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Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE

Tell a tale

If you ever meet local weatherman and TV celebrity Chuck Conlica, ask him to tell you the story about the pygmy goats. It was just one interesting slice of life that the Northville Township resident shared Feb. 1 during the second Novi Town Hall Lecture Series at Rock Financial Showplace.



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D.R.I.V.E.

The 524 District Court's newest program targets the worst drivers and makes them better. It stands for Driver Rehabilitation Incorporating Vehicular Education.

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Passionate advocate

Novi resident Kathy Hegenian has spent more than 20 years working to end domestic abuse and sexual assault. For the first few years, it was volunteer work. As a student at the University of Michigan studying psychology, she became interested in social justice and social change.

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Michael D. Bennett, 63

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A district divided

School board to decide fate of redistricting and kindergarten

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited decision by the Novi Board of Education as to what will happen with full-day kindergarten and redistricting in the district's future is expected at tonight's board of education meeting.

And according to board president Bruce Bagdady, if the board does decide to redistrict, it most likely will ask a redistricting committee, which has not been assembled yet, to study the matter and come back with boundary recommendations at a later date.



B. Bagdady

Bagdady said redistricting has many sub-panels, including the status of Deerfield, the selection and composition of a redistricting committee, and the use of facilities and space needs as affected by such things as class size and full-day kindergarten.

Reducing class size and expanding full-day kindergarten both require space; both could

continued on page 3

It's love at first sight

True love can be spotted at any age

By Tracy Miehler
STAFF WRITER

Jane Wolfe will always remember the day her Valentine, Jack, slid a sparkling band on her finger and proposed sharing a life together.

The couple shared many laughs and common interests, and by February 2003, Jack had asked Jane to marry him. "We gave it a lot of thought," Jack said. "There were definitely a lot of things to think about and consider."

Jack, 55, met Jane Lorrain, 51, at Fox Run Senior Community in November 2004 and agreed it was love at first sight.

Jane, who moved to Fox Run after living in Arizona for 18 years, knew exactly what she wanted and wasn't going to let Jack, originally from Canada, slip away.

"For me, it was realizing that I didn't want to be alone anymore," Jane said. "I was happiest

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Photo by TRACY MIEHLER/NOVI NEWS

Jack and Jane Wolfe were engaged on Valentine's Day last year and married June 18 at Fox Run's residents chapel.



Photo by JOHN HEIDBERG/NOVI NEWS

Super fund-raiser

Wendy Petras, a Rock Financial Showplace employee, pours some vodka down an ice sculpture in a martini glass during Saturday's Taste of the NFL gathering. See more about the successful fund-raiser on page 4A.

Hotel changes management

New group to boost Doubletree sales, revenue

By Tracy Miehler
STAFF WRITER

Jack McHugh has big plans for the Doubletree Hotel in Novi. Texas-based Remington Hotel Corporation announced taking over the hotel Jan. 30 after being selected by IBC Bank to provide property management services.

and Doubletree specifically was happy to see us walk in to manage," McHugh said.

McHugh said Remington is currently operating at the Doubletree, but will present a plan to IBC within the next 30 to 45 days in regards to what plans for operation could be.

"Anytime there is a Hilton product in the marketplace, they have the best loyalty program available," McHugh said. "With Chrysler and Nissan being of the larger customers of the hotel, we expect to work hard to earn more of their business."

McHugh said it is too early to say if current Doubletree employees jobs will be jeopardized when the management-takeover is complete.

"There are still a lot of things to

continued on page 3

Bowman files suit

Blair Bowman, owner of Rock Financial Showplace, is suing the owners of the Doubletree Hotel, Novi Hotel Fund LP, for alleged breach of fiduciary duty and self-dealing, according to an article in Crains Detroit. Bowman owns a 2 percent of Novi Hotel Fund. He says improper loans to insiders and related entities were authorized by the partnership managers, according to Crains, and that managers failed to provide transaction documentation. The case is in the U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Weather doesn't faze this guy

Letter carrier a friendly face in community

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

If you live in Novi, chances are Bob Turner visits your home Monday through Saturday every week.

You may not be home at the time, but that's OK. He's not there for milk and cookies, though he'd probably gladly accept the goodies if you offer.

Turner has one of the most important jobs to the community. He makes sure your bills, letters and junk mail get delivered to you week in and week out.

For 19 years, he has braved the freezing air, the scorching Michigan summers, barking dogs, and everything in between, to make sure the friendly faces he delivers to stay smiling — even when he delivers unwanted bills.

"It's a rewarding job," said Turner. "It's a good job with good benefits, but it's not for everybody. You have to be able to handle the elements."

Turner's responsibilities don't just end with delivering mail. He's in charge of a program where he explains to patrons how they can use the post office's Web site. And, he takes it upon himself to visit schools in the area to talk to youngsters about his job and what goes on at the post office.

"Everybody says, 'I talk too

much," said Turner with a chuckle. "But I've been on my route for 15 years, and I've gotten to know the people. I know a lot of parents and children, some of whom are in college now, and some are married. It's nice to get to know the kids."

Turner usually starts his day around 7:30 a.m. He collects all the mail for his route, sorts it and separates it into address bins, which usually takes anywhere from two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half hours.

Once all of that is finished, he collects his accountables, which consists of registered or certified letters, or express mail.

"Then you pull everything out

continued on page 3



Photo by JOHN HEIDBERG/NOVI NEWS

Novi postal carrier Bob Turner sorts piles of mail in the post office's annex off Grand River Ave.

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to decide fate of redistricting and kindergarten

continued from front page

impact how the district's boundaries are drawn or result in the future need for additional classrooms, or possibly an additional elementary school.

Deerfield's status as a neighborhood school or school of choice would have an impact on how the boundaries are drawn as well.

What parents think

Doug and Sue Harrington have put two children through Deerfield and have one more entering kindergarten this fall. Having had children come through both Deerfield and Orchard Hills, they feel it is "both factually incorrect and offensive to suggest revoking the magnet school status and redistricting will lower Deerfield's standards to the least common denominator."

"I emphasize completely with those who hear Deerfield parents litter their praise for this school with inferences that the other elementary are substandard and do not measure up to the Deerfield standards," said Sue Harrington. "Whatever the outcome of (the board's) decision, my expectation as a resident of Novi and parent of four school-age children is that (the board) will reach a solution that is equitable for all."

According to Bagdadly, the primary factors to consider in deciding these issues include, in no special order:

- What is best for students and for the community
- What is most fair and equitable
- What is most academically beneficial
- What is the most economically sound decision.

Another motivation for change?

But Ken Meyer, a Novi resident who currently has two children attending Deerfield, believes the board is moving in an expedited fashion toward deciding the fate of the school.

"Most disturbing to me about this matter is, it seems motivated by the extensive and expensive development that has occurred near Deerfield," Meyer said. "The argument that this move will solve overcrowding is a facetious one, because Deerfield

True love can be spotted at any age

continued from front page

when I was with Jack. At our age, you don't poke around with these things."

"I definitely got shot with Cupid's arrow," she added. After getting their things in order, the couple decided the best thing would be to rent an apartment they could call their own.

"We both had our own things," Jane said. "It would have been impossible to fit everything into either apartment, so we decided to get a new place big enough to combine everything."

"I do!" Jack and Jane were married at Fox Run June 18, 2005, in a small ceremony at the community's chapel.

"The day we got married and the day we got engaged are two very important days," Jane said. "Valentine's Day is special. We decided on that day as the crowning moment we were meant to be together."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Valentine's Day is a one of the number one holidays for engagements and weddings.

Jack said the abundance of common interests between the two

Bob Turner

Occupation: Novi letter carrier Family: wife, Patricia; son, Chris; daughter, Jennifer; son, Sean; son, Hunter. Pets: two dogs, two cats and two goldfish. Hobbies and/or interests: golf, tennis, baseball and watching "Andy Griffith" reruns.

Advice: "Make sure it's what you want to do," said Turner. "In the winter it can be really out there, and the summer can get real hot. You have to come in with your mind open because there are so many people and different personalities working with you. Try to keep a good attitude and you'll be fine."

Schools: He graduated from Henry Ford High School in Detroit, and he attended Henry Ford College in Dearborn Heights.

Years in business: He has been working with the post office for 19 years — in Farmington for two years as a clerk and in Novi for 17 years.

Grew up in: Detroit

New group to boost Doubletree sales, revenue

continued from front page

figure out in the meantime," McHugh said. "There are still a lot of things to figure out in the meantime."

"We're looking forward to maximizing the opportunities we have, which will result in more revenue for the hotel."

Tripp Sullivan, senior vice president and spokesperson for Corporate Communications for Remington Hotel Corporation, said it is too early to say what the future will hold for the Novi Doubletree Hotel.

Remington Hotel's has been operating and developing more than 35 hotels for about 37 years throughout the nation.

Sullivan said the company currently manages two Doubletree's in Ohio. "The Novi location is its first in Michigan."

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

Letter carrier a friendly face in the Novi community

continued from front page

load up your truck and start your deliveries," he said.

Express mail must be delivered before anything else. Turner's route, which consists of just under 600 stops, is in the area of East Lake and (largely) Ross between 13 and 14 Mile Roads. He usually works between 9-10 hours a day.

After he's finished with his route, Turner returns to the office to help anyone else who may need it.

Staying positive

"I think I get through my job easily because I come in with a good attitude every day, and I try to always be in a good mood at work," Turner said. "I'm a happy-go-lucky person. When I get up in the morning and put my feet on the floor, I've

got a smile on my face because I'm still alive. Life's too short for anything else."

Turner's favorite part of the job is being able to get out of the office and into the community. But, as he explained, that can also be the worst part on some days.

"Having to go out when it's real bad, like last winter when we had seven or eight inches of snow, can be pretty hard," he said. "I drive around a lot, and sometimes I have a hard time getting around there. In that instance, I get out and walk maybe 10 percent of my route and the rest I'll drive."

In the summer time, Turner's mail truck is equipped with a fan to help him cool off, but he also keeps a lot of cold water close by.

But it's not always all work and no play at the office.

"We have fun at the post office," said Turner. "We sometimes pull practical jokes on each other just to keep things light around here."

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

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Want a taste?



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

With many plates in hand and appetites ready, Taste of the NFL patrons visit the booth sponsored by the Houston Texans during Saturday night's festivities.

Taste of the NFL attracts large crowd

Last Saturday night's Taste of the NFL in Novi drew about 3,000 people, according to John Bowen, executive director and general counsel for Rock Financial Showplace.

"The food was phenomenal, the room looked beautiful, and we had all kinds of NFL alumni," Bowen said.

The Hank Brothers, who performed at the end of the fund-raiser, were also well received, according to Bowen. "I didn't realize that back in the day, they had more hits than the Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley and the Beatles combined," he said.

Four of the original musicians performed at the event.

Bowen said the event raised about a half million dollars for hunger-related charities.

Those who weren't able to attend can still enjoy the recipes guests sampled at the event by purchasing the official 2006 Taste of the NFL guide for \$19.95.

For more information, visit www.tasteofthefnl.com.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Jack Youngblood, a 2001 NFL Hall of Fame inductee, signs autographs during last Saturday night's Taste of the NFL at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace. Youngblood played with the Los Angeles Rams until 1984.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

With a souvenir wine glass anchored to his souvenir plate, Alan Hutson enjoys some food during Saturday night's Taste of the NFL night at Rock Financial Showplace. Hutson was part of a group from Minneapolis brought to the Super Bowl by Northwest Airlines.



Kansas City "40 Sardines" chef Debbie Gold laddles out a bowl of lobster chowder during Saturday's gathering at the Rock Financial Showplace.



The Rock Financial Showplace center's main exhibition hall teems with thousands of visitors during last Saturday night's Taste of the NFL. Restaurants and their chefs from each city in the U.S. with an NFL team gathered to serve up their delicacies to attendees that night to ultimately raise money to combat hunger in America. Each NFL team also sent at least one veteran or current player to have photos taken with fans and sign autographs.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Some Novi faces appeared at Saturday's Taste of the NFL: (from left) Bill Bowman, Dave and Lisa Molloy, Jody Capello, and Bob and Susie Gatt.

COMMUNITY

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Weatherman says he learned to adapt his life over the years

■ Celeb calls Michigan's home

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you ever meet local weatherman and TV celebrity Chuck Gaidica, ask him to tell you the story about the pygmy goats.

The humorous incident involves one of his most unforgettable on-air moments — when the critters actually ate his notes.

This was just one interesting slice of life that the Northville Township resident shared Feb. 1 during the second Novi Town Hall Lecture Series at Rock Financial Showplace.

Proceeds from the luncheons/lectures go toward the Novi Public Library's Capital Campaign, which is still raising funds for an \$18 million to \$19 million addition to the existing building on 10 Mile Road east of Taft Road.

The first in the series, which featured successful mystery writer Noreen Wald, who also writes under the name Nora Charles, raised \$5,000 for the library.

Gaidica, who hails from Chicago, has many exciting experiences to share, including flying with the Blue Angels and taking excursions to the Amazon Rain Forest and volcanoes in Hawaii.

But, at 47 he's called Michigan home longer than any other place — almost 25 years.

"He talks a lot about overcoming adversity, as he went from 260 pounds to 175 pounds as a high-school senior working at

Walgreens in Chicago. He realized that he needed to change and went from a size 44 waist to a 33 waist in less than six months.

"I knew that I had to adapt into something different," he said. "All of my life, I had been the one that when mom and grandma would make brownie batter I was the one who licked the spoon. That was my challenge in life — find a cake batter and eat it. I wound up being the size of Guam. I was so heavy that my senior year I was able to play Ben Franklin in 1776 without padding."

Although he's been able to keep the weight off all of these years, he admits that he still has to watch it.

"I go to weddings just to eat cake," he joked, "and say 'Give me an end piece.' There's more frosting there."

Considered career in medicine

Gaidica planned a career in medicine. And although he was good in math and science, he dropped out of pre-med after half a semester at Loyola University in Chicago before transferring to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

There, he decided to parlay his love of math, science and journalism into a broadcast meteorologist career in which he's obviously been wildly successful.

Gaidica dropped out of college and began his career in Evansville, Ind., at WHEP-TV Channel 25, where he met his wife, Susan, obtaining his degree.

After Little Rock and a brief stint at a Cleveland station, he got a call from Channel 2 in Detroit.



Photo by PAM FLEMING

WJW-TV Channel 4 weatherman Chuck Gaidica (second from left) talked with those involved with the Novi Public Library after his Feb. 1 presentation as part of the Novi Town Hall Series at Rock Financial Showplace. From left: Bob Cutler, president of the library board; Brenda Lussler, library director; and Mary Ellen Mulcrone, assistant library director. Proceeds from the event will go to the library capital campaign.

Cape Girardeau, Mo. When a TV station from Little Rock, Ark., offered him a job, he initially balked, saying he was a big-city guy who didn't think he wanted to move to a smaller community.

"But when they said, 'We'll double your salary,' he said, 'I'm your guy.'"

After Little Rock and a brief stint at a Cleveland station, he got a call from Channel 2 in Detroit.

"I picked up the phone, and

nothing against Detroit, but I just thought I was from Chicago and that this would just be a cup of coffee, and I'd be on my way...Now we're here for the long haul."

He earned his private pilot

license at age 37 and is a passionate environmentalist. The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences presented him with the Silver Circle Award last year for 25 years of broadcasting excellence.

A devout Methodist, Gaidica said he met the most famous people — of all places — in the bathroom, including actor Adam West and former President Gerald Ford.

"I never thought I'd be in Detroit that long," he said. "I have

nothing against Detroit, but I just thought I was from Chicago and that this would just be a cup of coffee, and I'd be on my way...Now we're here for the long haul."

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@novi.com.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Employees withdraw petition to unionize

City of Novi administrative employees have withdrawn their petition to unionize.

Tia Grunland-Fox, human resources director, city of Novi, reports that the employees have formally requested that Teamsters Local 214 withdraw the employees' petition for representation.

The employees sent letters about the decision to the Teamsters, the State of Michigan Employment Relations Commission and Mayor David Landry.

The letter also stated that they welcome the opportunity to speak directly to Landry.

Helping seniors remove snow

Sheriff Mike Houchard and Chantrel 7's Hill Spencer announced the Oakland County Sheriff's Office partnership in

"Bill's Big Dig," an effort to assist Oakland County's senior citizens and disabled residents with snow removal. If snow accumulates more than 3 inches, the OCSO's Snow Camp trainees will help eligible residents with snow shoveling.

In order to participate, Oakland County residents can call the OCSO's Community Service hotline (248) 975-9700 and leave a message with their name and address. When snow accumulates more than 3 inches, supervised crews will be sent out to assist residents with snow removal. On the first visit, a supervisor from the OCSO will knock on the door of the resident to verify their status as elderly or disabled and in need.

"A heavy snowfall can create real challenges for our most vulnerable residents," said Sheriff Houchard. "Safety issues become a problem for the resident and for the community as a whole. We are all obligated to keep our streets

and pathways clear for safe pedestrian traffic. This effort is a great way to help these residents in need meet their obligations as well as helping them to get out and about when they need to."

Eligible residents are those who are not able to afford to pay to have their snow removed and are physically unable to shovel snow.

To register for this program, call the OCSO's Snow Camp at (248) 975-9700 and hit key #5 to leave your name and address.

2005 Winter Property Taxes

2005 Winter Property Taxes are due Tuesday, Feb. 14. Payments must be received by the Treasurer's office on or before the due date to avoid a 4 percent penalty, beginning Wednesday, March 1 delinquent property taxes must be paid at the Oakland County Treasurer's office.

For your convenience, there is

a drop box located at the curb behind the Novi Civic Center for tax/water and sewer payments. Payments will be accepted in the drop box until midnight on the due date.

Please contact the Treasurer's Office, (248) 347-0440 if you have any questions.

Please mail entry — postmarks are not accepted.

DeRoche: Parents have a right to know

House Speaker Craig DeRoche announced he would pursue legislation to force the Michigan Department of Education to release the names of convicted felons and sex offenders working in public schools. A recent court decision, in response to a lawsuit filed by the Michigan Education Association (MEA), has temporarily blocked the names from being made public.

"I am disappointed that the Michigan Education Association would go to court in an effort to

keep this information away from parents and concerned educators," DeRoche said. "The bottom line is that parents have a right to know whether their children are safe in school."

The court order is prohibiting local news outlets from obtaining the names, keeping families and unsuspecting communities in the dark.

"It's beyond the realm of reason why anybody would want to hide the information that a dangerous school employee is lurking about the classroom," said Mike MacLaren, executive director of the Michigan Press Association.

The legislation would mandate the disclosure of the records under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. The records would include anything compiled by the Department of Education or Michigan State Police in connection to the Student Safety Initiative and regarding a felony conviction or a misdemeanor conviction involving sexual or

physical abuse.

"Too many cases of abuse in our public schools have been reported for us to turn our backs and ignore this threat," said Rep. Rick Baxter, R-Concord, sponsor of the legislation. "This is not about embarrassing or upsetting the lives of those who are not a threat. Making this information publicly available will aid local school districts to weed out the few bad apples in our school system who pose a risk to our kids."

DeRoche repeated his hope the Granholm administration would release the information, but said the House would begin work on this legislation if they do not.

"I am hopeful we can pass this legislation quickly and get it on the governor's desk," DeRoche said. "The governor needs to send a clear signal to the MEA that the safety and well-being of our kids is more important than shielding convicted felons who in most cases should not be working in our public school system in the first place."

Northville resident DJs at Penthouse magazine party

■ This was biggest gig he's ever had

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

On the Saturday night before Super Bowl XL, Detroit was definitely Party Central.

And one of the local parties included Northville resident and disc jockey Tomny Holiday, who's real name is Tom Bertin.

Bertin, a 1998 graduate of Novi High School, DJ'd a set at the Penthouse magazine party at The Vault.

"The Penthouse 'Party Like a Rock Star' event took place at the nightclub at 151 Fort Street, in downtown Detroit. The club was formerly Manufacturers Bank, and dancing up a storm."

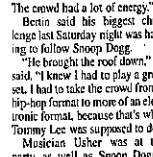
"He was getting down," Bertin said.

"The 'party' was obviously in attendance, including Penthouse Pet of the Year, Jamie Lynn."

Bertin used to DJ at underground parties in downtown several years ago.

He's also DJed at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac, Blue in Detroit, the State Theater in Detroit, Harry's in Detroit, Club 131 in Chicago, Seven in Pontiac and DJing on Saturdays at Doc's Sports Retreat in Livonia.

Those who would like to hire Bertin to DJ an event can contact him at tommych4@hotmail.com.



Tom Bertin

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.

Significant sign

■ Novi resident displays number of war deaths

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

If you drive to the northeast corner of 11 Mile Road and Clark Street in Novi, you'll see an interesting sign nailed to a tree.

The white sign with red letters and numbers has a number over 2,000 on the top line, then "POLITICIANS O."

The top number represents the number of Americans killed in the Iraq war, and the bottom number is well, a political statement.

The sign is a cleverly disguised anti-war statement by Patrick Downey, a resident of Novi since 1974.

"My husband is very loyal and very patriotic," said his wife, Gloria.

"He updates the sign every time he has a new number."

She explained that they have a table set up in the garage with the red numbers, so they can change the number.

"He changes it daily if he knows there's a change," she said.

Downey used to see the number of U.S. soldiers killed in the Iraq conflict more often in local newspapers.

"It's more infrequent now," he said.

And, he's disappointed that interest in publishing the number seems to have waned over the past few

months.

"Anytime we have anything more newsworthy, it gets set aside," Downey said.

The sign on the tree in his yard has been up since Nov. 6, 2005, when the number was 2,045. It attracts the interest of a lot of drivers.

"I've had people pull in my driveway and ask, 'What do those numbers mean?'" he said. "A good number of them catch on immediately. Now a lot of them keep track."

He's had other signs in his yard, according to his wife, such as one a few years ago regarding the proposed library building.

Not opposed to the military

Downey admits to being an outspoken Democrat.

But, he doesn't think we should place all the responsibility for the continuing war in Iraq on the Republicans.

"The Democrats have supported this war, too, so we can't blame it all on Bush," he said. "It's not a partisan issue to me."

Downey noted that seven more American soldiers were killed Feb. 1. So, he needs to update his sign.

"I don't change the numbers until I see them in writing," he said. "I don't want to be accused of inflating the numbers."

He also ran for state representative in Detroit in 1968.

"Even back then he was very current and very passionate about current events and the law," his wife said.

And, he's not anti-military, as he's a former soldier himself.

A history major at Wayne State University who graduated in 1962, Downey taught 12th grade civics and American government at Holy Redeemer in southwest Detroit from 1962-1970.

"He is a military person and was in the Army," he said. "He's not against the soldiers who are there. His heart goes out to them, and he



This sign at the northeast corner of 11 Mile Road and Clark Street in Novi has picked more than one motorist's curiosity. The sign in Patrick and Gloria Downey's yard represents the number of Americans killed in the war in Iraq. It's updated regularly.

He says war not partisan issue

Downey admits to being an outspoken Democrat. But, he doesn't think we should place all the responsibility for the continuing war in Iraq on the Republicans.

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Passerby support his effort

He noted that no matter what their politics, people seem to appreciate his personal statement on the war.

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.

LANSING CONNECTION

The Legislature has begun focusing on improving the health of Michigan residents. In new legislation, our defining words champion Novi High School FIRST Robotics team also began preparations to retain their title.

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles

A series of new wellness initiatives has been unveiled in the Senate to encourage healthy behavior and subsequently reduce health care costs in Michigan.

This is a continuation of a Senate plan to bring Michigan in line with other states in terms of overall health and wellness. Statistics show that Michigan could improve the health of its citizens by encouraging greater activity and partaking in healthy behaviors, like annual checkup visits with physicians, quitting smoking and in general, preventive-type behaviors. We know that good health could result in lowering health care costs.

The proposals under consideration will:

- Establish personal responsibility agreements for adult Medicaid recipients.
 - Revise the Medicaid verification process.
 - Require physical education in elementary schools.
 - Allow pocketbook incentives for Medicaid recipients who make healthy choices.
 - Provide state contracting preferences for businesses that offer employee wellness programs.
 - Add use of tobacco products as a criteria for determining health insurance premiums; and
 - Create a Michigan Outdoor Fitness Award.
- I look forward to exploring these initiatives and hearing what you think about them.

Novi FIRST Robotics Team to Defend World Title

Last year, Novi High School's FIRST Robotics Team (Autonomous and Recognition of Science and Technology) team won the world championship hosted at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia. The team is looking to repeat this triumph against a field of more than 25,000 students representing 1,100 teams from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador and Israel.

FIRST Robotics teaches our young people critical thinking, innovative creativity and practical problem solving. It also helps them develop the technological skills to compete in today's complex economy. Today's competitors are the engineers and highly trained technicians needed today and tomorrow. I am proud to be a supporter of this outstanding program and wish our team the best of luck on their new season.

As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. You may reach me by e-mail at senatnc55@senate.michigan.gov, or toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

State Senator Nancy Cassia, a Novi Republican, represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake, as well as the Villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake, and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wilson.

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EDUCATION

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

Ballet Theatre donates \$2,000 to Novi Youth Assistance

Funds for educational purposes

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Corrie Loftus believes the \$2,000 her company, the Sports Club of Novi, donated to Novi Youth Assistance is money well spent. As part of her responsibilities, Loftus, a sports director, is in charge of the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre. The organization's two recent Nutcracker performances resulted in the donation. "I know Novi Youth Assistance helps families with situations that relate to the sports club," said Loftus. "We're hoping the money is used to help educate the children about better ways in life."

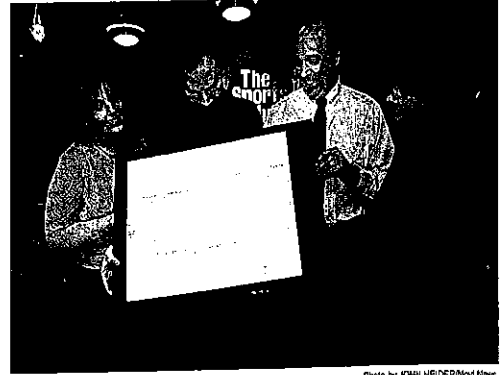
funds will help subsidize children as they participate in a program of the club offers, or one community education offer. The idea is to put kids into positive situations, whether it is continuing so they can be in an activity or just educating them about better ways of life. "It's a unique opportunity that we have such a good relationship with the city and the community education department," she said. "We do a lot of good things with them."

The cooperation goes both ways. Community Education runs programs through the Sports Club building, and the Sports Club rents an auditorium from Bob Stech, community education director, for its shows. "We talked to him about maybe donating some tickets to a charity, and he introduced us to Novi Youth Assistance," Loftus said. "We're a family club, and we think of ourselves that way."

Stech said the majority of the funds give youth assistance the

opportunity to provide scholarships to kids to be able to participate in summer camp, in parks and recreation programs, and it gives scholarships to kids to participate in after school programming through the Novi Community Education department. It also gives scholarships to people who want to put their kids on the preschool program. "A multitude of opportunities are available to provide scholarship dollars for those families that can't afford our programs all the time," Stech said. "It's a wonderful partnership."

Loftus said the reason the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre was able to donate so much was because of the success of the Nutcracker performances. She couldn't stop raving about them. "We're donating kids from all over the place because our two directors are such good instructors," she said. "When you see the performance, it shows. It's just a very professional show. I was amazed at the talents."



Bob Stech, director of Novi Community Education and Claudia Walter, with Novi Youth Assistance, right, look at a \$2,000 check donation from the Sports Club of Novi presented by Mark Pinchoff and Connie Loftus, left. The donation was from earnings of the club realized after a number of its members danced in The Nutcracker Suite ballet this past holiday season.



Learning sparks
The students at Village Oaks Elementary School celebrated Science Plus Activities Reaching Kids Day recently. S.P.A.R.K. Day is a program sponsored by the school's PTO, VOICE, where presenters visit the school to involve the students in hands-on science workshops. Presenters came from the local community. Ann Arbor, Bloomfield and Royal Oak. Some of the professions being presented were a baker, an electrical engineer, a forester, and police officers, as well as fire fighters. The goal was to show students how science is used in the real world at work and play. Here, fourth grader David Gardner gets help from parent presenter Jim Patter on how to build an air-powered car.



Seth Deertfeldt
Elementary students enjoyed an assembly Jan. 30 entitled Sadecky's Puppets — The Secret Passage. The students learned about respect, kindness and manners through a boy named Seth.

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Meadows students scoring high in various competitions

Sixth graders do well in many contests

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Numerous intense rounds of competition took place within the Novi Community School District last month. But they didn't happen in the high school or middle school gymnasiums, or on any of the district's outdoor playing fields. These competitions took place inside Novi Meadows Elementary School, where students took part in the Readers' Digest Word Power Challenge, a Sigma contest and QuizBowl.

"I think challenges that are outside of the school play an only enhance," said Dr. Katherine Ellis, LEAP teacher at Novi Meadows. "It is a way to encourage children to go ahead and take chances."

Ellis explained when similar activities were done in the past, students learned from their mistakes and the knowledge they were exposed to.

She described the Word Power Challenge as a fun, non-threatening way to expand kids' vocabulary. Because it's in multiple choice form, students can get answers right by guessing.

"We've had students that had never felt they were high achievers in the area of literature and English but were able to figure out what the meanings of the words were," said Ellis. "We've encouraged them to read and feel good about where they're at with reading."

Ellis said Sigma has a unique setup that involves problem solving. It's along the lines of what students may see on the SAT or ACT exams with analysis of mathematical skills.

"The sooner I can expose them to that, the better I can help them with college," said Ellis. "That's my goal — getting them to the college of their choice so they can be the people of their choice with whatever career they may choose."



Novi Meadows students Alex Brusher, Kyle Gassel, Beau Bloomfield, Callie Wright (lower left) Lucia Chen and teacher Dr. Katherine Ellis were involved in the various extracurricular activities for the school including its QuizBowl efforts.

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Next week: Novi Middle School's eighth grade honor roll listing.

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FAITH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

St. James adds 20,000 square feet to parish

■ Addition adds possibilities to Novi church

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Father George Charney has always thought St. James Catholic Church was nice looking. But now he thinks it's "absolutely gorgeous."

A 20,000-square-foot addition has been constructed onto the parish, which is almost double the space the church had before.

The new addition has religious education offices, media rooms for the children, a full-size gym-

nasium for open basketball and members of the parish, and a kitchen in the parish hall for adult education and funeral luncheons.

"It's fantastic," said Charney. "It will serve our needs for years to come."

The addition was dedicated last Saturday. The idea to expand came up because the church's parish community has grown tremendously in recent years.

"We started 17 years ago with 250 families, and now we're up to 2,000 families," Charney said. "Because of the growth, the committee had this vision of how we can expand to make the parish more viable for the community."

Many meetings took place throughout the year to determine how and when the project was

going to unfold. But when it finally did, Charney couldn't have been more pleased with the outcome.

St. James boasts nine basketball teams for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys and girls who play in the Catholic Youth Organization League. It also houses 1,100 children in religious education, who meet four days per week after school at different times. That will go from September to May, before vacation bible school starts up in the summer.

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.



Father George Charney is surrounded by the St. James Church faithful as the dedication ribbon is about to be cut to the facility's new 20,000-square-foot addition on Jan. 28.

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) 348-7257.

• 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. Rice 13 (ages 11-14) 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.churchofthe-holycross.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 Armas and Hosas class on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost for the book and class is \$19. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Bible Study, led by Jani Martin, is the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345, or visit www.faicommunity-novi.org.

• The Holy Family Church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-4847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

Services will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday. Visit www.rockpointe.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.

Church worship hour schedules are as follows: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m. on Sundays. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Tall Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144, or visit www.fumc-northville.org.

• St. John Lutheran Church is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Sunday 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 available at 9:45 a.m.

• Oak Pointe Church service continues on next page

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CITIZENS BANK

Faith Community Presbyterian sisters unite

■ Zacchaeus retreat allows women of Novi's church to share ideas

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Jana Martin's dream came true last year.

That's when she was able to bring a women's retreat to Faith Community Presbyterian Church without charging any fees.

The purpose of the event, called Zacchaeus weekend, is to learn more about the sisters who attend the church and to share life stories they probably wouldn't be able to tell during normal Sunday service.

The origin of Zacchaeus can be found in Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westland. Martin was part of the team that wrote the retreat.

"For other retreats we had to pay copyright fees that were very expensive," said Martin. "The pastor, myself and the group of people from the church decided we could write our own, and we did."

Martin took three women and joined Prince of Peace last February at St. John's Family Center — an experience they greatly enjoyed. During the weekend of Jan. 20-22 this year, seven more women from Faith Community joined the fun. The group joined with Prince of Peace once again.

"There were 11 from our church, and we had a wonderful weekend," said Martin. "The retreat is once a year because we didn't want to wish the process to put it together. We want to take the time to really get to know our sisters in faith and really grow our relationships."

During Zacchaeus, the group gathers on Friday evening for fellowship, they have their first of eight talks, and they share their thoughts and feelings on the topics that were discussed.

The women on the giving team, who are the ones who prepare the retreat, give all of the talks throughout the weekend. There is worship at different times throughout.

"Saturday evening is our communion service and our reconciliation talk," said Martin. "At that time we turn over issues to God that we need him to help take care of for us, because we can't handle them on our own. We lift them up to him at this worship service."

Though Faith Community's relationship with Prince of Peace has been a good one, Martin isn't sure her church will continue to work with the folks from Westland.

"We had 21 women attend this year, and I hope for at least as many next year, if not more," she said.

For more information on Zacchaeus, call the Faith Community Presbyterian Church at (248) 349-2345.

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.



Members of the Faith Community Presbyterian Church's Zacchaeus Receiving Team are: (front row) Kerry Droste, Kathy Smith, Diane Droste. (Back row) Sue Benton, Jennifer Crawford, Jeanette Alder, Val Kushman, Shirley Williams, Marlea Pfeil, Diana James, Amy Grieger and Tina Davis.



Members of the Faith Community Presbyterian Church's Zacchaeus Giving Team are: Barb Heldmann, Sue Watson, Kathleen Nicholson, Kelly Tessler, Jann Martin, Cheryl Murphy, Jane Alder, Gail Christophersen and Joyce Carver.

CHURCH CALENDAR

continued from page 14

• St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville will be studying the best selling book "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren during Lent. Over 13,000 churches nationwide have gone through this campaign. St. Paul is hoping to bring this book and study to homes locally. These who already bought the book and are looking to get more out of it, may sign up for a study group. Books will also be available through the church. Study groups will meet at various times in

Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Plymouth, Canton and Livonia. Most will meet Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. starting with a Kick Off Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at the church. Call (248) 349-3140.

• The monthly Bereavement Support Group meeting, facilitated by Dr. Michael M. Meyer, will be held 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Topic of discussion will be "Learning to Walk Alone." A clergy from the area will lead a brief reflection and prayer.

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ENGAGEMENT



Brugeman-Sathe
Prakash and Laura Sathe of Bloomfield Town-ship announce

the engagement of their daughter, Valerie Lynn Sathe to John and Mary Jane Brugeman, son of John and Mary Jane Brugeman. The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Cranbrook Kingswood and a 2003 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in economics and Spanish. She is currently pursuing a master of public policy at the University of Michigan. The groom-elect is a 1998 graduate of Northville High School and a 2002 graduate of the University of Michigan. He is currently employed at Perich Advertising and Design, Ann Arbor.

An August 2006 wedding is planned.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Steve Swaggerty, a senior financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Novi, was among a select group of advisors invited to attend the company's national Retirement Wealth Strategies Forum focused on providing the latest strategies and solutions for helping people achieve financial security in retirement. The forum was held in January in San Francisco. Ameriprise Financial Services is located at 43000 W. Nine Mile Road, Suite 103. For more information, contact Steve Swaggerty, (248) 348-1818 or e-mail at steven.swaggerty@acp.com.

St. John Health has named Cheryl Wesen, M.D., director

of breast services for the system. In this role, Dr. Wesen will be responsible for overseeing the St. John Health Breast Centers. Wesen will continue to serve as the director of surgical oncology at St. John Hospital & Medical Center, a position she has held for more than 10 years.

Wesen is a graduate of Temple University Medical School in Philadelphia, Penn. She completed her internship and general surgery residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, and a surgical oncology fellowship at the University of Minnesota Health Sciences Center in Minneapolis, Minn. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

OBITUARY

MICHAEL D. BENNETT
Hamburg, MI, Died January 30, 2006 in Boynton Beach, Florida at age 83. Michael was born October 11, 1922 the son of the late Harry and Margaret Bennett. Beloved husband of Ellen (Douglas), Children, Nancy (Jerry) Tasselmyer, Mark (Peggy) Antolik, and grandchildren, Brandon, Megan, Everett, Avery and Chloe. Brother of Gary Bennett, Uncle of Tim Bennett, Kevin (Debbie) Bennett, Leslie (Mike) Moore and Zachary Bennett. A Memorial Mass for Michael will be held Saturday, February 11, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in South Lyon. Memorial contributions are suggested to a charity of one's choice.

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Only one entry per person per week. 18 years or older.
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- BEST FOOD OUTLETS**
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 - Best specialty coffee house
 - Best place for breakfast
 - Best Sunday brunch
 - Best deli
 - Best fast food restaurant
 - Best family restaurant
 - Best place for soup
 - Best place for salad
 - Best place for burgers
 - Best place for hot dogs/coneys
 - Best place for subs
 - Best place for desserts
 - Best Italian restaurant
 - Best Asian restaurant
 - Best Mexican restaurant
 - Best place for pizza
 - Best wine selection (store)
 - Best wine selection (restaurant)
 - Best beer selection (store)
 - Best beer selection (restaurant)
 - Best place for romantic dinner
 - Best after work meeting place
 - Best sports bar
 - Best place for dancing
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 - Best collision shop
 - Best tire store
 - Best veterinary service
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 - Best video store
 - Best landscaping business
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 - Best car wash
 - Best flower shop
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 - Best dance studio

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SENIORS

City must start planning

Baby boomers starting to age

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Kathy Crawford told city leaders recently that they'd better start thinking about the baby boomers.

These 78 million people born in the U.S. from 1946-1964 started turning 60 on Jan. 1 of this year.

Crawford, former director of the Novi Senior Center and the first administrator of senior citizens programs and services in the city, said the time is now to start planning.

"This huge group of folks represents a profound demographic that will present enormous challenges for local state and federal governments, as well as health care agencies and businesses," she said.

Crawford returned in mid-December from Washington, D.C., where she was a delegate at the White House Conference on Aging.

She noted that at the conference, which takes place only once a decade, historic decisions have been made, including the creation of Medicaid, Medicare and national nutrition programs.

Each delegate was asked to study a workbook of 73 resolutions related to aging and select no less than 20 but no more than 50, which were then voted on by the 1,200 delegates.

Crawford provided planning commissioners and city council members with a list of the top 10 resolutions at their joint meeting on Jan. 23.

She also talked about some critical data she learned at the conference, which was titled "The Booming Dynamics of Aging."

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments showed that in just 24 years Novi can expect some dramatic population shifts, particularly in the number of people age 65 or older. This group will increase by more than 265 percent during this time.

"This means that in 2030, we will have more people over the age of 60 than we had in our entire population in 2000," Crawford said.

"Where will they live, and what services will they need?" she asked. "A SEMCOG official stated that the school buildings of today may become the senior centers of tomorrow."

Crawford said:

- Where will they live, and what services will they need?
- "This means that in 2030, we will have more people over the age of 60 than we had in our entire population in 2000," Crawford said.

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SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 2/10	8:45 a.m. Panera Bread	12:30-3 p.m. Focus Hope Distribution
	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	2-2:30 p.m. Massage
	10 a.m. Body Recall	
	noon Lunch	Wednesday 2/15
	12:30 p.m. Dpt. Bridge cancelled	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
	12:30 a.m. Bingo	10 a.m. Body Recall
	2:20 p.m. Massage	11 a.m. Blood Pressure
	7 p.m. Valentine Concert, Novi Chorales (adv. ticket req.)	11 a.m. Taking Off Towards Sensibly class
		11:30 p.m. Clogging*
		noon Lunch
		1 p.m. Game Day-free
Monday 2/13	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	2:30 p.m. Massage
	10 a.m. Body Recall	2-4 p.m. Estate Planning, Karen Stewart, by app.
	noon Lunch	
	12:30 p.m. Pinnoble*	Thursday 2/16
	2:20 p.m. Massage	9 a.m. Line Dance*
	2:30 p.m. Tea, DIA presentation, ST	9 a.m. Medicare Assistance by appointment
	6:30 p.m. Clogging*	9:30 a.m. Travel Meeting
Tuesday 2/14	8:30 a.m. Panera Bread	11 a.m.-1 p.m. Computer Lab open
	9 a.m. Line Dance	12:15 Lunch
	10 a.m. Asian Pacific	12 p.m. Contract Bridge*
	11 a.m. "Taking Care of Your Feet" Sharon Tamaszowski, Health Nurse	1-2 p.m. Line Dance
	noon Valentine's Day Lunch-free (adv. ticket req.)	1:30-3 p.m. Book Discussion "A Story of an American Lady" by Ronald Reagan
	12:30 p.m. Bingo held in activities room	2-2:30 p.m. Massage

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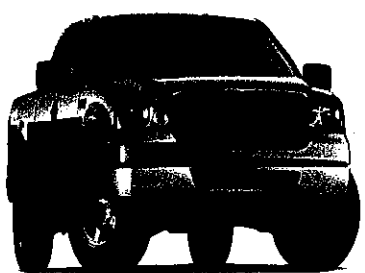
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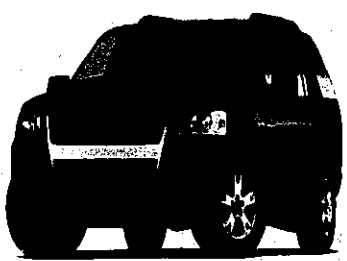
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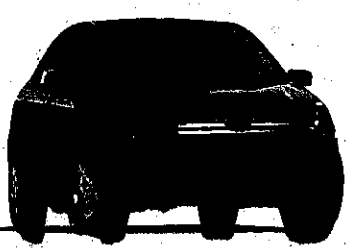
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Extra! Extra!

The Novi Wildcats and the Catholic Central Shamrocks have been working hard to keep their sports seasons in full swing. Don't miss out on all the action! — Page 2B



SPORTS



Wildcat wrestling stand-outs Nick Lichoroblec, John Favorite, Derek McClelland, and Dan Sprys.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Quick Hits

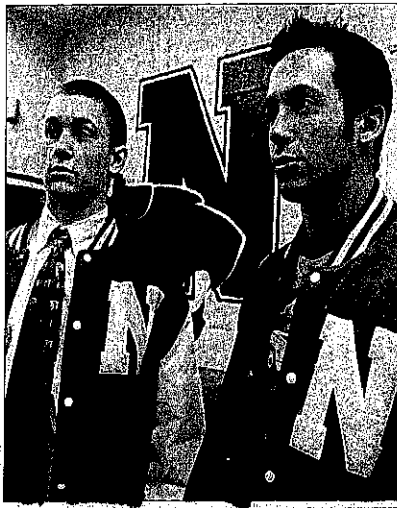
Looking for team liaisons
The Novi News is looking for team liaisons for all varsity teams. Parents, players and team statisticians are encouraged to send in team results on a week-to-week basis.
For more information on what kind of statistics and results are needed, e-mail sports writer Sam Eggleston at eggleston@gannet.com for details.

The cream of the crop
Some coaches never miss a week sending in their results, and for that they need to be commended.
In the fall and spring, coaches Bob Smith, Jim Hanson and Brian O'Leary are outstanding, while Tab Kellepourey and Bill Kelly hardly ever miss a beat.
For fall and winter, Brad Huss keeps on top of his sports while Julie Fissette and Emily Parker have been outstanding this winter.
Traditionally, in the spring, Deb Harris never misses a beat to promote her sport.
A round of applause, from the sports readership and the athletic department at Novi High School is well deserved for all of these coaches.
Sometimes, their scores don't get in, but that doesn't mean they don't send them. Thanks to each and every one of them, from the Novi News sports department.

Toughest 'Cats in town
Novi's wrestlers want to prove they're the best

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS INTERN

The Wildcats are no longer the only team in town.
The Novi High School varsity wrestling team, however, plans to be the best.
Senior grapplers John Favorite, Dan Sprys, Derek McClelland and Nick Lichoroblec have a common goal: defeat Novi-Detroit Catholic Central at the district meet on February 15.
"Catholic Central coming to Novi is a big deal," Sprys said. "We just want to prove who was here first."
In addition to leading the team post their intra-city rival, the four athletes would like to duplicate the success of last season. In 2005, Favorite, Sprys, and McClelland earned All-KVC honors, while Sprys qualified for the regional meet and Favorite advanced to the state championships.
This year, through February 2, Favorite is 28-4 with a first place individual finish in the Salem Round Robin tournament and a second place finish in the Salem Invitational. Sprys is 19-8, while Lichoroblec is 19-9 and McClelland is 17-8.
Favorite is the team captain, but all seniors are expected to be positive examples and demonstrate superior work ethic.
"If the kids see you not trying hard, then they think, 'Oh, wow, I don't have to try hard because the leaders aren't trying hard,'" Lichoroblec said. "Basically, you just want to try your hardest in practice and be vocal so the younger underclassmen know that they have to keep trying."
During practice, the seniors have worked to find a balance between disciplined and easygoing leadership.
"Wrestling is so intense that you definitely have to make jokes and try to make



Novi wrestlers Riley Lokar, left, and Matt Crawford.

it funny, make it fun for everyone so that they want to come to practice," Favorite said.
"I do goof off a lot, but I can also be serious," McClell said. "I usually go up to guys in school and make sure they're coming to practice, try, and get them to come as much as they can."

They feel that the sport of wrestling does not receive deserved recognition, but strong team camaraderie is the main source of motivation.
"Not many people from this school really know about the wrestling meets or, really, the wrestlers," Sprys said. "We don't usually have many people out there at our meets, but ... it's nice to know that all your teammates are so close. We support each other."
"These are the only kids you see for four months—every Friday, every Saturday, every day after school," Lichoroblec added.
McClelland, Sprys, and Favorite are also teammates on the varsity football team, and McClelland and Favorite plans to play club lacrosse and Sprys hopes to play football for an undecided Division III school. Lichoroblec and Favorite would like to attend the University of Michigan and McClelland is considering Central Michigan University.
Although none of the athletes will wrestle at the collegiate level, they feel that lessons from the sport will continue to influence their lives after graduation.
"You learn to keep working hard," McClelland said. "Even though you don't get much glory in wrestling, you just have to keep going at it. You just go to practice the next day and work even harder."
"It's all self-motivation, how much you want to yourself," Favorite added. "The discipline, everything you have to endure in wrestling, helps you know that you can tackle anything."

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

On fire!
Novi hockey standout Steve Rousseau is well on his way to an All-Area selection this winter.
The senior is every where he needs to be in order to find the back of the net, leading the Wildcats in goals this year.
Novi is 6-3-2 overall so far this year, though they traditionally come on strong by the time post-season rolls around. Expect to see them putting up some good fights by the end of the year.

Twice as nice
Check back next week for a feature on the Walker Twins, who signed their letter of intent to play for Western Kentucky last Wednesday.
The two girls were key in Novi's state championship run, proving they play their best in tense situations and the biggest of games.
Western Kentucky is lucky. These two sisters seem to know where one another is at all times on the field and they're always eager to help their team to a big victory.

Game coming to radio
The Novi Wildcats basketball team won't just be making an appearance on the hardwood in the coming weeks. They'll be making an appearance on your radio, too.
Novi High School's 89.5 (WOVI) radio station will start announcing the games. If you're a fan, you'll either be at the game or listening in on the old FM channel.

"If the kids see you not trying hard, then they think, 'Oh, wow, I don't have to try hard because the leaders aren't trying hard.' Basically, you just want to try your hardest in practice and be vocal so the younger underclassmen know that they have to keep trying."

Nic Lichoroblec
Novi Senior Wrestler

By the numbers	3-2	2	1	13-0	1962	1st	3rd
	Catholic Central hockey's overtime victory against Trenton last week.	Novi Wildcats girls soccer players who signed letters of intent for college.	Set of twins, Katie and Kelle Walker, who signed to Western Kentucky.	Northville basketball's current record, including a tough win over Novi this year.	The last year Northville had an undefeated regular season.	Place the Novi Wildcats cheer team took in the Ladywood Invitational.	Round in which the Novi cheer girls came from behind to take the tournament.

Cheer team takes first

By Sam Eggleston
sports writer

The Novi Wildcats cheerleading team isn't ready to say they've reached the heights of their potential. Instead, they like to think they're just starting to peak.

The squad earned first place in the Lakeside Invitational recently, scoring an impressive 60.6 points to edge old regional rival Highland's 62.3 points. Also in the tournament were Lavonia Franklin and Stevenson, Chippewa Valley, Northville and Port Huron.

In the first round, Novi scored 178 points before earning a 178.1 from the judges in the second round. It was their third round performance that catapulted them into the lead as they scored a whopping 281.5 points to secure the victory.

The team also earned a huge dual meet victory over KVC for South Lyon last week, crushing the Lions, 271.5-229.

In the first round, Novi earned a 109.5 before dominating the second round with a 161, it was all Wildcats as they topped South Lyon's score by nearly 50 points with a 271.5-point performance.

Gymnasts rolling along

The Northville-Novi gymnastics team knew heading into their dual meet with Lavonia it was going to be a tough match, especially without Julie Foescher, an all-around gymnast who was out with an injury.

The Wild Stangs put up a good fight but couldn't edge Lavonia, falling 146.85-139.8.

Leading the way for the team on the vault was Jacqueline Giacette with an 8.9 while Megan Wallen and Lauren Duda each collected an 8.05. Amy Reynolds, a freshman, earned an 8.9 on the bars while Sarah Ilkhami-Pour and Giacette each earned an 8.8.

On the beam, Emma Platt scored a 9.15 while Ilkhami-Pour collected an 8.45 and Wallen notched an 8.85. Rachel Donean led on the floor, scoring a 9.45 while Giacette had a 9.1 and Ilkhami-Pour notched 8.7.

All-around contributors were Giacette with 35.15 while Platt had a 34.3 and Ilkhami-Pour collected a 34.1.

The Wild Stangs then competed in the Central Invitational where they finished seventh - just 1.1 points out of third place.

On the vault, Giacette showcased her abilities with a 9.1 while Wallen earned an 8.95 and Platt scored an 8.8. On the bars, Regi Wilczek fifth overall and scored a 9.1 while Ilkhami-Pour notched a 9.125 and Giacette scored a 9.1, which was good for fourth overall in Division II standings. Reynolds scored a 9.1 on the beam, seventh overall, while Wallen earned a 9.05 and Donean an 8.05. On the floor, Donean had an 8.9 while Ilkhami-Pour scored an 8.05 and Wallen notched an 8.25.

It wasn't a great week for the Wild Stangs in terms of bad news. The team learned Foescher didn't sprain her foot, instead breaking a bone. "The doctor will miss the remainder of the season, but she has said she is committed to supporting the team at the remaining meets as well as when they qualify for states in early March.

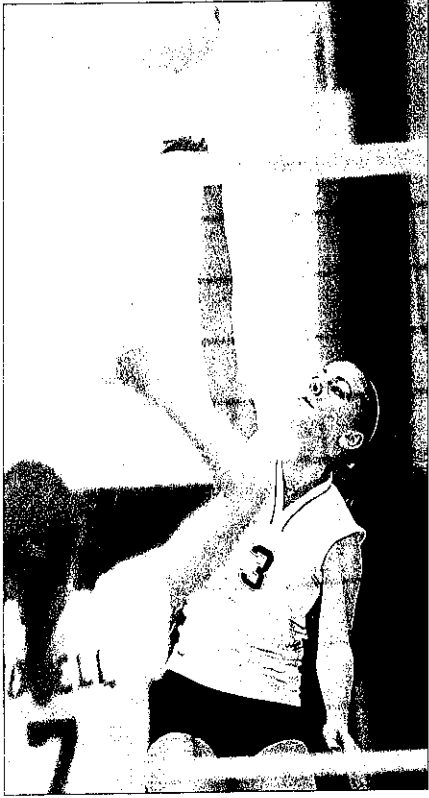


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Meghan Goldsmith lofts the ball over the net during the Wildcats' home game against the Howell Highlanders.

Claveria assist to lead in half. Brighton wouldn't be deterred, scoring again to end the first period, 3-1.

In the second, Brighton added two unanswered goals before Novi added two of their own off Claveria and Jeff Donahue. Brighton scored twice more in the second before Rousseau added another Novi tally for a 7-4 game heading into the third and final period.

In the third, Novi scored twice, cutting the lead to 7-6, but Brighton added two more - including an empty netter - to end the game.

Against East Grand Rapids, the Wildcats fell 8-3 with goals coming from Claveria and Ryan Timmer and Rousseau.

Brad Chis stopped 23 shots on the night.

Wrestlers split KVC quad

The Novi wrestling team had its hands full last week but managed to split a KVC quad meet it hosted as the Wildcats defeated Brighton, 48-21, and fell to Millford, 39-26.

Against Brighton, the Wildcats followed the lead of Jon Lichenowicz (103 pounds), who pinned his opponent in 3:37. Also scoring pins were Jeremy Young (140), Matt Crawford (152) and Dan Spys (215).

Earning a technical win was Nic Lichenowicz (119) in 4:53 while Robbie Huston (119) earned a 12-4 decision. Brad Frey (129) won his match, 20-10, while Dan Young (135) won, 13-2. Also earning decisions were Riley Lokar (145) with a 10-3 total, and captain John Favorite (160), who won, 13-3.

Jama Espinoza won by void at the 171-pound weight class.

Against Millford, five Wildcats found success. Favorite had the most impressive showing, beating Jason Woodcox with a pin in 3:37 while the biggest margin of decision victory came from Jeremy Young as he dominated Stuch 4-lightfoot, 12-2. Lokar earned a 7-0 victory over Geoffrey Graybed while Spys beat Ben Dajorek, 8-0. McClifford beat Jake Jaskiewicz to round out the wins, 6-4.

Spikers stop Howell

The Novi Wildcats volleyball team increased its overall record to 23-5-2 and climbed to a 6-3 mark in the Kichington Valley Conference with a victory over the Howell Highlanders last week.

Leading the way for Novi, which is coached by Julie Foescher, was Stephanie Cripps with 11 blocks and four kills while senior captain Jenna Kahn added 15 kills and six digs.

Hockey falls twice

After a strong showing over the course of a couple weeks, the Novi Wildcats found themselves skating against two of the toughest teams in the state in Brighton and East Grand Rapids. Against the Bulldogs last week the squad fell in a tight contest, 9-6. The Bulldogs were the first to get on the board, scoring twice before Steve Rousseau fired home a shot off a Tom

Shamrocks edge Trenton in OT, 3-2

Before the game started the atmosphere was electric. The Trenton student section was dressed like it was Halloween in every kind of costume imaginable. The rock band was playing and the kids were singing and dancing. Over 1,500 standing room only fans from both teams anxiously waited for the start of the game.

Trenton started the scoring in the first when the Shamrocks accidentally scored on their own goal at the 5:19 mark. Brian Estevez from Trenton was credited with the goal. Both teams played some inspired hockey the rest of the period but both goalies Dan Pason from Trenton and Ross Tashjian from CC came up big time after time.

Trenton's Kevin Hubbard gave his team a two-goal lead with 10:07 left in the second. It looked like Trenton was finally going to put one in the win column against CC; their last victory over CC was in 2000. But a two-goal lead in hockey is a dangerous lead and it proved that way when Dan Barczuk took a pass from Dan Naurato and scored a goal off a Trenton defenseman's stick. The second period ended with Trenton leading 2-1.

The third period opened and was played like the previous period, fast and furious with both teams rushing up the ice with scoring chances. Finally with 4:12 left in the third Dan Naurato (Steve Jankowski, Tim Buttery) found the back of the net to tie the game. Both teams had scoring chances late in the third but could not get the job done.

The game tied at two the teams started an eight-minute overtime period. Trenton got the first break when the Shamrocks were called for a two-minute penalty with 2:14 left to go in the game. CC played tough short handed and controlled the puck as the penalty ran out. Amazingly with only thirteen seconds left CC's Dan Naurato (Chad Wilhelm, Tim Buttery) scored the winning goal in a mad scramble in front of the Trenton goal.

Both goalies played well. Trenton's Dan Pason stopped 30 of 33 shots and CC's Ross Tashjian stopped 24 of 26 shots. Catholic Central's records now stands at 13-3-2 and is currently ranked first in Division 1. Trenton's records now stands at 16-3-0 and is currently ranked at first in Division 2.

Underclassman Scores

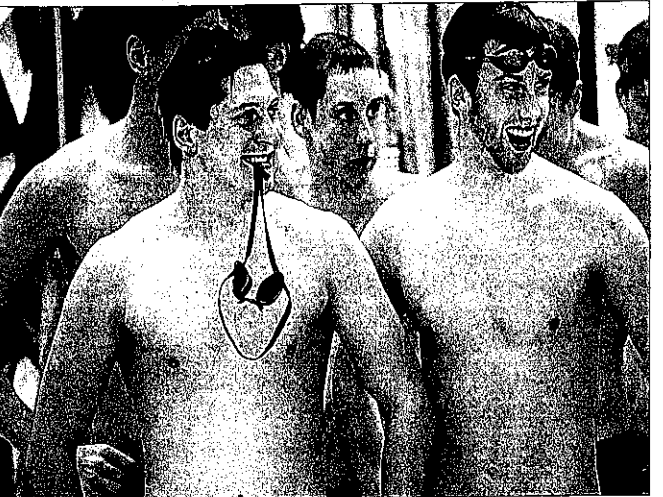
Junior varsity volleyball
The junior varsity volleyball team beat Pinckey two out of three games. Leading the Wildcats on offense was Paula Dietz with three kills and Rachel Burns with two kills. Lauren Sheelar was perfect on serve receives and added four serving aces. Paula Dietz had three aces and Kim Hildebrith didn't miss a serve while adding two aces.

Freshman basketball
Novi traveled to Pinckey to try to break their four game losing streak and did just that, winning in a tightly contested game, 29-27. The final stanza went back and forth and Novi missed several opportunities in the final stanza, but was able to tie it up at 27-27 with just 17 seconds left in the game. The Pirates defended well and Novi missed their first shot only to have Brad Kaylo grab the offensive rebound and put it back in as time. Kaylo owned the boards with 16 total rebounds (eight offensive) and seven points. Zach Danks had a great overall game with six points, six rebounds, five steals and a charge. The win puts Novi's record at 6-7 (2-0 KVC).

Competitive cheer
Novi Wildcats reared just a little bit louder than the South Lyon Lions as the freshmen earned a 382.50-279.70 victory and the junior varsity won 447.40-410.70.

Compiled by Sam Eggleston

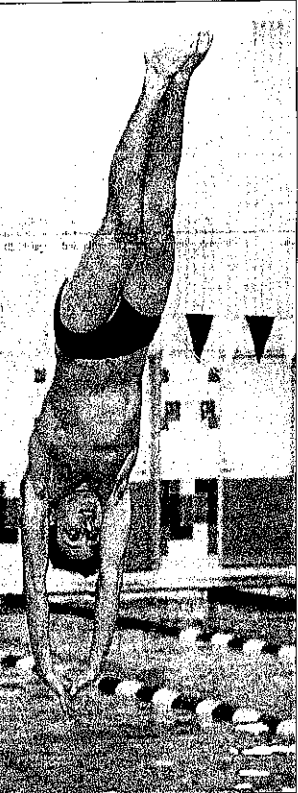
OFF THE DEEP



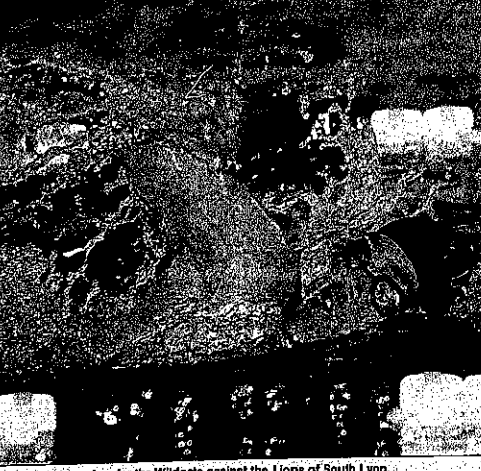
Wildcat swimmers Derek O'Branovic, left, Nick Wright, right, and others enjoy their victory against rival South Lyon and prepare to shake hands with the Lions' team.



Novi's Sholchi Tamura swims the breaststroke in Novi's meet against South Lyon.



Novi Wildcat Alex Arbour completes a dive during a recent home meet against South Lyon.



Drew LaDuke swims for the Wildcats against the Lions of South Lyon.

END OF THE DEEP POOL

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's cheerleaders smile after taking first at Ladywood.

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Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID HORNIG

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THEATRE	SHOWTIME	SEATING	PRICE
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15

Will Ferrell Drew Barrymore Original Songs by Jack Johnson

Show Me The Monkey!

Curious George

STARTS FRIDAY

THEATRE	SHOWTIME	SEATING	PRICE
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
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Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	7:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15
Albany	9:00 PM	100	\$10-\$15

Cheerleaders prepare for post-season challenges

The Novi Wildcats don't expect to be the greatest team in the state — they just expect to try and improve each and every week.

Couch Family Parker is confident they've been doing just that.

"I'm really excited about our changes in round three," she said. "We performed a new stunt sequence on Wednesday and it really looked impressive."

That's the secret to being a Wildcat. It's not just about looking good with big smiles on your face. It's more about being willing to adjust from week to week, implementing new routines and new styles. Novi has made themselves a state-recognized team thanks to their adaptability.

This year will be a little different for the Wildcats, who used to compete in a regional with powerhouses like Allen Park and Bedford. This year they'll see some familiar faces in the post-season tournament as they travel to Brighton to take on the likes of Highland and Dighton. Novi has to try to finish in the top two to advance to the state finals.

In order to get there, they have to practice, practice, practice. On Mondays, the girls are doing gymnastics. That's 12 back-handstands, 60 back-handstands in a row as quickly as possible. Then they run while yelling words from their cheers to build their aerobic base and then work on more gymnastics, work on their rounds, focus on specific portions of cheer to ensure exactness across the board and then back to jumps, back tucks, and all kinds of other jumps and flips and then on to conditioning, their three cheer rounds and, finally, they take a deep breath and get ready for the next day.



Sam Eggleston



Georgia Katapodis (left), Jessica Jodoin and Quinn Priests know the value of striking a pose — especially when a judge is near!

Novi's tactics have paid off. A 3-1 record from 17 girls on the team (plus one manager) and the goal of advancing to the state meet firmly in mind. "The team chooses the direction we go for the year," Parker said. "They choose the goals together in a meeting at the beginning of the season. This common focus helps them stay driven and to work together." And that focus is what will take them through the remainder of their regular season and in a full sprint into the post-season challenges that await them. "The team has been to states before, when Parker was first starting to take over the program. She knows the feeling and she's hoping her team gets immersed in the highest level of competition for high school cheerleaders in Michigan.

It's exciting and it's a lot closer than many might think. But, they're ready. "This team is hardworking and very focused on our goals," said Parker. "Right now we need to work on cleaning up our skills. The height on our jumps is great, but we need them all to stay exactly." And like the old saying goes: Practice makes perfect.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 449-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gannett.com.

SPORTS SHORTS

3-on-3 basketball youth tournament

This is a popular program and there is limited enrollment. For more information on the Breakfast Club or any other Suburban Hockey program, contact (248) 478-1600 or www.suburbanhockey.com.

Novi Heat fund-raising event

The U13 Novi Heat baseball team will be holding a fund-raising event at Connelly's Hold In The Wall restaurant Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. The team over the past two seasons were USSSA World Series consolation finalists as well as last year's run to Puerto Rico, which included being Michigan District champions, Ohio Regional champions and a berth to the World Series in San Juan.

Adult hockey

Sign-up now for the winter session of the Breakfast Club Adult Hockey Series. Registration is underway for the Breakfast Club presented by Laban-Suburban Hockey's weekly meeting skills and conditioning series for adult hockey players of all ability levels. The 10-week session will run through March 15. The Breakfast Club will take place at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills on Tuesday and Wednesday: Suburban Ice-Macomb on Tuesday; Onyx-Rochester Ice Arena and Dearborn Ice Skating Center on Thursday. Suburban Ice Farmington Hills will also be the site of the Advanced Breakfast Club program on Thursday.

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls, ages 10-19, are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antonio Johnson. Players from every state and 18 countries attend of the 2005 camp. College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Lebanon, Tenn., Prescott, Ariz., Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sterling, Colo., Bridgeport, Conn., Sebring Park, Fla., Gainesville, Ga., Champaign, Ill., North Manchester, Ind., Towson, Md., Ypsilanti, Glastonbury, N.J., Schenectady, N.Y., Hickory, N.C., Commerce, Texas, Blacksburg, Va., Lyndonville, Va. and Beloit, Wis. For more information and a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

HIGH SCHOOLS SPORTS SCHEDULES

Novi			
Basketball			
Varsity			
2/10	Away	Lakeland	7 p.m.
2/14	Home	Brighton	7 p.m.
2/17	Away	South Lyon	7 p.m.
JV			
2/10	Away	Lakeland	5:30 p.m.
2/14	Home	Brighton	5:30 p.m.
2/17	Away	South Lyon	5:30 p.m.
Freshman			
2/10	Away	Lakeland	4 p.m.
2/14	Home	Brighton	5:30 p.m.
2/17	Away	South Lyon	5:30 p.m.
Volleyball			
2/9	Home	Brighton	5:30 p.m.
2/11	Home	Novi JV Invitational	9 a.m.
2/16	Away	South Lyon	5:30 p.m.
Swimming			
2/9	Away	Harland	6 p.m.
2/10	Away	MISCA Diving	TBA
2/11	Away	MISCA Swimming	TBA
2/16	Home	Millard	6 p.m.
Gymnastics			
2/9	Home	Harland	7 p.m.
2/13	Away	Plymouth	7 p.m.
2/16	Away	Farmington	6:30 p.m.
Cheerleading			
2/15	Home	Millard	7 p.m.
2/18	Away	KVC Championships	TBA

Catholic Central			
Pom pon			
2/12	Away	States	9 a.m.
Wrestling			
2/11	Away	KVC Championship Team Districts	9 a.m.
2/15	Away	TBA	TBA
Bowling			
2/11	Away	Lakeland	12 p.m.
2/17	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
Hockey			
2/10	Away	Michigan Showcase	12 p.m.
2/11	Away	Michigan Showcase	10:20 a.m.
2/15	Home	Hartland	6 p.m.
Swimming			
2/9	Away	Grosse Pointe North	6:30 p.m.
2/11	Away	MISCA	TBA
2/16	Away	De LaSalle	7 p.m.
Wrestling			
Varsity			
2/11	Home	CHSL	10 a.m.
JV			
2/18	Home	Holt Invitational	9 a.m.
Freshman			
2/18	Home	Holt Invitational	9 a.m.

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FOOD

cupcakes ALL GROWN UP

Cupcakes, once reserved for elementary school parties, kids' birthdays and picnics, have grown up. And oh, so beautifully. Great for today's more casual, grab-and-go way of eating and entertaining, these individual mini-cakes don't require the skill of a professional to slice and serve and can be hand-held in most cases.

Also new on the scene are great cupcake trees that allow you to show off your creations with the appropriate flair. And the sophistication of flavors is only limited by your imagination. Here are three great ideas and one easy but spectacular decorating idea. So whenever your spring celebration, these cupcakes are sure to "take the cake." Or, should we say, "take the place of the cake?"

For more great cupcake ideas, visit bettycrocker.com.

- Key West Cupcakes**
Prep Time: 25 minutes
Start to Finish: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Filling**
- 1 box (4-serving size) instant vanilla pudding and pie filling mix
 - 1 1/2 cups whipping cream
 - 1/4 cup fresh Key lime or lime juice
 - 4 drops green food color
 - 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- Cupcakes**
- 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist yellow cake mix
 - Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box

- Strawberry and Cream Cupcakes**
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Start to Finish: 45 minutes
- 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist white cake mix
 - 1 1/4 cups strawberry-flavored soda pop
 - 1/3 cup vegetable oil
 - 3 egg whites
 - 1 container (1-pound) Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy cream cheese frosting
 - 1 to 3 drops red food color
 - 1/2 cup white Jimmies sprinkles

- Molten Chocolate Mini Cakes**
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Start to Finish: 2 hours
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
 - 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
 - 1 box Betty Crocker SuperMoist devil's food cake mix
 - 1 cup water
 - 1/2 cup vegetable oil
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 container (1-pound) Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy chocolate frosting
 - Powdered sugar
 - Sliced strawberries



DRESSING UP THE classic cupcake

Decorative Designs
On waxed paper, draw small decorative designs. Fill a small heavy-duty plastic food-storage bag with melted white chocolate, seal it and cut one of the corners with scissors. Squeeze bag, gently tracing the design drawn on the waxed paper. Sprinkle with colored sugar. Let stand to allow chocolate to set. Carefully remove waxed paper from chocolate design. Top cupcake with design.

White on White on White
Pull a sharp vegetable peeler down the edge of a white chocolate candy bar to produce chocolate shavings the perfect size for a cupcake. Frost cupcake with Betty Crocker Rich & Creamy creamy white frosting. Top with white chocolate curls and dust with powdered sugar.

Classic cupcake tree holds 23 cupcakes - 12 1/2-inch x 12-inch. \$22.99 plus shipping. Order item #5025 under Catalog Shopping at bettycrocker.com or 1-800-432-4959.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

B6

Local News

Thursday, February 9, 2006

Home Owners...Do you use your fireplace?

If you do read this article for helpful information and gaining knowledge.

TRADITIONAL FIREPLACES - The fire burns in a firebox lined with firebrick (or heavy metal liner). The heat creates a draft that pulls smoke up through the throat to a smoke chamber then up the flue, which is brick, tile, or a metal liner inside a masonry chimney. A fire damper regulates the draft and keeps air from escaping up the flue when the fireplace is not in use. The smoke shelf behind the damper traps hundreds of pounds of outside air that could push smoke into the living area. Most draft air from inside the house - a gas holds the key so that air can take the fire from underneath - while others draw air from the outside through an air intake. An intake damper seals the intake when the fireplace is not in use. A heat-exchanging fireplace provides some radiant heat, but mainly warms air that circulates around the firebox. Some have a fan that increases the air flow. They achieve a high efficiency by enclosing the fireplace with glass doors and are equipped with an outside air intake.

FIREPLACE GAS INSERT - These units can fit into an existing fireplace. They operate at efficiencies of 60 to 80 percent compared to a traditional fireplace. The space around the unit must be sealed with steel mesh plate and jacket with a venting pipe or masonry. A flue liner must be installed from the top of the unit through the chimney. This improves the draft, keeps the space between the insert and the fireplace structure clear, and reduces the risk of fire gases seeping back into the house.

WOOD STOVE - A modern wood stove is more efficient than a traditional fireplace. Some only radiate heat while others also heat air passing around the firebox in convection currents. Advanced systems create conditions to burn combustible gases without the use of catalysts. With catalytic stoves, a catalytic converter lets from the gases. Pellet stoves use manufactured pellets that are fed into the combustion chamber by a pellet auger. Cleavage Requirements from Walls and Floor: Wood stoves must sit on a non-combustible hearth which must extend a least eight inches beyond the sides and back and 18 inches in front of the stove and least 24 inches from side walls and 30 inches from back wall (chimney). Only black steel building or fire codes. Only black steel coverage (24 gauge min) should be used between a wood stove and chimney. The overall run of stove pipe should be under 10 feet with no more than two 90-degree elbows.

RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE ITEMS

CLEAN THE CHIMNEY - creosote can start fires, chimneys should be checked with creosote buildup reaches 1/8 inch thickness.

FIREBOX AND MASONRY REPAIRS - any cracks can pose a fire hazard and should be filled with refractory mortar; repair masonry points and replace mortar beds.

SAFETY TIPS - DO NOT BURN TRASH OR CHARCOAL IN A WOOD-BURNING UNIT

DO NOT BURN PRESSURE-TREATED OR PAINTED WOOD - CAN PRODUCE DANGEROUS FUMES.

DO NOT BURN FINE OR SOFT WOOD, CAUSE RAPID CREOSOTE BUILDUP

NEVER OVERLOAD FIREPLACE OR WOOD STOVE - REDUCE AIR FLOW/COMBUSTION

REMOVE ASHES - FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES PERFORM BETTER IF CLEAN

OLD CHIMNEYS SHOULD BE LINED WITH TILE OR METAL LINER (FIREPLACES BUILT BEFORE 1950 DO NOT HAVE LINERS)

PURCHASE ONLY DIRECT-VENT FIREPLACES RATED BY UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY OR THE AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION AGA

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOOD WHEN BURNING:

Type - Apple
Ease of Starting - Poor
Heat Value - Good
Fragrance - Excellent

Type - Ash
Ease of Starting - Fair
Heat Value - Good
Fragrance - Slight

Type - Birch
Ease of Starting - Good
Heat Value - Good
Fragrance - Slight

Type - Cedar
Ease of Starting - Excellent
Heat Value - Fair
Fragrance - Good

Type - Elm
Ease of Starting - Fair
Heat Value - Good
Fragrance - Fair

Type - Hickory
Ease of Starting - Fair
Heat Value - Excellent
Fragrance - Slight

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At Orin Jewelers, (left-right) Orin Mazzoni Jr., Orin Mazzoni III, Gina Mazzoni, Carole Urban and Joshua Summers value customer service.

Orin Jewelers thrives in downtown Northville

Serving local customers for 23 years

Orin Jewelers has been serving local customers for 23 years from its store in the historic building on the corner of Main and Center streets in downtown Northville.

The jewelry business has been a tradition for three generations of the Mazzoni family for more than 70 years. Orin Jewelers has operated for 53 years in Michigan and 23 years in Northville.

Orin Mazzoni opened his first store in West Virginia in 1933. Orin and his wife, Mary, moved their family to Michigan in 1953 and opened a store in Garden City under the name Orin Jewelers. When he retired in 1969, Orin Jr. took over as president and CEO of the business.

The family decided to expand in 1983 and opened their second showroom in downtown Northville at its present location. Orin Jewelers has become a fixture in the community under the direction of the Mazzoni family.

Orin Mazzoni III joined the family business in 1998 and today serves as manager of the Northville store. In the tradition of his namesakes, Orin strives to provide customers with fine quality jewelry, personal customer service and superior jewelry repair, all at affordable prices.

"Trust is very important in the jewelry business," said Orin III. "We have built our reputation for honesty and integrity." Orin Jewelers offers a large selection of fine jewelry, quality crystal and gift items. The store carries designer jewelry created by the world's leading designers, including I.B. Star, Peter Stern, Scott Kray, Teocri, Mikimoto, and D'Annunzio.



Siblings Gina and Orin Mazzoni III help customers feel at home at Orin Jewelers in downtown Northville.

With Valentine's Day coming next week, Mazzoni wants to emphasize their tremendous selection of gifts for \$25 and up for special loved ones in our lives. Orin carries a variety of beautiful diamonds and colored stone jewelry for every age and taste.

"Our mission is to have a friendly jewelry store, a human store that places customer satisfaction above all else," said Orin. "It's a store where our customers can recommend their friends and relatives and be assured they will be thanked for their recommendation."

Orin Jewelers is one of only 503 jewelers in the world that carries "Hearts On Fire" diamonds and jewelry. Hearts On Fire is the world's most perfectly cut diamond. They offer a large selection of engagement and wedding rings, and other bridal jewelry.

ORIN JEWELERS

Northville: 101 East Main at Center, in downtown Northville; (248) 349-6940
Garden City: 29317 Ford Road; (734) 422-7030
Web: www.orinjewelers.com

Along with the "Nonimitations" Italian charm bracelet, Orin's has a large selection of the Pandora bracelet. It is a new type of charm bracelet that allows people to customize their own with different links (charms). The bracelet, starting from \$19 with the charms costing from \$6 each and up, makes a great gift for Valentine's or other special occasions.

"You want to come in and see the affordable things they have to offer," said Tammy Morris of Northville, who is president of the Catholic Central High School Mothers Club. "You get the quality and the service and you're a part of the Orin family."

Orin Jewelers is truly a family business with everyone in the family working in the business. Orin's sister Gina works with him in the Northville store, while his father, Orin Jr., works between the Garden City and Northville stores. Carole Urban has also been part of the Orin family for over 25 years since she started working in the Northville store.

"We treat all our customers like family," said Orin III, who remembers his grandfather teaching him and his sisters that philosophy from a very young age. "We have more professional jewelry technicians through the Gemological Institute of America or the American Gem Society than any other jeweler in the

state," said Orin. In emphasizing the qualifications of their staff, the backbone of Orin Jewelers has always been its quality repair and design department. It's how Orin Sr. started his business and is still a very important part of it today.

All of the repairs are done in the Garden City store where Orin Jr. personally makes sure that every piece of jewelry receives the highest care and quality.

"We are very customer-oriented," Orin III said. "We welcome everyone to visit our store and offer free jewelry cleaning and inspection for anyone bringing their jewelry into the store without having to make a purchase." Orin Jewelers' business has grown tremendously over the years. They attribute their success to the dedication of their staff to make sure every customer is satisfied, having the best customers in the world, being involved in the community, and having a great landmark building in downtown Northville.

"We had a great Christmas season and it is a wonderful feeling to know that we made so many people feel special during the holiday season," said Orin III. "Orin Jewelers is pleased to be part of the community and support the local schools and many local events which bring people downtown to shop at the variety of businesses located there."

"With many new businesses in town, we have almost everything you need downtown with clothing, gifts, restaurants and specialty stores," said Orin III. "People enjoy shopping downtown throughout the entire year and the goal of downtown merchants is to make it a more enjoyable experience in the future."

Orin Jewelers in Northville is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

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