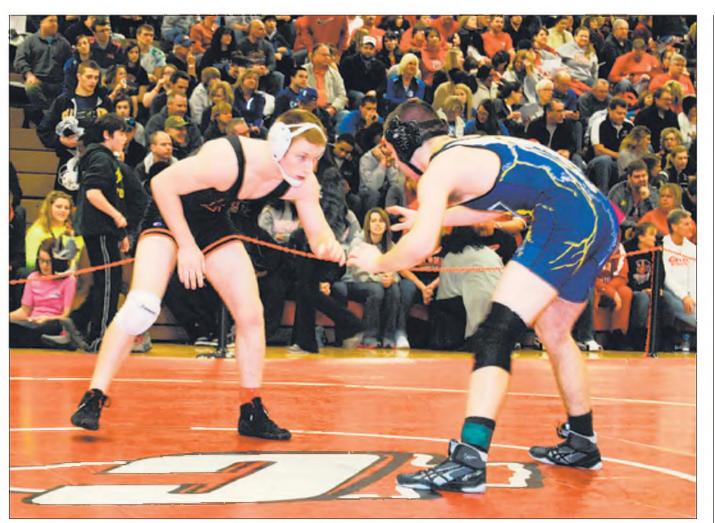
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SECTION B . (NR) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013 HOMETOWN WEEKLIES HOMETOWNLIFE.COM SPORTS

CAL STONE, EDITOR cstone@hometownlife.com (248) 437-2011 EXT. 237



Alex Coe in action against his Dearborn Heights Crestwood opponent.

And then there was one

Alex Coe advances to individual state finals

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

When the dust settled following the all-out rumble that took place in the MHSAA Individual Regional Wrestling Tournament last week, only one Mustang was left standing.

Alex Coe, a senior captain for the wrestling team, earned the right to wrestle in the MHSAA State Finals a week from today. He did so by capturing fourth place in the 152-pound weight class.

"Alex really focused himself these last two weeks at districts and regionals," said Northville head coach Bob Boshoven. "He really saved his best wrestling for the right time. Wrestling is a long grueling season, where

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs wrestling team will be rooting for Alex Coe when he wrestles in the individual state finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills starting next Thursday.

half the battle and Alex really did peak at the right time. (It) is really nice to see his efforts pay off. He has invested seven years in this sport, starting in middle school competing for coach Ed Maresh and the Northville youth program. Alex, his family, and all those who helped him along the way have a lot to be proud of."

Coe started the day off with a tough, 9-6, loss to Alex Cornelius



Mustangs' four-game win streak snapped

Squad falls to Canton Chiefs

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

The Northville Mustangs boys basketball team made a run late in the game against the Canton Chiefs to cut their foes' lead down to just seven points with over four minutes remaining in the game, but it would prove to not be enough as they lost and snapped their four-game win streak.

The squad, coached by Todd Sander, took a 51-34 loss against the Chiefs, who were up by five points after the first quarter came to a close and up by 10 at

ON TAP

the end of the first half. By the end of the third quarter, they led by 10 points.

The Northville Mustangs boys basketball team will be back on the court when they play tomorrow in the KLAA tournament.

"We could never get a stop or a bucket when we

needed to stop their run," said Sander. "We struggled rebounding the ball, which led to numerous extra possessions for Canton, and they seemed to convert on all of them."

The Mustangs were cold throughout the night, shooting a dismal 0-for-15 from the three-point line. Over the last six game, of which Northville won five, they had average more than five three-point field goals per game.

Northville trailed, 14-9, after the first quarter and 27-17 at the end of the half. By the buzzer sounding the end of the third, they were watching the Chiefs march away with the victory as they led, 39-24.

"I know that our team will bounce back from this disappointment as we have a lot left still in front of us," said Sander.

The Mustangs were led by Andrew Meacham, who had 15 points, including a near-perfect 7-for-8 from the free-throw line. Andrew Stevens, Steward Henzi, Joe

guys are prone to injuries and illnesses, to get yourself mentally and physically prepared is

of Saline, which dropped him

Please see WRESTLING, B2



Alex Coe with his father, coach Adam Coe, celebrating after winning his state-qualifying match.

line. Andrew Stevens, Steward Henzi, Joe Hewlett and David Moorman had four points each.

Girls split week in KLAA tourney

Squad tops Plymouth, falls to dominating John Glenn

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

The Northville Mustangs girls basketball team found itself taking on one of the best teams in the state in the KLAA Conference semifinal last week and, unfortunately, the end result was one that didn't favor the orange and black.

The team, led by Todd Gudith, took a 71-51 thump from the Rockets, who are ranked as the No. 6 team in the state's Division I currently.

"When you make the league playoffs you know that every game is going to be tough," said Gudith. "Glenn has a ton of athleticism. We couldn't run and gun with them all game. We felt confident that we could score enough points against them but we knew that handling the ball and completing passes were going to be the key to keeping the game in the 40s. Glenn takes a lot of chances defensively. If you

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs girls basketball team will be back on the court when they host Walled Lake Western today at 7 p.m.

crack a little under the pressure, they make you pay."

Northville (13-5 overall, 7-3 Central Division) fell behind, 22-10, in the opening quarter and couldn't make up the difference despite outscoring their foes in both the second quarter and the fourth quarter, 12-11 and 16-13, respectively. They even cut the lead to just six with four minutes left in the first half.

John Glenn has three players that will be playing Division I college basketball, and Gudith noted they have some talented underclassmen as well. Of course, Northville didn't help itself, giving up a multitude of turnovers thanks to the Rockets' defensive pressure. And then the Rockets weren't snagging the ball for a steal, they were busy hitting 56-percent of their shots throughout the game.

Northville shot 40-percent from the floor and was led by Kendra Brenner, a senior, who poured in 17 points while junior Heather Randall added 12 points and senior Brittany Berehulka added eight. Chipping in six points was Diane Myers, while Megan Buckingham added four and Gabby Mencotti and Sunny Demirjian scored two each.

Northville 48, Plymouth 36

The Northville Mustangs started the KLAA tournament off on the right foot, outpacing the Plymouth Wildcats in the first round for a victory.

The Mustangs sprang out of the starting gates and outscored their foes, 20-6, in the first quarter and

Please see BASKETBALL, B2



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mustang Gabby Mencotti battles a Plymouth Wildcat for the ball during their Feb. 11 game.



Mustangs take second in division championships

Squad can't get enough points to get past Stevenson

By Sam Eggleston

Correspondent

The KLAA Central Division Championship swim and dive meet last week shook out just about as one might suspect: Livonia Stevenson captured the top spot and the Northville Mustangs took second.

The two rivals dominated most of the night, but the Mustangs just couldn't put together enough points to catch the powerful Spartans.

"We had some good swims, but we lost by 46 points," said coach Rich Bennetts. "The seniors and juniors are going to have to swim like the freshmen and sophomores did today in order for us to get this thing

close next week (in the conference championships). We are not out of this thing yet, but we are going to have to swim really, really well next week."

Northville has traditionally challenged for the KLAA title, and Bennetts said his team has the ability to do it again this year.

"We need to make sure that we remember who we are, what we stand for and go out there and fight till the end," he said. "I promise you that we are not going over there next week just to hand the trophy to Stevenson. They will have to earn it and take it from us. This is a proud group of young men that I have swimming for me and we will fight, you can

ON TAP

The Northville Mustangs boys swimming and diving team will be back in the pool when they compete this weekend in the conference meet. They will then host the Last Chance meet a week from today at 6:30 p.m.

count on that."

In the KLAA Central Division Championship meet, the Mustangs had several top-16 finishes on the day, which meant points scored for the squad.

In the 200 medley relay, Northville's "A" squad took fifth in 1:44.35 (Nick Hayes, Alan Ruan, Scott Wang and James Xue) while the "B" squad took eighth in 1:47.26 (Danny Teng, Josh Liu, Frank Zhang and Daniel Brown). In the 200 freestyle, Austin Hunt took third (1:51.02), while Sergio Reyes was seventh, Mark

Kaminski was 10th, Nick DuFresne was 13th. Zhang was 14th and Akbar Ariswala was 16th.

Xue took first in the 200 individual medley (2:04.82) while Wang was second, Chris Geng took seventh, Hayes was ninth and Liu finished 13th. Andrew Westphal was second in the 50 free (22.39 seconds) while Sam Boyea was fourth, Ruan finished seventh and Brown was 16th. In the diving event, Anton Travis captured sixth (306.60 points), while Troy Cini was 11th and Christian Field finished 13th.

Zhang was fifth in the 100 fly (57.09) to lead the Mustangs while Wang was sixth, Xue finished 10th and Ariswala was 11th. Hunt was fourth in the 500 free (5:05.72) while Reyes finished seventh, Fred Schultz was ninth, Matt Schafer was 11th and Ryan Moore took 15th. Westphal captured the top

spot in the 100 free (48.88) followed by Boyea in fourth, Kaminski in 11th, Teng in 12th and Troy Stacer in 16th while the "A" team in the 200 free relay took first (1:29.96) with a team of Westphal, Boyea, Ruan and Hunt and the "B" team took seventh with Brown, Yash Bajaj, Kaminski and Zhang.

In the 100 backstroke, Hayes was eighth (59.84) while Teng finished 10th, John Monterosso took 14th and Jarvis Yan was 15th. Ruan earned a state cut with his third-place finish in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.64) while Geng took seventh, finished eighth, Bajaj was ninth, Sho Kikumuri was 12th and Christian Yap was 14th.

Northville finished the day with a second-place in the 400 free relay from the "A" squad (3:19.44) of Westphal, Boyea, Xue and Hunt while the "B" team finished fifth with Kaminski, Liu, Teng and Wang.

7th graders win Get Skillz tourney



The Northville 7th grade boys basketball team won the Division II championship (with a 4-0 record) in the Get Skillz basketball tournament held Feb. 9 at Northville High school. Pictured are (front row from left) Cole Rivers, Brendan Rudolph, Jad Jarouche, Gannon Van Riper, (middle row from left) Coach Brian Rudolph, Abe Koury, Ryan Perkins, Evan Carson, Ben Schmidt, Coach Glenn Perkins, (back row from left) Al Abdelnour, Jamey Petree, Michael Aron, Austin Anthony, Erik Sparshu, and Coach Charles Anthony.

BASKETBALL

Continued from page B1

held on for a 29-13 lead heading into the locker room at the end of the half. "That was one of our

best halves of basketball we played all year," Gudith said. "We shot the ball real well and kind of shell shocked them. We got a jump on them early. And our defense was good, creating some pressure and making sure we had their best kids cov-

WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

immediately into the consolation bracket. The road was a tough one, but Coe defeated Jared Ammonds of Woodhaven with a pin in just 1:59 before earning a major decision over

ered. When we did miss, our girls went after and chased the ball down to give us second and third looks. That's what I'm most proud of."

The Wildcats did make a run in the third quarter, outscoring Northville, 13-6, but Gudith said his girls "didn't panic" and were able to handle the situation without alarm. Northville led, 35-26, at the end of the third quarter and outscored Plymouth, 13-10, in the final stanza. Despite being out-

Jared Hagan of Dearborn Crestwood.

Coe's final round to decide third and fourth place came against none other than Saline's Cornelius. Coe put up a strong fight, but ultimately fell, 6-2.

Northville's lone statequalifying grappler has a 44-16 record on the year

matched in height, Northville's aggressive play on the boards led them to pull down 24 rebounds, of which 13 were on offense. Plymouth had just 18 rebounds in comparison.

Northville was led by Randall, who scored 12 points, while Brenner added 11 and Gabby Mencotti scored nine. Myers poured in seven, followed by Berehulka's six, while Demirjian scored her first points of the season for two. Emily Maresh added a point in the victory.

and will wrestle Aaron Calderon of Brighton in the first round of the finals.

Northville had three other wrestlers in the regional tournament. Seniors Sean Wagner and Jon Wines, who each had more than 30 wins this season, didn't qualify for the finals, nor did sophomore Sunhe Wang.



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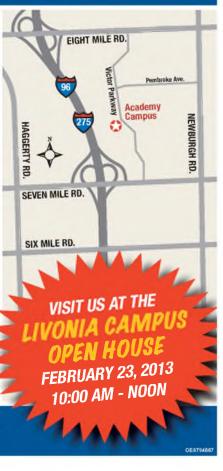
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Lasley finding ways to lead from the side

Senior point guard team's biggest support system

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

In just the second game of the year, the Northville Mustangs boys basketball team had their hands full with a tough Walled Lake Central squad.

The team was coming out into the second half looking for increased pressure, more aggressive play and a constant push on offense.

Senior Alec Lasley, a point guard, brought his team down the court with about a minute into the second half and then drove toward the hoop. A defender stepped into his lane and Lasley, in text-book form, came to a jump stop to fire a pass to Stewart Henzi.

The only thing that wasn't perfect in the play was Lasley's jump stop ended with his body going in one direction and his knee heading in another.

The end result was a complete tear of his ACL on his right knee.

"When I found out it was a torn ACL, I was devastated," said Lasley. "Due to the fact that I am a senior, knowing that I wouldn't play another game or practice crushed me."

Lasley could have easily hung it up and focused strictly on himself and getting his knee back in operating condition. But he didn't. Instead, the

senior has been a true leader ever since his injury, coming to practice and helping his team find a way to win.

"Alec is at every practice, and he continues to lead even though he cannot play," coach Todd Sander said. "Us coaches sometimes even call him 'Coach' because he has really taken to this new role. He charts stats in practice, talks to guys as they are watching about things that he sees, and he sits up with us coaches on the bench during games keeping stats and offering input about things he sees."

Lasley said he needed to stay as part of the program.

"As a senior leader of our team, I knew it was important to make sure everyone was still together as one unit," he said.

"Seeing all the talent on our team I knew we could still do great things. Basketball is my first love so there was no way I was going to stop being a part of something so important to me."

Lasley's role on the team — starting point guard and one of the top defensive players — has been difficult to replace. Jake Hansen and Joe Hewlett have split time at point guard since that second game, but neither of them was naturally inclined to play the position.

It took awhile for the Mustangs to find their feet again without Lasley leading them on the hardwood, but they've started to come around. The team has won five of their last seven games heading into the post-season.

"The most important part to any team is trust, so in order for us to make a run in the post season, we have to always work hard as team, making sure all 14 guys bring the same high intensity to every practice and game," said Lasley. With such a team-focused

mindset, it's easy to see why Lasley was such a key part of Sander's plans this basketball season. Unfortunately, his injury also means Lasley will miss out on golf this spring, the other sport he had hoped to make an impact in for his senior campaign.

Lasley has surgery on his knee Feb. 1 and is already starting to get his knee back into shape with stretches and activities to help the joint get back to full extension and flexion. He's ahead of schedule, currently, on his rehabilitation.

Even surgery, however, couldn't keep Lasley from supporting his team.

"Just a few hours after major reconstructive surgery, he was in the gym supporting his team battle Novi," said Sander. "The atmosphere in our gym was electric, and our trainer Jenn had him all set up with a table so that he could safely lay down, support his knee, and watch the game. He even offered us his feedback as we went into the locker room at halftime. It was a terrific game with us prevailing, and I know that his presence was a source of inspiration to our team."

And, just for the record: Lasley's final play of his senior year? His pass found Henzi, who took the ball in for a score. Lasley was credited with the assist on the play.

"I don't think he would have had it any other way," said Sander.

Demirjian makes trek from Syria to Northville

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

It was just this past July when Northville junior Sunny Demirjian fled from the increasingly-volatile atmosphere of Syria and came to the United States.

She arrived in Michigan, moving in with her grandmother in Northville along with her father, Aram, and her 13year-old sister, Palig.

In the blink of an eye, her entire life had changed. Friends and family were left behind and a new community surrounded her. At first, she wasn't sure how she would fit in at Northville, and then she discovered

she had more in common with her new schoolmates than she originally thought.

Basketball, she discovered, was a universal language, and when she came out for the Northville team she found herself surrounded by likeminded players who quickly accepted her.

"The girls have been very helpful in getting Sunny acclimated to our program and the school," said Northville coach Todd Gudith. "It helps that she speaks English and can communicate well. Sometimes our basketball terminology gets lost in translation though compared to what Sunny was taught

back with her other team. But she is a hard worker and absorbs what we are trying to do on the court well."

Gudith said the team has consistently been helpful to Demirjian something he was happy to see.

"I'm always amazed by the way our players step in to help," he said. "Teenage girls sometimes are not always the most accepting bunch, especially when someone new comes into the picture."

But Demirjian didn't experience that kind of reaction. Instead, despite having a background completely different than any other girl on the team, she was openly accepted and quickly made friends.

"Being a part of the basketball team has definitely helped me a lot; it helped me feel like I am a part of the school and helps me with meeting people," she said. "All of the people involved in Northville's basketball team — the players, the coaches and the parents — have helped me a lot with their kindness and made me feel welcome."

Demirjian said that she misses some things about Syria - namely her mother and relatives who are still there, though she tries to talk to her mother on a daily basis - but noted that the United States has impressed her from

the day she arrived. "Life is definitely bus-

ier in the US and everything is more improved." she said. "Acceptance is another thing that is very common here, but not as much in Syria."

Demirjian's time on the basketball team paid off recently, too. Against Plymouth, she scored her first two points of her American high school

career and then added two more against a very talented John Glenn squad.

Those points were just icing on the cake for Demirjian, who is happy to have a safe, comfortable life in the U.S.

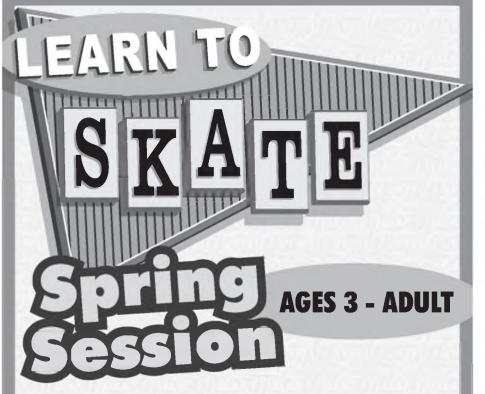
"I would like to thank everyone in Northville who helped me out and made things easier for me," she said.

NOVI TOWNSHIP BOARD

The Novi Twp. Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year on March 12 at 7:30 pm at 44536 Chedworth Ct. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 44020 Cottisford. Individuals with disabilities requiring assistance may contact the clerk at (248) 231-6210.

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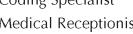


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CC continues grappling domination

Team ranked No. 1 in state finals; Program sends 12 individuals to Auburn Hills

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team made two huge goals to start the 2012-13 season: Win a state championship and qualify as many individual for the state finals as possible.

The team took one step closer to the first goal last week and did a swell job of accomplishing the latter goal as well.

Heading into the MHSAA Team State Finals Tournament this weekend, the Shamrocks (22-3 on the season) are ranked as the No. 1 seed in Division I. They will open up the tournament against a very tough Grandville team (22-7), which is seeded No. 8, at 3:15 p.m. at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek Friday in the quarterfinals.

The No. 2 seed, Davison (12-4), will wrestle Holt (15-10), which is seeded No. 7, while No. 3 Hartland (32-1) will take on No. 6 Macomb Dakota (37-4). Temperance Bedford (26-2), seeded No. 4, will wrestling No. 5 Rochester (23-11).

In the individual state finals tournament, which will take place next weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills, the Shamrocks will be represented by a whopping 12 grapplers, including five who are ranked as the No. 1 seed in their weight class.

Ken Bade, Malik Amine, Logan Marcicki, Drew Garcia and Bob Coe all won regional titles last week and enter the finals as the top contenders in their respective divisions.

In order to qualify for the state finals tourna-

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks wrestling team will continue their march for a state title when they wrestling in the team tournament this weekend in Battle Creek before competing next weekend in the individual tournament at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

place at 119 pounds as he defeated Plymouth's Trey Berry via major decision, 14-3, and then Richard Demarios of Canton, 4-2. In the final round, he bowed to Temperance Bedford's Mitch Rogaliner, 8-5.

At 130 pounds, Myles Amine, a sophomore, started the day off with an 11-3 major decision over Chase Kallil of Plymouth before defeating Jordan Markey of Ypsilanti Lincoln, 6-3. to advance to the final. There he fell to Alex Molloy, 5-4, to take second place. Also taking second was Mike Babicz, who fell in the finals of the 152-pound division to Jordan Atienza via major decision, 13-4. Babicz defeated Connor Harmon of Monroe, 9-4, in the opening round and Jared Hagan via technical fall, 17-2, in 5:46 in the second round

In the 189-pound division, Nick Giese finished in second place after taking a 5-3 loss in the final match against Livonia Franklin's Allen Steele. Giese, a sophomore, won his opening round over Monroe's Dan Green via pin in 3:09 before pinning Garden City's Adam Drucz in 57 seconds in round two.

Capturing a third-place

Regional-bound



The Novi High School cheer team took fourth place with 751.84 points in last weekend's district competition, gualifying the girls to move on to the regional competition at 3 p.m. Saturday at Novi High. Hartland led the way with 785.02 followed by Livonia Stevenson, 780.72; Brighton, 772.30; and Northville in fifth with 743.62. Also competing were the three Walled Lake high schools, Pinckney, Grand Ledge, Howell, Milford and White Lake Lakeland. There are 12 teams competing in the regionals.

Wolfpack win third tournament of year



The Northville Wolfpack 6th grade girls basketball team have won their third tournament championship this year while competing in the The Northville Invitational Tournament held Feb. 9 at Northville High School. Posting a 4-0 record, the girls played teams from Livonia, Hartland, and Huron and won the championship game in overtime against Hartland. The team consists of (back row from left) Connie Krizmanich, Jane Berry, Hannah O'Sullivan, Nicole Martin, Coach Steve Grant, Hannah Grant, Coach Steve Thallman. (front row from left) Karina Moore, Jenna Lauderback, Chloe Zulcosky, Ellie Thallman, and Tara Beason.

Shamrocks blank Divine Child

Squad had six different scorers in one-sided win

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

It's not often a hockey team gets to six goals without having one playing on a hot streak, but that was the case last week when the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks dominated CHSL foe Divine Child. The Shamrocks, who benefited from having the stone-walling abilities of goalie Ryan Mulka between the posts, skated off with a 60 shutout victory over Divine Child, which couldn't seem to find a way to stop the oncoming attack by multiple different lines.

The goals just kept rolling in as Danny Middleton added to his season totals with a score for the 3-0 lead, assisted by Max Wanko and Brady Jones before Mitch Ossowski scored a goal with assistance from Jones and Middleton for the 4-0 lead. The final two goals came off the sticks of Bobbie Carey and Wade Orlowski, respectfully. Carey's goal was assisted by Ossowski and Ryan Burnett, while

ON TAP

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks hockey team will be back on the ice when they visit the Arctic Edge Arena next Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. for the pre-regional

ment, individuals had to take fourth place or better in their weight class.

Coe, a senior, had several tough matches on his way to the 285-pound title. He defeated Aaron Mauldin of Wayne Memorial in a 5-1 bout before narrowly getting past Temperance Bedford's Adam Ortman in the second round, 1-0. In the title match, he pinned Manny Haddad of Livonia Churchill in 2:54 to take the crown

Bade, a senior, took home a title in the 135pound division with a pin in the championship round in 3:28 over Roosevelt's Quentin Santiago. To get to the finals, Base defeated Robert Freter of Ann Arbor Pioneer via pin in 1:14 before defeating Jon Conn of Plymouth, 8-2. At 140 pounds, junior Malik Amine took a 15-3 major decision over Allen Parker of Wayne Memorial to earn the championship. He defeated Jake Lohr of Temperance Bedford in the first round with a pin in 1:55 and Alec Brekenridge of Plymouth, 8-3, to make the trip to the title round.

Marcicki, a junior, pinned Yahya Talab of Dearborn Fordson in the final round in 2:57 to earn the title at 160 pounds after topping Joey Shaver of Plymouth via pin in 44 seconds and pinning Salem's Tyler Gross in 57 seconds. In the 171-pound division, Garcia pinned Derek Hillman of Woodhaven in 4:28 to take the championship round. In the opening match, the Shamrocks junior beat Justin Patton via fall in 35 seconds before topping Wayne Memorial's Sam Ekanem, 7-0.

Trevor Zdebski, a sophomore, took second

finish was junior Evan Toth in the 125-pound weight class. He defeated Pioneer's Keegan Pape via technical fall in 5:15 before falling to Canton's Ben Griffin, 5-4. In the consolation bracket, Toth defeated Churchill's Jon Locklear via major decision, 12-0, and then topped Farmington's Immanual Govantes, 8-3, for third.

Taking fourth in the 112-pound division was Shamrock Parker O'Brien. O'Brien, a junior, won his first round over Belleville's Austin Koehler, 12-9, but fell in the second round to Jarad Fernandez, 6-2. In the consolation round, Parker defeated Macros Lytwin of Stevenson, 7-4, and then fell in the final round to Saline's Taylor Ticknor via pin in 1:30 to take fourth. Also taking fourth was Jimmy Russell, a junior, at 189 pounds. Russell fell in the opening round to Temperance Bedford's Codie Bettencourt, 3-1, but then fought his way through the consolation bracket with wins over Woodhaven's Chris Gutmann, 8-6, and Garden City's Drucz, 4-1. He fell in the final round in a rematch with Bettencourt, 3-1, to take fourth.

Jay Peterson also wrestled in the regional, taking two losses in the 215pound weight class. He lost to Jordan Brandon of Westland John Glenn in the opener, 9-2, and then defeated Cody Tis in the next round due to forfeit. He then lost to Roosevelt's Vincent Pizzo via pin in 2:00.

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

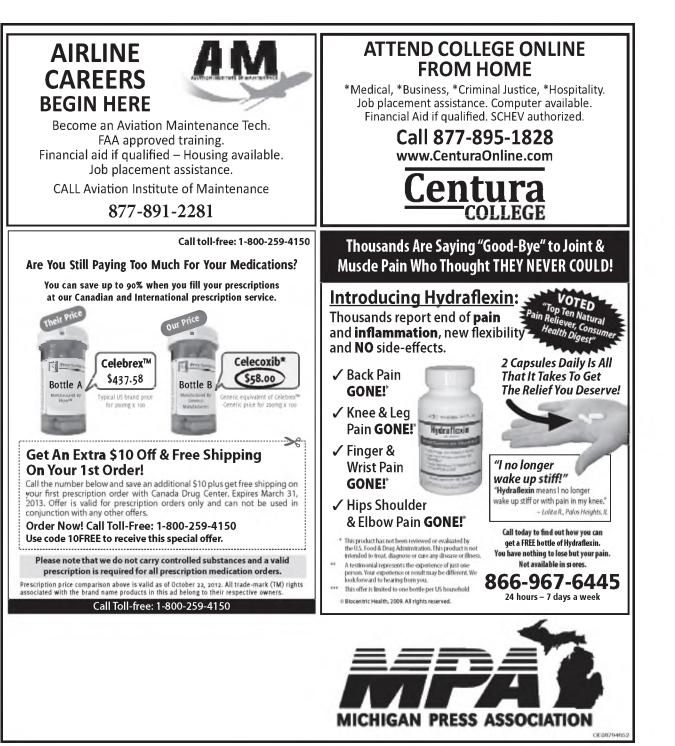
News.

Scoring the first goal--which proved to be the eventual game-winning tally--was Charlie Green. He took assistance from Mike Babcock and Matthew Sorisho. Babcock and Nick Daigneau assisted on the next goal, which was fired home off the stick of Sorisho for the 2-0 advantage.

match-up.

Daigneau had his second assist on the night during Orlowski's scoring play.

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



B6.(NR) THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013 HOMETOWN WEEKLIES HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BUSINESS

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CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber breakfast

The Northville Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Breakfast event from 7:30-9 a.m., Wednesday, March 6 at Genitti's Hole in the Wall, 108 E. Main Street, Northville.

The guest speaker will be Tom Walsh, business columnist for the Detroit Free Press. He has been with the Free Press since 1982, and has been a city desk



reporter, bureau chief, business editor and projects editor before assuming his current role in December 2001. He was a member of the board of governors of the Society of American **Business Editors and** Writers from 1995-98,

Walsh

and a Jefferson fellow in Pacific Rim Studies at the East-West Center in 1990.

Walsh plans to discuss where he sees the international, national and local economies are headed over the next year. Tom's position with the media provides him with an excellent perspective of the economy, its trends and 2013 forecast.

Cost for the event, which includes a buffet breakfast, is \$15 for Chamber members, and \$18 for non-members.

RSVP by March 4, 2013 to the Northville Chamber of Commerce at TraciSincock@northville.org or (248) 349-7640.

Business Showcase

Northville's annual Taste of North-

Author at Next Chapter

Next Chapter Bookstore and Bistro,

ville Business Showcase Event returns on Saturday, March 9 at Northville High School from noon to 3 p.m.

The showcase will feature interactive exhibits from retail, service and nonprofit businesses. This year's theme is "Las Vegas/Casino" and vendors are encouraged to use the theme in their displays. Several area premier restaurants and caterers provide samples from their menu to event attendees.

"The Business Showcase is a great opportunity for our local businesses to showcase their products and services, to meet the community and to network with other businesses" said Northville Chamber Executive Director Jody Humphries. "It's also a fun way for the whole family to spend an afternoon in a fun atmosphere, getting to know our local businesses and to sample great food from our area restaurants and caterers.'

Event attendees can win raffle prizes and promotional goodies. Voting for the Best Restaurant, Best Business and Best Theme displays takes place during the Showcase.

Tickets for the Business Showcase are available at the door for \$3 per person. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for additional information at (248) 349-7640, or visit online at www. northville.org.

Sponsors for the event include Community Financial Credit Union, Hidden Springs Veterinary Clinic, Monroe Bank and Trust, Renewal by Andersen, City of Northville DDA, and Tom Holzer Ford.

U-M, MSU athletic directors to speak at four-chamber luncheon

University of Michigan's David Brandon and Michigan State University's Mark Hollis, both regarded as innovative leaders in collegiate athletics, will appear together to speak at a multiplechamber luncheon Friday, April 26, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The event will run from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The athletic directors from the rival Big Ten schools will speak at the event that will involve the Livonia, Westland, Northville and Plymouth chambers of commerce. The program is presented by Bill Brown Ford, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Trinity Health, and Edward Jones Investments: Robin Whitfield, Financial Advisor.

Brandon has been at the helm of the Michigan Athletic Department since March 2010. He is a U-M alumnus who played football for Coach Bo Schembechler and was elected in 1998 to serve an eight-year term on the school's Board of Regents. He previously worked as chairman and CEO of Domino's Pizza and chairman, president and CEO of Valassis Communications, headquartered in Livonia. He also

serves in leadership roles for a number of non-profit organizations.



has led the Michigan State Athletic Department since January 2008. The MSU alumnus has worked in various executive and strategic planning roles for Spartan athletics since 1995. Before returning to his alma mater, he worked as an assistant and associate athletic director at the University of Pittsburgh, and he worked for the Western Athletic Conference, eventually earning the title of assistant commissioner. He has won numerous awards for his work in collegiate athletics.

Both gentlemen led programs engaged in one of the nation's fiercest collegiate sports rivalries, but they also work together on initiatives that support the Big Ten Conference and NCAA as they adapt to the ever-changing world of collegiate athletics. They are scheduled to discuss their projects, trends in collegiate



athletics, unique challenges of their business, and answer audience questions. This is

Hollis

the first time the Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Westland chambers have teamed to coordinate a major luncheon. The four western Wayne Countybased chambers combine to represent more than 2,200 members

Seats to the luncheon are \$30 for chamber members, \$40 for nonmembers. Chamber members can purchase tables of 10 for \$300 and receive preferential placement. Each chamber has a limited number of seats they can sell.

Those interested in attending this program can contact their community's respective chamber for details on the event and to reserve seats. Contact the Livonia Chamber at (734) 427-2122, the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222, the Plymouth Chamber at (734) 459-1540, or the Northville Chamber at (734) 349-7640.

located at 141 E. Main Street in North-

ville, will host a meet and greet with author Tad Blankenburg from 10-11:30 a.m., Feb. 23. Blankenburg's new book, Loper, takes the reader 20 years after the Millennial Depression. The sci-fi adven-

Blankenburg

Michigan to the deserts of Africa. Drop in for your signed copy and chat with the author.

Mall plans unveiled

Plans for a major renovation of Briarwood Mall will be discussed at a press conference on Tuesday, March 5 in the center court at the mall in Ann Arbor. Simon Property Group, Inc. (NYSE:SPG), the world's largest owner, developer and manager of quality retail real estate, will detail specific renovation plans and renderings will be revealed for the first time at the press conference. Following the announcement, a ceremonial tile breaking will mark the official start of construction. Speakers will include Ida Hendrix, mall manager; Andrew Cottrell, lead architect and others.

Think you know who will win an OSCAR^m this year 2/

O&E hosts digital marketing seminars

Dive into the world of digital marketing to grow vour business.

The Observer & Eccentric Media will host "Digital Roadmap: A Seminar for Online Success" on Tuesday, Feb. 26, in Southfield.

The seminars are aimed at helping businesses use digital media to market and grow their business.

Two 90-minute sessions (10 a.m. and 1 p.m.) are planned for Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Shriners Silver Garden Events Center,

Admission is \$35 per person. To register for a session, go to http://oandemedia.eventbrite.com/ The seminars will focus on:

• The latest insights on effective digital and social media advertising. · Powerful and productive social presence tactics through sites like Facebook and Twitter.

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· How to optimize web-

like Google and Yahoo. • How to increase web

traffic and drive conversions through pay-perclick (PPC) marketing. Learn tips from industry experts on how you

can start making changes today, by driving real customers to your website and business.

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- Animated Feature Fiim
- Actor in a Supporting Roie
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- Tie Breaker Categories
- Music (original score)
- Documentary Feature

All entries must be received by Saturday, February 23 2013 11:59 p.m. to be considered.

One entry per person/per household

EMAG/NE



Sponsored by:

Davenport University to host business summit

tion credits. "This event is geared

ty has partnered with the toward accountants, Michigan Business and Professional Associasmall business owners, tion and area businesses financial advisors and to host The Ultimate Sucinsurance agents to help cess Summit from 8:30 them get an edge over their competition," said a.m.-5 p.m. on Feb. 28 at its Livonia campus locat-Jim Loughran, Davenport ed at 19499 Victor Park-University Livonia Campus Leader. "Davenport's way. The summit, aimed mission is to prepare stu-

at small businesses and professional services experts, will provide high-level expert guidance to outsmart, outsell and outshine competitors. Participating in the summit will earn attendees seven continuing educa-

State's first social entrepreneurship challenge kicks off

dents for the 21st Centu-

ry business world. This

event helps us reach out

to area professionals who

may need extra business

advice in reaching their

ing their business sales

audiences and fulfill-

goals."

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Corps and Great Lakes Entrepreneur's Quest have kicked off the Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge, the nation's first statewide social entrepreneurship competition.

The challenge invites individuals and teams to submit plans for an emerging entrepreneurial idea or replicable model from an existing organization for sustainable social change in a wide range of areas including but not limited to urban revitalization, environment, health, and education.

"This challenge really captures what is spe-we discover things, we make things, and we make things work,"

said Michael A. Finney, MEDC president and CEO. "These strengths make us a great location for social innovators to do their good work and help reinvent Michigan."

Participants in the new Social Entrepreneurship Challenge track offered through GLEQ.org will benefit from financial support, including more than \$50,000 in potential cash prizes, access to impact investors, and consideration for special program opportunities including cash awards for Community Ventures-eligible companies.

Participants will also have access to mentorship, networking, and resources tailored to social entrepreneurs. The Challenge will help

long event include Lisa Mininni, best-selling author and president of Excellerate Associates; Jayne Burch, founder of Marketing Monsoon; Al Robinson, CEO of Waymakers; Dean Chambos, director of retirement services at PenInsure Group; Kevin Vaughn, CEO of A One Networks Consulting; Jared Sparr, CEO of JPS; and Ann Marie Stinnett of The Stinnett Law Group.

Speakers at the day-

Those interested can register at www.ExcellerateAssociates.com/SuccessSummit.

advance ideas, ventures, and solutions to address pressing social challenges in Michigan.

Applicants will have immediate access to coaches and special events to support the preparation of their submission before the May 20 deadline. A special Social Entrepreneurship Showcase and Pitch event will take place on June 18 at GLEQ's Entrepreneur Connect event in Lansing, MI.

The Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge aims to harness the collective power of today's entrepreneurs to address the challenges of our state. To learn more about the Pure Michigan Social Entrepreneurship Challenge visit http://michigancorps.org/TheChallenge.

B7 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013 HOMETOWN WEEKLIES HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

REAL ESTATE

JULIE BROWN, EDITOR JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (313) 222-6755 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Exterior upgrades boost home's resale potential

Homeowners looking for the most return on their investment when it comes to remodeling should consider exterior replacement projects. According to the 2013 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report, Realtors rated exterior projects among the most valuable home improvement projects.

"Realtors know that curb appeal projects offer great bang for your buck, because a home's exterior is the first thing potential buyers see," said National Association of Realtors President Gary Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "Projects such as siding, window and door replacements can recoup more than 70 percent of their cost at resale. Realtors know what home features are important to buyers in your area and can provide helpful insights when considering remodeling projects."

Results of the report are summarized on NAR's consumer website HouseLogic.com, which provides information on dozens of remodeling projects, from kitchens and baths to siding replacements, including the recouped value of the project based on a national average. According to the Cost vs. Value Report, Realtors judged a steel entry door replacement as the project expected to return the most money, with an estimated 85.6 percent of costs recouped upon resale. The steel entry door replacement is the least expensive project in the report, costing little more than \$1,100 on average. A majority of the top 10 most cost-effective projects nationally in terms of value recouped are exterior replacement projects; all of these are estimated to recoup more than 71 percent of costs.

Three different siding replacement projects landed in the top 10, including fiber cement siding, expected to return 79.3 percent of costs, vinyl siding, expected to return 72.9 percent of costs, and foam backed vinyl, expected to return 71.8 percent of costs.



ments were also among the top exterior replacement projects. The midrange and upscale garage door replacement were both expected to return more than 75 percent of costs.

According to the report, two interior remodeling projects in particular can recoup substantial value at resale. A minor kitchen remodel is ranked fifth and is expected to return 75.4 percent of costs. Nationally, the average cost for the project is just under \$19,000.

The second interior remodeling project in the top 10 is the attic bedroom, which landed at eight and tied with the vinyl siding replacement with 72.9 percent of costs recouped. With an average national cost of just under \$48,000, the attic project adds a bedroom and bathroom within a home's existing footprint. The improvement project projected to return the least is the home office remodel, estimated to recoup less than 44 percent.

The 2013 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report compares construction costs with resale values for 35 midrange and upscale remodeling projects

els and replacements in 81 markets across the country. Data are grouped in nine U.S. regions, following the divisions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. This is the 15th consecutive year that the report, which is produced by Remodeling magazine publisher Hanley Wood, LLC, was completed in cooperation with NAR.

Realtors provided their insights into local markets and buyer home preferences within those markets. The 2013 national average cost-to-value ratio rose to 60.6 percent, ending a six-year decline. The ratio represents nearly a threepoint improvement over 2011-2012. Lower construction costs are the principal factor in the upturn, especially when measured against stabilizing house values. In addition, the cost-tovalue ratio improved nationally for every project in this year's report.

"A Realtor is the best resource for helping homeowners decide what improvement projects will provide the most upon resale in their market," said Thomas. "Each neighborhood is different, and the desir-

particular remodeling project varies depending on where you live. When making a home remodeling decision, resale value is just one factor that homeowners should take into consideration."

Most regions followed the national trends; however the Pacific region, consisting of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, once again led the nation with an average cost-value ratio of 71.2 percent, due mainly to strong resale values. The next best performing regions were West South Central, South Atlantic, and East South Central. These regions attribute their high ranking to construction costs that were lowest in the country. Most remaining regions showed strong improvement over last year. These are Mountain, New England, East North Central, Middle Atlantic, and West North Central.

To read the full project descriptions and access national and regional project data, visit www.costvsvalue.com. "Cost vs. Value" is a registered trademark of Hanley Wood,

LLC

Draft master deed with care

By Robert Meisner Guest Columnist

Q: I am a developer of a condominium and wonder if you can give me your feeling about the maintenance of a building shell in the case of a condominium attached townhouse unit.

A: In my experience in representing both developers and condominium associations, if the exterior requires minimal maintenance (i.e., brick), it is something that should be done by the association. Owners tend to maintain what they can see — painting trim — but nothing else. If the use of the building is commercial or if in residential projects the developer is offering "maintenance-free living," it is better to have the association responsible for all exterior maintenance.



On the other hand, in a typical townhouse residential project, there is a centuriesold tradition of having adjacent owners

Robert Meisner

responsible for their own maintenance. Many times I will include an article on "Party Walls" laying out each owner's responsibility to maintain while providing for remedies including self-help and a lien. Another consideration in a townhouse project as to whom should be responsible is whether there are firewalls extending beyond the roofline. If not, and you have a flat roof, it is almost impossible to guess where the roof may be leaking. On the other hand, if you have walls clearly dividing the roof between units, then the owner can maintain his own roof. In any event, it calls for careful consideration in drafting the master deed and the thought process by the condominium association owners as to whether they want to change any of the responsibilities between the parties.

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ability and resale value of a

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HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the residential real estate closings recorded Oct. 22-26, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices. CANTON \$379,000 164 Alexandria Ct 44965 Coachman Ct \$136,000 256 Constitution St 1125 Dundee Dr \$133,000 2324 E Roundtable Dr \$165,000 2245 Fairway Cir \$143,000 42659 Hanford Rd \$130,000 6970 Harvard Ln 48951 lvybridge Wav 313 Kings Way \$138,000 1478 Knightsbridge Rd \$170,000 3340 Milcroft Ct \$185,000 2100 Morrison Blvd \$100,000 47162 N Pointe Dr \$330,000 3487 Parklawn Dr \$148,000 47440 Pembroke Dr 46596 Registry Dr \$219,000 42024 Saratoga Cir \$132,000 42286 Saratoga Cir \$136,000 3677 Shepherd Ln \$175,000 4755 Sherwood Cir \$220,000 43936 Somerset Sq \$136,000 41563 Strawberry Ct \$199,000 46568 Swanmere Dr \$270,000

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7040 Woonsocket St 43889 Yorktown St GARDEN CITY 28611 Beechwood St 31743 Chester St 30707 Elmwood St 2033 Gilman St 31412 Hennepin St 32539 James St 5935 Lathers St 32960 Rosslyn Ave LIVONIA 34425 Five Mile Rd 14063 Alexander St 18963 Bainbridge Ave 10015 Bassett St 9336 California St 12475 Cardwell St 8921 Crown St 9650 Deering St 17329 Ellen Dr 14474 Fairway St 15561 Fitzgerald St 20238 Floral St 8949 Frederick St 15073 Gary Ln 18354 Gillman St 17428 Golfview St 19353 Hardy St 29149 Hathaway St 32112 Hees St 36242 Hees St 14266 Hubbell St

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\$52,000	PLYMOUTH	
\$177,000	766 Coolidge St	\$160,000
\$155,000	48950 Fox Dr S	\$485,000
\$147,000	42157 Old Pond Cir	\$110,000
\$110,000	1742 Old Salem	\$200,000
\$118,000	1492 Penniman Ave	\$303,000
\$98,000	361 Pinewood Cir	\$65,000
\$192,000	41679 Riveroaks Dr	\$172,000
\$42,000	861 William St	\$225,000
\$150,000	REDFORD	
\$105,000	25579 Deborah	\$69,000
\$165,000	25841 Dover	\$42,000
\$80,000	9968 Garfield	\$50,000
\$130,000	12851 Garfield	\$48,000
\$168,000	19170 Indian	\$20,000
\$380,000	8944 Lenore	\$75,000
\$206,000	25839 W Seven Mile Rd	\$70,000
\$143,000	9705 Wormer	\$45,000
	9726 Wormer	\$23,000
\$110,000	WESTLAND	
\$488,000	36529 Avondale St	\$96,000
\$260,000	34000 Barton St	\$30,000
\$73,000	7912 Beatrice	\$106,000
\$185,000	30836 Beechnut St	\$68,000
\$75,000	35072 Bock St	\$74,000
\$83,000	7382 Central St	\$22,000
\$325,000	32537 Joy Rd	\$85,000
\$245,000	36140 Oregon Ave	\$20,000
\$255,000	7701 Randy Dr	\$111,000
\$344,000 \$311,000	8514 Sanford Dr	\$81,000
\$311,000 \$353,000	33145 Shawnee St	\$72,000
\$333,000	193 Stephanie Dr	\$150,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the residential real estate closings recorded Oct. 8-12, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices. BEVERLY HILLS

21676 Corsaut Ln \$266,000 32600 Norwood Dr \$345,000 \$205,000 31445 Sunset Dr 22235 Village Pines Dr \$343,000 16207 Wetherby St \$278,000 BIRMINGHAM 1693 Banbury St \$141,000 150 Bird Ave # 18 \$57,000 1300 Buckingham Ave \$577,000 967 Donmar Ct \$220.000 1271 Lyonhurst St \$695,000 1031 Madison St \$273,000 2736 Pembroke Rd \$225,000 1021 Stanley Blvd \$375,000 2757 Windemere Rd \$170,000 **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** \$152,000 1922 Eagle Pointe 1270 Greenglen Ct \$180,000 4855 Quarton Rd \$390,000 1549 S Hill Blvd \$120,000 923 S Shady Hollow Cir \$388,000 2273 Somerset Rd \$169,000 801 W Long Lake Rd # F2 \$73,000 820 Willoway Estates Dr \$321,000

42160 Woodward Ave Unit 46 \$65.000 **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** 3498 Bloomfield Club Dr \$437,000 3825 Carriage Ln \$364,000 2838 Heathfield Rd \$180,000 58 Manor Rd \$365,000 \$169,000 \$160,000 4171 Meadowlane Dr 4004 Parkwood Ct 566 Reynard Ct \$455,000 4800 Stoneleigh Rd \$900,000 719 Upper Scotsborough Way \$265,000 COMMERCE TOWNSHIP \$110,000 \$133,000 5630 Blackmoor St 2160 Canal St 1795 Cedar Bend Dr \$405,000 8410 Golf Lane Dr \$245,000 3181 Lacosta Ct \$200,000 309 Muskoka \$100,000 5815 Pickbourne St \$76,000 4563 Racewood Dr \$286.000 4488 Ravinewood Dr \$200,000 6000 Teeple Creek Ln \$255,000 FARMINGTON 23895 Drake Rd \$264,000 22870 Frederick Ave \$124,000 33821 Glenview Dr \$119,000 31550 Lamar Dr \$118,000 FARMINGTON HILLS 34527 Bunker Hill Dr \$209,000

28298 Burton Ln 25248 Carollton Dr 31100 Claymore Rd 28275 Farmington Rd 29855 Fox Club Dr 29390 Glen Oaks Blvd W 32810 Hearthstone Rd 36875 Howard Rd 35745 Johnstown Rd 29427 Lake Park Dr 35765 Lone Pine Ln 30658 Maplewood Cir 28899 Millbrook Rd 34490 Rhonswood St 30487 Salisbury St 30684 Sudbury Ct LATHRUP VILLAGE 18541 Dolores Ave MILFORD 337 Mill Pond Ln 1068 Riverstone Cir NOVI 45242 Bartlett Dr 45174 Courtview Trl 45196 Courtview Trl 1505 East Lake Rd 26222 Fieldstone Dr 44567 Gwinnett Loop 24305 Homestead Ct 28024 Hopkins Dr 102 Lashbrook St 42041 Loganberry Rdg S

23593 Valley Starr 39708 Village Wood Cir \$139,000 \$44,000 \$59,000 39786 Village Wood Cir 45100 W 10 Mile Rd \$178,000 22054 York Mills Cir \$451,000 SOUTH LYON 24667 Brompton Way \$358,000 228 Brookwood Dr Unit 7 \$67,000 25045 Carriage Ln \$40,000 52073 Copperwood Dr \$320,000 53772 Edgewood Dr \$235,000 863 Glen Meadows Dr \$30,000 54885 Grenelefe Cir W \$65,000 23806 Maple Ct 23740 Prescott Ln W \$313,000 \$479.000 61704 Rambling Way \$149,000 53771 Springwood Dr \$214,000 1074 Stable Ln \$190,000 SOUTHFIELD 5 Bedford Towne St \$40,000 \$139,000 \$85,000 21039 Harvard Rd 18441 Magnolia Ave 16999 Morrison St \$152,000 16325 Pennsylvania St \$120,000 28902 Red Leaf Ln \$75,000 18301 W 13 Mile Rd Unit A7 \$61.000 WHITE LAKE \$76,000 \$20,000 8797 Arlington St 1100 Castlewood St 9044 Millward Ave \$129,000 9120 Sandison Dr \$120,000

Q: Our board refuses to fix or otherwise commence repairs to the common elements around my unit which has lasted for more than a year. These commons elements have caused damage and continue to cause damage to my unit because of the roof leaks. Do you think I have any basis for action, including emotional distress, against the board?

A: You may have a difficulty suing for intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress but you probably do have a claim for breach of the board's fiduciary responsibility because, apparently, they knowingly failed to comply with the condominium documents and, presumably, the statute of the state in which you are located. You are best advised to have a lawyer write a strong letter to the board demanding action, including the recoupment of your attorney fees and costs and the absence of such relief, that you will commence legal proceedings.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium* **Operation: Getting Started &** Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/ handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



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JOBS



Eight certifications that can boost your career

Larry Buhl, Special to CareerBuilder

In some fields — medicine and teaching, for example certifications and accreditations are the "entrance ticket" to the profession. In others, certifications may not be mandatory but can significantly improve chances of landing a job, moving up, getting a raise or taking on new responsibilities.

The vast majority of professional certificate programs are for people who are already working in a particular field and are not for people with limited work experience or who are just out of high school.

Here are eight in-demand professional certificate programs. Some are industryspecific, while others can help careers in a variety of fields.

1. Professional project management.

Project managers can be found in just about any company or industry that has projects, from information technology to construction to government. While PMP certification, administered by the Project Management Institute, is now an expectation for project managers, it has become a bragging right for anyone who might have managerial duties.

2. Foreign language.

In many occupations, especially customer service, knowing more than one language can provide a significant career boost. Proving you're proficient in those languages is easier with a certificate of foreign languages. There are many tests and certificates offered through community colleges or distance learning programs.

3. Corporate training.

Corporate training is an indemand business-management speciality that can be lucrative. If you're in management or human resources and want to specialize, move up the company ladder or just want to extend your knowledge and skills, the Certified Professional Trainer degree offered by the American Training and Seminar Association can give you a boost.

4. Desktop support administration.

IT support specialists have a variety of certifications that can expand their portfolio of skills. The Windows operating system, however, is ubiquitous, and even if you're working in a general support position, having a Microsoft Windows 7 Enterprise Desktop Support Administrator certification can be a big plus. The certification provides the knowledge to install, maintain and manage the Windows 7 desktop system.

5. Personal fitness training.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this booming career field is experiencing faster than average job growth. In theory, anyone who understands fitness could be a fitness trainer, but having a cer-



tificate — or two or three — will prove to employers and clients that you know what you're doing. Certification programs are offered by the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, National Academy of Sports Medicine and American Fitness Professionals & Associates, among others.

6. Professional sales.

You're unlikely to find a college degree in sales, but a variety of certificate programs can give you the skills and experience to prepare for a career selling goods and services. Many of these programs are industry-specific; there are nearly as many professional sales certificates as there are professions, but the National Association of Sales Professionals is a place for sales generalists to get started.

7. Web design and development.

Nearly every business has an online presence. Professionals who design, develop and maintain company websites have many opportunities. For people who don't want to specialize as Web designers or developers, but may occasionally pitch in to help with Web-related tasks, there are many certificate programs. Some even qualify for government financial aid.

8. Certified clinical medical assistant.

If you have general skills and experience but don't have the time or money to get a bachelor's or associate degree in a health-care field, there are certificate programs that can provide a boost to your career. A certified clinical medical assistant understands clinical and laboratory procedures, as well as many administrative roles. For those with an administrative background, CCMA programs can be door openers for working in doctor's offices, clinics and hospitals.

Larry Buhl researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @CareerBuilder on Twitter.



