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Blood drives

Coming up with gift ideas for the holidays is not always so easy. One way to give something really meaningful is to donate blood – and it doesn't cost a thing. It is particularly important during winter months. Every two seconds, there is someone in the U.S. who needs blood.

The American Red Cross is holding several local blood drives in the coming weeks. Here's the schedule:

- » Dec. 26 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Northville Township Fire Department, 45745 W. Six Mile, Northville
- » Dec. 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. at Providence Park Hospital (in the Heart Institute Building), 47601 Grand River, Novi
- » Jan. 2 from 1-6:45 p.m. at the Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile

Those come donate will receive a coupon for a free pound of coffee redeemable at a Dunkin' Donuts.

Donors can set up an appointment by contacting Diane at 313-549-7052 or Diane.Risko@red-cross.org.

AISIN MOVING CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS TO TOWNSHIP

Auto supplier to create jobs in exchange for tax break

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

International automotive parts manufacturer Aisin will move its local corporate headquarters and 245 employees from Plymouth Township to Northville Township.

According to company officials, they have outgrown their 90,000-square-foot facility at Beck Road and M-14 in Plymouth Township. They have

purchased a 172,000-square-foot industrial facility located at 15300 Centennial Drive (at Five Mile) in Northville Township, which was the former home of Maxion Wheels. The company, which formed in 1965 in Japan, will invest nearly \$8 million in the facility, including both "brick and mortar" improvements to the building itself and the addition of personal property, largely in the form of high-tech equipment used for research and development.

On Thursday, the Northville

See MOVE, Page A2



Aisin has purchased the former Maxion Wheels facility at Centennial Drive and Five Mile. The headquarters and technical center will house Aisin's product development for the American marketplace.

SPREADING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER



The Northville Garden Club continued its tradition of decorating the fountain at Allen Terrace with garlands and red bows – for the holidays. Front row, from left: Inge Knoth, Barbara O'Brien, Evelyn Harper, Karen Ross. Back row, from left: Julie Mantay, Mimi Kibbey, and Karin Amrein. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Districts reach out to help homeless

Make sure access to education provided

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Ever since she was a young girl, having a large family was part of Lisa Sadler's plan. But she never imagined that one day she'd wind up an unemployed, homeless mother of 15.

While six of her children are now adults and on their own, Sadler, 47, said it's her niece's generosity — allowing them to stay in her one-bedroom, one-bathroom Farmington Hills apartment — that has kept the rest of the Sadler family off the street for the past few months.

Certainly, it's a challenge for 11 to live in such a small space, Sadler said. Bedtime for them, which includes her husband, Cecil, a 22-year-old disabled son and eight other kids ages 5-16, consists of lights out at the same time for everybody, and crawling into sleeping bags strewn across the living room and bedroom floors.

But they make it work. And they are grateful to be together, Sadler said.

"I really appreciate the compassion of not being turned away in our time of need," she said. "Sometimes, people see a need and turn away — they're blind to helping."

Despite having a roof over their heads for now, based on criteria established by federal law, the Sadler children are considered homeless. And it's a designation they share not only with 80-some other Farmington Public Schools students this year, but with hundreds of other students identified as such throughout metro Detroit.

Widespread problem

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 1987 provides federal funds to ensure homeless kids continue to have access to public education. It also has established guidelines for school districts to determine which students qualify for services mandated by the act.

According to the act, a student can be considered homeless

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Parents stand with special ed teachers placed on administrative leave by district

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The absence of two special education teachers at Northville High School has a group of parents and students confused, concerned and saddened.

Northville Public School officials, who put teachers Lynn Traxler and Jennifer Warnock on paid administrative leave, agree the situation is

a difficult one. However, they say they are conducting an investigation into what they say is abnormally low student test scores on the Northwest Evaluation Association's adaptive, online assessment, a test that is taken twice a school year.

Northville High parent Carol Tappan went before the school board last week to support the teachers, who she said were going through some troubled

times right now and the parents don't know exactly why. The parents brought to light at the Dec. 10 Board of Education meeting that for the last month Traxler and Warnock have been out of school.

Tappan said her daughter, who is a sophomore and has hearing challenges, has been deeply impacted by the ab-

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MOVE

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Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved the creation of an industrial development district for two parcels on Centennial Drive, equaling 17.59 acres, which Aisin (pronounced “eye shin”) now owns. In addition, the township board approved eight-year tax abatements for both the business and personal property as an incentive to bring the company to Northville.

Most of the property is already developed, although about five acres is vacant and could be developed later.

Michael Lapinski, vice president of Human Resources-Sales Division and Corporate Communications, said the company expects to create an additional 51 jobs at the facility within the first 12 months after the company moves into the new facility.

The new headquarters will house office space, product storage, as well as product testing and development.

Paul Bohn, the town-

ship’s attorney who helped broker the tax abatement deal with Aisin, said the deal includes a binding agreement that stipulates Aisin must make the investments in both capital and job creation it is promising or it would lose the tax abatements.

“They are bringing 240-some professional jobs to the community, plus an additional 51 jobs in the near future,” Bohn said. “And these are predominantly high-paying engineering positions.”

The plan has been endorsed by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the state’s marketing arm, which offers assistance and capital programs to attract and retain businesses in Michigan. The MEDC awarded the company a \$1.2 million Michigan Business Development Program grant, largely based on the number of jobs the company promises to create at the new facility.

Joe Rohatynski, who handles public relations for Aisin, said the goal is to move into the facility by the end of the first

quarter in 2014. He said the company will move all its personnel from Plymouth to Northville Township so “we have everyone under one roof.” He said the company hopes to create the additional 51 jobs within the first 12-18 months after making the move.

“This is wonderful news for our community,” said Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix. “We’re really excited about the jobs that will be created right here in Northville Township.”

In return for making the improvements and bringing the jobs into the community, the company will get tax relief over the eight years of the agreement. Without the abatements, the company would have to pay the township about \$19,000 per year, most of which would be levied against the personal property at the facility. The abatements will cut their tax bill to the township roughly in half over the eight years.

Aisin has facilities across the globe, including many in Japan. According to Lapinski, the company manufactures “a very wide range” of auto parts. Their biggest customer is Toyota, both in the U.S. and abroad. In the U.S., he said about 15 percent of their business is with General Motors and about 15 percent with Chrysler.

The company has experienced tremendous growth in recent years, and this move is to keep up with customer demand, he said.

“We had very exciting growth for years until 2009 when the recession hit,” said Lapinski, who lives in Northville. “But we are on a nice little recovery. We are experiencing record sales.”

For more information about the company, visit www.aisinworld.com.

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TEACHERS

Continued from Page A1

sence of Traxler, while other students have been impacted as well by the absence of high school staffer Warnock.

Although the school district will not speak specifically comment on the overall status of the teachers, Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher said certified guest teachers have been brought in while Traxler and Warnock have been put on paid administrative leave as the investigation proceeds.

“This is obviously a very difficult situation for all of the parties involved, and everybody in administration is somewhat limited in terms of what we can address, in terms of individual personnel situations,” said school board president Ken Roth at the Dec. 10 board meeting.

However, he added they were moving forward on an outcome that aimed to be fair and just for all parties impacted by the situation.

Gallagher said her team understands the impact this has had on the students, but in more broad terms she said Northville Schools has a culture of high expectations for everyone in the district.

“We are going through a thoughtful and careful process to look at all aspects while keeping the focus on the main goal and that is student learning,” she said.

Defending the teachers

Tappan along with parents Amy Prevo and Mary Roy went before the school board on Dec. 10 during citizen comment.

“Mrs. Traxler is a gifted teacher. She has a very unique way of connecting with her students,” Tappan said. “She is missed greatly

“We are going through a thoughtful and careful process to look at all aspects while keeping the focus on the main goal and that is student learning.”

MARY KAY GALLAGHER
Northville superintendent

by my daughter, and the stress of her absence and the instability in my daughter’s support is starting to show in a negative way.”

She wants the school board and district to consider the impact the administration leaves are having on the students. She said the teacher-home relationship was exceptional under Traxler and Warnock, but it had suffered since their absence. Emails from the teachers would detail, almost daily, their children’s progress in the classroom and with school work.

Traxler and Warnock, still listed on online school staff lists, acted as support and resource teachers for high school students with varying challenges.

Mary Roy said her son, who had been working with Warnock, has also been negatively impacted. She said the process of investigating the test scores has been concerning.

Parents received a letter from NHS Principal Robert Watson that stated, “In reviewing the overall data from the Fall NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) at Northville High School, we noticed that a number of students scored significantly lower than anticipated in comparison to their prior results on the NWEA MAP assessment given in the Fall and Spring each year.”

Decision to come

He wrote in a letter dated Dec. 9 that, “Because of the degree in test variances, the District is in the process of reviewing the testing process.”

Roy said her son and other students were questioned immediately in a manner she found slightly difficult on them. She said her son felt as if they were asking leading questions and had them sign a statement of sorts taken from the notes during the interviews.

Some of the students have been retested while others like Roy’s son have refused in protest.

The group of concerned parents doesn’t believe any improprieties were committed by Traxler and Warnock, and they, along with their kids, will stand by them.

“We feel saddened and cheated by this,” said Roy of the investigation. “Our children were excelling under them and they were doing a good job.”

As of the writing of this story, no official decision had been made.

However, Watson has assured parents that their “commitment is to excellence in all that we do for your student, and to ensure that your student receives instruction at a pace, manner and level tailored to your student’s needs and abilities.”

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Significant site: Township takes over ownership of historic Waterford Cemetery

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Northville Township has been maintaining the historic Waterford Cemetery for decades. Last month, the township finally took over legal ownership of the cemetery, located on Franklin Road in one of the older neighborhoods in town.

The cemetery dates back to at least the 1820s, and once served the now defunct village of Waterford. It is the final resting place of veterans from several wars, including the Civil War. In fact, there are three African-American soldiers from what was then the USCT (United States Colored Troops), who fought in the Civil War.

In total, there are 152 burials at the cemetery, which hasn't been active in about a half century, according to Marjorie Banner, treasurer for township and a member of the Northville Township Historic District

Commission, which has a keen interest in preserving the cemetery.

Banner said when members of the commission were looking to get permission to rebuild a split-rail fence on the property that had been damaged by a fallen tree limb, they couldn't figure out who owned the property. After realizing the township didn't own it, historic district commission member Dick Allen took it upon himself to search Wayne County records and discovered no record there as well. The township then turned to the state government to obtain the title, and was granted ownership last month.

"We have been maintaining the cemetery for a long, long time. So this doesn't really change anything. Now we just have the deed to the land, which means anything we do out there is an investment in something we own," Banner said.



There are 153 burials in Waterford Cemetery, including veterans of the Civil War. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

She said the cemetery is one of the most significant historical sites in the township.

"We are interested in historical places in our township," she said. "Now that we have own-

ership, we really want to restore, preserve and protect the place, especially the historic head-

stones that are out there. It's really a special place."

Waterford Cemetery was donated by landowner Dyer Ramsdell in the 1820s to serve the small town of Waterford, which was once a thriving community with its own grist mill and other industries. After a fire destroyed the grist mill, the town slowly faded into history and was no longer included on maps by 1890.

John Colling, another member of the historic district commission, said it was an arduous process to get the deed, but well worth the effort. He lives nearby on Franklin Road and walks past the cemetery almost on a daily basis.

"It's a pretty scenic place," he said. "And there is so much history there. We are fortunate to have such a place in our community."

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Eagle project: Boy Scout rebuilds fence at cemetery

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

In the true spirit of the Boy Scouts, Northville teen Adam Helner saw something that needed to be fixed and instead of ignoring it, decided to get his hands dirty and go to work.

For his Eagle Scout project, the 15-year-old Northville High School sophomore rebuilt the split-rail fence at the historic Waterford Cemetery, located on Franklin Road (west of Bradner and south of Six Mile). A member of North-

ville Troop 777, Helner lives near the cemetery. Before deciding on the project, he said he spent a lot of time at the cemetery.

"The cemetery is in my neighborhood and I always liked sitting in the cemetery watching the birds fly by when I was younger," he said..

About three years ago, a large tree limb fell and destroyed part of the existing fence.

Northville Township, which has been maintaining the cemetery for decades, decided to tear down the rest of the



Boy Scout Adam Helner leans on the split-rail fence he and others built at the historic Waterford Cemetery.

fence rather than rebuild it.

That's where Helner

comes in.

"I started to think that the fence should be re-


placed and that it would be a great Eagle Project for me. I found out about the people that are buried there, including Civil War, World War I and World War II vets. I really like military history and having the vets buried their added more interest for me to rebuild the fence," Helner said.

Helner first approached the Northville Historical Society in February, and the group approved of his plans. He began fundraising for the project in June, and was able to raise

more than \$1,400. Northville Lumber helped him with the supplies and drawing up plans.

He, along with other members of his troop, friends and family members, built the fence over a two-day period back in October.

"The cool thing about this project was that while we were working, many people stopped by and thanked us for doing this," Helner said. "This project was a pleasure of mine and it was time well spent."



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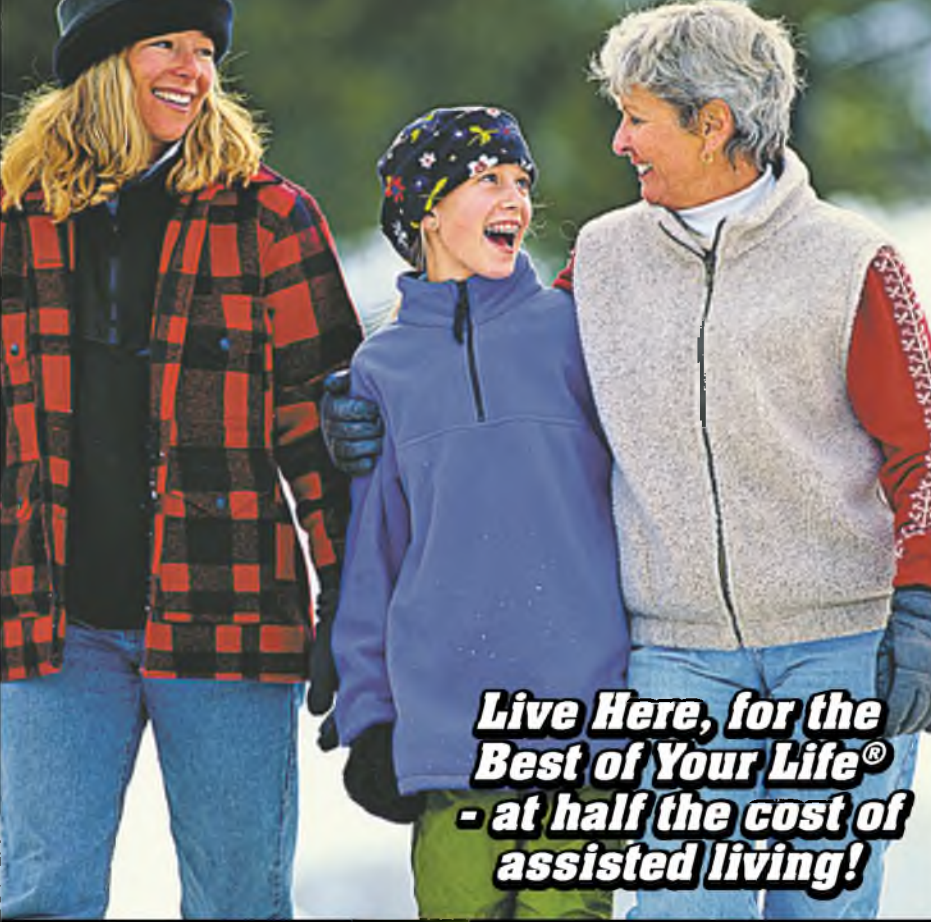
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NPS earns College Board honor roll status

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Northville Public Schools made the honor roll for the second consecutive year.

The College Board has named Northville Public Schools to its fourth annual AP District Honor Roll. A total of 477 school districts in the United States and Canada earned this distinction.

"This distinction is awarded to school districts for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while either increasing the percentage of students earning scores of three or higher on AP Exams or exceeding a threshold of at least 70 percent of students earning a three or higher on AP Exams," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher.

The College Board provides resources, tools and services to students, parents, colleges and universities in the areas of college planning, recruitment and admissions, financial aid, and retention.

Since 2011, Northville High School has increased the number of AP exams taken from 935 to 1280 while also increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of

three or higher from 88 percent to 91 percent during the same time period.

"These are tremendous results, and a reflection of the caliber of our teachers, quality of instruction, and the effort and motivation of our students who strive for high levels of learning," Gallagher said at the Dec. 10 school board meeting when making the announcement.

She added the counselors also play a big role in this through partnering with teachers and families to provide encouragement.

College Board spokeswoman Tricia Renner, executive director of K-12 Services for the Midwestern Regional Office, said it's important to see sustained efforts, so that's why the AP honor roll is based on the examination of three years of data, which started in 2011.

"This is an inspirational benchmark for your district," Renner wrote in a congratulatory letter to Gallagher.

Other local schools that have made earned this honor in consecutive years include Farmington, Rochester and Birmingham.

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Members of Northville High's acapella group BackBeat perform holiday songs at Moraine Elementary in this 2010 file photo.

Excelling 'year after year'

NHS music programs get national recognition

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Northville High School's music program has long been known for its excellence, but it's reached a new echelon after being named a 2014 GRAMMY Signature School semifinalist.

Late last month, the GRAMMY Foundation announced 123 schools nationwide as semifinalists for an honor that

recognizes U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year. This program was created in 1998.

Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher announced the news at the Dec. 10 school board meeting held at the high school. She said even under budget constraints and other challenges teachers and staff work to bring a broad education, including music, to their students.

In a school of 2,289 students, there are 730 students in the music program. The choir program has more than 518

students involved, while band has more than 241 students. The district devotes \$54,000, excluding salaries, to the program.

"They excel year after excel," Gallagher said of the music program.

At the high school, there is the vocal program that is one of the biggest in the state and includes Concert Choir, Chorale, Chamber Choir, TrebleMakers, BackBeat and Freshman Select, and then there is the concert, marching and jazz bands. All perform throughout the year.

Other Michigan schools to earn the honor are Berkley High, Detroit School of Arts, Fern-

dale High, Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High, Seaholm High and St. Joseph High.

The process to pick the 123 schools started late in the summer with letters of interest being sent out 20,000 schools of varying size. All schools that submit an application have their programs reviewed and are scored to determine who earns a top spot.

Finalists will be announced in March 2014, and will receive custom awards and music program grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

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- ▶ 2nd 12-week classes: Monday, January 27
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- ▶ Last day to register for Open Entry/Open Exit Class: Thursday, February 27

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Stewart to run for state Senate

Former state representative from Plymouth will challenge incumbent Colbeck for 7th District seat

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Nearly eight years after finishing his third term as a state representative, Plymouth attorney John Stewart is planning to try to get back into the state Legislature.

Stewart, who served as state representative for the 20th District from 2000-06, will challenge incumbent state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, for Colbeck's 7th Senate District seat in the 2014 election.

Stewart, who served in the House as a Republican before switching to the Democratic party, will challenge Colbeck as a Democrat this time around. Stewart ran unsuccessfully for the same seat as an independent four years ago.

Stewart paid his \$100 filing fee to the Wayne County elections division last month. As of Tuesday, he was the only candidate to have filed.

"I'd love to run for state Senate," Stewart said. "I think I'm the moderate and I think I can win it."

Stewart, who has practiced law out of the same Main Street office for nearly 30 years, said he believes the district – redrawn for the 2014 election – is more moderate now than it has been. Colbeck's district currently includes Plymouth, Canton, part of Northville, Wayne, Belleville and downriver communities.

For the 2014 election, the downriver communities have been eliminated. The district will now include Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Wayne and Livonia.

"The moderate advantage is even more true now that the district has shifted," Stewart said. "I am the only one who has represented all of those communities (the 20th included the west side of Livonia in 2000-02).

"I've walked every house door-to-door in



Stewart



Colbeck

Wayne."

Stewart said Colbeck's votes – on the pension tax in committee and on the expansion of Medicaid – show he "doesn't represent the people he was elected to represent."

Stewart had been delaying his entry into the race until state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, made a decision. The term-limited Slavens has been rumored to be considering seeking a Senate seat. Stewart, who had been waiting for Slavens' decision, said it no longer affects his status.

"I will not withdraw if (Slavens) files," Stewart said. "I filed knowing I could withdraw, but I don't like to. That's not my pattern."

For her part, Slavens said Tuesday she's concentrating on doing her job.

"I'm focused on my work in the House," Slavens said. "I'll make my decision on that after the first of the year."

Which leaves Stewart planning a campaign against Colbeck, whom Stewart said "is a great campaigner." But Stewart believes his support of public education and his experience as a small businessman will carry him past a potential primary against Slavens, whom he believes is too liberal, and against Colbeck.

"It will be a very difficult race (against Colbeck), because he really knows how to work his base," Stewart said. "This district won't elect a liberal. The people know me and they know I'm not a liberal."

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100th anniversary of Great War

Grassroots efforts focus on Michigan's role in World War I

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Dennis Skupinski is a man with a mission. With the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I next year, he's hoping to find people who will help him organize a plan to observe the United States' entrance into the war and the Michigan connection.

It's a grassroots effort he started this year after finding a lack of where-withal to get involved at the state level. While the Michigan Historical Commission thought it was a great idea, it was waiting for the governor to give his approval. When he talked to the governor's office, he was told the governor was waiting for the historical commission's approval.

"Museum people are talking about it now to get it to the next level," said Skupinski. "What I'm doing right now is getting people to help. I'm working with the Yankee Air Museum and Selfridge."

The Ann Arbor resident's interest in the Great War dates back to the 1960s when he was 14 years old. His uncle was in the process of cleaning out his late father-in-law's house so he could rent and wanted "to get rid of some stuff."

That stuff included a book, the History of the 16th Regiment of Engineers (Railway), the official history of Detroit's only all-volunteer regiment in the World War I printed in 1939 by the veterans association. He also took a tunic, helmet, gas mask and a few other things.

"Back in the late 1960s during the Vietnam War, there weren't a lot of people interested in military history or collecting uniforms even though it was the 50th anniversary of the World War I," he said. "This started me looking for and collecting items from the First World War. They were inexpensive or free compared to Civil War items and something that as a kid I could collect with spending much money. Now, of course, things have changed."



Dennis Skupinski points to a uniform patch of Detroit's all-volunteer 16th Regiment of Engineers (Railway). The uniform was one of his early finds and got him interested in World War I.



Part of his collection are the uniforms of two World War I soldiers as they appeared in 1917.

His collection

Skupinski started collecting the artifacts from people who were cleaning out their garages and basements. But it wasn't until he was living in California and went to a gun show that he started thinking about his collection. He went home to see what he had. He also started reading the book about the 16th Regiment.

"When I started reading it again I realized how important it was because it was the regiment was the who's who of Detroit," he said. "There were a lot of notables in the regiment like Detroit Mayor Eugene Van Antwerp (1947-49) and John Hudson Poole who married Caroline Boeing, whose father, William E. Boeing, was

founder of Boeing Airplanes."

Skupinski ended up doing a 50-minute video on the regiment which trained at the fairgrounds in Detroit. It was one of the first units to go to France in 1917. Eighty percent of the regiment was from the Detroit area.

Now Skupinski is using his interest in World War I to produce other videos about the Michigan connection. A member of the Yankee Air Museum which is working to preserve the history of aviation, beginning with World War I, he started making the videos in 2012. He has been posting his Michigan World War I Centennial News Reports monthly on YouTube and a similarly named Facebook page.

Michigan's WWI Centennial News Report, a video story of state's war experience, covers topics ranging from the Great War homefront, cooking, music, Rosie's mom – the story of the working women of the Great War – the Liberty Truck, the Liberty Engine, and Michigan's aircraft industry.

Each month he does a different topic. November's piece on the *Manual for Army Cooking* from 1917. The Michigan's WWI Centennial Facebook page includes recipes for making turkey, cranberry sauce and candied sweet potatoes for 60 men.

According to Skupinski, World War I was a "transformational period" for Michigan and Detroit. Because of the engineering taking place here, Michigan was the fastest growing state and Detroit the fastest growing county in the country. The regiment was organized a month after the U.S. entered the war in April 1917. A standard gauge railway construction regiment, it trained at the fairgrounds in Detroit before going overseas in July 1917.

Skupinski ended up doing a video on the regiment, highlighting the work it did building and repairing railroads during the war.

"It was a good example of how the engineers went to France and showed Britain and France what the Americans could do," he said.

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I-96 shutdown date to be announced

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Commuters and those interested in the closure of I-96 through Livonia and Redford next year will have one final chance to speak with state officials involved.

The final public meeting on the I-96 reconstruction project will take place 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at Redford Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft. There, those interested will be able to ask questions pertaining to the project, which will shut down the freeway from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in

Livonia.

That meeting will also be the time when the project contractor and construction date will be announced. Bids for the project were unsealed last week and state officials are still hammering out the details of the contract with the tentative contractor.

"Our goal is to announce it at that meeting," MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said. "They're not expected to be done verifying the information for another week or two."

The project is expected to begin as early as late January and will wrap up sometime by the

end of November. The seven-mile stretch of freeway will be reconstructed and repairs or replacements to 37 bridges along that span will be completed.

An open vote last year by users of the freeway resulted in a request to shut the freeway down for the year as opposed to having partial closures for several years.

The open-house meeting will detail the plans for items such as when what bridges will be closed over the freeway as well.

During the closure, MDOT is encouraging motorists to use the official detours, which include I-275, I-94, I-696 and the Southfield Freeway. State officials expect to see an increase in local road use for thoroughfares, such as Six Mile, and have widened

the southbound exit ramp at I-275 and Six Mile to temporarily accommodate more traffic.

The Livonia City Council voted Monday to appropriate its financial share of the project, more than \$1.7 million or 1.4 percent of the project cost.

Cross said the earliest possible shutdown date would be Jan. 28, just days after the North American International Auto Show wraps up at Cobo Hall in downtown Detroit.

"I can't say that officially; that is one of the many dates that is thrown around," she said. "That was one of the days that was considered that was the first chance it could happen."

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Finding the spirit of Santa Claus

Institute puts ‘St. Nick’ into historical context

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A. Michael Deller had been performing as Santa Claus for nearly a decade before the St. Nicholas Institute opened at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia.

But when the institute, with its vision of, according to its website, empowering “faith-filled candidates with the tools needed to convincingly portray both St. Nicholas and the ‘elfin’ Santa Claus in a wide variety of venues,” whether religious or secular, it caught Deller’s attention.

“The institute ... would have an emphasis on St. Nicholas, the actual person, and his history and how some of his beliefs and passions in life have come through to the person we know as Santa Claus,” said Deller, perhaps best known as the Santa in the now-defunct holiday parade in Livonia. “That sounded really interesting to me. I thought it would be interesting to see what they provided.”

The institute revolves around St. Nicholas who, according to institute founder the Rev. Joseph Marquis, is “remembered and revered among Catholic and Orthodox Christians and is also honored by various Anglican and Lutheran churches.”

Charitable inspiration

According to information provided on the institute’s website, Nicholas was born in Patara of Lycia (present-day Turkey) during the third century, of devout and wealthy parents who

provided him with a Christian upbringing and education. Especially well-known, according to Marquis, is his charity and love for children. He used his great wealth to relieve all who were in need: families, widows, orphans and children. For this same purpose he founded, as bishop, a poorhouse, hostelry and a hospital.

According to Marquis, charitable groups such as the Salvation Army, the Goodfellows and the St. Vincent DePaul Society “owe a lot” to St. Nicholas.

“I look at St. Nicholas as a role model for Christians as a focus of solving need, not taking bows for charitable works,” Marquis said.

He was the personification of Christian love and affection. As such, he is honored by the entire Christian world, both the Eastern and Western Churches. In the West, especially, he is considered the great patron saint of children and in modern times as the cheerful giver of gifts, Santa.

That’s the benefit institute participants find the most interesting.

“We teach about the historic figure behind Santa Claus,” said Marquis, the pastor at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, home of the institute. “We’re showing the historical context of St. Nicholas. Understanding who St. Nicholas is helps us more accurately portray Santa.”

Longtime Santa

Marquis should know about that, since he’s been doing it for 42 years. He’s an Emmy Award-winning Santa, a member of the Santa Claus Hall of Fame who used to portray Santa in the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day parade in



A. Michael Deller, as Santa, visiting with his grandchildren during an appearance at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy last month.



The Rev. Joe Marquis played Santa in the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Detroit.

downtown Detroit.

He’s done parades and home visits, mall appearances and hospital visits.

One story stands out in his mind of a little girl dying of cancer in a hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandfather appealed to Marquis to visit her as Santa in the hospital and

to give the girl a new, blue dress she had wanted.

When he arrived, Marquis found the entire hospital staff had dived into the spirit of the occasion. The hospital was totally decorated for Christmas and staff members were all in

Christmas costumes – and the visit happened in the summer.

Marquis passed through the entire children’s ward, visiting with all the patients and finally ending up in the girl’s room. Her eyes widened with delight at the sight of Santa and

she was all smiles when she opened the dress.

Marquis said when the crowd got around to singing *Silent Night*, “there was a presence in the room and a peace descended” – and a stark realization hit him.

“This was the real reason I was called to do Santa,” Marquis said. “If this is the only person I ever do Santa for, it’s worth it.”

Year-round spirit

It’s worth it for Deller, too. A retired librarian, Deller has done story times at libraries, he’s done family visits. He’s also the Santa at a banquet center near Mount Clemens every year. And he takes with him the lessons learned at the institute.

“(The institute) hasn’t really changed how I portray Santa, but it deepened my understanding of how this all came together and came to be,” Deller said. “For many of us, it was helpful in knowing what we needed to find or use in order to give a faithful appearance and presentation of the bishop known as St. Nicholas.”

The first institute last year drew 17 students from 10 different states. This year’s grew to 30 students from 15 states.

For Marquis, it’s about spreading the word that the Christmas spirit isn’t relegated to just the Christmas season.

“The beautiful thing is, the spirit is available any day of the year,” he said. “That’s the spirit I’m trying to give the ‘Santas’ who come through here. The one message they walk away with is, ‘The most important child I ever see is the next one.’”

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From local CrossFit gym to national competition

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The Northville and Plymouth CrossFit gyms are going to be well-represented in the upcoming second annual “Wodapalooza” Crossfit competition, which features 30 elite athletes chosen to compete at a national event.

One of the 30 is Plymouth resident Mike Kerul, 27. He will be representing his family and friends in a fitness competition that involves this popular strength and conditioning fitness program that focuses on various workouts, functional movements and high-intensity programming.

“I am overwhelmed and extremely excited to be able to represent my family, my community and my employer on the national Crossfit stage,” said Kerul. “I’ve been training hard for months to be able to participate in such an elite event and compete against some of the best athletes in the country. This is really just a dream come true for me.”

The event is coming up next month in Miami, Fla., and attracts elite athletes from across the country for three days of intense competition.

A former running back at Adrian College, Kerul found crossfit through friend Dave Finlay, who is the owner and head training coach at the Plymouth and Northville crossfit gyms. He said he tried it and it stuck.

Crossfit is a unique cross-training technique that is part endurance, strength and everything in between. Mastering a dead lift, squats, the press and pull as well as knowing some gymnastics are just some of the exercises a crossfit trainee would work on.

Kerul is working to



Plymouth’s Mike Kerul will be competing at the Jan. 17 WodaPalooza in Miami. The cross-fit competition will contain elements of weight-lighting, distance running and gymnastics. Kerul trains with Dave Finlay at Northville’s Hines Park CrossFit. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

raise funds for the trip and demonstrated one particular exercise recently to do this.

People made a donation toward his completion of any selected number of burpees, which is a high intensity full body squat-thrust exercise.

“Burpees are one of the exercise movements our classes complain about the most,” Kerul said. “This challenge is a

great way for my students and others to have fun, and get a little revenge, by pledging for me to complete however many burpees they want me to do. I guess I’ll do whatever it takes to get to Miami.”

A Canton native, he is a certified Crossfit coach and currently teaches numerous classes at Plymouth Crossfit (PCF) in Canton – located at

7707 Ronda Drive – and at its sister location Hines Park Crossfit in Northville., which is at Seven Mile and Main Street.

He’s also responsible for the gym’s youth athletic training program.

This opportunity to compete in Miami is a big deal and he’s worked toward it as an active competitor in Crossfit competitions across

Michigan and around the country for the past several years.

“This is a big event with some of the best athletes around” said Finlay. “Just to get in this is huge, so we’re proud of him. He’s strong, fast and a skilled athlete, so I think he will do well.”

It will be a costly process for Kerul to fly thousands of miles in order to compete, plus he is also the father of a 5-year-old boy and 2-year-old twin

girls. So things can get tight and that’s why he is looking for help.

For more information, or to make a cash donation, call 734-259-9131, email mike@xlr8athletics.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/mike.kerul> and donate directly by visiting www.gofundme.com/mikeinmiami.

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Celebrate Recovery
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Church of the Holy Family

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: 248-349-8847 or visit holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday; 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 6:30 p.m. Saturday (Spanish)
Holy days: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Reconciliation: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Priests: the Rev. Bob LaCroix, pastor, and the Rev. Beto Espinoza, associate pastor
AA: 8 p.m. Wednesdays

Crosspointe Meadows Church

Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile
Contact: 248-669-9400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org.
Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Destiny Worship Center

Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 Six Mile, Northville
Contact: Desti-nyW3C@gmail.com or visit www.DW3C.org.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia

Web: www.emmanuel-livonia.org
Contact: 248-442-8822
Sunday worship: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Adult special needs worship: 9:30 a.m.
Youth group: 7 p.m. Wednesdays
Women's Coffee Break Bible Study Advent Stuedy: 10-11:30 a.m. Mondays; "Advent Reflections, Making All Things New"
Christmas Eve: worship, candle lighting and holy communion at 5 (family worship), 7 and 11 p.m.
Sunday Dec 29: one service at 10 a.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: 9:15-10:30 a.m. Saturdays

First Baptist Church of Northville

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

First Church of the Nazarene

Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile
Contact: 248-348-7600 or visit dfcnazarene.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Classic worship service, Adult Bible Fellowship classes and Children's Sunday School; 11 a.m. Contemporary worship service with Kids Church, Teen Worship Service and Adult Bible Fellowship classes. Café is open from 9:15-11 a.m. Refreshments at 10:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Evening Traditional Service
Tuesday: 9:25 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Women of the Word) studying Luke
Thursdays schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group and Bible Study
Friday: 9:30 a.m.; Sweet Fridays on the second and fourth Fridays -- A Ministry for Moms of All Ages

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

Location: 200 E. Main
Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

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

First Presbyterian Church

Location: 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington
Tri County Celiac Support Group General Meeting
Details: The next TCCSG general meeting will be held on Jan. 6; doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins 7. Dr. Steven Fisher, clinical psychologist, will speak on "This is harder than I thought: Coping with the psychological aspects of eliminating gluten."

First United Methodist Church of Northville

Location: 777 W. Eight Mile, Northville
Contact: 248-349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org
Summer Sunday Worship (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 and 10 a.m.
Summer Sunday School (Memorial Day-Labor Day): 8:30 a.m. - Nursery; 10 a.m. - Nursery - sixth grade
Sunday Worship (September-May): 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School (September-May): 8 a.m. Nursery; 9:15 a.m. Nursery 12th grade; 11 a.m. Nursery - sixth grade

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Holy Cross Episcopal Church

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

Hope Lutheran Church

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

Lakes Baptist Church

Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake

Livonia Church of Christ

Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia
Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit www.livoniachurch.net
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible School: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Legacy Church (formerly First Baptist Church and Orchard Hills Baptist Church)

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

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile
Contact: the Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister, 248-348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Church School: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
Merry Widows Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Pilgrim Fellowship: 6 p.m. Sundays
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Story Service: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24
Details: The Meadowbrook Handchime Choir will be making its debut. The Rev. Ritter's sermon title is "Fear Not." The service will end with "Silent Night" and candles. The 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service of candle-light, music and word will include guest violin and harp along with sopranos Stephanie Rose Kanak and Maren Ritter. The sermon title is "Godisnowhere." Nursery care is available at both services.

Northville Christian Assembly

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

Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life

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

Novi United Methodist Church

Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile
Contact: 248-349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Novi-United-Methodist-Church/59782031433>
Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil: noon, first Sunday of every month in front of the church. Members of the congregation and the community will

stand united in prayer for peace.

Oak Pointe Church

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

Orchard Grove Community Church

Location: 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake
Web: www.orchardgrove.org
Contact: Amanda Rehms at 248-926-6584 or amanda.rehms@orchardgrove.org.

Our Saviour Apostolic Lutheran Church

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

Orchard Grove Community Church

Location: 850 Ladd Road, Walled Lake
Contact: 248-926-6584; www.orchardgrove.org

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth Township
Contact: 734-453-0326, Ext. 221
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Location: 770 Thayer, Northville
Contact: 248-349-2621 or olv-northville.org
Saturday Worship: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Our Shepherd Presbyterian Church

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

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church

Location: 54899 Eight Mile, Northville

Pentecostals of Novi

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

Plymouth St. John's Episcopal Church

Location: 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth
Contact: 734-453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org

Praise Baptist Church

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

St. James Catholic Church

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

St. John Lutheran Church

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via email to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to 248-685-2892; or by mail to Religion Calendar/Novi-Northville, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Unity of Farmington Hills

Location: 32500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington
Contact: 248-737-9191; AdministrativeDirector@unityfh.com

Unitarian Universalist Church of Farmington

Location: 25301 Halsted Road, Farmington Hills
Contact: www.uufarmington.org
Youth Interfaith Journey: 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays
Details: This religious education program is open to the public and currently enrolling new students. Classes are grouped into grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 with age-specific education materials for all.
Contact: Jennifer Teed at 248-478-7272 or dre@uufarmington.org
Lifelong Learning Forum: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays
Details: Six weeks exploring different topics like religion, philosophy, science, health, social and political issues. No advance registration necessary; a \$5 donation is suggested. Drop in and pick the class that interests you most at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Farmington.
Contact: 248-478-7272 or uufarmington.org/uucf/re-lifespan
Multi-Generational Services: 6:45 p.m. Fridays
Details: Family members of all ages can gather for drumming, chanting, and meditation followed by a brief participatory worship service which could include stories, songs and sharing. A religious education activity will follow, such as an art project, music, dance, game or theater. The evening will close with a light snack and a short time to socialize, ending at 8:30 p.m.

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Location: 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville (behind the Shipping center at the corner of 5 Mile and Haggerty)
Web: www.wardchurch.org
Contact: 248-374-7400
Sunday Worship: 8 a.m. Liturgical in the Chapel; 9:30 a.m. Contemporary in the Sanctuary; 11 a.m. Traditional in the Sanctuary; 11a.m. Post-Contemporary in Knox Hall
Sunday Groups and Classes: Nursery, Children's and Middle School programs available on Sunday mornings. High School Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. Sunday Morning Adult Life Classes also available.
FX: A Family Experience: An interactive family production where we ignite conversations in the home on important topics to help kids and their parents follow God together. First Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. In Knox Hall, September-May.
Service Broadcasts: Live at <http://live.wardchurch.org> at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays for live interactive video web-streaming. Also, the Traditional Service is broadcast every week on WRDT-AM 560 at 11 a.m.

Passages

Obituaries. Memories & Remembrances

View Online
www.hometownlife.com

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • htwobits@hometownlife.com

Deadline: Tuesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

HACHTEL, DORIS
Nov. 11, 1931- Dec. 13, 2013
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

HAYES, DONALD FRANCIS
Age 74 and a long time resident of South Lyon, died at his home on December 17, 2013 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Judy; his daughter, Debbie (Mark) Kimmel; grandsons, T.J. and Chris and much extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Gertrude Hayes, and his brothers, Jack, Jim, and Bill Hayes. Services will be held privately. Memorials may be made in his name to Reverence Home Health & Hospice. For further information please contact Lynch & Sons Funeral Home at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirector.com

MARKHAM, DEBORAH
April 18, 1955 - Dec. 7, 2013
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



MYERS, LINDA JUNE (SIRPILLA)
Age 68, of Fenton, died Thursday, December 19, 2013. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Ms. Myers was born July 14, 1945 in Detroit, the daughter of Robert and June (Sprague) Myers. Surviving are: four children, Jenny (Mitch) Lessard of Fenton, Amy Sirpilla of Milford, Andy (Shannon) Sirpilla of Clio, Jeff Sirpilla of Grand Rapids; five grandchildren, Nadine and Remy Lessard, Dustin Sirpilla, Jesse and Tristin Sharp; mother, June Myers; brother, Larry (Judy) Myers of Algonac. Her father preceded her in death. Arrangements by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Friends may share an online tribute on the obituary page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com

OSCARSON, PATRICIA A.

Died Monday morning December 16, 2013 at her residence. Pat was born February 22, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan a daughter of John and Evelyn (Fyke) Campbell. She had been a Kalamazoo area resident for eight years, after spending time in Rochester, Minnesota and South Lyon, Michigan. Pat was also a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church and was an avid golfer and accomplished artist. She was preceded in death by her parents. On February 14, 1970, she was united in marriage to Kenneth R. Oscarson, P.E., who survives. Also surviving, two sons, Dr. Corey (Danielle) Oscarson of Stillwater, MN and Garrett Oscarson of Brighton, MI; two grandchildren, Noah and Henry; two brothers, John "Jack" (Elizabeth) Campbell of Clawson, MI and Robert "Bob" Campbell of Westland, MI; three sisters, Mary (Larry) Newland of Livonia, MI, Cathleen (Dick) Dixon of Brighton, MI, and Elizabeth (John) Durr of Grand Rapids; and many nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date. There will be no visitation. Memorials may be directed to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Children's Program, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Please visit Patricia's personalized webpage for online guestbook, or to leave a condolence. Arrangements were made by the Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Memorial Chapel, 622 S. Burdick St.
www.langelands.com

POTRYKUS, ALFREDA S.

Age 89, passed away December 18, 2013. Visitation Thursday, December 26 from 3pm-9pm, Rosary at 7pm at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME. Funeral Mass Friday, December 27 at 11a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, . South Lyon.
Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com

PRATT, GLORIA L.

Age 91, of New Hudson, passed away December 17, 2013. Online condolences at, www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

SEPAISKI, L. RONALD
October 25, 1938 -Dec. 8, 2013
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

THOMAS, CLIFFORD
July 16, 1922 - Dec. 9, 2013
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



Daisy troop delivers get well cards



The Our Lady of Victory Daisy Scout Troop 40408 of Northville recently visited Providence Park Hospital's pediatric unit, offering get well cards for the young patients. Each Daisy works toward earning a total of 10 petals and the center before bridging into becoming a Girl Scout. The girls will earn the Zinni Petal for their efforts. "I thought it was perfect timing with the re-opening of the pediatric unit at the hospital and the troop needing to earn another petal. It was a perfect fit," said Molly Griffin, the troop leader and an RN at Providence Park.

Emilia Evelyn Morante



David and Jennifer Morante of Northville welcomed new daughter Emilia Evelyn on Oct. 21. Baby Emilia weighed 9 lbs, 6 ounces and was born at St. Joseph-Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She joins siblings Libby, 8, and Eloise, 5. Proud grandparents are Luis and Judy Morante of Novi, and Karl and Beth Sekerka of Plymouth.

Putting old glasses to good use



Our Lady of Victory kindergarten Daisy Troop 40356 toured ReCommunity and learned about single-stream recycling. The girls sorted 187 pair of glasses for the Northville Lion's Club as their final "Take Action" project. The Lion's Club reuses donated glasses by sending them to third world countries. Members of the community can help by donating old glasses and hearing aids in the designated boxes at the Northville District Library and Northville Senior Center.

Your Invitation to

Worship

Brighton

HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
www.hsrcc.net
at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd.
810-231-9199
Fr. John Rocus, Pastor
Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Please visit our Shroud of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop

Milford

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

Novi

BRIGHTMOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi
on the corner of M-56 & W13
Sundays 9:15a & 11:15a
www.brightmoorcc.org
something for the entire family

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

Walled Lake

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
1850 S. Commerce Rd.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m. All Ages
Rev. Kenneth Warren - 586-531-2021
www.cpcnow.com

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
VISITORS WELCOME!
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-684-5695
Pastor Steve Swayze
Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Young Adults Dinner/Bible Study, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: 6:45-8:15 p.m.
Awana beginning Sept. 11, 3 yrs old thru 6th grade
and Youth Group for 7th grade and older
Website: milfordbaptist.org

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
www.faithcommunity-novi.org
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM
"Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
40700 W. Ten Mile Rd. • 248-427-1175
Sunday Worship 7:45 am & 10 am
Healing Service Wednesday 11:45 am
Rev. Ann Webber, Rector
holycrossnovi@gmail.com
Lo-0000165174

Whitmore Lake

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

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

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.mbcc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
Lo-0000165195

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

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

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

Highland

HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
680 W. Livingston Rd. • Highland, MI 48357
248.887.1311 • www.myhumc.com
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Kids Church: 9:30 & 11 a.m.
MS & HS Youth: 11 a.m.
MS Youth Night Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m.
Grief Share Monday 6:30 p.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, 6 pm
Children's Church: 10:30 am
Groups for Children, Youth and Adults
248-684-2798
Lo-0000165198 milfordumc.net

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
205 E. Lake (10 Mile) 248.437.2875
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Children's Church for Grades K thru 5th
Nursery Care Provided
Mid-Week Study Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org
Lo-0000165163

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

New Hudson

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

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Milford, MI 48380
248-887-1218
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages: 7:00 p.m.
Also Small Groups / Ministry Teams

The Church of Christ
21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-3585 • www.southlyoncoc.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School,
10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Troy Singleton, Minister
Lo-0000165125

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8810 • 486-4335
Grissold Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.;
Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m

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

Freedom Life Church
Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is Freedom Cor 3:7
1208 E. Commerce, Milford
Worship: Sun 11am, Wed 7pm
We are here through Christ Jesus
to provide Freedom to those who
are hurting, diseased, addicted
Lo-0000165247 and depressed.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2983
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Rob Freshour / Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
• Email: fbcsouthlyon@sbcglobal.net
Lo-0000165161

Northville

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship & Church School 10:00 am
248-349-0911

First United Methodist Church Northville
(248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Taft Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times: September - May 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Wooley, Lead Pastor
www.fumcnorthville.org

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

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

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

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

Shepherd's Way Lutheran Church, ELCA
59225 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM
Education Hour 8:30 AM
Rev. Bart Muller, Pastor
248-486-4404
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon
248-486-0400
www.ecrossroads.net
Sunday Services:
8:45, 10 & 11:30 am

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
133 Orchard Dr., Northville
WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Church 349-2621, School 349-3610
Religious Education 349-2559
Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor

Our Savior Apostolic Lutheran Church
54999 8 Mile Rd. at Currie Rd., Northville, MI 48167
Sunday Worship:
10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study (Colossians) at 7 pm
Lo-0000165207 Pastor Andy Wallsten

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
Loving God and Loving People
22183 Pontiac Trail • 248-486-4400
(In Brookdale Shopping Center
behind Powerhouse Gym)
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00 A.M.
Reed Heckmann, Pastor/Teacher
www.solidrocksouthlyon.com
Lo-0000165210

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Services held at:
Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road - Livonia
South of Six Mile Road
Adult Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Dr. James N. McGuire • Nursery Provided
Lo-0000165196

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

OUR VIEWS

Don't drink and drive

Commit to making it a smart and safe New Year's Eve

The numbers seem very small in comparison to how many people live in the United States, but they're really not. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10,322 people in this country lost their lives in drunken driving accidents in 2012. That's one death every 51 minutes.

We are approaching what *Time* magazine lists as the No. 1 booziest night of the year — New Year's Eve. People will gather in homes, in halls and in bars to ring in the new year where copious amounts of alcohol will be consumed. After all, what is a party without a bit of the bubbly?

There are those people who believe that there is value in going out on New Year's Eve and drinking with the aim of getting drunk, that somehow the evening isn't a success without that happening.

But it's what happens when the parties are over that also make it the scariest night of the year. Many of those revelers will get behind the wheel of a vehicle and drive home. Hopefully, they make it to their final destination without a problem. Some do, some don't.

Some get stopped by the police and, in Michigan, if they register more than 0.08 blood-alcohol content on a breath test, they end up sobering up in a jail cell. Some find themselves involved in accidents that can cause injuries and even death.

In a country that glorifies the making of illegal moonshine on cable TV and sends the message through commercials that drinking certain beverages gives you sex appeal, it's hard to deter people from drinking and driving, especially those who do it repeatedly.

According to NHTSA statistics, a drunken driver on average has driven drunk 80 times before being arrested for the first time. And between 50-75 percent of convicted drunken drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.

New Year's Eve is meant to be a time of celebration, but it doesn't need to be alcohol-laden. For those who feel a need to overindulge, think about other people and don't drive. Have a designated driver, call a taxi to take you home or play the big shot and arrange for a limousine service to do the pickup and delivery duties.

The holidays should be about friends and family, not excessive drinking. They can be just as much fun without alcohol. Find alternative ways to ring in the new year like:

» Gathering your families and friends together for a scavenger hunt and pot-luck dinner.

» Blowing the snow off the fire pit and having a fire with s'mores and hot chocolate.

» Hosting a movie marathon, featuring your favorite films of 2013 – and don't forget the buttered popcorn.

» Planning a game night. Dust off the UNO cards, pull out the Trivial Pursuit and open up the Monopoly board. No need for booze to buy Boardwalk.

» Going out for a nice dinner and a movie. A lot of restaurants offer special menus for New Year's Eve.

And if you feel the need to hold a cocktail glass in your hand, fill it with a mocktail. There are plenty of recipes for everything from a hibiscus mimosa to non-alcoholic sangria that can be found on the Internet.

This New Year's Eve, commit to making it a safe one for you and for others. Celebrate all you want, but be smart. Don't drink and drive.

We are approaching what Time magazine lists as the No. 1 booziest night of the year — New Year's Eve. People will gather in homes, in halls and in bars ... where copious amounts of alcohol will be consumed.



New Year's Eve is one of the worst nights of the year for drunken driving accidents. Make sure you have a designated driver if you hit the town. FILE PHOTO

NORTHVILLE RECORD

A GANNETT COMPANY

Kurt Kuban,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your New Year's resolution?

This question was asked at various locations in Northville.



"To fit into a gown for my granddaughter's wedding and to have a fun, healthy year."

Doris Brownell
Northville



"I stopped making those 50 years ago."

Alan Deneau, 77
Northville



"To lose weight and live healthier."

Anne Crampton
Northville



"Listen better to everyone."

Joe Oldenburg
Northville Township

LETTERS

Make toys safer

I would like to say that I strongly agree with the article written by Nathan Mueller in your Dec. 12 paper, acknowledging the problem of safety with children's toys. I really appreciate it because it is a public issue that needs to be solved and paid more attention to by the government, toy manufacturers, and the general public.

The fact that parents have to test small toys themselves with a toilet paper roll to see if it is safe says that something is wrong. Instead of the toy company's worrying about how much profit they make, they should be worrying about the safety of babies and/or toddlers. Considering there have been more than 90 infant deaths between 2001 and 2012 involving balloons, balls, and toys means that the government and society needs to continue to focus on this issue. Balloons, balls, and toys should be giving young kids joy not death.

I have a 2-year-old cousin who could easily choke on a toy if it had been made without the right requirements and attention to safety. It is really terrifying to think about because if he wasn't being watched for one minute he could die because of a meaningless toy. Mothers, fathers, uncles, grandmas, etc. would all feel so much safer if they were confident in the knowledge that their young relatives were safe with all of their toys.

If in the last year approximately 172,000 toys have been recalled for being choking hazards, it suggests that there is a lot more work to do be done and toy manufacturers are still not paying attention to safety. Toys need to be safe for kids.

Luke Smith
Novi

Lead in toys

What children love the most is causing them health problems and killing them as well. The problem of children being harmed by their toys is an increasing problem in this world. Children are having hearing issues, being poisoned and choking on what are thought to be harmless products. Now what is letting all of this happen is the weak standards and controls of what toys go on to the market. We must tighten up the rules and regulation on toy safety.

Every year, around 10,000 kids are taken to the hospital for choking and almost a quarter of those kids pass away. In that same time span, around every one in five kids are found to have above-average levels of lead in their body from their toys. This can cause a wide range of health-related issues all the way from headaches to anemia. Also, toys above 85 decibels can cause hearing issues later on in life. All of these things happen due to the rules not being strict enough on what toys hit the market and what is recalled or not allowed to be put on store shelves.

We don't have to live with this and continue to harm our young ones. We can make a change. We can lower the amount of lead accepted in a product from 90 ppm down to 40 ppm. This will make it so that all products can only have such a small amount of lead that it is not physically possible for it to harm children. I feel like this will solve the largest problem – which is lead – in toy safety. If we don't start to crack down even harder now, little kids across the world could suffer

Connor O'Leary
Novi

Anonymity wrong

A recent *Free Press* item reports, "A House committee approved a bill that doubles campaign finance limits while protecting the anonymity of donors who pay for controversial issue ads ..." that very often are attack ads by implication and inference.

Proponents claim that "requiring the public disclosure of those who advocate unpopular positions can leave them vulnerable to harassment and intimidation ..."

What Senate Bill 661 fails to provide is protection for the object or person of the anonymous ads. The ads are usually laced with scurrilous innuendo and, often times, blatant lies.

Why should the perpetrators be granted anonymity while the target is left no recourse in defending themselves? To whom do they direct their response or defense?

Since when does free speech mean freedom to slander? This letter nor any letter received by yours or any responsible publication would never be printed without a verified signature. Why not?

This piece of legislation is one more example of our gerrymandered legislature at work

Patrick M. Downey
Novi

Law disregards women's health

The Republican-dominated Michigan Legislature's recent passage of the "rape insurance" law speaks volumes about where the Republican Party's allegiance lies. GOP legislators joined forces with special interest groups, in particular, Right to Life of Michigan whose stated goal is to ban abortions without exception. This extremist group wants to eliminate birth control, as well.

Right to Life of Michigan gathered a little over 315,000 signatures, had them certified by the state Board of Canvassers and then forwarded the initiative to the Legislature where it was suddenly passed into law. The signatures represented a mere 4 percent of Michigan voters.

This law bans insurance plans in Michigan from covering abortion, forcing women to purchase a separate rider, or in other words "plan ahead for your rape!" However, the rider system is unworkable because insurance companies and employers won't necessarily provide riders, due to the expense and complications.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville and House Speaker Jase Bolger could have opted to send this proposal to Michigan's citizens to be voted on in November 2014, but instead they rammed through a legislative vote. This newly passed "rape insurance" law exemplifies the Republicans' reckless disregard for women's health.

Within the next 90 days, Michiganders will be asked to collect 161,000 signatures to place this draconian law on the ballot for consideration. It's imperative that we do everything in our power to overturn this anti-women law. Let's make this happen!

Jill Farber-Bramson
West Bloomfield

Keep Bentivolio in office

So, the power brokers of the Republican party decide to take back a political office that is rightfully "theirs." Somehow, an ordinary American (Kerry Bentivolio) got elected to Congress without their permission. That just won't do, so they troll

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around for somebody from their own political class to run against him. They pick the guy who operates a multi-million dollar law firm that processes most of the mortgage foreclosures in Michigan.

Actually, that isn't a joke, even though the political class seems to be amazingly blind and deaf. Wasn't it just a few months ago that the Karl Rovians were complaining that many of the 2012 conservative candidates like Sharon Angle and Christine McDonnell had an un-electable public image? Yes, they are really doing this. A David Trott has lately started using his money to buy up endorsements from anyone in the 11th District who can help get him elected to Congress. Trott knows that Bentivolio, the incumbent Republican, has only his own office salary for an income.

The regular Americans who live in the 11th District want to see an actual non-Madison Ave. conservative stay in office without being beholden to the party bosses and other well-connected fixers who make their money from selling access and influence. If we can escape the jealous party apparatchiks again in 2014, it will demonstrate that government doesn't have to be forever run by an inherited monopoly of bought and sold politicians.

Denis Curran
Livonia

Censoring the press?

It was with some apprehension that I responded to a knock on my front door. It turned out to be the UPS driver. The reason for my caution was that I feared the Gestapo would be standing on my porch.

When the Nazis came to power, the first thing they did was censor the press to stifle the opposition and end free speech.

According to an article in *The Detroit News* Nov. 28, a right-wing politician from Troy, John Pappageorge, has introduced a bill in the Senate that sounds like it was drafted in 1935 Germany. The bill would make a criminal out of anyone who dared to share their opinion of politicians in the "Letters to the Editor" section of our newspapers.

These tea party hacks have no shame. Even when a law is thrown out by our courts, they have accomplished their goals: Fear and intimidation.

Well, Mr. Papageorge, let's dance. Get your cohorts to make this law, get your "yes man" governor to sign it and give it immediate effect, just like all the other laws you passed that have hurt my people. Oh, and make it retroactive to include this letter.

Then, make me the first, how did you put it? Oh, yeah, bottom-feeder. You persecute, oops, prosecute.

Finally, I would like to know who you are trying to protect with this bill? Never mind, I think I'll ask Patrick Colbeck.

James Huddleston
Canton

HOMELESS

Continued from Page A1

if they lack adequate sleeping accommodations, share housing with other families due to economic hardship, live in a motel, car, campground, emergency shelter or similar circumstance.

The act in many cases, calls for a school district offering its homeless students transportation to the district where they had been attending school prior to becoming homeless — if they were forced to move away during the school year. Should that condition apply, the two districts typically share the cost of transporting the students, whether by school bus, public transportation or taxi cab.

In the Farmington Public Schools district, \$67,477 was spent on transporting homeless students to and from school last year.

FPS Director of Instructional Equity Naomi Khalil said school buses are used to transport the kids “as much as we can,” but sometimes that isn’t feasible, particularly for the lengthier routes — as far away as Ingham or Macomb counties in some cases.

Districts also have use of other federal dollars to help homeless families with school supplies, provide free/reduced lunches, and connect them with outreach centers that assist with clothing and other services.

“The whole purpose is to allow them to maintain some consistency in their lives,” said Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Plymouth-Canton’s executive director of staffing, student services and policy. “School is one of those areas that can be consistent.”

According to Paul Salah, Wayne-Westland deputy superintendent, about 150 students in the district are considered homeless, including

those living with a relative.

In the Northville Public Schools district, just four students are identified as homeless this year, while South Lyon Community Schools reports having 48 homeless students. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials estimate they’re currently serving some 80 homeless students.

Those students have come to the Plymouth-Canton district from areas including Wayne-Westland, Van Buren and Detroit, officials said.

Livonia Public Schools identified 99 homeless students so far during the current school year, of which five have already left the district. From September through November, taxi cabs and gas reimbursement for homeless students totaled just under \$6,000, with an undetermined amount spent using LPS buses. And while a few of the district’s homeless students live in Wayne, Westland, Detroit and Belleville, according to LPS Homeless Liaison Phillip Francis, most of the identified homeless students live within the district’s boundaries.

“By far, the most common homeless situation is what’s called ‘doubled-up,’ which is when a family lives with friends or family on a temporary basis,” Francis said.

Becoming aware

Identifying a student as homeless is sometimes done at registration time, based on answers to enrollment questions about a child’s living situation. When homelessness occurs during the school year — and if the student or parent doesn’t make the situation known — it’s up to school staff to pick up on signs which suggest that’s the case.

Homelessness can, indeed, affect academic performance, noted Pamela Swert, superintendent of Clarenceville Public Schools, which currently has 22 students identified as homeless.

Any instability in a student’s life, including homelessness, increases stress and impacts the ability to perform and remain attentive during the day, she said.

So does having no legal right to housing, knowing they can be asked to leave at any time, Francis added.

“Additionally, when (in a) doubled-up (situation), the homeless family may be living in an unfinished basement, sleeping on the floor or couch, or a similarly unsuitable situation when a student doesn’t have his or her own space,” he said.

Some LPS homeless students are living in hotels or in foster homes, while others are unaccompanied youth — either kicked out of their homes or are runaways, living without a parent or legal guardian, he said.

FPS Homeless Liaison Hatty Ligon said staff undergoes training to be more aware of the signs commonly exhibited by homeless students, which can include excessive tardiness and absences, hunger and other indications “that something is not right.” She encourages parents or guardians of homeless students — or others that know of kids in that situation — to come forward so they can get the help they need.

“A lot of the time, people are afraid. They don’t know what to do,” Ligon said. “And then a lot of times, parents are relieved to know that a law is in place (to provide services), that they can stay in their school of origin.”

Also, students identified as homeless automatically qualify for academic intervention, as needed, funded through Title I.

Supplemental learning tools can include software tutorial programs, Francis added.

Not hopeless

Though Sadler isn’t sure where she and her family will be in upcoming

months, she has her sights set on staying in the Farmington-Farmington Hills area. One dream — or goal — is to land a job with the school district, possibly in food service. Another is to find suitable housing that she can pay for once she’s employed.

Quite simply, she said, the Farmington community “feels like home.” Her kids’ teachers, administrators and others embraced them all right away, she said, welcoming the family and helping to ease the burden of living with such uncertainty.

“Here, I’m in a good place,” she said. “And I haven’t felt that in a long time.”

A series of events which began about a dozen years ago — when the family was forced out of their Detroit home due to toxic black mold discovered in the attic —

derailed them.

And they haven’t been able to get back on track, she said.

“It’s been like dominoes,” Sadler said, noting that the family has spent time with several friends, lived in shelters and rented a problem-filled home before landing in the Farmington Hills apartment. “Chronic, severe hypertension” prevents Cecil from working, she said; disability insurance helps to sustain them. Caring for their disabled son also brings in financial assistance. Pinching pennies and always hunting for bargains is a way of life, she added.

Sadler said it feels like she’s been “living in a storm” for years — but she’s optimistic that “it’s a storm that will soon pass.” Until then, she said, she’ll keep a positive outlook and remain grateful for those who’ve

helped her family endure these trying times.

“A lot of people don’t realize the blessing they have in being a homeowner. A lot of people take it for granted,” she said. “And for a lot of people, they’re only a paycheck away from this, too.”

Sadler said she never asks “Why me?” but instead looks at her family’s homelessness as a test from God.

“It’s only a test,” she said. “We’re not the first family to go through this, and we’re aren’t going to be the last one. But I do believe good things are coming. In the end, we’re going to be better than we were in the beginning.”

Sadler urges anyone who can help her find affordable housing and a job — either in food service, home care or similar work — to contact her at 269-823-4231.

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Renovations on Hill House will continue.



Windows received a lot of attention during the renovation.

County’s ‘grandest’ 19th century house reopens following historic restoration

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

The Simmons-Hill House, considered the jewel of Livonia’s Greenmead Historical Village, is shining brighter these days.

A \$600,000 structural renovation of the 1841 Greek Revival farmhouse on Eight Mile Road west of Newburgh Road, once considered the “grandest house in the county,” was recently completed, ensuring the historic home will be preserved for many years to come.

Cosmetic improvements, including wallpapering and reupholstering, are next. Grants have been sought for reupholstering from the Questers Organization, and will be for the wall-papering as well.

The public got to tour the home, after being closed for 13 months for the structural renovations, during the annual Livonia Christmas Walk earlier this month. The



Sue Daniel talks about the \$600,000 in renovations at Hill House. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Simmons-Hill House is a staple on the Christmas Walk.

It is hoped the home will be ready for regular tours this summer, said Sue Daniel, chair of the Historical Commission and a member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

The plan is to restore the home to what it looked like when the city purchased it and the more than 100 surrounding acres for \$500,000 in 1976 from the Hill family,

Daniel said.

**Awesome
woodwork**

“This was a very nice house,” she said, “one of the best.” One of its most striking features is the classic 19th-century woodwork throughout. “We’re kind of in awe of all the woodwork in the house,” Daniel said.

The home also has five fireplaces, and is surrounded by a white picket fence.

Jean Boyd Hill had



Plumbing was repaired and replaced, retaining original fixtures where possible.

every room on the main floor decorated with maroon-colored wallpaper patterned similar to papers found in Colonial Williamsburg. The Historical Commission will seek to replicate each of the patterns, as some of it had to be torn off during the structural renovation work.

When anyone wrinkles a nose at the maroon color, Daniel says, “This is her house. It doesn’t matter if we like it or not.”

Mrs. Hill and her husband, Sherwin A. Hill, a prominent Detroit attorney, bought the home in 1920. “They were members of the Meadow Brook County Club, and they would pass by this house on their way,” Daniel said.

The Hills raised two daughters in the home, which they maintained with a staff of servants. The Hills made alterations to the home, including changing the direction of a stairwell to enlarge the living room, turning an adjoining shed into a sunroom and adding a greenhouse on the property to ensure a

steady supply of fresh flowers.

Mr. Hill died in 1963, and Mrs. Hill died in 1974. She lived in the home up until her death.

A mansion

The house was built by Serguis P. Lyon for Joshua Simmons, the wealthiest farmer in Livonia Township in 1850 and the third person to purchase property there. He and his wife had seven children.

“It would have been a mansion,” Daniel said. “Most people were living in log cabins at that time.”

An 1877 book on the history of Oakland County referred to it as the “grandest house in the county,” Daniel said, though being on the south side of Eight Mile, it really is in Wayne County, not Oakland County.

Four generations of the Simmons family lived in the home. During the five-year period between the Simmons and Hill families owning the home, three different families lived in it.

The structural reno-

vation work included tuckpointing the stone basement inside and out, adding steel beams to the basement, upgrading the plumbing and electrical systems, installing a new furnace and adding air conditioning to maintain a constant temperature, replacing window mullions, refinishing the wood floors and painting some of the woodwork and ceilings.

No tax dollars used

The work was done by Integrity Building Group in Detroit. The architect was Michael Kirk of Neumann/Smith in Southfield.

About 40 percent of the Hills’ furnishings remain in the home, as does a circa 1870 melodeon that belonged to Joshua Simmons’ daughter.

The money for the structural renovations came from donations from the Friends of Greenmead and admissions to Greenmead events.

“The city did not put one penny (of taxpayer dollars) into it,” she said.

Daniel credited Janet Bennett, wife of former Mayor Bob Bennett, along with DeeDee Dittmar, for keeping the Friends group from disbanding in the late 1970s and then heading it up as president for about 25 years before retiring recently. Janet Bennett is now president emeritus. The Friends group, now headed by Sue Poster, has contributed about \$500,000 to Greenmead over the years, Daniel said.

Bob Bennett was also was extremely helpful to Greenmead while mayor, Daniel said, allowing them to collect admissions at events to raise revenue for preservation purposes. “We wouldn’t be where we are today (without the Bennetts),” she said.

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Girls basketball team races to 3-0 start

Mustangs dominate
Livonia Franklin, 64-18

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

It was an absolute one-sided game for the Northville girls basketball team when it took on Livonia Franklin last week. The squad, coached by Todd Gudith, forced 29 turnovers and allowed the Patriots to hit just 15 percent of their shots

from the floor as the Mustangs ran away with a 64-18 victory. "It's been nice to give everyone some quality playing time and to see everyone making a contribution," Gudith said. "Even though our first three games weren't much of a contest, I'm glad that our girls are not letting up and playing down to the level of the competition, which can be easy to do." That kind of push, even when opponents aren't able to

ON TAP

Northville will be back on the hardwood this weekend at the annual Northville Holiday Tournament.

keep up, is what keeps teams prepped for when they play more skilled squads, Gudith said. "We need to have that 'killer instinct' as we move forward and the schedule gets tougher," he said. The Mustangs led by just two, 6-4, in the early minutes of

the first quarter before they found their footing and raced to a 21-7 lead by the end of the quarter. That lead extended to 40-10 by the end of the first half as they hit three 3-point field goals. In total, 12 Mustangs scored on the night, led by senior

Gabby Mencotti, who had 16 points, including two 3-pointers. Freshman Jessica Moorman added 11, as did senior Heather Randall. As a team, Northville hit 52 percent of its shots, going 27-for-51 and 4-for-9 from beyond the arc. The Mustangs are now 3-0 on the season.

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

Northville's Symone tops All-Area volleyball team



Northville's Symone Abbott is the 2013 All-Area Volleyball Player of the Year. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior helped Mustangs to district, regional titles

By Jeff Theisen
Sports Writer

Teams going up against Northville tried everything possible to stop senior Symone Abbott from taking over matches. Few were successful. Abbott earned first team all-state honors as an outside hitter after posting 745 kills and a team-high 80 aces thanks to a powerful jump serve. She helped Northville win district and regional titles and make a trip to the final four. Abbott is the 2013 All-Area Player of the Year. "She is signed to play at Northwestern and is probably the most explosive attacker Northville will ever have," coach Amanda Yaklin said. "Her stats have exponentially improved over her four years of volleyball. "It will be exciting to see how long the kill record she set will be intact, perhaps indefinitely. She set the bar high, that's for sure."

First team Cassidy Minghine Northville

While Abbot was a standout on offense, Minghine was the rock on defense. The senior libero recorded 578 digs (a new school record), 294 perfect receive passes, 76 aces, 41 assists and 111 kills. "Cassidy has an outstanding ability to read the actions of the opponent, leading to many opportunities for the team to be in an offensive mode," Yaklin said.



Northville's Cassidy Minghine makes a return.

Isabelle Glancy Novi

The senior outside hitter finished a four-year varsity career with division, conference and KLAA association titles. She was all-region and all-conference in 2011-13. She hammered 444 kills with 525 digs. Glancy will continue her career at Valparaiso. "Belle is a six rotation out-

side hitter that did it all for us," coach Jen Cottrill said. "She is the definition of a consistent player, as we could always rely on her to make good plays. She is an outstanding player who knows the game very well. She is a four-year varsity player and we relied on her experience this

See ALL-AREA, Page B2

Cheer squad shows improvement at KLAA competition

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

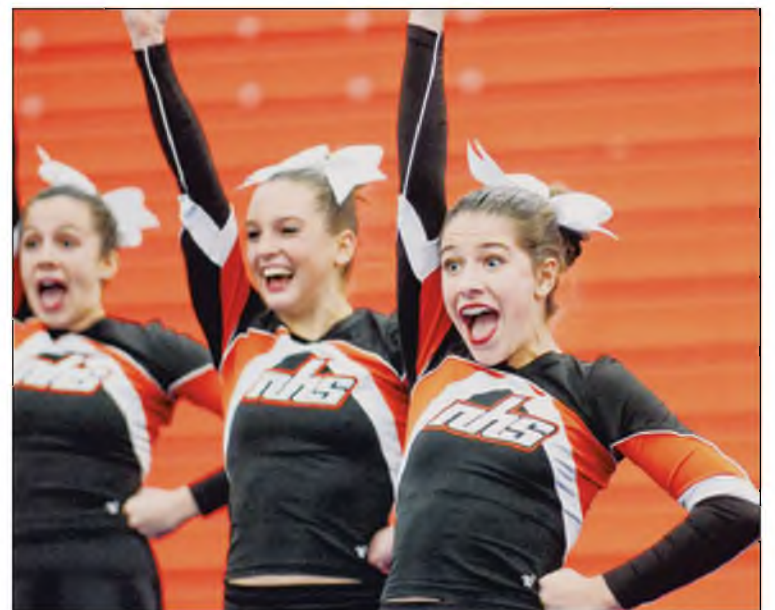
In the early weeks of the season, it's all about finding weaknesses and improving on them until a team is able to compete at the end of the season and into the postseason. For the Northville competitive cheer team, improvements are being made and each of the rounds are being worked on. What that has meant so far has been a couple of tough scores that have led to a 0-6 record. But there are some huge bright spots, like the team's first-round scoring, as well as the fact that it still hasn't unveiled its full round three performance yet. "The team performed well," Northville coach Mindy Gentz

ON TAP

Northville will compete again at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 when it visits Plymouth Salem. said of the Dec. 18 KLAA crossover competition. "Overall, we are pleased with how the team is progressing. Our leaders and captains are doing an outstanding job mentoring the younger girls and setting examples of focus and commitment to achieving both team and individual goals. Our new team members continue to improve and are rising to meet the challenges before us." The Mustangs entered the competition knowing they would have a tough time competing with the more experienced squads, but after the first round was done they showed just how potent they

can be as they scored 199 points – just one shy of eventual winner Plymouth. The second and third rounds, however, are where the team is focusing the most effort to increase points when it comes back from break. Northville scored 148.52 points in the second round, which dropped it back one place to third, and it scored 206.3 points in the third round, which slid it to fourth overall. The team still has not shown its full round three performance, however, and Gentz and the Mustangs expect to see higher scores once they have showcased the entirety of the routine.

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



Northville competitive cheer performs Dec. 18. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Several local athletes sign collegiate letters

Two Mustangs, five Shamrocks announce college decisions

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The world of collegiate athletics will be a little more talented next year now that two Northville and five Novi-Detroit Catholic Central student-athletes have signed their national letter of intent.

From Northville, both Andrew Sarokin and Symone Abbott signed, while CC's Daniel Ault, Drew Garcia, Logan Marcicki, Nick Bennett and Malik Amine all did the same over.

Sarokin will be heading to Oakland University to play golf, while Abbott announced that she will be playing volleyball for Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Joining Sarokin on the Oakland University golf team will be Ault.

Garcia, Marcicki, Bennett and Amine will all compete in wrestling. Garcia will attend Cornell University, while Marcicki will enroll at Indiana



Symone Abbott, who will play volleyball at Northwestern University, poses with her father and mother, Anthony and Krystal Abbott.

University. Bennett will attend Nebraska, while Amine will remain local at the University of Michigan.

Amine becomes part of a legacy at Michigan. His father Mike and uncle Sam both wrestled for the Wolverines in the 1980s, while his cousin Jordan is on the current roster.

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

ALL-AREA

Continued from Page B1

year to guide our younger players in key roles for us.”

Emily Robb Novi

The senior setter played three years on varsity, earning all-region and all-conference honors the past two years. She had 1,052 assists with 378 digs and 107 kills. Robb was also a captain this season.

Emily comes from a family of outstanding volleyball players and she was no exception,” Cottrill said. “She was the starting setter on the varsity team for three years and was able to do this with ease. She runs an effective offense, is physical at the net and solid defensively.

“Emily was an outstanding leader for us this season as she held her teammates accountable, but also knew when it was time to have fun.”

Amanda Leonard Lakeland

The junior setter/hitter earned all-state honorable mention, all-region and all-KLAA honors this year. She provided 272 kills in 639 attack attempts, 281 digs, 42 aces and 50 serve receptions. She had 21 kills, 28 assists and 14 digs in a regional match.

“Amanda is a great consistent hitter as well as a great setter,” coach Jean Dukic said. “She is always working to better her game.”

Amanda Breitenbach Lakeland

The senior libero earned all-region honors as well as the team Leadership/MVP award. Breitenbach had 615 digs, 483 serve receptions, 52 aces and 23 assists.

“She is very positive with everyone around her and expects only the best out of herself,” Dukic said. “She has been a

ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Symone Abbot, Northville

FIRST TEAM
Cassidy Minghine, Northville
Isabelle Glancy, Novi
Emily Robb, Novi
Amanda Leonard, Lakeland
Amanda Breitenbach, Lakeland
Zahria Ri’chard, South Lyon

SECOND TEAM
Olivia Boisineau, Northville
Brooke Laney, Novi
Jordan Massab, Novi
Victoria Iacobelli, Novi
Kaylie Marantette, Lakeland
Maddie Harris, Milford

HONORABLE MENTION
South Lyon – Brooke Campos (jr), Jessie Ignace (so)
Lakeland – Cass Bruins (sr), Emily Wolfenbarger (jr), Stephanie Leonard (jr)
Northville – Julia Colasanti (sr)
South Lyon East – Deven Watson (sr), Mackenzie Nieto (jr)
Northville – Olivia Landis (sr), Emily Martin (fr), Chloe Kiple (sr), Katherine Boss (sr), Rachel Zawodny (sr), Makenna Strunk (jr)

great leader all four years at Lakeland.”

Zahria Ri’chard South Lyon

The big-hitting setter/blocker is only 15 years old and has already earned a scholarship to Division I University of Alabama-Birmingham. Ri’chard led the team with 244 kills, 77 blocks and 45 aces. She was second in digs with 134.

“Being only 5-8 she definitely plays well above her height with her leaping abilities and is able to play with anyone in this state,” coach Mindy Collins said. “She is aggressive and is definitely a gamer. She has the ability to swing the momentum in any game with a couple blocks and swings and does that consistently.”

Second team
Olivia Boisineau Northville

The junior middle hitter knocked down 230 kills with 108 blocks, 45 digs and 13 aces.

Brooke Laney Novi

The senior middle blocker capped off a three-year varsity career

with 253 kills with a 31.1 attack percentage and 94 blocks. Laney was a captain in 2012 and ’13 with all-region and all-conference honors both years.

Jordan Massab Novi

The junior libero had a team-high 637 digs, while being second in service points. She earned all-conference honors.

Victoria Iacobelli Novi

The sophomore outside hitter was second on the team in kills with 268, while also providing 459 digs and 44 aces. The second-year varsity player was all-conference and all-region.

Kaylie Marantette Lakeland

The senior outside hitter provided 273 kills, 280 serve receptions and 320 digs for the division and conference champs. Marantette also had 25 aces and 15 blocks.

Maddie Harris Milford

The junior outside hitter finished with 174 kills and 178 digs. She is a three-year varsity player.

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Bonin leads talented All-Area swimmers

By Jeff Theisen
Sports Writer

South Lyon star swimmer Chanel Bonin entered the season with high hopes for herself and her team.

The senior capped off the season with four all-state swims, including a state title in the 100 backstroke, leading South Lyon to a fourth-place finish. She also placed runner-up in the 100 butterfly and was on the third-place 400 free relay and the fifth-place medley relay.

Bonin is the 2013 All-Area Swim and Dive Athlete of the Year.

“Chanel was a very hard worker this year and really put a lot of time into fine-tuning her technique so that she was able to make the strides she needed to in order to win the state title,” coach John Burch said. “Chanel is the most talented swimmer and the most accomplished swimmer to go through the South Lyon swim and dive program and she is certainly deserving of the awards and honors she is getting.”

Bonin signed to continue her career at Michigan State University.

First team
Laura Westphal
Northville

The freshman made a huge splash in her first season with a Division 1 state title in the 500 free-style (4:57.84). She was also 10th in the 200 IM, was the anchor on the 11th-place 200 medley relay and also part of the 14th-place 400 free relay.

“Great swimmer and racer,” coach Brian McNeff said. “When we needed a big swim, she was there to deliver. Very focused on what she needs to do in order to succeed.”

Sarah Lohman
Northville

The senior capped off her career with an all-state swim in the 100 breaststroke with an eighth-place finish (1:06.69). She was also part of the 200 medley relay (11th). Lohman was also a captain.

“She has been a big part of the team for four years,” McNeff said. “She has a great attitude at practice, always kept things light and fun.”

Kelsey Macaddino
Northville

The freshman claimed 13th in the 100 fly as well as being a part of all three relays to score at the state meet.

“Kelsey was a huge part of the team,”

McNeff said. “She was a great competitor and always stepped it up when we needed her. She is a very hard worker and will have a lot of success in the future.”

Alissa Moore
Northville

The sophomore finished 11th in the 500 free, 15th in the 200 free and was part of two scoring relays at states.

“Alissa is one of the toughest swimmers on the team,” McNeff said. “She has a winner’s mentality and is always putting her best effort toward everything we do.”

Nicki Pumper
Northville

The freshman was part of three scoring events at states. Pumper finished 16th in the 100 backstroke and was part of two scoring relays.

“Nicki is an extremely hard worker, she does whatever is asked in practice and puts in her best effort, no matter what,” McNeff said. “We relied on her a lot to score us points this year.”

Deirdre Gerke
South Lyon

The senior was part of all three all-state relay teams. She also claimed the Kensington Conference title in the 100 free and was on the conference champion 400 free relay.

“Dee was a very hard worker for us this year,” Burch said. “She had a shoulder injury that kept her from complete participation last year, so it was great to see her healed and ready to go this year. She made huge strides and was a key leader for us. She showed her commitment to the team by swimming in three relays at the state meet for the third straight year for us.”

Stormy Malarik
South Lyon

The senior earned all-state in the 50 free (seventh place) and as part of all three relays. Malarik was also part of the Kensington Conference champion 400 free relay.

“Stormy has always been a good swimmer, but she really came into her own this year,” Burch said. “She made huge strides and made her state qualifying time earlier than she ever has before. This was very important because it allowed her to concentrate on the state meet, which allowed her to finish very high. She also showed her commitment to the team by being willing to sacrifice an individual event for the good of the team by



South Lyon’s Chanel Bonin is the 2013 All-Area Swim and Dive Athlete of the Year. JIM BOYLES

swimming in three relays at the state meet.”

Meg Darrow
South Lyon

The senior capped a strong season with her first trip to the state meet and left with a pair of all-state swims as part of the medley relay and 200 free relay (both fifth place).

“This was Meg’s first year at the state meet, but she showed the experience of a senior in swimming her best times of the season in helping us to great relay performances,” Burch said. “Without Meg’s improvement, this season we would not have finished fourth in the state because our relays would not have finished in the top five.”

Carolyn Bischoff
South Lyon

The freshman proved she will be a force in the future with a ninth-place finish in the 50 free, a pair of all-state relay efforts and a 13th-place finish in the 100 free. She was the conference champ in the 50 free and as part of the 400 free relay.

“Carolyn had one of the best freshman performances in the history of our program,” Burch said. “Her improvement was critical to our success this year. She set two freshman records and scored in four events at the state meet, which is a great performance for a freshman. I expect her to be one of the lead-

ers of our team in years to come.”

Heidi Surdyk
South Lyon

The junior just missed all-state honors with a ninth-place finish in diving.

“Heidi was one of our most improved divers this year,” Burch said. “She did not make the first cut at the regional meet last year and this year not only made the first cut, but was conference runner-up, made the state meet and made all of the cuts at the state championship meet in route to her ninth-place performance. Heidi is one of the hardest workers we have on our team and that hard work has led to great success for her.”

Autumn Smith
South Lyon

The senior capped her career with a 12th-place finish in diving at the state finals.

“Autumn was one of our captains this year and she led a very deep 11-member diving team,” Burch said. “Not only did she perform well and score at the state meet for the second straight year, she also led many other divers to impressive performances throughout the year. We needed her leadership to set the tone on the diving team.”

Jaymie Ziegler
Novi

The senior diver claimed 14th at the Division 1 finals.

“Jaymie was Novi’s No. 1 diver all season,” coach Annette Vander-Mey said.

Sophie Beck
Milford

The freshman diver earned Milford a point at the state finals with a 16th-place finish.

“Sophie had an outstanding freshman year and we are excited to see what the next three years will bring,” coach Kristen Goodrich said.

Second team
Lauren Jarzembowski
Northville

The senior qualified for states in the 100 breaststroke and helped the 200 free relay claim 13th. She finished sixth at the conference meet in the 200 IM.

Andrea Meister
Northville

The senior diver finished her Northville career with a conference title and six school records.

Jessica Yan
Northville

The junior qualified for states in the 500 free as well as finishing ninth at the conference meet in the 100 breaststroke.

Gillian Zayan
Northville

The freshman was part of the 200 free relay that finished 13th at states.

Milford 200 free relay

The squad of sophomore Brenna Grass, senior Annabel Spencer, freshman Lynn Hancsak and sophomore Allie Crouse qualified for the state finals.

Meggan Lakkides
Milford

The junior diver just missed scoring at the state finals with a 17th-place finish.

Emily Mayoras
Novi

The freshman qualified for states in four events, including the 100 back and 50 free.

Alexandra Cortez
Novi

The sophomore free-styler qualified for states in two events.

Dana Kilponen
Novi

The sophomore sprinter qualified for states in two events.

Lauren Kim
Novi

The sophomore showed versatility as Novi’s No. 1 breastroker and flyer. She qualified for states in two events.

Melanie Dunnuck
South Lyon

The freshman qualified for states in two events.

Emma Bauer
South Lyon

The junior diver reached the state meet and finished 25th.

Anna Geyer
South Lyon

The sophomore just missed the state cut in the 100 backstroke with a time that would’ve qualified in all previous seasons.

Editor’s note: Lakeland did not return any information.

Hockey team suffers tough shutout defeat to Spartans

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Northville hockey team’s high-octane presence on the ice was nullified last week when it took on Livonia Stevenson in a KLAA Central Division contest.

There were lots of lessons to be learned in the 5-0 loss the Mustangs suffered.

First and foremost was the danger in letting a team as talented as the Spartans fire off 48 shots on goal.

Despite some outstanding play by Jeremy Onofrio between the posts, the odds were stacked against him as he let five pucks slip past him in the loss.

Livonia Stevenson’s goalie, Andrew Rozen-

ON TAP

Northville will be back on the ice at 6 p.m. Jan. 3 when it visits Livonia Churchill.

baum, faced just 20 shots on goal and stopped each.

Another lesson was 11 penalties that earned 22 minutes in the box don’t add up to a strong chance at picking up a win.

Stevenson, on the other hand, had zero penalties throughout the game.

The Spartans came right away with intense offensive pressure, scoring with 16:36 on the clock in the first period to take a 1-0 lead off the stick of Dominic Lutz.

They extended that lead with just two minutes left in the first as Tyler Irvine put in a goal

on a power play to make it a 2-0 game.

In the second, the Spartans scored off a shot by Alex DeFlorio just minutes into the period and again with just a few minutes remaining in the period off a shot by Irvine.

Michael Sinclair added the final score with just four minutes left in the game, tallying a goal on a power play.

Earning assists for Stevenson were Cole Christie (two), Lutz (two), Irvine (two), Devin Kelly, Jon McDonald and Andrew Nowak.

Northville fell to 6-2-1 with the loss.

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The ZBA will consider a variance request to Chapter 145, Sign Ordinance, for a business located at 39950 Five Mile Road (wall sign). Written comments regarding this request will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals

Publish: December 26, 2013

LO-000172367 3x2

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PETER BASSO ASSOCIATES, INC
Northville High School PBA Project No. 2013.0343.00
Chiller Replacement Issued for Bids
December 18, 2013

SECTION- 00010 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: Northville Public Schools - Northville High School Chiller Replacement

Owner: Northville Public Schools

Scope of Proposals: Sealed proposals from Prime Mechanical Contractors for the construction of all Trades Construction Work are requested.

Due Date and Place: A Walk-through will take place at **9:00 AM., on January 3, 2014** at Northville High School. All contractor or subcontractor representatives shall meet at the Front Reception Desk. The purpose of the walk-through is to clarify the procedures, scope of work, and to identify any omissions or inconsistencies in Bidding Documents which may impede preparation and submission of representative competitive bids. Meet at the Boiler Room.

Attendance by Representatives(s) of bidders of record is mandatory.

Any contractor who missed previous walk-through must contact Bob Roop by **10:00 AM, on January 6, 2014** to arrange a time to visit project site on **January 7, 2013**. Contact Bob Roop at the following phone number (248) 879-5666 or email rroop@pbanet.com.

All contractors have until **3:00 P.M on January 7, 2013** to submit a Request For Information (RFI). All RFI’s shall be directed to Bob Roop.

All modifications, corrections, or clarifications prior to receipt of the proposal will be made by an Addendum issued by the Owner to all bidders of record.

Sealed proposals shall be received until **10:00 AM on January 10, 2014** at:

ATIN Michael Zopf, Administration Building
Northville Public Schools
501 West Main Street
Northville, MI 48167

At which time all bids will be opened and read out loud.

Post Bid interviews will be conducted beginning at **11:00 AM, on January 10, 2014**. Contractors shall make provisions for attendance as a condition of submission of their Bid.

All proposals submitted shall remain firm for a period of 45 days after the date specified for receipt of proposals.

Bid Documents: Copies of the proposed Contract Documents may be obtained from: Northville Public Schools, under the Business Office, Bid Information Tab: <http://northville.k12.mi.us>

PlanWell via <http://www.e-arc.com/> (formerly dunnblue), Phone: (248) 288-5600

Bid4Michigan via <http://bid4michigan.com>

Rejection: Proposals not received by the time and date specified in this notice, will be returned to the Bidder unopened. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and/or informalities and to make award in any manner deemed for the best interest of the School District.

Assurance: Assurance of Compliance with Federal and Michigan State Fair Employment Practices Acts: The Bidder and any of his subcontractors will agree not to discriminate against any employee of applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of the contract, with respect to his hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age or sex.

END OF SECTION 00010

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

00010-1

Publish: December 26, 2013, January 2, 2014

LO-000172464 3x11

What you should know concerning taxes and inheritance

Q: Dear Rick: I just received an inheritance of a number of different things and I wanted to know what my tax responsibilities were. I inherited traditional IRA, U.S. Savings Bonds, a house and a variety of stocks. I cashed out the IRA and the U.S. Savings Bonds. I plan to hold on to the stocks and sell the house. Can you tell me what my tax liabilities are?

A: In reviewing your situation there are a variety of tax consequences. The first deals with the IRA. Since this



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

was a traditional IRA and since you cashed it out, the entire amount of the proceeds is taxed as ordinary income. It doesn't matter what the decedent contributed to the IRA. The bottom line is the entire amount of that IRA is taxed to you this year.

With regard to your U.S. Savings Bonds, you will be taxed this year on the interest that was

paid on the bonds. U. S Savings bonds grow tax deferred and the only tax consequences are when they are cashed out. Your 2013 tax return should report the interest you received as taxable income. The original purchase price of the bond is not taxed.

As to the house - just because you inherited it does not cause any tax consequences. The only tax consequence would be upon the sale. In that regard, when you inherited the property you received what is known as a stepped-up basis on the property. That is the

fair market value of the home as of the date of death. That is your cost basis for tax purposes. For example, if the deceased paid \$50,000 for the home and after his death the house was worth \$150,000 and eventually you sell it for \$151,000, the only tax liability would be the \$1,000.

With regard to the stocks, they're taxed the same way as the house. There are no tax consequences upon receiving the stock and your new basis is, once again, the fair market value on the date of death.

When you eventually sell the stock that is when your tax liability would accrue.

When it comes to inheritances, the general rule is there are no tax consequences when you inherit property. Typically, any estate taxes that would be owed are owed by the estate itself. For cost basis purposes we generally inherit property at the fair market value upon death. The exception to the rule is for tax deferred accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s, annuities and U.S. Savings Bonds. When you inherit these

items there are different tax consequences.

One last note regarding inheritances and this is on the IRA. If you did not cash out the IRA there would have been ways that you could have deferred your taxes. However, once you cash out the IRA taxes are due.

Good luck.

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

Novi physical therapist's license suspended

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has suspended the Michigan license to practice as a physical therapist of Jessica Ann Vigil, P.T., of Novi, after her felony conviction in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

On Aug. 1, 2013, Vigil was convicted of one felony count of health care fraud conspiracy. Vigil was sentenced to incarceration for a period of 22 months, followed by two years of supervised release with terms, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2.375 million. The conviction was based on Vigil and co-conspirators submitting physical therapy and occupational therapy claims to the Medicare program for services that were not performed.

On Dec. 11, LARA issued an order summarily suspending Vigil's license pursuant to the Public Health Code which provides for the mandatory suspension of a health professional upon the conviction of a felony.

DataFactZ donates toys for 300 children



The Northville-based DataFactZ donated new toys to Ennis Center for Children to be given to approximately 300 children during a holiday party last week. The Ennis Center is a non-profit that works with abused and neglected children in Pontiac and four other Southeastern Michigan locations. The DataFactZ staff with toys collected for Ennis Center for Children included (from left) Anil Hari, Rachel Winters, Sridhar Kodati, Venkat Gone, Rachel Shelp, Ravi Vallem, Danielle Greene, Aravind Kotagiri and Vijay Thatiparthi. "This is the second year we have supported Ennis Center for Children, and we hope the toys that the staff of DataFactZ donated will bring much happiness to the disadvantaged children in our community," said Krishna Kallakuri, vice president of DataFactZ.

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media COMMUNITY

Linda Robin, Owner of Showroom of Elegance in Canton speaks about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media



"We like to be part of the community. People read community newspapers. Observer & Eccentric Media has been successful for us. People say that they saw our ad in the paper. It's a connection between us and those in the community."

Meyer named president, CEO of health system

Northville's Jean Meyer, M.S.N., R.N., has been appointed president and chief executive officer for St. John Providence Health System, which includes Providence Park hospital in Novi.

The announcement was made Dec. 17 by Ascension Health President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer Patricia Maryland, Ph.D., and St. John Providence Health System Board Trustee Chair Jim Giordano.

Meyer has been serving as interim president and CEO since Maryland was promoted to her role within Ascension Health in June 2013.

"After a thorough, six-month executive search for a new leader, I am thrilled to announce that Jean Meyer will lead St. John Providence, the

largest Ministry in Ascension Health," said Maryland.

"As a thoughtful and dedicated leader who always views hospital operations through the eyes of a caregiver, it was clear that Jean was the right choice for St. John Providence. I have personally known and worked along side Jean for more than 10 years and I respect her drive, determination and compassion."

Meyer has held several executive leadership position roles since joining St. John Providence in 2008, including senior vice president and chief nursing officer, Providence Park Hospital



Meyer

president and president of Acute Care Operations for the health system. Prior to joining St. John Providence, she held a variety of leadership roles, including with St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis for 15 years. Meyer began in career in health care as an oncology nurse.

"Jean is forward-thinking and creative, and most importantly, she has continuously demonstrated that she is ready to lead St. John Providence in this time of

Meyer earned a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing from Loyola University of Chicago, and has a bachelor's degree in public health from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse.

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

There Are Reasons Mazda3 May Be North America’s ‘Car of the Year’



The new 2014 Mazda3 is so hot that it was named one of the three finalists in the hallowed North American Car of the Year competition for the award in January, and Mazda dealers around the United States can’t keep the car in stock.

Thus, looking just at sales figures for the new Mazda3 introduced earlier this year, it’s possible to misperceive a disappointment. Mazda3 sales were down by more than 21 percent in November compared with those of the previous model in November 2012, and they’re down nearly 14 percent for the year to just over 113,000 units.

Meanwhile, sales of the also-hot new Mazda6 compact sedan -- while only one-third the volume of the bread-and-butter Mazda3 -- have surged out of the gate, more than doubling in November compared with a year ago and up 22 percent for the first 11 months of the year.

The difference is that Mazda6 is in relatively full supply while Mazda is battling an especially acute shortage of the new Mazda3 even though it’s

been months since the car’s launch. “Mazda continues to battle inventory shortages on most carlines,” the company said in its November sales release. The all-new 2014 Mazda3 “is hardest-hit by inventory challenges, but the spring 2014 opening of the company’s new manufacturing plant in Salamanca, Mexico, will support increased demand for the model in the United States.”

In the meantime, buyers fortunate enough to get a new Mazda3 are in for a treat. The previous version was a great car, responsive and nimble and stylish and roomy enough for a small car. But the new generation beats it by significant degrees in important areas such as fresh styling, more powerful and fuel-efficient engines, a new electronics interface and available segment-first safety features.

Competition in the U.S. small-car market has been intense and getting more so, but the new Mazda3 is proving worthy of the challenge -- as testified by the selection of the car as a finalist in the car-of-the-year competition along with some pretty impressive company in the form of the Cadillac CTS and the new Chevrolet Corvette Stingray. The distinction was given Mazda3 by a panel of North American automotive journalists, who also have named three finalists for a Truck / Utility of the Year Award and will announce winners in

both segments at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit next month.

What the award jurors liked was that the full-scale redesign of Mazda3, on sale since September, offers a great balance of attributes for American drivers that are seeking today’s requisite great fuel economy in a fun-to-drive vehicle that goes easy on the pocketbook of today’s financially challenged generation of Millennials.

The new car is available both as a four-door sedan and a “five-door” hatchback, which is about five inches shorter than the sedan. Otherwise the two cars are the same. Models with the 2-liter engine are designated “I” and those with the optional 2.5-liter engine are “s.”

Versions include a 2-liter Grand Touring sedan with a six-speed manual transmission whose list price is about \$24,000, a Grand Touring sedan with a six-speed automatic transmission listing for about \$25,000 and a 2.5-liter Grand Touring hatchback whose list price is more than \$29,000.

I recently drove the manual hatchback and loved the fact that the new Mazda3 upholds the tradition of previous cars with a slippery and smooth transmission that enhances the torque and the overall feel of driving a stick shift and provides the fun that the owner of such a car will require even though the sticker is about \$1,000 less than for an automatic.

The clutch was forgiving, and pedal

positioning is far enough from the steering wheel yet allows you to hit the floor with the clutch pedal when you’re shifting.

Mazda said that about 12 percent to 15 percent of 2-liter Mazda3 buyers will choose the manual, and 15 to 20 percent of 2.5-liter buyers will opt for a stick shift. On other brands, those figures are just 3 to 7 percent. That tells you what American car buyers think of the quality of the manual-transmission driving experience in a Mazda: It’s not like they’re paying bottom dollar just to squeeze into any econobox. The manual transmission is a conscious choice by most buyers with the resources to afford an automatic as well.

Base price of the new Mazda3 starts at nearly \$18,000. The sedan is about one inch bigger all around than the Honda Civic sedan. Its mileage for the 2-liter engine is 33 or 34 mpg in combined city/highway driving, which is plenty competitive in an environment where most small-car buyers are looking for models that at least sneak over the 30-mpg mark.

Fun features on the Grand Touring model I drove included halogen headlights, a body-color rear-roof spoiler, and 16-inch alloy wheels. Yet the car includes as standard equipment blind-spot monitoring, rear-cross-traffic alerts and a rearview camera.

A nice little package. And maybe the Car of the Year.

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1 "No" roller
5 Lhasa (siral dog)
9 Obscured
12 Cuitail
19 Sports soe
20 Rice and Cuny
21 Trick-taking card, often
22 Pant
23 "To Kill a Mockingbird" novelist
25 Wisdom n, with "the"
27 Of the acrota, for example
28 San Fran NFLer
29 A lernative to a Holh IFA
30 Animal hoops d'awing
33 Sock damages, pornap
35 Unit of force
36 Poker great Ungar
37 Captivates
41 Internet top-ups, e.g.
43 I junched side-to-side
52 It's creathed
53 One crying "Out": Abbr.

DOWN

1 Within reach
2 Within reach
3 Kill material
4 Hinder

5 Central courtyards
6 Rice
7 Silvery fish
8 Suga's suffix
9 Regular visitor
10 Quiter's cry
11 Actress
12 Live
13 Jurist
14 Sutor's gift
15 "Keep — yourself!"
16 Seems to ast forever
17 Injured oneself
18 Summer, la Santa
24 Go wrong
26 Vul's nose
28 Tube's love's punishment
31 Narc's find
32 "Assuredly"
34 Lion
38 Plankton of Springfield
39 "— brother's copper?"
40 For make, for short
41 Public prosperity
42 "The noise of them that rejoice —": Isaiah 24:8

43 " Mir Dist Dr Sch'n"
44 Adj. moo fier
45 Cool in piece
46 Suits
47 gancr
48 D lat's equivalent
49 B g name in antant
50 Red gama
51 Dies away
55 Betting slip
56 Catch on d
57 Lawn growll
58 Karel Capak sci-fi play
60 Composer Kabalevsky
61 Cranston a.k.a. "the Snake"
62 Microscopic
65 Part of the Greater Toronto Area
70 Bird of myth
71 S elian tribe
72 Give the title
73 Eggs in labs
74 Guinness of "Cromwell"
76 Fish bait
79 "Terrible"
81 Frog's kin
83 Angling poe
84 Hack (crt)
85 Insult, in rap

86 Foldout: bod
88 "Nanna"
91 Sinalo vow
92 Emmy-winning Jane
93 Fitness guru Jack
94 "Thwack"
95 Gave a blue ribbon, say
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97 Ka'rai, e.g.: Abbr.
100 Fez dangle
101 Melodious passage
102 Thin cwr
103 First U.S. space station
106 Part of many Arabic names
107 Political plot
108 Singer's guitar st John
109 President Martin Van
110 "What's in —?"
111 Real imp
112 Scots' "no"
114 Signals "OK"
115 Frizzy hairdo
116 Russian autocrat
119 Slick 50 rival
120 Sln finish?
121 Sis' sibling

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By Robert Half

Whether you're about to start a new job search, or you're a passive job seeker who likes to keep tabs on potential opportunities, a recruiter can be a valuable ally.

Recruiters can enhance your job search by helping you broaden your network, providing job leads you wouldn't otherwise hear about and offering background on prospective employers. In addition, recruiters are an excellent source of career guidance and information. They can offer interview tips, salary data, résumé advice and other suggestions to help you improve your marketability. And once an employer makes an offer, the recruiter becomes a valuable go-between in helping you and the prospective employer reach a mutually satisfying agreement.

But getting noticed by a recruiter for the right reasons is key. Regardless of the type of relationship you're looking to forge with a recruiter, here are some guidelines that will earn you a place on a recruiter's go-to list:

Work with a specialist.

A specialized recruitment company boasts more industry-specific opportunities and contacts than a generalist company. As a result, a specialist company is more likely to excel at helping you accurately assess your marketability and identify openings that are a good match for your skills and preferences.

Trust the recruiter.

The time to thoroughly vet your recruiter is before you engage with him. Take your time screening potential recruiters, checking out their reputation and talking through any questions or concerns you might have about how you'll work together.

Once you agree to let someone act as your advocate, step back and trust the person to do so without undue second-

How to get noticed by recruiters



guessing. Remember that recruiters have a vested interest in ensuring an all-around good fit, so have faith in their ability and desire to help you find the right situation and reach a satisfying agreement.

Honesty is always the best policy.

Recruiters are busy and appreciate candor. If you're unlikely to consider a job change, say so. Don't string the recruiter along just to hear what's going on in the job market.

On the other hand, if you're actively working with a recruiter, make sure the person has all the necessary information to represent you properly. This includes being honest about what you're looking

for in a new job and your salary expectations.

Also, if you're trying to set up a job interview on your own through your contacts, mention this. It would be embarrassing for the recruiter to recommend you for a job that you're already pursuing.

Be helpful.

If a recruiter unexpectedly contacts you about an opportunity that you're not interested

in, consider whether you know someone else who might be. Recruiters love to be referred to good prospects, and the fact that they can say, "Joe Smith said I should get in touch with you" helps break down barriers to new candidates. Furthermore, you never know when something could change with your employment situation. By being polite and helpful, you'll be in a position to enlist the recruiter's help, should you need it in the future.

Spare them the extras.

Recruiters appreciate job seekers who are respectful of their time and needs. They know exactly what they're looking for in candidates and how to assess a possible fit with a role, so let them ask questions and answer them concisely.

They don't need to hear your life history.

In addition, don't tell them to check out your professional networking profiles, instead of offering a formal résumé. And don't try to friend them on more social-oriented sites such as Facebook. They need to learn about your skills and accomplishments, not your favorite bands or movies.

Stay engaged.

Keep in mind that finding the right position doesn't always happen right away. That's why it's essential you remain an active participant in your job search.

Back up the recruiter's efforts by reviewing notifications of new openings from the recruitment firm. You might see a position that interests you that your recruiter has not yet considered. By staying informed about the job market and checking in regularly with your recruiter, you'll demonstrate that you're committed to working together to reach a good outcome.

Although staying in touch is important, especially returning emails and phone calls promptly don't call or email the individual every day. There's a difference between being proactive and being a pest.

Recruiters love an easy sell, and who can blame them?

Candidates who do all the right things make the recruiter's job much easier. By observing some of these fundamental rules of interaction, you're more likely to land at the top of a recruiter's dream list.

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Job 19033

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