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THURSDAY
December 17
2009
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NOVI NEWS

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Special section

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NOVI NUTSHELL Free coffee mugs

The Novi Panera Bread bakery-cafe will celebrate the holiday season with a special giveaway for its customers today. The first 100 customers will receive a complimentary travel mug including a free coffee for a month refill card. The location opens at 5:30 a.m. Panera Bread of Novi is located in the City Center Plaza at 25875 Novi Rd.

Family Fun Night

Are you looking for something to do with the whole family on a Friday night? If so, then Family Fun Night is the perfect activity for you and your family. Join the Novi Community Education pool staff from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18 for a fun filled night of swimming, contests, and plain old fun at the Novi High School pool. Feel free to bring noodles, rafts, squirt guns, and other pool toys. Fee of \$3 (or one pool buck) per person will be collected at the pool the night of the event.

Fight hunger

Every Tuesday during December, the Botsford Center for Health Improvement will hold a food pantry donation drive that will benefit the Hospitality House Food Pantry in Walled Lake. Members and guests are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items with labels. For each donated item, Botsford Center for Health Improvement members will be entered to win a BCHI workout gear package, which includes a duffel bag with a lock, headphones, water bottle and a T-shirt. Guests will earn a one-day guest pass for each item donated. The Botsford Center for Health Improvement is located at 39750 Grand River Ave. in Novi. To learn more about the Botsford Center for Health Improvement or how you can donate an item to the food pantry drive, please call (248) 473-3100 or log on to www.botsford.org/bchi.

Governor pauses school aid cut

District officials not banking on that sticking

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community Schools District and all others throughout the state will get a brief reprieve when their Dec. 20 state aid payment comes and \$127 that was supposed to be cut is still there. But the key word is 'brief,' and administrators in Novi are not certain the money is going to stay in their budget for long as rumors circulate that it could be cut again in January. "In this economic environment I am reluctant to make any predictions because things are changing constantly," said Gail Credit, assis-

tant superintendent for business and operations. "It's in our budget to be gone, and we certainly didn't expect this pause, but we will just have to wait and see." Districts should know definitively if the money will be there or not after the state Revenue Estimating Conference meets on Jan. 11. Gov. Jennifer Granholm said in a press release that the reason for the pause is because school districts are spending less than authorized in 2009 and because of an unexpected increase in non-homestead property tax values. Despite the pause, Novi still is seeing a \$165 per pupil cut and \$280 categorical (20j) cut this year. The

'It opens the door to a little bit of hope but it has so many caveats where this might only be temporary.'

BOB SCHRAM, assistant superintendent of human resources.

reductions equate to a loss of \$445 per pupil or \$2.8 million total, and the district is planning as if the cut is still going to be \$572 per pupil. "It opens the door to a little bit of hope but it has so many caveats where this might only be temporary," said Bob Schram, assistant superintendent of human resources. Credit said a situation like this is why the district has tried its best to always maintain a strong fund balance, and they are going to continue to be aggressive during the budget process and stay on top of the issues.

The district has been hosting public meetings and will continue that into the new year, is in the process of creating a community survey and is constantly asking for suggestions from residents. More cuts could be coming in January and Credit said more reductions will have to be made. "It's very difficult for us to keep consistency and build fine programs when your funding is so nebulous," she said. nmuellet@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Businesses prepare for smoking ban

Long-fought battle comes to an end

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

When Darrel Krause, manager at the Post Bar, first heard the statewide smoking ban in public places was passed by the Legislature and sitting on the desk of Gov. Jennifer Granholm to be signed into law, he was upset the government was telling him how to run his business. But on the flip-side, as a non-smoker, he will be much happier going home at night and not smelling like cigar and cigarette smoke. The consensus among business owners is that since all bar and restaurant business have to fall in line with the law, the impact will not be as harsh. "If everyone has to comply I don't see a huge decline in business happening," he said. "From what I have heard across the country is initially there is a brief period where there is a decline but it ends up coming back." The ban which was approved in the House by a 75-30 vote and in the Senate by a 24-13 vote, will start May 1 and make

BAN DETAILS

Law is effective May 1, 2010

Exemptions:

- Gaming floors of Detroit's three casinos
- Cigar bars
- Specialty tobacco shops
- Home offices
- Vehicles (including commercial trucks)

Michigan the 36th state to ban smoking in public places.

One of the big sticking points in approval of the law was exempting the gaming floors of Detroit's three casinos. Also exempted are cigar bars, specialty tobacco shops, home offices and vehicles including commercial trucks.

Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Nowi, said he voted in favor of the exceptions because the bill didn't stand a chance of passing without it. He said they already control the smoke well and understood the casino's concern that they would lose jobs and business to Indian casinos that do not have to follow the law.

Randy Gregory, co-owner of Mixx Lounge, said he didn't see the law being a big deal because it is already in place in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, and if they can handle it, so can Michigan. "I don't think it's going

Please see **SMOKING, A2**



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cigarette smoker Scott Daubner lights up at Novi's The Post bar on Tuesday, Dec. 15. The Post and other bars and restaurants in Novi will have to comply with the state of Michigan's new no smoking provisions after May 1, 2010.

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Longtime ZBA member moving on

Bauer, wife help shape the Novi seen today

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

To say Jerry Bauer was dedicated to the city of Novi would be quite the understatement. For more than three decades, 33 years to be exact, Bauer, 78, has been a staple on Novi's Zoning Board of Appeals. He started in 1976 when Novi was dirt roads and city with a population of a little more than 4,000 people, and when he stepped down from his seat last Tuesday after not being reappointed, he did so proudly, knowing he was instrumental in shaping a city that is the envy of others. "I wanted to see if I could help a struggling city get going and develop," he said of getting

involved. "I love this city. My wife, Carol, and I left Livonia and came to what I think is a better city and helped develop it and we are very happy." Bauer's community service started in 1974, three years after he and Carol moved to the city, when he was part of the first beautification advisory commission. Even though he will not sit at the board table any more, he still is an active member of the Community Emergency Response Team, plays in the 5th Michigan Regiment Band and he and Carol are trustees on the Friends of the Novi Public Library. Victor Cassis, who has

Please see **BAUER, A2**

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Business Recognition Award

After receiving nominations from customers and community members, six awards were presented by Mayor David B. Landry at the second annual Business Recognition Awards held Nov. 23. The winners were featured in the Dec. 3 edition of the Novi News, but Novi Youth Hockey Association (NYHA), Small Business Practices, was inadvertently excluded. NYHA provides each and every person within the association the opportunity to learn, grow, and enjoy the game of hockey by accommodating players of every level and utilizing dedicated volunteers to teach skills and good sportsmanship. The NYHA is the largest such organization in Michigan with over 620 players and 150 coaches. NYHA teams have won state and district championships and numerous invitational tournaments in and out of state.

SMOKING

FROM PAGE A1

to hurt business because I don't think people will not go out just because they cannot smoke," he said. "Our biggest challenge is finding a safe environment for them to smoke in the winter."

Smoking on restaurant patios, even though they are outdoors, also are off limits because they are part of the workplace premises. Hookah bars that serve food or drink cannot operate once the law is in effect either, and neither can construction workers who work indoors.

Sen. Nancy Cassis, R- Novi, said she supported a total ban from the beginning because it was clear that it was a "health, safety and welfare issue."

She also disagreed with those who complained about government control.

"We mandate under health, safety and welfare and how can you separate secondhand smoke from what we have done requiring people to wear seat belts, putting children in safety seats and mandating the wearing of helmets for motorcyclists?" she said.

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Jerry Bauer, right, stands with Novi Mayor David Landry after receiving the Spirit of Giving Award presented at the Ringing in the Holidays event on Dec. 4. Bauer, who served on the zoning board of appeals for 33 years, was not reappointed to the position.

BAUER

FROM PAGE A1

known Jerry for 33 years and served with him on the ZBA, said his efforts helped volunteerism flourish in the community.

"It shows that he had a lot of dignity and grace and wisdom and he was concerned for the community he lived in," Cassis said. "When you are concerned, you want to do whatever you can to show up and not just talk about it -- and he and his wife showed up and stayed in it."

"Longevity wasn't what he had in his mind, it was the

aim and desire to see the community come out the right quality."

Mayor David Landry called Bauer a "absolute pillar of the community" and someone who "exemplifies volunteerism." He also emphasized that just because he is not going to be on the ZBA, doesn't mean the community is going to lose him and his wife because they are a vital part of the community.

"I don't know if the community could ask any more of a community member than what Jerry and his wife gave," he said. "People like them have defined the community."

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NFL wives bring holiday cheer to help 10 Detroit-area families

Novi's Sam's Club hosts third annual event

BY MATTHEW MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Michigan will always be home to Chantia Foster.

So when the Off the Field Players' Wives Association teamed up with the Salvation Army and Novi's Sam's Club to host a shopping spree for 10 Detroit-area families, the day had a special meaning for the now Cleveland resident.

"It was really important for me," she said following the activities on Thursday. "My husband (George Foster) is a former Detroit Lion so I feel we have a lot of ties to the city. It meant a great deal to me to come back and give to my hometown and to help families that are in need during these trying times."

Foster was joined at the event by several other wives of current and former NFL players including Vanessa Bullocks, wife of Daniel Bullocks; Brooke Sims, wife of Ernie Sims; Kim Forcher, wife of Robert Forcher; Kim Wheatley, wife of Tyrone Wheatley; and Taniko McKenzie, wife of Keith McKenzie.

The women spent a couple of hours shopping for clothes, household products and toys for the families, wrapping gifts and ringing bells outside the store for the Salvation Army



Brooke Sims, left, shops at Novi's Sam's Club with the help of associate Shirlene Mosley on Dec. 10 for the Football Legends' Wives Shop. A number of current and former Detroit Lions players' wives (Brooke is the wife of Lion linebacker Ernie Sims) shopped around the store to provide some necessities and needs for 10 area families chosen by the Salvation Army.

another food. Foster said a lot of the wives involved with the organization can relate to what these families are going through because they too had struggles in their lives. This is the third year in a row the three organizations

have partnered up to help families over the holidays and the first time the shopping spree took place in Novi.



Kimberly Wheatley wraps some gifts at Novi's Sam's Club with the help of Major Michelle Oliver of the Salvation Army. Sam's Club teamed up with the Salvation Army and the Off the Field Players' Wives Association for the annual Football Legends' Wives Shop - to purchase necessities and gifts for 10 Detroit area families on Dec. 10. Kimberly is the wife of former NFL running back and University of Michigan star Tyrone Wheatley.

people in need in Detroit and this region," he said. "It's a difficult time for a lot of people and it's good to be part of a company that sees the need."

It makes me proud that my company can do something like this, especially with so many

people in need in Detroit and this region," he said. "It's a difficult time for a lot of people and it's good to be part of a company that sees the need."

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6:00 pm: Contemporary Worship
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Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck
Children's Time
Contemporary Choirs
Candle Lighting

8:30 pm: Traditional Worship
"The Greatest Gift"
Rev. Dr. Steven J. Buck
Children's Time
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Candle Lighting

11:00 pm: Candlelight Worship
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Movies at the Marquis

The Classics are Back on the Marquis Theatre's Big Screen.

Date:	Movie:	Ticket Sponsor:	On-sale Date:
Jan 14	North by Northwest (1959)	Long Plumbing, Heating, Kitchen & Bath, 190 E. Main	Jan 2
Jan 23	My Fair Lady (1964)	Edwards Cafe & Caterer, 115 E. Main	Jan 9
Jan 30	The Thomas Crown Affair (1968)	Starting the Gallery, 118 W. Main	Jan 16
Feb 6	The Philadelphia Story (1940)	Orin Jewelers, 101 E. Main	Jan 23
Feb 13	Roman Holiday (1953)	Riffle's HomeStyle Restaurant, 140 E. Main	Jan 30
Feb 20	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)	Wine Sync, 122 W. Main	Feb 6
Feb 27	That Touch of Mink (1942)	Alexander's Custom Clothing, 124 W. Main	Feb 13
March 6	Charade (1963)	Sincerely Yours, Inc., 110 N. Center	Feb 20
March 13	Paris When It Sizzles (1964)	Sizzling Sticks, 144 May Alexander Ct.	Feb 27
March 20	Vertigo (1958)	Paole's Tavern, 157 E. Main	March 6
March 27	Easter Parade (1948)	GardenViewz, 202 W. Main	March 13

Tickets (\$5/10/15) are available for purchase exclusively at ticket-sponsor locations. The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all guests, free years and older. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2010 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownmarquis.com or call 248-349-0345.

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HOLIDAY & NEW YEAR'S TREATS

CHOCOLATE TOPS HOLIDAY COOKIE TRAYS

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

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

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

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

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



Wintermint Wafers

1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/2 cups flour

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

COOKIES:

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

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

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

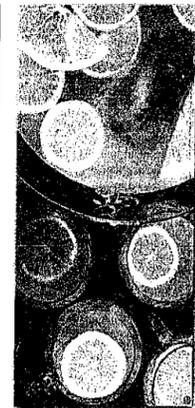
cookies from oven; cool on pan 3 to 4 minutes. Remove to wire rack to cool completely.

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

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

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

— Courtesy of Family Features



CHAMPAGNE TOAST FIT FOR A FESTIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

CHAMPAGNE PUNCH

Serves 10

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

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

SIMPLE SYRUP

Makes 1/2 cups

2 1/2 cups water
3 cups sugar

1. Add the water and sugar to a medium-size saucepan. Stirring occasionally, bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat. Lower the heat a bit, keeping the mixture at a low boil for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Turn off the heat, and let the syrup cool completely in the pan. Store in a clean, airtight container in the refrigerator.

EDUCATION

Novi keeping pressure on legislators

Parents, administrators concerned about impact of school funding cuts

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Maria Mazza and a group of parents in the Novi Community Schools District are not going to quit.

They are upset with recent funding cuts that could hamper the district's ability to provide a quality education and plan on staying in legislators' ears until something changes.

Novi is seeing a reduction of \$445 per pupil, which amounts to \$2.5 million, this school year thanks to a \$165 per-pupil cut and a \$280 categorical 20(j) cut. Recently, a cut of \$127 was rescinded, but that could be taken away in January.

Mazza and a group of community members have formed the Legislative Action Network-Novi to lobby legislators to ensure something changes.

"People are not going to stay (in Novi) if the schools are substandard," she said. "If our schools suffer, what is going to be the draw of Novi then?"

Five Novi parents, school board trustee Bobbie Murphy and Assistant Supt. Bob Schram spent last Tuesday in Lansing meeting with Rep. Hugh Crawford and Sen. Nancy Cassis about the cuts, and Mazza said they left feeling better about the situation.



Rep. Hugh Crawford, second from left, met with a group of parents Tuesday who formed the Legislative Action Network-Novi to discuss the recent school funding cuts and plans to fix the problem.

Still, it doesn't mean anything is going to change, she said.

"We are very hopeful that our representatives are in the right place and they are looking at what is best for our children," Mazza said. "I feel both of them are behind the schools, supporting the schools and doing everything in their power to look at the alternatives."

Crawford said he was glad he got the chance to sit down with the group, telling members he wasn't going to raise taxes and sharing ideas for what could be done — such as freezing state employee raises

and not implementing an increase in earned income tax credit — to fix the problem.

"They are really keeping the pressure on and I told them to keep doing what they are doing and to keep it up on the Senate and governor and hopefully something will happen," he said.

The group is still looking for more members in the community to join and is in the process of forming subcommittees to target some of the changes it wants to see.

For more information about LAN, call (248) 449-1200.

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madcap afternoon

Mel Hatch-Douglas (above), of Cincinnati's Madcap Puppets performs for a group of Novi Village Oaks second graders during a week-long workshop that introduced puppeteering to the kids. Hatch-Douglas spent a week at Village Oaks helping the kids create skits they could perform for their school mates. The kids also took time to create their own puppets in their art class. Village Oaks Elementary kids (left) crack up at the antics of Mel Hatch-Douglas as she gave a puppeteering performance on Dec. 1.



Can drive kicks off Unity in the Community Program

Event highlights the life and legacy of MLK

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School teacher Kory Nuckolls is a supporter of giving students Martin Luther King Jr. Day off.

But he doesn't want them to just take Jan. 18 as free day, he wants them to spend time recognizing and reflecting on the work of an "American hero."

"I'd like it to be a day of active citizenship, where kids go out in the community and volunteer," he said.

And while that idea is the ultimate goal, Nuckolls and the Students Promoting Unity and Diversity are continuing with their Unity in the Community Program to reach out to all of Novi.

For the fourth consecutive year, the group will be hosting an event that honors the life and legacy of King through

SHINE A LIGHT
What: Unity in the Community Program
Where: Novi High School
When: 7 p.m. Jan. 18

spoken word, song, dance, drama and more.

The push is to make it a kindergarten through 12th grade program, with each building having its own part.

"I try to walk what I talk and live what I learn and I hope my colleagues do the same," Nuckolls said.

The program kicked off Dec. 7 with the Operation Can-Do canned food drive for the Gleaners Community Food Bank of metro Detroit. Boxes will be located in all the schools throughout the district, and the school that brings in the most canned goods by Jan. 18 will win a prize.

Nuckolls said the goal is to collect 20,000 cans and everyone in the community is asked to participate.

Also as part of the Unity in the Community Program, there is an oratorical contest

and essay contest.

For the oratorical contest, contestants will read an original speech, poem or present a dramatic reading on what King's dream means to them and how it has shaped their lives. The deadline is Jan. 5 and presentations are Jan. 7. Winners will be announced Jan. 8, and prizes will be awarded to the top three.

Students wishing to participate in the essay contest will write a 500- to 1,000-word essay on how they actively promote unity and diversity. The essays are due Jan. 5 and winners will be announced Jan. 11. Prizes will be awarded to the top three.

Nuckolls said he is hopefully that the community will rally around the program and hopes to get 1,000 people to attend.

"In a dark world, it is our responsibility to be that beacon of light," he said.

For more information about the program or the contests, contact Nuckolls at (248) 449-1500 or by e-mail at knuckolls@novi.k12.mi.us.

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American Cancer Society gives back to Novi

Employees spend time helping at library

BY NATAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi has been an active participant in the American Cancer Society's annual Relay For Life event for several years.

And in an effort to show their appreciation, about 40 employees from the nonprofit's metro Detroit office took time out of their day Friday to volunteer to help tag materials

library.

"This was huge," library Director Julie Farkas said. Jennifer Nagy, director of ACS, said more than \$1 million has been raised for cancer research by Novi and Northville since 2002, and the group wanted to show its appreciation.

"We needed something we could do in the community to give back," she said.

Plans also are under way for the 2010 Relay For Life event, with a kickoff party planned for March 24 at the Novi Civic Center.

Farkas said the library will begin to move into the new building in April and volunteer groups are needed to continue helping with one of the "largest projects needing to be accomplished for the opening of the new library." The library construction is still on schedule, with an expected opening



A volunteer places a RFID security tag inside a book at the Novi Public Library.

date in June.

For more information about Relay For Life, call Abdilla at (248) 663-3410. To volunteer

for the tagging process at the library, call (248) 493-4730.

online at hometownlife.com | (248) 437-3010 ext. 255

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

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

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

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

MARIE L. LAWRENCE
Age 95, Dec. 1, 2009. Funeral held Dec. 5. Donations in Marie's memory can be made to Wilson Friends of the Library or Harger Woods Friends of the Library. Online condolences: www.obrienwillvianfuneralhome.com

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

JOSEPH V. HUVAL
Age 79, of South Lyon, passed away December 6, 2009 at his home. Joseph was born March 5, 1930, in Detroit to the late Joseph Anton and Mary Ann (Pitlach) Huval. He studied at the Weinzinger Foundation Art School in Detroit and was a retired commercial artist for the Yellow Pages. Joseph proudly served in the US Air Force, was a member of the Fine Arts Society, a member of Sokol Detroit, and was a Certified Doves. He enjoyed the outdoors, art, animals, and was a man about town. He will be dearly missed by his sister, Mary (Gina) Abadio of Venice, Florida; his sons, Eric and Robert Huval; and many friends and neighbors. A time of gathering will be held Saturday, December 19 from 1-3pm with a memorial service beginning at 3pm at Castelforte Funeral Home, Inc., 59255-10 Mile, South Lyon, 248.446.1171

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

ROY L. PATTERSON
Age 75, of Highland, December 7, 2009. A Funeral Service was held at Lynch & Sons, Milford on December 10th, at 11AM. Memorials to the Highland Goodfellow or to Community Sharing. For further information please call: 248-624-6845 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

HERBERT L. WARE
Age 83, of Northville, passed away Dec. 13, 2009. Loving father of Karen Travers and Scott Steves. A graveside service will be held Dec. 21 at Noon in Rural Hill Cemetery, Castletown, Michigan, Inc.

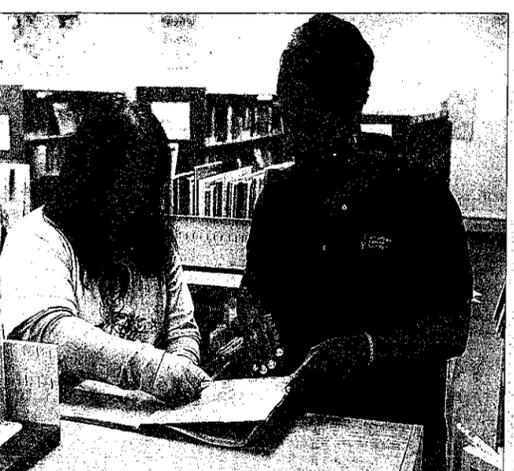
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The Great event "Hill" None of us is an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$3 per line. You may place a photo of your loved one for an additional cost of \$25. Symbols and emblems may be placed on your obituary. American flags, religious symbols, etc.

Obituaries received after three o'clock will be placed in the next available issue.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

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



American Cancer Society volunteers Amy Bok, left, and Chimene Anderson volunteered to put RFID security tags in Novi Public Library books on Dec. 11 as the library transitions to its new facility.

Waste Management lauds volunteerism

Novi woman returns to volunteer at cancer camp

Waste Management has given an \$250 Greenworks donation to Camp Quality Michigan near Petoskey, which provides children with cancer an opportunity to enjoy camp activities at no cost to the family, in honor of a company employee's volunteer efforts.

The Waste Management employee, Kelly Newman of Novi, returned to volunteer at the camp where she and her sister, who passed away from cancer, once summured.

Waste Management's donation through the company's new Greenworks Program was given in recognition of Kelly, who works in the company's Wixom office, for her time spent volunteering at Camp Quality Michigan in August. Any Waste Management employee who volunteers 40 hours or more for a specific non-profit organization will have a donation of \$250 made to that charity in honor of the employee's volunteerism.

In the summer of 1997, sixth grade student Kelly Newman from Chippewa Hills near Mount Pleasant accompanied her younger sister Kimberly to Camp Quality Michigan in Petoskey. Camp Quality offers activities such as fishing, canoeing, rock-climbing and putt-putt golf, giving children

diagnosed with cancer a sense of normalcy.

When Kimberly was eight-years-old, she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a form of leukemia found in developing nerve cells that can affect several parts of the body. Most cases are found in children under the age of five.

The girls' parents heard about Camp Quality Michigan and thought it would be a good experience for the sisters. The camp encourages first-time campers to bring a family member.

"Camp was a lot of fun and it was great for Kim to be around other kids who were going through the same struggles as her," Kelly said. "My favorite part was the arts and crafts."

Two years after their camp experience together, Kimberly lost her battle with cancer and passed away at the age of 12.

This summer Kelly made a commitment to honor her sister's memory at the camp where the two spent a week together the two spent a week together 12 years ago. For the first time since Kimberly's passing, Kelly returned to Camp Quality Michigan in August, to volunteer as a camp companion.

"I always wanted to go back in memory of my sister; it seemed like a great thing to do to share my experiences with children suffering from cancer who just want to be like everyone else," said Kelly. "It just took a while to work up the courage to do it."

Kelly volunteered to be a camp companion, counselors who are paired one-on-one with campers for the duration of the six-day experience.

A few days before she left to volunteer at the camp, Kelly's supervisor told her about Waste Management's Greenworks Program, a new company initiative to recognize and encourage employees to give back to the community by volunteering their time for non-profit organizations.

"Waste Management's commitment to being a valued community partner extends beyond the workplace. It's all about each of us being involved in our community in meaningful ways, and that's what the Greenworks Program is all about," said Waste Management Michigan/Ohio Vice President Denise Gretz.

Kelly was appreciative of the Greenworks Award donation, and hopes to return to Camp Quality Michigan in August, to volunteer again next summer," Kelly said.

NORTHVILLE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

DePaul University Logan and Meghan Weber. To receive Dean's List commendation, full-time students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above on a four-point scale.

The following Northville local students have been named to the Dean's List for the 2009-10 fall quarter: Ryan Finn, Daniel Kozerski, Kelley

How to guard against Medicare fraud

Dear Savvy Senior:

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

Suspicious Charlie "Dear Charlie"

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

WHAT YOU CAN DO
The best way for you to spot

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

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

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

tionable charges to Medicare at 800-633-4227. And if you suspect fraud, contact the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Fraud hotline at 800-447-8472. It's also a good idea to report it to the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft hotline at 877-438-4338.

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

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

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

- Guard your Medicare and Social Security numbers. Treat them like you would treat your credit cards. If your Medicare card is lost or stolen, report it immediately to Social Security (800-772-1213) who will send you a replacement.
- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare number.
- Don't let anyone borrow or pay to use your Medicare ID card.
- Walk away if people approach you claiming to be conducting a health survey and asks for Medicare number.
- Don't give your information to telephone marketers who claim to be from Medicare or Social Security asking for payment over the phone or Internet.
- Savvy Tips: Visit www.savvysenior.com or call 877-808-2468. Visit www.Medicare.gov.

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

Your Invitation to Worship

Brighton

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5051 Pleasant Valley Road • Brighton, MI 48114
910-227-5112
8:30 a.m. Communion Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. Dale Hebbard, Pastor
www.lordoflifechurch.org

HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
at the corner of Waters Lake & Musick Rd.
610-231-9190
Fr. John Kloczek, Pastor
Weekend Liturgy Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Please see the Book of Hours for Mass & 6:00 p.m.

Milford

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 100 • Milford, MI 48361
620 General Motors Rd., Milford
Church Office: (248) 594-0699
Registration: (248) 594-1100 ext. 1100
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Juni-Aug - Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Evening: 7:00 p.m.
The Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD
WYOMING 48392
133 Detroit St., Milford • 684-5695
Pastor: Steve Swartz
Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
Wednesday 8:45 & 10:15 a.m.
Awards for 5 y.o. old - 5th grade begins Sept. 10
Middle School 5:00

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
4525 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48274
Saturday 8:00 a.m.
Sunday 9, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Reverend George Chermak, Pastor
Parish Office: 248-947-7178

SOUTH HILL CHURCH, S.B.C.
1750 South Hill Rd. Just south of downtown Milford
(248) 585-3550 www.Apostlesouthhill.com
Sunday School 8:15 a.m.
8:30 Worship 8:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Children and Youth Groups Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Call about our current small group studies.

Farmington Hills

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Farmington Hills • 2323 28th Rd. • 248-474-6664
Bussey Center Road & 28th
Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship & Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Traditional Church
11:15 a.m. Contemporary
Sunday School - all ages 10:15 a.m.

Highland

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
2350 Harvey Lake Rd. (248) 947-4556
Contemporary Service
9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. M-F 9 p.m. S
Saturday Night Service 8:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
2nd & 4th Saturdays at 8:15 a.m.
3rd-6th grade Youth Tuesday 7-8 p.m.
Pastor: Vince Taylor

New Hudson

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
3765 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48155
Phone: 248-444-2222
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
www.newhopeuu.org

Northville

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN
Experience Life Each Week
Sunday Worship - 8:00 a.m. & 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School and Children's Programs
www.northvillechristian.org
4155 St. Mark Road
248-249-9933

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland (248) 987-5344
Rev. Fr. Louis, Pastor
Weekend Services: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m. M-F 9 p.m.
Holy Day 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. First Saturdays 10 a.m.
Confessions - Saturdays 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. or by appointment.

Livonia

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Services held at:
Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16500 Hubbard Road - Livonia
South of St. Mark Road
Adult Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Child Care Provided
The Church of Christ Established 1835
Dr. James A. McGuire - Ministry Provided

White Lake

WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6625 Highway 16, White Lake, MI 48391
(248) 587-4534 Debra Ann F. Rice, Pastor
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Children's Church Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Child Care Provided
The Friendly Church Established 1835

Living Water
New Service Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Renewed Vision
Our Service Lutheran Church - Pre-reformed 684 p.m.
13600 W. Maple Rd. • White Lake, MI 48391
(248) 681-4300
Sunday Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Monday School at 8:00 a.m. (9-12th grade)
Children's Bible Class - 10:00 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. James A. McGuire

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Renewed Vision
Our Savior Lutheran Church - Pre-reformed 684 p.m.
13600 W. Maple Rd. • White Lake, MI 48391
(248) 681-4300
Sunday Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Monday School at 8:00 a.m. (9-12th grade)
Children's Bible Class - 10:00 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. James A. McGuire

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
133 Orchard Dr., Northville
Worship Services: Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Church School: 9:30-11:00 a.m. (all ages)
Religious Education: 3:45-2:50 p.m.
Rev. Denise Theuer, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
200 E. Main St., Northville • (248) 349-2011
Weekend Church School: 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Church School: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Chicago Assembly of All Denominations
Youth League: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. James A. McGuire

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
200 E. Main St., Northville • (248) 349-2011
Weekend Church School: 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Church School: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Chicago Assembly of All Denominations
Youth League: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. James A. McGuire

Immanuel Lutheran
Waconia Synod • Reynolds Sweet Play, at Liberty St.
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-2289

Bible Believers Church
Gathering in Jesus Name
601 S. Lafayette St. • South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday 10:30 and 1:30
Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Bible Classes, Pastor
724-947-1963 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching

St. John's Episcopal Church
A church that shares the gospel love of Christ
601 S. Lafayette St. • South Lyon, MI 48178
734-453-0190
Services on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
Pastor: Stephen J. Miller, Pastor
724-947-1963 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching

Novi

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
10100 W. Warren Ave., Novi, MI 48275
Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod
Wagonway School & Adult Bible Class
will resume September 13
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Monday 7:00 p.m.
Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor • 248-936-0225

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
44871 W. Warren Ave., Novi, MI 48275
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.
Rev. Anne M. Smith, Pastor
248-936-0225
www.umnovi.com
Loving God, loving each other and loving our common world

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48275
Weekend Mass
Saturday: 5 p.m. (English) & 8:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor
Rev. Henry Steeds, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 248-967-7777 www.holyfamilynovi.org

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
10100 W. Warren Ave., Novi, MI 48275
Haggerty, Novi • Phone: 427-1175
Weekend Mass
Sundays 7:45 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor
Rev. Henry Steeds, Associate Pastor
www.holyfamilynovi.org

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44430 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-249-2345
11150 S. Highland Rd., Novi, MI 48275
www.fallcommunity-novio.org
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM
Children, Youth and Adult Ministries

WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
11126 S. Highland Rd., Novi, MI 48275
248-687-1218
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bible Ministries: 11:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages: 7:00 p.m.

MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 944-2805
Bible Ministries: 11:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday All Ages: 7:00 p.m.

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
17525 Meadowbrook Rd. in West of 10 Mile
248-346-7757 • www.mbcoc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

OAK POINTE CHURCH
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Saturday Worship 9:15 p.m.
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone 248-912-0013
www.oakpointe.org

South Lyon

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
(Nisour Synod) Pastor Terry Nelson
437-4810 • 496-4335 • 60400 Rd. at 10 Mile
Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
95500 Margolis Ave., South Lyon, MI 48178
Phone: 248-437-5263
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. • Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Fredrick H. Papp, Pastor
Pastor: Rev. Fredrick H. Papp, Pastor
www.fbcsofsl.com

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
28900 Pontiac Trail (Across from Swin's Outlet)
Sunday Services 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Family Service 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship - Revivment,
Bible Based Messages
(248) 469-9400 • www.crossroadsnet.net

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
640 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760
Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m. and 1:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Reverend Sonora Willhove
www.fumsofsl.org

FAMILY LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH A/B
8234 W. & Mile Road (248) 444-1122
St. Pastor Joseph P. Tabbi
Sunday Christian Education 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Christian Education and Family Life 7:00 p.m.

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH
22143 Pontiac Trail (Across from Swin's Outlet)
10 a.m. Sunday Celebration
Pontiac Trail and S Mile across Swin's Outlet
(Primary & Children's programs)
Office 248-466-4400
www.solidrock.org

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Services held at: Kent Lakes Elementary
52181 Kent Lakes Rd., S. Lyon
Sunday Service Times
9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Kenneth Warren-588-531-2021

Plymouth

Bible Believers Church
Gathering in Jesus Name
601 S. Lafayette St. • South Lyon, MI 48178
Sunday 10:30 and 1:30
Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Bible Classes, Pastor
724-947-1963 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching

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



Sounds of the season

Novi Middle School student Alaya Armbuster serves lunch to the senior guests of the Dec. 3 Novi Rotary Christmas party.

Members of the Novi Middle School Choir sing Christmas Carols during the annual Novi Rotary Christmas party at the school on Dec. 3. Area seniors were invited to enjoy a musical concert put on by the kids and then a lunch in the cafeteria complete with gift bags for the attendees.



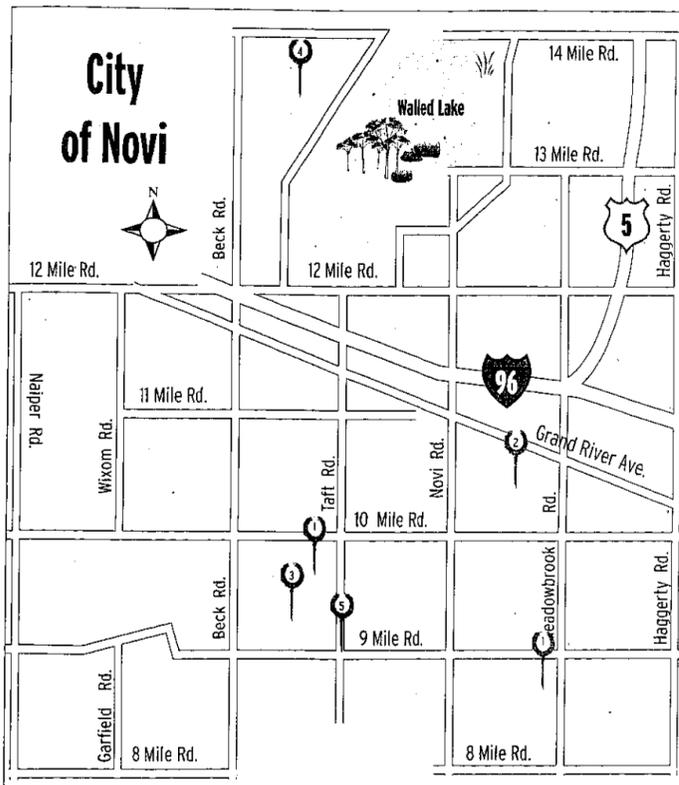
Novi Middle School seventh grader Jen Smith sings Christmas Carols along with the school's invited senior guests on Dec. 3.



Members of the Novi Middle School orchestra play a section of Gustav Holst's The Planets during the Novi Rotary Club annual Christmas Party on Dec. 3.

PUBLIC SAFETY

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



Novi Police promote two staff to key leadership positions

Sergeant Jerrod Hart was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Detective Scott Baetens was promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the Novi Police Department on Dec. 11.

An 18-year veteran of the force, Hart previously served as a uniform patrol sergeant, an investigator in the General Services Division and as the first school resource officer in Novi High School, helping to create a long standing partnership between the Novi Police Department and Novi Community Schools.

Hart began his career with the Novi Police Department in 1991 after graduating from Ferris State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He is currently working to obtain a master of arts degree in police administration, also through Ferris State University. Throughout his tenure, Hart has held numerous assignments, including serving as a field training officer and Range Instructor. He previously served on the West Oakland Major Crime Task Force and has received numerous Department Meritorious Service awards, as well as the MAIDD Lifesaver Award in 1992, 1993, 1994.

"I'm very proud of Lieutenant Hart and am honored to have had the opportunity to promote him to this key leadership position within our organization," said Novi Chief of Police David E. Molloy. "He continually demonstrates a strong commitment to teamwork, has the highest ethical values, and is dedicated to the mission and vision of the Novi Police Department. We are very fortunate to have him as a member of our team and a part of our community."

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Grinch vandalizes Christmas lights

1 A Novi resident on Antler Drive has had to repair his Christmas lights for the third time in the last week after an unknown suspect continues to cut the strands of lights.

The homeowner met with Novi police on Dec. 9 after his Christmas lights were not working and he found that a strand had been cut by a knife or scissors.

He told police there has been vandalism to his Christmas lights almost every year for the last 20 years and he has no idea who has been doing it. He said he doubts it's a juvenile because he hopes they would have grown up by now.

Police were unable to find any evidence to process and will be performing extra patrols in the area.

Another home on Westmont Drive also was vandalized on Dec. 13, when an unknown suspect cut four different parts of the line on the lights. It is the second time an incident has occurred at the residence, and there are no suspects at this time.

Grinch vandalizes Christmas lights

2 A Novi man living on Highlands Drive had his wallet stolen from his parked vehicle while it was in the driveway between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Dec. 9. The man said he noticed he didn't have his wallet with him while inside the house and when he returned to the car it was gone. He also called the hair salon, which also did not have it.

He believes he left the wallet in the center console of the unlocked vehicle. He had already canceled his credit cards, and there was no evidence on the scene. Police believe it was possible his wallet was taken from the vehicle, but also it is possible he could have dropped it outside the hair salon and was not aware.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Drunk driver causes accident

5 A 51-year-old man was arrested at 9:59 p.m. on Dec. 13 for drunk driving after rear-ending a vehicle on Taft Road and Nine Mile.

According to the police report, the driver said he was heading home after eating at a restaurant and admitted to having a few drinks. He said he was attempting to answer his cell phone when he hooked up and saw the vehicle in front of him stopping at the stop sign and was unable to stop in time. The officer could smell a strong odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle and asked the man to perform field sobriety tests.

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The charges stem from an April 18 incident in which police said Grogan and Commissioner Kim Capello, R-
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Capello was sentenced in June to two years of probation after pleading guilty to indecent exposure.

On Monday, Grogan's attorney Leon Weiss said the reason for the delay was that he still was doing preparation and investigation for the trial. He declined to elaborate.

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Korie Wilkins | Detroit Free Press

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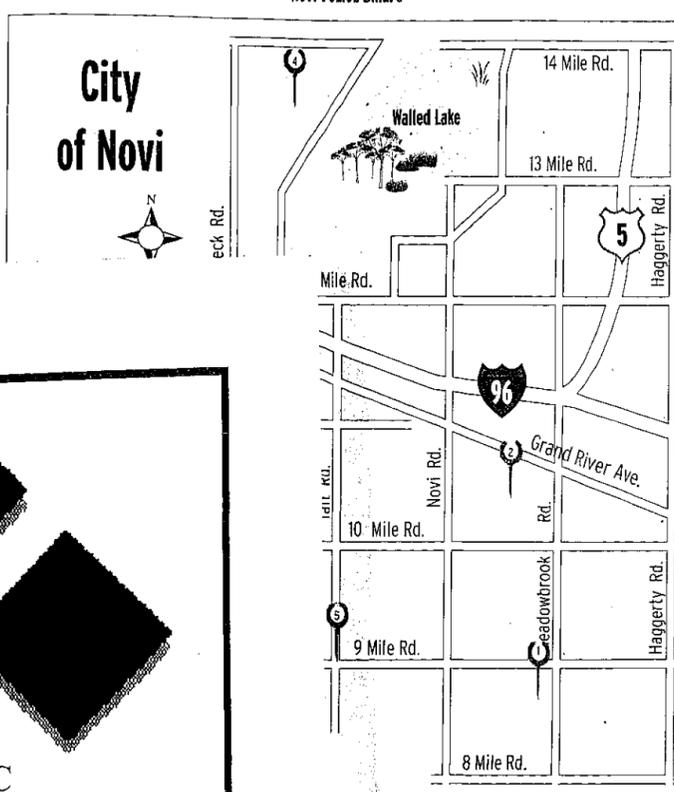
Members of the Novi Middle Club annual Christmas Party

GRAPHIC SCIENCES

RETAKE OF PROCEEDING DOCUMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY

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- Compiled by Malhan Mueller

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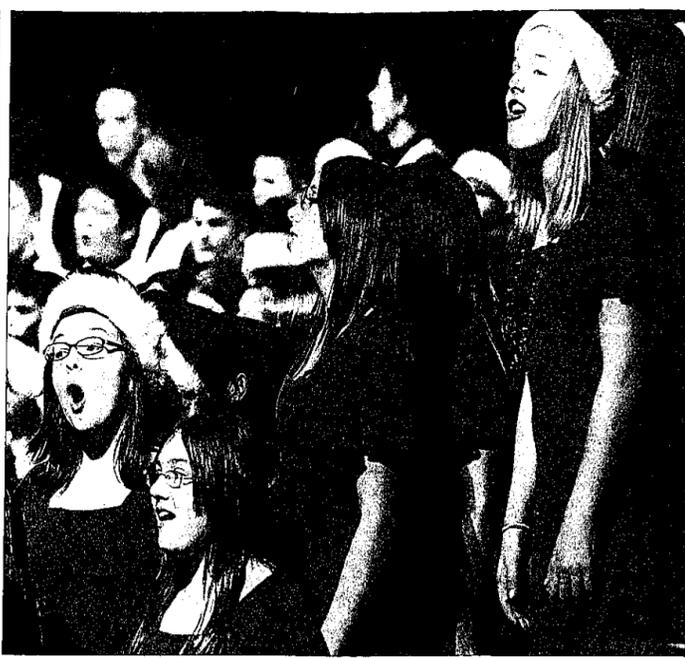
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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sounds of the season

Members of the Novi Middle School Choir sing Christmas Carols during the annual Novi Rotary Christmas party at the school on Dec. 3. Area seniors were invited to enjoy a musical concert put on by the kids and then a lunch in the cafeteria complete with gift bags for the attendees.



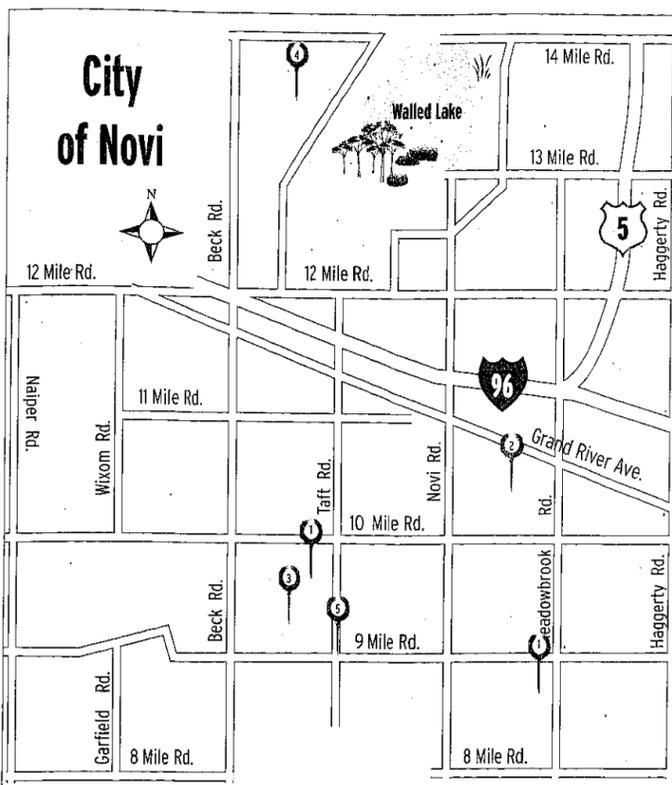
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Members of the Novi Middle School orchestra play a section of Gustav Holst's The Planets during the Novi Rotary Club annual Christmas Party on Dec. 3.

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The man was arrested for operating while intoxicated and transported to the Novi Police Department where he was held until sober.

Tires, wheels stolen off SUV

Four tires and chrome wheels valued at \$5,000 were stolen off a GMC Yukon while it was parked in the driveway of a home on Irvine Drive overnight on Dec. 8.

When the owner woke up in the morning she found the vehicle resting on the brake drums and the lug nuts were in the driveway.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Car found on blocks

A Pontiac G6 had its wheels and tires stolen off of it overnight on Dec. 7 while it was parked in front of a building on Shorecrest.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Wallet snatched from car

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OUR VIEWS

Price we pay for drunken driving still far too steep

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

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

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

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

Nationally, the death rate for fatal accidents involving alcohol has declined by 38 percent since 1991. For those younger than 21, the death rate has declined by an even more dramatic 55 percent. Here's the bad news: There were still 37,261 traffic fatalities in the United States last year. That's more than 100 lives lost every day. Of those, 11,773 were killed in an accident involving a driver with an illegal blood alcohol content, which is 0.08 for many states, including Michigan.

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

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

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

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

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

Driving in the United States, in fact, is relatively safe. The National Highway Safety Transportation Administration reports that we suffer fewer than 15 deaths for every 100 million miles driven. That's a number far better than much of the world. But our numbers will be even better if we continue to reduce the number of drunken drivers on the road. It is imperative to identify and concentrate on those efforts that work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY VOICE



"For money."
Tymon Ghoujehi
Novi



"I'd probably say for my family to have a peaceful Christmas day."
Allison Burke
Novi



"For good health for everyone."
Farahman Kian
Novi



"I want to be with my Dad on Christmas day."
Brooke Meisel
Novi

LETTERS

Baffled by speed limits

Thank you Michele Berry for saying what I was thinking in your letter to the editor last week: five mph over the speed limit will produce more tickets and more money for the city than only three mph over, so lets change it back to 30 mph!

I can maybe see having the speed limit at 30 mph on Meadowbrook between Nine Mile and 10 Mile, but not between Eight Mile and Nine Mile. There are only four houses that face Meadowbrook in that stretch so I don't see a reason for only 30 mph there. Then you look at 10 Mile between Meadowbrook and Haggerty where there are quite a few houses that face the road. Why is that stretch 45 mph? If that stretch can be 45, why not 35 for Meadowbrook?

Then you look at Taft Road where many houses face the road, and that is posted at 35 mph! Maybe there is some logic behind all of this, but I don't see it.

Dave Brewer
Novi

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

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

Fax: (248) 437-3386.

E-mail: cstone@gannett.com.

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

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

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

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

Novi board to look at privatizing services: Custodians, bus drivers concerned about jobs

This is a huge mistake and short-sighted. The district's facilities will not get proper care through privatization. It makes no fiscal sense to let multi-million dollar facilities go to pot. Whatever the District saves up front, it'll pay for on the back end through higher maintenance costs and repairs. Trust me, it will happen. If I'm not mistaken, has just about every district that's tried this gone back to having dedicated staff within a few years? have three students in the district. I can tell you that out. I do not want a private company taking them to school every day. Find the money somewhere else - increase class size

Bob Saliers
It's a shame Novi will become the next Southfield School District. They went to privatization and now they are the pigs. lenny12

a bit, cutback on non-essential programming (including high school athletics). Whatever. This is a big mistake, Peter. Find a different option. dan43

Dan, Unfortunately, Mr. Dion is going to have to go to privatization AND increase class sizes significantly AND cutback on high school athletics etc. etc. The Governor is holding public schools hostage especially those in Novi that have received the extra payment from Lansing since Proposal A. This will either take the Citizens telling Ms. Granholm to cut elsewhere or a wholesale taxpayer revolt to get funding back to local districts. This, of course, will sink poor districts such as Detroit. (Don't hold your breath thinking Granholm will go for that one.)

GoatsFarm
Anyone happen to hear how well the private busing is going in Mt. Clemens? The employees of First Student Services (one of the companies being considering to take

over NCCD's busing) left the students of Mt. Clemens stranded at school this past Tuesday. Parents had to leave work early, and many students were without rides home. The drivers were so frustrated with the poor pay and treatment they have been receiving, that they decided to strike (Something that is not legally possible when the drivers are employees of the district). There are other ways to cut the budget without sacrificing the services to and the safety of the children in our district. The most obvious being a fair and district wide pay cut. A cut of as little as 1% percent would be enough to completely eliminate the shortfalls from Lansing. What sounds more reasonable? A small pay cut for everyone? Or firing over sixty highly trained and dedicated employees?

GoatsFarm
Anyone happen to hear how well the private busing is going in Mt. Clemens? The employees of First Student Services (one of the companies being considering to take

New taxes with reform is not the medicine Michigan needs

Michigan's government is sick — and new taxes without significant reforms are not the medicine to fix it.

Gov. Granholm is clearly attempting to mobilize the citizens to force another tax hike.

She is using one of the oldest plays in the tax-hiker's play book — make sure you cut the government services that will inflict the most pain on the voters, the ones that will get people energized and generate heat on those anti-tax, legislative holdouts. Hence, the layoffs of state troopers and cuts to schools in general and an extra cut to schools in predominantly Republican, anti-tax districts.

The state is in economic free fall. In the end it will require, in this order, cuts, reforms and a new tax structure to fix it. We have cut and raised taxes but have not added the most important ingredient — reform.

Beyond reform there is another major flaw in the tactics and strategy by our state leaders in the following: it is a belief in government's legitimacy that allows a tax system to work. Today, Michigan's political leadership lacks the credibility that allows government to function effectively let alone the legitimacy to extract more taxes to protect a dysfunctional status quo.

The lack of legitimacy covers both political parties. Today, the majority of the voters see the state as broken and our elected leaders incapable of individually or collectively unable to fix it.

In order to raise or modify our tax system it is going to take the people's trust and belief that our government is effective, efficient and fair.

Without these elements, which do not exist today, the average citizen feels no sense of duty to pay for what is seen as weak

politicians, beholden to special interests, unwillingness to undertake necessary reforms to fix a broken and dysfunctional government.

It is the sense of fairness and legitimacy that allow government to function. This is being eroded, if not lost, in Michigan today.

In any system of government taxation, you will have the out-liers complaining the system is unfair.

Yet, government is in trouble when wider and wider swaths of the citizenry feel the system is broken and those in charge are incapable of fixing what is wrong. That is where we are at today in Michigan.

John Cherry, Granholm's lieutenant governor who is running on her record to replace her, recently stated, "people are not happy with the capacity of state government to solve problems right now." I agree.

However, both the governor and lieutenant governor have concluded that they think a ballot drive may be the only way to create a tax structure

that ensures stable funding for schools and other government services.

The irony is the voters have a built-in ballot proposal that is automatically on the November 2010 ballot. Under our state constitution, every 16 years the voters are asked: "Do you want to revise the state constitution?" If I were a protector of the status quo — I would fear what the voters will say on this question.

The citizens of Michigan will accept a change in the tax structure once they see the necessary changes and government reforms that will make our government efficient, effective and fair that have been avoided too long.

New taxes without reform is not the medicine Michigan needs.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant in the U.S. and China. He served the citizens of Michigan as state superintendent of schools, 2001-05, mental health director, 1986-90. Read his other works at: www.dome-magazine.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Goodearl & Anderson
Greg and Tina Goodearl of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Elisabeth Goodearl of Niles, to Christian Anderson of Holland, son of Dr. Kurt Anderson and Mrs. Deb Anderson. The bride-to-be is a 2001 Novi High School graduate and earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Central Michigan University in 2006. She is a band/vocal music director at Beatty High School in Cassopolis Public Schools. The groom-elect is a 2001 Shepherd High School graduate and earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Central Michigan University in 2006. He is a band director with Fenville Public Schools. A July 2010 wedding is planned at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi.



Manza-Marsh
Stephanie Manza and Douglas Marsh, both of Berkley, announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Pam Yagiela of Novi and Tom Marsh of Southfield, is a Grand Valley State University graduate. She is employed as a research coordinator for DMC Sports Medicine. Her fiancé, son of JoAnn and Tom Marsh of Southfield, graduated from Wayne State University, and is employed as operations manager for Macro Connect, Inc., of Detroit. An August 2010 wedding is planned.

McCotter is honored by state bankers

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

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

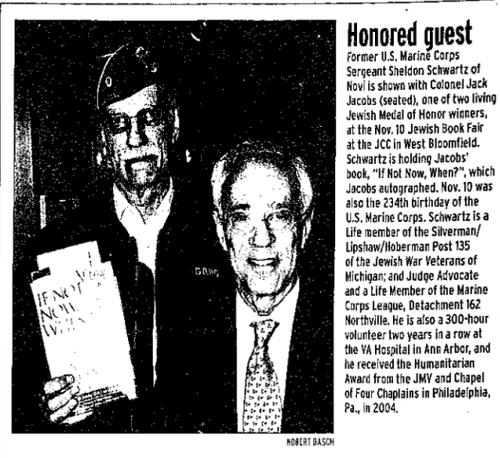
State Rep. Brian Calley, R-Portland, also received the award.

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

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

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

The awards were presented during the MBA's Bank Management and Directors Conference at the Anway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. The Michigan Bankers Association is the voice of the Michigan banking industry. Comprised of Michigan financial institutions with more than 3,400 branches located throughout the state, the MBA promotes strong communities and economic activity in Michigan by advancing a positive business environment.



Honored guest

Former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Sheldon Schwart of Novi is shown with Colonel Jack Jacobs (seated), one of two living Jewish Medal of Honor winners, at the Nov. 10 Jewish Book Fair at the JCC in West Bloomfield. Schwart is holding Jacobs' book, "If Not Now, When?", which Jacobs photographed. Nov. 10 was also the 234th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Schwart is a Life member of the Silverman/Lipshaw/Hoberman Post 135 of the Jewish War Veterans of Michigan; and Judge Advocate and a Life Member of the Marine Corps League, Detachment 162 Northville. He is also a 300-hour volunteer two years in a row at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, and he received the Humanitarian Award from the JMY and Chapel of Four Chaplains in Philadelphia, Pa., in 2004.

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

Church of the Holy Family

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

Crosspointe Meadows Church

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

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene

Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
 Contact: (248) 349-7600 or visit dcnazarene.org
 Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
 Tuesday Schedule: Tuesday 9:30-11:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church

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

Women of the Word Bible Study with child-care available for through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study

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

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
 Contact: (248) 427-1015 or church@theholycross.com
 Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
 Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m.
 Worship Service
ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
 Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of every month

Faith Community Presbyterian

Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
 Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunity-novi.org
 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Northville

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

Livonia Church of Christ

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

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH EVENTS

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

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

First United Methodist of Northville

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

Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life

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

Novi United Methodist

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

Meadowbrook Congregational

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

Northville Christian Assembly

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

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

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

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

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

Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month

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

Dak Pointe Church

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

Orchard Hills Baptist Church

Location: 23455 Novi Road
 Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
PRESCHOOL/KIDS CHOR
 Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
 Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.

Novi United Methodist

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

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Welch named co-chair of county roundtable

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced the appointment of Joseph L. Welch, chairman, president and chief executive officer of ITC Holdings Corp. of Novi as co-chairman of the Oakland County Business Roundtable. The announcement was made at the Business Roundtable's annual meeting at the Troy Marriott.



Welch



Vallerand

independent transmission company in 2005.

Welch is a graduate of the University of Kansas and a licensed professional engineer in Michigan. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, has been appointed to the Great Lakes Wind Council by Gov. Jennifer Granholm and is on the advisory board of the University of Kansas College of Engineering.

Vallerand awarded for pain management efforts

April Hazard Vallerand, PhD, R.N., FAAN was honored by the American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN) for her leadership and outstanding contribution to the practice of pain management nursing. Vallerand received the ASPMN Nurse Exemplar Award at the organization's 2009 National Conference in Jacksonville, FL.

Vallerand is currently an associate professor in the College of Nursing at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her research interests are focused on the improvement and maintenance of functional status in patients with chronic pain and the prevention of pain-related disparities. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She is also an elected Member of the Pain and Disabilities Special Interest Group Advisory Committee of the American Pain Society.

NOVI IN THE SERVICE

Bryan Roller

Navy Seaman Recruit Bryan N. Roller, son of Denise L. Baker of Redding, Calif. and Bryan E. Roller of Novi, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Roller completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical

instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor. Roller is a 2009 graduate of Central Valley High School of Shasta Lake, Calif.

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SIMON

Better Health plans alternative fertility seminar in January

Hypofertility and acupuncture better chances of conceiving

Stress in men and women can play a big factor in whether or not a couple is able to conceive. In vitro fertilization is expensive and rather invasive. Two alternative methods of helping couples conceive are hypofertility and acupuncture.

Better Health at 42875 Grand River in Novi will host an Alternative Fertility seminar on Saturday, Jan. 16 from 1-3 p.m., featuring hypofertility expert Pauline Rzepecki and acupuncturist Julie Shindler.

The free seminar will talk

about how each type of practice can reduce stress and help the body conceive naturally. Seating is limited and must be reserved in advance by calling (248) 735-6100.

"The Mayo Clinic once wrote that 'The purpose of hypnosis as a therapeutic technique is to help you understand and gain more control over your behavior, emotions or physical well-being,'" says Rzepecki, R.N., C.H., H.B.C.E. "This statement accurately describes how hypnosis helps women enhance their fertility. The key phrase

in the statement is that the person gains more control. When we feel out of control, it is as if our world is spinning wildly around us. When we can rein in our emotions, we can have a healthier outlook on not only our life, but also our fertility. We gain a positive perspective of ourselves, our body and our fertility."

"In modern practice, many fertility clinics have developed relationships with Chinese medicine to support their patients going through Western treatment," says Shindler, who is NCCAOM

board certified. "I will be explain to people a basic understanding of how Chinese medicine works, specific fertility conditions from a Chinese medical point of view and the use of Chinese medicine working in conjunction with Western medical fertility treatments."

"Recent studies have shown that fertility problems have increased dramatically over the last 20 years and as many as 25% of the people trying to conceive are having trouble," says Tedd Handelsman of Better Health Markets. "In



Shindler



Rzepecki

products, and stay away from Xenoestrogens, which are essentially environmental oestrogens coming from pesticides and the plastic industry, for three months before trying to conceive. A growing number of doctors are advising their patients to take nutritional supplements like Folic Acid, Zinc, Selenium, Essential Fatty Acids, vitamins E, C, and A to increase their chances of conceiving and delivering a healthy baby.

This seminar is part of the on-going efforts of Better Health Markets to educate its customers. A resource for Women's Health can be found on-line at <http://www.marilynngentville.com/ebook.asp>.

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www.reith.org



Disaster drill

As part of the local community's vital health care infrastructure, Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills plays a key role in disaster readiness for Wayne and Oakland Counties alongside police, fire, rescue and other public safety services. For several years, Botsford Hospital has been stepping up its readiness efforts in order to be better prepared in responding to not only traditional disaster threats and terrorist attacks, including the use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The hospital's high level of preparedness comes with a hefty price tag, but that's offset in part by federal and state grants. Since 2004, Botsford Hospital has received more than \$100,000 in grant money; \$91,569 from the federal Department of Homeland Security for bioterrorism preparedness and \$15,400 from the state's Department of Health and Human Resources for H1N1 (swine) flu preparedness. Botsford Hospital staff use its decontamination tent during a full-scale disaster drill. In real life, Botsford Hospital's Emergency Center staff are prepared to decontaminate a large influx of patients, such as from a terrorist attack or large industrial chemical spill.

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

Rotary Club of Novi celebrates its 50th anniversary with May event



The Rotary Club of Novi will celebrate its 50th anniversary by holding the "Race in Amazing Novi" on May 15, 2010. The "Race in Amazing Novi" is an action-packed, one-day adventure based on the hit TV show "The Amazing Race."

Four-person teams will participate in challenges and compete to find clues and solve puzzles throughout the City of Novi. The "Race in Amazing Novi" will highlight some of Novi's best kept secrets, businesses and organizations that make Novi the city it is.

"The Race in Amazing Novi" involves a combination of skills and abilities. Strength and endurance will help with some challenges, but intellect and rational will be necessary to get from one pit stop to another. This is not a race for the faint of heart; dedication and determination to win will be the key factors of success for this event. As many as 200 teams will be allowed entry into the "Race in Amazing Novi."

The "Race in Amazing Novi" will benefit two charities:

- The Forgotten Harvest: Forgotten Harvest is metro Detroit's only food rescue organization, rescuing over 12 million pounds of food a year from over 400 Health Department approved donors. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is transported to over

- 150 soup kitchens, shelters and pantries serving at risk children, frail seniors and homeless families throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.
- S.A.Y. Detroit: Mitch Albom's S.A.Y. Detroit is a nonprofit organization helping the homeless population in Detroit and assisting the agencies who take care of them. Contributions go

- towards protecting, feeding, and sheltering our homeless, and ultimately returning them to everyday society as independent and productive individuals. S.A.Y. Detroit also sponsors the only 24/7 medical clinic in Detroit for homeless women and children.
- For more information please visit www.RaceInAmazingNovi2010.org.

Favorite Things

The Muses - a group of artists from Novi, Northville, Huntington Woods, Ann Arbor and South Lyon - gather each Tuesday to do life drawings, paintings using a variety of mediums. Their current show, Favorite Things, at Picasso's Cafe, reflects a variety of subjects, still life, landscape and figurative. Picasso's is located at 39515 Grand River Avenue in Novi. Hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. The exhibit runs through Jan. 30. Phone (248) 982-7041 for more information.

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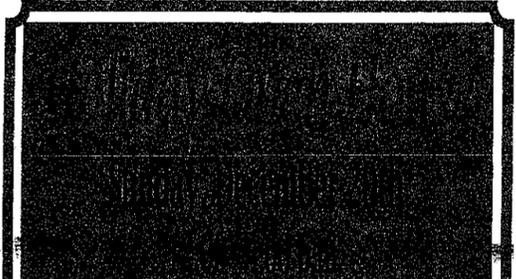
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More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Rock Financial Showplace

Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Contact: (248) 348-5600

29th Annual Cycle World

International Motorcycle Show

Time/Date: noon-9 p.m. Jan. 1; 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 2; and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 3

Contact: 800-331-5706

Ultimate Fishing Show

Time/Date: 2-9:30 p.m. Jan. 7; noon-9:30 a.m. Jan. 8; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Jan. 9; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 10

Gardeners Of Northville & Novi Club Meeting

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11

Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street

Details: Social time and garden lecture on "In Full Bloom: Flowers & Plants in Art." Guest will be Linda Well of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The public is welcome.

Contact: gardenersnorthville-novi.org or Renee (248) 231-2334

American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays

Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Tait and Beck roads

Details: Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post.

Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or dstrikulis@twm1.rr.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or pnerick@aol.com.

Christmas, Cocoa, Cookies & Comedy Snack Theatre

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 19-22 and 27-30

Location: Historic Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road (about two miles east of U.S. 23)

Details: The Phoenix Players Phire Phlies' presentation is fun for the whole family; a great way to entertain kids while they're on school break. Tickets are \$8 for adults; \$5 for children; includes seat, show and snacks.

Contact: 810-588-3662 for reservations (only 50 seats available per show).

BUSINESS

Metro Novi BNI

Time/Date: 7-8:30 a.m. every Wednesday

Location: On the Border Restaurant, 27091 Haggerty Road (north of 8 Mile), Novi

Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an 'elevator speech,' develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.

Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at 248-797-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities.

Location: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201

Novi

Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com.

After 5 Holiday Networking

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Dec. 17

Location: The Baronette Renaissance Hotel, 27790 Novi Road, Novi

Details: Networking event with appetizers and wine; 2009 Raffle Prize winners will be announced (contact chamber office to purchase a ticket).

Monthly Networking Luncheon

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Jan. 6

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Details: Donald Kitson and Paul J. Hindelang with discuss Health & Wealth Secrets for 2010; lunch served courtesy of Deli Unique. Must pre-register by 4 p.m. Jan. 5.

Novi Toastmasters Club

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday

Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375

Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome - and bring a friend! Visit www.novi.freeoathost.us.

Contact: Paulette Ailio, V.P. of Public Relations at greenspace@mi.rr.com or (248) 756-0907.

Novi Rotary Club

Time/Date: Noon every Thursday

Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road

Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information; novirotary.org.

NIGHTLIFE

Andiamo Novi / Dirty Martini

Lounge / Andiamo Theater

Location: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Contact: (248) 348-3838

New Year's Eve

Details: Catch "Kwame A River 2: The Wrath of Conyers" in 2009 with a special 7 p.m. showing on December 31. As part of the New Years Eve package offerings, guests can choose to dine pre-show (5 p.m.) or post-show (8:30 p.m.). The post-show package also includes the opportunity to stay through the New Year with a band, dancing and a champagne toast. Tickets for the 5 p.m. dinner/7 p.m. show package are \$74.95 per person and tickets for the 7 p.m. show; 8:30 p.m. dinner are \$99.95 per person. Space is limited and reservations are required. Party-goers who want to just relax with friends can hang out the Dirty Martini starting at 9 p.m. on New Years Eve and listen to a DJ over a few cocktails. There will be a \$20 cover charge (in advance at the box office only or day-of) for the

Dirty Martini

Andiamo Lounge: local entertainers 8 p.m. Wednesdays; Old Vegas Night 6:30 p.m. and Dave Croon 8:30 p.m. Thursdays; Pete Dimascio 8:30 p.m. Fridays; Laurie Johnson 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Andiamo Theater: Kwame A-River 2 The Wrath of Conyers 8 p.m. Wednesday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday, and 5 p.m. Sunday

Dirty Martini Lounge: Killer Flamingos 10 p.m. Thursday; DJ Whip 10 p.m. Friday; Paul Marindale 10 p.m. Saturday.

Liquor Store

Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi

Contact: (248) 305.8135

New Year's Eve

Details: 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31; \$10 cover

Mbargo

Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi

Contact: (248) 374-3420

New Year's Eve

Details: \$20 cover; Boston's DJ Influence

Jingle

Date: Friday, Dec. 19

Details: Hosts Kevin Cermak and Craig Jelinek; sounds by Tom Keeling; percussions by Tone; with special guest dancers Sania's Little Helpers. For info or VIP reservations (248) 929-1885

Bar Louie

Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44375 12 Mile Road, Novi

Contact: (248) 662-1100

New Year's Eve

Details: 8 p.m.; open dinner buffet; late night breakfast buffet; live music and DJs; giveaways; packages start at \$25

The Grapevine of Novi

Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi

Contact: (248) 344-4044; www.thegrapevineofnovi.com

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Hard-hitting hockey not Novi's style

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

When they keep their composure and play their game, Novi's hockey team could be considered one of the best in the state, but that wasn't the case Dec. 9 when they hosted Central Division foes Livonia Stevenson.

The game started off with the teams appearing evenly matched. An early unassisted goal by junior Joey Ferriss off a backhander 1:17 into the game gave Novi a 1-0 lead that stood alone through the first intermission, as junior Michael Pesendorfer and Stevenson senior Danny Sager each came up with several big saves in their net-minding duties.

"Their goalkeeper played absolutely fantastic," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "I think Michael played a solid game. We had too many defensive breakdowns in front of the net and there's not a lot he can do about that. I thought Stevenson continued to work hard and we got too relaxed."

ON TAP

The Novi Wildcats now prepare for this weekend's Clarkston Invite, where they open 6:30 p.m. Friday against Davison and play the winner of Clarkston and Cranbrook on Saturday. Following the invite, the Wildcats will see time off until they visit Livonia Franklin Dec. 30.

The Spartans turned up the pace in the second period, starting off with 58 seconds of power play from a first-period Novi penalty, but Stevenson found themselves shorthanded as soon as their power play expired. A pair of penalties 1:39 apart gave the Wildcats a temporary 5-on-3 they couldn't capitalize on as Sager came up huge on several rebounds.

Stevenson's Cole Rochowiak drew a five-minute major for a low hit that flipped junior Matt Stenkoski head over heels at Novi's blue line with 11:04 remaining in the period.

With the extra power play minutes, Novi

struck 2:24 into the penalty when Ferriss' blast from the blue line got over Sager at the top of the crease and was tipped into the net just below the crossbar by senior Tyler Perpieh. Senior captain Evan Dixon set Ferriss up for the blast as Novi took a 2-0 lead.

Forty-nine seconds later and still on the power play, the Wildcats struck again. Sophomore Brock Krygier set senior Ryan McCullough up along the right side and McCullough took the puck in deep before crossing it to senior Tyler Manning, who streaked up the center, received the puck and pulled it to the right before flipping it over Sager with a backhander from the edge of the crease to give the Wildcats a 3-0 lead.

"I was upset we didn't come away with three to four power play goals. I think the call was the right call. You can't do that," coach Krygier said.

The game didn't stay at even strength long after that, as both teams took several penalties stemming from the increasing physicality of

the game. After an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to Stevenson and a cross checking and slashing penalties to Novi, the Spartans had a power play with 1:39 to go in the period.

Just 17 seconds into the power play, Stevenson's Jake Poynter received a pass from Rochowiak and let a wrist shot rip from the center of the blue line and into the top right corner of the net over Pesendorfer's left shoulder to cut Novi's lead to 3-1.

Each team took another penalty on separate plays in the final 25 seconds to wrap up the period.

Although Novi's finesse and speed led to a few breakaways, Sager's strong goalkeeping and the Spartans' physical tactics eventually broke Novi's composure, as Stevenson scored three goals in a span of 6:12, starting with 13:56 to go in the game when Justin Shureb capitalized on a shorthanded rebound in front of Novi's net off a shot by Rochowiak.

Please see HOCKEY, B3

Late push gives Wildcats third straight victory

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

After breezing through their first two games, Novi's girls basketball team had their work cut out for them against a strong Walled Lake Northern team.

Behind an energetic performance from the Knights' senior Brittany Gibson (10 points), Northern traded baskets with Novi through the first quarter as Gibson set up her teammates for short-range shots and stole the ball from several Wildcats on defense. Despite Gibson's efforts, Novi led 13-11 at the end of the first quarter thanks in part to the smooth shooting of junior Alyssa Armiak (seven points).

Neither team could get an offensive rhythm going in the second quarter, but Northern's zone defense forced Novi to shoot from long range or make turnovers in an effort to get under the basket. The Knights allowed just three baskets by Novi in the second quarter, taking a 22-20 lead into the half over the host Wildcats.

"They played hard and they played tough. I was impressed with them," Novi coach Bill Kelp said of Northern. "I think we were not moving offensively or defensively and we were not establishing post."

Northern kept their flow in the

Please see BASKETBALL, B3

ON TAP

After disbanding Northern (2-1) last Friday, Novi (3-0) was scheduled to face their third-straight Walled Lake Consolidated Schools opponent Tuesday when they hosted Central. Novi will host Kensington Conference opposition from Livonia Churchill 7 p.m. tonight.

"They're going to be tough. We've got to get better (defensively and with rebounding)," Kelp said. Following tonight's game, the Wildcats will be off until Jan. 8 when they visit South Lyon.



Novi High School alumni Josh Lumley, TJ Butler, Alex Prasad, Scott Wagner and Peter Andrews stand with Novi coach Robert Smith Nov. 14 after the five former Wildcats competed with the University of Michigan running club for the NIRCA National Championship. The team placed third overall.

Wildcat alums run to collegiate honors

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

When high school athletes graduate, many don't transition into collegiate athletes or even continue recreationally. Many of Novi's boys cross country grads have made the transition just fine though.

Kenny MacDonald, a 2007 graduate, recently led a number of successful collegiate performances from former Wildcats. A junior on the Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.) team, MacDonald earned All-American honors Nov. 21 when he placed 20th of 323 runners at the NAA Cross Country Nationals in Vancouver, Wash. with an 8k time of 25 minutes and 42 seconds.

"The race was not exactly how I thought it would be. It was not hilly, but it was sloppy and wet from raining all week," MacDonald said, who was about 60th place after the first mile, which he ran in 4:53. "I just wasn't expecting that many people to go out that fast. I was also concerned with our team. We had never been on a course

that small. People were throwing elbows."

His time ended up leading the Tigers to an 11th place NAA finish among 32 teams. Silas Kisorio, a sophomore from Oklahoma Christian, won the overall race in 24:23.

"The All-American honor was great. I just wanted to get it to score as few points as I could so we could get a low team score," MacDonald said.

Although he was short of the 24:51 personal record he set in Wisconsin a few weeks prior, MacDonald said he couldn't have hoped for any better on the mucky Vancouver course and that he and his teammates left it all on the course. He also said the lessons he learned on Novi's cross country team continue to help him as a runner.

"Coach (Rob) Smith was a huge help just providing the base knowledge on how to run. He taught me what he calls 'battle and war.' If someone wins the battle up the hill, but you peak, you can win the war," MacDonald said. "I miss running at Novi a whole lot, but I love the

program here."

MacDonough said it was a huge weight off his shoulders to earn All-American honors his junior year, so he can focus on getting his team into the top 10 next fall. He hopes to have current Novi senior Mike Blaszyk running by his side as a freshman next season.

"I like him personally because he runs like me, a nice and skinny long-distance runner," MacDonough said.

Other former Wildcats had success without leaving the state. Alex Prasad, another 2007 Novi alum, led a group of former Wildcats running with University of Michigan-Ann Arbor's club running team, called Mrun, at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Ypsilanti on Nov. 14. Prasad's time of 27:03 was third on the Mrun team and 23rd overall, earning him NIRCA second-team All-American honors.

"Considering my struggles this season with various injuries, I'm very pleased with my race. Couldn't

Please see COLLEGIATE, B3

Pennycuff becomes third head coach in Novi football history

The Novi Department of Interscholastic Athletics announced the hiring of Todd Pennycuff as just the third head football coach in Novi High School history. Pennycuff has been an educator within the Novi Community Schools since 1996 and is currently teaching within the Special Education Department.

He brings a wealth of experience to Novi, having coached football a total of 21 years. He began his coaching career at Southwest Baptist University where he started as a student assistant working primarily with linebackers. After two seasons, Pennycuff became a graduate assistant where he coached the offensive backfield. During his final two seasons at Southwest Baptist, he served as a full-time assistant coach working with tackles, tight ends, quarterbacks and running backs.

After coaching six years at the collegiate level, Pennycuff began his high school coaching career in Hartland, working for former Novi Head Coach Tab Kellepourey. Through the years as an assistant coach, Pennycuff worked extensively with both offense and defense, ultimately serving as both an offensive and defensive coordinator at different points in his career. In 2004 Pennycuff was the assistant head coach/offensive coordinator of the South Lyon Lions who won MHSAA District and Regional Championships. For the past four seasons Pennycuff has been a head coach at Dearborn Crestwood in 2006 and for the past three seasons at South Lyon East High School where he started a brand new football program.

"We are extremely fortunate to have a coach of Todd's caliber teaching within our school district," said Curt Ellis, Novi athletic director. "Because I believe athletics is an extension of the classroom, I felt it was very important for us to have a head football coach who is a teacher/coach from our school district. I was looking for someone who could maintain and ultimately enhance the standards of excellence within the football program originally established by John Osborne and most recently maintained by Tab Kellepourey. As a teacher in Novi, Todd is very familiar with the values of our school district, yet his experiences coaching outside of Novi have provided him with fresh perspectives which will ultimately add to our program."

Pennycuff and his wife Jill reside in South Lyon with their son, Grant.

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Catholic Central tops Redford Thurston

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

The Catholic Central Shamrocks basketball team started their season off on the right foot, earning a victory over an always-tough Redford Thurston team last Tuesday.

Kyle Cooper, a 6-foot-6-inch sophomore forward, led the Shamrocks with 19 points. Matt Doneth, a 6-foot-5 sophomore center, and Shen Kettner, a 6-foot junior guard, netted 12 each in the winning effort.

The Shamrocks are definitely not lacking in height this year, nor youthful energy. The team boasts three sophomores, including Doneth, Cooper and Mike Kovanda, a 6-foot-

2 guard. Only one player on this year's squad is below six feet in height, but he makes up for it with pure athletic ability. Senior Brandon Hess, a standout soccer player for the Shamrocks, stands 5-10 and plays guard this season.

Seniors, besides Hess, on this year's team include Sam Landry, who is 6-2 at forward; Jeff Janer, a 6-2 forward; Pat McBride, a 6-0 guard; and Dan O'Donohue, a forward who stands 6-4. Juniors on the team are Kettner; Charlie Horoka, a 6-4 forward; Michael Tibbits, a 6-0 forward; and Brandon Tammaro, a 6-4 center.

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

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Catholic Central hockey remains undefeated

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CORRESPONDENT

Three more have stepped up to take on the daunting task of defeating the Detroit Catholic Central hockey team and three more have fallen.

The Shamrocks, coached by Todd Johnson in his 15th year, know what it's like to be winners. They have a state championship from just last year, still being talked about. They have one of the best goalies in the state in Zack Cisek.

Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill and DeLaSalle all found out the hard way that the Shamrocks have no intention of being considered anything less at this point. The Catholic Central skaters defeated DeLaSalle in a tightly contested match, 4-3, last Wednesday before toppling Churchill and Stevenson, convincingly, 8-1 and 6-2, respectively.

"It was nice to see our efforts being rewarded with pucks going into the net," said Johnson. "We struggled scoring in the first five games, but the guys kept working hard and focusing on some

ON TAP

The Shamrocks are going to be visiting Brother Rice in a rivalry match-up next Tuesday at 6 p.m. The game will be played in Oak Park. The team will then take a break until Jan. 6.

structure ideas our staff was presenting, and they were rewarded for executing."

Johnson pointed out that his team doesn't have any true superstars, other than Cisek. On the offensive side of the team, the Shamrocks rely on their depth. That showed against Churchill as the team picked up eight goals from eight different players.

Chris Waterstreet, Eric Winkler, Sean Gaffney, Brad Wilhelm, Jimmy Peplinski, Ian Jacobs, Ryan Obuchowski and Ryan Keller all netted goals in the win over Churchill.

Credited with assists were Eric Frago (2), Michael Zylik (2), Wilhelm, Gaffney, Mitchell Gatt, Austin Hervey, Robert Ault, Waterstreet, Steven Hayden, Nolan Gluchowski, Obuchowski and Keller. Connor Pankow earned the win at goalie and Alex Nork

came in to relieve him for part of the contest.

Against Stevenson, the Shamrocks found themselves behind 1-0 in the opening minutes of the contest, but bounced back to tie the game off a goal by Winkler at the 9:21 mark with Waterstreet and Gaffney earning assists.

The squad then took the lead nine minutes later when Frago found the back of the net off a pass from Waterstreet. Wilhelm also assisted on the play.

The Spartans pushed back, tying the game in the second period before the Shamrocks went on a scoring rampage to shut the game down. Winkler added his second goal of the game with 13:13 left in the second before Frago and Frago each collected a goal to put the game out of reach at 5-2. Winkler notched the final goal of the night in the third period to complete a hat trick.

Assists were earned by Ault, Jacob Downing, Hervey, Peplinski, Nick Crowley and Gatt.

The toughest match-up of the week was against DeLaSalle, a team the Shamrocks beat, 4-3. It was a back-and-forth contest that

found the Shamrocks taking a lead late in the first quarter when Obuchowski took a pass from Waterstreet and found the net for a 1-0 advantage with 2:17 left in the first. DeLaSalle didn't wait long to answer, scoring with 15:18 on the clock in the second to tie the game before the Shamrocks added another tally two and a half minutes later off the shooting of Ian Jacobs. Assists were given to Gatt and Zylik.

DeLaSalle once again tied the game, this time eight minutes later before the Shamrocks took control in the third period, scoring at the 15:06 mark when Hervey and Gaffney assisted Peplinski for the 3-2 lead. The lead was extended to 4-2 off a shot by Wilhelm with 8:45 left in the game. Frago and Waterstreet earned assists on the goal.

DeLaSalle scored with just over three minutes remaining to cut the lead to 4-3, but couldn't pressure the Shamrocks enough to tie the game.

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

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

With 11:36 remaining, Trevor Baruzzini hit Matt Fox up the right side and Fox carried the puck in close before firing a low shot past Pseudorfer to tie the game 3-3.

Eighty-six seconds later, Stenkoski was leveled in front of his own bench. Play continued in a daze, but just seconds later, his teammates lit up Stevenson's Joey MacDonald in Nov's zone in retribution.

"I thought they did take it to us physically. I just thought, in general, once we got the lead we had, we were too relaxed," coach Krygier said.

MacDonald set Baruzzini up for some close range action deep in Nov's zone, who took the puck into the right corner before crossing it to Fox in front of the goal for a backhand goal to give the Spartans their first lead of the night, 4-3.

"I am very proud of our players the way that they battled back tonight to earn the tie. They showed a ton of character, when it was 3-0, they could have easily rolled over, but they didn't," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Overall, it was an exciting hockey game. Novi is an excellent, well-coached team. Sager was excellent for us tonight in net."

Novi wasn't about to roll over, however, as they crashed the Stevenson net, hit back on the physical plays along the boards and tied the game 4-

4 with 3:36 remaining when sophomore Curtis Herzog banged home a loose puck bouncing in front of the left goal post after Sager gave up a rebound on a shot from Stenkoski. Brock Krygier was also credited with an assist.

"I've been really happy with Curtis. He's one of the younger ones on the team. He's done a really nice job," coach Krygier said, noting Herzog was moved up to the third line after the Stevenson game. "When they got it to 3-3, 4-3, I think we responded well. When I put the line of Perpich, Ferris, Stenkoski together, we really started dominating the game."

The Wildcats got a huge opportunity when Stevenson took a slashing penalty with 3:11 remaining, but a mishandled puck along the boards, gave Stevenson a shorthanded breakaway that senior Alex Cova had to dive to hit the puck away, sending himself and Stevenson's player sliding across the ground and into Nov's goal. Cova drew a penalty on the play with 2:47 remaining.

Despite being shorthanded in the final minute, junior Nolan Valleau found space up the left side and crossed the puck across the middle, but his teammate's shot was turned away by Sager with 22.1 seconds remaining.

Sager finished with 33 saves as Stevenson moved to 4-0-1 (2-0-1 Central). Pseudorfer made 11 saves for Novi (6-0-1 overall, 1-0-1 Central).

Coach Krygier said he expects both teams to win the rest of their league matches,

forcing the Central Division title to be determined by a tiebreaker ruling. The teams play again Feb. 3 in a game that doesn't count toward the league standings.

KLAA FOES

Novi defeated Walled Lake Western at the Kensington Valley Ice House Saturday, outshooting the Warriors 31-19 as sophomore Spencer Peterson got his first start of the season in goal in an 18-save performance.

The Wildcats' offense was led by Perpich (four goals, one assist) and Ferris (two goals, two assists). Stenkoski had two assists, while Valleau, Dixon and senior Alec Latin had one goal each. Manning, McCullough, senior Brandon Juddick and junior Taylor Howell had one assist apiece.

Down 3-1, Novi came back with four unanswered goals to defeat Plymouth 5-3 Monday in a tough battle at Novi Ice Arena. McCullough scored early off assists from Manning and Juddick before Novi's feers could get going. Manning (from Brock Krygier) and senior Andrew Cnoluch (from Ferris and Valleau) tied the game 3-3 going into the third period before Stenkoski (from Dixon and Valleau) and Dixon (from Howell and Cova) scored to put the game away. Pseudorfer earned his seventh win of the season in net as Novi won the battle of the Wildcats to improve to 8-0-1 on the season.

Chris Jackett is a free-lance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

second half, as a recharged Gibson found junior Kari Knight (nine points) behind Novi's defense.

Enter sophomore forward Katie Seelenbinder for Novi.

Seelenbinder clamped down on Gibson, disrupting the Knights' offense and causing careless turnovers, which led to two breakaway layups by Armiak and senior Kelsey Masserant (11 of her 13 points in second half) to bring the score to 28-28 heading into the final quarter.

"I think the difference was Katie Seelenbinder. She controlled their point guard (Gibson)," Kelp said. "I think a couple of the seniors stepped up."

Following Seelenbinder's lead, the Wildcats got aggressive on defense and found themselves with several open shots in transition, which they were able to convert.

Senior Caroline Johnson (18 points) and Masserant powered Novi through the fourth quarter offensively, but Johnson was hit in the eye early on and had to leave the game after she had scored Novi's last five points to give the Wildcats a 35-30 lead as

part of an 11-0 run.

Returning no more than 90 seconds later with a bruised and swollen right eye, Johnson went 3-for-4 from the line in the closing minutes (8-for-9 in the game) to help close out the Knights. Masserant found herself at the free throw line three times in the final minute, going 5-for-6 in the 49-40 Novi victory.

Senior Katie Hockett led Northern with 11 points, as senior Casey Kulis added seven points and sophomore Maria Ropok chipped in with three.

Senior Jessica Cingel added five points for the Wildcats, as sophomore Abby Chandler chipped in with four points and Seelenbinder net two points, in addition to her defensive work.

Novi also defeated Walled Lake Western 66-26 Dec. 8 after taking an early lead and never looking back. Masserant (27 points) and Johnson (11 points) paced the Wildcats through the win early last week.

JUNIOR VARSITY

The JV Wildcats defeated two Walled Lake schools last week to improve to 3-0 on the season. Novi defeated Northern 48-37 and Western 55-12.

Setting the tone early in

both games with defensive pressure, sophomores Natalie Paul (12 points) and Nicole Hill (eight points) led the Wildcats against Northern, while sophomore Abby Robinson had five steals. Against Western, sophomore Dominique Felice grabbed 10 rebounds, while Paul and sophomore Taylor Scott each finished with 10 points.

FRESHMEN

Novi's freshman squad improved to 3-0 with wins over Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western and Saline.

The freshmen Wildcats defeated Northern 63-22 last Friday behind 10 points and eight rebounds from Kelly Lewis. Erin Dircks had 10 points, Anna Greulich scored nine points, Serene Ozier eight points and Kelly Cauchi had eight points and five assists.

Novi defeated Western 70-13 Dec. 8 as Lewis (13 points), Ozier (11 points) and Kate Dusenbury (10 points) led the team.

Lewis also led the freshman squad through the team's 46-30 win over Saline Dec. 4, scoring 20 points. Greulich added eight points.

Chris Jackett is a free-lance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

COLLEGIATE

FROM PAGE B1

really have expected anything better," Prasad said.

The Mrun team finished third at the NIRCA National Championships behind the universities of Wisconsin (62) and Illinois (105) with 128 points thanks to the performances by several Novi runners.

Josh Lumley, a 2008 alum, and 2007 alum Scott Wagner took 46th and 62nd of all runners, contributing to Mrun's team scoring with times of 27:35 and 28:05, respectively. University of Michigan-Dearborn's Andrew Costes won the overall race in a time of 24:55.

"Everyone ran really well and either set a PR or was very close," Wagner said. "Obviously, we wanted to catch Illinois, but I don't think it

could have gone much better." Thomas "TJ" Butler (Novi '09) and Pete Andrews (Novi '06) placed seventh and ninth in the B race with respective times of 28:06 and 31:58.

It was Butler's first career 8k, as the Mrun team finished in third place for the second straight year after a second-place finish in 2007.

Chris Jackett is a free-lance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Boys basketball

Novi defeated Walled Lake Northern 75-49 last Friday to improve to 2-0 after the opening week of play. Junior Samer Ozeir led the way with his second-consecutive double double of the season (25 points, 16 rebounds). Junior Rob Laney had 14 points, seven rebounds and senior Jeremy Mims scored 12 points.

With an all-around team effort Dec. 8, the Wildcats defeated Walled Lake Western 65-26. Racing out to a 45-11 halftime lead, all 15 players saw time on the court and 10 scored. Ozeir led the way with 19 points (15 in the first half) and 10 rebounds. Senior Justin Hopton followed with nine points and Mims, Laney and senior Ryan Jok each had six points. Senior Bradon Ryzewski led the team in assists with five.

Wrestling

Novi's varsity wrestlers took to the mats at the Herm Wilkinson Classic last Saturday at Howell. This 20-team tournament featured tough opposition from across Michigan and Ohio.

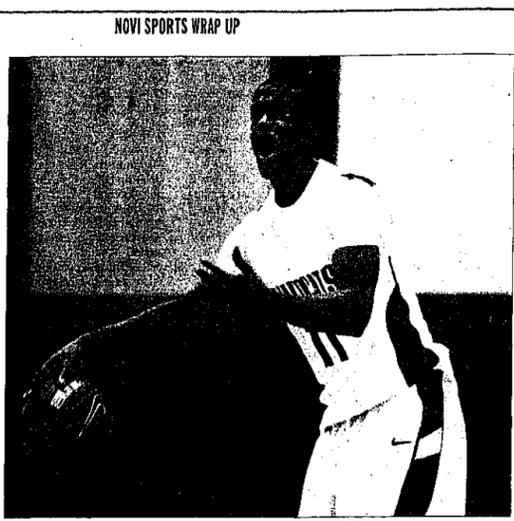
Although Saginaw Swan Valley won the tournament and Novi was missing four starters, the Wildcats had a strong performance, led by senior captain Alex Engebretson, who achieved a 3-1 record and placed third in the 171-pound weight class.

Senior Adam Trober medaled by taking sixth place of the 160 pounders and junior Alan Mencer took fifth at 215 pounds. Sophomore Jake Dobras made his varsity debut at 189 pounds and finished with a 2-2 record. Senior captain Connor Caldwell (125 pounds) and junior Beau Biehl (135 pounds) also both finished with 2-2 records.

Among the big talents at the tournament, Derek Becker (140 pounds), Glenn Malar (152 pounds) and Shabaig Sidhu (130 pounds) also earned wins for Novi.

"We ran into some tough competition this past weekend and Oakland Counties isn't going to be any easier," assistant coach Dan Jig said. "With a disciplined and focused practice this week, these guys are going to be ready for Friday and Saturday."

The Wildcats now gear up for the Oakland County meet this Friday and Saturday at Milford.



NOVI SPORTS WRAP UP



Novi High's Jeremy Mims wrestles with a Warrior for possession of the ball.

Novi JV wrestling team headed to Holt last weekend and six Wildcats finished in the top three within their respective age groups.

Novi got first-place finishes from three wrestlers. Junior Chris Cavely and sophomore Giddiani Albuerne both went 5-0, while sophomore Kaveh Sohizad went 4-1.

Three Wildcats finished in third place with 3-2 records. Junior Matt Aoun, sophomore Alejandro Albuerne and freshman Zach Roush all medaled after their top-three finishes.

Brady Small earned victories in the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke, while teammate

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Catholic Central grapplers off to an impressive start

BY SAM EGGLESTON CORRESPONDENT

The Catholic Central Shamrocks have shown that they definitely deserved the fourth-place ranking they were given to open the season.

The squad, coached by Mitch Hancock, started the year off with eight straight wins, beating Northville, taking first in the John Glenn Duals tournament and then topping Walled Lake Western and Canton during a quad meet.

But, like all good things, the Shamrocks win streak came to an end with two losses to two of the best teams in the state with tough losses to Allegan and Lowell, ranked first in Division II and fourth, respectively.

The Shamrocks fell in a tightly contested match with Allegan, 29-27, before failing to Lowell, 37-26.

"I really like the way our guys wrestled against Allegan," said Hancock on the team's website. "We battled and fought through the tough situations. Allegan's a good team and we had a chance to win the dual. The difference was bonus points. We can't give up pins."

Against Lowell, Hancock said his squad was already too tired from taking on the Red Arrows.

"I hate to say it, but we're not in good enough shape yet," he said. "We can't wrestle two hard duals back-to-back yet. That's going to change."

The loss will be used as a learning experience, said Hancock. His team doesn't have to concern themselves with a loss at this point in the season, but rather on learning how to improve from it and becoming the best wrestlers they can be.

"I'm proud of our guys and we understand it's not about December 11th, it's all about February 26th and 27th," he said.

The Shamrocks have also defeated Walled Lake Central, 63-9, Roseville, 49-17, Livonia Franklin, 61-15, Wyandotte, 59-15 and John Glenn, 42-22. All five of the victories were scored during the John Glenn Duals tournament, which the Shamrocks took first in.

Ken Bade, Alex Mooradian, Charles Joseph, Justin Melick, Doug Eldridge and Miles Treatout all went 5-0 in the tournament. Melick earned all five wins through pins.

Earlier this season, the Shamrocks defeated Canton, 55-16, Walled Lake Western, 78-3, and opened the year up with a 54-17 win over the Northville Mustangs in front of a crowd of 1,100 people during the annual Assembly Match.

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

ON TAP

The Shamrocks are on schedule to be back on the mat tomorrow and Saturday when they participate in the Oakland County Invitational. Competition starts tomorrow at 3 p.m. and resumes Saturday at 9 a.m. They will then compete in the Goodrich Tournament December 30 at 9:30 a.m.

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Shamrocks win first swim meet

BY SAM EGGLESTON CORRESPONDENT

The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks swimming and diving team started their season off on the right note last week.

The squad, coached by Shannon Dunworth, topped the eighth ranked team in Division III with a convincing 107-76 win over Cranbrook Kingswood. In addition, the squad took sixth in the Warrior Relays against some of the state's top-ranked teams.

Against Kingswood, the Shamrocks won 10 of the 12 events.

Brady Small earned victories in the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke, while teammate

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

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Tony Thibodeau won the 50 freestyle and the 100 free. Joe Brinkman also earned two victories in the meet, winning the 200 individual medley and the always-grueling 500 freestyle.

Nick Baldus and freshman Ryan Newman earned a win each, taking first in the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke, respectively.

The Shamrocks also earned victories in the 200 freestyle and the 400 freestyle relays. The team of Small, Brinkman, Thibodeau and Tyler Mikols won the 200 free relay, while the team of Small, Brinkman, Baldus and Thibodeau took the win in the 400 relay.

Just days later, the Shamrocks traveled to Waterford Mott to participate in the Warrior Relays. There, they were able to see some of the swimmers from many of the top ranked teams in the state. Participating were Ann Arbor Pioneer, Grose Pointe South, Ann Arbor Huron, Bloomfield Hills, Brother Rice, Birmingham Seaholm, Howell, Rochester, Waterford Union, Romeo and Grand Blanc.

The Shamrocks earned sixth overall in the relays, earning great wins from many young tankers including Matt Schaeffer, Dan Szuba, Jason Wagner, Garrett Maximium, Paul Hagemeyer, Kevin Johnston and Tim Szuba.

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK. NOTICE OF DEBTS TO BE FILED FOR PROOF OF CLAIM.

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Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS



Ruth and Bruce Aaronson's Signs by Tomorrow is located on the north side of Grand River Avenue, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads.

Signs for variety of needs produced quickly

1. Tell us about your business, including types of services and/or products you feature.

In addition to the items listed in the Business Speciality section, we take pride in meeting deadlines, regardless of how aggressive they are.

2. How did you first decide to open your business?

Bruce was working for a large corporation and felt the time had come to go out on his own. He looked at many types of franchises and decided that high background and talent was most suited for the signage industry. Ruth was director of social work in a hospital for 15 years and then in nursing homes. She became involved with marketing the business when the third store was started.

3. Why did you choose Novi?

Novi was the center of a growing business community. Rock Financial Showplace, hotels and many businesses were being developed.

4. What makes your business unique?

We can provide a product from concept to completion in a short amount of time. Most products are produced in one of our four locations. This means you are buying directly

DETAILS

Business Name: Signs By Tomorrow

Address: 40400 Grand River Ave., Novi

Your Name/Title: Ruth and Bruce Aaronson/owners

Your Hometown: West Bloomfield

Business Opened When: 1991 opened first franchise in Southfield, Novi in 1996, Waterford in 2003, and Rochester Hills in 2008.

Number of Employees: 12 employees

Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, but often available before and after those hours and on weekends.

Business Speciality: Event signage, vehicle graphics, building signs, architectural, banners, retail signs, trade show booths, graphic designers on staff

Phone: (248) 478-5600

Website: signsbytomorrow.biz

from the manufacturer.

5. How has it changed since you opened?

Technology has changed. When we first opened, we produced signs using adhesive backed vinyl. Now we use

large-format, full-color digital printers.

6. Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small business owner to share with our readers?

When Ruth became involved with the business she saw that a customer had not paid their bill. She went to the establishment that owed money and repossessed the signs. One of them, a black Lucite coffee cup with smoke, is currently hanging in our kitchen at home.

7. How has the recent economy affected your business?

With our national accounts there are less new store openings across the nation. Non-profit organizations are having fewer events due to decreasing funding, and fewer sponsorships.

8. Any advice for business owners?

Make sure you have a passion for any business you start and that you have the capital to keep it going until it becomes established. It also helps to have an independent source of income in the beginning.

9. What's in store for the future of your business?

We hope to increase our market share with new technology and state of the art products.

Walsh winter registration under way

Registration for winter courses that begin Jan. 4 is under way at all Walsh College campuses, with no appointment necessary on Walk-In Wednesdays. Students can enroll now in a new Master of Management degree program and a new MBA master's in finance dual degree program. Walsh continues "Walk-In Wednesdays", where prospective students can meet with an academic advisor, review transcripts, and register for classes on a walk-in basis at the Troy, Novi, or Clinton Township campuses from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call (900) WALSH-01, or e-mail admissions@walshcollege.edu.

The 33-credit Master of Management (MM) degree offered at the Troy and Novi campuses focuses on managing resources in a broad spectrum of management within for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Human resources, financial management, marketing, information security, project management and communications are among the courses. Students can also select a management concentration of study. For more information and a list of courses, visit www.walshcollege.edu/MM.

A new dual master's degree program in Business Administration (MBA) and Finance (Master of Science in Finance) can be completed within a shorter timeframe than enrollment in each separate degree program. Students are required to take 22 classes for 66 semester credits required for both degrees. The distinctive MBA encompasses accounting, finance, management, and related disciplines. The MSF covers all aspects of finance, a blend of accounting, economics, and finance, and the study of economic theory. For more information and a list of courses, please visit www.walshcollege.edu/MBA-MSF.

The Mega Office Party comes to Rock

The Rock Financial Showplace and Diamond Center are teaming up to create a seasonal event aimed at gathering the community together during this difficult economic period. The Mega Office Holiday Party, Friday, Dec. 18 is a collective event designed to bring multiple small groups together for one large celebration of the holiday season. It's a giant banquet and networking event for all area offices, businesses, organizations and clubs. Live entertainment from popular singer-songwriter Jill Jack, lavish holiday buffet by Epoch Catering, door prizes and special gift bag are all included in one low price (starting at \$20 per person).

For party reservations, call (248) 348-5600.

Oakland offers business workshops

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in December offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Future Workshops (AM) Morning Class 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (PM) Evening Class 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. January 2010
7 - Pre-Business Research Workshop
14 - Fundamentals of Starting a Business
21 - Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan
26 - Legal and Financial Basics for Small Business
28 - Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business

February 2010
9 - Pre-Business Research (PM)
16 - Start A Business (PM)
17 - Team SBA Financing Roundtable
23 - Write A Business Plan (PM)
24 - WBE Certification Orientation
25 - Small Business Loan Workshop
The Web site address for Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services Workshops is www.oakgov.com/peds/calendar.

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<p>Multi Point Winter Inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check coolant & anti-freeze levels • Check & adjust tire pressure • Check & top off washer fluid • Check belts & hoses • Check wiper blades • Check keyless entry/remote start signal <p>\$29.95* Was \$85 with coupon</p> <p><small>*System diagnosis extra, GMRIE only. Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid on most GM vehicles only. Plus tax and shop supplies. Expires 12/31/09.</small></p>	<p>Front Brake Pads Installed</p> <p>Retail Price \$175</p> <p>\$74.95* After \$25 Mail-In Rebate on most GM vehicles</p> <p>Install ACDelco DuraStop ceramic brake pads.</p> <p><small>*Turning or replacing rotors, all other services, and tax extra. Excludes Corvette, Saturn, Scab, HUMMER, and other select vehicles. Not valid with other offers. See dealer for eligible vehicles, details, and rebate form, which must be mailed by 1/31/10. Offer ends 12/31/09. Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid on most GM vehicles only. Plus tax and shop supplies. Expires 12/31/09.</small></p>	<p>Battery Service & Charging System Check</p> <p>Goodwrench & Co car care package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service battery and fully charge • Clean cables and connections • Check alternator output <p>\$29.95* Was \$85 with coupon</p> <p><small>*Dead battery or draw concerns require added diagnoses. Must present coupon when order is written. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid on most GM vehicles only. Plus tax and shop supplies. Expires 12/31/09.</small></p>

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<p>Loaded, 27K.</p> <p>'07 Lexus 350</p> <p>\$33,900*</p>	<p>'06 BMW X5</p> <p>\$34,900*</p>	<p>Loaded, 37K.</p> <p>'06 Honda Odyssey EX</p> <p>\$21,900*</p>	<p>Loaded, 30K.</p> <p>'06 Honda Pilot EX 4x4</p> <p>\$21,900*</p>
<p>Moonroof, New Tires</p> <p>'07 Trailblazer</p> <p>\$18,900*</p>	<p>'03 Chevy Avalanche</p> <p>\$10,900*</p>	<p>Loaded, 34K.</p> <p>'06 BMW 3i</p> <p>\$27,900*</p>	

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New office

Jeffery H. Forrester, DDS, PC recently celebrated his new office with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured (l to r) are Tina Phillips, Shelley Socklosky, Dr. Jeff Forrester, Sue Tonak (hidden), Jess Maleyko (hidden), Sharon Forrester, Nancy Jackson, Sheila Currier and Stefanie George from Keller Williams Realty. Forrester opened his Novi Dental office in July 2009 after being in practice for 35 years in Livonia. He has been practicing dentistry for nearly 40 years. His patients are all ages, requesting services from simple restorations to extensive cosmetic procedures including botox and dermal fillers. Thanks to Huron Valley Bank and Pat Bernette for their continued support through the project. The office is located on the south side of 11 Mile Road, just west of Meadowbrook Road.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

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STOP BEING DRAINED BY A CO-WORKER



WORKWISE by Mildred L. Culp

Some companies pay employees a bonus or referral fee for referring friends who come on board. In most cases, however, companies don't pay for this critical cost-saver, or pay poorly. Spherion Corp. recently released results from a survey of 2,519 employed adults who were at least 18 years old. An enormous 66 percent of employees would likely refer a friend.

What's the value in these referrals? Some companies, such as ReTargeter L.L.C., in Silicon Valley, simply can't afford to pay fees -- it's not even nine months old -- but probably will when established. Arjun Dev Arora, CEO and founder, is benefiting from the helpful start-up community now, but, as he expands, he comments, "I'd have no qualms about paying a referral fee to someone who helped land us quality talent."

How much is trust worth? Timothy Latham, managing director of Director Resourcing Ltd.,

in London, England, maintains that the value is significant. "Our whole business is about referrals to jobs," he says. "We run a massive refer-a-friend program in commercial real estate and construction." Payment for referrals ultimately placed is around \$4,000 (or more). He further states that employers are missing out on the excellent sourcing employees can do among people they know.

According to Spherion, about 26 percent of employers offer such bonuses. However, they might seem tepid in comparison with the ones Latham gives. Jason Keith, a senior Public Relations manager at Vistaprint N.V., in Lexington, Mass., reports that in the domestic United States, his company pays \$1,500 if the person hired brings experience, \$500 if not.

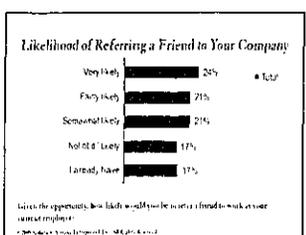
Another source, who requested not to be named, won a \$200 bonus for finding a technical publications manager, but she had to apply for the money. "Filing for the bonus was more complicated than filing my taxes," she recalls.

John Redtke of JV Communications in Eugene, Ore., received a \$2,000 bonus at a company in Orange County, Calif., for referring a manager. He thought \$3,000 would be better. "Fast companies I'd worked for had paid similar

amounts 15 years ago," he says, "so this didn't feel like it had moved with the times." Nonetheless, he felt that he received \$2,000 plus a good boss -- "so I just can't kick about this at all. In fact, they're still friends."

People who manage company budgets know that \$200 and \$500 buy very, very little in terms of labor of any kind, including temporary or contract. Trust still seems to come cheap. Is the economy the problem? Kelly Kay, a San Francisco-based global managing partner at Heidrick & Struggles International Inc., points out that companies are striving to retain their best, which means that it can be difficult to lure them away. It also means that "the notion of a talent market that overwhelmingly favors the buyer is an illusion."

Latham mentions that referral programs "can be very useful, but they're limited by the extent to which employees participate. Our view is that the future lies in the creation of industry and/or functional 'mass refer-a-friend' initiatives reaching far beyond a single employer. Outside of our field, I can see room for financial and marketing functions as well as pharmaceutical industry programs, to start." Of course, if trust is invaluable, maybe you



can't put a price tag on it. If companies can't, or simply won't, pony up to recognize the contribution -- or reward it only with incentives -- they may very well be making a statement about the hiring process, that it really doesn't have value. Referring a friend deserves to be rewarded, if only because it contributes mightily to a culture of trust. (Dr. Mildred L. Culp welcomes your questions at culpl@workwise.net. Copyright 2009 Passage Media.)

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SALES RESULTS REFLECT STEADY IMPROVEMENT, AUTOMAKERS SAY

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

U.S. auto sales clocked in about flat in November compared with a year ago -- and in line with widespread expectations that the market will only gradually creep upward for at least the next year. But industry executives and analysts mostly chose to interpret the American auto market as a glass half-full.

November sales were 747,000 units. "It could be worse," said Jessica Caldwell, director of pricing and industry analysis, Edmunds.com, in Santa Monica, Calif. "The fact that sales are stabilizing and increasing bit by bit each month is good news. The fact that they're not getting worse is a definite sign of promise."

Ken Czabay, Ford's U.S. sales chief, said: "The black clouds are clearing and we have guarded optimism for December." Nevertheless, a sales chief of the year's best-performing brand was among those holding a minority view. "We were, quite frankly, hoping that the economy and overall industry would have bounced back a bit more than we are seeing right now," said Dave Zuchowski, vice president of sales for Hyundai Motor America.

Giving the overall nod to optimistic shading were a couple important factors besides the sales numbers per se. First, the closely watched seasonally adjusted

annual rate of sales inched upward to 10.9 million units compared with 10.8 million units in October and a pace of 10.4 million units in November 2008.

"The month was notable in that the industry succeeded the 2008 pace for only the second time this year -- and more notable because it was the first time the industry exceeded last year's pace" without benefit of last summer's federal "cash for clunkers" program that created a sales spike in July and August, said Robert Carter, group vice president of the Toyota division of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. "That's a real good sign for the industry."

Second, commentators today interpreted the mixed economic tea leaves as positive on balance for the U.S. auto industry, fueling their collective conviction that a continued ever-so-gradual recovery is in the cards.

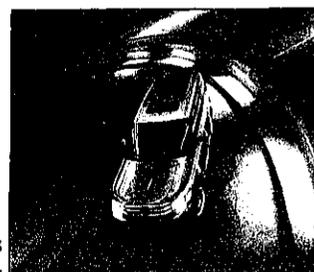
"There's a modest economic recovery that is underway," said Emily Kolinski Morris, Ford's chief economist. "Slow but sure is the best way to describe consumer and business activity."

Kolinski Morris and others cited favorable recent indicators including upticks in consumer income, spending and confidence as well as some stabilization in the housing market, a weak dollar that encourages exports, the



Ford's Flex is one of the new vehicles that has helped revive the brand.

The new Chevrolet Equinox is one of the hot sellers that helped GM post a respectable November.



strengthening of U.S. corporate balance sheets, and a string of stronger monthly readings of activity by the American manufacturing sector.

On the other side of the ledger looms one huge offsetting factor: the ever-increasing rate of U.S. unemployment, which continues to dampen any economic recovery as well as keep a lid on rosier expectations for the near future. "Jobs remain top of mind, holding spending in check," Kolinski Morris said.

Other negative indicators are credit conditions that "are still tight as banks remain cautious," according to Michael DiGiovanni, executive director of global industry analysis for General Motors. But Caldwell dismissed concerns that joblessness and other stubborn weak spots in the economy could introduce a "double-dip" recession that some economists still fear.

"I don't see that happening today," she said. "It looks like things are on their way to being steady."

Caldwell and others cited a number of underlying reasons for coming down on the side of their optimistic interpretation of November results and portents for the future.

For one thing, she said, the spate of new and very recent products coming out of

Ford and GM are being almost universally embraced by American consumers -- suggesting that as the two strongest domestic automakers continue to introduce new and upgraded models, their prospects will continue to improve. They include the Ford Flex and Chevrolet Camaro, Buick LaCrosse and Cadillac SRX.

"It's easy to take for granted that these products would do well and are selling," Caldwell said. "They easily could not be doing well. They've been promising us better products for some time, made for the U.S. market, more evolutionary -- and it looks like they're doing that."

Stable gasoline prices over the last year and a half, within the range of \$2.50 to \$3 a gallon, also have caused American consumers to take closer looks at segments such as pickup trucks and large sport-utility vehicles that got slammed by \$4-a-gallon gasoline in the summer of 2008.

"People who need that type of vehicle now are getting more comfortable with the stabilization of oil prices," said GM's DiGiovanni. "We're benefiting from a nice lull at the pump." However, DiGiovanni also noted GM's forecast for a long-term re-escalation of oil prices as global economies recover.

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