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Upcoming Northville Rotary activities

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

Northville Rotary conducts the annual Goodfellows paper sale, and this year the event will be Dec. 13. City and township fire departments and Rotary members staff the event, but others are invited and sought to participate in the rewarding event. Volunteers will help in many features of the event, including sale of papers and event facilitation, and need to be over the age of 18 years.

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

Transfer or not?

School board seeks more input before taking a position on property transfer

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

Many Woodside Village families feel more connected to the Northville community than Plymouth-Canton, where they are part of the school district, and that's why they want to leave and join Northville Public Schools.

Those opposed to their request fear an influx of more students could lead to more redistricting and classroom sizes growing even bigger, thus negatively impacting the learning environment.

Families in Woodside Village have filed a Property Transfer Request petition with the Wayne County Regional Educational

Service Agency (Wayne RESA) that could ultimately move their neighborhood, currently part of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, into the Northville Public Schools attendance area.

The two sides were presented at the Northville Board of Education meeting Nov. 11. During the public comment period on the Property Transfer Petition being sought by the Woodside Village neighborhood, a number of parents went before the school board to state why this should, or shouldn't, be granted.

The Northville school board does not have the authority to approve or deny such a request. However, Wayne RESA has

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Woodside Village wants to switch school districts



Women's group advancing Northville's charitable needs



Northville Main Street League members Lauren Poole Romeo, left, and Jen Mullan will be hosting a sold-out fundraising affair on Nov. 20 at Northville's Village Workshop called Amazing Grapes where attendees will bring a bottle of wine to donate for auction.

Amazing Grapes event sold out

By **Jill Halpin**
Correspondent

Lauren Poole Romeo and her friends are more than just passionate about Northville – they're also passionate about giving back to their hometown.

In fact, it is the motivating force that drove Poole Romeo and friend Jennifer Mullan to start the Main Street League, an ever-growing group of local women dedicated to helping advance the charitable needs within their community.

Established in 2012, the Main Street League began as a group of friends looking to bring more purpose to their social outings – and has blossomed into an expanding giving circle, with group members gathering together to combine resources, time, talent and money in an effort to benefit the community.

"We started out talking about ways that we could make a positive impact on the community within our peer group; things we could do together to help others have fun doing it," said Poole Romeo, a mother of two.

"Our first event was a wine fundraiser – an idea we bor-

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Community service

Eagles hosting Thanksgiving Day dinner

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The Northville Eagles Club will be putting on dinner Thanksgiving Day for those looking for a hearty, delicious meal that's free and a place to celebrate the holiday.

A local community event previously handled by the former Buckminister's Pub is now being taken up by the local Fraternal Order of Eagles as another way to give back to the community.

"We thought this dinner needed to continue, and it will," said Northville Eagles President George Borysko. "It's important to give those who might be in need or just don't have a place to go an opportunity to have a good Thanksgiving dinner."

Last year, Buckminister's hosted nearly 60 people for the dinner.

The Eagles have been receiving help from members through food and money donations as

See **DINNER**, Page A2



The Northville Eagles Club will host the annual Thanksgiving Day meal at its South Center Street facility on Nov. 27. The club is offering a free meal to any and all who want to attend. There will be lots of activities for kids, too. Shown (from left) are George Borysko, president; David Yelonek, trustee; Lynn Law, secretary; and Matt 'Wheels' Wells, trustee.

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DINNER

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well as from other local businesses and groups. On the day of cooking the dinner, Genitti's next door will provide extra kitchen space and preparation help.

The dinner will feature all of the fixings. They already have eight turkeys donated. Eagles trustee Matt 'Wheels' Wells, who helped out last year, said they needed a little more than that for last year's dinner, but they are hopeful others in the community can support the cause.

Helping out in the community is a big part of the Eagles' tradition. The Northville chapter was founded in 1946, and since then it has worked at community

service wherever it could, from "adopting families" at Christmas to helping out the homeless. Currently, they are also helping a local Girl Scout with a bottle and can drive as well as collecting coats for the needy.

"We like to see it as people helping people," said Borysko.

To donate to the dinner, call Lynn Law, Eagles secretary, at 248-202-8999 or Borysko at 248-982-5678.

The dinner will start at noon at the Eagles club, which is located at 113 S. Center Street. It's open to anyone and it's free. The Detroit Lions football game will also be shown at the club during and after dinner.

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CHARITABLE

Continued from Page A1

rowed from some friends that hosted something similar in their home every year – benefitting Northville Civic Concern. We had no idea it would be so popular; we ended up with about 160 people," she added.

That event, Amazing Grapes – so overwhelmingly popular that it is already sold out for this year (Nov. 20) – raised over \$12,000 with \$5,000 of that matched by Meijer Inc. in the form of gift cards for food and baby items.

It was the beginning of a spirit of giving that has taken on a life of its own, Poole Romeo said.

"After our first event, I started getting calls from people asking, 'What are you going to do next? I want to help.' We knew we were on to something," Poole Romeo said.

Encouraged by some mentors in the community to continue their efforts, the group initiated more fundraising events,

WANT TO BE PART OF MSL?

Membership in Main Street League ranges in levels from \$100 to \$500. You can also participate in the group by taking part in MSL fundraisers. For more information about joining MSL or participating in fundraisers, go to www.mainstreetleague.com.

such as diaper and backpack drives, kickball tournaments and more.

They have even been inspired to create a junior version of their group to help get local children involved in giving back to their community. The MSL Juniors are currently assembling over 50 bags to donate to Project Night Night, which donates over 25,000 packages each year, free of charge, to homeless children who need childhood essentials to feel secure, cozy, ready to learn, and significant. Each package contains a new security

blanket, an age-appropriate children's book, and a stuffed animal all nestled inside their own bag.

A 'great community'

Northville is a very generous community, said Mullan, a mother of three.

"We live in a great community. People want to get involved here, they want to help out. I think many people were looking for ways to have a positive impact on the community and participating in these fundraisers lets them do that," Mullan added.

The group also raises awareness about needs within the community, said Lisa Meinzinger-Abraham, a mother of two.

"Even though it looks like a wealthy area, there is still need in the community. It can happen to anyone, anywhere. Things happen in life; people who never expect they are going to need assistance may have health issues or something else come up. You just never know," she said.

Poole Romeo agrees. "Northville is a great community – I grew up here and my family has always been involved in the community. I love it – but I think sometimes people don't recognize the hidden needs," she said.

Despite the hefty price tag for many homes in the area, there is still a definite need for assistance, she said.

Poole Romeo said is hopeful that the 2014 Amazing Grapes event will raise even more funds.

The \$40 ticket for the event includes food and beverages donated by local venues, and attendees are asked to donate a bottle of wine worth \$15 or more. The donated bottles are assembled into wine lots, which are then raffled off to participants.

Through word-of-mouth and social media marketing efforts by Meinzinger-Abraham, attendance for this year's event has swelled to 250.

"It is just another example of this great spirit of giving in Northville," she said.

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African Dreams



Leopards, lions, elephants, hippos, wildebeests, cape buffalo, zebras and giraffes greeted Dave and Kathi Jerome within the first two hours of their safari on the Serengeti Plain in Tanzania, Africa. And that was just the beginning. In March 2014, the Northville couple fulfilled one of Dave's bucket list items when they embarked on a photo safari arranged through African Dreams. The Jeromes will present a travelogue of their African journey at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, to the Northville Woman's Club at the First Presbyterian Church of Northville. Anyone interested in attending the program or obtaining further information about the club should contact club president Lorraine Andaray at 248-349-9463.

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Funds keep Old Glory flying proudly

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Staff Writer

The cold and wind didn't stop the Northville community from celebrating the rededication of its Old Glory American flag on the wall of the Marquis Theater.

A group of supporters to refurbish the mural painting, originally created in 2001 after 9/11, collected in the rear parking lot on Veterans Day. It was a moment for them to see a community-wide effort to raise funds come to a completion and a time to recognize why the 30-foot by 45-foot mural flag matters – especially on Nov. 11.

"We owe a big debt of gratitude to all the men and women who wore a uniform," said Mayor Chris Johnson in recognition.

The mural's story began with the late Inge Zayti, owner of Northville's Marquis Theatre, first commissioning artist Jeff Von Buskirk to paint the building's five-story flag mural in 2002, to commemorate 9/11.

After two final checks were presented by Northville Rotary's Tim Story and on behalf of Shep Goldberg, the group officially recognized the mural's repainting. In memory of Zayti a year after her death, her family and the community pulled together to have the flag repaired and repainted.

Zayti's daughter Christine was on hand to



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

William Demray, lower right, leads the rededication of the U.S. Flag mural on Northville's Marquis Theatre on Nov. 11.

represent her mother and said she would be overjoyed to see the ceremony and painting redone.

"It meant so much to my mom," she said.

And it means a lot to the Northville community. The effort raised \$17,820. For the last several years, it became apparent the flag needed care. The fundraising included a raffle, an auction at the Northville

Sports Den, a Fourth of July party and individuals giving money.

"Northville's Old Glory is still here because of the Northville community," said ceremony emcee and Northville resident Dr. Bill Demray, who was one of the community leaders supporting the project.

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ART HOUSE HAPPENINGS

The Northville Art House is located at 215 W. Cady Street in historic downtown Northville and provides art enrichment and education to the community through classes, art shows and public art. The Art House Gallery and Store are open to the public 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. During the months of November and December, the Northville Art House will also be open from 6-9 p.m. on First Friday, Dec. 5. Call 248-344-0497 or visit www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org for information. The Art House will be closed Thanksgiving week.

Upcoming Events
Beyond Borders: Mosaic Exhibit and Auction: Through Dec. 6, The Northville Art House presents 141 mosaic artworks from 13

countries that are available for bid in an online auction benefitting Doctors Without Borders through the website <http://www.BiddingForGood.com/DWB-MSF>.

The Art of Light": A Northville Camera Club Exhibit: Local photographic talent can be seen in the lower level of the Art House during November and December. The Northville Camera Club will present their largest exhibit of the year, themed "The Art of Light" through Dec. 6.

Holiday Basket Raffle: Each year during the months of November and December, the Art House features about 15 beautifully decorated and filled holiday baskets brimming with goodies from Northville area businesses. Each basket is worth almost \$300, yet tickets are only \$1. Win-

ners will be selected at 8 p.m. Dec. 5, and you need not be present to win. You can purchase tickets during open Art House hours and during special events.

Store
Visit the Art House Store during this holiday season to find unique and affordable quality art and contemporary fine crafts by local artists ranging from jewelry to decorative art for the home. The featured artist is Mary Kernahan from Westland who is a fine jewelry artist. The store is open during Art House hours.

Art Classes & Workshops
Stop by the Art House for a list of art classes and workshops for children and adults, in every medium, and during the day and evening.

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LIBRARY LINES

The Northville Library will be closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27.

Drop-In Little Me Storytime

Time/Date: 10:30-11:15 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21
Details: Little ones, babies to 2 years, along

with parents or caregivers, can enjoy music, simple stories and playtime.

Bottle Cap Necklace Craft For Tweens

Time/Date: 4:15-5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25
Details: Tweens ages 9-12, design your own

one-of-a-kind bottle cap necklace. Call to register.

Twelfth Night Singers

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2
Details: Enjoy traditional seasonal music. Registration required.

The holiday fun kicks off this weekend in Downtown Northville!

Join us November 21-23 for these festive events:

November 21 (6:30 pm)
Holiday Lighted Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony in Town Square

November 22 (7:30 pm)
FREE Showing of the Holiday Movie, "Elf" at the Marquis Theatre

November 22 (10 am-4 pm) & November 23 (11 am-3 pm)
Holiday Greens Market in Town Square

For a complete list of Downtown Northville holiday events, shopping, and dining visit www.downtownnorthville.com

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TRANSFER

Continued from Page A1

asked that each of the respective boards of education take a position on the Property Transfer Request before it is considered by the Wayne RESA Board of Education on Nov. 19.

"We feel very connected to the Northville community," said Woodside homeowner/parent Jackie Cook.

According to Cook, there are around 39 kids in their neighborhood currently going to school, but she added not all will choose to transfer to Northville. She said there would probably be 16 students that would go to elementary school next year if the request is granted.

She, along with others in that neighborhood, said they use Northville Parks and Recreation, attend church in Northville, have friends that go to Northville schools and, in general, are more oriented to Northville.

Woodside Village is a 115-home neighborhood in Northville Township located on the west side of Haggerty Road north of Five Mile Road. The neighborhood borders the Northville Public Schools' attendance boundary on its southeast corner and is adjacent to the current attendance boundaries for Winchester Elementary, Meads Mill Middle, and Northville High schools.

Another Woodside mother, Kerri Winkler, said one of the main reasons she wants to see the transfer happen is because her child is diabetic and she would be closer to Northville schools in case of an emergency.

Opposing transfer

Speaking during the public comment part of the meeting were five Northville parents who emphasized that the neighborhood may be made up of great people and families, but they expressed concerns about:

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Northville school board was expected to vote on its position at its Nov. 18 meeting at Northville High School, where there was an opportunity for additional public comment prior to the board's vote.

The Wayne RESA Board was considered the Property Transfer Request at its Nov. 19 meeting.

Once Wayne RESA issues its decision, any of the parties affected (those requesting the property transfer, or either of the two school districts involved) has the option to appeal the decision to the Michigan Department of Education's superintendent of public instruction. Visit www.northvillerecord.com for the latest on this issue.

» class sizes already being an issue in some schools;

» the possibility of other similar requests;

» the potential need for building expansion or additions to address more students; and

» maintaining the current excellence of Northville schools.

"I think we need to consider the kids already here," said Northville resident Ken Hopkins of the potential impact the additional students could have on classroom size and teachers' abilities to instruct classrooms with an above-average number of students.

Northville parent Becky Barnhart also worries about more students. Those in opposition point to the recent redistricting project by Northville to adjust overcrowding at certain schools.

"We don't need extra students," Barnhart said.

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Northville students to compete in World Robotics Olympiad

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

A group of Northville students will have the honor to represent the United States in the upcoming World Robotics Olympiad in Russia this month as they travel to compete against teams from 50 other countries.

"I'm really excited," said Hillside Middle School student Jason Brown, 11, of the opportunity to be part of the first American team to compete in the event, which was established in 2002.

There are eight students from Northville, ranging from high school to middle school, who will be making the trip to Russia.

A major goal of the WRO competition is to provide students with a fun way to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math – the STEM subjects. Northville schools have been working on making STEM a bigger part of its curriculum over the past several years.

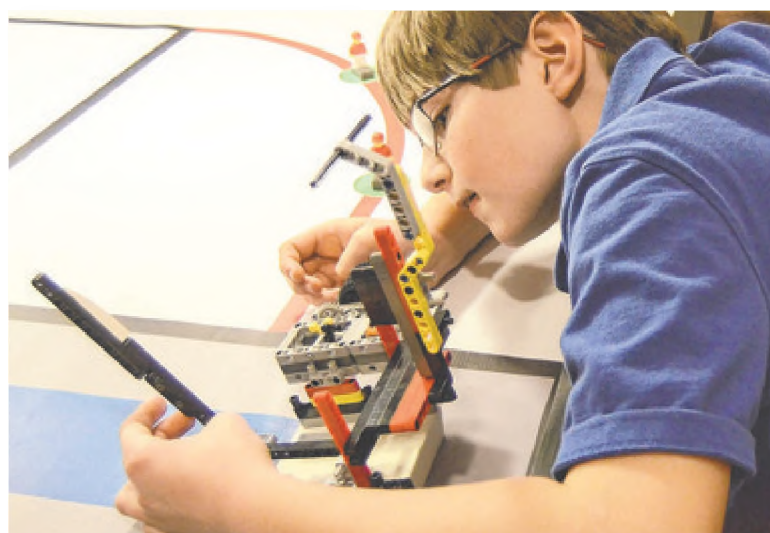
The Northville teams qualified at the state and national levels in order to make the trip. The WRO will be held Nov. 21-23 at the Olympic Village in Sochi, Russia. Nine teams have qualified to represent the U.S.

"This is big for them to be part of the first team from America," Katherine Bis, whose son Adam is on the team with Jason.

Their team is called Mindstorms Madness and Jason's father Andy is a coach. They've created a robot out of Legos to complete a challenge of assembling a simulation rocket while also rescuing Lego people. For their team, the process of creating and programming the robot might be the most enjoyable part.

Hillside's Robocruisers E

Robotics to Russia



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Adam Bis, 12, checks on the status of his Hillside Lego Robotics team machine on Nov. 10 in the basement of fellow team member Jason Brown.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Hillside Middle School Lego Robotics team – (l to r) Adam Bis, Jason Brown, Brian Ding, Eric Liu, and Justin Chang – gathers on Nov. 10 to check out the machine they programmed. The group will soon be heading off to Russia to participate in the World Robotics Olympiad in Sochi, Russia.

The other team from Hillside is the Robocruisers E, who also qualified from the elementary level. The coach is Wei Ding and the team members are Brian Ding and Justin Chang (both 12 from Hillside MS) and Eric Liu (12, of Canton). They got first place in the WRO 2014 USA Open Category in Elementary as well as the Judge Award.

Their project has a mission/goal statement to explore the Saturn moon of Titan for the possibility of living on Titan by designing an automated exploration system, which includes a hovercraft (capable of maneuvering across different terrains like sand dunes and methane

lakes), a communication system, a data processing system, and a logistical support system.

Northville High will be represented by juniors Christopher Geng and James Xue, who will be competing with the Robocruisers S team. They took first place in this year's Open Senior category competition, which has the theme of "Robots and Space." Student teams design and create robots that can assist humankind in solving tasks in space.

To learn more or to donate help, visit <http://2014wro.causevox.com/>. To see video of the Titan project, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM7y7Fqq8Ps.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Detroit Catholic Central teachers Ben Herman (left) and Christopher Gismondi talk about coaching their school's Academic Team.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
CC has won all but two of the Michigan Quiz Bowl championships since the year 2000.

CC Academic Teams compete at championship level

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The Academic Teams at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi are high-achieving. This current competition season is young, but both of its teams are ranked highly.

Catholic Central's 'A' team is ranked No. 4 in the nation (as high as it's ever been) and the 'B' team is ranked No. 43, still in the top 50 in the nation. The Catholic Central Academic Team prides itself on being a fierce competitor in the state and is consistently recognized as one of the most competitive programs in the nation.

"We're very proud of them. They are a dedicated group," said co-coach and CC teacher Ben Herman, who coordinates the



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Catholic Central student Jack Watts is captain of the school's Academic Team.

team with teachers and fellow coaches Chris Gismondi and Anthony Cornish.

The 'A' team's level of excellence was tested recently in a tournament at Ohio State University and it came through again in facing a Michigan State University team

twice, beating it both times.

"This was really exciting, but we are humble and know there's a lot of work in front of us," Herman said.

The Academic Team is a competitive program that is open to all grade levels. Competition is based on a team's mastery of specific academic categories, including literature, fine arts, science, geography, history, current events and mathematics. Nearly 40 CC students are participating this year.

The CC Academic Team competes at the varsity, junior varsity and freshman levels. All three teams compete throughout the state and travel out of state to nationally recognized tournaments.

In 2013, the team won its third straight Class A

Quiz Bowl Title. Since 1988, it has won nearly 20 of these.

Even with all of the day-to-day academic work and studying, the students involved in it love it and that's what drives them.

CC senior Jack Watts, a team captain, said he was attracted to the team after being in quiz bowl in middle school. Now four years later, he's leading the team and enjoying every minute of learning more to help in the next competition.

"It's harder and more engaging," he said of the Academic Team compared to the middle school level. "But that's what I like about it and that's what drew me in."

The team has a tournament coming up in Chicago and members are putting in extra time to prepare.

With a database of old questions and new ones, the teams are ready for more head-to-head competitions and, hopefully,

successes.

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Area musician shines in U.S. Army Field Band

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Blossom saw an opportunity to pursue his life's dream 10 years ago – and he took it.

Ten years later, he couldn't be happier with his decision.

Blossom, a 1997 graduate of Canton High School who joined the Army in 2004, is a saxophonist with the U.S. Army Field Band, a position that gives him the career he's wanted since even before he joined the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band back in high school.

"I fell in love with music and (that feeling) really picked up in high school being in the marching band," said Blossom, a Canton native now stationed at Fort Meade, Md. "(Marching band) was just awesome.

It was a really great experience for me and I really picked up the bug. I couldn't really see myself doing anything else, to be honest."

Blossom, son of David and Rebecca Blossom of Canton, was drum major when he was in the P-CEP Marching Band. He graduated in 1997, two years before the band won the national championship. Blossom's sister Monica was in that championship contingent.

"That's something she always has on me," Blossom said with a laugh.

Music lover

Blossom has always been a musician. In addition to the sax, he's also played the clarinet and the bass clarinet. He was in the band at the University of Michigan, where he was busy obtaining his master's degree. He played bassoon, as did his future wife Anne (they



Canton native Christopher Blossom plays the saxophone now, but he can also play the bassoon and the clarinet.

were married in 2008). While he was finishing up at U-M, Blossom discovered the U.S. Army was auditioning players for the U.S. Army Field Band. He was "looking for a way to have a job," had a lot of student debt and the service "was just a good fit for me." While they're eminently proud of him,

Blossom's decision surprised his parents. "I was taken back a bit," David Blossom said. "I asked him, 'Are you sure you know what you're getting into?' He was willing to do that to get where he wanted to go. He's always been consumed with music. He's taken it to the next level."

Lots of travel

The U.S. Army Field Band is the touring musical representative for the Army, traveling thousands of miles each year presenting a variety of music throughout the nation and abroad. Since being formed in March 1946, the field band has appeared in all 50 states and more than 30 countries on four continents.

Blossom said the band travels more than 100 days a year and he estimates it plays some 120-140 concerts a year. As an outreach program, the band plays formal public concerts, school assemblies, educational outreach programs, festivals and radio and television appearances.

All the travel can get tiresome, he said, but technology is making it easier. Programs like Facetime and Skype make it easier to stay in

touch with Anne and their 18-month-old son Desmond.

Great place

"You kind of find the balance," Blossom said. "It's hard to be away from home for so long, but that bridge has kind of been built with technology. Stuff like that makes it easier to be on the road than it used to be."

He's done a lot in his musical career, including time spent at Interlochen ("It's a really intense music camp and I just loved it," he said). He can see himself staying in the band – and the Army – for a long time.

"I really love being in the field band," Blossom said. "It's the right fit for me. It's such a great place to be. I get to play with world-class musicians every day. It's such a good job. You just can't really beat it."

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Novi wins snow plow competition

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

With winter's snow just beginning to fall, Novi residents can rest assured their streets are in good hands.

Snow plowers Matt Turco and Marc Tolsdorf were recently presented with the Metro Branch Snow Plow Rodeo Championship Trophy by the American Public Works Association's Michigan Chapter for winning a competition for snow plowing personnel.

"They take pride in what they do, so this is another great honor for our department," said Rob Hayes, Novi's director of public services, who oversees snow plowing on Novi city streets.

The competition involved an obstacle course designed to simulate actual snow plowing operations where drivers are timed and scored for accuracy, safety and speed. It also requires each team member to compete the snowplow course independently; the scores



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi DPW workers Matt Turco (left) and Marc Tolsdorf were part of the team that won the Snowplow Rodeo held September at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The team had to precisely maneuver snowplows through an obstacle course.

were combined for a team total. There's also an inspection and written exam.

Turco and Tolsdorf, who are part of the DPS crews that snow plow 530 lane-miles within the city of Novi, competed for the first time in the event last year. Through practice and experience gained over a tough winter, they scored high in

all facets of the competition.

"We were really glad to win, but we were surprised a little bit. Everyone in the competition is good at what they do," Turco said.

The event took place in September in the parking lot of The Palace of Auburn Hills. The course had its tough parts, with a serpentine

or winding roadway with cones serving as parked cars. Both competitors said the neighborhoods in Novi with parked cars are great practice ground for this part of the competition.

"We are always good with the parked vehicles part of the test," both men said.

They will probably get a lot more practice in the coming months.

Last year, the Novi crews were tested with one of the worst winters in recent history hitting the state with cold temperatures and record snow fall. The Novi crews are prepared for this year and look to their hard-earned skills from past nights and holidays plowing snow.

Matt Wiktorowski, DPS field operations senior manager, said they are ready for the winter.

"We've been gearing up over the last couple of months for whatever comes," he said.

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ROD SANFORD | MICHIGAN.COM

Several agencies across the state, including Wayne County, the city of Dearborn and Missaukee County, have lodged complaints with the state attorney general over possible price gouging by salt companies.

Salt prices jump for Wayne County; AG investigating

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Salt prices for Wayne County and other communities are seeing increases this year, something some officials are questioning.

The Michigan Department of Transportation estimates average costs for agencies across the state maintaining roads shot up 46 percent from last year, going to an average of \$65.81 per ton. That's up from the average of \$44.99 per ton last year.

Cindy Dingell, the deputy chief operating officer at Wayne County, said the county is paying much more for salt through the MiDEAL consortium, which contains more than 1,000 governmental organizations across the state.

The pre-fill amount was \$74.42 a ton from one salt contractor, North American Salt Co., and the seasonal fill price is from the same company is lower at \$58.95 a ton, something that took the county off-guard, she said. The county is also receiving some seasonal salt from Detroit Salt Co. at \$47.01 a ton, the same business Livonia uses through its consortium with several communities in the Detroit area.

"I would say the seasonal one we kind of expected that to jump," she said. "We were shocked at the early (fill price)."

The cost per ton with the seasonal rate from North American Salt last year was \$45.46 and Detroit Salt's price per ton last year was \$35.21 a ton.

Several agencies across the state, including Wayne County, the city of Dearborn and Missaukee County, have lodged complaints with the state attorney general over possible price gouging, spokeswoman Joy Yearout said. The complaints from Wayne County came from state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, Yearout said. "We have received several inquiries about salt prices from cities and we are reviewing the matter," she said. "We are looking into it right now."

Wayne County filled up its domes with roughly 33,000 tons of salt earlier this year, Dingell said. Wayne County maintains all roads in the county's townships, as well as several mile and main roads, which include Inkster, Middlebelt, Merriman, Farmington, Haggerty, Seven Mile, Six Mile and others.

Consortium selects contract

While some of the salt Wayne County purchased through the consortium is from the Detroit Salt Co., the county has no control over the contracts that come through the consortium because of the way the contract through MiDEAL works, Dingell said.

"We don't select who gets awarded the contracts," she said. "We would love to get it (from Detroit Salt Co.)."

About 12,500 tons came from the Detroit Salt Co. for the county this year, compared to 87,000 from North American Salt, Dingell said.

Because of the vast difference in prices this year, Dingell said the county leadership could recommend the next leadership team look at another option to purchase salt through for 2015.

"This is definitely something that has everybody's attention," she said.

MDOT and its contract agencies used more than 653,000 tons of salt across the state last year. Because of the unpredictable nature of the weather in the state, it's not easy to determine how much salt is needed for the upcoming winter, state officials say.

"It's impossible to predict how much salt we'll need to use for our highways this winter, but the higher prices make it more likely that salt will eat up a larger portion of our budget," state Transportation Director Kirk Steudle said in a press release. "If we use the same amount as last year, the total bill for salt could top \$40 million."

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Road Commission prepared for winter

The Road Commission for Oakland County is reviewing winter plowing and salting procedures with its truck drivers, preparing its trucks for winter and getting snow plows ready for winter weather.

This year, for the third year in a row, RCOC is hiring part-time, temporary snowplow/salt-truck drivers to augment its shrinking full-time staff. The agency plans to hire 40 temporary drivers.

"Our full-time staff numbers have been reduced so much in recent years that we simply didn't have enough full-time drivers to provide the level of service that the public deserves," RCOC Chairman Greg Jamian said. "Augmenting the full-time staff with temporary, part-time drivers is a cost-effective way to maintain that level of service."

Jamian noted the agency has also brought back an additional four retired plow drivers on a part-time basis. RCOC has reduced its staff about 35 percent overall since 2007 and nearly 40 percent within the Highway Maintenance Department as a result of the decline in state-collected road funding over the last decade.

While the part-time workers should alleviate some of the strain, RCOC continues to struggle with aging equipment.

RCOC FACT SHEET

Below are some facts and figures related to winter road maintenance in Oakland County.

» Salt trucks and snowplows typically travel more slowly than other traffic. RCOC urges drivers to use caution around the orange trucks and allow them enough room to safely do their jobs: "Don't crowd the plow."

» RCOC uses an average of 64,000 tons of salt per winter.

» RCOC salt trucks are kept at six garages located throughout the county. Salt is kept in salt storage facilities at each of those garages. Those facilities, currently nearly full, hold a total of about 37,500 tons of salt.

» RCOC does not anticipate any problems getting salt this year, based on assurances from its salt vendor.

» In all, RCOC has jurisdiction over 2,700-plus miles of county roads (including subdivision and gravel roads).

» RCOC also maintains 230 miles of mostly multi-lane state highways on behalf of the Michigan Department of Transportation. This includes I-75, I-696, I-96, M-59, Telegraph Road and Woodward Avenue, among others. These 230 miles of mainly freeway roads are the equivalent of 2,000-plus miles of one-lane pavement.

» RCOC divides all the miles of paved primary roadway it maintains (including county roads and state highways) into 106 salt "routes." A single "salt run" for a truck typically uses about six tons of salt.

» RCOC expects to spend approximately \$12 million on winter road maintenance this year alone, including approximately \$4.4 million to maintain the state highways for MDOT.

» RCOC expects to spend more than \$3 million this winter on salt alone (cost per ton: \$49.90).

» RCOC standards call for approximately 400 pounds of salt to be applied to each two-lane mile of pavement.

» Most RCOC salt trucks are equipped with computerized salting mechanisms that automatically adjust the amount of salt spread based on the vehicle's speed. The salt spreaders also include "pre-wetting" devices that spray salt brine on the salt as it is being spread, so that it begins working more quickly. These technologies also allow RCOC to conserve salt.

» At temperatures below 20°F, salt begins to lose its effectiveness. At 10°F, it does virtually nothing.

» Salt is still the most cost-effective option for removing ice and maintaining the safest roads possible.

» RCOC keeps salt trucks ready to go 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

» RCOC crews maintain state and county roads in Oakland County based on a priority system. "Critical priority" roads are those with more than 10,000 vehicles per day per lane. "Priority 1" roads are those with 2,500 to 10,000 vehicles per day per lane, while priority 2 and 3 roads have less traffic.

» RCOC typically does not use sand on paved roads because it does not melt ice and can clog storm drains. Sand is used on gravel roads where typically there are no storm drains, and where salt is less effective.

» A snowstorm that shuts down Michigan's economy for one day has a \$251 million impact on the state's economy (Source: the nonprofit Salt Institute, Alexandria, Va.).

» A single RCOC snowplow/salt truck costs approximately \$220,000.

» RCOC has approximately 135 snowplows/salt trucks, though all trucks are never used at the same time (some are "spares," used when others break down). RCOC also employs 19 "road graders" that are used plow heavy snow.

» Fully loaded, RCOC snowplows get about four miles per gallon of fuel. Empty, they get about six miles per gallon.

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The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28, 2014 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The offices will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014.
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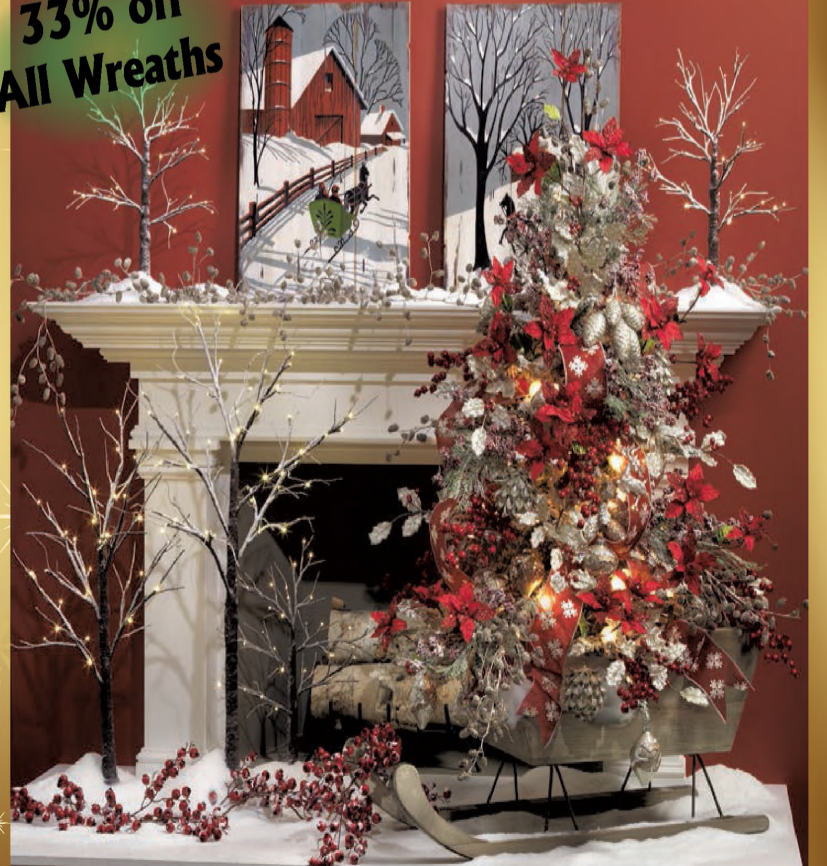
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NOVI

Novi Choralaires holiday concerts

The Novi Choralaires holiday performances include 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Novi Senior Center Auditorium (25075 Meadowbrook Road); 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at the Farmington United Methodist Church (33112 Grand River Ave.); and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Church of the Holy Family (24505 Meadowbrook). Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children under age 12 and \$10 for groups of 10 or more.

Visit www.novichoralaires.org for more information.

Gorman's partners with Arc

It is estimated that nearly 4.6 million Americans have an intellectual or developmental disability. Gorman's Home Furnishings & Interior Design, through its Lifeline of Hope Campaign, will once again raise money to help make a difference in the lives of these local individuals and their families.

Customers can participate in this community-giving program by visiting any of Gorman's four southeast Michigan showrooms in Novi, Troy, Southfield or Lakeside (Shelby Township), Nov. 26 through Jan. 19, and make a minimum donation of \$50 to The Arc of Oakland County. As a thank you, donors will receive \$200 off the price of any recliner from Gorman's 10 best brands, or \$400 off select, world-famous Stressless® recliners.

The Arc of Oakland County Inc. is Michigan's largest community-based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It works through education, research and advocacy to

improve the quality of life for the people it serves.

For more information about The Arc of Oakland County, please visit <http://thearcoakland.org/>.

Light Up the Night in Novi

The annual Light Up the Night event will take place on the Novi Civic Center Campus on 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5. Mayor Bob Gatt and a special visitor from the North Pole will light the holiday tree at 6:15 p.m.

Engaging activities will be held indoors and out and includes a craft show, kids' crafts, marshmallow roasting, hockey skills competition, petting farm, ice sculptures, and more. Live performances from various dancing groups featuring Mexico Lindo Ballet Folklorico, Polynesian Dancers of Michigan and other various dances will take place on the indoor stage. Attendees will enjoy free food samples from several local restaurants. A festive hay wagon will shuttle people to and from the Novi Public Library to enjoy two magic shows featuring Baffling Bill at 7 and 8 p.m. The ever-popular Dan Dan the Choo Choo Man will offer miniature train rides 6:30-9 p.m.

"The annual Light Up the Night event is an opportunity for community members to gather together and share in the festive seasonal spirit," said Jeff Muck, director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Light Up the Night is presented in partnership with Bright House Networks, ITC and many other Novi businesses.

For more information about Light Up the Night in Novi, visit www.cityofnovi.org or call the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at 248-347-0400.

Give blood, platelets

The American Red Cross asks eligible donors to give something that means something this holiday season – a lifesaving blood donation.

Blood donations often decline this time of year when donors get busy with holiday festivities and travel. Severe winter weather and seasonal illnesses, like the flu, can also have a serious impact on blood donations, but the need for blood remains steady. On average, the Red Cross must collect 15,000 blood products every day for patients across the country.

Prime Care of Novi (39555 W. 10 Mile Road) will be taking donations from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Dec. 14.

Eligible donors with all types are needed, especially those with O negative, A negative and B negative. To learn more about donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

ITC towers light up

ITC's Michigan operating entities ITCtransmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC, which own and operate the high-voltage electricity grid in most of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, lit up nine of its 150-foot tall transmission towers with colorful holiday decorations.

The Novi tower is located at I-96 and Meadowbrook Road.

The transmission towers are decorated with approximately one-quarter mile of rope lights (16,000 bulbs). The displays include 10- by 15-foot Happy Holidays signs and brightly lit stars at the tower tops. The festive lights will shine every evening

from through Jan. 2.

"Our tower decorations have become a popular holiday tradition in Michigan," said Gregory Ioanidis, president of ITC Michigan. "We're happy to join the communities we serve all across the Lower Peninsula in celebrating this festive time of the year."

Avery Sign Company of Ferndale designed and maintains the decorations for ITC. Utility Lines Construction Services places them on the towers.

ITC also will feature lighted holiday signs on its headquarters building along M-5 in Novi.

Hunger-Free Holidays bazaar at Showplace

The Diamond Center at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi will usher in the holidays 6-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, with the inaugural Hunger-Free Holidays Bazaar benefiting Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

Patrons will enjoy a strolling dinner while shopping the marketplace of items — abundant hostess and holiday gifts, furniture made from reclaimed materials and unique apparel and accessories, crafted by Michigan artisans.

Guests will enjoy Epoch Hospitality's Detroit BBQ and Fajita stations — offering braised brisket with crispy onions, pulled buffalo chicken sliders, fresh tortillas with chicken, sautéed peppers and onions with all the fixings. A cash bar will also be available.

Every dollar raised provides three meals, helping to ensure a hunger-free holidays season for southeast Michigan families. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. To purchase tickets, visit gcfb.org/holiday.

Novi Farmers Market continues through winter

The 2014 Novi Farmers Market was so successful — with hundreds of people enjoying fresh vegetables, flowers and other items throughout the summer and fall — that the market will continue through the winter with gourmet foods and artisan items indoors at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Road.

The winter market will take place twice monthly from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the following Saturdays: Nov. 22; Dec. 6 and 20; Jan. 10 and 24; Feb. 14 and 21; March 7 and 21; and April 4 and 18.

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

To stay in the know about the Novi Farmers Market, including recipes, vendor features and more, like it on Facebook. For more information, contact manager RoseAnna Twitchell at 248-347-0400 or rtwitchell@cityofnovi.org.

Plan with Novi Older Adult Services

City of Novi Older Adult Services is planning a variety of fall events, providing fun opportunities for attendees to stay active and socialize with friends. Each below event includes a meal and entertainment.

» Thursday, Dec. 11 — "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" holiday luncheon, noon to 2 p.m., Meadowbrook Activity Center

The events are \$7 for Novi residents and \$8.50 for non-residents. There is no cost for Veterans at the Home of the Free, Because of the Brave Brunch. Pre-registration

is required and is available now at the Older Adult Services office (45175 10 Mile Road) and the Meadowbrook Activity Center (25075 Meadowbrook Road).

To learn about the above programs or additional older adult social and educational programs, call 248-347-0414 or visit www.cityofnovi.org.

Coffee with the Superintendent

Join Novi Schools Superintendent Steve Matthews for Coffee with the Superintendent at the Novi Public Library in the Board Room 202 on: Dec. 15 (6:30 p.m.); Dec. 17 (10:15 a.m.); Jan. 12 (6:30 p.m.); Jan. 14 (10:15 a.m.); Feb. 9 (6:30 p.m.); Feb. 11 (10:15 a.m.); March 11 (10:15 a.m.); April 13 (6:30 p.m.); April 15 (10:15 a.m.); May 11 (6:30 p.m.); and May 13 (10:15 a.m.).

Art classes for older adults

City of Novi Older Adult Services invites those ages 50 and above to socialize, relieve stress and lift moods by taking part in the upcoming Color Your World art class series. The classes are led by volunteer Novi High School art students who want to share their love for art. No previous experience is necessary.

Pre-registration is required and can be completed online at www.cityofnovi.org, at the Novi Civic Center (45175 10 Mile) or Meadowbrook Activity Center (25075 Meadowbrook Road).

Classes are held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday at the Meadowbrook Activity Center. There is no cost to register, but a \$3 supply fee will be due to the instructors at each class. The schedule includes:

» Saturday, Dec. 13: oil

See BRIEFS, Page A11



The first 100 tours scheduled will receive a FREE Planning Guide for Seniors

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(248) 397-5308
3450 West Thirteen Mile Road
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BRIEFS

Continued from Page A10

pastels; learn color-blending techniques.

For more information, call 248-347-0414.

Clothing recycling program

For Walled Lake residents, recycling unwanted clothing is now as easy as a walk to the curb with the free curbside collection program offered by Simple Recycling.

The program is simple and convenient since pickup occurs on the same day as recycling service, collection bags are provided and replacement bags are left each time full bags are set out for curbside pickup.

While the focus is on recycling clothing, Simple Recycling will also accept shoes, accessories, toys, books and small home goods in working condition such as kitchen ware and tools.

Residents who live in communities not serviced by the Simple Recycling program are encouraged to donate unwanted clothing to their favorite charity or thrift shop. A list of local organizations, including those that offer pickup, is available on the RRRASOC website.

Students display work at Novi Civic Center

The city of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will host an art exhibit featuring the students of Fran Seikaly in the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery through Tuesday, Dec. 2. The gallery is located at 45175 10 Mile.

Seikaly has taught in the community for more than 40 years with focus on drawing, pastels, color pencil and oil painting. More than 30 artists will showcase their pieces,

ranging from oil and pastel to color pencil and graphite.

Some artwork is available for purchase. If interested or for more information, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at 248-347-0400.

To learn more about art initiatives in Novi, including outdoor displays, classes and theater, visit www.cityof-novi.org.

NORTHVILLE

Children's Christmas Workshop

The Northville Historical Society's 36th annual Children's Christmas Workshop will take place Saturday, Dec. 6, in the New School Church at Mill Race Village.

Children in grades first through sixth are invited to participate in the opportunity to make seven old-fashioned, hand-made gifts for the special people on their Christmas list. The intent of the workshop is to surprise family members with the gifts that the children have worked on and made themselves.

There will be a morning session from 10 a.m. to noon and an afternoon session 1-3 p.m., accommodating 150 children total. Enrollment is \$20 per child, payable by cash or check made out to the Northville Historical Society.

For more information, contact the Stockhausens at 248-349-2833.

Holiday Lighted Parade

Entries are now being accepted by the Northville Chamber of Commerce for the annual Northville Holiday Lighted Parade which will take place Friday, Nov. 21. The 2014 parade theme is "All I Want for Christmas is ..." and entries are invited to follow the theme in order to compete in three award categories. Bands, floats,

dancers and entertainers are welcome to perform in the evening parade that kicks off the holiday season in downtown Northville.

There is now charge to participate in the parade, but an application form is required. Applications are available on the Chamber website at www.northville.org or by calling 248-349-7640.

The parade, sponsored by Tom Holzer Ford, begins at 6:30 p.m. and travels through the streets of downtown Northville. Following the parade, a community sing-a-long and tree lighting ceremony will be held. Local churches will provide free refreshments before and after the parade in Town Square.

Blues @ The Elks

Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in Plymouth will present Blues @ The Elks the second Tuesday of each month in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society and Jazz @ The Elks the last Tuesday of each month. The Lodge is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth Township. The events run 7-10 p.m.

For more information call 734-453-1780 or visit www.plymouthelks1780.com.

Heise invites residents to November coffee hours

State Rep. Kurt Heise is hosting coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally and discuss state or local issues 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Panera Bread, 400 S. Main Street, Plymouth. No appointment is necessary.

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



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Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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Area veteran thanks Schoolcraft College for his education

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Lawrence Smith of Canton had his opportunity Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to say "thank you" as the expanded Veterans Resource Center was dedicated at Schoolcraft College.

Smith is a 22-year U.S. Army veteran and Detroit police officer. He graduated from Schoolcraft with honors in 2012 with an associate's degree and is finishing his bachelor's degree in public safety administration with honors at Eastern Michigan University.

"Pam Paxton-Keehner, my counselor, was a great tool in getting me started," said Smith, 51, who'll graduate from EMU in December. "I was scared to go back to school. It was a great learning experience." Smith urged other

veterans to seek out Schoolcraft staffers' expertise and assistance. "They will help you through this process," he said.

Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress told the audience that space was a challenge in constructing the facility in the McDowell Center on the Livonia campus. Jeffress noted the *Star Trek* reference of "space, the final frontier," adding, "This is an expandable space."

Jeffress noted not all veterans are aware of their benefits and that paperwork can be a challenge. "This is to help veterans get all that paperwork done," he said. Schoolcraft has some 220 veterans enrolled.

Jim Fausone, a college board member and attorney, also spoke at the ceremony. His wife, Carol Ann, is the first

woman to become a brigadier general in the Michigan National Guard and was also present.

"This is a rarity," Jim Fausone said. "I get to give the speech," he said, adding his wife would tell him later how he did.

Fausone noted the U.S. has some 22 million living veterans, including some 2.4 million who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He urged the audience to thank veterans for freedom to attend school, to assemble and to worship without fear.

Fausone also referenced the recent general election in the U.S. "We do it without violence," he said of voting. "We do it by casting our ballots."

Fausone urged veterans to use the discipline and skills acquired in the service to reach civilian goals. "We know you're not asking for charity," he said of benefits



Schoolcraft graduate Lawrence Smith of Canton visits with Pam Paxton-Keehner, who coordinates the Veterans Resource Center at Schoolcraft. Smith urged other military veterans to return to school as he did. He's finishing his bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University.

JULIE BROWN

earned.

Fausone also lauded the family members of servicemen and women. As the ceremony ended, the doorway area up-

stairs in the McDowell Center had a ceremonial ribbon cutting, followed by informal tours. The center features several computers in the study

area, as well as resources for veterans and an area to socialize and watch TV.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Shown (from left) are event co-chairs Nathan Leader and Amy Goodman; IDF soldier Capt. Ilai; event honorees Teri and Mark Goodman; FIDF IMPACT! Scholarship graduate Moshe; Lt. T.; and event co-chairs Regan and Jeff Goodman.

LIEBERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

Annual dinner raises \$1M to support Israeli soldiers

Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Michigan Chapter's annual Gala Dinner Nov. 4 raised more than \$1 million for well-being programs for the brave men and women of the IDF. More than 850 FIDF supporters from across the state gathered at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Walled Lake to honor Enid and Gary Goodman and Teri and Mark Goodman.

Mark and Gary have traveled to Israel with

FIDF missions and have seen first-hand how Israeli soldiers work tirelessly to protect the Jewish homeland and its people. They take great pride in being Jewish and supporting the local Jewish community, as well as the state of Israel.

"Our recognition tonight is not a sign that our work is done," Mark Goodman said. "On the contrary, it motivates us to keep reaching new heights on behalf of Isra-

el's soldiers."

Speakers included combat soldier in reserve Moshe, wounded Paratrooper Capt. Ilai and 1st Lt. T., who lost his twin brother, 2nd Lt. Hadar Z'L, during Operation Protective Edge.

Moshe served in the IDF's Egoz Reconnaissance Unit, which specializes in anti-guerrilla warfare and is credited with preventing more terrorist acts than any other IDF unit. He was trained as a sniper and ultimately lost some of his hearing because of his role. Even though Moshe was designated a disabled veteran, he continued to serve as a combat soldier. He commanded a team which took part in high-risk missions in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. Through FIDF's IMPACT! Scholarship Program, he received a college scholarship and volunteered at Tlalim, where he tutored severely disabled children. In July, he was deployed to Gaza and fought in Shuja'iyya, where his unit lost three soldiers.

Ilai was shot in the leg while in battle with Hamas during Operation Protective Edge. His unit, along with Special Forces and other IDF units, were awaiting orders to destroy every Hamas tunnel excavated under Israeli borders. During his four days in the hospital, Ilai received thousands of visitors; some he knew, and many he didn't. This month, he will be returning as captain of the Reconnaissance Force of the Paratroopers brigade to command over 130 motivated young men.

One of the most memorable moments of the night was hearing the story of fallen IDF soldier 2nd Lt. Hadar Z'L, from his twin brother, 1st Lt. T. The audience was profoundly touched by T.'s bravery in facing the loss of his brother.



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3:00, 3:15, 4:30, 4:45, 6:20, 6:45, 7:15,
7:30, 9:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:15
FRISAT LS 11:25
D-BOX LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE:
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
BUMB AND DUMBER TO (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
FRISAT LS 12:00
BIG HERO 6 (PG)
11:10, 1:35, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00
INTERSTELLAR (PG-13)
FRI, SUN, TUE 11:05, 2:35, 6:05, 9:35
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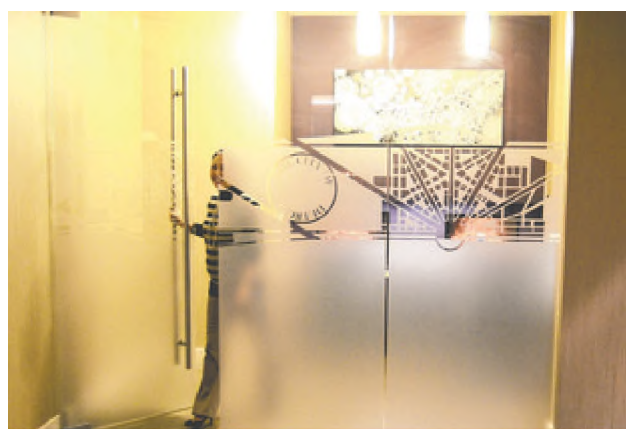
The first floor lounge area of Novi's Hotel Baronette.

Baronette completes \$1.5M hotel renovation

The Baronette Renaissance Hotel in Novi has completed a \$1.5 million renovation of its location that includes an upgrade in technology, business center banquet facility and outdoor patio, which can now comfortably accommodate 250 people. The 155-room, three-star hotel and banquet facility is located on the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Novi roads near Twelve Oaks Mall.

"This is a renovation and construction we've been looking forward to for a while," said Sora Chan, director of sales. "With these upgrades, we get the opportunity to offer our clients and customers the very best experience possible, whether they be overnight guests, business guests or party guests. All can enjoy the enhancements we've made here."

The long-planned construction included a complete renovation of



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sora Chan, director of sales, steps out of the newly-designed work space on the first floor. The hotel has recently completed a redesign, including many new works of art and graphics on the walls.

business meeting spaces, consisting of five breakout rooms that can comfortably accommodate small- to mid-sized meetings. Each contains upgraded technology:

- » 80-inch or 70-inch LED displays
- » Built-in conference line with mics and speakers installed into walls
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In addition, the renovation redesigned the Baronette's Grand Oak Ballroom, the 300-capacity on-site banquet facility popular with weddings and corporate parties. The hotel is current-

ly scheduling parties for the holidays and already has several on the books, including 5-Hour Energy, which annually schedules its holiday parties with the hotel.

"Living Essentials, 5-Hour Energy has chosen The Baronette Renaissance Hotel several times over the past five years because it is a great environment, has great accommodations, great food and a great staff for our holiday event," said Elizabeth Carter, controller for Living Essentials, 5-Hour Energy. "We look forward to each year that we have our event there."

Survey finds health system challenges and opportunities

An aging workforce and a lack of experienced job applicants are two significant employment challenges area health systems face in the coming years, according to a regional survey of six leading health systems commissioned by Oakland County.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced the release of the survey – the Skills Needs Assessment Project – to more than 400 health care and life science professionals, educators, physicians and government officials attending INNOVENTION 2014 – a Medical Main Street Conference Oct. 22 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"We are focusing on the health system needs

because they are the fastest growing and the largest of our employment sectors in Oakland County," Patterson said. "This professional review of the health systems' future needs will be an indispensable aid to the health community as it adjusts to an aging workforce."

The Skills Needs Assessment Project, a year-long survey of health systems in southeast Michigan, presents important information about job prospects in the health care industry for employers, educators and students. SNAP began in 2009 with a study of skills and knowledge required for jobs in the Emerging Sectors, which identifies the top growth sectors in the region such as medical, communica-

tions, information technology and advanced materials. A second study was completed in 2013 on advanced manufacturing. The complete report is available online at www.AdvantageOakland.com.

"It's important to not simply talk about the need but to roll up your sleeves and do the difficult work," Deputy County Executive Matthew Gibb said. "Oakland County doesn't just talk about it. We develop the tools to fix it."

The 32-page report provided an in-depth look at employment within area health systems and identified challenges and potential solutions. It also identified skills and education job seekers need to qualify for a host of health care opportunities.

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OUR VIEW

Family caregivers are our unsung heroes

It is appropriate that National Family Caregivers Month shares November with the traditional Thanksgiving holiday. While being thankful for all that we have, this month is a special time to recognize, praise and give thanks to the 42 million Americans — 2.1 million in Michigan — who help care for aging parents, spouses and other loved ones so they can remain at home rather than in often-costly institutions.

Consider that in Michigan family caregivers provide 1.4 billion hours of unpaid care each year. That care, which amounts to about \$16 billion annually, includes caring for loved ones in their homes. The so-called sandwich generation — men and women who are still raising their children or financially supporting grown children, while caring for aged parents — is living a time-consuming, stressful and financially straining reality.

The important role family caregivers provide cannot be dismissed or taken lightly. Indeed, in American society, these caregivers are our unsung heroes.

Often faced with no other choice, a woman (typically) — if not caring for a loved one around the clock — will spend an average 20 hours per week providing assistance, usually to at least one or more aging parents, in their home.

And many caregivers provide this assistance while maintaining careers or, in many cases, giving up careers, to ensure quality care, further putting a hefty strain on families' financial health.

According to AARP, care-giving as the norm in family dynamics will only continue, particularly as America's largest population, the Baby Boomers — those in the post World War II generation — head into deep old age.

Yet, the Baby Boomer generation is also the one hardest hit by job loss and salary reduction in the country's — especially Michigan's — latest economic recession. Many in this generation are still putting their children through college, while their parents have reached the point in their lives at which they need help and more intensive care.

AARP Michigan, which recognizes the changing dynamics of families, caregivers and sick or elderly parents, conducted a survey this summer of voters 50 and older. The results are not that surprising.

The survey showed that four of every five Michiganans want to live independently in their own homes as they age. Results also showed that it is family members who step up to provide assistance to maintain a loved one's independence. Assistance includes bathing, dressing, meal preparation, managing finances, transportation and grocery shopping.

While the survey also showed that 80 percent of those polled either have been caregivers in the past, are currently or expect to take on the role in the future, 73 percent also wanted political candidates to address care-giving issues.

Understanding the difficulties faced by family caregivers, AARP Michigan wants a common sense solution. It is called the Caregiver, Advise, Record, Enable Act — also known as CARE — to be addressed in the state Legislature's new session beginning in January. The bill offers three important provisions:

» That the name of the family caregiver is recorded when a loved one is admitted into a hospital.

» That the family caregiver is notified if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home.

» That the facility must provide an explanation and in-person instruction of the medical tasks the family caregiver must perform at home.

AARP Michigan also wants nurses to be given more authority to heal and to ensure that community resources are available, including home care and adult day care. Equally important is the need for caregivers to receive training, help at home and workplace protections, AARP Michigan said.

The CARE bill is a step in the right direction that state lawmakers must embrace in the new legislative season. Providing care is not an easy task and caregivers must be supported with resources and easier access to provide the needed tasks required today.

No one really wants to recognize that their lifetimes are growing short. But elderly family members and even those headed in that direction must provide direction and information to potential caregivers about what they want for their lives, including designating a patient advocate.

While training for caregivers is essential, it is equally important that caregivers are armed with the legal permission to provide care and to make decisions, including financial. Otherwise, medical personnel who stand outside the family circle will make those decisions, often not what the patient or caregiver wants, but what is expedient and cost-effective for the medical industry.

Make no mistake, the stress and strain for family caregivers will continue, particularly as the large Baby Boomer generation grows older. Caregivers are our unsung heroes for what they do, not only in a practical sense, but for the love and genuine effort they make to maintain the dignity and quality of the lives of their aging family members.

While acknowledging the Thanksgiving holiday next week, let's remember there is a special group among us who have — whether by necessity or desire — extended their strengths, their days and their own physical, emotional and financial health to ensure that our aging population is valued, cared for and provided quality living.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Thanksgiving is Nov. 27 -- What are you thankful for?

This question was asked at the Northville Community Center.



"Being alive."
Pauline LaMonde
Northville



"For my family, children and grandchildren."
Laurel McKeon
Northville



"I have a great family."
Mary Balogh
Northville



"I'm thankful for my wonderful family and these great card games here in Northville, and my health."

Ginger Thomas
Canton

LETTERS

We did it!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who helped in the restoration of the flag mural on the Marquis Theatre building.

The project started as many others do — a simple seed of an idea. Dr. William Demray noticed the flag was in need of repair. He put out a call to action and the community of Northville (and beyond) responded. We live in an electronic age, but the power of a grassroots campaign is still relevant.

The idea of restoring a treasure so powerful that stands for freedom and is so beloved is awesome in so many ways. I agreed to tackle the project, but I couldn't have accomplished it all without Traci Sincock and Northville Rotarians, the Von Buskirk family and the *Northville Record*. I could count on them for help and support day after day, week after week, month after month.

What I didn't count on was the life lesson this project would teach me. So much of what occurred has changed me forever. The extreme generosity of my family, friends and neighbors, local businesses, service organizations, seniors citizens, baby boomers, gen X-ers, children, and others in between was inspiring. The personal notes that accompanied donations often

brought a tear to my eye.

We raised all that was needed to fund the actual mural restoration — \$17,800. A new, improved masonry base coat should extend the life of the painting. Christina Zayti and the Marquis Theatre did the necessary building repair to do the same. And we have a little over \$100 to kick-start an endowment to support ongoing maintenance, which the artist, Jeff Von Buskirk, has agreed to manage as time goes on.

I could write a Hallmark made-for-TV movie about all I've experienced in the past year. The finale would be a scene with more than 150 people of all ages standing in a parking lot on Veteran's Day — some in winter coats, others in shirtsleeves and veteran's caps. There's a light rain falling and the wind is whipping umbrellas inside out. The mayor welcomes the crowd. The state representative is recognized as simply a member of the crowd, no political grandstanding. The local dentist in a shirt and tie gives a thought-provoking speech, referencing the history of Veteran's Day. A local 20-something sings the "Star Spangled Banner" — perfectly, with crackling voices joining in. The scouts in town are called to attention to salute a 20' x 30' mural of Old Glory on the wall of a historic building in one of America's greatest small towns — all in attendance joining in with

hats in their hand and hands on their hearts. A Norman Rockwell ending to a yearlong tale of Americana. Once again, thanks to all — whether it was a gold dollar coin deposited in a cardboard collection box at the Cider Mill; the purchase of a \$100 raffle ticket; a \$5 donation at the front desk of Preservation Dental; a \$10 donation to purchase a T-shirt; or a check in memory of a veteran or honoring a loved one — it all adds up to the fact we did it!

Denise Jenkins
Northville

Education 'reform' a disaster

Let me see if I've got this right.

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

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

Al Churchill
Livonia

GUEST COLUMN

Afghanistan offers reasons for optimism

Recently I had the honor of speaking to the United States Institute of Peace as that institution celebrated its 30th anniversary. I was a co-sponsor of former Sen. Sparky Matsunaga's legislation establishing the USIP, which Congress passed in 1984. Last April, I saw firsthand one example of the value of the institute's work, when the institute's staff in Kabul, Afghanistan, hosted briefings for me with civil society leaders, women, young people and human rights activists.

At USIP, I focused my remarks on the pursuit of peace in Afghanistan and the wisdom that has aided us in that pursuit.

I am hopeful about Afghanistan's future, because of the progress we have helped bring about over the last several years. And I am hopeful because of the recent peaceful and democratic transition of power, a first in Afghanistan's long history. That transition offers increased reason for optimism that we have an essential ingredient for success in place there, perhaps the essential ingredient — a unity government of Afghans whose own goals are in harmony with our goal of a free, peaceful and unified Afghanistan.

Afghanistan faces immense challenges from Taliban terror to corruption to poverty to ethnic and political tension. But the progress the country has made is also immense.

Too many people forget what Afghanistan was like before coalition intervention in 2001. Even in major cities, access to food, clean water and employment was limited. Women were barred from attending school, working outside the home or even leaving their houses unless accompanied by a male relative.

Today, by contrast, there is vibrancy in Afghan society. In



Sen. Carl Levin

GUEST COLUMNIST

just one decade, life expectancy in Afghanistan has increased by 22 years and child mortality has decreased by 62 percent. Under the Taliban, there were just 900,000 students in school, all boys. Now, student enrollment is more than 8 million, including about 3 million girls. In 2001, Afghanistan had 20,000 teachers, all male; today, there are 200,000 teachers, including 60,000 women.

The Afghan security forces have exceeded our military commanders' expectations, successfully responding to Taliban attacks and safeguarding two rounds of elections. I have always believed that our principal mission in Afghanistan is to help establish Afghan forces so they can protect their people and their hopes for a free nation. That is the Taliban's worst nightmare.

Afghans now have hope for better governance as well, as President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah, who competed in a hotly contested election, have resolved their differences over the election and formed a unity government. That gives the Afghan people reason to hope that the nation's new leaders are more interested in building Afghanistan's future than in pursuing partisan or sectarian or corrupt agendas.

While public opinion polls show that the Afghan people think we have accomplished much and are glad we came, polls in the United States show that Americans believe our involvement in Afghanistan has failed.

I believe that the American public's failure to understand what we have accomplished in Afghanistan is due, in large part, to the constant, almost totally negative portrayal of events in Afghanistan in the American press.

The press understandably reports on negative events. A Taliban truck bomb in Kabul does make a more dramatic story than a million girls going to school. But it would be tragic if this negative focus deprived the American people, our men and women in uniform and their families of the sense of accomplishment they deserve to feel about our effort in Afghanistan.

While Afghanistan's gains have been impressive, they remain reversible. Afghans continue to fear that the United States will abandon them, as they believe we did after the Soviets left in the early 1990s. The Afghans have assumed responsibility for their own security and for their own political affairs, but they continue to depend on international funding, training and institution-building, in particular, for sustaining the Afghan army and police.

If the public continues to believe that Afghanistan is a lost cause, it may become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Simply put, if we don't understand what we and our coalition partners have gained in Afghanistan, we risk losing it. Much remains to be done, but I believe if the Afghan people remain united and if we remain constant in our support of them, Afghanistan will take its place among the achievements of which our nation can be proud.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Three area men face charges in betting ring case

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Staff Writer

Three men charged with participating in a multi-county illegal sports betting ring have been ordered bound over for trial.

George Abick, 64, of Garden City, Sean Barnes, 42, of Novi and John Cramblet, 45, of Detroit, all waived their preliminary examinations Nov. 13 before 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli. All three men had entered not guilty pleas at arraignment.

However, Cramblet waived his hearing conditionally. His defense attorney, David Lankford, said he had talked with the officers in charge of the investigation and was told they wouldn't recommend incarceration for Cramblet as the case is resolved.

"The prosecutor is not in a position to make that decision — it would have to move up the chain," Lankford said. "If no incarceration doesn't come to pass, then the matter would be remanded back for the preliminary examination."

The preliminary examination is the hearing at which the prosecution, in this case the Michigan Attorney General, presents its probable cause case that the crimes were committed and the defendants likely committed those crimes.

"I don't have the authority to make that (no jail time) recommendation," Assistant Attorney General Richmond Riggs said. "If it is the recommendation of the officers in charge, I need to speak to my superiors. If it isn't possible, we'll return for

the preliminary exam."

Getting that kind of decision usually takes about 30 days, Riggs said, so he expected to be able to have that by the scheduled circuit court arraignment date Dec. 11. All three defendants, free on bond, are scheduled for Dec. 11 arraignment.

All three men are charged with operating a continuing criminal en-

terprise — two counts for Abick — along with failing to file income taxes. Abick and Barnes are charged with four counts each of gambling/taking bets, with Cramblet facing three counts of the same crime.

According to the complaint, the defendants were involved in a sports betting ring operated by Westland residents John and Ellen Zunich. Ac-

cording to police, the three men were instrumental in producing and distributing the football cards used in the betting ring.

The three defendants are accused of working for John Zunich, 71, who pleaded guilty to one count of conducting criminal enterprises (also known as racketeering), a 20-year felony, and no contest to one

count of failure to file/false taxes, a five-year felony. He is currently serving an 18-month to 20-year sentence in state prison with his earliest release date in July 2016.

The investigation found that John Zunich took bets and printed professional and college football betting cards at ArtCraft Printing, a business he owned in Detroit. The cards were reported-

ly distributed in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

His wife pleaded no contest to one count of failure to file/false taxes, a five-year felony. Ellen Zunich handled all the bookkeeping for the legitimate business and the illegal gambling operation. She was sentenced to probation, which is scheduled to end in January 2016.

POLICE BRIEFS

NOVI

Vehicle theft

Novi Police have issued a "Be on the Look-out" for a stolen gray 2013 Ford Escape.

The reported theft happened the night of Oct. 11-12 at a residence on Bancroft Drive. The owner told Novi Police she left the garage door open for her son to get in that night as he was coming home from out of town. The vehicle was unlocked and did contain the key fob.

There was nothing inside of value.

Drunken crash

A female driver was arrested for drunken driving after a witness told Novi Police she crashed into a building.

The incident occurred Oct. 11 outside the Little Caesars on 10 Mile Road. According to the police report, a witness phoned police and reported the crash. The driver said her brakes weren't working, but police suspected she was drunk.

After having trouble with the field sobriety tests, the woman registered a 0.14 percent on a preliminary breathalyzer test. This was reportedly her second drunken driving arrest.

NORTHVILLE

Marijuana possession

A Livonia man was arrested for marijuana possession after being stopped by Northville City Police for running a red light.

The arrest occurred Nov. 12 at the intersection of Center Street and Seven Mile Road. The 19-year-old driver ran a flashing red light just before 2 a.m. He told police he was distracted while looking at his GPS. Police reported smelling marijuana in the car.

He admitted to having some and police did find a baggie of it in the center console.

— By Lonnie Huhman



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Afghan translator builds new life in Michigan

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

When he stepped off the plane in the United States this past April with just a backpack, small rolling suitcase and no money, Mohammed Elham – everyone calls

him Elham – wasn't sure he was really in the U.S. "I was like, 'Am I dreaming right now?'" he said. "It was the coolest time in my life. I felt like I had a heavy weight lifted from my shoulders." Indeed. Here in the

States – here in Milford, where he lives with Scott Hippakka and his family – Elham feels safe from the constant threats on his life in his native Afghanistan.

After just a few short months in the U.S., Elham is working at Palate in downtown Milford. He already has a car and he's hoping to fulfill a dream of becoming a nurse so, one day, he can go home to Afghanistan and help the many poor families who are living without even basic medical care.

For Elham, it's the American dream.

Army translator

It all began in 2007, when a friend in Afghanistan suggested Elham, with his knowledge of the English language, apply for a translator's job with the U.S. Army.

At first he wasn't sure – he had no experience being around military forces – but decided to give it a try.

After he was hired, he found the job was a challenge for many reasons. As a linguist, his task wasn't just translating word-for-word between the Americans and the Afghans. It was important, he explained, to make sure both parties understood the intent behind the words and to make sure the Americans understood the cultural nuances of the Afghan people.

Along the way, Elham met Hippakka, a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who was a task force commander with teams dispersed though northern and western portions of Afghanistan.

Elham began going along on various missions with the U.S. forces – translating and lending a hand as the U.S. teams he was working with helped to deliver medical



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mohammed Elham tosses a pizza at Palate in Milford where he works. The Afghan worked as a translator for the U.S. Army.

assistance to remote villages, develop schools, water sources, community infrastructure and also worked to support the Afghan Border Police.

Threats made

After his first year on the job, Elham became a senior linguist and over the next seven years, while he was translating for the U.S. forces, his face became recognizable – he'd been shown on local television channels – and things began to get especially dangerous for him.

On numerous occasions, he was told by intelligence officers that threats had been made against his life – common for Afghan translators.

"He was my senior linguist and he was the senior linguist for a lot of different people," Hippakka said. "Because of that, he was out and about. Early on in the war in Iraq, a lot of the translators would wear masks so their face couldn't be seen. In Af-

ghanistan, most linguists didn't wear a face mask." As the threats increased, Elham knew it wasn't safe for him to stay any longer in Afghanistan. His life, as well as that of his family and his fiancée, was in imminent danger and because of his work for the U.S. military, he was eligible to come to the United States. He had, in fact, submitted his application more than a year prior.

So he sold his family's car, packed two small bags and took a huge step toward freedom and safety.

A new life
Elham arrived April 1 in the United States. He knew he had a home waiting in Milford. "In January 2013, before I left Afghanistan, I told Elham when you come to the U.S., just let me know what I can do," Hippakka said. "If you need a place to live, you can come live with me. The choice was his." Another Afghan lin-

guist who'd also worked with Hippakka's team arrived in Michigan several months earlier, while another is currently working toward the same end.

For Elham – who is currently working to bring his fiancée to Michigan, as well – it's a dream come true. He has his struggles, certainly, like finding his way through all kinds of red tape in order to get federal assistance with schooling. Hippakka, he said, has been a huge and consistent help in teaching him about things like credit cards – there are none in Afghanistan – interest, credit ratings and paying bills online, as well as car insurance – none of that in Afghanistan, either – and rules of the road.

"The people are so, so friendly. I love to work with them," he said. At his new home in Milford, where he's staying until he can afford his own place, Elham lives with Hippakka and his family: wife Susan and children Abby, 14, and Alex, 11.

"I told my mom, 'Don't worry, I have a second family, they are well taking care of me,'" he said. "My mom asks, 'What are you doing, what are you eating, how are your living conditions?' I tell her, Scott's family, they are so awesome to me. They are so good to me."

Elham's favorite thing about living in America is his security. And the people. And the nation itself.

"When you come from a country such as Afghanistan, you would understand how blessed you are here in the U.S.," he said.

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PREP VOLLEYBALL



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi senior libero Jordan Massab makes one of her 23 digs in the Class A regional championship win over Lakeland.

Novi clips Eagles for regional crown

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Close encounters of the third kind?

It didn't happen this time as the Novi volleyball team won the rubber match Nov. 13 against White Lake Lakeland, 25-16, 23-25, 25-17, 25-15, for its first Class A regional title since 2007 while stamping its ticket to the MHSAA quarterfinals.

The Wildcats, who improved to 51-5-5, were scheduled Tuesday to face Lapeer in the state quarterfinals, with the winner earning a trip to the state semifinals beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena against the Mason-Grand Haven quarterfinal winner.

Novi and Lakeland had split their two meetings this

season, with the Eagles taking a best-of-three pool play match Nov. 1 in the Birmingham Seaholm tournament.

But after Lakeland had evened the rematch at one set apiece, Novi roared back, jumping out to leads of 15-5 and 19-9 during the final two sets to win emphatically.

"I think the last time we played Lakeland, I think we learned a lot about our character," said Novi senior libero Jordan Massab, who finished with 23 digs. "I think we underestimated them the last time we played and I think they are a very, very skilled team. We just walked in and thought we were going to win."

"This game we fought our hardest and we knew what we wanted to accomplish today. I think our serve-receive and

serve were awesome tonight. And our offense did amazing, just moving around the ball and stuff like that."

Novi's offense was pretty potent, to say the least, as the Iacobelli twins, Victoria and Paulina, finished with 21 and 12 kills, respectively.

The Wildcats got another boost from sophomore Ally Cummings, who finished with 11 kills, and from senior Olivia Bradford, who added seven while hitting at a .545 clip.

Erin O'Leary, the freshman setter, was outstanding once again, with 12 digs to go along with her 52 assists.

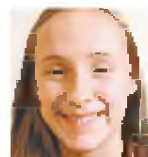
"We started out the match serve-receiving very well," Novi coach Jen Cottrill said. "We have pretty good setter

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B2

GIRLS SWIMMING

Northville's Westphal keeps eyes on prize

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer



Westphal

she's got the attitude where she sees what she's got to do and she's going to win it."

Westphal is also expected to also do well in the 200 individual

medley, where she took 10th in 2013 with a clocking a 2:07.14. She ranks sixth this season with 2:08.71.

She comes from a swimming family. Her older brother Andrew, now a freshman at the University of Michigan, was a Division 1 plater for the Northville boys team as a senior last March when he took fourth in the 100 freestyle (46.23).

Westphal got her first taste of competitive swimming at age 6 with the Northville Swim Club Penguins before joining the Novi Sturgeons as an 8-year-old, where she continues to train in the off-season.

"I knew about her, but I didn't know she was going to be that good," McNeff said. "I didn't think anyone knew how good she was going to be going into last year. She's obviously one of the top swimmers, but she dropped a ton of time last year and now this year she's close to the times where she going into the state meet, so she's going to have a great state meet."

In August, Westphal competed in the National Club

See WESTPHAL, Page B2



WILL HAYES

Northville sophomore Laura Westphal will try to defend her Division 1 state title in the 500 freestyle.

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW

Area squads harbor high hopes for new season

CC, Novi, Northville all expect to contend

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When the puck drops tonight on the boys hockey season, it's a safe bet that three area teams will have a plenty to say throughout 2014-15 campaign and once the MHSAA pre-regionals start the week of Feb. 23.

Novi Detroit Catholic Central, which made a coaching change just prior to the season, returns 12 players off last year's Division 1 state championship team including first team all-state players Ryan Burnett (16 goals, 22 assists) and Mitchell Ossowski (13 goals, 20 assists).

Goaltender Spencer Wright also returns for interim coach Danny Veri, along with senior defensemen Owen Kipke and Andrew Lane.



BRAD EMONS

Catholic Central's hockey captains this season include (from left) Mitchell Ossowski, Andrew Lane, Ryan, Owen Kipke and Ryan Burnett.

"We've got the skill to be successful, but we have to have the heart and the work ethic to be successful," said Veri, who takes over a CC team that went 23-7 last season.

Meanwhile, Novi (18-7-1) hopes to make a run in the

Division 2 state tourney and in the KLAA's tough Central Division under second-year coach Mark Vellucci.

The Wildcats will be led by senior captain Nik Tewillager, a third-year player, along with

See HOCKEY, Page B2

Catholic Central hockey makes unexpected coaching change

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Just a week prior to its 2014-15 boys hockey opener, Novi Detroit Catholic Central and coach Doug Itami have parted ways.

Itami, who served 12 seasons as an assistant under Gordie St. John and Todd Johnson before being elevated to the head coaching position in 2013-14, guided the Shamrocks to a 23-7 record and the MHSAA Division 1 state championship in his only season as varsity coach.

Catholic Central athletic director Aaron Babicz also announced that Danny Veri, who has been involved

coaching CC's White and Blue JV teams the past four years, will take over this season with an interim tag as varsity coach.

"Obviously, I'm not a big fan of discussing personnel changes. I don't think anybody is," Babicz said. "It's nothing serious, more than just a difference in coaching philosophies and I just felt this was the best way to rectify the situation."

"The timing obviously seems to have thrown off the whole situation. I don't think there's ever a time to do something like, but with tryouts only starting on Nov.

See CHANGE, Page B2

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Novi reaches regional title game

Wildcats oust stubborn Fenton in three sets

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

There were a few anxious moments, but it was another safe passage for the Novi volleyball team.

The second-ranked Wildcats, who improved to 50-5-1, moved into their first Class A regional final since 2010 with a 25-20, 25-12, 25-22 triumph Nov. 11 over pesky Fenton in a semifinal match-up at West Bloomfield.

Fenton (38-15-4) made the Wildcats work for the victory, particularly in the first and third sets.

And when 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter Carly Granger got hot, it appeared the Tigers were on their way to forcing a fourth set as they built an 18-13 advantage.

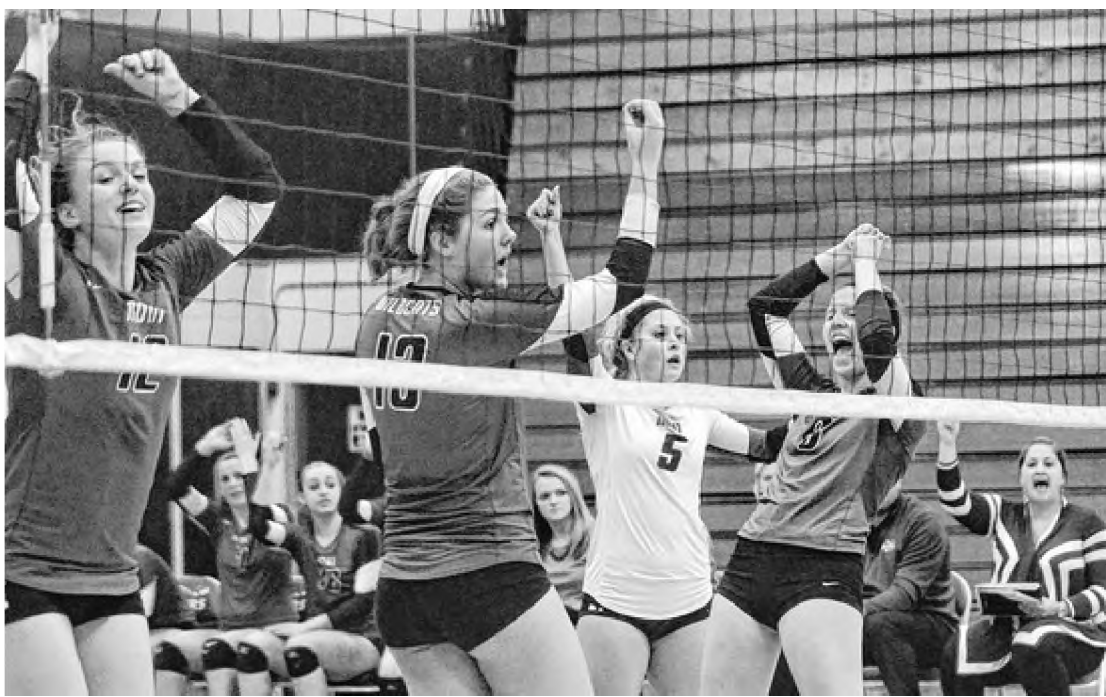
But Novi regrouped with a 12-4 run to close out the set and the match, getting a key kill from junior Victoria Iacobelli to make it 21-21, followed by an ace by the 5-foot-9 junior outside hitter to put the Wildcats ahead to stay 24-22.

Fenton then made a hitting error to end the match.

"We were a little frazzled that we weren't scoring points," said Iacobelli, who finished with 15 kills and 12 digs on the night. "And we just took care of our side and got the momentum. We just took it one point at a time to come back."

"We just kind of came out expecting to win because we beat them so badly in the second set. We put cruise control on and didn't work our hardest in the beginning of the set."

Although Fenton trailed 6-0 and 9-2 in the first set, the Tigers pulled even at 20-20 before Novi closed it with five unanswered points, including a key dig that resulted in a kill by senior libero Jordan Massab, who finished



The Wildcats celebrate after Victoria Iacobelli (far right) tallied a point during the Class A regional semifinal victory over Fenton.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

with a team-high 25 digs.

Paulina Iacobelli, Victoria's identical twin, added 12 kills and 15 digs, while sophomore Ally Cummings chipped in seven kills.

Freshman setter Erin O'Leary also stood out by racking up 37 assist-to-kills to go with three aces and four kills.

Granger collected nine of her match-best 16 kills in the final set, but she got little support from elsewhere on the attack as middle hitter Jessica Eastman was next best with five.

"She's an outstanding player," Novi coach Jen Cottrill said of Granger. "In our scouting report - we hadn't seen them - but the coaches and the teams that had seen them said just key on her. We moved our block in to try and slow her down a little bit because she was getting some kills cross court because she read it and hit the ball down the line. We were very glad when she moved to the back row."

Meanwhile, it was all Wildcats during the middle set as they jumped out to a 14-4 advantage and were never threatened.

But it may have lulled Novi into a false sense of security.

"I think we got a little cruise control going after the second set," Cottrill said.

"Anytime you're going to end somebody's season, they're just not going to go away. They're make you earn it and they're going to give you everything they've got. I think it's good for us to play from behind and be in that situation. And to be able to come back and win gives us some confidence moving forward."

Once again, Novi used a well-balanced attack to earn its 50th victory of the season.

"Obviously our setter Erin (O'Leary) does an outstanding job delivering the ball, but the emergence of Ally (Cummings) - pretty much the past month - has been the key to our success because we're

able to spread our offense up from pin-to-pin," Cottrill said. "Before they could just camp out on them (Iacobelli twins) on the outside. And also our libero, (Jordan) Massab, is key on serve-serve and protecting the ball on first contact."

Fenton coach Jerry Eisinger came away impressed with the Wildcats.

"They (Novi) play great defense and they don't make a lot of mistakes," he said. "Even though we got on a run, it was still tough because they don't make a lot of mistakes. We're missing one of our starting middles right now (Jessica Warford), so we're missing quite a bit of firepower."

"But I thought the girls did a tremendous job of staying with it. We easily could have folded up and gave them that third game without a fight, but extremely proud of the way we played and went out."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Warriors waylaid by Our Lady in regional

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Novi Franklin Road Christian gave it a shot, but proved to be no match Nov. 11 against last year's Class D volleyball state runner-up Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes.

The Catholic League C-D Division champs got 13 kills from Lindsey Wightman en route to a convincing 25-13, 25-13, 25-10 victory against the Warriors in the regional at Plymouth Christian Academy.

"They had a really good hitter (Wightman) that we haven't been used to and that kind of hitting of the teams we've faced before," said Franklin Road first-year coach Michelle Angel, whose team bowed out with an 11-16-1 overall record. "So it was kind of something that we needed to adjust to, but we just didn't. We didn't adjust very well. She was really good."

Sophomore libero Danielle Fusco had eight digs, while setter Carmel Tapawan added eight assist-to-kills. Sophomore Reagan Mumford was the Warriors' top hitter with just three kills.

The Warriors simply could not get in sync against the Lakers, who improved to 25-21-5 and moved into the regional final, where they defeated host PCA in five sets to reach the quarterfinals against Marine City Cardinal Mooney.

"Communication is everything and when you don't talk, you don't move and when you don't move, you don't play well," Angel said. "It was just a trickle effect."

The future, however, looks good for the Warriors, who captured their first district title since 2000. They graduate only two seniors in Tapawan and Laura Warren.

"It looks really good," Angel said. "We have returning sophomores, a couple of juniors returning. They'll all be working in the off-season to prepare for it. We're going to be working on our hitting some more, get some more powerful hits, because we just don't have the power that we want."

bemons@hometownlife.com

Unbeaten spikers



KATE WOODRICH

The Northville Meads Mill eighth-grade volleyball team finished its second undefeated season this year, going 10-0 in league matches while winning a pair of tournaments. Team members include (front row, from left): Maggie Petix, Natalie Turner, Emma Bell, Faelan O'Brien and Elena Lenyo, (second row, from left) Andrea Nam, Makayla Olds, Hannah Grant, Ally Backus, Natalie Barnhart and Jordin Rickard and (third row, from left) coach Angie Phillips, Izzy Guleff, Olivia Thompson, Maddie Kwiecinski, Nicole Martin, Maria Murillo and coach Kate Counts. Also on the team is coach Laura Melvin.

NXC harriers sixth



NANCY SMITH

The NXC Running Club, made up of Northville High girls cross country runners, placed sixth out of 30 teams Sunday in the NIKE Midwest Regional meet held in Terre Haute, Ind. Northville's Lexa Barrott (ninth, 17:55) and Cayla Eckenroth (12th, 17:59) both broke the 18-minute barrier for 5,000 meters to earn second team all-regional honors. Other finishers for NXC included Emma Herrman (19:12), Hailey Harris (19:17), Emma Smith (19:42), Rachel Zimmer (20:11) and Taylor Gattoni (21:53). Barrott plans to compete over Thanksgiving weekend in the Foot Locker Midwest meet in Racine, Wis.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL (MHSAA Division 2 semifinal)
Southfield vs. Warren DeLaSalle at Novi High School, 1 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Nov. 20
Detroit CC vs. Pt. Huron Northern at McMorran Place, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21 (Metro Inv. at Novi Ice Arena)
Novi vs. Farm. Unified, 6 p.m.
Northville vs. Clarkston, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22
Detroit CC vs. Brighton at Kensington Valley 14, 5 p.m.
(Metro Inv. at Novi Ice Arena)
Northville vs. Farmington, 5:30 p.m.
Novi vs. Lake Orion, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 26
Northville vs. Novi at Novi Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m.
Detroit CC vs. Birm. Brother Rice at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29
Novi vs. Utica Eisenhower at Novi Ice Arena, 3 p.m.
PREP VOLLEYBALL (Class A semifinals at Battle Creek)
Friday, Nov. 21
Novi-Fenton quarterfinal winner vs. Mason-Grand Haven winner at Kellogg Arena, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22
Class A championship final at Kellogg Arena, 2 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING
Friday, Nov. 21
MHSAA Division 1 prelims at EMU's Jones Natatorium, noon.

Saturday, Nov. 22
MHSAA Division 1 finals at EMU's Jones Natatorium, noon.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Krick named all-MAC

Eastern Michigan University senior Molli Krick (Novi), who helped the Eagles (11-7-1) to their second straight Mid-American Conference West Division title, recently earned all-MAC first team accolades for the first time in her career.



Krick

Krick was a primary instigator of the EMU attack by starting scoring opportunities for her teammates in the midfield for all 19 games.

In her final match at EMU, Krick scored on a free kick to start a comeback in which the Eagles struck for a pair of goals during the final nine minutes of regulation to force overtime against Western Michigan before falling, 3-2, in the MAC tournament quarterfinals.

Earlier this season, Krick tallied a goal and assist in a 4-2 non-conference win over the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Krick, an exercise science major, appeared in 76 games for EMU, making 59 starts in the midfield. She finished with five career assists, while totaling nearly 6,000 minutes during her four-year career.

Novi ski swap

The Novi High School ski swap will be from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, at the high school (atrium), 24062 Taft Road, Novi.

The swap is free, with new and used equipment items available to buy or sell such as skis, snowboards, poles, helmets, jackets, snow pants, etc. For more information, email Novi assistant ski coach Garrett Farley at gfarley@fishstix.net.

Kobakof proves to be 'the man' in middle

Novi midfielder is area's Player of the Year

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When it comes to being an efficient player in the mid-field, Novi's Ryan Kobakof has few peers in high school boys soccer in Michigan.

The senior, who recently signed to play at the University of Michigan, enjoyed a stellar senior season as he led the Wildcats to a 13-4-3 record.



Kobakof

The area boys soccer Player of the Year finished with 11 goals and eight

assists en route to Dream Team honors from the Michigan Interscholastic High School Soccer Coaches Association.

Kobakof also picked up the most votes in the MIHSSCA Division 1 all-state balloting after earning all-Kensington Lakes, all-district and all-regional honors.

"Ryan's a fierce competitor, plays all areas of the game well," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said.

"He defends very well, he passes very well and he finishes around the goal, so he really is a complete player."

First team

Grant Tyburski Northville

The senior defender made Division 1 all-state honorable mention as well as all-KLAA and all-region as the Mustangs reached the regional finals.

"High power in the back, plays with complete control and that's why our goals against was so down," Northville coach Henry Klimes. "He solidified our back and (we) couldn't ask for a better defender all year."

Noah Kleedtke Catholic Central

The senior midfielder, who scored 11 goals, earned Division 1 all-state second team and all-Catholic League honors.

"He's a very dynamic player," CC coach Gene Pulice said. "He's got great tactical sense to him. He reads the game well. He was our captain and an outstanding leader."

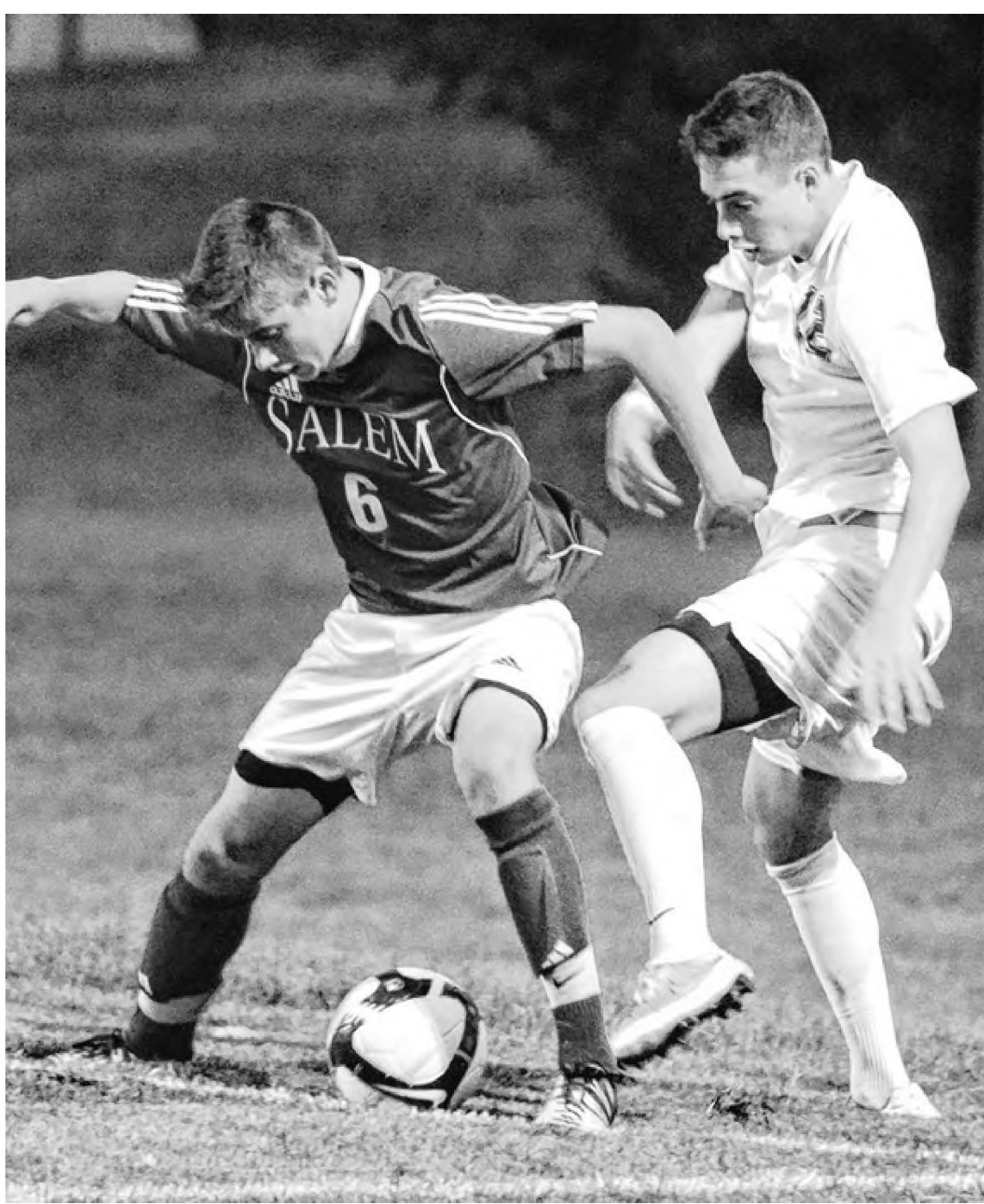
Tony Asimadu Novi

The junior forward, who had four goals and 13 assists, made Division 1 all-state honorable mention as well as all-region and all-KLAA.

"Tony was our leader as far as putting pressure on the other teams' goal," O'Leary said. "He did it with speed and did it with dribbling ability. He actually has a great combination of quickness and keeps the ball close to his feet. He does a great job beating defenders one-versus-one."

Johnny Rodriguez Northville

The junior forward, who had seven goals and seven assists, made Division 1 all-state honorable mention as well as all-region.



Novi's Ryan Kobakof (right) was named the area's boys soccer Player of the Year.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

offensive mids or forwards," O'Leary said. "He was a key to our team as a connection from our defense to our offense."

Paul Wiedmaier Catholic Central

The senior forward earned all-region honors while scoring 10 goals.

"He's a forward through and through who is very dynamic," Pulice said. "He's a pacing forward, very creative. He's got a forward's mentality of 'take 'em on.'"

Roddy Green Lakeland

The junior had a monster year with 19 goals and two assists to lead Lakeland to a third-place finish in the KLAA North Division.

"Roddy is a dynamic player and a nose for the goal," coach Robert Kroezen said.

David Bonhard Milford

The junior forward notched 14 goals with six assists. He earned all-district and all-conference honors.

Second team

Peter Kirouac Catholic Central

The junior goalkeeper earned all-Catholic League, all-district and all-region honors.

Alec Morgan Northville

The senior captain scored six goals and added seven assists from the midfield while earning all-district and all-KLAA honors.

Jake Geary Novi

The senior defender finished with two assists while earning all-KLAA honors.

Tanner Spires Franklin Road

The junior was an all-MIAC Red first team selection and all-district pick who racked up a team-high 26 goals to go along with 10 assists.

Dan Baldwin Northville

The senior forward made all-KLAA while scoring nine goals and adding four assists.

Champ Kozlowski Catholic Central

The senior defender earned all-Catholic League honors as the Shamrocks won their first A-B Division title since 1992.

Alex Kopko South Lyon

The senior defender was called the "rock" on defense by coach Brian Elliot.

Garret Weaver South Lyon

The senior midfielder took the free kicks while adding three goals and two assists.

Kyle Capstick Lakeland

The senior added offensive punch with seven goals and eight assists.

Jorge Martinez Lakeland

The senior provided six goals and seven assists.

Brendan Stephan Milford

The junior forward was second on the team with 13 goals and added seven assists to earn all-district and all-conference honors.

Note: South Lyon East did not submit nominations.

ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ryan Kobakof, Novi

FIRST TEAM

Grant Tyburski, Northville
Noah Kleedtke, Catholic Central
Tony Asimadu, Novi
Johnny Rodriguez, Northville
Garret Weaver, Northville
Kent Maidens, Novi
Chad Quick, Catholic Central
Micah Charlick, Franklin Road
Paul Wiedmaier, Catholic Central
Roddy Green, Lakeland
David Bonhard, Milford

SECOND TEAM

Peter Kirouac, Catholic Central
Alec Morgan, Northville
Jake Geary, Novi
Tanner Spires, Franklin Road
Dan Baldwin, Northville
Champ Kozlowski, Catholic Central
Alex Kopko, South Lyon

Gabriel Martinez, South Lyon
Kyle Capstick, Lakeland
Jorge Martinez, Lakeland
Brendan Stephan, Milford

HONORABLE MENTION

Catholic Central: Justin Murray (jr.); Brendan Paul (sr.); Austin Smith (sr.)

Northville: Nick Toupin (sr.); Alec Melucci (sr.); Jake Reitzloff (jr.)

Novi: Amissi Kajinake (sr.); Sean Dallas (sr.)

Franklin Road Christian: Gavin Harris (jr.)

South Lyon: Erik Habkirk (sr.); Owen Jarl (jr.); Hristijan Georgievski (sr.); Jerod Allen (jr.)

Milford: Dante D'Alisio (soph.); Roland Gibson (sr.); Kiah Finley (sr.)

Lakeland: Chase Rospond (soph.); Tyler Green (soph.); Tyler Lauer (jr.)

"Johnny is a tremendous athlete, game-breaker and scored a couple of great goals in big-time games," Klimes said. "He's definitely a go-to guy with a huge future next year."

Chad Quick Catholic Central

The Division 1 all-state honorable mention choice, a senior defender, also earned academic all-state honors for the

Catholic League A-B Division champion.

"Chad didn't get a whole lot of recognition because he's a defender, but as a defender he still had seven goals and five assists," Pulice said. "He scored the tying goal against Novi (district tourney) and he's really a versatile player, but he did the best for us on the back line."

Micah Charlick Franklin Road

The junior midfielder, who racked up 22 goals and 22 assists, was the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division MVP along with earning all-region and Division 4 all-state honorable mention honors.

"Micah did everything from taking goal kicks to direct kicks to corner kicks, as well as control the middle of the field with his dribbling skills to set up our forwards," Novi Franklin Road Christian coach Paul Coombs said.

Garret Weaver Northville

The junior defender earned all-district and all-KLAA honors for the district champions, who finished 14-6-3.

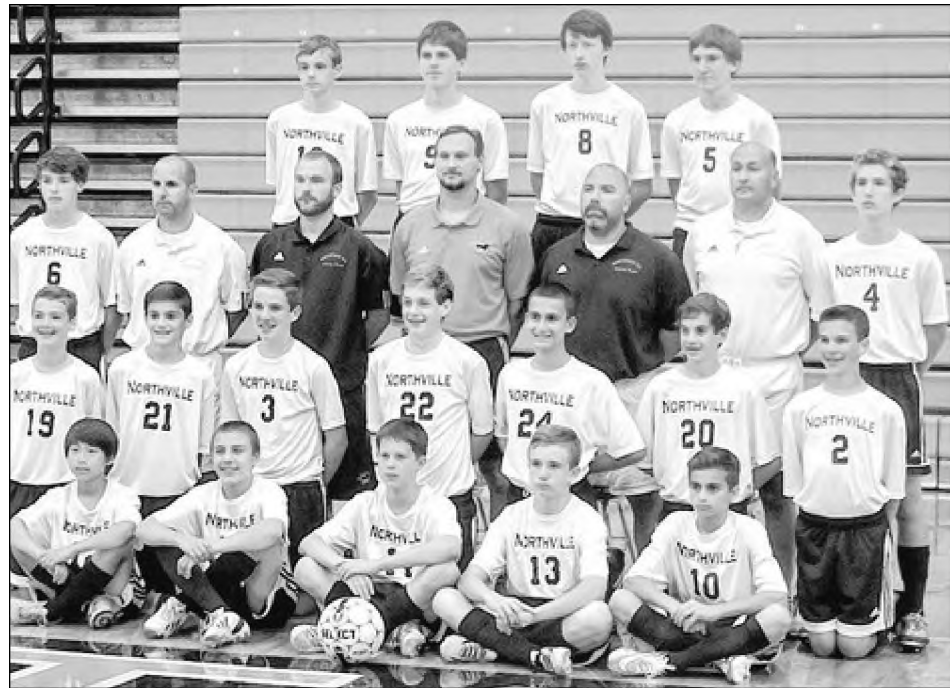
"Garret was our center back along with Grant (Tyburski), a solid young defender who never missed a beat," Klimes said. "Great distribution, won all the head balls. Scored only one goal, but solid and will be a leader next year."

Kent Maidens Novi

The senior center midfielder finished with four goals and six assists en route to all-KLAA honors.

"He doesn't have a lot of stats because a lot of times his role was to win balls defensively and then send them up to the

Undefeated season



JAMES ZESTOS

The Northville High freshman boys soccer team recently finished an undefeated season under coach Tom Allardyce. Team members include Harrison Foster, Paul Boran, Zachary Komejan, Vasili Zestos, Nick Broda, Robbie Kuphal, Sam Stevens, Jad Jarouche, Brian Walker, June Kim, Maxwell Vereb-Hatley, Kyle Moilenen, Jeremy Puckett, Jacob Tremonti, Adam Dion, Tyler E. Schneider, Collin Neal and Nick Maiz.

U-11 Lightning strikes



MEGAN PAWELSKI

Northville Soccer Association Lightning, a girls under-11 team, finished their season with an 8-0 division record while outscoring their opponents 40-11. The Lightning also captured the Dearborn Soccer Fest Tournament, Oct. 17-19, outscoring their opponents 11-3. Team members include (bottom row, from left): Emma Pawelski, Anna Merucci, Julia Greenlaw and Sophie James, (middle row, from left) Sophia Hoglund, Julia Huang, Samantha Rivera, Marissa Malleck and Ella Hoglund, (back row, from left) Delaney Hopkins, Maggie Swyt, Mia Gress and Miranda Provencher and (top row, from left) Robert Greenlaw, coach Megan Pawelski and assistant coach David Gress.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oakland County in search of 'Elite 40'

If you know a young entrepreneur, community leader, teacher or any person who has made significant contributions to their chosen field and the quality of life in the region and you want them recognized for their good work, here is your chance.

Nominations are being accepted for the Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 under 40 Class of 2015. Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson started the program in 2012 to honor young professionals and thought leaders who excel in their field and have demonstrated dynamic leadership.

To submit a candidate, go to www.Advantage-Oakland.com/Elite40. Nominees must live or work in Oakland County to be eligible. Entries close at 5 p.m. Nov. 21.

A panel of judges will review all completed applications and reduce the number to the top 40 entrants. Of that group, three candidates who scored the highest will be placed before the public for an online vote to determine the winner.

Friedman adds Northville apartment community

Friedman Integrated Real Estate Solutions was recently awarded leasing and management responsibilities for Northville Woods, a 274-apartment community in Northville.

Located at 18800 Innsbrook Drive, two miles west of I-275 on the south side of Seven Mile Road between Haggerty and Northville roads, the apartment community features spacious one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans designed to provide the quality and comfort of a premier lifestyle.

"We are thrilled to add Northville Woods to our multi-family portfolio on behalf of a valued client," said Tracy Brown, director of Multi-Family Management. "We look forward to providing the residents with a great living environment by providing exceptional service. We will utilize our superior

management experience and expertise, and highly qualified staff to achieve our lofty goals for this community and its residents."

Amenities include private entrances, carports, ceiling fans, central air, generous walk-in closets, private patios and vaulted ceilings. Washer/dryers, skylights and wood burning fireplaces are available in select homes. Residents can enjoy the 24-hour fitness center, swimming pool, laundry centers, complimentary bike rentals, playgrounds, courtyards and grilling areas.

Ingersoll watches return to Novi

Erastus Ingersoll and his family moved from New York state in 1825 and became the first settlers in Novi at the intersection of 10 Mile and Haggerty roads (what is now the Jaguar dealership).

A creek named after the Ingersoll family still runs past the site of the Ingersoll homestead. Erastus' grandsons, Robert and Charles Ingersoll, formed the Ingersoll Watch Co., manufacturing American-made watches. Through the teaching of Henry Ford, they learned about mass production and the Ingersoll brothers were able to manufacture an American-made watch that retailed for a \$1. It came to be known as the "Watch that made the dollar famous."

The Ingersoll brothers set up their new business in New York, which was a more commercial base at the time, with production in Connecticut. In 1933, the Walt Disney Co. commissioned Ingersoll to produce the first Mickey Mouse watch. Initially producing pocket watches, Ingersoll later moved on to produce wristwatches, which were fast becoming the fashion.

Robert Ingersoll moved to London to open an Ingersoll watch store and manufacturing in the United Kingdom. Charles stayed in the U.S., but unfortunately the Depression forced the company to close.

Ingersoll is returning to the home city of Novi, presenting Ingersoll

watches in an upper level kiosk in Twelve Oaks Mall with the same principles of mechanical timepiece production at affordable luxury. The collection consists of fine automatic mechanical movement watches, quartz and a collection of Ingersoll Disney.

Ford Medical Center accredited

The sleep center at Henry Ford Medical Center-Columbus in Novi recently received program accreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

The center is directed by Meeta Singh, M.D., and is located at 39450 W. 12 Mile Road.

To receive accreditation for a five-year period, a sleep center must meet or exceed all standards for professional health care as designated by the AASM. These standards address core areas such as personnel, facility and equipment, policies and procedures, data acquisition, patient care, and quality assurance.

Additionally, the sleep center's goals must be clearly stated and include plans for positively affecting the quality of medical care in the community it serves.

AccessPoint unveils program

Novi-based AccessPoint Educational HR announced the beginning of the All A's Award Program to recognize teachers and staff members for their dedication, professionalism and for making a difference in the education of the students in schools.

AccessPoint will recognize a Teacher of the Month every month of each school year (September through May). The All A's Award Program will culminate in June of each year where an AccessPoint Educational HR committee will coordinate with members of Charter school communities to choose a Teacher of the Year recipient.

"AccessPoint Educational HR appreciates and values committed teachers and staff members who excel in their positions and are good examples in their community," AccessPoint CEO Greg Packer said.



BRAD KADRICH

Jim Demmer of the Demmer Automotive Group presents U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil with the keys to her 2005 Ford Escape.

Army veteran grateful for vehicle donation

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

In November 2013, U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil was involved in an accident that totaled the car she was driving and left her without transportation.

Her inability to replace the vehicle made it tough to get to her job at the Veterans Administration hospital in Ann Arbor.

In a ceremony Nov. 11 at the Progressive Insurance office in Livonia, the Jack Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance joined forces to help her out, donating a refurbished 2005 Ford Escape to O'Neil, a Saline resident and a member of the Plymouth VFW.

"I really appreciate this," said O'Neil, who joined the U.S. Army in 1998 at the age of 20. "I've had trouble getting to work. ... This is the best thing anyone could ever give to me."

When O'Neil's origi-

nal enlistment was up in 2002, she decided she hadn't done enough and signed up for a stint in the Army Reserves. Her unit was activated in January 2003 and, by April, O'Neil was in Iraq. After her tour was up, O'Neil was discharged in November 2003.

When officials at Demmer and at Progressive were looking for a veteran to honor, Plymouth VFW officials recommended O'Neil. Demmer partnered with Progressive, the National Auto Body Council, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and several other organizations.

With parts donated from vendors, the staff at Jack Demmer Collision Centers repaired and refurbished the Escape for O'Neil, one of more than 100 veterans across the country who will receive a special vehicle on Veterans Day through Progressive's "Recycled Rides" project.

"Amy's new job made

her a perfect candidate," for the program, project coordinator Tommy Ryan of Progressive said. "We're hoping to make a difference in a lot of lives today."

Enterprise Rent-A-Car provided O'Neil with six months' worth of free auto insurance. Regional vice president Vincent LaBella pointed out that some 10 percent of Enterprise employees are veterans and reservists. That, LaBella said, makes the company's participation in the program special.

The Demmer family also has a military history. Patriarch Jack Demmer is a World War II veteran and Jim Demmer, who spoke at Tuesday's ceremony, has a son, C.J., who is in the U.S. Marines.

"We want to say 'thank you' to all those who put their lives on the line for our country," Demmer said. "We never take that for granted."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Lotus scholar



Novi-based Lotus Bank announced the recipients of the Neil J. Patel Memorial Mathematics Scholarships, presented by Lotus Bank in memory of Neil Patel, the son of the bank's founding chairman, Jitendra Patel. Neil Patel died in September from injuries sustained in a car accident. Sonu S. Patel (right) was awarded the first-place scholarship of \$500 by Neal Searle, Lotus Bank president. She graduated from Carlson High School in Gibraltar in 2014 and is studying biology and pre-med at Wayne State University. Searle and Jitendra Patel awarded the scholarships Oct. 18. Neil Patel was a graduate of the University of Michigan and North Farmington High School.

Fighting cancer



C&L Ward has raised \$1,790.86 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in several company fundraisers. In September and October, the employees, led by committee leader Beth Hemker, participated in several mini fundraisers such as penny wars, pay to wear days, pay for lunch, a football ticket raffle and more. Lastly, the company turned its Facebook page pink and used its monthly Likes for Dollars campaign for the month October where Facebook users could like the page with a dollar for every new like going to Making Strides. Shown (from left) are Hemker, Deborah Pavone, American Cancer Society; and Michelle Shook, C&L Ward.

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Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln MKS vehicles are Luxury for Less at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln MKS-A-THON is on. The dealership offers no turkey, no stuffing, no pumpkin pie. Just great deals. More than 40 Lincoln MKS Certified Pre-Owned vehicles are on-site, ready to drive off the lot for as low as \$14,995.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:

» Thursday, Nov. 20, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

» Friday, Nov. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

» Saturday, Nov. 22, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln MKS vehicles come with many benefits, including:

» A meticulous 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians

» 6-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage

» Complimentary roadside assistance

Customers spoke for themselves when detailing their experiences with the team at Varsity Lincoln.

"I have the MKS and I love, love, love the technology in it," exclaimed Lincoln MKS owner Latelyna Tarleton, who has been a customer at Varsity Lincoln for 16 years. "I get the best service here; I never have to worry about anything," she continued about her Varsity Lincoln experience.

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Lincoln MKS, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," conveyed Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper to bumper warranty that comes along



More than 40 Lincoln MKS Certified Pre-Owned vehicles are on-site at Varsity Lincoln.

COURTESY OF VARSITY LINCOLN

side all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

Loaded with features, the Lincoln MKS will satisfy any customer, Law explained.

"The Lincoln MKS provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, dual-zone climate control, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof, and heated and

cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few," Law detailed.

This model defines luxury that is incomparable in this price. With Lincoln, most premium luxury features come standard, as opposed to paying additional for similar features on other comparable brands. "The Lincoln MKS stands alone in its class of vehicles," Law emphasized.

Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that the Lincoln MKS will hold its value.

"This model holds its value more than other models for many rea-

sons," Law said. "Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and dependability are advantageous to the Lincoln MKS's value."

The MKS-A-Thon event showcases the Lincoln MKS, which get an EPA-estimated 27 MPG and features models with EcoBoost.

"The Lincoln MKS's gas mileage, dependability and warranty make for a solid modern vehicle and overall excellent experience," Law stated.

"The warranty is the key with all these cars;

with Certified Pre-Owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln," Law said. Certified Pre-Owned financing is available for as low as 0.9% APR.*

Varsity Lincoln is the number one dealer in the nation, based on 2013 Total New Retail Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction, per a Lincoln sales report.

"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law expressed. "Our dealership is ready for any situation that may

arise, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale," Law concluded.

**0.9% APR for 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.*

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 • Navigation Ready
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Thursday 11/20/14 8:30am-9pm • Friday 11/21/14 8:30am-6pm
 Saturday 11/22/14 8:30am-5pm

*Based on 2013 Total Certified Pre-Owned Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction per Lincoln Sales Report. ^As low as 0.9% APR for up to 48 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details. *Price does not include tax, title, license and dealer fees due at point of purchase. Inventory and pricing subject to change. See Varsity Lincoln for details. Offers end 11/30/14.

SKBK Sotheby's MARKETS & SELLS More Homes Over \$1.5 Million

Since our conversion to Sotheby's eight years ago, SKBK has realized steady growth in our market share throughout the area.

Currently SKBK markets and sells significantly more homes over \$1.5 million than our competitors. As the price rises so does our market share – we sold 38% of the homes over \$3 million so far this year – that is three times our closest competitor.

Luxury real estate is just not local – homes must be marketed to include the global consumer. Nearly half of all the visits to the Sotheby's International website are from outside the US.

Here are a few key points about our marketing – our results demonstrate the success of this approach.

Global Media – Our 2014 global media plan will generate 800 million impressions through hand-selected media powerhouses whose innovation, experience and international impact help drive awareness for the extraordinary properties our network represents.

Global Reach – Innovation, Experience, International Exposure: With over 14,000 sales associates in approximately 720 offices and 52 countries and territories, our network members utilize all that is current to present a home in a unique way.

SothebysRealty.com – attracts more consumers to search, view and inquire than any other luxury real estate website.

- 10,000,000 visits yearly
- 70,000,000 page views yearly
- 12 focused minutes per visit
- 45% visits from outside US

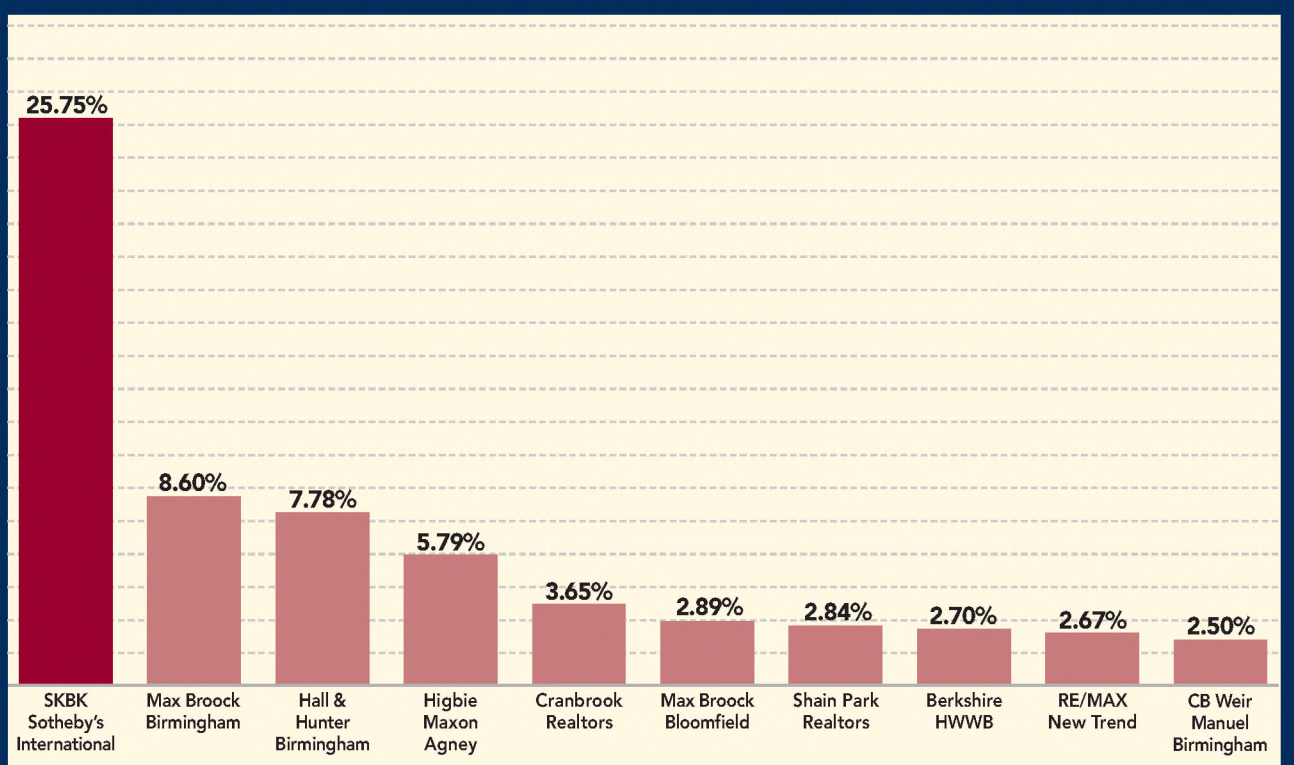
 **Aerial photography** – we provide aerial videos of every home we market over \$500,000 – scan the adjacent QR code to see a sample video.

Again – we use all available tools to market our properties and to position them as best possible in the market.

Thank you again –



Douglas H. Hardy, MD
Chairman



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MILFORD \$1,399,000
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NOVI \$214,900
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