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Thursday, January 19, 2006

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Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE

Police promotions

Friday the 13th turned out to be a lucky day for Tom Lindberg and Michael Warren. Lindberg (pictured) was named deputy chief, and Warren was promoted to sergeant last Friday in a special ceremony at the Novi Police Department Training Center.



Page 9A

Looking into the future

Arvind Nagarajan, a Novi native who's now a freshman at Yale, was one of the top 10 finalists in Motorola's seamless mobility scholarship contest.



7A

SPORTS

Scholarship dreams

It's a wish. A hope. A dream. Just imagine, a scholarship to pay for a college education just for playing sports. Lots of kids pray for them. Few get them.

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OBITUARY

Marion J. White, 81

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WIXOM

THE END OF THE ROAD?

Everyone waits on automaker's word

■ Closure looks grim for employees and local businesses

By Tracy Mlehler
STAFF WRITER

John Wallbank is on edge about possibly losing his job at the Ford Wixom Assembly plant.

Ford Motor Company officials hold the fate of more than 1,500 Ford workers from the Wixom plant in their hands as the clock ticks down to the automaker's expected announcement for restructuring on Jan. 23.

Wallbank said feelings are mutual around the plant, which opened in 1957, as the decision to close from Ford officials moves closer.

continued on page 3

■ Wixom manager believes plant still has lot to offer company

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Wixom city manager Mike Doman is waiting patiently for news about the Wixom Assembly Plant on Monday.

"Although it's fun to speculate, I'm not going to speculate that it's going to close," he said.

Doman said city managers are working hard to keep the plant open.

"We've been discussing with individuals at the highest levels in Ford Motor Co. what their options are relative to the Wixom Ford Plant," Doman said.

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Ford Wixom Assembly Plant



MAP BY DIANA WELLS

■ Change a must for Ford's survival, says auto industry expert

By Cal Stone
EDITOR

David Cole doesn't know exactly what Ford has planned when it makes its major restructuring announcement Monday, but the chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor is certain of one thing: "It will be significant and very necessary. They have to make very substantial changes as a matter of survival. It will not be another day at the office."

Of concern locally is the fate of the Wixom Assembly Plant, which is currently running

continued on page 3

Varsity the top dealer again

■ Award given to Stanfords for the ninth time

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Mike Stanford and his staff at Varsity Lincoln Mercury have been doing a lot of celebrating lately.

That's because the dealership on the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Wixom Road won some prestigious awards this month.

The dealership was named the

M. Stanford

Lincoln Mercury dealership in the U.S. for the ninth consecutive year for 2005.

Ed Harrell was named the top producer in used car sales in the U.S. for Lincoln Mercury dealerships for the first time.

And five sales consultants on the new-car side were part of the top-10 producers in the country for Lincoln Mercury dealerships.

These top sales people include Mike Kerr, of Northville; Karen Sabatini of Livonia; Rich Jelenewski of Plymouth; Vladimir Aleksenich of Commerce Township; and Denise Balducci of Brighton.

A total of 14 people work in new-car sales, with five people selling previously owned vehicles at the dealership.

"In addition to being number one in the nation for the ninth consecutive year in the 100 Leaders Award, we also won the President's Award for customer satisfaction and service and the Partners in Quality Award from Ford Motor Credit," Stanford said.

Harrell, of Novi, mentioned that to be eligible for these types of awards that sales associates must be certified through the Lincoln Mercury Professional Sales Association.

"The certification requires product and sales process knowledge," Harrell said.

There are about 12,000 sales

continued on page 2

Redistricting discussions in full swing

■ Volunteers sought by Novi School District

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

When Erin Ryan heard the Novi School District might consider changing Deerfield Elementary into a neighborhood school, she felt a strong urge to voice her opinion.

The mother of a Deerfield student attended last Thursday night's school board meeting in hopes of representing the best interest of her children and the future of the elementary school.

"Simply chopping Novi up into 'neighborhood' schools does not resolve the issues of school facility inequities, the Deerfield school model, the children in the middle of certain educational curriculum and our kids in general," said Ryan. "Can't we look at moving boundaries without removing the Deerfield concept?" I would like

continued on page 5



Photo by JOHN HEDERNOV News

Caught!

With smiles on their faces, Lynne Schrieber and her son Asher, 5, are shown a rainbow trout they've just caught during last week's Ultimate Fishing Show at Rock Financial Showplace. The show featured hundreds of power boats, thousands of rods and lures and dozens of fishing destinations for the angler.

continued on page 2

Robert Jones uses wacky warning labels to get his message across

■ M-LAW's goal is to improve civil justice system

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

A label on a baby stroller warns: "Remove child before folding."

A brass fishing lure with a three-pronged hook on the end warns: "Harmful if swallowed."

These are just a few examples of some wacky warning labels that have surfaced in the last 10-plus years.

In fact, there have been so many that in 1997, Michigan-Lawsuit Abuse Watch began a lawsuit to expose how frivolous

lawsuits, and a concern about potential frivolous lawsuits, have led to the cultural phenomenon.

Every year since, M-LAW has announced the winners of the contest during the first week of January.

The contest has been so popular that the company plans on putting out a book next year called "Remove Child Before Folding."

Though Robert B. Dorjo Jones, president of M-LAW, resides in Northville, his executive office is in Novi. He said though the contest is a fun event his company does every January, it also does very serious legal reforms designed to get people thinking about how to improve America's courts.

"My job really is public education," Jones said. "We want to

increase awareness among the public of how families and communities are affected by living in the most lawsuit-happy society on earth."

Jones said in order for anybody to take M-LAW seriously, he had to put together a dynamic team of leaders.

"The credibility that comes with working with people who are known and trusted by those in the media is very important," he said. "If you're going to do something like this you can't do it by yourself."

M-LAW is a grassroots watchdog over the courts. It is a broad-based diverse effort that includes job providers, consumers, medical professionals and community

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Photo by JOHN HEDERNOV News

Robert Jones and the organization Michigan-Lawsuit Abuse Watch ("M-LAW") who advocate against lawsuit-abuse, plan on publishing the book "Remove Child Before Folding" a collection of the "stupidest, silliest and wackiest warning labels ever."

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Award given to Stanfords for the ninth time

continued from front page

consultants nationwide who vie for the title.

"We follow where we stand with other consultants on a monthly basis," he said.

The Lincoln Mercury division of Ford Motor Co. treated the dealership staff to a dinner at Morton's Restaurant in Southfield Tuesday night.

Harrell, who's a director with the Michigan 50's Festival in Novi, has worked at the dealership four years.

He said one of his most important jobs as the special finance manager at the dealership is to help credit-challenged customers.

"That's probably the largest part of my job," he said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The award-winning, top-selling staff of Novi's Varsity Lincoln Mercury. From left: Ed Harrell, Mike Stanford, Michael Kerr, Vladimir Aksenchik, Karen Sabbatini, Denise Barabi, Kevin McCarthy, and Rich Jeleniewski.

with a great set of products, but the character of the individuals is second to none."

Stanford has been at the Novi/Wixom dealership for 12 years, since it opened in July 1994.

He says it's no secret how they maintain the top spot in the company.

"It's the team," Stanford said.

hard economic times, you can't skimp on customer service."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

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Get your taxes done, buy an automobile

Varsity Lincoln Mercury has teamed with local Jackson Hewitt tax preparation professionals to offer a special service this tax season.

The service, which began Sunday, is being offered at the dealership's used car showroom on 12 Mile Road, across the street from the new car showroom on Grand River Avenue at Wixom Road.

Clients can have a tax professional prepare their 2005 return for an Instant Refund Anticipation Loan or Refund Anticipation Loan if they qualify.

If they are approved, the refund check can then be reassigned to the dealership as a down payment on a vehicle.

Ed Harrell, special finance manager at the dealership, said, "This time of year, most people are low on funds after the holidays, and they're not able to purchase a vehicle because they need a down payment.

"Many of them are saying, 'As soon as I get my tax refund, I can buy a car.' This service overcomes that obstacle."

Need a new ride?

Varsity Lincoln Mercury dealership, located at 49251 Grand River Avenue, is open from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays; 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call (248) 305-5300.

New models for 2006 include the Lincoln Zephyr, Mercury Milan and Mercury Mariner.

For more information about this new service or to set up an appointment, call Varsity Lincoln Mercury at (248) 305-5300.

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Closure looks grim for local businesses and employees

continued from front page

"The people at the very top of the Ford ladder have made some very bad decisions over the past six or seven years," said the 58-year-old Ford employee. "They have jeopardized the value of this company and morale at the plant is on edge."

"People are anxious but will continue to do their best until the day comes they can no longer work."

Wallink said he came to the plant 17 years ago to work on the production line.

"I graduated from college and went to Ford because I thought there was a lot of opportunities there," he said. "When there were layoffs in the past, we knew we would be coming back. Our labor contracts are not set up for a shrinking company."

Antley builds

Mike Caulford said his reaction to the plant's possible closure is scary.

"There is nothing we can do about it," said Caulford, employee for 14 years. "Everyone thinks they are safe and secure under contract. I'm not so sure that will happen this time."

City manager believes plant still has lot to offer company

continued from front page

"It's not as important to the city of Wixom as it is to the region as a job provider."

Dorman estimated that for each job at Wixom plant that eight to 10 are spin-off jobs.

"It would be not just the city of Wixom but the entire southeast Michigan area. That's the concern that the governor's office has and the MEDC."

Numbers don't lie

The numbers tell the story, and they don't lie: Wixom won't die if the plant goes away."

But it's loss would obviously impact the city.

The plant generates about 12 percent of the total tax revenue for Wixom.

"Over the last 10 or 15 years, it has dropped," Dorman said. "It used to be 30 percent of the tax base."

Other plants reviewed

Wixom city officials have also been looking at other plants Ford is considering closing.

The plant in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where Ford made the Ranger truck for years, backs up to the Mississippi River, so that plant can't expand.

The Flatfield, Ga. plant near Atlanta, where the Ford Taurus and Sable are made, is surrounded by an airport.

"The airport authority has made several offers over the last year to buy the plant from Ford Motor Company, so the airport can expand," Dorman said.

"It's St. Louis plant has also been on the books to close for a long time, Dorman added.

A major benefit of the Wixom plant is its versatility.

Over the years, workers have assembled many models there, including front-wheel and rear-wheel drive vehicles.

"The Wixom plant has the flexibility to produce any type of vehicle that any auto manufacturer has out there," Dorman said.

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Change a must for Ford's survival, says auto industry expert

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on one shift to produce the Lincoln LS and Town Car. The plant also assembles the low-volume, limited-run GT sports car.

"Ford is operating at 75 percent across its whole portfolio of plants," said Cole, "and you can't be successful unless you're at 100 percent capacity. They've probably got to take out four assembly plants and some component operations."

In addition to the Wixom facility, Cole noted other plants operating at low capacity in St. Paul, St. Louis and Atlanta as "potentially viable."

"This plant is very important to the cities of Wixom and Novi and surrounding communities," he said. "There's a benefit for some of the other suburban areas as well, and this is something we all have to pull together on and hope for the best."

We're 100 percent dependent on the Ford plant, and without it, I'm not sure we will be able to survive.

City leaders have taken steps

City managers have been proactive about the fact that the plant may close.

"We've been not filling positions until we know whether Ford is going to have a product at the Wixom plant," Dorman said.

The city currently has two vacancies in the police department.

Dorman has talked with senior management in the automaker's public policy and intergovernmental relations division. Dorman most recently spoke with his Ford contacts over the holidays.

"I assured them that we would do just about anything to accommodate them," Dorman said.

Members of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation senior management also met with the city leaders in December.

"Gov. Granholm is in communication with Bill Ford, and proposals are going back and forth," Dorman said.

"Bill Ford doesn't want to try to graduate the town," he said.

"We've just got our heads down and our mouths shut," he said.

several other employees working with him at the Marathon Gas Station on Wixom Road across from the facility.

"I don't need any help now that there is only one shift running," he said. "If the plant closes, we're not going to run out of business, but it won't be good either."

Other businesses in the Novi and Wixom areas affected by the possible closure had mixed feelings about the motor company's upcoming decision.

"We're definitely going to lose customers," said Eric Lyons, manager of Zax Autowash. "But in any business, it's very difficult to say which area the customers came from."

Lyons said he wasn't sure of the impact the closure would have on business because everyone needs their vehicles washed.

"I can't say that we'll even notice it in our numbers," Lyons said.

Potter said there is a sizable amount of traffic coming off the plant, and he feels a closure would create a pinch on the local economy.

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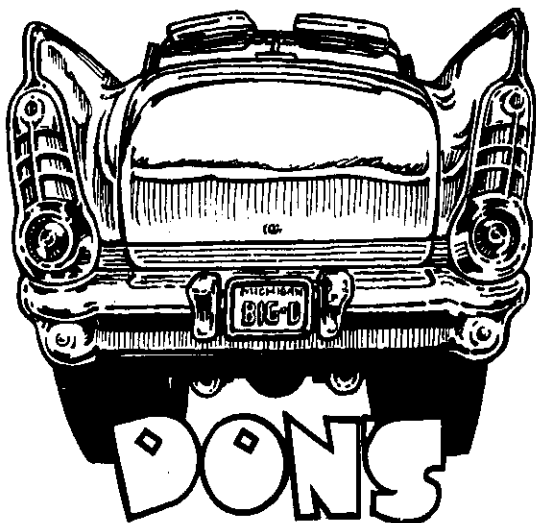
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Redistricting discussion is in full swing

continued from front page

for the community as a whole to better understand that Deerfield is not necessarily a better school, but a different school.
"Deerfield is not your enemy." Though determining if Deerfield should remain a "school of choice" or a "neighborhood school" is on the district's agenda, it is only one part of a larger project: determining if the city's projected growth means redistricting.
"If the growth is as projected, the district will have to reevaluate," said Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance. "Redistricting is not an unusual

thing in a growing school district. Our neighboring districts have done it numerous times, but we have not done it in this district since 1987." Koster presented a glimpse of what the district may look like in the not-so-distant future at the meeting. He said there are 1,922 housing units expected to be built in the city, and the majority of them are school-eligible to be done in 2006-07 and 2007-08. It's projected that 58 percent of new students to the district will come from single families; 19 percent from condominiums; 19 percent from apartments; and 4 percent from mobile homes.
"We can conclude the newer the area, the more the children, regardless of the cost," said Koster.
That said, Koster determined most of the students will be coming from the northwest portion of the district, which is Parkview Elementary School's portion.

The projected growth means many probable changes to the district. Every elementary may be near their building's capacity, and, with the potential growth at Novi Meadows, the school will start to move into the Instructional Technology Center, displacing the community education department. "It is evident where the biggest problem is going to be because we know where the available land is and where the development is," Koster said. "Parkview will have a great number of students and it will start to spin out of control if something isn't done."
That's why a school utilization and redistricting committee is being formed by the school district. It will be comprised of parents, employees and members of the Long Range Planning Committee.
Among its changes will be to determine building capacities follow-

ing a set criteria, determine if Deerfield should remain a school of choice or be a neighborhood school; determine the number of half- and full-day kindergarten sections; evaluate room utilization at each building and determine if reallocation of room usage between buildings creates additional building functionality.
The district is currently seeking volunteers to be on the committee.
"The current decision facing the school board to redistrict and convert its school of choice, Deerfield, to a neighborhood school is probably one of the most challenging and emotionally charged ones that this school board has been faced with thus far," said Bobbie Murphy, whose children attend Deerfield. "How they respond to this particular issue may well set the tone for any further support, or lack thereof, that they will have among many of the parents in this community."

Committee volunteers needed

A School Utilization and Redistricting Committee is being formed by the Novi Community School District to:

1. review instructional programs as they relate to space requirements;
2. evaluate current enrollment and facility usage;
3. evaluate the impact of enrollment projections (increased/decreased growth) and its effect on facilities;
4. identify best usage of facilities;
5. identify best utilization (elementary school) boundaries;
6. identify if any additional facilities and/or infrastructure and technology are required district-wide.

The committee will be comprised of parents, employees and members of the Long Range Planning Committee. Those interested in serving on this committee should contact Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, at (248) 449-2305. Committee participation will involve several evening meetings and extensive study and building visitations. The committee's work will begin in early February and finish by the end of May. The deadline for applying is Friday, Jan. 27.

Robert B. Borigo Jones
Age 42
Occupation: President of Michigan Lawuit Abuse Watch
Family: wife, Denise; two sons, Johnny 7, Bobby 11. Both attend St. Fabian in Farmington Hills
Hobbies and/or interests: biking, wind surfing and competitive Ping-Pong
Awards: "Learn as much as you can about your subject" and most important, assemble a good team that you can draw on for a wide variety of things.
Favorite: Jones believes the best awards his company receives is the recognition and imposition on a nation-wide and world-wide basis.
Education: He graduated from Cadillac High School and from James H. Rogan College of Michigan State University
Years in business: nine
Grow up in: Cadillac

M-LAW's goal is to improve civil justice system

continued from front page

Jones described the company as a cross-section of Michigan citizens who all share one thing in common: They believe there are too many frivolous lawsuits in our society today. "We're trying to improve the civil justice system so that the courts can function better for those people who have legitimate lawsuits. And at the same time, we're trying to remove the financial burden that has been placed on families and communities and businesses by excessive litigation," Jones said.
Jones used the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit as an example. He said they have to sell 32,000 boxes of cookies per year to pay for liability insurance in case they're sued.
"Just think how much more constructive ways they could use that money, rather than have to spend it on insurance to protect themselves from lawsuits," he said.

In the nine years Jones has been president of M-LAW, he has seen a reduction in lawsuits by about a third. One of the things the company does is try to focus attention on the role the courts play, specifically judges.
M-LAW has done a judicial evaluation of the Michigan Supreme Court to help people understand which judges are better at limiting the spread of liability. By doing so, Jones said M-LAW has encouraged more people to vote in supreme court elections and for judges who will not legislate from the bench.
"The personal injury lawyers are not happy with us," Jones said. "We have a willingness to take on a segment of society that a lot of people would just assume not touch with. Usually, when people think of lawsuits, they tend to think it's something that big business has to worry about. But it really is much more of a family and community issue."
For more information, visit www.m-law.com or www.wakey-wakey.com.

James Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@novi.com.

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Planning commission and city council put their heads together

■ An opportunity to share, learn

By Pam Fleming and Tracy Miskler
STAFF WRITERS

It's not good if the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing.

In the interest of learning just what Novi's top two groups are doing right now, Novi's city council and planning commission members will have their annual joint meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at city hall.

Barb McBeth, planning director, is putting together a packet this week for city council in preparation for the meeting.

The joint meeting will run for 90 minutes, with the regular city council meeting to follow.

"Ultimately, such meetings will draw the two bodies together mentally and professionally for the betterment of the city," said Victor Cassis, planning commission chair.

Planning commission members discussed the upcoming joint meeting at their Jan. 11 meeting.

What's on the agenda?

The agenda may include discussion of certain ordinances, such as the city's sign ordinance.

Planning commission members also want to review whether the commission might be given the authority to actually implement ordinances in the future rather than have to refer them all to city council.

Members mentioned at their last meeting that it would be helpful if the two groups met more often to learn what they're doing.

"Planning the city is a dynamic process," Cassis said. "With city council being the legislative body, we need to meet face to face and coordinate visions for the future. It also gives us a chance to exchange views and have a dialogue."

Cassis said he and his fellow commission members want to focus on a number of projects.

challenges the development community faces on a daily basis.

"City council will receive information on how local developers believe we can increase the tax base in the city and how we can reduce variances that are repeatedly requested," Cassis said.

"Maybe this discussion with city council will bring about some changes in our ordinances."

Specifically, Cassis would like to discuss future plans for Grand River Avenue both east and west of Novi Road.

Another question is, "How can we balance the city as far as residential and office/service/technology uses?" Cassis added.

"We also need to look at the city for more than just a year or so in the future," he said.

"We're seeking both direction and coordination with the city council."

Mayor David Landry said the joint meeting was scheduled because periodically the city council needs to listen to planning commission members' concerns, suggestions and ideas.

"I don't have any complaints about what the planning commission is doing," Landry said.

"It's just a good idea for everybody to meet face-to-face at one meeting, sit together and discuss procedures and other issues. That's the time to do it."

Landry noted that council also schedules joint meetings with members of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, the library board, and the school board.

"We feel it's important to keep the lines of communication open," he said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

Tracy Miskler is a staff writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or by e-mail at tmiskler@gannett.com.

What each group does

City council is the main governing body for the city of Novi, responsible for setting policy and making legal decisions on financial and legal issues that affect the city. It also approves the annual budget.

City council members include the mayor and six others, who are elected by the voters of Novi. The mayor serves a two-year term, and council members serve four-year terms. The mayor appoints the Mayor Pro Tem.

City council members include Mayor David Landry, Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello, Bob Ditt, Tom Nagy, Lynne Paul, and new members Terry Margolis and Andrew Mutsch.

City council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month or unless otherwise scheduled.

The planning commission prepares a Master Plan for Land Use and advises the city council on the proper development of the city.

The commission reviews and recommends to council all requests for changes in zoning and ordinance amendments.

It also reviews and approves industrial, commercial and residential development plans within the city.

The planning commission consists of nine members appointed by the mayor with the approval of city council.

Planning commission members include Victor Cassis, chair; Lynn Kocan, Wayne Mitchell, Andrew Gutman, Michael Meyer, John Avdoules, Mark Peterson, David Lipski, and new member, Michael Lynch.

The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Both groups meetings are televised on Novi's television Channel 13.

Agendas and minutes are available on the Web at www.novimn.com, at the city clerk's office at (248) 349-5056, and the parking department at (248) 349-0475.

'Super' fund-raising event coming to Manhattan Club

■ Super Bowl tickets, NFL memorabilia up for grabs Sunday

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's a chance for adults to make their wish come true, all while helping make a child's wish a reality too.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan and the NFL Alumni of Detroit have partnered up to host a Big Game Party Sunday at the Manhattan Club and Wine & Cheese Comedy Club located at 40390 Grand River Avenue in Novi starting at 4 p.m.

"The Super Bowl is a very expensive event, and so are some of these private events we have tickets to," said organizer Misha Stevanovich. "It's a hope and a wish of a lot of people to attend these things. In turn, we're going

to help some kids in the same situation. Instead of the Super Bowl, it might be their last chance to go see Disney World."

The cost of the event, which a portion of the proceeds will be donated from, is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple, which includes a gourmet tailgate buffet, an open bar from 5-7 p.m., a national comedy act and live and silent auctions. Some of the items for auction include signed helmets and even a case of wine donated by Igor Larionov and signed by members of the Detroit Red Wings professional hockey team.

There will also be plenty of Super Bowl legends such as Eddie Murray, Lomas Brown, Sherman Lewis, Tom Nowatzke and Mike Lodish. In total, around 30 players are expected to be in attendance.

But the star of the party never played in a Super Bowl. In fact, they weren't even around the last time the Super Bowl was played. Two Super Bowl tickets at the club level plus \$500 spending money for the winner of the night's raffle. Tickets are \$100 each and limited to just 200.

"The total odds are 1-in-200," said Stevanovich. "There's one I've seen that has the odds of winning at 3,000-to-1. Most charities have odds of about 500-to-1."

"Ours is straight by the book. Just 200 tickets. And these are club level tickets, not way up in the bleachers some where."

So far, Stevanovich said the sales for the tickets are lower than he'd like, though tickets to the event itself have sold well.

The fund-raising event isn't just being held in Novi; it's featuring one of Novi's own as the event's emcee is Bernie Frotto, a resident and one of the voices of 97.1 FM Talk Radio.

"The road to the Super Bowl starts Sunday in Novi," Stevanovich said. "We're going to watch the games and find out who is going to play it and we're going to send somebody from the audience as well."

For tickets, please call (248) 919-3216.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gannett.com.

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Michigan Coalition on donation

Novi Theatre expands

By Ramaz Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Monday will be big for Novi Theatres. It will be the first time in history that the organization will be offering drama, dance and vocal lessons at the same time. Eight new classes are set to start, including the much anticipated KidKidding.



S. Sansom

"Each child had a class schedule and they went from room to room. At the end of the first weeks of camp we put on a full-scale production that highlighted seven different Broadway shows." At the end of class, many parents came back and said their kids were so excited and they wanted more lessons. But, unfortunately, there was nothing else Novi Theatres could offer to satisfy their needs.

"These were kids who had not yet reached puberty," Sansom said. "Private voice teachers typically would not take a child until they've reached puberty. I thought,

why aren't we doing something? There is so much that these kids can learn and do. The first seed of that was KidKidding."

KidKidding started last September. Every Thursday afternoon, for an hour and a half, Sansom worked with students on vocal and breathing exercises that would be applied to Broadway show tunes, and they would even add some simple choreography to it. "It was such a success, and at the end of the class I gave the parents an evaluation form," Sansom said. "On a one-to-five scale we got a perfect five. It was overwhelmingly apparent that we needed to continue offering these classes."

At that point, in addition to KidKidding, Novi Theatres developed the rest of the classes in dance, drama and vocal. And now, they're set to branch out. One of the classes that Sansom is particularly excited about is called Fiction to Life. It's for children ages 7-10, and it will use theater games and exercises to boost each child's comfort level on the stage and work with characterization.

"The way they're going to work on it is through fiction, which kids really love, and we're going to highlight the 'Harry Potter' stories," Sansom said. "They'll be doing improvisations from 'Harry Potter,' so as they're making up this dialogue, we can be working with them on stage presence."

There are classes designed for age ranges of 3-10. There is also one adult dance class called A Chorus Line.

New programs being offered by Novi Theatres

- **KidKidding: Fun with Fairy Tales**
An eight-week class that will start at the very beginning, with the ABC's of Theatre. Focus will be placed on introducing children to theatre through dramatic play and songs. Each week, we will act out a different fairy tale, an excellent way for children to learn and grow by exploring their imagination. Class will perform on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Novi Theatres Spring Showcases.
- **Acting Academy: Fiction to Life**
An eight-week class perfect for young actors looking for ways to familiarize themselves with the art of theatre. Theatre games and exercises will be used to boost the actors' comfort level on the stage. As a class, we will select pieces of fiction to dramatize from your favorite works, such as Harry Potter and Junie B. Jones. Class will perform on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Novi Theatres Spring Showcases.
- **Dramatic Arts Academy: "Prepare! Present! Produce!"**
An eight-week class designed to take your performance to the next level! Improve your characterization, improvisation and comedic/dramatic range. Theatre games and opportunities to perform at theatre-related events will be included. Each actor will work on both a monologue to use at auditions, as well as a group scene to produce as a team. Class will perform on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Novi Theatres Spring Showcases.
- **Early Childhood Dance Class: "Chalkboard Theatre"**
An eight-week dance experience of "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit." Class size is limited. A \$10 materials fee will be collected the first day of class.
- **Adult Tap Class: "Chorus Line"**
An eight-week tap class for adults designed to make you feel like a star!
- **Youth Tap Class: "42nd Street"**
Come and meet those dancers! Learn all of the latest tapping moves as you groove to the music of Broadway's "42nd Street." Class will perform on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Novi Theatres Spring Showcases.
- **Youth Jazz Class: "Grease"**
Experience twirlin', hoplin', boppin' and fabulous 50s moves to the music of Broadway's "Grease." Jazz dancing, too! Class will perform on Thursday, May 11 at the Novi Theatres Spring Showcases.
- **KidJazz**
An eight-week vocal performance class designed for singers not yet old enough for private voice lessons. This class emphasizes show choir skills for guys and girls in grades 5-8. Rehearsals will concentrate on breathing, vocal techniques, stage presence and choreography while singing. Class will perform on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Novi Theatres Spring Showcases.
- **Dance Workshop: "Wizard of Oz"**
A two-session dance movement class for musical theatre. Music and dances from the "Wizard of Oz" will be taught, including those to be used in auditions. Class number is limited.

For more information, visit www.novitheatre.com.

OBITUARIES

MARION J. WHITE

Age 91, died January 15, 2006 in Presbyterians Village in Redford Township, Michigan. Mrs. White was preceded in death by her husband Robert M. White on December 22, 1995. Visitation for Mrs. White was at the Northro-Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville on Tuesday, January 17, 2006. Services were on Wednesday at Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi. Officiation was Mrs. Jan Martin, Rev. Paul Bousquet, Rev. Catherine Macloskey-Furrow and Rev. Kent Aughe. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery in Detroit. Mrs. White is survived by her daughter Sheila (Rev. Richard) Henderson of Novi; two grandchildren, Jennifer (Philip) Sobes and Jonathan (Darlene) Henderson; four great grandchildren, Jacob, Chris, Garrett and Monica; three siblings, Anne Busley, Jean Coyne and Malcolm Mackay; And nieces & nephews, Tom Galigan, Sean Coyne, Karen Mackay and Mary Louise Borchert. Memorial contributions to St. James Presbyterian Church in Redford or Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements by the Northro-Sassaman Funeral Home.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.

*Deadline for obituaries is Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288 or contact your funeral home. Online obituaries are subject to change.



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New deputy chief, sergeant named

Lindberg and Warren earn promotions

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Friday the 13th turned out to be a lucky day for Tom Lindberg and Michael Warren.



T. Lindberg



M. Warren

Lindberg was named deputy chief, and Warren was promoted to sergeant last Friday in a special ceremony at the Novi Police Department Training Center.

Chief of Police David Molloy presented the three gold, metal stars that Lindberg will wear on his uniform and the chevrons that will appear on Warren's sleeve and collar.

"These individuals have demonstrated a strong commitment to not only teamwork but also to sustain leadership, initiative, personal growth and the highest in ethical behavior," Molloy said of the two.

Lindberg began his career with the NPD in 1986 after graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

In 1994, he was assigned to the

Michigan State Police Narcotics Enforcement Team, where he served as an undercover narcotics detective. He received the Police Officer of the Year Award in 1998.

Molloy said the new deputy chief received numerous honors and awards from not only the NPD but also from the Michigan State Police.

In 1998, Lindberg was promoted to detective in the General Services Division.

He initiated and became one of the first detectives in the area to begin using criminal investigations to approach sexual predators targeting young children.

In 2001, Lindberg was promoted to sergeant and returned to the Uniform Patrol Division as a shift watch commander, where he managed numerous shifts.

In 2002, he graduated with honors from the School of Police Staff and Command offered by Northwestern University.

In 2003, Lindberg was promoted to lieutenant, when he was appointed commander of the General Services Division.

During that time, he supervised a number of high-level narcotics trafficking cases, including the now-famous investigation Novi police worked on with Drug Enforcement Administration agents that began when police found \$4.8 million in a Novi motel and Northville rental home on March 18, 2004.

"Tom has truly demonstrated all of the traits desired in a deputy police chief as not only a manager and a leader but also as a manager to other personnel," Molloy said.

In the community, Lindberg worked on the Housing and Community Development Block Grant Committee. He's currently enrolled at Walsh College, obtain-

"These individuals have demonstrated a strong commitment to not only teamwork but also to sustain leadership, initiative, personal growth and the highest in ethical behavior."

David Molloy
Novi Chief of Police

ing a master's degree in business administration.

Warren promoted to sergeant

Molloy said Warren has been an inspiration and a model for other officers to follow at the NPD.

"In our position, when your phone rings anytime between 11 o'clock at night and 5 in the morning, it's never good news," Molloy said. "But, I sleep easy knowing that I have a young man like Michael Warren...who's going to respond, whether it be an emergency or criminal investigation."

Warren started as a dispatcher in the police communications center in 1994 and became a police officer in 1997.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Liberty University in Virginia and served as a field training officer, slowing police academy graduates the ropes.

In 2001, Warren was promoted to detective.

"That is truly where he has made his mark here in the city of Novi and in southeast Michigan," Molloy said.

"Michael has been at the helm of several critical law enforcement

investigations, including rape, robbery and the occasional murder that we do have in our community."

Warren was one of the key investigators, along with Sgt. Victor Laurin, in the child abuse/murder case involving 2-year-old Anne Marie Shawley, who was abused by her stepmother, Nikole Frederick, and died over Labor Day weekend 2003.

Frederick is serving a life sentence for the crime.

Warren has been recognized by other law enforcement agencies and the prosecutor's office, according to Molloy.

He added that his leadership was also displayed in the recent narcotics trafficking case in which Novi police and DEA agents seized more than 25 tons of marijuana and more than \$14 million in currency.

The case led to the arrest of more than 50 people nationwide in one of the largest international drug trafficking investigations ever.

Warren is currently enrolled in a master's in business administration program at Liberty University.



Courtesy photo
The Credit Union Family Service Center at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads was allegedly robbed by this man at 10:03 a.m. Tuesday. The man presented a note to the tellers, stating that he wanted \$4,000.

Robber hits credit union

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

A man with a gatose and cap robbed the Credit Union Family Service Center at 41990 10 Mile Road on Monday morning, taking an undetermined amount of cash.

Tuesday, Sgt. Matt Casquet of the Novi Police Department said an arrest warrant has been issued for Thomas Joseph Huskins, 29, of New Hudson.

The Novi Police Department received a hold-up alarm at 10:03 a.m. from the credit union, located on the north side of the shopping center on the northwest corner of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads.

The credit union was open during its regular hours that day, despite the fact that it was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The credit union is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week.

The suspect entered the credit union, walked up to a teller and produced a note stating that he wanted \$4,000 in cash and that an explosive device was left near the front door.

After receiving an unreported

amount of cash, the suspect fled the credit union on foot.

Witnesses saw the suspect get into a green sport utility vehicle and drive southbound on Meadowbrook Road. No explosive device was actually left at the bank, and no injuries occurred during the robbery.

Members of the Farmington Hills Police Department observed an SUV matching the description of the suspect's vehicle near Grand River Avenue and Eight Mile Road.

When the Farmington Hills officer attempted to stop the SUV, the driver refused to pull over, and a chase took place. Police lost sight of the vehicle in Detroit.

The vehicle license plate matched that of a vehicle stolen from New Hudson. The Oakland County Sheriff Department sent a photo of that suspect to Novi Police, who matched it with the photos of the robber.

Anyone with information about Huskins should contact Det. Mike Prough at the Novi Police Department at (248) 347-0537 or CrimeStoppers at 800-SPEAKUP.

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Novi Cartridge World owner Bret Slebert offers print cartridge users the ability to refill their tapped-out containers for a fraction of the cost of new.

Get in the black, save on ink

By Ramoz Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi residents who are tired of spending \$35-\$50 on new ink cartridges are finally getting some good news.

Cartridge World, a company that opened its doors in November on the northwest corner of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, is one of the fastest growing franchises in America. It's a place where residents can take their used ink cartridges and exchange them for Cartridge World cartridges, and in the process, save almost half the price of a new one.

"It's like you're getting a new cartridge for half the cost," said Bret Slebert, president/CEO. "If we can offer the same quality cartridge at up to 50 percent off, it's going to be a savings, and it's a great feeling to not just be bound and locked in to buying cartridges from the big retail places in the area."

Slebert explained, typically,

Cartridge World started in Australia in the early 1990s and was brought over to the United States in 2002, and currently there are over 1,070 stores worldwide. About 450 of those are in the United States and another 2,000 are being planned to open within the next two years. For more information, visit www.377inkings.com, or call (877) 465-4897.

When environment-conscious people want to get rid of their cartridges, they use a recycle bag and send them to a recycle center that's usually out of the state. The problem with that is the recipient state's economy will benefit, and there is no benefit to the customer.

"But in case, a customer can bring that cartridge in, we can recycle it in-state, we as a business make money, the customer ends up saving money, and at the same time, he or she fulfills their intent of recycling," Slebert said.

Slebert is so confident in his products that he's willing to offer a 100-percent warranty.

in having their kids be educated about it," Slebert said.

That's why Cartridge World is in preliminary discussions with the Novi Community School District about ways in partner. The company has also partnered with Orion's Quest, a non-profit organization that emphasizes education in the science field. Orion's Quest sets up experiments for students that astronauts are doing in space, and shares that data with NASA.

"We believe in education, and we want to partner with people who emphasize recycling and the preservation of our environment," Slebert said. "At the same time, we'd like to promote an understanding of the environment."

Ramoz Khuri can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.

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Herniated Disc Technology Discovered by NASA Scientists

Ann Arbor - A new free report has recently been released that reveals how breakthrough medical technology is offering new hope for sciatica sufferers. Discover how research has proven non-surgical decompression 86% successful in treating debilitating back pain. Find out how NASA's accidental discovery led to the most promising treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology is Saving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" Call 1-800-293-2395 for the toll-free recorded message. Supplies are limited - call now. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.freereport-4u.com

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Mon & 2 year old classes

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BB&B closes doors

Jeweler bids good-bye to Twelve Oaks

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Mike and Terry Kidler were excited to get 70 percent off but upset it meant the end of their favorite jewelry store.

Terry, 45, said she and her husband have been shopping at Bailey Banks and Biddle in Twelve Oaks Mall since the store opened in July 1999.

"Shopping for jewelry is all about quality," Terry said. "We always got good prices and good quality. It's a shame to see the store close."

Bailey Banks and Biddle closed their doors Jan. 2 after brand-owner Zale Corporation decided to rid the company of unprofitable stores.

"The decision was part of a corporate initiative to close 29 unprofitable stores for more exclusivity at other locations," said David Sternlieb, vice president and treasurer for the Zale Corporation.

"We are focused on those key markets and will continue to invest in the Bailey Banks and Biddle brand."

Hayes said with the mall's expansion, she wasn't sure what 2006 had in store for Twelve Oaks.

"This is a typical time of year where new stores come and old ones go," Hayes said. "We've been so full here in the past that we haven't had room for anything new. People are always interested in visiting new stores. They are on the way."

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

The Novi Town Center 8 closed its doors Nov. 30 and reopened under new ownership in December.

Rebeck and Bonelli Gargewant, owners of SR Movies, decided it was time Novi had a meeting ground for the community's Indian population and felt the theater was a great location. The husband-and-wife duo had been renting space from the theater's previous owners, Goodrich Quality Theater, but decided once closed they could bring more Indian culture to the community by showing mainstream films from India.

Sonali said the theater will be showing several English films along with Indian films to draw in more customers. The theater will continue to be known as the Town Center 8, but the SR Movies logo will accompany it. Hours for the theater have not been determined.

Movies currently showing are "Pride and Prejudice," "Paradise Now," "Family," "Zinda," "Mughal E. Azam," "Parasitam," "Good Night and Good Luck" and "Dosti." For more information and show times, call (248) 465-7469.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Novi's future 'Melting Pot'

Owners of the Melting Pot, located on Novi Road in the old Bob Evans building, are hoping to host their grand opening some time in April, however the date has not yet been determined.

The restaurant, known for its specialty in fondue, approached Novi City Council for a liquor license Dec. 5 and was approved.

Owner Ruby Salk said they are currently finishing up lease ends and continue to complete construction. According to Salk, the building is getting a small addition to the front and the inside is being completely remodeled.

Theater opens again

Rebeck and Bonelli Gargewant, owners of SR Movies, decided it was time Novi had a meeting ground for the community's Indian population and felt the theater was a great location. The husband-and-wife duo had been renting space from the theater's previous owners, Goodrich Quality Theater, but decided once closed they could bring more Indian culture to the community by showing mainstream films from India.

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Send us your business news!

Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you opening up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know. Send your business briefs to:

Business News
Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167
or e-mail to:
cstone@gannett.com

If possible, include a photograph with your submission. Briefs can come in the form of press releases or announcements. Send the Novi News reserves the right to edit for length and content.

For more information, call (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

Grady's closes

Grady's American Grill closed last Friday due to unforeseen circumstances, according to a notice posted on the building's locked doors.

According to Novi city officials, Quality Dining, Inc. planned to close the restaurant doors in December, but the company decided to stay open through the end of the year.

Occupying the building in the future will be barbecue giant Famous Dave's, based out of Hayward, Wis. According to Famous Dave's building developers, the Novi franchise should be ready to open by late spring.

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Challenge, Ariel also received a \$50 bid's mongolian barbecue gift card for her winning creation.

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Magazine as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For in America and was voted the Best of our state's economic revival.

Cassio's bill is part of a new package designed to help Michigan's businesses get back on their feet to retain and attract employees. Small businesses employ approximately 70 percent of all workers. This legislation could cut taxes in half for more than 30,000 Michigan job providers.

Practicing good business

Bill Emerson, chief executive officer of Quicken Loans Inc., will describe the company's Michigan business success story 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the Walsh College Novi Campus. He will talk about the company's innovative strategies, workplace culture and employee relations practices that have been recognized nationally.

Quicken Loans Inc., which consists of Quicken Loans, Rock Financial and Title Source, was founded by Detroit area native Dan Gilbert in 1985. The company now has more than 3,400 employees. Quicken Loans has been recognized by FORTUNE

Helping hands

Employees at Macprofractals, in Novi, have developed a keen "I" for technology by helping clients incorporate iPages, iPods, iBooks and other Apple products into their educational, broadcast, creative and corporate settings.

Along with working with area businesses, Macprofractals is working with the Detroit Public Schools to establish the Detroit Digital Learning Community at Crockett High School, a \$1.2 million partnership between Apple Computer and the district.

Planning for the future

Wixom-based Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc., dialysis product manufacturer serving the health care industry, recently reported it has received a \$13,015,860 purchase order for dialysis concentrate and supplies. The order is for dialysis business secured in Latin America. The company anticipates fulfilling the entire purchase order during the 2006 calendar year.

On Nov. 8, Rockwell reported revenues for the first nine months of 2005 increased 61 percent to \$21,238,893 compared to the first nine months of 2004, while net profit increased 75 percent to \$350,848 and earnings per share increased to four cents over the same period.

Compiled by Tracy Mishler

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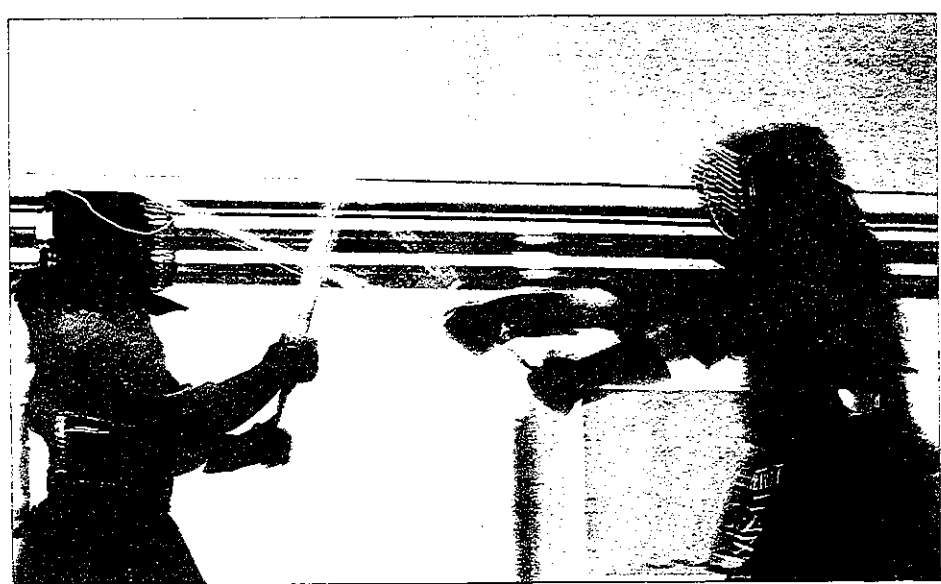
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EDUCATION

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The way of the sword
Novi High School students Asaka Akamatsu, left, and Andrew Gomes are practically a blur as they quickly demonstrate Kendo, the ancient style of sword fighting during a Tuesday afternoon meeting of the school's Japanese Club. The practice of Kendo, which means "the way of the sword" began in 900 A.D. and can utilize both solid oak or strips of bamboo swords.

Novi resident helps Motorola see future

Nagarajan could win an internship with company



Arvind Nagarajan

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Arvind Nagarajan's vision of the future would like something out of a science-fiction movie. But the Yale freshman and Novi native is definitely on to something, and Motorola, one of the world's largest technological companies, has taken notice. Nagarajan earned a finalist spot in the MOTOFRWD competition — a scholarship challenge to define the future of technology and communications from Motorola. His work for the program includes a short story that explores

to show how this concept could be possible in a single person's life. "It's pretty easy to imagine the large scale effect of what this technology can do, but I wanted to show how one person's life can be impacted in a great way," he said. He wrote a short, fictional story about a man who had a heart attack in a normal situation where it would have been fatal, but technology came together to save a life. The grand prize is a \$10,000 scholarship. A Bluetooth enabled car and an opportunity to work as an intern with Motorola. "I'd love the opportunity to take a part there because it would be a great experience," Nagarajan said. "I'd like to find out how they're working to make their visions come true."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.

ON CAMPUS

Albion College

Novi resident, Lauren Wilson, was elected as the new member education leader of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. Wilson is the daughter of Glen Wilson and Cheryl Mattison of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Hillsdale College

James Faysal II, of Novi, was named to the dean's list for 2005 fall semester at Hillsdale College. He is the son of George and Vicki Faysal and a 2005 graduate of Novi High School.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Novi resident, Ryan Stee, was named to the dean's list for fall 2005 semester at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Ryan is pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Registration for Novi Community Education Adult and Youth Winter Classes has begun. To register, call (248) 449-1206, or visit the Community Education office at 25345 Taft Road.

Visit us on the Web: www.novinews.com

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-28.55

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2005-28.55, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34 "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM, DIVISION 3, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, IN ORDER TO ADD SUB-DIVISION XXCVI, ESTABLISHING THE CENTER STREET SEWER EXTENSION DISTRICT AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN AVAILABILITY FEE FOR SERVICE.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-28.52

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2005-28.52, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34 "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, DIVISION 1, "GENERALLY," SECTION 34-21.1, "WATER MAIN FRONT FOOTAGE CHARGE" IN ORDER TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO CAPITAL CHARGES BASED ON AVAILABILITY.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE PETITION FILING DEADLINE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions for Novi Community School District Member of the Board of Education are available at the office of the City Clerk at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275. The deadline for filing petitions is 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 7, 2006. Additional information may be obtained by calling the City Clerk's Office at 347-0456.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council, of the City of Novi, will hold a joint meeting with the Novi Planning Commission on Monday, January 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF CHANGE IN TIME NOVI CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 23, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Novi City Council, to be held on January 23, 2006, has been changed to begin at 8:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

NOTICE TO BIDDERS NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVI, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi Community School District will receive sealed bids for the following items: High School Band Uniforms. Bids will be accepted at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48274-2423 until 2:00 p.m. local time, January 30, 2006. Specifications may be picked up at the Educational Services Building during normal business hours.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-37.31

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2005-37.31, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34 "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, "WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM," DIVISION 1, "GENERALLY," SECTION 34-21.1, "WATER MAIN FRONT FOOTAGE CHARGE" IN ORDER TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO CAPITAL CHARGES BASED ON AVAILABILITY.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

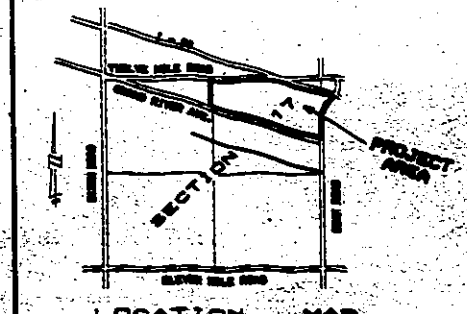
CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Construction Board of Appeals, Economic Development Corporation and Historical Commission. If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, applications and booklets containing information about the various Boards and Commissions are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275. Also, you may contact the City Clerk's office by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City Web Site at www.ci.novi.mi.us to print out an application.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275 to consider WEST MARKET PUMP STATION, SITE PLAN NUMBER 05-48A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, SPECIAL LAND USE, AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 17, AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND BECK ROAD, IN THE B-2 COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT. The subject property is 1.2 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct a 4,441 sq. ft. gasoline fuel station, convenience store with a fast food restaurant.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

SENIORS

SILVER LINING: Bringing Novi seniors, youth together

New program bridges gap between the young and old

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Rachel Zagaroli wants to bridge the gap between the children and senior citizens of the Novi community. In order to bring the two generations together, the Novi Senior Center and Youth Assistance have teamed up with the Novi School District to create the Silver Lining Mentor Program.

Becoming a friend

According to youth assistance officials, the program will take place during normal school hours and will be closely monitored. Each senior will be screened before being placed with a student and a criminal background check will be taken. Dion said he hoped to launch the program later this month. "There are so many things that can come out of a program like this," he said. "The sky's the limit with the creativity it can bring."

For more information on becoming a Silver Lining Mentor, contact the Novi Senior Center at (248) 347-0403 or Novi Youth Assistance at (248) 347-0410.

Silver Lining Mentors

- Seniors meet with children
- One hour per week
- Conversation, games and activities
- Program start date to be determined

Seniors contact Novi Senior Center (248) 347-0403
Youths contact Novi Youth Assistance (248) 347-0410



Dion said he thought the project was a great idea. "All students can benefit from this mentoring program," Dion said. "It's good for both students and seniors because it will help the seniors get out into the community more, and it will teach children how to interact with adults."

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.208 TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ANIMAL BOARDING FACILITIES IN THE L1, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL, ZONING DISTRICT.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

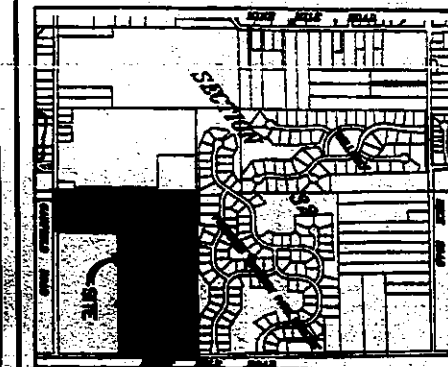
CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-37.32

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2005-37.32, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34 "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, "WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM," DIVISION 4, "OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, IN ORDER TO ADD SUB-DIVISION XVI, ESTABLISHING THE NINE MILE ROAD WATER MAIN EXTENSION AND SERVICE DISTRICT, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN AVAILABILITY FEE FOR SERVICE.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider TUSCANY RESERVE SUB. SITE PLAN NUMBER 05-300 FOR A REVISED PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT, STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 22, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND BECK ROAD, IN THE B-2 COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT. The subject property is approximately 77.57 acres.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-28.53

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2005-28.53, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34 "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM, DIVISION 3, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, IN ORDER TO ADD SUB-DIVISION XXV, ESTABLISHING THE NINE MILE ROAD SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION ORIGINAL AND EXTENDED SERVICE DISTRICTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN AVAILABILITY FEE FOR SERVICE.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-28.54

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 2005-28.54, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, CHAPTER 34 "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM, DIVISION 3, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, IN ORDER TO ADD SUB-DIVISION XXCVI, ESTABLISHING THE CENTER STREET SEWER EXTENSION DISTRICT, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN AVAILABILITY FEE FOR SERVICE.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI VOTERS WHO RESIDE IN THE NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006 - SPECIAL ELECTION

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan.

- Northville Public Schools Bond proposition \$25,235,000 for a new elementary school, educational technology improvements; land acquisition; playground and site development.
- Northville Public Schools Bond proposition \$45,430,000 for remodeling existing buildings; a four house addition; a new transportation facility, school buses and technology improvements; and developing and improving playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities.

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the administrative offices of Northville Public Schools, 502 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167, 248-349-0400.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

Online Mail-in voter registration applications may be obtained by visiting the city website at www.ci.novi.mi.us and click on forms, then click on Voter Registration Form.

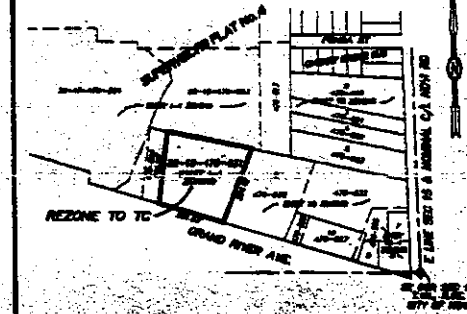
By Mail: By obtaining and completing a Mail-In Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the Election official listed below by the close of registration deadline, APRIL 4, 2005 or contacting: Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275 (248) 347-0456

Note: Persons who register to vote by mail are required to vote the first time in person unless they have previously voted in person in the City of Novi. They are at least 60 years of age or are physically unable to attend the polls.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

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OPINION

www.novnews.com

Novi News

Cal Stone
EDITOR

Graco Porax Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Perlberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Parthoff
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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

WHERE WE STAND

Wixom Assembly Plant: What will Ford decide on Monday?

As this publication was heading to the press, an automotive production analyst (Catherine Menden) at the Mass-based research firm Global Insight Inc. predicted the Ford Wixom plant will get a reprieve and remain open.

We, along with everyone else in this state, hope she's right. Ford is to unveil its restructuring plan, Way Forward, on Monday. A number of other plants - St. Louis, St. Paul, Atlanta, Mexico and Ontario - are in the crosshairs as well as the automaker tries to bring its efficiency percentage to survive and thrive levels.

It appears Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Wixom officials have made a strong case for Ford to keep the local plant - its largest in North America - operating. That would be great news for the nearly 1,000 workers who are down to just one shift producing the Lincoln LS and Towncar.

In 1991, the plant was the first North American assembly plant to win the Q1 Award for quality, and at one time it boasted 5,000 workers.

In four days, we'll all know whether the Wixom Assembly Plant will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2007. Keep your fingers crossed.

It's time to thank city's manager

One of my best friends, Dana Foster, is the city manager in Brighton. I ride him, and make him buy the drinks, because he makes a whole lot more than me. But, in all honesty, it's a job I wouldn't want.

Novi has been fortunate in that it has had a really fine city manager the last five years in Richard Helwig. He'll be retiring Feb. 3, and the community is invited to a reception honoring Rick from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday in the atrium of the Novi Civic Center.

If you need a refresher on what he's done for Novi, just read last week's front page story.

A former Mayor Lou Gossett gave me a pin of the Novi Special, the famous 1950s race car that hailed from Novi. Cub Scouts from Pack 746, Den 10, each got one of the city council meeting Jan. 9. The Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting and also got to shake hands with each council member. Nice.

In recognition of the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan is holding blood drives. For Novi residents, the closest locale is the Farmington Hills Donor Center at 31150 Hungate Road. You can give blood 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday and next Saturday, and 1-7 p.m. on Monday and next Thursday.

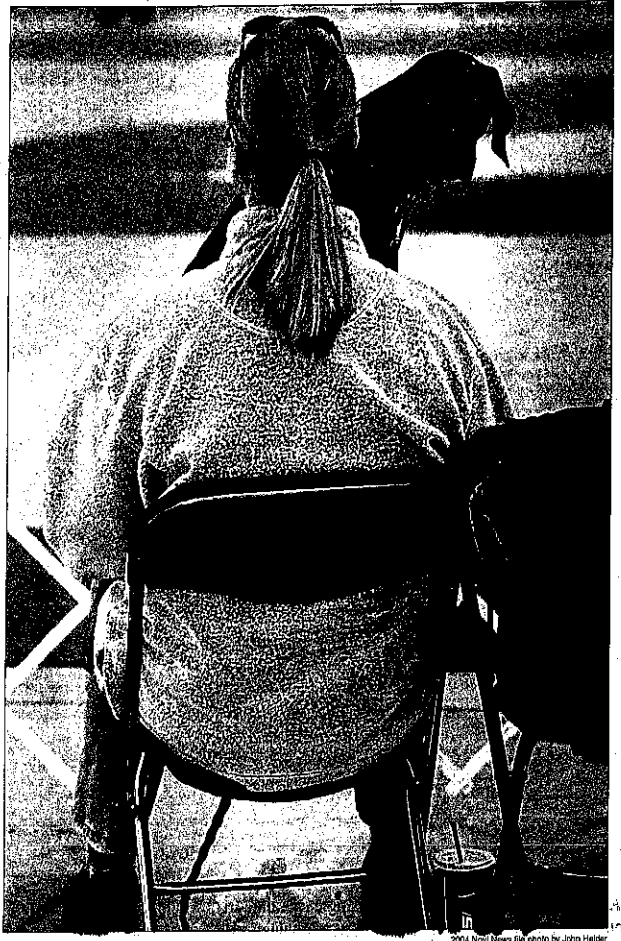
Our state is facing major financial challenges, but Nancy Cassia is doing her part to help out. During her years as a state representative and now as a state senator, she has returned more than \$150,000 in unused office expenses. There's nothing but pride when you tell people that Nancy gets her home.

Lastly, I've had some rough gigs in my 20 years as a guitarist and bassist, but Throd McCotter has me beat. The U.S. representative from Livonia is the guitarist for the blues-based Second Amendments, who did a whirlwind holiday tour for the troops in Iraq. During the last leg of their trip, a mortar attack hit right before the band took the stage at Balad Air Base. Thankfully, no one was injured.

Five mortar rounds before a gig is like playing a biker bar on the east side," joked McCotter.

If that's the case, I'll stick to playing around Brighton.

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail at cstone@gannett.com.



Waiting for the word
Vizela "Kelly" has a seat with her owner Rita Chavez as they both await the judging of the sporting breeds during the 2004 dog show at the Novi Expo Center. This year's Metropolitan Kennel Club Dog Show will be at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi Friday, Jan. 20 through Sunday, Jan. 22.

LETTERS

Problems with Alito

The appointment of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court is troubling in many ways. What is of highest concern is his deferring to those in authority.

The Supreme Court must restrain a president when that president grants too much power, as in warring without first obtaining a warrant. It appears that Alito would grant immunization to federal officials who take part in this.

Also, Alito has written advisory memos to then-President Reagan on how to increase executive power. Alito appears to believe that this increase of presidential power is preferable to the checks and balances of our present system.

In another of his rulings Alito denied the ban on machine gun sales that Congress was trying to impose. These leanings of Alito

need to be addressed before Congress votes to confirm.

Doreen Lawlor

Community comes through for Scouts

In December, the Cub Scouts of Pack 240 from Orchard Hills Elementary asked for "community" support to accomplish their annual community service project, and boy did they get it! Our goal was to collect gently used books and movies and sample size toiletry items from Orchard Hill's families and local businesses.

In addition to the support received from Orchard Hills, we would also like to thank the following companies for their generous

donations: DoubleTree Hotel; IMG Dentistry; Goldstein Dental Group; Old Orchard Pediatric Dentistry; Spillane & Reynolds Orthodontics

Using the donated supplies, our scouts assembled 125 personal hygiene kits, bagged 30 pounds of laundry detergent into single use packages and sorted books and movies. These items were delivered to the Detroit Rescue Mission, which on an average day houses 800 to 1,000 people and serves 2,500 to 3,000 meals. In addition, a box of bookshelves was also donated to the Emergency Room at Providence Hospital.

Thank you, Novi, for contributions to this successful project.

Lindsay Tacklenburg & Theresa McClure
Community Service Coordinators
Cub Scout Pack 240, Orchard Hills Elementary

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. **Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 **E-mail:** cstone@gannett.com **Fax to:** (248) 349-8832

Facing a Super dilemma: Should I sell or should I go?

Here it comes! The big game is less than a month away!
Do you know what you're doing for the Super Bowl? I don't.

See, I was fortunate enough to land myself a ticket. Being an avid sports fan, I'm thrilled at the chance to go. It's right in our backyard in one of the most beautiful facilities the fair city of Detroit has to boast. For those who've been to Ford Field, you know what I'm talking about.

The Super Bowl coming to Detroit signifies that at least members of the National Football League and Major League Baseball, who held their All-Star Game at Comerica Park last summer, both recognize what a great city we've got here. Sure, it may be a little rough around the edges, but heck, I'm proud of it.



Ramez Khuri

Any time we can showcase Detroit to the world in a positive light, it gives me a great thrill, and being a part of it all would make me the happiest little reporter in Novi.

But I know that ticket is worth a lot more than what I paid for it. And I'm pretty sure I can get enough to wipe out at least one of my credit cards if I sell it. That's my dilemma.

Should I go down the same path that former Minnesota Vikings Coach Mike Tice did and scalp the ticket? Or, should I go to the game, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to see arguably the biggest sporting event the city has ever hosted? It's kind of a tough decision. It doesn't look like our Lions will be playing in the Super Bowl any time soon. This may be the closest I'll ever get to it.

I should be careful here. I'm talking about breaking the law in a public newspaper. Just hope Novi Police Chief David Molloy isn't paying attention.

As we start 2006, I see some major changes taking place in the near future. I'm worried that if I go to the game, I'll regret it because I may need the extra money for an emergency. Then again, I may not need the cash. I'm sure that as time draws near to Sunday, Feb. 5, the answer will come to me. It better, or I'll really be in trouble. It's funny though, that something as simple as a football game can make seemingly easy decisions into really tough, or in some cases, even life-altering ones.

What do you think? I'm open to suggestions.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.

COMMENTARY

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com

Do lobbyists lead to bribery?

There are three things to say about the Jack Abramoff corruption case that is convulsing Washington ...

First, despite all the various bribery and influence peddling scandals that infect our political system, this one isn't small beer. "People down here are scared stiff and running for the hills," one congressional staffer told me. Other sources say as many as 60 representatives and scores of staffers could ultimately be involved.

Abramoff has now pleaded guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy, and the word is that he is singing like a canary. If the extent of this is as great as feared, this could become the biggest scandal to engulf the Congress in more than a generation.

That's not surprising given how powerful and pervasive the system has become. The originator was now-deposed (and privately hugely despised) House Majority Leader, Tom DeLay, R-Tex.

He originated the "K Street Project," a system in which lobbying firms (whose offices are largely located on Washington's K Street) were told they had to "pay to play," i.e. contribute to Republican causes and hire ex-Republican staffers in order to get access to lawmakers to make sure legislation was written their way.

Evidently, day-to-day tactics featured a close link between DeLay's work to round up votes in the House with lobbyist Abramoff's access to money and perks. When DeLay found he needed to grease the pitch for a tough bill, he'd call Abramoff and — lo and behold! — the target member would score a Super Bowl ticket or a trip to Vegas.

Second, although the Michigan Legislature certainly is second to none in its partisanship and demonstrated ineffectuality, today's atmosphere in Lansing is not as corrupt as in Washington ... not quite.

A now-legendary story around Lansing has it that a certain former Speaker of the House once shouted across the room at a lobbyist, "Hey! I got your bill passed! Now where's my money?"

He may have been only kidding, but jaws dropped at the embarrassingly explicit — and public — linkage between dough and law. Do not delude yourself that ethical standards prevailing in Lansing are more saintly than in Washington. Lansing's a much smaller town and therefore there's less money at stake.

Moreover, Michigan's governor has a line-item veto over appropriation items; if lobbyists can't sneak expensive "markets" — legislatively required appropriation items, i.e. "pork" — into bills, a big motivation for corrupt pay-to-play has disappeared.

But aggressive lobbying and the equally aggressive and reciprocal pursuit of campaign contributions by Michigan legislators keep raising real questions about the integrity of the entire process.

"Fund raising has become a 24/7 exercise," one Lansing lobbyist told me, "and both the politicians and the lobbyists find it's a real pain."

Part of the problem is the inevitable dynamic of a term-limited legislature, where newly elected lawmakers start raising money to run for higher or some other office just as soon as they're sworn in.

So it's no surprise that as of last October, according to the Michigan Campaign Finance Network in Lansing, the state's top 150 political action committees had already raised a third more money for this year's elections than at the same time before the 2004 vote.

Third, Michigan's seemingly tight bribery statute reveals a fuzzy area between bribery a criminal offense, requiring explicit agreement that money is being paid in exchange for a vote or an action, and mere influence peddling, mostly via campaign contributions. Much of the time, special interest groups contribute to legislators who are predisposed to agree with them. That's OK.

But sometimes, a "contribution" — plus a wink, a nod and a vote comes awfully close to something criminal.

That's why a paragraph from The New York Times on Fairfax Abramoff raised so many eyebrows in Lansing. "There's a lot of talk coming out of various quarters that the Justice Department is going to pursue a different definition of bribery, meaning that if somebody were to give a gift or a campaign contribution in the same time period as a member took an official action, that in and of itself would constitute bribery. ... That sure scares the bejesus out of people."

Most people out of whom the bejesus is being scared won't have heard of the famous 18th century Scottish philosopher, David Hume. Too bad. In a classic piece of analysis about what it really means to say that something "causes" another, Hume argued that the key issue was something he called "constant conjunction."

That is, if A is always and everywhere followed by B, it's conclusive to assert that A caused B. If a campaign contribution always and everywhere is followed by a specific vote ... well, the contribution caused the vote. And that's bribery, in Hume's analysis.

Alas, most insiders I talked with said they thought neither the Justice Department nor the Michigan Attorney General's office would move in Hume's direction. And virtually everybody thinks that as long as elections are as expensive as they have become, there is no way scandals like Abramoff's won't keep cropping up from time to time.

One possible reform is to outlaw fund raising during legislative sessions. Fine, but what about post-dated checks? Another is to require daily public reporting of lobbying contacts and campaign contributions. That way, although we might well be corrupted, at least we'd know about it right away.

A better system is to have public financing for elections, the way most industrial democracies in Europe do it. Of course, who in Lansing would want to vote for public funds in the public interest ... if that shuts down their local and parochial money tree?

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@novnews.com.



Phil Power

Thursday, January 13, 2006 NOV NEWS 17A

Northville Presbyterian Preschool

OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 21, 2006
10:30 - NOON
200 E. MAIN STREET NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

2's class:	Monday	8:00-10:30 am (with parent)
	Wednesday	8:00-10:30 am (with parent)
3's class:	Tues/Thurs	8:00 - 11:30 am
	Tues/Thurs	10:30 - 12:00 pm
	Mon/Wed/Fri	12:00 - 3:00 pm
4's class:	Mon/Wed/Fri	8:00 - 11:30 am
	Mon/Wed/Fri	9:00 - 12:00 pm
	Mon/Wed/Fri	12:00 - 3:00 pm
Young Fives:	MTWTF	8:45 - 12:15 pm

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FAITH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 340-1700 ext. 113 • stone@nvn.com www.novinox.com fax: 248-340-9872

CHURCH CALENDAR

Meadowbrook Congregational Church invites everyone to attend a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m.
The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)
Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children

ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m.
Worship Service of Communion is held at 8:30 p.m. (Ages 13-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. Youth Worship Service is held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.
Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchoftheholycross.com.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at either the 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services. Adult Sunday school is offered at 9 a.m. Sunday school and nursery care is available at both services.

Dr. Henderson will be teaching an Amos and Hosea class on Tuesday's at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Cost for the book and class is \$19. Everyone is welcome.
Women's Bible Study, led by Jan Martin, is the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Zacchaeus Retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes at noon Sunday.
The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345, or visit www.fairfaith-community-novi.org.

The Holy Family Church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-8947 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

Oak Pointe Church service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday. Visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043. The church meets at Novi High School.

St. James Catholic Church is located at 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

First United Methodist Church of Northville will be hosting a community-wide healing service, called Prayers for Healing of Body, Mind, Relationship and Spirit on the first Monday of each month. This service of hope is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in their life, or that of someone they hold dear. Church worship

hour schedules are as follows: 8:515 and 11 a.m. on Sundays. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Tall Road), Northville. Phone (248) 340-1144, or visit www.lumennoiville.org.

St. John Lutheran Church is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Saturday service begins at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday traditional services are at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday contemporary service begins at 9:50 a.m. and Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. Nursery is provided.
Call (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-luthernan.com for more information.

Crosspointe Meadows Church meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School.

Services are at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Fresh brewed hot coffee is available from 10-10:30 a.m. The church also has children's programs for all ages and a nursery available.
The church is located at 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of 13 Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-2700 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or www.crosspointemeadows.org.

The Novi United Methodist Church is located at 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovi.com for more information.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

Floors To Your Door



By: Mike Riley

The 'High-5s' of Carpet Installation

Quality installation is critical to the performance of your carpet, so be sure your retailer employs professional installers (preferably those who are certified to install the product you've selected) who can address the five items leading to a high quality installation:

1. Let experienced professionals measure. They know how to get the maximum out of every yard and save you money.
 2. Determine that the sub-floor is smooth and free of dirt, dust and moisture.
 3. Advise your retailer to avoid seams in heavy traffic. If that's not possible, ask for a carpet style or design that minimizes visibility. Depending on the carpet manufacturer, the problem might be resolved by selecting a carpet available in 15-foot widths.
 4. Ask for advice on the best installation method for your home, such as cushion, tackless, or direct glue down. (If you remove the old carpet and pad, leave the tack strip down.)
 5. After installation, be sure your installer cleans up and inspects the job with you to make sure it's to your satisfaction.
- If not, contact the retailer because a successful installation is his responsibility.

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Say ya to do U.P., eh?
The Novi Wildcats hockey team took their fifth trip to the Upper Peninsula in as many years two weeks ago. They didn't have the success they hoped for, but it was a great time nonetheless.
— Page 3B



Diving right in
Chris Alberty isn't shy. He's bold and he's ready to set some records. Of course, he'll have to outdo some of the best divers ever at Novi High School — his brothers.
— Page 4B



SPORTS

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Thursday, January 19, 2006

NOVI NEWS, PAGE 11

CHASING THE SCHOLARSHIP DREAMS

■ Some student-athletes get the coveted college offer, others keep trying

By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

It's a wish. A hope. A dream. Just imagine, a scholarship to pay for a college education just for playing sports. Lots of kids pray for them. Few get them.

According to Jack Renkens, of Recruiting Realities in Scottsdale, Ariz., only 0.8 percent of high school student-athletes receive a fully-funded Division I scholarship — fewer than one out of 100.

"It's not easy," said Northville basketball coach Darrel Schanauer, who is also a former head football coach. "As a coach, it's hard to tell parents why their son or daughter isn't getting a scholarship. It's not my job to be able to say they're a scholarship athlete. If it was up to me, everyone of these kids would get one."

But it's not up to a high school coach. It's not even up to the athlete who pushes themselves to the limit every day.

It's up to the college coaching staffs.

All a student-athlete can do is their best and hope it gets them enough attention.

On scholarship

Matt Williams took a deep breath as he sat down with his friends and family to sign his national letter of intent to play baseball at Duke University last year. He could hardly believe it wasn't a dream.

The 2005 Northville graduate had worked his entire life for the moment he was living. Pen in hand, he scribbled his name on the official document.

Williams has since moved to Durham, N.C., gone through a semester of school with a 3.95 grade-point average and had a strong showing during fall baseball. He hopes to earn playing time this spring.

It's a whole new world for Williams, who attends Duke on a 75-percent athletic scholarship.

He's not complaining though. It's better than trying to decide on a college.

As a highly-recruited catcher, Williams found letters streaming in from colleges he had never even heard of. The phone rang constantly. Students and teachers at school asked him where he was going to play.

"It was extremely stressful at times," Williams said. "People are constantly contacting you and you're trying not to tell anyone 'no' because you want to keep your options open. It's probably the biggest decision of your life at that point."

It wasn't just which school to attend that had Williams worrying. He didn't want to upset anyone by picking the wrong institution.

In the end, he said the stress was worth it, though he wouldn't want to go through it again.

Williams has found there are plenty of perks to being a scholarship athlete. He has access to a student-athletes center with free tutors and resources. He has his own academic advisor and now and then he even gets a little leeway on assignments because professors know he has to be away for sports.

But it's not just academically rewarding.

This spring, Williams will get his baseball equipment and the university will provide sports apparel for him to wear.

"It's really nice," he said. "All I have to do is keep performing, improving and



Mustang Evan Duey lifts weights in the school's conditioning room. Duey has a scholarship offer from Findlay in Ohio, but is keeping his options open as he visits other Division II colleges.

working hard."

Though Williams went to Duke in the best shape of his life, he said he wasn't quite ready for the workouts they had planned for him.

"It's a completely different level," he said. "I was in pretty decent shape when I came down here, or so I thought. The workouts actually kicked all of our butts. It was definitely another level of conditioning."

Not to mention the amount of time he has to give the program. He leaves his home at 7 a.m. and doesn't get back until around 8 p.m. due to school and baseball.

In spring, a 56-game schedule will keep him even busier.

Verbally committed

Sometimes, the dice just roll perfectly.

Novi-junior Stephanie Crawford is all smiles when she talks about winning last year's girls soccer state championship with her fellow Wildcats. It was one of the greatest moments of her life.

And then it got better.

On a visit to the University of Michigan, where her brother Michael attends, Crawford was offered a full-ride scholarship to play soccer for the Wolverines.

Following a quick conversation with her parents, Crawford was verbally committed to U-M.

"People are constantly contacting you and you're trying not to tell anyone 'no' because you want to keep your options open. It's probably the biggest decision of your life at that point."

Matt Williams
2005 Northville Graduate
On Scholarship To Play Baseball At Duke University

But that doesn't mean it's going to be any easier on the soccer pitch.

"You have to keep working hard even though you have a scholarship," she said. "I can't just drop down or the Michigan coaches will think I'm not pulling my weight."

"They pulled all of that weight to get me to their school and I'm going to do well in return."

One state championship down, the possibility of a couple more ahead of

her.

"I was actually just talking about that in school," she said. "There's a boy on the (Novi) soccer team and I always tease him about how we won states. He said 'At least you got three rings. Hopefully, we can.'"

Getting a full-ride as a sophomore was a big step for Crawford, who said she still has work to do. It's one thing to be committed and it's another to be ready for the next level.

"I've got to keep pushing myself and working as hard as I can," she said. "I want to be better than I am now when I get to college."

Not interested

Megan Miller just wants to have fun. The standout senior volleyball player, who plays middle blocker for the Novi Wildcats, isn't interested in letting other people decide what she should do and when she should do it.

"That's one of the reasons she's not pursuing a collegiate career."

"I've talked to some colleges," she said. "A Division I school in South Carolina and another school in Virginia. But I've kind of opted not to play."

She'd rather focus on earning a college degree.

She's not playing in Amateur Athletic Union competition this year and she's

continued on 4B

Emma Platt not deterred easily

■ Novi High Wild 'Stangs gymnast takes injuries in stride

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Emma Platt came off the parallel bars with a front-flip dismount and prepared to land.

For a split instant the then-freshman gymnast lost her bearing. Up or down? A split second later she landed, head first, on the mat.

"At first I thought I was paralyzed," said Platt, who is now a senior. "My coach ran over and told me not to move."

She did as she was told, staying perfectly still as her coach checked to make sure she was OK. He waited a few more minutes and then asked her to see if she could get up slowly.

She did and led the injury. Her emotions ranged from scared to angry.

"I said I was quitting and I was done," Platt said. "I told them I wasn't going back."

Two days later, I was back in the gym."

Platt never really overcame that moment. She still practices on the bars, but she doesn't always compete on them and she never attempts the same routine that sent her crashing to the ground three years ago.

Instead, she focuses on the vault and floor events.

The Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs gymnastics captain didn't let the accident stop her from performing and the squad is better because of it.

In 2004 and 2005, Platt qualified for the individual state finals on the vault. She also helped lead her team to a sixth- and seventh-place finish in those years, respectively.

"Emma is a very focused, very calm competitor," said coach Erin McWatt. "She's not easily rattled. No matter what the outcome in competition, she's a very positive person."

Painful performance

For Platt, every performance and every practice is enough to bring tears to her eyes.

Shin splints and a very banged-up ankle keep her from being 100 percent at any given competition, but she doesn't let it slow her down. She wraps the ailing ankle in tape and bites her lip when it comes to the burning pain in her shins.

"I do the least amount of tumbling I can," Platt said. "It hurts really bad at times."

Each and every performance by Platt is a gritty one, which is one of the reasons she makes an outstanding captain, said McWatt.

Her leadership and her skill make her an invaluable part of the program.

"I've coached her for this being our third year together and during that time she's definitely had her fair share of injuries," McWatt said. "She's plagued by pain in her shins daily, but she doesn't let that stop her from doing what she loves."

During practice, McWatt said,

continued on 4B

By the numbers	14	138.75	34.85	9.35	34.65	8.8	34.2
	Total members on this year's Wild Stangs apparatus C team	Score the Wild Stangs earned in a loss against Canton last week	All-around score tallied by senior Sarah Richard. Point: 9.15 came from the bars	Captain Rachel Bennett's score with her floor routine against Canton	Julie Louche's all-around score for Novi Northville, with a 9.07 on bars	Novi senior Emma Platt's score on the vault, her specialty event	The all-around score awarded to Jackie Garbino by the judges last week

Shamrocks end Trenton's undefeated streak, 3-1

Two top-ranked high school teams met at Commerce Arena last Saturday and, as expected, both teams played worthy of their rankings.

But when the final buzzer sounded, Catholic Central spoiled Trenton's undefeated season by beating them 3-1.

In the first period Catholic Central controlled the play and missed out on several scoring opportunities but could not finish. Trenton tried to slow down Catholic Central by using some heavy checking but were outshot, 11-4, in the first period. Both teams skated off the ice villain lining the back of the net.

In the second period junior Jeremy Christopher opened the scoring for Catholic Central when he took a nice cross-ice pass from Jeff Scheiner and Jeff LaRoy on a 3-out-2 break and went top shelf over the sprawling Trenton goalie, Danny Pesta.

Trenton came on late in the second period and put a lot of pressure on Shamrock net minder Ross Tashtian but Tashtian made some great saves on some point-blank shots to keep the Shamrocks within two goals of play.

In the third period, both teams were skating and hitting hard and both teams missed some great scoring chances only to be stopped by outstanding goaltending.

Finally, midway through the period, senior Nick Kroll took a rille pass from Dan Naurato and Tim Buttery then sniped a low shot

through the Trenton goalie's fire-hole for the score.

Trenton refused to go away, despite being down 2-0. Trenton regrouped and scored when a shot from Andrew Wagner hit a Catholic Central defenseman's skate then ricocheted off of the ice and went high over the Shamrocks' goalie for the score.

The game was a nail biter until with forty-six seconds left in the game Shamrock Junior Forward Clint Wilhelm knocked a rebound home for the score to seal the Catholic Central victory.

Catholic Central improved their record to 10-2-1 and is currently ranked first in the state's top division. Trenton fell to 12-1-0.

Shamrocks tie Cranbrook

Only one thing can happen when Detroit Catholic Central and Cranbrook get together and play hockey, a great game breaks out. The top-ranked division III Cranrocks and the division I first-ranked Shamrocks faced off for the first time this season and the fireworks started quickly.

"It was a nightmare start but I told the team they would have to slug it out and work hard to get back on the ice," said Catholic Central coach Todd Johnson. "That would be hard to do against a well-coached team."

Cranbrook scored when Alex Mies got around the Catholic Central defense and flipped it past Tashtian. Just 36 seconds later the Cranes were at it again. This time

Andrew Miller caught the Catholic Central defense again and stunned the Shamrocks to take a 2-0 lead.

Shamrocks forward Don Baerzuk got the Shamrocks back in the game when he sniped a goal past the Cranes goalie Ryan McClure of 7:40 in the first before the Cranes bounced back and scored with 3:23 left in the period when Sean Colton scored to take a Cranes 3-1 lead into the locker room.

The second period saw a lot of up and down action but very little scoring. The Shamrocks scored the only goal of the period on the powerplay when Jeremy Christopher scored in a goal scramble in front of the net to make it a 3-2 contest.

In the third, Catholic Central played with some desperation and out shot the Cranbrook Cranes as they controlled the game but still could not find the back of the net. Cranbrook net minder Ryan McClure and Catholic Central's Tashtian made some impressive saves during the period to keep both clubs in the game.

With only 1:09 left in the game Catholic Central pulled their goalie to bring the puck on the ice. The Shamrocks managed to set up in the offensive end and senior captain Tim Buttery took a wide angle shot that some how eluded the Cranes goalie for the game-tying goal.

The two teams skated in an eight-minute over time but neither could manage to score and the game ended in a 3-3 tie.



Well done, Wolves!

Several local soccer players playing for the highly ranked Michigan Wolves/Hawks Soccer Club were crowned champions of the prestigious 2005 Disney Showcase Classic Dec. 30, 2005. Novi's Nathan Robinson, Mike Ujick and Cortland White along with Northville's Jeff Chozik and Masato Moroka played along side other soccer players from Canton, Plymouth, Lansing, and Grand Rapids in Orlando, Fla. during their Christmas break. In route to an undefeated run to the championship game, they overpowered the returning champion Charlotte Soccer Club from North Carolina as well as teams from Texas, Connecticut, and Virginia. The championship was a hard fought game against the nationally ranked Solar 90 out of Texas. Regulation ended in a 2-2 tie with both Wolves' goals being scored from headers, including one from Northville's Jeff Chozik. The first overtime ended with the same 2-2 score. In the second overtime both teams scored with the Wolves scoring in the final thirty seconds to force a penalty shootout. The first four penalty shots by both teams beat the goalie, but a fantastic stop of the Solar's fifth penalty by the Wolves' goalie opened a window of opportunity for Novi's Nathan Robinson to seal the victory for the Michigan Wolves with a rocket to the left side of the goal.

Novi cagers stay unbeaten in KVC with win over Howell

It wasn't a horrible week for the Novi Wildcats basketball team despite losing their first game to Northville in seven years.

The team, which lost to Northville 47-37 last Tuesday, managed an important 49-42 victory over the Howell Highlanders in Kensington Valley Conference play.

The Wildcats took an early 10-0 lead but started to stumble as the game continued. Howell edged closer, 14-9, just a few minutes into the second quarter but the Wildcats pushed on, scoring six unanswered points for a 24-9 lead midway through the stanza. By the end of the quarter, Novi led 25-16.

Howell stuck around in the second half, kept pushing ahead, leading 42-34 despite a foul and rancorous Howell home crowd.

In the final quarter, the

Wildcats nearly tripped at Howell increased the defensive pressure and cut the lead to 44-42 before a few exchanges of the ball led to a lay-up by Steve Hart with just 20 seconds left to close the game.

Novi climbed to 3-4 on the season, but holds first place in the KVC with a 2-0 mark.

Gymnasts drop close contest

The Wild Stangs gymnastics team couldn't get by the strong Canton competition last week and fell, 141.85-138.75.

The Mustangs improved their overall score from the "week prior, but couldn't get enough points from the judges to edge their endurance foes.

Leading the way for the Wild Stangs was Sarah Ikhram-Four who scored 34.85 points overall

with a strong showing on the bars with a 9.15. Not far behind was Julie Feacher, scoring 34.65 overall while earning a 9.05 with her floor exercise.

Jessica Gizezette scored a 34.2 overall.

On individual events, Rachel Deenac scored a 9.35 with her

floor routine while Emma Platt had a strong 8.8 score on the vault.

The Northville-Novu gymnastics team will face Brighton today at 7 p.m. at Northville High School. They will compete in the Farmington Invitational Saturday.

Wrestlers win

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team earned a big KVC victory over the Puckney Pirates Jan. 11 with a 50-23 decision.

Earning pins in the match were Justin Pullia, Nic Lichorovich, John Favorite and

Ryan Ridnow. Earning decisions were AJ Vethohottam, Jeremy Youse, Derek McClelland and Dan Sprys. Robbie Yucko won by spoid.

Novi is now 5-1 on the season in dual meets.

Compiled by Sam Eggleston



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TO ... and back again eh?

Novi makes fifth trip to Upper Peninsula to play in KVC-Keweenaw classic

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Dan Phelps stepped off the charter bus in St. Ignace and stretched. The Novi hockey coach was five hours away from home, at a gas station across a bridge and an entire peninsula away.

It was the fifth time he had made the trek to the Upper Peninsula to treat his Wildcats to a weekend of hockey. Five hours down, typically another four left ahead of them.

The Wildcats had kept themselves busy watching movies on personal-size DVD players, listening to music, doing school work and playing cards. They stopped once before in Gaylord to grab a bite to eat. An hour and a half later they were feeling the bus and stretching their legs at a gas station just north of the Mackinac Bridge.

That's where they ran into some of the Upper Peninsula's signature winter conditions.

"Once we got to the bridge, we ran into some bad weather," Phelps said of the first leg of his team's journey Jan. 4. "It was icy and a little snowy and with a bus the travel took a little longer than expected."

Instead of pulling into Houghton at 1:30 a.m. as planned, the Wildcats weren't at their destination until 3 a.m.

Splitted tiredly and drained of energy, the Novi players stumbled to their rooms, carrying their equipment bags and dumped themselves into beds. Most had caught a couple hours of sleep on the bus. Those who didn't were most likely regretting it.



Photo by MARK HICKS/WESTSIDE PHOTO

Dan Phelps, the coach of the Novi hockey team, made his fifth trip to the U.P. to participate in the KVC-Keweenaw Classic.

Day one: Into the cold, dark ground

At 8:30 a.m. Jan. 5, the Novi Wildcats grained as they pulled themselves out of bed. Sleeping on a bus hadn't been the best way to get a good night's sleep and five hours in a semi-comfortable bed was just a treat.

But, the Wildcats had things to do, places to see.

"We ate breakfast in the hotel in a banquet room they had set aside for us where we ate all of our meals," Phelps said. "After breakfast concluded, the guys went back to their rooms and tidied up."

At 10:15, the Wildcats made the block trek to Deere Stadium, one of the oldest operating ice rinks in Michigan. There, they skated for over an hour on an abbreviated practice before grabbing a bite to eat at the local Subway and then loaded onto the bus at 2:30 p.m.

A quick drive and the players stepped off the bus and into the world of copper mining—the work that helped define the Keweenaw Peninsula where, Houghton, Hancock and Calumet are situated.

"We went on a full tour of the Quincy Mine," said Phelps. "That was a very interesting experience."

The tour came just days after a coal mine collapse in West Virginia killed 12 men and hospitalized another. A television crew was on hand doing a story about the Quincy Mine and the dangers of mining.

Phelps said he and his team weren't worried about the structures. "That was a coal mine and the Quincy is a copper mine," he said. "The structures are totally different."

The experience was an educational one for the Wildcats, who learned about the way the copper was mined, what it's used for and how it helped create an economical boom in the Calumet area, pushing the population to nearly 70,000 at one time, down to around 8,000 now.

After returning to the hotel, the players had it all under at 8:30 p.m. and were left to their own devices such as movies, cards and swimming until 10 p.m. Then, it was lights out.

Day two: Copper Kings role

The next day started early with a continental breakfast and a skate at Michigan Tech University's arena. There, the Wildcats warmed up for about an hour before surrendering the ice to Tech's Division I hockey program, the Huskies.

The players browsed the university book store, bought some T-shirts and looked over some of Tech's nostalgia hang in the halls.

The squad grabbed a 3 p.m. pre-game meal, took some prep time in their rooms and then jumped on the bus for the quick ride out U.S. 41 to Calumet's Armory Arena.

It was a game the Wildcats wouldn't soon forget, despite being on the wrong end of it.

Calumet skated out and took a 6-3 victory despite being out shot 40-25.

Novi had some bright moments, including Steve Rousseau's two goals and an assist, while Tom Ciavarella added a goal and an assist of his own. Ryan Timar had two assists.

"It was a disappointing loss with an empty net," Phelps said. "When you go up north you hope your play cleaves. Sometimes, you just run into the same problems you've been trying to overcome all year."

Calumet had a quick lead, 2-1, after one period and then went up 4-2 to end the second. It wasn't until the third the Copper Kings broke it open, adding two goals to Novi's one.

"I made the journey up hill, besides being up 4-1, a little tougher," Phelps said.

"Though Phelps said Calumet wasn't as strong as they have traditionally been in years past, he said they game out playing 100 percent, showing grit, attitude and effort.

He said they played proudly for their school.

"They bleed every game for the colors on their jerseys," said Phelps.

It was a quiet ride back to the hotel where the players had a traditional post-game pizza and hit the sack at 11:30 p.m.

Day three: All tied up

The Wildcats climbed out of bed at 8 a.m. Jan. 7 and ate a full breakfast before scrambling for their team meeting, followed by 60 minutes of study hall and a half hour of prep time.

At 12:15, they shuffled off to Hancock, Houghton's sister town, and took on the Hancock Bulldogs in a 2-



Photo by MARK HICKS/WESTSIDE PHOTO
Captain Tom Ciavarella had his fair share of points in the Upper Peninsula tournament.



Novi Wildcats

The Novi Wildcats became closer as a team and as friends throughout their trip to the Upper Peninsula.

game.

In the stands were some familiar Bulldogs, these ones, hailing from Brighton as they, too, played Hancock and Calumet over the same weekend.

In an annual tradition, the Brighton players cheered Novi on, who returned the favor during that night's Bulldog-Copper King showdown.

But the cheering from their usual rivals didn't make enough of a difference, though Novi did earn a stalemate with a 2-2 tie.

"We had a little bit of penalty trouble, some that wasn't totally warranted," Phelps said. "That's how the game is played though. Sometimes it's a little territorial, you could say. We took it and we kept playing."

The Wildcats put two goals on the board, one from Ciavarella on an assist from Rousseau and the second on a Shamus Finerty play, unassisted.

Phelps said though he thought his team was deeper, Hancock put two goals on the board, one from Ciavarella on an assist from Rousseau and the second on a Shamus Finerty play, unassisted.

"We came out of their with a point (on the season)," Phelps said. "The whole day wasn't a loss."

"We walked out of both of those games with our heads held high. I'm proud of these kids. We didn't come up with what we wanted, but we can look beyond that."

The Wildcats returned to the hotel, ate a post-game meal consisting of turkey, stuffing, pasta and deserts among other things before heading back to the Armory to cheer Brighton to victory.

Novi also began a tradition by handing out T-shirts to their opponents, reading the KVC-Keweenaw Hockey Series with the names of the teams and the year played on them.

By 11:30 p.m., the Novi players were sound asleep once again.

The return home

The bus back to Novi departed Houghton at 7:30 a.m. and made it's first stop outside of the Upper Peninsula's biggest town, Marquette, for breakfast. It didn't stop again until it was well in the Lower Peninsula when the Wildcats hit West Branch for a bite to eat around 4 p.m.

"I want to commend the kids," Phelps said. "We didn't go up there and succeed athletically and competitively as we had wanted to, but we succeeded in other ways. Everyone from the bus driver to the hotel people to the staff in the arenas commented on how very well mannered and polite the kids were."

"They represented our school colors and the people of our high school well. When I look at it as a coach, it was definitely an extremely successful trip."

The Wildcats arrived back home at 6:30 p.m. and headed off to bed. The following day they went back to school, practice and homework.

"This year's trip didn't prove fruitful in terms as what but there's always next year. Novi has been invited back and has scheduled their sixth-straight trip to the Upper Peninsula for next year."

"We're looking forward to that," said Phelps. "I'm sure it's going to be a great trip."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at eggleston@questtel.com.



Chris McGuire, making the tackle, is hoping to get some help paying for college by playing football.

Show me the money

Local standouts vie for athletic scholarships to help pay for college

continued from 1B

But I've kind of opted not to play."

She'd rather focus on earning a college degree. She's not playing in Amateur Athletic Union competition this year and she's not letting herself be wooed by any college coaches.

"This is my senior year and you only live this year once," Miller said. "I want to have fun."

The idea of playing college sports was intriguing when she

was younger, but as Miller realized the true commitment and time dedicated at that level she changed her mind.

At that level, she said, it's not so much about fun as it is winning, losing and being immersed in the sport.

"The thing about college volleyball is they basically own you," she said. "You don't have much life outside of school and volleyball. I want to have fun in college and I want to have the college life most people live."

Miller said she's still planning



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Novi's Stephanie Crawford will go from playing soccer for the Novi Wildcats to the University of Michigan Wolverines. She verbally committed to a full ride as a sophomore last spring.

Still trying

Chris McGuire loves football. But, so far, love hasn't earned him any scholarships.

The Northville senior was a standout player, earning All-Area status as a captain who led the team on offense, defense and special teams, even setting two school records.

He squatted 325 when he was at the top of his game, hitting

225 now as he recovers from a dinged-up knee. On the bench, he hits about 225, though in-season was pushing 30 more pounds.

So far he's talked to a slew of colleges, with Saginaw Valley State, Northwood and Adrian leading the pack as some of his first choices.

"I really want to play," McGuire said. "I'd love to get a scholarship and I'd love to keep playing."

It's not a dilemma Evan Ducey faces. The senior Northville standout lineman has his scholarship in hand. At just about six-and-a-half feet tall and weighing in at 268 pounds, Ducey impressed coaches with his physical play, quick feet and ability both on the field and in the weight room.

Ducey has at least one offer from the University of Findlay, most likely more to come. The decision the All-Area selection has to make is which one to take.

"It's crazy," he said. "I've done more college applications than I can even count because of all the letters. It's fun, but it's stressful, too."

Ducey has trips planned to Hillsdale, Northwood, Grand Valley and Northern Michigan in the coming weeks. There, he'll show off his 268-pound power, clean, a 475-pound squat and a 4.9-second 40-yard dash.

Neither athlete will likely earn a Division I scholarship, though Ducey is still in talks with Central Michigan University. But neither one cares. They want to play because they enjoy playing, not because of the money and the fame.

"I'm willing to go play at Adrian, which is Division III and doesn't have any scholarships," said McGuire. "I want to play, so I'll play for free and hope I can get some academic scholarships."

With most Division I schools already having their scholarship money committed, Ducey said

Words of advice

Matt Williams said any athlete who wants to play at the collegiate level has to be dedicated to their sport, even if the recruiting letters aren't coming in.

"Just work hard and pursue it," he said. "Just because a certain college hasn't contacted them, it doesn't mean they don't have the potential to go there."

"The only reason Duke even noticed me was because the coach came to recruit another player and saw how hard I worked and liked the way I played. You never know when you're going to get noticed, so you just have to keep working your hardest, always."

Division II schools are just as attractive

Besides, every school interested in him is in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference.

"It's by far the best (Division II) conference in the nation," he said. "They have the national champs in Grand Valley, the number two team in the nation in Saginaw Valley and the fourth-ranked team in the nation in Northwood."

"I can't complain about that."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gmnet.com.

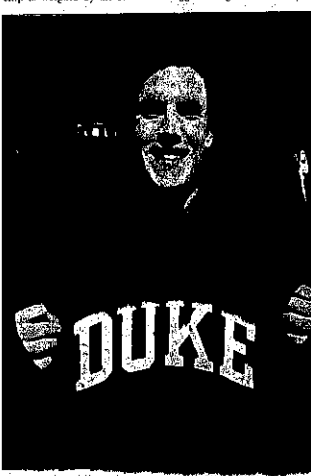


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Matt Williams, a 2005 Northville graduate, will take to the baseball diamond as a Blue Devil this spring on an athletic scholarship.

Platt leads Wild 'Stangs

continued from 1B

Platt knows how far to push herself in order to stay at the top of her form in her events while avoiding additional aggravation to her hips and ankles.

"She knows that this team needs her to stay healthy because we'd love for her to compete all around as much as possible for us this year," she said. "She's very smart about the way she practices and competes. She's very unselfish and extremely team oriented."

Novi has a gymnastics team? Really?

Wearing her green and white letter jacket, Platt walks into Northville High School each day during the week for practices.

"Sometimes people look at you funny when you walk in there, ready to work out," she said. "It's weird."

Platt hasn't been able to recruit many fans from the Novi side of the team, despite there being seven members out of 14.

It comes as no surprise to her. Though some of her classmates are interested, others just say they don't really want to drive "all the way" to Northville to cheer the gymnastics team on. She wouldn't mind an actual "home" meet to help draw some people in.

Platt shugs it off and gets back to studying. She carries a 4.0 grade-point average and has applied to such universities as St. Louis University and Marquette as well as Michigan State and the University of Michigan and Bowling Green. She's interested in studying physical therapy.

"Emma excels both in the classroom and in the gym," McWatt said. "The girls know my feelings about academics being the most important and all are excellent students."

"Emma, without a doubt, tends by example there. She's a captain with responsibilities, she's an all-around competitor on this team and she's a terrific student. She shows she can balance it all."

"She's a captain with responsibilities, she's an all-around competitor on this team and she's a terrific student. She shows she can balance it all."

Erin McWatt
Wild Stangs Coach

Ouch! Novi loses to Northville for first time in seven seasons



Mustang Doug Hase puts a hand up to defend the shot of Wildcat Willey Moss, right, during last Tuesday night's game at Novi High.

Mustangs outscore Wildcats, 47-37

ABOVE: Novi's Caleb Dean, right, tries to get inside of Northville's Doug Hase.

LEFT: Novi's Steve Hart puts up a shot against the Northville defense of Doug Hase, right.

RIGHT: Novi's A.W. Stanek rises above a couple of Northville defenders to get off a shot.

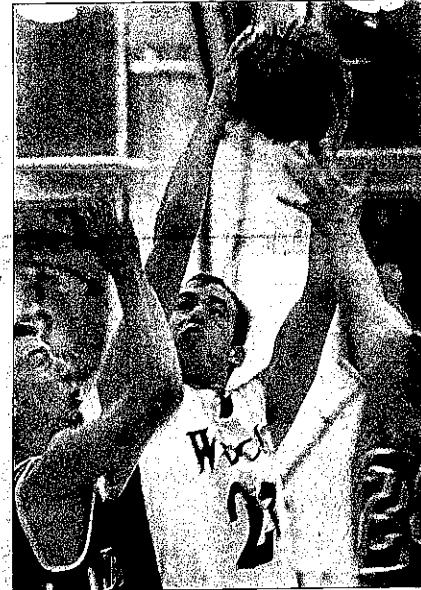


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Novi's middle blocker Megan Miller goes up to stop a spike. Despite Division I college interest, Miller has opted not to play at the next level.

Alberty wants to set new school mark



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Wildcat diver Chris Alberty

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS WRITER

Chris Alberty followed his two brothers into diving.

Now, he's chasing their school records. This season, the Novi High School senior and three-time state qualifier is only 24 points shy of the 11 dive record and 70 points behind the 600 record, held by brothers Michael, class of 1998, and Steve, class of 2001. As he aims for the diving championship finals in March, he hopes to beat both scores while surpassing his 2004 fourth place state finish.

Alberty started diving at the age of 8 with the High Divers club, formerly of Northville, and joined Eastern Michigan University's Legacy Diving club in the seventh grade. For three years, he has attended Indiana University's summer diving camp under the direction of 2000 and 2004 U.S. Olympic coach Jeff Haber.

As a freshman, Alberty fell one place short of qualifying for the state championship meet. In 2005, despite missing nearly two months of practice after a back injury, he qualified for states and placed tenth.

"That was a really rough year, just to get on the sidelines and watch everyone else start progressing," he said. "It was really hard to get up there on the diving board and not be able to do what I could do seven weeks ago... my dives weren't good, and you sort of psych yourself out, you don't think you can do it. Diving's all about confidence and fun, and I wasn't confident and I wasn't having fun."

This year, Alberty improved his personal record for 11 dives by 20 points in the first meet, achieving a lifetime best score of 288.45. His top score for 6 dives this season is 204.15.

Alberty said that, by improving his personal scores and challenging his brothers' records, he hopes to raise the standards for incoming athletes.

"It's not really bragging rights within the family (to have the records) because they're the guys that got me into diving, they're my motivation," he said. "If I can beat the records and raise the level for a future diver at Novi, that means the records will stay in the family longer."

Alberty feels that his greatest challenge has been his experience with 10-meter platform diving, an event to which he has gained exposure during off-season training in college pools.

"You get up there and the adrenaline is pumping... you do your approach, up to the edge of the platform, and all you see is 33 feet and then, water," he said. "You jump off, and after you get out of the water, you feel like you could do anything. Everyone's cheering for you and you did something that you never thought you could do, that very few people have been able to do."

"Once you get up to the harder level and the degree of difficulty of dives (increases), you start getting really scared. The more years you've been diving, the more crashes and kids hitting the board you've seen... you just have to work through that fear."

"I hope to pursue a collegiate diving career. Alberty has been in contact with coaches from the University of Michigan, Alabama, Indiana, and Clemson. During his last two months of high school diving, he plans to enjoy his success while solidifying a spot on the Novi record books.

It's senior year," Alberty said. "You can't get too serious about it. You have to be relaxed, really bond with the team... but I'm expecting to have my best season ever."

Courtney Ratkowiak is a sports writer for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at 248-349-1700, ext.104.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Novi Wildcat diver Chris Alberty hits the water.



LEFT: Novi's Adam Chandler makes his way towards the basket during the Wildcat's home game against Northville.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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FAMILY FEATURES
EDITORIAL SYNOPSIS

When you want to kick your casual entertaining up a notch, try a new way to pair food and wine. Prepare dishes with varying flavors such as tart, spicy, savory or zesty herb. The bold and full-flavored dishes offered here provide an excellent palette with which to combine the intriguing tastes of gourmet sausage with the sheer elegance of wine.

Serve your guests different varieties of wines, from Chardonnay and Viognier to Syrah and Merlot. Serve small helpings of each dish on each guest's plate. Take a sip of the wine first, then tell the others what you taste. Then sample the first dish followed by that same wine.

and compare notes: Do the wine and food taste better alone or together?

Then do it all again with the next variety of wines. You'll soon find a great match — and have a memorable evening!

For more delicious gourmet sausage recipes, perfect for entertaining, visit www.emerilsgourmetmeats.com.



Kicked Up Mediterranean Orzo Salad

Serves: 12 to 15 generous portions

- 1 pound orzo pasta
- 1 (12.5-ounce) package Emeril's Sun-Dried Tomato Gourmet Smoked Sausage (4 links), cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 1 (10-ounce) jar sun-dried tomatoes in herb oil, drained (oil reserved) and sliced
- 1 (12-ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and quartered
- 1/2 large red onion, finely diced
- 1 (6-ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
- 1/2 pound feta cheese, drained and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 bunch Italian parsley, washed, dried and chopped
- 1 heaping tablespoon Italian seasoning
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 to 2 tablespoons dried red pepper flakes (optional)

Cook orzo al dente, drain and rinse in cold water; drain well and set aside.

In large bowl, place sausage, sun-dried tomatoes, artichokes, onion, olives and feta. Add cooled orzo to mixture and pour in reserved oil from sun-dried tomatoes. Add olive oil. Mix gently. Fold in parsley. Add Italian seasoning and salt and pepper to taste. Add red pepper flakes. Serve well chilled.

Stuffed Mushrooms

Serves: 4

- 1 (12.5-ounce) package Emeril's Kicked Up Gourmet Smoked Sausage (4 links)
- 12 stuffing-size portobello mushrooms or approximately 15 button mushrooms
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup Smoking Loon Syrah, divided

Preheat oven to 325°F. Cook sausage in skillet and crumble with fork until evenly browned. Drain and set aside.

To prepare mushroom caps, remove and chop stems; set aside.

In medium bowl, mix chopped mushroom stems, cream cheese and bread crumbs. Stir in sausage and 1/4-cup wine. Spoon mixture into mushroom caps. Transfer to large baking dish and cover with the remaining wine. Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until lightly browned.



Finding a Great Match

Blend the rules a bit. You don't always have to pair a white wine with fish or chicken, red wine with meat. Sometimes, opposite flavors attract. In other instances, similar flavors complement each other best. Let your palate be the judge. Start off by pairing the following:

- Savory and sweet flavors, as in Chicken & Apple Gourmet Smoked Sausage, with a Viognier, an exotic wine with layers of ripe honeydew, vanilla and vanilla custard
- Tart and tangy flavors, as in Sun-Dried Tomato Gourmet Smoked Sausage, with a Pinot Noir, a wine with balanced flavors of fruit and soft tannins
- Herb flavors, as in Chicken Pesto Gourmet Smoked Sausage, with a deep and rich Merlot
- Bacon, garlic, and red wine flavors, as in Old Fashioned French Style Gourmet Smoked Sausage, with a blackberry-like Cabernet Sauvignon
- Spicy flavors, as in Emeril's Kicked Up Gourmet Smoked Sausage, with a similarly spicy Syrah
- Hot and spicy flavors, as in the Habanero & Green Chile Gourmet Smoked Sausage, with a crisp, fruity Chardonnay

For more information on wines of character from Smoking Loon, visit www.donnamaseno.com. Don Sebastian & Sons, maker of Smoking Loon wines, was voted the American Winery of the Year for 2005 in the Wine Enthusiast Magazine's Star Awards.

Stuffed Seaside Shrimp

Serves: 8-10 appetizer portions

- 1 1/2 pounds (16 to 20) shrimp
- 1 (12.5-ounce) package Emeril's Habanero & Green Chili Gourmet Smoked Sausage (4 links)
- 1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon Emeril's Basil Seasoning
- 1 1/2 cups minced fresh or canned pineapple
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onion
- 1/4 cup small diced red onion
- 1/4 cup small diced red pepper or pimenton
- 1/2 teaspoon grated fresh or powdered ginger
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon cold water
- Rice mix (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Boil shrimp 3 to 5 minutes. Rinse, peel, devein and split shrimp (butterfly). Cook sausage to package directions (reserve liquid). Place sausage in food processor and grind.

In bowl, combine bread crumbs, seasoning and sausage. Place 1 tablespoon sausage mixture on each butterflied shrimp. In small saucepan, add pineapple, reserved cooking liquid, green onion, red onion, red pepper and ginger. Bring ingredients to boil and add constant cold water and mix to thicken. Place each shrimp on baking pan, drizzle 1 teaspoon sauce over each individual shrimp and bake 3 to 5 minutes.

For additional flavor after baking, drizzle remaining sauce over shrimp and serve over favorite rice mix.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Local News

Thursday, January 19, 2006

ADVERTISEMENT MOLD: A GROWING PROBLEM ALLSTATE OFFERS TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

Wyom., Mich., January 19, 2006 — Mold claims cost homeowners more than \$3 billion last year, with average claims ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per homeowner, according to the Insurance Information Institute. So when protecting your home against water damage and freezing temperatures, it is also important to protect your home against mold growth. Allstate Agent Louis Kirby offers the following winter safety tips:

• Look around your home for water leaks and cut off the source of the leak as soon as possible. Check plumbing fixtures, roof gutters and air conditioners regularly, as well as appliances like refrigerators, dishwashers and washer and dryers.

• Be aware of potential signs of future water leaks, like moisture on your windows and damp, musty smells.

• Open windows and use fans for good ventilation in your home, particularly humid areas such as the laundry room, kitchen and bathrooms.

• When you go on vacation, turn off the water source to your home and set the thermostat above 50 degrees if it's cold outside. This can help prevent unattended water damage from leaky appliances or pipes.

• Mold can also settle on the decaying leaves of houseplants, so plants should be pruned regularly.

• Your home's humidity level is key in keeping mold at bay," said Allstate Agent Louis Kirby. "Set your humidistat between 35 percent to 40 percent during the winter months. If your windows begin to develop water condensation, lower your humidity level."

Louis Kirby also suggests the following tips:

- If you must use a room humidifier or vaporizer, keep it clean and change the water often, to avoid contamination by mold and bacteria.

• If there is mold, clean the area as quickly as possible to prevent mold from spreading.

• If you're ever unsure if a water leak may be occurring or see gray or black water leaks, call a professional to take a look.

For more information on this and other safety topics, contact Allstate Agent Louis Kirby, located at 49357 Pontiac Trail, Suite 103 in Wyom. Louis can be reached at 248-669-0755.

Widely known through the "You're In Good Hands With Allstate" slogan, Allstate helps individuals in approximately 17 million households protect what they have today and better prepare for tomorrow through approximately 13,600 exclusive agencies and financial professionals in the U.S. and Canada. Customers can access Allstate products and services such as auto insurance and homeowners insurance through Allstate agencies, or in select states at allstate.com and 1-800-ALLSTATE. EncompassSM and Deerebrock Insurance brand property and casualty products are sold exclusively through independent agents. Allstate Financial Group provides life and supplemental accident and health insurance, annuity, banking and retirement products designed for individual, institutional and corporate customers that are distributed through Allstate agencies, independent agencies, financial institutions and broker-dealers.

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PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/PHOTOGRAPHY

Expert staff from Hal's Auto Clinic in Farmington Hills are on duty to perform reliable automotive repair on vehicles of all kinds.

Hal's Auto Clinic celebrates 20 years

Customers say reliability, customer service get car repair off to a solid start

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

As a boy, Hal Collins fixed lawn mowers and built go-carts. When he was in high school, friends and neighbors brought cars to him for repairs. So when he opened Hal's Auto Clinic at age 23, he already had plenty of customers lined up. With only two bays and one hoist, Hal was always busy.

As his reputation spread, and more customers kept coming, Hal was able to move to a bigger garage, just down the road. It's now been almost 20 years since Hal's Auto Clinic has been at the Hathaway location, which is just north of Grand River Avenue and Ten Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Hal is celebrating 20 years in business, but he's not taking an eye off his work to do it. He recently added onto the shop, for a total of 15 bays. He's in every day, managing the business and fixing the cars.

Hal has four other master technicians who have as much as experienced as he does. But he still works on the cars himself. Hal keeps his own two bays filled with cars, and keeps his hands dirty. He's happiest when he's working on a car.

"I just love it," Hal said. Last year Hal started up a two-year, 24,000-mile warranty for parts and labor. He's one of the only garages in the state to offer it.

But Hal hardly bat an eye when service manager Bill Austin came to him with the idea. He knew that his work would stand up to the test.

"People rarely come back with a problem," Hal explained. "We do good work so it's easy to offer a warranty like that."

The work is good, because the technicians are highly trained with decades of experience under their belts. Each one is a Michigan Master Mechanic and has also earned additional certification of Automotive Service Excellence.

Each technician completes 20 hours of ongoing training each year and stays updated on electronic and computer skills needed to diagnose and fix newer cars. The facility is constantly updated with new electronics, software and tools. Hal's Auto Clinic repairs nearly all types of cars, SUVs and light trucks, including most imports. Appointments are suggested, except for emergency repairs.

It's hard on people to be without a car. Those who have suffered through a stretched-out repair job know the anguish of being left to wonder when the vehicle will be ready.

Hal's Auto Clinic can usually repair a vehicle the same day or next day. Since each technician has several bays, cars can go through the diagnostic and repair process more quickly — without a long backup. To help those who are without a car, a complimentary shuttle service can take home and pick-up customers.

Oil changes and other quick maintenance work can be done while the customer waits. Hal's Auto Clinic always

HAL'S AUTO CLINIC

Location: 24795 Hathaway, just north of the Grand River Avenue and Ten Mile Road intersection in Farmington Hills.

Hours: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Drop-off: Early and late drop-off available. Phone: (248) 477-5951

"It makes a big difference when you go to a family owned facility. I am here everyday making sure things get done right and the customers are happy with the work."

Hal Collins
Owner, Hal's Auto Clinic



Hal's Auto Clinic owner Hal Collins, right, consults with employee Bill Austin while performing diagnostic work on a car at Hal's Farmington Hills location.

just ask, "we don't force it on people."

And if a customer isn't completely satisfied, Hal will contact them and work to rectify the situation. Each repair comes with a comment card, so that Hal can make sure each and every customer is satisfied. "It makes a big difference

when you go to a family owned facility," said Hal, who lives just down the road with his wife and two daughters. "I am here everyday making sure things get done right and the customers are happy with the work."

To make an appointment, call (248) 477-5951.

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