BOY SUFFERS INJURIES RESCUING HIS DOG LOCAL NEWS, A3

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 • hometownlife.com

Meet the Sullivans

Husband and wife serve as city managers for Northville, Huntington Woods

By Jay Grossman Staff Writer

Northville City Manager Patrick Sullivan never has to look very far when he wants a little advice about the job.

He can usually find it across the dinner table. His wife, Amy Sullivan, is the city manager of Huntington Woods. While there's no official

record keeping on the topic, it's probably safe to say they're the only married couple in Michigan that's managing two towns.

that's managing two towns. "It's nice to bounce ideas off each other," Pat Sullivan said. "Unlike the private sector where they have trade secrets, there are no secrets among managers. If someone has a good idea, it's beneficial that we copy that idea and provide it to our residents. It's built-in networking."

Pat Sullivan, 51, has served as the Northville manager for eight years. Amy Sullivan, 55, is currently the Franklin Village manager. She starts a new position on Feb. 18 as the Huntington Woods city manager.

"I've been extremely happy in Franklin, but when the opportunity arose in Huntington Woods, I just couldn't pass it up," she said. "First and fore-



Patrick and Amy Sullivan enjoy the sights along the St. Clair River.

most, it's a great community and these positions don't come up often. Alex Allie (the retiring supervisor) has been there 24 years, so it's a rare opportunity."

The two met at a manager's conference in Grand Rapids in 1990. She was the Sylvan Lake manager at the time and he was the village manager of New Haven. It didn't take long for merger talks to begin.

"He came late to one of the sessions and sat next to me ... and that was that," Amy Sullivan said with a smile. "I think it's been a real benefit to our relationship: we have the same back-

See SULLIVANS, Page A3

appetizer to share, bread basket, soup or salad for two, entrees and one dessert to share. Joe & Aldo's offers authentic, made-

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Patirad Northvilla Township natral officar Larny Domator talks about his nearly three decades on t

Water rates dropping for city while increasing for township

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

As far as Detroit water is concerned, in the coming year the City of Northville will see a decrease in its costs and Northville Township will see an increase.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has proposed new charges to the individual communities who buy water from it.

In July, the water rate from Detroit for Northville city will go down nearly 14 percent, but the township will go up 65 per

force, which included a stint as the department's D.A.R.E. officer. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Longtime police officer retires, but leaves his mark

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PRICE: \$1

By Kurt Kuban Staff Writer

Call it Plymouth's loss and Northville's gain. Of course back in 1985 when Plymouth laid off a young police officer by the name of Larry Demeter, nobody realized he would turn out to be such an outstanding officer, who colleagues say touched many lives during his 28-year career with the Northville Township Police Department. "I spent nine months with Plymouth before

"I spent nine months with Plymouth before they were forced to make some cuts. But I got hired here the same day I got laid off in Plymouth. So I would say it worked out pretty good for me," said Demeter, who retired at the end of 2013. His last official day on the job was Dec. 30.

In the nearly three decades in between, Demeter served as a patrol officer, including a 10-year stint working in the schools as the department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer.

Much has changed in Northville Township since Demeter was sworn in as a police officer. He has watched corn fields replaced by shopping malls and subdivisions, and the department grow from 12 officers when he started to about 30 now.

See RETIRE, Page A2



In this file photo, Amelia Albanelli, 4, greets Northville Township police officer Ken Evans (right) and Northville Township police officer Larry Demeter after her graduation from the Safety Town program run by the Northville Parks and Recreation. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

cent.

In comparison, the cities of Novi and Plymouth will go up 6.85 and 5.27, respectively, and Plymouth Township will go down 8.3 percent.

For Northville City Public Works director Jim Gallogly this isn't much of a surprise as the rate is balanced for them, but for township public services director Tom Casari it's a new reality they have to deal with.

reality they have to deal with. "We did expect a decrease this year," Gallogly said. "Last year our rates went up approximately 23 percent and this was because we were exceeding our peak flows. In other words our residents were using too much water (watering their lawns during peak times of the day, morning and evening)."

The city's current rate is \$5.60 per 1,000 gallons.

Northville Township also works to keep its peak flow down, but factors like elevation and distance from the source as well as being predominately a "bedroom" community that likes to water its lawns makes it a challenge to get the rate down.

In addition, in the recent past the township overestimated how much it would buy from Detroit. This may have Detroit enacting its revenue requirement agreement and wanting more money back.

"We're not happy with this development, but it's based on a formula that we respect and accept," said Casari. The city countered the past

The city countered the past increase and righted the ship by doing four things to reduce its peak flows.

See WATER, Page A2



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"I can say without a

doubt, those kids had a

big impact on my life,'

As for retirement, Demeter, who lives in

said he's not quite ready

to ride off into the sunset

front of the TV. He hopes

to find some kind of job

"I think I've got a

couple more miles in me,

but I'm not sure what I'm going to do," he said.

miss most about the job -

his work family. And he

This has been 28

years of not working as

far as I'm concerned. I

always enjoyed coming

to work every day, and

I'm going to miss it," he

kkuban@hometownlife.com

possible that the city's

down with the new bud-

get, but they're not far

enough along with the

this will be the case.

utility expenditures

ahead of us, and with

talks going on about a

serves to help us with

water rate hikes in the

lhuhman@hometownlife.com

years ahead," he said.

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wish to build our re-

water authority, we may

budget process to tell if

"We have some large

water rate could go

said

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will miss the job itself.

no doubt what he will

Demeter said there is

Northville Township,

or take a permanent

place on a recliner in

to fill his time.

from school.

he said.

RETIRE

Continued from Page A1

"The day I started the Meijer store opened on Haggerty and Eight Mile," said Demeter. "The prison (Scott Correctional Facility) hadn't even been built yet. And now it's been torn down.

"The department was a lot smaller then, too. And the job has changed a bit because of the changes in the community," he added.

Demeter, 59, grew up in Dearborn Heights and never really saw himself becoming a police officer when he was younger. He kind of fell into it when a friend of his enrolled in the criminal justice program at Schoolcraft College. At the time he was working in a warehouse, and was getting tired of the job. So he enrolled himself, and, as they say, the rest is history.

When he began is career, Demeter worked traffic patrols and spent a lot of time with his partner John Werth, who was hired a couple months before Demeter and who is now the township's public safety director. Werth remembers those days fondly, and says working with Demeter was a great experience.

"We worked the road together, chasing the bad guys. We found ourselves in some tough situations in those years, but I could always count on Larry," said Werth.

ORTHVILLE <u>RECORD</u>

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A GANNETT COMPANY

"He never let me down, and always had my back."

Werth said Demeter was well respected by his peers and for several years was the department's most productive officer, meaning he made the most arrests and wrote the most tickets.

"He was out there working the road and keeping the community safe," Werth said. "Larry was a guy people didn't mess with. He was just a tough guy. If you did something wrong, he would put you in jail."

Township Clerk Sue Hillebrand remembers that's how township employees also saw him when he served a stint working in township hall. It didn't take long, however, for the two to form a friendship.

"When I first took office everyone was afraid of Larry. He was that tough guy at the front desk at old town-

WATER

Continued from Page A1

It approved mandatory outdoor watering restrictions prohibiting people from watering during peak times, purchased a new high-tech valve in its pump house, purchased and installed new water controls and increased monitoring of the city's water flows to decrease any chance of using too much water during peak flows.

"In October we met with DWSD and demon-

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Friday. Archives open

Thursday and Friday, 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. Village

Field.

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"I think I've got a couple more miles in me, but I'm not sure what I'm going to do." LARRY DEMETER

ship hall," she said. "Which is OK, because you want your police officers to be tough. But over the years I realized he had a heart of gold."

When Werth was promoted to chief, he assigned Demeter to become the department's D.A.R.E. officer - a decision some questioned because they wondered how such a tough cop would get along with children in the schools. As it turned out, he fit perfectly, serving in the position for 10 years, working at the high school, Meads Mill Middle School and the elementary schools within the township.

strated that with the

above changes we were

able to reduce our flows

and keep them down all

summer long," Gallogly

which we believe we can

continue to maintain, and

Gallogly said when

said. "We negotiated a

new lower peak flow,

thus we were able to

reduce our water rate.

the city received its 23

percent increase from

Detroit last year the city

did not raise its rates 23

percent. Instead it went

up only 7.1 percent with

would receive a reduc-

expectations that it

tion this year.

"I loved it. It was the best thing I ever did as a police officer," Demeter said. "I really liked the school atmosphere. You can't deal with fifth and sixth grade kids all day and have a bad day. They are so much fun to be around. You go into a lunchroom and have 120 kids swarm all over you, how can you not enjoy yourself?"

Demeter says he hopes he made an impact on all those kids over the years. He always gets a kick out of when people come up to him, whether he is a store or just out in public somewhere, and say hello and tell him they remember him

"I say this, only because a 14 percent reduction from DWSD is good for Northville and the city's utility fund, but it does not mean that residents will see a 14 percent decrease in Northville's water rate," he said.

Casari said the township's current individual user rate, issued to residents, of \$5.19 per 1,000 gallons will probably go up a "couple of pennies" to \$5.21.

"We want it to be less, but this is the reality," he said.

Gallogly did say it's

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Friday: 9 a.m. Archives open Saturday: 2:45-4:45

p.m. wedding* Monday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Handa All Around Quilt Gang; 11 a.m. Country Garden Club; 6 p.m. Girl Scouts #737

Wednesday: 9 a.m. Mill Race Basket Guild; 1 p.m. AAUW Bridge Group; 6:45 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation Group



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SULLIVANS

Continued from Page A1

ground, we've gone through similar experiences and we deal with a lot of the same issues."

The couple lives in Northville with their three children, ages 16-21. The two are happy in their careers and want to stay in this area for a long time.

"When I was interviewing in Huntington Woods, I told the council they were getting a "twofer" if they hired me because of my husband," Amy Sullivan said. "It always seems when one of us is dealing with a challenging situation, the other has some insight."

Serving the people

Pat Sullivan grew up on a farm in Richmond, and likes Northville in part because it has that same small-town charm. Amy Sullivan grew up in Royal Oak. She had been with Franklin Village for three years before she decided to take a step up the career ladder.

Huntington Woods is around 1.5 square miles with a population of around 6,200 residents. It's approximately half the size of Franklin Village, but double the population, meaning there will be more responsibilities.

"It's just a natural step for me to move to a community where there's going to be more challenges," she said.

The two try to have lunch every Tuesday where they'll typically talk about work and the issues of the day. Pat Sullivan said the weekly lunch date gives them a nice opportunity to bounce ideas off each other.

"I'm sure there are times when she doesn't want to hear about my issues, or I'm trying to forget about work," he said. "But I also realize how important it is when another manager has an issue. We help each other out – that's how our industry works." At home, the con-

versation tends to focus on a different topic: their family.

"When we're together as a family, nobody is really interested in grants or snow removal problems," Amy Sullivan said. "We try to keep it more focused on the kids – they actually lead more interesting lives than we do."

Low profiles

Most communities operate under a city manager form of government, in which an elected board hires an administrator to oversee the various department heads. In Oakland County, for example, only two communities (Pontiac and Rochester Hills) have strong mayor form of governments. The rest are run by an appointed administrator.

"A lot of people don't understand what city managers do," Pat Sullivan said. "We tend to keep a low profile – but mostly, we make sure the trash gets picked up and all the other services are being met. In that sense, it's very nice to be married to someone who knows exactly what you're going through."

What if Northville and Huntington Woods ever became politically polarized over some regional issue? Would that not put a strain on the Sullivan household?

Hardly. "I cannot think of an issue where something like that might happen," Amy Sullivan said. "But we both recognize we serve the council – it's the council's directives and initiatives we're carrying out. If the Northville council feels one way, and the Huntington Woods council feels a different way, it's our job to carry it out."

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Boy suffers injuries to rescue his dog during attack

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

In a brave, life-saving decision, a Northville boy rescued his little dog from the jaws of a bigger dog that left both with stitches.

On the afternoon of Jan. 3, 10-year-old Adam Harp came home from school and decided to take the family's little Morky (Maltese/Yorkshire terrier mix) dog Truman on a walk around the neighborhood.

He later told his father that about three quarters of the way into the planned walk, a much larger dog in the neighborhood escaped and attacked Truman. Adam said the large black lab had a hold of Truman by his neck, lifted him off the ground and was shaking him violently.

"Adam selflessly used his hands to pry the jaws of the attacking dog off Truman's neck," Adam's father Jeff Harp said. "Truman dropped listlessly and lifeless to the ground while bleeding excessively. Instinctively, the attacking dog's jaws clenched on Adam's hands – giving him some significant injuries."

Later, Adam had to get three stitches in his hand.

"Once free from the attacker and without a single thought about his own injuries, Adam picked up Truman gently and sprinted two neighborhood blocks house-tohouse looking for help as my wife and I were not home yet from work," his father said.

A neighbor let them in and helped comfort Truman and Adamnkets.

"My wife, enroute home, received the call from the neighbor and immediately escorted Truman to an emergency



Adam Harp, 10, holds his injured dog Truman on Jan. 21. Harp rescued the small dog from the jaws of a Labrador retriever who had attacked Truman and had his neck in its jaws. Harp pried his dog from the attacker, but in doing so was bitten himself (see bandages on his right hand). JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

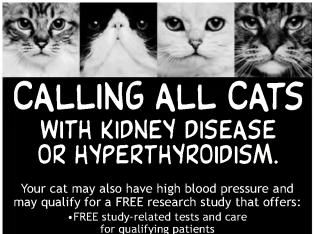
vet clinic and Adam to the emergency room at Providence to treat his wounds," Jeff said.

Truman spent 24 hours in "intensive care" fighting for his life but is now expected to have a full recovery from the wounds.

Adam received stitches to his right hand and a splint. After seeing a hand specialist, he is expected to make a full recovery of his own.

His father did say Adam suffered some severe emotional trauma, but was relieved when he heard the good news that Truman was going to live a normal life eventually. The family didn't report the incident to police, saying it was an unfortunate situation.

"I'm just relieved that Truman is OK," Adam said of his brave rescue.



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Tickets (\$5 each) for the Movies at the Marquis are limited and may be purchased at the Marquis Theatre the night of each individual movie. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on Movies at the Marquis, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.









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Students bond through dance

NHS Dance Company excited to take stage

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

When ninth-grader Macy Afsari started at Northville High School, she had some ready-made friends.

Afsari, 14, daughter of Sue and Alex of Novi's "No-ville" area, is a member of the school's Varsity Dance Company

She also dances with Center Stage Dance Company, with girls in the NHS company also required to dance at a studio.

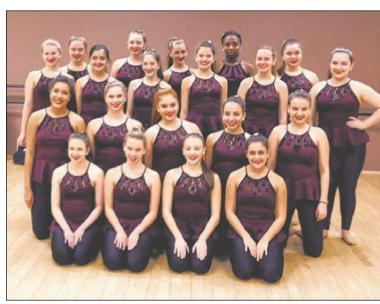
'It's a huge school," the teen said. "It made going to the huge new school a lot easier. Some of them are my best friends. We spend a lot of time together and it's really fun."

The NHS Dance Company has 20 members in grades 9-12. Lauren Agnello, a team captain, is Macy Afsari's "Big Sister" in the group.

"Every new dancer gets a Big Sister that's a returning dancer," Afsari said. She's enjoying her first year with the school club, for which girls receive a letter.

'Everything is really highenergy," the teen said. "I'm really excited about it."

After one full year, she added, she'll be able to choreo-



The Varsity Dance Company members look forward to their 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, annual performance at Northville High School.

graph for the Dance Company, and hopes to be a dance instructor when she's older.

'My favorite is probably jazz or a little hip-hop, contemporary jazz," she said. "I really liked dancing at my studio but I wanted to get more into dancing.

"It's just a great group of girls," Afsari added. "It's made my high school experience 10 times better than I could have imagined.

Senior Lauren Agnello, 17, also a No-ville resident, is the daughter of James and Kelly

Agnello. She dances with Gayle's DancePhase, and has been in the NHS Dance Company all four years of high school.

"The thing that I enjoy probably the most is the opportunity to create choreography," Agnello said. "It's a leadership opportunity.'

Agnello would like to teach dance down the road, but not be in a ballet company. "My favorite style of dance is probably contemporary," she said. "Just that you're able to be yourself when you dance. You

can put your emotions in your dance moves."

Agnello likes the Big Sister opportunity, noting juniors and seniors reach out to the younger girls. "It's a really good bonding experience for everyone," said Agnello, who's excited about the solo she and the other seniors will each have in the Feb. 9 performance at NHS.

Carly Siracusa Carlin of Canton is the artistic director for the Dance Company. She said it was formed around seven years ago to augment current NHS offerings. The school already had pom and cheerleading, Siracusa Carlin said.

"It's a performance-based company," the artistic director, a former Northville Township resident, said. "We foster student choreography.'

Siracusa Carlin was a dancer and now a choreographer.

"I actually grew up in New York City so I had a lot of dance," she said. "I came here when I was in college." She's a University of Michigan graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Girls benefit from being on a team, said Siracusa Carlin, 30. They choreograph dances, along with supporting each other.

Girls do jazz, lyrical, contemporary, pop and taps. "We have a really great group of parents," said Siracusa Čarlin, who's grateful for their support.

She said each girl typically puts in six-seven hours weekly but that varies, based partly on studio commitments. Auditions are held for the Dance Company.

"It's something that I want-ed to do," she said. "I did it as a kid in high school and it was the best experience ever. I wanted to share that with the girls."

'In the Air'

The NHS Varsity Dance Company will have its "In the Air" annual performance 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, at the high school auditorium on Six Mile.

The company also performs at the fall pep rally, Homecoming Parade, some varsity basketball games, the Northville Holiday Lighted Parade, and as guests at the NHS Dance Team Showcase.

The company's leadership team also includes: Sabrina Montemayor, a captain, and class representatives Raegan Carlstein (junior), Laura Trumbore (sophomore), and Elizabeth Turner (freshman).

Tickets for the Feb. 9 performance are \$8 and will be available at the box office that day beginning at 2:15 p.m.

It's your move

Sumin Yoo and Seth Cain go up against each other during a Jan. 22 gathering at Hillside Middle School of its weekly chess club. The club, open to all students in the school, meets every Wednesday after school in the media room. This year, it's being directed by teacher Mary Moore and parent Peggy Nitkiewcz. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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LOCAL NEWS

Businesses recognize talents of young artists

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

The Northville Gallery and Fred's Ice Cream recently teamed up to run an art contest open to elementary school kids in Northville.

It went so well, they plan on doing it again. Voting took place at Fred's (inside Northville Square) and the winners' work is now on display at the gallery through the

end of January. The winners are Emma Asher, Rachel Asher, Mehmet Tascioglu, Emir Tascioglu, Sophie James and Joseph Yokus.

The contest was open to Northville elementary students and centered around the theme of "Fun Things in Northville."

According to Northville Gallery owner Dan Ferrara, the winners were chosen by votes cast at the store.

The first place winners were very excited because not only did they win gift cards to Fred's but also \$50 in art supplies for their class and

an ice cream party for their classroom," said Ferrara.

Richard Mackie from Fred's Ice Cream said the contest worked out well.

"It was so enjoyable that another contest will be run beginning Feb. 21. The theme will be 'My Favorite Ice Cream Flavor'," Mackie said. Entry forms will be

available from the store or online.

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



Four of the six winners of the art contest from left to right are Emma Asher, Rachel Asher, Mehmet Tascioglu and Emir Tascioglu. SUBMITTED

Schoolcraft College names new building in honor of President Jeffress

By Karen Smith Staff Writer

Dr. Conway A. Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, has been so busy getting the school's new building ready for its bachelor's and master's degree partnership program with Wayne State University and the University of Toledo that he didn't have time to think about a name for it.

That's why it came as a surprise for him when the SC Board of Trustees unanimously voted Wednesday to name the new building, the former American Community Mutual Insurance building at Seven Mile and Haggerty roads, after him, calling it The Jeffress Center.

"I hadn't paid any attention to it," he said. "I was so busy getting the building ready, names were just not on my mind.

Jeffress, 70, who didn't know of the board's intentions until the agenda was suddenly changed at the beginning of the meeting, said he was thrilled: "It's just a terrific honor. I really, really was taken by that."

He said it left him temporarily speechless, a

first for him. "It's one of those lega-



create a new name and brand for the building," he said. "By the fall, that building will be bustling with students, community education classes, foundation and Schoolcraft to U activities. Naming the building now is financially prudent, something for which our honoree is known.'

Jeffress has served Schoolcraft College for more than 32 years. He became president in July 2001. Before serving as president of Schoolcraft College, Jeffress was the college's vice president of instruction and student services.

Under Jeffress' leadership, the college built and opened the VisTa-Tech Center in Septem



The Jeffress Center will house most of the operations of the Schoolcraft to U partnership.

U-T's and WSU's classes will be held there.

Other improvements covered by the bond include overhauling the college's mainframe computer, adding a parking lot and building a road around the back of campus so motorists can get from Six Mile to Seven Mile without going onto Haggerty. Schoolcraft College is a public, predominantly two-year college, offering classes at the college's main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads; the Radcliff Center in Garden City; the Public Safety Training Complex in Livonia; and www.schoolcraft.edu

cy events," he said, adding he never imagined while growing up that he would one day have a building named after him. He said he's honored the board considers worthwhile his contribution over the years to the college and the community.

The building, currently being refurbished, was purchased last year.

SC board Secretary James Fausone made the motion to name the building The Jeffress Center in honor of Schoolcraft's fourth president. "We have the opportunity to

ber 2003, remodeled of the Bradner Library in 2005, built the Biomedical Technology Center in 2008 and created of the Public Safety Training Complex in 2013.

The 110,000-squarefoot American Community Mutual Insurance building was purchased by Schoolcraft for \$3.4 million. Last May, the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees approved issuing \$18 million in bonds for several improvements, including renovating the building, to get ready for the university partnership. Most of

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Changing Lives



Romance will take center stage at the **Marquis Theatre**

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Romance will be in the air – and up on the big screen – when the Movies at the Marquis Series returns to the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville during the month of February. In honor of Valentine's Day, the special series will feature some classic romantic films beginning at 7:30 p.m. each Saturday evening.

The films are: » Feb. 1, Love Actually, starring Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Liam Neeson, Laura Linney and Colin Firth. Rated R. Sponsored by Starring "The Gallery."

» Feb. 8, Stupid Crazy Love, starring Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, Steve Carell, Julianne Moore, Marisa Tomei and Kevin Bacon. Rated PG-13.



Sponsored by Orin Jewelers.

» Feb. 15, Valentine's Day, starring Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway, Topher Grace, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Garner and Ashton Kutcher. Rated PG-13. Sponsored by KB Jewelers.

» Feb. 22, When Harry Met Sally, starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan. Rated R. Sponsored by Northville Physical Rehabilitation.

Many of the movie sponsors will feature pre-show activities at their locations. Northville restaurants will be open for dining. Tickets are \$5 at the

Marquis the night of each movie. Doors open 6:45 p.m. The theater is at 135 E. Main.

Christina Zayti of Northville, Marquis owner, is thrilled to be partnering with downtown merchants in showing the films.

"Oh, absolutely," Zayti said. "I'm hoping we get a lot of people in town. Hopefully it'll work out for the whole town.

She's hoping movie goers will try out restaurants, and that newcomers will visit Northville for the series. Zayti's already had quite a few inquiries about the romantic films.

"I think all of them are great, to be honest," she said of the four movies.

Staff over at the Northville Downtown Development Authority, which has partnered with the Marquis during previous movie series, chose the films.

Zayti added all ticket sales will support Marquis restoration efforts, 'especially the roof."

Visit www.downtown northville.com or call 248-349-0345.

Bubble time!



Ron "The Bubbleman" Lloyd has an appreciative visitor to his stage in the form of Filip Avery, 2, during his Jan. 16 show at the Northville District Library. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIBRARY LINES

The Northville District Library is located at 212 W. Cady Street. For more information call 248-349-3020 or visit northvillelibrary.org. Upcoming events

include:

DIY Winter Spa Time/Date: 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3 **Details:** Teens and

adults enjoy making homemade products to pamper the skin using

natural ingredients. Call to register at 248-349-3020.

Investor Education: Managing Your Investments

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5 **Details:** Examine your investments and portfolio; why do you buy them and how to

purchase wisely. This is Part 2 of the Michigan Investor Education Pro-

Checklist.

Drop-In Morning Storytime

Time/Date: 10:15-11 a.m., Thursdays Jan. 30-March 6

Details: Storytime fun for toddlers and preschoolers. All ages welcome. Caregivers must accompany children age 3 and younger and must remain in li-

brary if children 4 and older attend independently. No registration,

just drop in. **Drop-In Valentine** Crafts for Kids

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6 **Details:** Bring your own 2-inch photo (optional) and decorate a heart-shaped photo box for Valentine's Day. No registration, just drop





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in.

gram: A Control Freak's Please call to register.

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McNamara officially joins race to lead county

By Kurt Kuban Staff Writer

Now it's a true race. Amid bagpipers and a raucous crowd of about 200 of his closest friends and political supporters, Kevin McNamara became the second candidate to make it official – he is running to become executive of Wayne County – and he thinks he can win.

While there had been speculation for some time that he would throw his hat into the ring, the longtime Wayne County commissioner made the announcement Thursday night during a campaign kickoff party at Wayne County Community College's Downriver campus in Taylor.

McNamara, a 56-yearold Belleville resident and the son of former Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, joins Westland Mayor William Wild as the first two to announce their candidacies. Wild made his announcement at a similar event Jan. 15. Both men are looking to succeed current Executive Robert Ficano, who has held the position for 12 years. Ficano has been mired in political turmoil for more than a year and has not yet announced if he plans to run again.

State Rep. Phil Cavanagh, D-Redford Township, the son of former Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, has set up an exploratory committee and is also expected to announce he is running for the office. They are all Democrats and would challenge one another in the Aug. 5 primary.

McNamara spent most of his 20-minute speech criticizing Ficano's leadership, whether it was for a failed jail project that has cost taxpayers about \$160 million so far, federal investigations of his administration or the



Kevin McNamara (left) announced his candidacy for Wayne County executive Thursday. About 200 friends and political supporters attended the event, including Trenton Mayor Pro Tem Bill Lafevre.

fact that he has had a difficult time balancing the county's budget.

"Wayne County government is broken and it needs to be re-invented now," McNamara said. "In the 11 years he's been in office, he (Ficano) has only balanced the budget one time."

McNamara said he has spent the last couple of months meeting with business and municipal leaders, as well as regular residents, and their message has been pretty clear.

"They are all telling me the same thing – they want change and a seat at the table so they can have a say in how that change takes place," McNamara said.

McNamara has been on the Wayne County Commission since 2006 and currently represents the communities of Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, Wayne and the southern portion of Westland. He is chair of the commission's Public Services Committee, board chair of Wayne County Head Start, a board member of the Wayne County Airport Authority and is finance chair of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Throughout the evening, there were many references to McNamara's father. McNamara said he isn't concerned about people who are critical of his father, who he says was not only a political mentor for him growing up, but also someone after whom he would model his own leadership.

"Some people say my father ran a political machine. Well, he did run a machine," McNamara said. "He made county government work for people. The county always had a balanced budget when he was in charge. When roads needed to be fixed, he got them fixed. He always got things done. That's the kind of machine that concerns me."

Among the large crowd that turned out to show support were several dozen current and former elected officials from around the county, including many who were seated on the stage behind McNamara.

"I came out because I wanted to hear what he had to say," said Wayne City Councilman Jim Henley, who also attended Wild's announcement. Henley said he isn't

sure who he is going to

support at this point, but he definitely feels the county needs a new direction.

"Kevin has always been a big supporter to the city of Wayne. Everything he had to say this evening was true. The county is in dire need of new leadership," Henley said.

Jackie Kaifesh, a Romulus resident and a member of the Local 24 Hospitality Union, attended the event and said she supports McNamara because he has been a friend of the middle class throughout his political career.

"He really works with the unions and has always been a voice for the middle class," she said. "I sure hope he wins, because we really need a change."

Wayne County Commissioner Ray Basham, who, along with McNamara's son Cullan, introduced McNamara to the crowd, first read a letter sent by former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who has officially endorsed McNamara. In her letter, Granholm wrote that "Wayne County is in Kevin's DNA." McNamara agreed and said he has no political aspirations other than winning this race - and he is confident he can win.

"I feel like I have as good a shot as anyone – or better," McNamara said. "The biggest challenge for me is going to be getting my message out there. It is going to take some money to win this race. The stakes are very high and it's going to be a contested race."

Prospective candidates have until April 22 to file the necessary paperwork to run for the office.

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Two winners will be selected!





Northville parks getting some help from Wayne County

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

Parks in Northville are getting a funding lift with some help from Wayne County to help pay for maintenance and upkeep.

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, R-Livonia, who represents the Northville community, announced on Jan. 23 the allocation of taxpayer dollars to provide for continued maintenance and beautification of the five community parks.

"Everybody should have the ability to look and see how their tax dollars are spent," she said. "I am proud to announce the allocation of taxpayer dollars to be reinvested in Northville community

nearly \$60,000 in county



ville community parks. This funding will provide more opportunities for

residents to enjoy recreational activities in their own backyard."

The parks in Northville are part of the shared recreation service and include: Ford Field, Fish Hatchery Park, Henningsen Park, Northville Community Park and Millennium Park.

Northville Parks and Recreation is a shared service of the City of Northville and Charter Township of Northville. It's overseen by an advisory commission made up of residents of the city and township with a representative of the Northville Board of Education. Both contribute to the annual budget on population percentage basis.

Both the city and township are excited to have this additional help.

"Northville Township is extremely grateful to Commissioner Cox for all her hard work and diligence in securing this grant for parks and recreation," Township Supervisor Robert Nix II said. "This will certainly help us complete park improvements this calendar year."

One recent park improvement was the upgrades at the Fish Hatchery tennis courts on Seven Mile Road. There are a variety of sports and field uses at the parks, like soccer, so annual maintenance is always a big cost.

Northville Parks and Recreation Director Jason Spiller said the money will be used for capital improvement projects within the township parks. No specific project has been determined.

In 2013, Cox worked with Northville to secure a piece of a non-motorized connection to Maybury State Park along Beck Road. The pathway provides a direct connection between the city and township along the east side of Sheldon Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

Connecting with Maybury has become a priority in Northville with a committee of community members being convened to look into making it, among other nonmotorized improvements, happen. There are some challenges

There's a huge difference in size East of home care you

ahead like crossing over Beck.

Northville is working to getting a better crossing point there, specifically at Eight Mile Road. In addition, the sidewalk along Eight Mile will be completed to give a better walking, running and biking pathway to the park.

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Police to post updates during I-96 shutdown

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid knows traffic will be a problem during the upcoming I-96 shutdown when the city will see an increase in the number of motorists not used to driving on its surface streets.

That's why Caid and the Livonia Police Department are working on delivering pertinent information to motorists and residents through several means, including using Nixle, Twitter, Facebook and the city's AM 1670 radio station.

"We will do everything we can to communicate current traffic data," Caid said. "My goal is to keep that current."

Those looking to add the Livonia Police Department on Facebook can search for the department's name on the social networking site. The department's Twitter handle is @LivoniaPD.

Residents can also sign up for Nixle alerts through the website nixle.com, which hosts a multitude of agencies and allows for the quick dissemination of information through emails, text messages and posts on the website. Drivers can also tune their vehicle's radio to AM 1670 for updates.

The department recently rebooted its use of Nixle, posting multiple alerts this month about several issues, including the road closure during the ERG Services fire earlier this month.

Caid said he wants to make residents and motorists aware long before the closure of the freeway, which begins March 24 and will force traffic off I-96 between Telegraph in Redford Township and Newburgh in Livonia. The \$150 million project will consist of a complete reconstruction of the highway, as well as numerous repairs and replacements of the bridges in that section.

Jeff Horne, a project engineer and communifrom the Michigan Department of Transportation, said MDOT is working on transitioning the 96fix.com website it currently uses to relay news about the upcoming shutdown.

"We're in the middle of revamping it to a more construction-based website," he said. "It's going to change in the next couple of weeks."

He said updates on the project, including when certain bridges will see lane or complete closures, will come via weekly website updates, as well as the 96 Fix Facebook page and Twitter account, @96fix.

Signs will also be posted at a bridge five business days before work is scheduled to begin, he said. No set schedule for bridgework has been completed.

Caid said alerting residents as quickly as possible will be something the Livonia police will try to do as the region deals with the inpated increased traffic is expected on several roads in the city, including Plymouth and Six Mile. MDOT has already constructed a temporary extra lane at the exit to Six Mile from southbound I-275 to accommodate the extra traffic it anticipates will be in the city.

But even with the larger volumes of traffic, Caid said motorists still need to respect posted speed limits and traffic laws, as police will be out enforcing them.

"It's going to be very difficult to navigate through. Speed limits are going to be enforced," he said. "(Motorists) need to pack a lot of time and a lot of patience."

In addition to I-96 information, Caid said he hopes the social networks and alert systems will become a staple in relaying other information to the public, including significant arrests and educational materials.

- cations representative from the Michigan Department of Transportation, said MDOT is workcreased traffic. Anticipated increased traffic is expected on several roads in the city, includ-



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Irish ancestry

The public is invited to attend, free of charge, the meeting of the Northville Genealogical Society at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady. The topic of the

meeting will be "Accessing Irish Records from North America."

Dick Doherty will be the guest speaker. His lecture will focus on Ireland's major records, and cost-effective methods for accessing them from North America.

Included are recent Irish repository initiatives that make indexes and images available online (both free and fee). Ireland records accessible through the Family History Library are also discussed. Doherty lectures in the U.S., Canada

and Ireland and is a pastpresident of three genealogical societies. He is also a delegate to the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Michigan Genealogical Council. Individual help on

genealogy is offered in

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ALLOR, CAROLYN SUE

Age 74, passed away January 23, 2014. She was born on May 2, 1939, daughter of the late Carl & Leah Robinson. Sue spent many years tending bar at the South Lyon Hotel and more recently at the South Lyon VFW Post 1224. Her passions in life were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, Martin; her daughters: Marie Allor and Teresa Pratt Weber. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law, Sheryl Pratt; seven grandchil-dren: Ryan Webb, Nicole Jobe, Morgan Pratt, Spencer Pratt, Angelina Garland, Gage Allor and Damon Allor, and two greatgrandchildren: Sevaiah Dull and Ava Fritzsch. Sue was preceded in death by her son, Jerry Pratt in 2007. A funeral service will be held on January 31, Friday, at 1:00 p.m. with visitation from 11a.m. - 1 p.m.at PHILLIPS FU-NERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake Lyon. Online South St., guestbook at:

www.phillipsfuneral.com



ANGELL, RUTH L. 98, lifelong resident of Age Northville, passed away January 23, 2014. She was born July 5, 1915 in Redford, Michigan; daughter of Russell and Harriet (nee Smith) Angell. Ruth was a graduate of Northville High School in 1934. She worked as an accounting cashier at the Northville State Hospital for over 23 years, retiring in 1979. Ruth adored her nieces and nephews; she loved spending time with them. She often attended First United Methodist Church of Northville and was a life member of Northville Women's Club. Ruth liked to cook and entertain: she was known for her scalloped potatoes. She enjoyed gardening and had a beautiful flower garden in the back of Allen Terrace, where she lived for many years. She is survived by her loving brother John (Jean) Angell; her nieces and nephews, Jim (Marilyn) McGaffin, Bonnie (Alan) Piotrowski, and Ronald Angell; and five great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Grace McGaffin. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 3 p.m. with visitation beginning at 1 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Rev. Monica William from the First United Methodist Church of Northville will officiate the service. Ruth will be laid to rest at Grand Lawn Cemetery in De-troit. The family would apprecimemorial contributions First United Methodist ate Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48167 or Allen Terrace, 401 High St, Northville. Online condolences at

HILDEBRANDT, WILLIAM J.

Age 84, passed away January 21, 2014. He was born on September 2, 1929, in Detroit, son of the late John and Anna Hildebrandt. Bill was known for his great sense of humor, his love and concern for his wife and children, and for always being a devoted husband, father and Papa. He enjoyed woodworking, was a very gifted handyman and could fix almost anything. He was an avid fan of U of M football and the Detroit Tigers were often on the radio when Bill was in the garage working on a project. Bill was a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph Parish in South Lyon where he was also an usher. He could often be found volunteering and donating his time to anyone in need. Bill was a proud Army veteran, serv-ing in the Korean War. He led an active life and was always busy doing something or helping someone, but the most important part of his life was his family. He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Sylva; his loving daughters, Karen (Gary) Skop, Carol (Sten) Sahlberg, and Sharon (Brian) Tonnies. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Lauren, Ryan, Kara, Kristen, Chase, and Carter. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 25, at 11:00 a.m. with the family receiving friends beginning at 10:00 a.m. at PHIL-LIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lvon, Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association or www.autismspeaks.org. Online guestbook at www.phillipsfuneral.com.







LLOYD, LORRAINE V.

Age 81, went home to be with the Lord on January 26, 2014. She was born on August 21, 1932, in Brainerd, Minnesota, to the late Kenneth and Florence (Abahamson) Carlson. Lorraine was the sweetest mom in the entire world made especially for her children. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren teaching her them her knowledge of arts & crafts. Her family time was very important to her. She enjoyed arts & crafts, bowling on a league and golfing with her husband. Lorraine and Richard wintered in Melbourne, Florida for 20 years where they loved to receive family and friends. She was an Accountant with Seagram & Singer in Ann Arbor. Lorraine was the owner of a Woman's ap-parel shop Natural Woman in South Lyon in the late 1970's early 1980's. Lorraine is survived by her beloved husband, Richard, of 62 years; her children: Brad (Darlene) Lloyd, Rox-Anne Terri-Lynn (Robert) Lloyd, Vettes, Steven Lloyd; nine grandchildren: Chad, Ashley, Jeff, Brittney, Lauren, Benjamin, Ashley, Bridget, Lindsey, Brianne; six great-grandchildren, with a sev-enth expected in February; two sisters: Marlene Hennrich and Charlotte Burton. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother William Carlson, Step-father Raymond Meyer. Visitation will be held on January 28, Tuesday, from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held on January 29, Wednesday, at 11:00 A.M. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

Phillips funeral home and creduction services

MICHALSKI.



away suddenly on January 17, 2014. He was born on July 18, 1942 in Garden City, Michigan; son of Theodore and Evelyn (nee Nolte) Stowell. John worked as a Diesel Mechanic with Ryan Transportation for 30 years before retiring. He was united in marriage to Joyce Pankow on September 23, 1966; they spent 47 loving years together. He was an elder with the First Baptist Church of Novi. John liked to do handy work. He was always fixing something or building some-thing new. He loved spending time with his grandchildren; especially giving them tractor/ trailer rides. John was a very determined, motivated, and strong man. He was very giving and an easy going father. John was a devoted husband and gave Joyce the life she wanted.John is survived by his beloved wife, Joyce; his loving children, Tammy Stowell and Todd (Michelle) Stowell; his brother, George Stowell; his sister Donna (Dave Harden) Stowell; and his grandchildren, Maekirra, Cheyenne, and Korwyn. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Steven Stowell. A Funeral Service was held Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at Casterline Funeral Home. Online condolen-



the Local History Room at the Northville District Library on Monday afternoons 1-3 p.m. and also by appointment. For more information contact Mary Hazlett at 734-459-5493.

Film presentation

The Northville Democratic Club will host a film and discussion at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30 (doors open at 6:30) at the Northville Sports Den, 133 W. Main Street. They will show the awardwinning film "Miss Rep-resentation" that focuses on the female role in leadership, media and society.

The event will include free pizza and salad. Donations will be accepted. The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Scott Craig a 248-259-3534 or scraig27@comcast.net.

Art House exhibition

The Northville Art House, located at 215 W. Cady Street, will host its 8th Annual Member Exhibition from Feb. 7-March 1.

The annual exhibition showcases the varies styles and mediums of the Art House artist members. This yearly show was designed to say "Thank You" to everyone who has supported the growth and creativity of the arts in Northville.

The show will open with a reception from 6-9 p.m. on First Friday, Feb. 7. The show will continue through March 1 during Art House hours, from 1-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. For additional information, call 248-344-0497 or visit www.northvillearthouse-.org.

Yard art projects

Three members of the Northville, Novi Garden Club will make presentations on how to create yard art projects at the group's monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 10 at the Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street located next to the Northville Post Office. A social mixer with snacks will begin at 6:30 p.m. and demonstrations begin at 7 nm A cell phone cam-

items at the office to holding a special event like a baby shower.

We want to help lowincome mothers and single mothers who can't afford these items and may fall through the cracks when they seek help," said Marie Morrow. PCUW President.

Donations can be brought to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For information. contact Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 7 or randi.williams@pcuw.org.

For more information about PCUW, visit www.plymouthunitedway.org.

'Handwriting **Analysis Tea'**

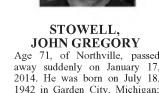
The Northville Historical Society will present a Handwriting Analysis Tea Saturday, Feb. 8 at Mill Race Village.

Hear what minding your "P"s and "Q"s and dotting your "I"s and crossing your "T"s can say about how you think and behave. Learn to identify, evaluate and understand your personality through the patterns revealed in your handwriting to gain a better understanding of yourself. Discover how you can change your life by changing your handwriting.

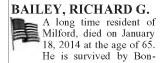
The program will feature Karen Elly, a certified handwriting analyst. Karen is an examiner of forged documents for the police and others; speaker and lecturer; and has appeared on several radio shows. Names will be drawn for a brief personal analysis.

The Cady Inn provides a charming backdrop for this traditional afternoon tea, and refined celebration of friends and family. Enjoy an assortment of petite finger sandwiches, freshlybaked scones and an array of desserts, served with the group's signature Cady House Tea on their finest china. The tea will be catered by Victoria's Tea Salon.

To purchase tickets, which are \$30 (\$25 for NHS members), call 248-348-1845. For more information, visit www.millracenorthville.org. Proceeds from the event will benefit Mill Race Village.







nie, his beloved wife of twentyeight years; his brothers, Richard (Francine) Bailey and David (Linda) Bailey; mother-in-law, Margaret Howie; brothers and sisters-in-law, Keith (Sherri) Howie, Sandra (Ken) Bujold, Cindy (Robert) Woodard, Pam (Dean) Doherty and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Janice Bailey, a brother Roger Bailey, and his father-in-law, Roy Howie. A Memorial Service will be held at the Walled Lake United Methodist Church, 313 E. Northport St., Walled Lake, on Saturday, February 1st, at 11 a.m. Friends may gather one hour prior at the church. Memorials may be made in his name to the Henry Ford Museum or to the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History. For further information please phone Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, at 248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com

> LYNCH & SONS **Funeral Directors**

HATFIELD. GREGORY Á.

Age 40, January 24, 2014. Funeral January 30, 11 a.m. at Phillips Funeral Home.

LaRICHE, GAIL FRANCIS (NEE CROUCH)

age 81, resident of Northville. Michigan, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 26th. Beloved wife of 60 years to Louis H. (Lou) LaRiche, Sister to Wayne (Bonnie) Kryszak. Loving mother to Michele (Paul) Griffeth,

Jacqueline Gordon, Scott (Dawn) LaRiche, John LaRiche, Jim (Maureen) LaRiche, Bob (Tiare) LaRiche and Suzanne (Mark) Merucci. Amazing grandma to McKown Lindsey (Craig), Daane Griffeth, Steven, Amanda Joseff LaRiche, and Jessica (Chuck) Kemeny, Chastity LaRiche, Jonathon LaRiche, Jimmy Jr. and Juliet LaRiche, Justin (Brittney), Amber and Ryan LaRiche, Joey, Dante, and Anna Merucci. Great grandmother to Greyson, Selah and Crew McKown, Seth, Saige, and Zach Kemeny and Mason and Oliver LaRiche. Predeceased by son-inlaw James R. Gordon. Gail was born on December 15, 1932 in Canton, Ohio. She attended Wooster High School where she was very involved in theater. Gail went on to Nurses Training at Huron Hospital, in Cleveland, Ohio. It was at this time she met the love of her life, Lou. She was grateful for a life well lived which included: raising her seven children, travels around the world, and time spent at her condo on the Siesta Key Beach in Sarasota, Florida. Gail enjoyed sewing, reading, opera, bible studies, golf, tennis, water skiing, power walking, pilates and cross-country skiing. She was active in the community and the Catholic church, in Findlay, OH, Plymouth and Northville, MI. Her volunteer work included nursing home visits, migrant ministries, Meals on worker Wheels, Girl Scouts, Eucharist Lay Ministry, Rosary Altar Society, teaching catechism, and being a member of the OLGC funeral choir. Visitation will be held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI on Wednesday, January 29th from 2-8 with the Rosary at 7:00 pm. Visitation will continue Thursday, January 30th at Our Lady of Good Coun-Catholic Church, 47650 N.Territorial Rd. (at Beck), Plymouth, MI at 11:30a.m. until time of Funeral Mass, at 12

noon. Memorial donations may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154 (angelahospice.org) or Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, 4597 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (sistersofmary.org) To leave a condolence www.schrader-howell.com

"BÅBE"

Of Milford, January 24, 2014. For information contact Lynch & Sons, 248-684-6645. www.Lync hFuneralDirectors.com

PANEPUCCI, FERNANDO A.

Age 76. July 9, 1937 - January 22, 2014. Beloved husband of Kathy for 29 wonderful years. Loving father of Tony, Tommy (Betsy), Julie Crawford (Matt), Jeff Crawford, and Jill (Joe) Grantham. Proud grandpa of Olivia, Lily, and Bess Grantham, and Michael Crawford. Fernando will be missed by his sister Filomena (Mario) Defelice and his brother Firpo (Lois), along with many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. Proceeded in death by his dear brother Fiore (survived by Kay). Fernando was a fiercely proud and loyal employee of Ford Motor Company, working his way up and retiring as Product Coordinating Supervisor. Fernando's memory will be cherished by many good friends and neighbors. Visitation was Sunday 2:00-9:00 p.m. with scripture reading 6:00 p.m.; Funeral Service was Monday, January 27, 11:00 a.m. at the Dearborn Chapel of Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, 22546 Michigan Ave. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

www.howepeterson.com

PETERSON, JACKIE

Passed away unexpectantly at her home in Anchorage, Alaska on December 24, 2013. She was survived by her father Calvin Peterson and step-mother Enrica Peterson and brothers David Pe-Rolly Creech, Dale terson, Harold Creech; sisters Creech, Teresa Green and Angelique Bozzo; and mother Martha Larrabbee and also step-father David Larrabbee; and brothers Terry Obenbach and sister Tammy Fields. Jackie will be remembered, loved and missed by all that knew her. A Celebration of Life is planned for February 1, 2014. If you would like to attend or send a kind word to family and friends, please e-mail southl yon04@yahoo.com.



loved one.

WILLINGHAM, FRANCIS

January 26, 2014, age 90. Loving husband of Rosemary for 64 years. Beloved father of Robert and Vicky Hoffman. Dearest grandfather of William Smith and the late Nicolas Smith. Dear brother of Sally. Proudly served in the U.S. Army during WWII and President of 41st Division from 1990-91. Francis has joined his loving grandson Nicolas in Heaven. Funeral Service Thursday 11:00 a.m. at the Dearborn Chapel of the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, 22546 Michigan Ave. Visitation Wednesday 1-9 p.m. Interment with Military Honors at Oakland Hills Cemetery. www.howepeterson.com

> Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



era or pen and paper may be helpful to bring to the meeting.

For more information, contact Kathy O'Brien at obiekathy@yahoo.com.

'Baby shower' donations

Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) is planning a Baby Shower and everyone is invited.

Individuals as well as companies, service clubs, and churches can join in the fun by donating new bottles, formula, bibs, crib sheets, blankets (handmade accepted), diapers, baby clothes up to size 3T, convertible car seats, cribs, strollers, and monitors. The items will be distributed to low-income mothers in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County.

PCUW is offering a range of ways to participate from dropping off

Blood drives

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

Feb. 3 from 2:30-8:15 p.m. at Winchester Elementary, 16141 Winchester

Feb. 16 from 7:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile

Feb. 26 from 2:30-8:15 p.m. at Hillside Middle School, 775 N. Center Street

Donors can contact Diane at 313-549-7052 or Diane.Risko@redcross.org to set up an appointment

RELIGION CALENDAR

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-livo-

nia.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 Study: 10-11: 30 a.m. Mondays; Christianity's Family Tree, Adam Hamilton Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a m · Paul· To Live In Christ

Men's Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb 1; Commandments For Today

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; What's So Amazing About Grace? through March 22

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

NorthRidge Church volunteers work to feed the hungry

NorthRidge Church has a big idea to help the hungry.

Brad Powell, senior pastor, and others hope to make a difference with the 2 Millon Meals Campaign.

One billion people are experiencing hunger, 66 million children go to school hungry, and 6,200 children die a day from poor nutrition, said Powell in announcing the campaign.

"It's tragic, but it would be even more tragic if we did nothing, we can make a difference." he said. "In 2011, North-

Ridge packed 1,000,000 meals in three days with the help of 5,000 volunteers. When I first cast the vision, I wasn't sure what would happen. It was big, bold and unlike anything we had done before.

"Not only did we reach our goal - we blew it away. Through our 2014 initiative, we want to show God's love to twice as many people, by packaging 2,000,000 meals in three days with 10,000 volunteers!"

NorthRidge is partnering with Feed My Starving Children, a

nonprofit Christian organization based in Minnesota.

The organization produces a scientifically engineered food formula aimed at saving the lives of malnourished children

The formula consists of a mixture of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 21 vitamins and minerals Volunteers from

NorthRidge Church's three campuses, which includes locations in Plymouth Township, Brighton and Saline, will be working almost nonstop Feb. 14-16 starting Friday at noon. until Sunday at 4 p.m. to reach its 2,000,000 meal goal. The packing will take place in 11 two-hour shifts, with 900 people packing during each shift, at the Suburban Collection Showplace Feb. 14-16 in Novi.

The Showplace is donating 65,000 square feet of space for the event.

"Within days of our announcement, we had over 4,000 volunteers sign up. People get excited to be a part of something big that changes

them and their world, and we encourage participants to invite their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. We look for opportunities to make a difference," said Michael Miller, director of Stewardship and Outreach.

Miller said that in addition to packing the meals organizers are raising the funds to pay for the meals. "At 22 cents a meal, even our young kids can get involved and make a real difference. A \$50 donation buys 227 meals," he said

JOIN IN

Registration for the event is at www.NorthRidge Church.com/2MM. To make a donation, go to www.fmsc.org; North-Ridge Church Mobile Pack event.

According to John Cherico, development adviser for FMSC, this is one of their largest events and will help FMSC finish their fiscal year with over 50 million Mobile Pack meals.

Your Invitation to

Milford HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH reschool, Pre-K & Kdg. - Mo. Synd 620 General Motors Rd., Milford Church office: (248) 684-0895 810-231-9199 Fr. John Rocus, Pastor Sunday Services: 8:30 am & 11am Bible Study & Sunday School @ 9:45 an Rev. Martin Dressler FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD VISITORS WELCOME! 133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-684-5695 Pastor Steve Swayze CROSSPOINT unday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Young Adults Dinner/Bible Study, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. 1850 S. Commerce Rd. Walled Lake, MI 48390 Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m. Awana, 3 yrs old thru 6th grade and Youth Group for 7th grade and older Website: milfordbaptist.org www.cpccnow.com **MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN** CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 ½ Mile Pastor Bryant Anderson 238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805 248-348-7757 • www.mbcc.org Sunday Worship 10 a.m. www.milfordpc.c Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. School age 3 thru 5th grade @ outh Group 10 am - Grades 6-1 heritage of erec worship Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister A heritage of area worship since 1836 10774 Nine Mile Road NOVI

Novi BRIGHTMOOR HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH 40800 W. 13 Mile Road. Novi on the corner of M-5 & W 13, Sundays 9:15a & 11:15a www.brightmoorcc.org Fr. Beto Espinoza, Associate arish Office: 349-8847 • www.holyfamilynov omething for the entire famil **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 holycrossnovi@gmail.com "Children, Youth and Adult Ministries" **MEADOWBROOK** CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375 aturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Fr Boh LaCroix Pastor

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

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



Brighton

www.hsrcc.net at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd. Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. se visit our Shroud of Turin Display and Book & Gift Sh

Walled Lake

COMMUNITY CHURCH Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Wednesday Evening: 7 p.m. All Ages Rev. Kenneth Warren - 586-531-2021

Whitmore Lake

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

A12 (NR) THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

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

OUR VIEWS

'Jeffress Center' a fitting name for new **Schoolcraft** building

Congratulations to Dr. Conway A. Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft College, for having a building named after him!

It is an honor that is certainly well-deserved.

Jeffress has been tireless supporter of School-craft College for the past 32 years, the last 14 as president. His accomplishments are many and we're glad the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees acknowledged them in such a public way.

Under Jeffress' leadership, the college has added buildings and programs while remaining financially sound and keeping tuition affordable.

For example, last May the Board of Trustees approved issuing \$18 million in bonds for improvements that it will pay back over the next 15 years without having to go to voters for a tax increase.

Those improvements include Jeffress renovating the former American

Community Mutual Insurance building at the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty, now called The Jeffress Center, which will be used to house classes for Schoolcraft's new bachelor's and master's degree partnership program with Wayne State University and the University of Toledo that begins this fall. Degrees in business, nursing, engineering, criminal justice and more will soon be available at Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia.

Other improvements covered by the bond include overhauling the college's mainframe computer, adding a parking lot and building a road around the back of campus so motorists can get from Six Mile to Seven Mile without going onto Haggerty.

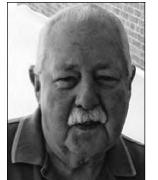
Moody's Investment Services, the nation's leading bond credit rating agency, issued Schoolcraft College one of its highest ratings because of "solid financial management that has controlled expenditure growth and utilized tuition raising flexibility to maintain strong financial revenues."

Also under Jeffress' leadership, the college built and opened the VisTaTech Center in September 2003, remodeled the Bradner Library in 2005, built the Biomedical Technology Center in 2008 and created the Public Safety Training Complex in 2013.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

This question was asked in downtown Northville.



"I like the Broncos. It would be great to see Peyton Manning prove he's not done and show he's still got it."

Richard O'Hare Northville



"I pick Seattle. I'm rooting for their fullback Derrick Coleman, who is legally deaf like me. He's an inspiration."

> Michael McEvoy Northville District Library staffer



"The Broncos because of Manning."

Mike Subu Northville (owner of Brick's)

"I like Denver. There's a girl here whose father works for them, so we will root for them."

> **Bev Kahler** Northville's Starting Gate Saloon

LETTERS

NWEA is misuse of time

I am disappointed by the Northville Public School District's response to the "resignation" of two special education teachers at the high school. The information about the situation is so limited and carefully crafted to say nothing of substance that it is impossible to have an informed opinion. I can't help but find that insulting. While I am concerned that two teachers in our community have been so easily dismissed, I am equally concerned that our district administration is being evasive and cagey about the events. But I am most concerned that this whole incident seems to be focused around NWEA testing.

There are many things that NPS does really well. My kids have had great experiences at Amerman and even better experiences at Hillside Middle School. However, NWEA does not support the "excellence in education" that NPS administration would have the public believe. When the district adopted NWEA, I was disappointed by the amount of time that would be taken from classroom instruction to conduct the tests and the exorbitant cost, especially at a time when the district was pink-slipping teachers and increasing class size. But I tried to have an open mind. Four vears later, my initial reser tions have proven accurate. Based on the scores of my two students, the test is useless. Their scores are all over the board and never seem to match my or their teacher's observations. One report will show ridiculous levels of growth, while the next report will indicate significant drops. I have yet to have a conversation with a teacher indicating that they think that any of it is accurate. My fourth-grader has never had a keyboarding class, does not have weekly computer time, takes no other computerized assessments, never practices assessment electronically, yet somehow the district believes that a computerized NWEA assessment will ensure that her instruction is at "a pace, manner and level appropriate for instruction.² This sounds like administrative rhetoric based on a great theory that has never resulted in an effective practice. When was the last time an administrator did a math problem on a computer? Like most parents and I think many teachers, I simply tolerate the lost class time that results from taking the test three times per year and don't put much credibility into the test results. There is a great article from Seattle Education that outlines 15 reasons why the Seattle School District is considering dropping NWEA testing. Among many reasons, lack of reliability is cited several times. But the one point that seems the most pertinent to the high school situation is that the test is misused to evaluate teachers. In its own report, NWEA clearly states that it does not advocate the use of the test in teacher evaluation. While I do not believe the teachers at the high school were investigated simply for low scores as has been reported, the fact that our district is putting so much pressure on teachers to show results on the test indicates a huge problem to me. The most useful and accurate assessment of my students' progress has always been the formative and summartive assessments that their teachers conduct in class.

The Northville Record article on Jan. 16, stated that "... par-ents may not realize the importance of these (NWEA) assessments."

I contend that it may not be the parents who are the ones that are confounded by what assessments actual matter in terms of student development. I think our administrators need to take a closer, more realistic look at the NWEA.

Lisa Nemitz Northville

Red Kettle campaign

The Plymouth Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign has reported its totals. Our service area which includes Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren Town-ships raised \$295,038.27 in kettle, mail-in, walk-in and online donations. Our target was \$315,000 and we have until the end of January to realize that goal. All the money raised stays in these communities. Northville plays a huge part in the success of this campaign.

The Salvation Army and I thank the following groups and individuals for their time and donations this year and over the last 18 years I have been coordinating the kettle campaign. Beginning with the kettle season of 2014, you will need to sign up online at www.ringbell.org and select "Northville" as your bell ringing site. It has been an honor to help the Salvation Army, an organization which helps so many. I will still be involved with the Salvation Army, just not actively signing up bell ringers You can call or email me next season and I will be glad to help. You can contact me at fakoh@aol.com or 248-348-2678. I am counting on you to keep up the good work and sign up online to bell ring. Thanks so much to the following groups and individuals: The First Presbyterian Church of Northville (Dianne and Don McCulloch); First United Methodist Church (Rhonda York): Our Lady of Victory (John Romanik); Meadowbrook Congregational Church (Dave McKillop); Northville High School Interact Club (Molly Kirkland); Northville High School Honor Society (Susan Doong); Northville city employees (Michelle Nabozny); Northville City Fire Department (Jim Allen); Boy Scout Troop 755; Cub Scout Pack 746 (Julie Smith); Cub Scout Pack 720 (Rob Walkowiak); Broncos Girls' Softball (Dave Jerome); Moraine Elementary teachers; Silver Springs Elementary teachers; Travis Fortier; Ron Bush; Dave Favro; Charlie Cox; Carol Livermore; Carolyn Nieuwkoop; Cheryl and Ron Gravel; Linda Aaron; Mary Jane and John Brugeman; Fran Oakland; Martha Nield; Judy Kohl; Jerry Olsen; Susie Rompel; Bill and Pat Longley; Chris Orlowe; Jan Mnich; Jane and Bob Spence; Jan and John Jameson; Norm Kubitsky; Mary Stapleton; Ellen Grimes and Tamara Stiles; Fran Firek and Jenda Mills; Susan Couzens and Joan Bahl; Heather Stewart; Angela Scott; Cathy and Bob Anthony; Joan and Jim Rucker; Jenda and Jeff Mills; Barb and Gary Sixt; Barb VanderMass and Debbie Galloway; Sandy Woolfall and Lisa Glock; Tamara Stiles and family; JoAnn and Andy Dalziel; Mike Edgerton; JoAnne Rennell; Margaret Brodie; Jeff Traudt; Carolyn Roth and Jan Cole; Mike Babcock and Ken Holland; Cassie Hull; Bob Sharar; Denise Taylor; Kathy

WHAT DO YOU **THINK?**

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com Mail: Letters to the Editor, Northville Record, 101 N. Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48178

Zimmerman; Pam and Chuck Burke; Janice Seluk and Stephanie Iverson; Lynda Hojnacki and Pat Stringer; Regina Mingela; Laurie Wooderson and family; Sara, Terry, Steven, Peyton, Aiden and Taylor Ryan; Amy, Katie, Mike and Alyssa Knoth; Jeff, Evan and Jake Lane; Julie, Lauren, Jillian and Megan Moraitis; Hiller's Market; and Kroger.

Judy Kohl Northville coordinator

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Crack down on puppy mills

Michigan needs to crack down on cruelty in pet stores and puppy mills. Unfortunately, the Michigan Department of Agriculture no longer even inspects pet stores. Luckily, Senate Bills 285 and 286 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to increase penalties for breeders and pet stores. They also increase penalties for repeat offenders of the state's animal cruelty law. Contact Rep. Kurt Heise at 517-373-3816 and ask him to pass SB 285-286 out of committee. For more information, go to HumaneVoters.webs.com. William McMullin



While Jeffress has served as president, the college and its labor unions have worked cooperatively together, negotiating fair contracts that contribute to a peaceful relationship and allow everyone to concentrate on their respective jobs.

At the same time, the college has kept costs to students affordable, giving them a way to gain knowledge and work skills without having to take on a huge amount of debt.

The college and community have benefited greatly from Jeffress' vision and we are pleased the new building will remind everyone of his contributions for many years to come.



The Jeffress Center will house most of the operations of the Schoolcraft to U partnership.



Kurt Kuban, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

Royal Oak

One party abuse of power

Gov. Rick Snyder's recent state of the state message has been received with suspicion and negativity because of unkept promises and his unwillingness to oppose the Republicancontrolled Michigan Legislature

Synder signed a campaign finance "reform" bill which increased the lack of transparency. Individual contribution limits were raised while the right to anonymity for donors to third-party issue-advocacy groups was preserved. He agrees with proposed efforts regarding laws to disenfranchise the most impoverished citizens by requiring specific identification. He could sign a bill, currently being formulated, that would award Michigan's electoral votes by congressional district in time for the 2016 presidential election. After the 2010 census, Michigan's political boundaries were redrawn giving Republicans decisive advantage in nine of the state's 14 congressional districts.

Former state and federal legislator Mark Schauer, who is running against Snyder, would prevent the abuses of one-party control in Michigan government. He would strive for bipartisan solutions for our state's problems. Citizens must research candidates, support and vote for those with similar values who want to strengthen the middle class and correct the gross inequalities in our state and country.

> Hannah Provence Donigan Commerce

Whole lotta love: Time right to adopt a pet – here's how

By Jill Halpin Correspondent

Now that the holiday rush has slowed down and life has returned to a normal pace, it's a perfect time to bring a new pet into your home, said Tanya Hilgendorf, president and CEO of the Human Society of Huron Valley, located in Ann Arbor

"The best time to introduce a new pet is when things are calm and you have the time and attention to give your new pet," Hilgendorf said. "You want to make sure that you look at the transition with as much thoughtfulness and consideration as possible. You want to give both your new pet and your family the opportunity to have a successful adjustment."

Ryan McTigue, representative for the Michigan Humane Society, agrees.

"When a pet is adopted, we want them to go to their 'forever home,'" he said

Adopting an animal is a long term – perhaps a 15- to 20-year - commitment, not something to be entered into lightly, Hilgendorf said.

Adoption costs

Although adopting an animal is not free, most pet adoptions include a variety of benefits to help offset the costs of pet ownership.

At the MHS, pet adoption can range from 65to \$290, but includes a variety of remunerations, including spaying and/or neutering, up-todate vaccinations and full health and temperament testing. Cats come with a microchip implant to protect them from accidental separation from their home; for dogs, there is a discount for microchip services, McTigue said.

HSHV adoption can run from \$45 to \$65 for

FIND A PET

Both the Michigan Human Society and the Humane Society of Huron Valley have websites featuring pets that are available for adoption.

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY

900 N. Newburgh Road Westland, MI 48185 734-721-7300 michiganhumane.org

HUMANE SOCIETY OF HURON VALLEY

3100 Cherry Hill Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105 734-662-5585 www.hshv.org There are also other animals rescue services and shelters with websites that offer listings of animals available for adoption housed in foster care.

Petfinder (www.petfinder.com) is an online searchable database of animals that need homes across the country and includes a directory of nearly 14,000 animal shelters and adoption organizations across the U.S. It also provides links to smaller, local rescue and shelter organizations.

cats and up to \$250 for dogs, said Deb Kern. director of marketing and public relations for HSHV. All fees include microchip services, upto-date vaccinations and health and temperament screening, as well as a voucher for a health exam with its clinic's vet that is good for up to 10 days, Kern added.

The HSHV also offers a \$20 senior discount on any animal adoption, as well a unique free "Senior to Senior" adoption service: anyone over the age of 62 is eligible to adopt an animal over 8 years of age at no cost.

It's a really nice opportunity to make some great adoption matches, Kern said.

Taking the time to make sure both you and your family are ready can help ensure a happy, stress-free adoption. Once that has been established, you can begin to put the adoption process in motion by contacting an animal shelter.

Hilgendorf cautions those looking to give a home to an animal in need to make sure they are working with a reputable facility.

"Nowadays, everyone is using the term 'adoption," Hilgendorf said.

If your intent really is to give a new home to a needy animal, do some research to make sure you are working with an honest organization or shelter, she advises.

A perfect match

Both Hilgendorf and McTigue say that another key to a successful animal adoption is making sure you find an animal that matches your lifestyle.

Both the MHS and the HSHV have a screening process to help ensure the adoption match is a successful one.

Adoption screening at the MHS includes a general questionnaire focusing on household lifestyle, as well as a meeting with an adoption counselor.

"It's a good opportunity to make sure the animal is suitable for the type of home in which it is going to be living,' McTigue said. "If it's a high-energy pet, we want to make sure it is going into an appropriate home."

Animal adoption



Archie, formerly a rescue, was adopted by a local resident after much consideration.

through the HSHV includes a lifestyle screening survey to help determine what type of animal you are looking for, Kern noted.

Upon successful completion of the survey, potential adopters are provided with a threemonth pass that allows them to visit with animals on appointment as they continue their search.

Animals available

The search can take time - the HSHV typically has more than 150 animals up for adoption on any given day and the MHS has more than 100 animals available for adoption.

"Once they make their final decision, they can go with the animal as soon as that day," Kern said.

"There is an animal for everyone out there," McTigue said.

'Anytime you're looking to adopt a pet, look at your lifestyle and take it all into account," McTigue said. "After all, you are really looking at adding someone to your family for a long time."

The MHS Westland facility is at 734-721-7300, the Humane Society of Huron Valley in Ann Arbor at 734-662-5585.

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Here's what community needs to know about recent teacher resignations

s superintendent, I am committed to updating our parents, staff and community members when issues arise. Recently, the media spotlighted a personnel issue within the district. While we are deliberately cautious on personnel issues out of respect for our employees, we feel it important that parents, and well as our staff and community members, have a better understanding of the issues raised, and how the district proceeds in such matters.

As previously communicated, we conduct regular testing with our students to provide an education of excellence. This past fall, concerns surfaced when the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress Fall assessment results were reviewed. There appeared to be significant declines in individual student scores as compared to past performance on the NWEA test at Northville High School. While the NWEA is not a state-mandated test like MEAP, it measures a student's capabilities and growth over time. The results help teachers support students based on their individual skills and areas of need in reading and in math. The assessment is used beginning in



second grade through high school.

This was not a matter of a few students scoring poorly on a test.

When the issue surfaced, it was serious enough that the district contracted with an independent psychometrician (an expert in testing and assessment) to: review and analyze the results (the results were coded to remove personally identifiable information for teachers and students) and make sure that this was indeed a serious issue with the test scores, rather than being the result of a few erroneous scores.

The psychometrician identified the following:

» The number of students with extremely low growth scores was much higher than expected for the initial tests in fall 2013 in both reading and mathematics.

» The magnitude of the low growth scores was not reasonable, with some students losing more than 30 RIT points between spring 2013 and fall 2013 (equivalent to a decline of approximately six grades/years of schooling. RIT points

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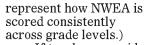
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» If teachers provided instruction based on the initial fall 2013 scores, these students would be put at a substantial educational disadvantage.

» Students affected by the low growth scores in fall 2013 tended to do substantially better on retesting. (Students were retested in November, when it became apparent that the initial test scores may have been compromised.)

The psychometrician further noted that the probability that these results occurred due to chance was close to zero, and that further investigation including interviews of students, teachers and aides would help isolate the conditions that contributed to the low growth.

Why were students interviewed?

With the significant drop in test scores, the district sought to investigate the factors that may have led to the lower test scores. The significant drop in NWEA scores based on students' past performance was not information that could be ignored, given the potential impact on student learning and the high expectations that we hold for our students, our teachers and our administrators.

The only way to discover what occurred in the classroom was to discuss it with students, teachers, and staff members. Interviews were carefully and professionally conducted with the school social worker, students, a paraprofessional, and with teachers who were part of the assessment.

Interviews were conducted by two administrators. A process was followed that ensured that everyone was given the same opportunity to hear the same information. For students, the goal was to ensure that they were fairly heard and once the interview was complete, had a chance to review and correct the notes from their interview.

Given that some concern was raised regarding the student interviews during the NWEA review, the district has contracted externally for an independent review of the process so that concerns can be fully and appropriately reviewed for the sake of our students as well as our staff members. Our district administrators, along with the Board of Education, do not take questions or concerns expressed by parents, students and/or community members lightly. When an issue of concern arises, we take immediate action to review it, for the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff members.

Why are teachers or other employees ever placed on leave during an investigation?

It is sometimes necessary to place an employee on leave in order to assure a fair and reliable process and to ensure the integrity of any investigation, as well as to conclude the investigation as quickly as possible, especially when circumstances and information suggest that such action is advisable.

How do teacher or employee resignations come about in these types of situations?

Prior to the conclusion of the review process, teachers or other employees, along with their union representatives, discuss with the administration the situation being investigated, and, after sharing information and their respective points of view, both sides give their perspective of what occurred with respect to a particular matter. Often there is agreement on the essential facts of the matter, but sometimes there is disagreement. Whether

or not there is agreement on what occurred, the administration will then discuss with the teachers or other employees and their union representatives what action the administration is considering, given the facts as found by the administration.

Once teachers or other employees understand what action the administration is planning to take, they can decide, after consultation with their union representatives, to voluntarily resign their employment, which obviously makes any planned action by the administration moot. In these situations, the Board of Education takes action to accept voluntary resignations. I stress that resigning is voluntary because every teacher and staff member that works at Northville Public Schools has a range of due process rights when questions or issues arise. No one can be forced to resign.

If an individual chooses not to resign, then the administration makes decisions about what further action to take (i.e., no action, suspension, bringing forward tenure charges, or other disciplinary action.) If the district chooses to bring forward tenure charges against a tenured teacher, the teacher receives full pay and benefits throughout the tenure hearing process, which can take up to a year or more. The teacher has representation by the teachers' association (the union) throughout this process. Upon the conclusion of the tenure hearing, in the event that the Tenure Commission sides with the district, the teacher loses tenure with Northville Public Schools, but the individual does not lose his/her teacher's license. It should be further

It should be further noted that when an employee chooses to resign, the district's practice is to respect the decision of the individual and not engage in public discussion. While it is human nature to want to speculate, we seek to allow every individual the opportunity make an exit without airing concerns in a public forum.

In this case, we want the community to know three things:

1. We are committed to maintaining high expectations for staff as well as students.

2. We are committed to a testing and instructional process that has integrity and that reflects 'best practices' in education.

3. We are committed to following due process policies that ensure every district employee is fairly and reasonably treated regardless of whether they are young vs. experienced, popular vs. quiet.

We are committed to providing an education of excellence for every student in Northville Public Schools, in partnership with our parents, staff and community members. We celebrate our areas of strength, and we also identify processes or practices that could be strengthened as a part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

While unique situations tend to get media attention, the real story is the amazing work of the Northville teachers and staff. They are the ones building positive relationships with students, creating expectations that lead to student excellence, and spending countless hours so that our children will be globally competitive when they graduate. I want to honor and celebrate their continued hard work.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if questions or concerns arise.

Mary K. Gallagher is superintendent of Northville

Public Schools.







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SECTION B (NR) THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Northville's Alex Melucci had a big week. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Stangs win two, drop one

Hockey team tops Salem, South Lyon, but can't get past Farmington

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

There's an old saying that goes taking the good with the bad, which is exactly what the Northville hockey team did last week.

The squad, coached by Clint Robert, picked up two wins and suffered one loss. It beat Salem, 3-0, and South Lyon Unified, 9-1, but couldn't top a tough Farmington squad as it fell, 4-1.

Morgan assisting, while the second was assisted by Morgan and Jack Meacham.

The third goal of the game came with 1:53 left in the game. Kellan Flayer took a pass from P.J. Schnepp and buried it in the net for the 3-0 finale.

The Mustangs had 17 penalty minutes on three infractions during the KLAA contest.

Northville's victory was sealed by goalie Jeremy Onofrio, who stopped all 19 shots for the shutout Against Farmington, the Mustangs' defense had a tough third period, giving up three goals. The final goal against Northville was an emptynet goal by Drake Cole,



Heady Rocks defeat **Mustangs**

Salem makes most of Northville turnovers

> **By Tim Smith** Staff Writer

There's a nice chunk of the 2013-14 varsity boys basketball season still to be played, but Salem sent a message Friday night to Northville.

The Mustangs walked into the Salem High School gymnasium trying to catch the Rocks at the top of the KLAA Central Division standings. But the Rocks would have nothing of that, pretty much leading wireto-wire en route to a convincing 58-42 victory

Salem improved to 10-2 overall and 6-0 in the division, while Northville dropped to

7-5, 4-2. "We're not going to look in the rear-view mirror, we're going to look ahead all the time," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "We're going to keep playing every game as though our backs are against the wall.

"I'm not looking at any spread (in the standings) right now, I'm not looking at any championship. We're just trying to win basketball games and keep this team playing as well as they're playing right now.'

Northville head coach Todd Sander credited the Rocks for taking advantage of some of the Mustangs' 13 turnovers and for outrebounding his squad. "I thought we had some unforced turn-

overs that led to early run-outs for them,' Sander said. "I thought our defense was pretty good when we got back and got it set. But when we turned it over, if we shot too quick, it was a run-out and a transition opportunity for them.

We got to take care of the ball. We can definitely rebound the ball better than we did tonight and Salem seemed to get a lot of bounces going their way."

Sander also mentioned something that isn't a secret when it comes to the Rocks. They have a lot of players who can cause damage. "They have so many weapons, it's hard to identify who their best player is, ne salu. Salem got off to a 10-4 lead and nursed a 10-8 advantage after one quarter. Northville finally broke out in front with about five minutes left in the half, when senior Malik Bazzi (10 points) connected on a trey from the right wing. About a minute later, however, the Rocks answered when junior forward Allante Wheeler (10 points, six rebounds) canned a spinning banker to make it 15-15. That keyed a 10-0 Salem run to end the

Against Salem, the Mustangs waited until the second period before they got the points rolling and, when they did, it was the Nick Stegmeyer show. Stegmeyer scored at 11:08 of the second and then against with just five seconds left in the period to give his team a 2-0 lead. The first goal found Alec

See HOCKEY, Page B3

Northville goalie Jeremy Onofrio posted a shutout over Salem. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON TAP

Northville will visit Lake Orion at 7:45 p.m. today before hosting Novi at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The team will then play Utica Eisenhower at home at 8 p.m. Feb. 6.

See BASKTEBALL, Page B2



The Northville competitive cheer team leaps into the air during a Jan. 20 home meet against Salem. JOHN HEIDER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mustangs competitive cheer team on a roll

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

It's been a good 2014 so far for the Northville competitive cheer team, coached by Mindy Gentz.

The squad has picked up several wins since the end of the winter break, climbing from a 2-9 record that it took into Christmas and turning it into a 6-9 record since.

The team picked up a win over South Lyon East with a score of 617.8 before securing a score of 619.66 to beat Salem.

The Mustangs then hosted the Northville Invitational, scoring 662.24 points to showcase their full routine and complete team capabilities. They finished third overall.

"The team always wants to do their

ON TAP

Northville will compete in the KLAA championships Saturday at Novi High School.

best at our home invitational," Gentz said. "Their goal was to place in the top three at this meet, which they accomplished."

The Mustangs scored 209.6 points in the first round after focusing on cleaning up their performance and fine-turning details such as placement of arms, legs and body positions, as well as overall intensity.

See CHEER, Page B2



Mustangs topple Cougars on hardwood

By Sam Eggleston Correspondent

The Northville girls basketball team has been focused on the games that truly matter during the regular season, contests against Central Division foes.

Last week, the team, coached by Todd Gudith, earned a 42-36 win over South Lyon East to help its division hopes.

With six minutes left in the game, the Mustangs tied the game, 32-32, on a 3-point field goal by freshman Jessica Moorman, who led the team with 11 points. About 30 seconds later, South Lyon East's top shooter, junior Gabi Bird, fouled out of the game and the Mustangs

pulled ahead while holding East to just one basket in the quarter.

"This is one we let slip away. We had a decent lead in the third quarter and into the fourth quarter, but we just could not get it together enough to find good shot opportunities,' East coach Rob Leadley said. "Northville took advantage of Gabi Bird's foul trouble and played great down the stretch. I know we will play a smarter game against them the next time we play.'

Northville also hit 11-of-13 from the freethrow line in the fourth quarter to secure the victory.

"You got to be proud of the way our girls

fought back," Gudith said. "They were resil-ient. We were down all game, but we kept chipping away.²

Northville jumped out to a 5-0 lead, but East came back and used a surprisingly effective defense to shut down the Mustangs through the rest of the quarter. When the buzzer sounded, South Lyon East held a 16-4 lead. It was led by Bird, who scored nine of her game-high 16 points in the first quarter.

The Mustangs had difficulty keeping up with the pace the Cougars were setting, but came out before the half and narrowed the lead to four points. East had a run late in the third quarter to go up by

ON TAP

Northville will play Friday at Novi. The girls will start at 5:30 p.m. and the boys at 7 p.m. The girls will then play host Tuesday to South Lyon and the boys will visit South Lyon the same day. Both games are at 7 p.m.

eight, but the Mustangs cut it to six to start the fourth quarter and came back to tie and eventually win the game.

We fell into the trap of playing their fastpaced tempo and were out of control on offense," Gudith said. "We had to try to flip the

tempo and gain control of the game and we started to do that in the second half. Our girls stayed poised when they could have just as easily given up. I think they are starting to realize we can compete with anyone on our schedule and just how tough this division is."

Mustangs lose to Salem

Against Salem, Northville slipped behind 13-4 in the first quarter and just couldn't dig out of the hole as it lost, 39-27. The Mustangs fell to

10-2 overall and 4-2 in the Central Division with the loss. They are currently tied for first place in the division along with Novi and Stevenson.

"I thought we played with little energy compared to previous games," Gudith said. We knew we had a real good opportunity to gain a game on Novi and Stevenson. It now comes down to who is the best team over the next two weeks."

Northville did cut the lead to five in the second quarter, 17-12, but couldn't get any closer as the Rocks pulled away in the second half.

Northville did dominate on the glass, outrebounding Salem, 30-19.

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

CATHOLIC CENTRAL ROUNDUP

CC grapplers fall to Lowell

The Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team took a trip over to Lowell to compete in front of the high school's student body during an assembly match.

Lowell, ranked No. 15, earned a 36-27 victory over the Shamrocks as it captured eight weight classes. Catholic Central won six weights as Myles Amine, Tyler Morland. Trevor Zdebski, Malik Amine, Nick Bennett and Drew Garcia each picked up a victory.

Catholic Central's white team, which competes in the Catholic High School League, picked up two wins last week. It defeated DeLa-Salle, 44-33, and University of Detroit-Jesuit, 46-15. The team is looking to win a CHSL title this year.

Hockey team wins two

The CC hockey team played two games against St. Mary's Prep and came away with two wins last week.

In the first game, the Shamrocks earned a 5-0 shutout, scoring in each period to dominate the

8:38 off the clock, when Owen Kipke scored off assists from Burnett and Mark Gossett.

Earning the win in goal was Alec Calvaruso, who stopped all 18 shots he faced. In the second game,

St. Mary's put up a bit more of a fight as the Shamrocks skated away with a 7-4 victory.

Catholic Central led, 3-2, after the first period, with goals coming from Conner Gaffney, Nicholas Macari and Cerretani, while St. Mary's had goals from Sammy Nardicchio and Alex Frye.

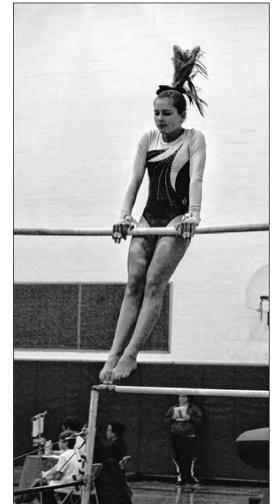
The second period was an even contest, with both teams scoring two goals. St. Mary's tied the game to start the period as Nardicchio found the back of the net. Another goal was scored by Nicholas Borellis to end the period.

The Shamrocks had two goals in the second period from Mitchell Ossowski

In the third, Catholic Central took a 5-4 lead and added two goals by Ryan Burnett to earn the victory.

Earning the win in goal was Calvaruso, who stopped 22 of 26 shots.

Northville gymnasts finish in 10th at first tournament



Northville's Hannah Carlson performs on the ineven bars

By Sam Eggleston

The Northville gymnastics team competed in the first tournament of the season last week when it headed over to Lakeland High School to take on some of the best high school teams in the state in the Caruss Invitational.

Correspondent

Northville came away with some impressive numbers and finished 10th at the tournament, which is the largest in the state during the regular season.

The Mustangs picked up a team total of 125.3, all while having three individuals earn career-best scores.

Claire Cotter had a careerhigh 7.875 on the bars, while Rachel Eastridge picked up her career-best beam score with an 8.4. Alyssa Long had a nice day as well, scoring a career-best 8.6 with her floor routine.

We are making improvements on the bars, but are still in need of consistent team performances," North-ville coach Erin McWatt said. "The freshmen are really coming on strong and holding this team together."

Northville has only one upperclassman on the team this year, junior captain Alys-

ON TAP

Northville will compete at Canton at 10 a.m. Saturday before visiting Salem at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

sa Breen, who has been absolutely solid from the start of the year. During the tournament in Lakeland, she led her team on the vault, scoring an 8.3.

The rest of Northville's team is made up of four sophomores and eight freshmen, out of which six competed in the Lakeland tournament.

"This group of freshmen several with current and former experience with competitive gymnastics - is reviving gymnastics at Northville," McWatt said. "Four of my freshmen are currently competing as club gymnasts at a local facility, so they come to the team with some competitive experience. Their high school participation is making a positive impact on their club performances and vice versa."

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

game from start to finish.

Ryan Burnett scored the first goal of the game with 3:04 off the clock in the first period with an assist from Lucas Turner.

The Shamrocks went up 2-0 in the second period, when Turner scored a goal of his own, taking assists from Carter Cerretani and Kyle Mulka. Brent Jones scored two minutes later on an unassisted goal before James Considine scored less than a minute later with an assist from Cerretani for a 4-0 lead.

The final goal of the game was scored with

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Cagers can't stop DeLaSalle

The CC basketball team couldn't find the right recipe of offense and defense to stop Warren DeLaSalle last week as the Shamrocks fell, 55-46.

Leading the way for DeLaSalle was Jim Chapman, who scored 25 points, including 10 in the fourth. Charlie Ryan's 15 points led the Shamrocks.

Catholic Central fell to 5-4 overall and 1-3 in the CHSL Central Division with the loss.

VE EXHIBIT

– By Sam Eggleston

BASKETBALL

Continued from Page B1

half, featuring a layup by 6-4 senior forward Alec Winfrey (whose block near mid-court led to his own opportunity) and a triple by Wheeler from beyond the top of the arc.

Winfrey (six points) added another layup at the horn to give the Rocks a 23-15 edge at the break.

Northville opened the second half on a pair of Bazzi field goals to slice the deficit to 23-19, but Salem then answered on a pair of buckets by senior guard Connor Cole (eight points, seven rebounds, six assists).

The latter was made possible by a gritty offensive rebound by 6-3 junior forward Tyler Brooks, who scored 13 points and led the Rocks with eight rebounds.

Salem padded the lead to 36-27 after three quarters, with senior center Michael Hoover (eight points) muscling to the rim for a pair of layups.

The Mustangs got to within eight points (40-32) early in the fourth,

when junior David Morrissey (nine points) scored on a drive through the lane. But the Rocks respon-

ded with field goals by junior forwards Jake Lenders and Evan Klenk to make it 44-32 and Northville could not get under the 10-point barrier the rest of the night.

Chipping in with five points and five assists for Salem was senior guard Brady Cole. Scoring six point each

for the Mustangs were senior Andrew Stevens, 6-7 senior Andrew Meacham and junior Dan Baldwin.

We stopped their top scorers (Bazzi and Meacham)," Brodie said. "And by stopping them, I mean limiting them in their points.

"Offensively we never stop, we just keep pushing the basketball and trying to control the tempo. We did that tonight."

Ten players found their way onto the score sheet Friday, something of a season-long occurrence for the Rocks.

"We're getting a lot of contributors, we're playing a lot of players, a lot

of players are scoring," Brodie said. "A lot of players are coming off the bench getting good minutes.

'And, in turn, that helps the whole team."

Northville boys beat South Lyon East

It looks like Northville is starting to find its stride, having won seven of its last 10 games and four in a row in the division prior to the loss to Salem.

The Mustangs picked up a convincing 64-42 victory over South Lyon East last week to help their cause at making a run for the Central Division title.

The Mustangs ran out to a 21-8 lead and didn't look back as they extended that advantage to 36-17 by the end of the first half.

In the third quarter, Northville and South Lyon East each put up 13 points, but the Mustangs outscored their foes, 15-10, in the final quarter to secure the victory.

Malik Bazzi scored 10 first-quarter points to help the Mustangs to an early run before eventually fouling out of the

game. Andrew Meacham had 26 points and 13 rebounds for another double-double on the season. He had 11 points in the second quarter alone.

"Malik helped get us off to a great start," Sander said. "Meacham was really good tonight and we needed him. He carried us for a couple stretches.

"He scored in many different ways, which will only help our team down the stretch.

But it wasn't all about the top scorers in this game. Sander pointed out the play of Joe Hewlett as a catalyst in the vic-

"Joe Hewlett was the true unsung hero of the game," he said. "He played a lot more minutes than usual and kept us calm and composed. He always rebounds way bigger than he is.

Another highlight from the game was Nathan Kellum's dunk, which brought the Northville fans to their feet. He scored seven points on the night.

Correspondent Sam Eggleston contributed to this story.

CHEER

Continued from Page B1

In Round 2, Northville picked up 178.64 points and in Round 3 it picked up 283.7 points. In preparation of Round 3, the Mustangs completed their choreography and changed the round team members while working on their stunts and tumbling

"All of the effort and changes paid off," Gentz said

Northville had several

standouts at the invitational, said Gentz, who pointed out performances by seniors Suzie Gutowski and Ashten Tucker and juniors Shayla Croteau and Alyssa Corn.

Dual meets

Northville's two dual meets since the beginning of the year found them winning against Salem and South Lyon East. Against Salem, Northville picked up 215.3 points in the first round. 164.26 points in the second and 248.1 in the third for a total of 619.66.

"The team had a great Round 1," Gentz said. "This round continues to be our strongest of the three rounds. Round 3 is improving each week. Overall, we are pleased with the performance and the win.

Northville also picked up 206.6 points in the first round against South Lyon as well as 156.10 in the second round. In the third, it picked up 255.1 points for a total of 617.8.

"This was our first meet back since the winter break," Gentz said. "The team showed strong

effort in each round, but clearly struggled coming back after almost month since our last meet.'

Junior Kayla Anderson put up an outstanding performance in Round 3.

"Kayla stepped up to keep the team together and pushed the round forward when the group struggled with the execution and timing of the stunts near the end of the round," Gentz said.

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

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

who also scored the opening goal of the third period for Farmington. Nick Kozoro scored in the first and the third periods against the Mustangs.

Northville's lone goal came with 7:32 left in the game, when Randy Stoever scored with assists from Grant LaLonde and Alec Melucci.

Onofrio took the loss between the posts, stopping eight of the 11 shots he faced on the night. John Lethemon earned the win for Farmington, stopping 30 of 31.

The Mustangs did end their week with a win and it was quite the scoring clinic as they topped South Lyon Unified.

Tim Eis started the scoring in the first period on a power play on assists by Meacham and Schnepp. Three minutes later, Stegmeyer scored with Flayer and Alex Shuart earning assists.

Northville's lead extended to 3-0 with 12:53 still on the clock in the second, when Morgan scored on a power play with assists from Cam La-Burn and Buster White. Three minutes later, it was LaBurn's turn to score as he took assistance from Connor Brown and Morgan to score on a power play. The Mustangs ended the second period with a 5-1 advantage thanks to a goal by Flayer that was assisted by Brown and Eis.

In the third period, it was all Northville. Morgan scored backto-back goals at 8:27 and 5:29 to earn his hat trick with Meacham and Stegmeyer assisting on both. LaLonde scored with 4:24 left in the contest with a pass from Nick Strom, while Kyle Dann ended the scoring with 47 seconds remaining with some help from Sam Bradley and Melucci.

Chance Boutin

Wildcats rule Observerland tourney

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

Solid from top to bottom, Plymouth added another trophy to its already crowded 2013-14 wrestling case when it captured its first-ever Observerland Invitational title Saturday at Livonia Churchill.

The Wildcats, who have already garnered the Wayne County and KLAA South Division dual meet crowns, scored a team-high 212.5 points in the 23rd annual event.

The Novi Detroit Catholic Central Blue-White team (193) finished a strong second, while defending champion Westland John Glenn (177.5), Livonia Franklin (131) and Wayne Memorial (120) rounded out the top five.

Plymouth earned places in all 13 weight classes, with senior Mohamad Youssef and junior Hussein Youssef earning individual titles at 119 and 171, respectively.

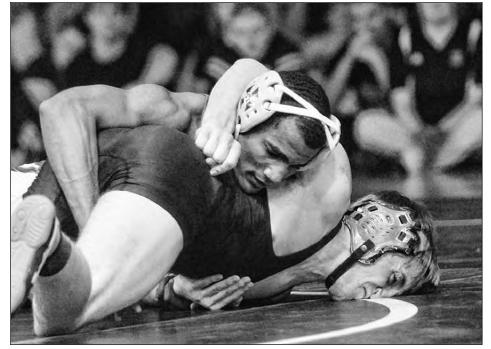
Adding seconds for the Wildcats were Collin Reed (103), Brandon Harris (112) and Jon Conn (145) and Joey Shaver (160).

"I was pretty happy with the way our guys wrestled today," Plymouth coach Quinn Guernsey said. "We came with a goal to try and get a lot of our guys to place and get a lot of guys on the podium. We brought 13 guys and all 13 made the podium, so mission accomplished as far as that goes.'

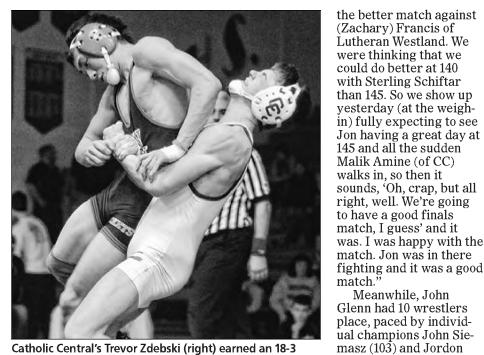
The Wildcats also got a third from Michael Jordan (285), while Spencer Schiftar (125), Dylan Dwyer (135) and Sterling Schiftar (140) added fourths.

'We had a great round in the semifinals,' Guernsey said. "Spencer Schiftar had a good win over a regional qualifier. Sterling Schiftar upset the No. 1 seed at 140. The whole quarterfinal round was good. I think we had 10 guys in the semifinals, which is a solid day.'

CC, meanwhile, fielded a split squad after the No. 2-ranked Shamrocks (Division 1) had a doubledual home meet scratched Saturday against Midwest prep powers Cincinnati (Ôhio) Moeller and Marmon (Ill.) Academy. Catholic Central earned four individual



Catholic Central's Greg Johnson (top) won on a technical fall over Lutheran High Westland's Caleb Richter at 135. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Catholic Central's Trevor Zdebski (right) earned an 18-3 technical fall over John Glenn's Kevin Huynh. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

titles, led by 145-pounder Malik Amine, who was the Division 1 state champion last year at 140.

The Shamrocks also got firsts from Trevor Zdebski (125), Greg Johnson (135) and Eli Joseph (140)

"The real exciting thing was the younger guys - the freshmen and sophomores – that came in today unseeded and placed in the top five,' CC assistant coach Kevin Griffin said. "That's the most exciting to me. Then we had a few se wrestlers - Eli Joseph and Greg Johnson - who are beginning to show what they're made of and ready to make individual and team runs for us." Zdebski, who was third in last year's state

individual finals at 119, is rounding back into form after suffering an early

season injury. "He (Zdebski) was out with a broken hand and we just wanted to send him to a good tournament where he could wrestle good matches," Griffin said. "And that worked today. It allowed him to get his gas tank up. He's been off the mat, but he's proven his focus has stayed the same on winning a team and individual title this year.'

Amine meanwhile, ecisioned Conn in the

OBSERVERLAND RESULTS

23rd annual OBSERVERVLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS Jan. 25 at Churchill TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 212.5 points; 2. Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 193; 3. Westland John Glenn, 177.5; 4. Livonia Franklin, 131; 5. Wayne Memorial, 120; 6. Belleville, 107.5; 7. Farmington, 89.5; 8. Livo-nia Churchill, 86; 9. Livonia Stevenson, 81; 10. Salem, 77; 11. Lutheran High Westland, 61; 12. Farmington Harrison, 54; 13. Northville, 34; 14. Garden City, 11.

Fartinington Harrison, 54; 15. NorthVille, 54; 14. Garden City, 11. CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 103 pounds: John Siemasz (WIG) decisioned Collin Reed (PJ), 9-2; 3rd place: Josh Muss-in (LC) dec. Chase Walkowiak (Farmington), 10-7; 5th place: Aaron Rehfeldt (CC) pinned Breachen Graften (MMA) 325

10-7; **Sth place:** Aaron Rehfeldt (CC) pinned Brandon Eeles (WM), 3:56. **112:** Michael Volyanyuk (FH) p. Brandon Har-ris (Ply.), 5:51; **3rd:** Cyle Snead (WJG) p. Joe McGrath (CC), 4:27; **Sth:** Ethan Englehart (LC) de. Jack DeJack (WM), 8-6. **119:** Mohamad Youssef (Ply.) won by major dec. over Chris Brown (Bell.), 12-4; **3rd:** Josh Perez (LC) dec. Tim Way (WM), 6-3; **5th:** Chase Spanos (WJG) p. Jeremy Nelson (LF), 0:20. 0:20

125: Trevor Zdebski (CC) won by technical fall over Kevin Hunyh (WJG), 18-3: 3rd: Austin Koehler (Bell.) won by major dec. over Spen-cer Schiftar (Bell.), 10-2; **5th:** Nick Robertson (LF) p. Shunhe Wang (N'ville), 4:56.

(c) J. Shahan Atienza (LF) won by tech. fall over Jesse Jones (Farm.), 15-6; 3rd: Dan Allor (FH) dec. Dylan Dwyer (Ply.), 10-5; 5th: Spen-

(H4) dec. Dylan Dwyer (PJy.) (10-5; Sth: Spen-cer Compo (N'ville) dec. Payton Beneteau (WJG), 11-5. **135:** Greg Johnson (CC) won by major dec. over Caleb Richter (LW), 15-3; **3rd:** Jamonty Houze (Bell) p. Gabe Colston (FH), 3:25; **5th:** Daniel Ahearn (Ply.) dec. Steve Spencer AWG 10-7. (WJG), 10-7.

(WUG), 10-7. **140:** Eli Joseph (CC) p. Sandro Lytwyn (LS), 1:59; **3rd:** Tunde Alawode (WUG) won by in-jury default ove Sterling Schiftar (Ply.), **5th:** Brandon Bellant (Bell.) dec. Zack Leck (LC), 2:17

3:17.
145: Malik Amine (CC) dec. Jon Conn (Ply.),
7-1; 3rd: Caleb McCabe (Salem) dec. Jake Tennis (LS), 7-3; 5th: Zachary Francis (LW) dec. Caleb Brown (Bell.), 10-8.
152: Nick Frazier (LF) p. Aaron Heinonen (WM), 2:08; 3rd: Majdi Hatem (LS) won by

(WM), 2.05, 342, Wald in Alerine (LS) Wolf Dy injury default over Rick Laurence (WJG); 5th: Ryan O'Connor (CC) dec. Sam Campbell (Ply), 7-1. 160: Jordan Atienza (LF) p. Joey Shaver (Ply), 1:51; 3rd: Connor Thornbury (Salem) dec. Zack Tulley (CC), 6-2; 5th: Matt Justice (Exrm) was by mains dec. over Andy Antalia (Farm.) won by major dec. over Andy Antolin (Bell.), 9-1.

(Bell), 9-1. **171:** Hussein Youssef (Ply.) dec. Connor Vaughan (LS), 4-2 (overtime); **3rd:** Matt Cylla (N'ville) p. Jonah Lambart (LW), 1:26; **5th:** Adam McGrath (CC) dec. Roy Foster (Salem), 11-9.

11-9. 189: Mitchell Gross (Salem) dec. Baker Had-wan (LC), 5-4; 3rd: Brandon Underwood (Bell.) dec. James Pomerico (WM), 10-5; 5th: Michael Vallespir (CC) dec. Tarek Tamimi (bu), 5-2; (Ply.), 5-2.

(197), 5-2. 215: Jordon Brandon (WJG) won by tech. fall over Trent Bekker (Farm.), 24-9; **3rd:** Joe For-tin (LF) dec. Thomas Krueger (LW), 11-8; **5th:** Sam Moody (WM) dec. Toreano Nichols (GC),

285: Aaron Mauldin (WM) dec. Nate Irvine (WJG), 11-4; **3rd:** Michael Jordan (Ply.) dec. Jake Mercieca (LC), 7-6; **5th:** Joe Ghafari (Farm.) p. Dave Touley (Bell.), 2:08.

at 152.

Younger brother Nathan Atienza, a freshman, also came away with the 130-pound crown, while Nick Frazier contributed a first at 152 for the Patriots.

Farmington Harrison's Michael Volyanyuk (112) earned the lower weights MVP title.

Other individual Observerland champions included Salem's Mitchell Gross (189), who edged Churchill's Baker Hadwan, 5-4, and Wayne's Aaron Mauldin (285), who decisioned Irvine, 11-4.

to face just 16 shots and stopped 15 for the win.

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE Notice of Rate Increases Water & Sewer Department

The following water and sewer rates have been adjusted as follows and are effective with the new billing cycle that begins after January 13, 2014. The rate changes are as follows: <u>Rate per 1,000 gallons:</u>

	Present:	<u>Year 2014</u>
Water	\$5.19	\$5.19
Sewer	\$4.82	\$4.82

In addition to the usage rate, a fixed rate per meter size will be assessed in accordance with the following chart:

A 1			
Annual	Fixed Rate	Fixed	Total
Cost	Water	Sewer	Fixed Rate
\$121.66	\$7.36	\$2.78	\$10.14
\$213.73	\$12.93	\$4.88	\$17.81
\$342.62	\$20.74	\$7.82	\$28.55
\$710.90	\$43.02	\$16.22	\$59.24
\$1,226.49	\$74.23	\$27.98	\$102.21
\$7,413.58	\$448.66	\$169.14	\$617.80
	\$121.66 \$213.73 \$342.62 \$710.90 \$1,226.49	\$121.66 \$7.36 \$213.73 \$12.93 \$342.62 \$20.74 \$710.90 \$43.02 \$1,226.49 \$74.23	CostWaterSewer\$121.66\$7.36\$2.78\$213.73\$12.93\$4.88\$342.62\$20.74\$7.82\$710.90\$43.02\$16.22\$1,226.49\$74.23\$27.98

Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk

LO-0000175638 3x3.5

Publish: January 23 & 30, 2014

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE 2014 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

The Northville Township 2014 Board of Review will conduct hearings on the following dates for appeals from citizens, regarding the 2014 assessment, at the Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile Road. All appeals are by appointment. Beginning Friday, February 21, 2014 you may call (248) 348-5810 to schedule an appointment. Letters of appeal must be received by 4:00 p.m., March 14, 2014. Postmarks are not accepted.

March 04, 2014 1:00 pm - Organizational Meeting Tuesday

Appointment Dates for Hearing:

Saturday	March 08, 2014	9:00 am to 12 Noon
Monday	March 10, 2014	$9{:}00~\mathrm{am}$ to 12 Noon and $1{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$ to $4{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$
Tuesday	March 11, 2014	$1{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$ to $4{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$ and $6{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$ to $9{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$
Thursday	March 13, 2014	$9{:}00~\mathrm{am}$ to 12 Noon and $5{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$ to $8{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$
Friday	March 14, 2014	9:00 am to 12 Noon and 1:00 pm to $4:00$ pm

All persons protesting their assessment must complete a petition (form L-4035) which can be obtained at Northville Township Hall or on the Township website twp.northville.mi.us click on Board of Review or at <u>www.michigan.gov/treasury</u>

> Sue A. Hillebrand, M.M.C. Clerk

Publish: 1/30/14, 2/13/14, 2/27/14

LO-0000176499 3x4 5

finals, 7-1.

"I think the guy I was most impressed with was Jon Conn," Guernsey said. "We discussed whether he'd go 140 or 145, but we eventually decided to go 145 to get

little bit."

with Sterling Schiftar

Meanwhile, John

Brandon (215), the latter

sion 1 state runner-up.

runner-up finishes.

of whom was a 2013 Divi-

Nate Irvine (285) and Kevin Huynh (125) added

Our kids wrestled well today," Glenn coach

Bill Polk said. "I think

our meat grinders every

weekend paid off a little

beating a lot more kids

with better records than

we had in a lot of weight

lower seeds upset higher

things have been the last

couple of weeks. They

stepped it up today a

seeds, so overall, I can't

complain of the way

classes. We had a lot of

bit here because we were

Franklin went threefor-three in the finals, led by senior Jordan Atienza (160), the upper weights MVP who stayed undefeated on the year. Atienza was a Division 1 state runner-up last year

bemons@hometownlife.com 313-222-6851

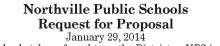
LO-0000178059 3X2.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING**

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The ZBA will consider variance requests to Chapter 145, Sign Ordinance, for businesses located at 20401 Haggerty Road (monument sign to digital LED); 19090 Northville Road (monument sign to digital LED; sign height) and 39425 Six Mile Road (monument sign to digital LED). The ZBA will consider variance requests to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance, for businesses located at 41700 and 41740 Six Mile Road (side yard setbacks) and 42000 Seven Mile Road (parking lot front yard setback and parking in excess of 25%); and residential property at 42260 and 42228 Five Mile Road (distance between homes, front garage façade ratio). 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

January 30, 2014



The Northville Public Schools (also referred to as the District or NPS in these documents) will accept sealed bids for:

Silver Springs Elementary School- New Gymnasium Floor

There will be a pre-bid on February 3, 2014 at 8:00am. The drawings, specifications and bidding documents will be made available on line at: www.bid4michigan.com or www.northville.k12.mi.us.

Sealed bids should be submitted to Mike Zopf, Assistant Superintendent Northville Public Schools, 501 W. Main Street, Northville MI 48167. Bids are to be submitted no later than 1:00pm on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. The District will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission. Bids will be publicly opened immediately following the close of receiving bids. No oral, email, telephonic or telegraphic proposals shall be considered.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part; or, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time or preference, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

The contents of RFP and Bidder's (also referred to as Contractor in these documents) Proposal will become contractual obligations, if a contract ensues. Failure of the Bidder to accept these obligations will result in cancellation of the award. Award of a contract by the District is subject to the Contractor executing a Contract, which shall incorporate the contents of this RFP and the Contractor's Proposal and final approval if the same by the District's legal counsel.

In compliance with MCL 380.1267, the bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, or the superintendent of the school district. The Board shall not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Certified check or Bid Bond must accompany each proposal by an approved surety company in an amount not less than 5% of the proposal amount. All bids shall be firm for at least sixty (60) days from the date of opening of bids. Length of time required for completion shall be specified in the bid. All bids submitted must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Bids are to be submitted on the District's Bid Proposal Form, signed by the Bidder, in a sealed envelope and clearly marked. Two (2) copies of the Bid Proposal Form should be addressed to the attention of:

> Mike Zopf, Assistant Superintendent Northville Public Schools 501 W. Main Street Northville, MI 48167 "Silver Springs Gymnasium Floor - BID"

One (1) copy of the bid form should be retained for your files. Any questions should be referred to Michelle Kerns (248) 921- 3929. Publish: January 30, 2014 LO-0000178203

B4 (NR)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BUSINESS

KURT KUBAN, EDITOR

KKUBAN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-437-2011, EXT. 245 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Clothes Mentor employees Keilani Haralson (left) and Colette Copp organize some of the Novi Town Center shop's display racks. The store specializes in resale women's wear, purses and shoes at 43299 Crescent Blvd. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clothes Mentor helps women go green, be stylish

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Gina and Paul Wells of Canton know lots of women want to be fashionable - and save the environment.

'We see that a lot more," Gina, co-owner with her husband of the Clothes Mentor in Novi, said of going green by recycling clothes for sale. Even younger women like to bring clothes in for resale.

"We have seen that trend really turn around," she said. 'Green is really, really a big thing.

The couple also owns three Plato's Closet stores, for teens and young women, one in the Novi Town Center near their Clothes Mentor franchise, as well as Plato's stores in Canton and Ann Arbor.

They've had the Ann Arbor Plato's Closet about seven years, the Canton one 11 years.

"I'm a Motown girl," she said. "I'm all about Detroit growth. I just think we all need to pull together to get this area back to where it belongs."

Their Clothes Mentor, 43299 Crescent Blvd. in Novi, opened in November 2012 and can be reached at 248-348-3830. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. (Buying hours end one hour before closing time.)

"We buy and then resell better brand names," she said. That includes business, casual, athletic, jewelry, shoes and purses.

Women age 22 to their 70s seeking designer items at good cost are customers.

"The designer handbags are really big for us," she said, noting they buy on the spot and pay cash for good-quality items. "We buy things we pretty much know

will move right away." Their Clothes Mentor customers range from Michael Kors to Coldwater Creek and Talbots, as well as plus sizes and maternity.

The Wellses opened the first Michigan Plato's Closet 12 years ago in Novi. "People that find us absolutely love us," she said. "It's been getting the word out that's hard.'

Women customers appreciate the mall look of the store and its much lower prices.

"We always have people who want to sell," Wells said, adding they must reach both demographics. "We do carry really current merchandise."

Right now, women are selling clothing, common after Christmas.

"There's a wide range of styles and ages," she said.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Buy Michigan Now vendors, sponsors

The Buy Michigan Now Festival will celebrate its 6th anniversary in downtown Northville Aug. 1-3, 2014. Hosted by the Buy Michigan Now campaign and downtown Northville, the familyfriendly festival will once again showcase a wide variety of Michigan businesses, products, entertainers, and educational opportunities. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are now open for the 2014 Buy Michigan Now Festival.

"People are becoming more and more passionate about supporting Michigan businesses, and as a result, this festival has grown tremendously each year. It is an incredible avenue for local businesses to demonstrate their commitment to Michigan, and a spectacular venue for selling products that are made ĥere," said Buy Michigan Now founder, Lisa Diggs.

The weekend celebration focuses attention on Michigan-based businesses and locally-produced merchandise with exhibitors in tents on the street. It takes place in downtown Northville, which is also home to many independentlyowned restaurants, boutiques, and galleries for guests to enjoy. Michigan-based organizations are invited to visit www.BuyMichiganNow-Fest.com to apply for exhibitor space.

The event also features live entertainment, food, and a Kids Zone dedicated to family fun. Admission to the festival is free, as is parking in

Work under wraps

the surrounding lots and structures. Main and Center streets in downtown Northville will be closed to allow for pedestrian traffic.

The Buy Michigan Now Festival is scheduled to run from:

For information on sponsorship opportunities, send an email inquiry to Fest@BuyMichiganNow.com. A full list of events will be announced later. For the most up-to-date information visit www.BuyMichiganNowFest.com.

Community **Financial charity**

Through its Warming Hearts & Homes charitable campaign, Plymouthbased Community Financial Credit Union has donated to several nonprofit organizations, including The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW), local food pantries and The Salvation Army Coats for Kids Program, each of which received a portion of the \$30,000 that was earmarked for Warming Hearts and Homes.

THAW helps more than 20,000 children in their efforts to provide energy assistance to low-income families throughout Michigan. Funds received by THAW help Michigan families keep their utilities on. The Salvation Army Coats for Kids Program has provided warm coats to children in need for 31 years in eastern Michigan. Other donations from Warming Hearts and Homes went directly to food pantries around southeast Michigan, feeding those who need assistance during

the winter months.

Community Financial Credit Union has numerous local branches, including in Northville at 400 Main Street. For more information, including how to become a member, visit www.cfcu-.org or call 877-937-2328.

Book signings

The Next Chapter Book Store & Bistro, located at 141 E Main Street in downtown Northville, will host several upcoming author visits and book signings.

Author Paul Travis, a Westland resident, will visit from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 8. He will be available to sign copies of his book, Tenfold Ministry. The book examines how people play a role in the church, and how God functions in "meticulous order."

Author William Guy, of Beverly Hills, Mich., will also visit from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 8 to sign copies of his book, The Last Nephilim, a work of historical fiction based upon the first chapters of the book of Genesis and several ancient apocryphal texts. This story presents the Nephilim of Genesis chapter six as gifted giants that essentially promoted worship of themselves as deities to post-flood human populations. The Bible asserts that monotheism was before polytheism, but there is no clear explanation as to why polytheism became so prevalent such a short time after the flood.

For more information, contact Michelle Whitman at 877-727-0697 or michelle@keymgc.com.



Reasons w

businesses turn to **Observer & Eccentric Media** RESULTS

Reflections of the effectiveness of the Birmingham City Guide special section

"You would not believe the requests we have for the booklets. So many people ask for copies when they have people coming into town."



Operations Manager Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber



Although passers by might not be able to see it work continues in the bitter cold on the planned 10,000 square foot retail and restaurant development at 410 N. Center in downtown Northville. The interior of the building is under wraps, literally, so that work can continue in the sub-freezing temps. Northville resident Dewayne White, who is developing the project across from Hiller's, has said possible future tenants include a micro-brewery, offices for financial planning, physical therapy practice or maybe even a pizza place. JOHN HEIDER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former Wing McCarty to discuss career, book at Feb. 7 chamber luncheon

Former Detroit Red Wing Darren McCartv will discuss his recent book that documents his life on and off the ice at a multiple-community luncheon coming Friday, Feb. 7, to Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The four-time Stanley Cup champion will discuss his book, My Last Fight, in an on-stage discussion with WJR-AM (760) Sports Director Steve Courtney at the event that involves the Livonia, Westland and Novi chambers of commerce. Members of the audience will have the chance to ask questions. "We look forward to

meeting Darren and hearing about memorable moments from those



McCartv

learned in life," Livonia Chamber President Dan West said. "Regardless of your interest in hockey, I believe everyone will appreciate at least some aspect of his story."

In My Last Fight, McCarty shares inside stories from his childhood building his hockey dreams to his 15-year professional hockey career to details of his personal struggles in the hope others will learn valuable lessons.

Copies of the book will be sold at the event and McCarty will take pictures and sign autographs after the formal presentation.

Seats can be reserved now. The cost is \$30 for chamber members, \$40 for guests. For more information, contact Laura Sweeney at 734-427-2122 or email her at sweeney@livonia.org.

champi-



B5 (NR) THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

REAL ESTATE JULIE BROWN, EDITOR JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-6755 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Exterior projects rate well with Realtors on resale

A home's curb appeal is cru-cial because it can be the first thing buyers notice about a home. That's why Realtors rated exterior projects among the most valuable home improvement projects in the 2014 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report.

With many factors to consid-

er such as cost and time, deciding what remodeling projects to undertake can be a difficult decision for homeowners," said National Association of Realtors **President Steve**



Brown, co-owner of Irongate, Inc. Realtors in Dayton, Ohio. "Realtors know what home features are important to buyers in their area, but a home's curb appeal is always critical since it's the first impression for potential buyers. That's why exterior replacement projects offer the greatest bang for the buck. Projects such as entry door, siding and window replacements can recoup homeowners more than 78 percent of costs upon resale."

NAR's consumer website HouseLogic.com highlights the results of the report in its "Best Bets for Remodeling Your Home in 2014" slideshow. The site also provides information and advice on various home improvement projects, including a guide to kitchen remodeling with the best payback and dozens of exterior replacement projects.

Realtors judged a steel entry door replacement as the project expected to return the most money, with an estimated 96.6 percent of costs recouped upon

resale. The steel entry door replacement is consistently the least expensive project in the annual Cost vs. Value Report. costing little more than \$1,100 on average.

Eight of the top 10 most costeffective projects nationally, in terms of value recouped, are exterior projects. A wood deck addition came in second with an estimated 87.4 percent of costs recouped upon resale. Two different siding replacement projects also landed in the top 10, including fiber-cement siding, expected to return 87 percent of costs, and vinyl siding, expected to return 78.2 percent of costs. Out of the top 10 projects, the fiber-cement siding replacement project improved the most since last year, with costs recouped increasing by more than 15 percent. Two garage door replacements were also in the top 10; a midrange garage door replacement is expected to return 83.7 percent while an upscale garage door replacement follows closely at 82.9 percent of costs recouped. Rounding out the top exterior remodeling projects were two window replacements; a wood window replacement is estimated to recoup 79.3 percent of costs and a vinyl window replacement is estimated to recoup 78.7 percent of costs.

According to the report, two interior remodeling projects in particular can recoup substantial value at resale. An attic bedroom is ranked fourth and is expected to return 84.3 percent of costs; nationally, the average cost for the project is just above \$49,000. The second interior remodeling project in the top 10 is the minor kitchen remodel.

The project landed at number seven and is estimated to recoup 82.7 percent of costs. Nationally, the average cost for the project is just under \$19,000. The improvement project likely to return the least is the home office remodel, estimated to recoup 48.9 percent.

For the report, Realtors provided their insights into local markets and buyer home preferences within those markets. For 2014, the national average costvalue ratio stands at 66.1 percent, a jump of 5.5 points over last year and the largest increase since 2005, when the ratio increased 6.1 points to reach a high of 86.7 percent. For the second consecutive year, Cost vs. Value data shows that the value of remodeling is up for all 35 projects included in the survey. Additionally, for the first time in four years, improved resale value of residential housing had more of an influence in the cost-value ratio than construction costs. A modest 2.2 percent increase in average national construction costs was more than offset by an 11.5 percent improvement in average national resale value.

The 2014 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report compares construction costs with resale values for 35 midrange and upscale remodeling projects comprising additions, remodels and replacements in 100 markets across the country. Data are grouped in nine U.S. regions, following the divisions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. This is the 16th consecutive year that the report, which is produced by Remodeling magazine publisher Hanley Wood, LLC, was completed

in cooperation with NAR.

'Every neighborhood is different and the desirability and resale value of a particular remodeling project varies by region and metro area. Before undertaking a remodeling project, homeowners should consult a Realtor as they are the best resource when deciding what projects will provide the most return upon resale," said Brown. "Realtors have a unique understanding of local markets, home features and buyer preferences and know that there are a variety of factors that affect a home's value, such as location, condition of surrounding properties and regional economic climate.

Seven of the nine regions covered in the report outperformed the national average, a distinct improvement over 2013, when just four regions performed better than average. Once again, the Pacific region, consisting of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, led the nation with an average cost-value ratio of 88 percent, due mainly to strong resale values. The next best performing region was West South Central with 76.4 percent, followed by three regions tied at 74.6 percent: South Atlantic, which improved from 63.7 percent in 2013, New England, which improved from 56.2 percent in 2013, and East North Central, which improved from 54.8 percent in 2013.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 9-13, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

\$412,000

\$431,000

\$397,000

\$260,000

\$360,000

BEVERLY HILLS

19344 Devonshire St 31324 Foxboro Way 30512 Lincolnshire E 17023 Madoline St 30619 Pebblestone Ct

1628 Apple Ln 2035 E Hammond Lake Dr 480 Fox Hills Dr N # A-7 6449 Maple Hills Dr 1127 Meadowglen Ct 559 Overbrook Rd 850 Trailwood Path # B 609 Westbourne Dr 575 Hamilton Rd **COMMERCE TOWNSHIP** 3269 Adele Ter 5602 Brentwood 9697 Cooley Lake Rd

\$609,000 \$240,000 \$20,000 \$190,000 \$290,000 \$525,000 \$138,000 \$305,000 \$560,000 \$218,000 \$330,000 \$200,000

Dr 25712 Rutledge Xing 22033 Springbrook Ave 29562 Strathmore Dr 28156 Thorny Brae Rd 31766 Wayburn St 21588 Whittington St 28120 Wildwood Trl FRANKLIN

33715 Old Timber Rd

39386 Plumbrook Dr

30401 Ramblewood Club

21863 Ontaga St

\$308,000 \$83,000 \$270,000 \$185,000 \$285,000 \$125,000 \$266,000 \$146,000 \$172,000 \$181,000 \$250,000 SOUTH LYON

26174 Fieldstone Dr \$276,000 \$100,000 226 Henning St \$413,000 24311 Lynwood Dr \$155,000 41098 Malott 26349 Mandalay Cir \$582,000 23917 Meadowbrook Rd \$160,000 22120 Perth Ct \$491,000 24875 Reeds Pointe Dr \$515,000 \$175,000 41854 Sycamore Dr 41658 Tera Ln \$142,000 27436 Victoria Rd \$259,000 22514 Winfield Rd \$232,000

Oahu a hot market

Q: I am thinking about buying a home or condominium on Oahu Island where Honolulu is located. I am wondering if the market is still weak from the recession.

A: Based upon my examination of the area in question, year

to date median sales prices for both condos

single family

and

Robert Meisner

homes are at record or near record highs, and homes are selling faster than ever. Builders are basically saying that prices and the number of sales keep climbing while the number of days on the market for listings shrinks. For example, the median sales price for a single family home in 2013 year to date is \$690,000, just a few thousand dollars shy of the 2007 record high of \$699,000; and median prices for condominiums are at a record high of \$421,000 These prices are up 5 percent over the previous year. While these are median prices in a residential area around Honolulu, you can expect that prices in the high-rise condos in downtown Honolulu have increased accordingly. With the overall additional expense of living in Honolulu, you should consider it a step above real estate prices even in California.

Q: I am reasonably well to do and am looking to buy a home in Maui. I frankly don't have any idea of what it will cost for me to get a beacfront home, per haps with two or three bedrooms with an ocean view. Can you give me some insight? A: You better be prepared to pay in the millions for an ocean view. For example, in the Kaanapali area a three-bedroom, threebathroom home is selling for approximately \$2,700,000 and is about 1,930 square feet of internal interior living space and 250 square feet of a private lanai. As in any other location that has a magnificent ocean view, you will be paying not only for the topography of the land, but the view as well. There are many homes for sale in the areas in which you are looking, but the prices have increased substantially in the last 18 months, and you may be best advised to buy a lot before constructing a home on it to the extent that you can obtain it. Look around for a good Realtor who specializes in beachfront property and knows the neighborhood.

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BIRMINGHAM		4576 Driftwood Dr	\$500,000	26845 Crestwood Dr	\$48 5,000	52000 11 Mile Rd	\$159, 000
993 Bird Ave	\$431,000	2149 Palmetto	\$40,000	32951 Haverford Rd	\$174,000	60000 11 Mile Rd	\$153,000
1690 Birmingham Blvd	\$310,000	2152 Palmetto	\$40,000	30265 Woodside Ct	\$502,000	54773 Brentwood Dr	\$340,000
931 N Adams Rd	\$109,000	2784 Red Arrow Dr	\$150,000	MILFORD		24394 Brompton Way	\$371,000
401 N Eton St # 104	\$100,000	1440 Woodcrest Ln	\$382,000	1725 Balsam Way	\$555,000	25775 Coach Ln	\$435,000
437 N Eton St # 405	\$120,000	FARMINGTON		545 Olivia Dr	\$280,000	26361 Daria Cir E	\$333,000
631 Ruffner Ave	\$431,000	32100 Grand River Ave	\$44,000	2674 Our Land Ct	\$240,000	21026 Greenbriar Ln	\$305,000
1332 S Bates St	\$383,000	Unit 1		934 Prince St	\$134,000	23540 Sawgrass Ct N	\$355,000
1874 S Bates St	\$657,000	35626 Heritage Ln	\$78, 000	1941 Scenic Dr	\$393,000	272 Winchester St	\$150,000
411 S Old Woodward Ave	\$174,000	21040 Larkspur St	\$125,000	177 Shelley Dr	\$143,000	SOUTHFIELD	
Unit		24168 Twin Valley Ct	\$195,000	NORTHVILLE		18712 Addison Dr	\$150,000
2283 W Maple Rd	\$222,000	FARMINGTON HILLS		42127 Gladwin St	\$9 5,000	17290 Alta Vista Dr	\$215,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS		29305 Bradmoor Ct	\$550,000	21115 Haven Circle	\$22,000	20921 Mada Ave	\$82,000
1751 Bellwood Ct	\$315,000	21620 Cass St	\$280,000	22252 Lujon Dr	\$87, 000	27401 Nantucket Dr	\$135,000
5931 Blandford Rd	\$230,000	30028 Club House Ln	\$270,000	22851 Napier Rd	\$330,000	30761 Northgate Dr	\$101,000
4250 Ewell Ct	\$490,000	22614 Colgate St	\$66,000	42120 Pellston Dr	\$109,000	28787 Ranchwood Dr	\$105,000
1761 Huntingwood Ln # C	\$75,000	36985 Deer Run Dr	\$127,000	844 Yorktown Ct	\$145,000	17255 Shervilla Pl	\$18 5,000
3800 Lahser Rd	\$669, 000	30145 Fox Club Dr	\$324,000	NOVI		29199 Wellington Ct # 56	\$71,000
5385 Longmeadow Rd	\$ 556,000	35496 Fredericksburg Rd	\$288, 000	45643 Addington Ln	\$407,000	WHITE LAKE	
1750 Tiverton Rd	\$138, 000	35715 Fredericksburg Rd	\$257,000	43521 Algonquin Dr	\$205,000	9595 Outlook Pl	\$8 0,000
2773 Turtle Lake Dr	\$192, 000	31153 Harmony Ln	\$50,000	45567 Amherst Dr	\$292, 000	9583 Portage Trl	\$151,000
666 Vaughan Rd	\$1,500,000	28125 Kendallwood Dr	\$145,000	245 88 B orderhill	\$166,000	8022 Wildwood Ln	\$230,000
4525 Walden Dr	\$550,000	29722 Kenloch Dr	\$434,000	28284 Carlton Way Dr	\$170,000	8109 Wildwood Ln	\$216, 000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP		29694 Mayfair Dr	\$243,000	24702 Cavendish Ave E	\$511,000	8183 Wildwood Ln	\$225,000
4036 Antique Ln	\$310,000	24050 Middlebelt Rd Unit 3	\$53,000	50763 Chesapeake Dr	\$770,000		

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 30 through Oct. 4, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

44157 Brandywyne Rd 1501 Brookdale Dr 40389 Chatsworth Ct 44925 Coachman Ct 5285 Denton Rd 41531 Glade Rd 41410 Hanford Rd 147 Kings Way 697 Merrimac Rd 47643 Ormskirk Dr 43646 Ryegate St 1779 Steeplechase Rd

48922 Woodson Way **GARDEN CITY** 121 Gilman St 29480 Meadow Ln 30721 Pierce St LIVONIA 31447 Alabama Ct \$130,000 33028 Barkley St \$170,000 14219 Brentwood St \$182,000 37514 Bristol Ct \$148,000 29552 Clarita St \$85,000 18501 Deering St \$166,000 17587 Edgewood St \$145.000 18712 Flamingo Blvd 34087 Gable Dr \$175,000 \$176,000 15985 Huff St \$133,000 20682 Laurel Ct 14925 Marsha St \$205,000 \$89,000 31600 Myrna St

6862 Willow Creek Dr

\$140,000	30074 W Chicago St
\$341,000	16126 Westbrook St
	14142 Woodside St
\$9 0,000	NORTHVILLE
\$70,000	43005 Ambridge Ct
\$84,000	47544 Arbor Trl
	18919 Bella Vista Ct
\$155,000	16698 Dover Dr
\$187,000	49197 Freestone Dr
\$140,000	483 Grace St
\$280,000	49145 Hidden Ridge Dr
\$45,000	19250 Meadowbrook Rd
\$60,000	48878 Stoneridge Dr
\$240,000	PLYMOUTH
\$142,000	11393 Cedar Ln
\$262,000	12124 Chandler Dr
\$232,000	13400 Hidden Creek Dr
\$378, 000	11449 N Ridge Rd
\$155,000	143 S Union St
\$275,000	9477 Winterset Cir

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

\$120,000	REDFORD	
\$176,000	9155 Arnold	\$64,000
\$176,000	20447 Delaware Ave	\$53,000
	10000 Dixie	\$83,000
\$330,000	17694 Gaylord	\$72,000
\$363,000	11442 Lucerne	\$75,000
\$752,000	18836 Negaunee	\$37,000
\$156, 000	16982 Wakenden	\$78, 000
\$466,000	WAYNE	
\$210,000	31622 Filmore St	\$59, 000
\$122,000	34947 Glenwood Rd	\$30,000
\$390,000	WESTLAND	
\$1,000,000	6827 Apache Trl	\$8 5,000
	36803 Canyon Dr	\$178,000
\$152,000	841 Fairlane St	\$8 5,000
\$425,000	30744 Gladys Ave	\$99, 000
\$260,000	31037 Gladys Ave	\$124,000
\$8 05,000	733 Ravencrest Ln	\$103,000
\$192,000	38290 Warner Farms Dr	\$70,000
\$299,000	38531 Watson Cir	\$174,000

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures. Many sellers are misinformed or not sure about how the procedures work. Organizers will also discuss the internal workings of short sales and the different steps involved.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m.

Thursdays at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Additional parking across the street in back. Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Seminar on Tuesdays, **Thursdays**

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

and Thursdays at 2 p.m., held at various locations.

RSVP with Colonial Mortgage at 800-260-5484.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Investors

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

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091.

Robert M. Meisner is a

lawyer and the author of " Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling, and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95 plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. " Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes. Amazon.com. and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



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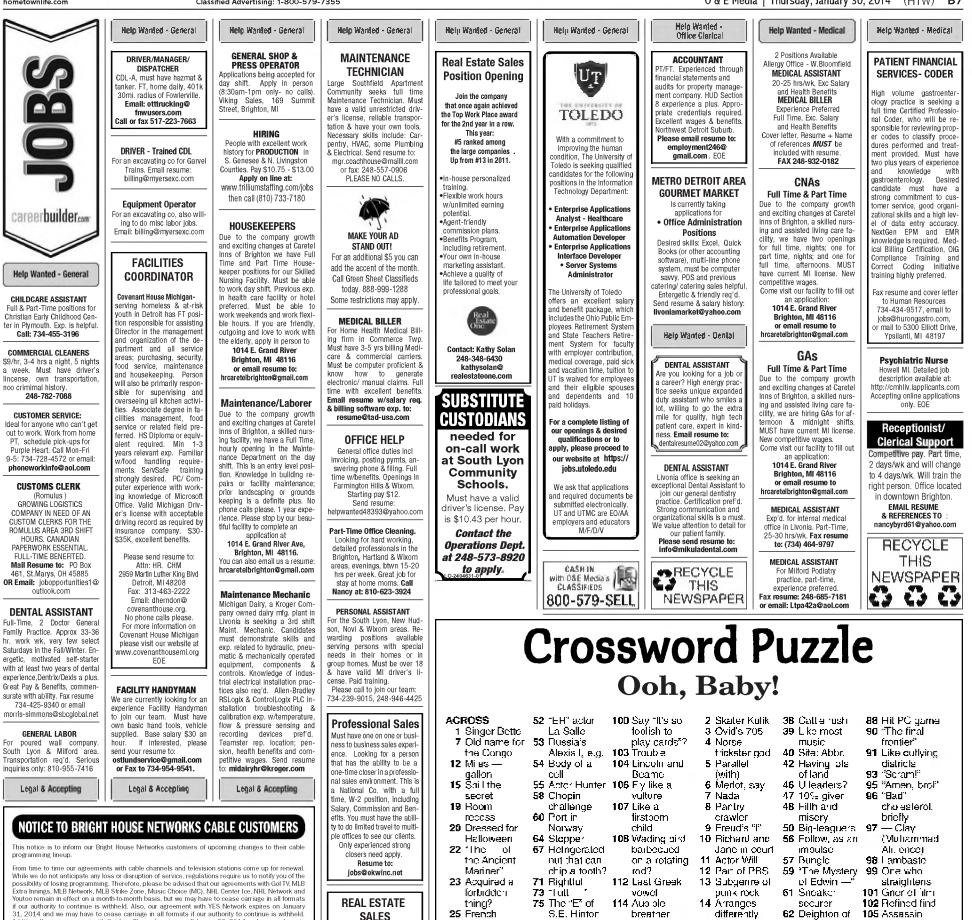
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From time to time our agreements with cable channels and television stations come up for renewal While we do not anticipate any loss or discuption of service, regulations require us to notify you of the possibility of losing programming. Therefore, please be advised that our agreements with GoIT V MLB Extra Innings, MLB Network, MLB Strike Zone, Music Choice (MC), NHL Center Ice, NHL Network and Youtoo remain in effect on a month-to-month basis, but we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. Also, our agreement with YES Network expires on January 31, 2014 and we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. Additionally, our agreement with Outdoor Channel expires on February 28, 2014 and we may have to record output to the second second to the second cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. We are working diligently at this time to come to acceptable and fair terms with all these channels On or after March 1, 2014, the following channels will be relocated: NBC Sports Network from channel 74 to channel 34 NBC Sports Network HD from channel 274 to channel 234 On or after March 3, 2014, Military Channel will rebrand to American Heroes Channel and continue to appear on the following channels American Heroes Channel American Heroes Channel HD Channel 146 Channel 346 On or after March 31, 2014, the following Bright House Networks products, services and ent will cha Digital Tier / Digital Basic Tier will be renamed to Premier TV Service Digital Her / Digital Basic Her Will be rename Turbo will be renamed to Lightning 30 Converter will be renamed to Standard Box HD Converter will be renamed to Bundle Combo will be renamed to Bundle Navigator will be renamed to Digital Guide

Bright House Networks utilizes a new digital video delivery technology known as Switched Digital Urger (SUS). SDV is a robust bandwidth management system that makes it possible to offer more digital video programming services than before including new HD channels. To be able to offer more new video services, Bright House Networks will be moving some existing programming services to the new SDV system as well as adding new services on the SDV system.

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5 Top Reasons Why Medical Office **Managers Have** the Best Job

By Angela Rose Contributing Writer

Fast-paced healthcare environments are often stressful, yet it's the medical office manager's job to keep the operations of the practice, department, or facility running efficiently at all times. Doing so requires a special type of professional, one who excels under pressure, communicates effectively, and can balance the tangible as well as intangible needs of both patients and staff. Does this sound like you? If so, then you are well suited for this exciting careerand one of the best opportunities in the healthcare industry. Consider these five reasons why medical office managers have the best job.

1. Predicted Job Growth for Medical Office Managers is Impressive

In 2010, there were 303,000 medical and health services managers in the U.S., according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Employment of these professionals is expected to grow increase of 68,000 jobs. Why is there such an impressive surge in demand? The answer is simple: our growing aging population. Elderly Americans require more healthcare and healthcare facilities-along with more medical office managers to run them.

2. Medical Office Managers Earn Excellent Salaries

The median annual salary of medical and health services managers, including medical office managers, was \$84,270 in 2010, according to the BLS. The bottom 10 percent earned less than \$51,280, while the top 10 percent received more than \$144,880. Actual earnings vary by type of facility, size of facility, and level of responsibility.

For example, according to the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), median salary for medical office managers in practices with up to six physicians was \$86,459 in 2010. Professionals working in practices with seven to 25 physicians earned



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age of \$150,756 a year.

3. Every City and State Needs Medical Office Managers

According to the BLS, 39 percent of medical and health service managers, including medical office managers, work in hospitals. Nine percent work in physician offices, while 7 percent are employed in nursing care facilities, 6 percent in home health care, and 5 percent in outpatient care centers. These establishments are located in virtually every city and state in the country. This means you can find a medical office manager job no matter where you live—and should you eventually choose to relocate, you can easily take your career with you.

4. You Will Use a Variety of Skills as a Medical Office Manager

To succeed as a medical office manager, you must use skills in organization and attention to detail. You will have the opportunity to exercise your communication abilities daily, along with conflict resolution and the man-

arise between doctors, nurses, non-clinical staff members, and patients. Plus, you get to develop a basic understanding of all the non-clinical aspects of the practice in case you need to fill in. This means learning everything from reception and scheduling to coding and billing.

5. No Two Days are Alike as a Medical Office Manager

Medical practice management is not a boring job. On any given day, you may interview potential employees, negotiate a contract, and create staff schedules. It's your responsibility to juggle priorities, increase practice efficiency, and even manage the budget. Not to mention ensuring the organization complies with the latest laws and regulations. If you love a new challenge, then medical practice management is definitely for you.

About the Author

1-3 years experience Knowledge or experience Angela Rose is an expe-5 years management Ventilator, Trach and G-Tube experience in health rienced professional who of how to perform Nerve Care experience preferred. care. BS in Health Conduction Studies & Ankle researches and writes Brachial Index preferred EXCELLENT PAY! **Care Administration** Available to work 16-24 hrs/ about job search strategy, or Business wk.; Flexible hours Part-time Email resume to: Administration is Mon.-Fri. Only career management, hir-HC-HR@healthcallhomecare.com preferred. ing trends and workplace For further information or visit: \$10 - \$14 / hour regarding this position www.healthcallhomecare.com issues. Send Resume to: please forward resume Rosemarie Brewer, Admin. (800) 991-9933 x505 with cover letter to By Email: Reprinted with permission from Triad.CMA@gmail.com or Fax: 248-319-0354 THealthCall milfordfamilypractice.com HEALTHeCAREERS Network. 0-2403576-0 OE2368343 Looking to **O&E Media** IT'S ALL Hiring? **Need to Rent** Buy A New Classifieds ABOUT That House or Car? Work Hard! **Apartment? RESULTS!** EVERY WEEK, we bring buyers & sellers, employers & employees,



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