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Novi News

THURSDAY January 22, 2009

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Mayor: Novi is up to the challenges of 2009

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Today, hundreds from the Novi community are expected to gather in the Diamond Ballroom at Rock Financial Showplace to hear Mayor David Landry address the state, health and position of the city, as well as the overall economy.

"While 2009 is certainly going to be a challenge, Novi is definitely up to the challenge," he said. "We are in a position to continue to prosper in this economy."

REFLECTING ON THE PAST

After struggling through a year of recession and bailouts, with unemployment and fore-

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Gov. Jennifer Granholm will deliver the 2009 State of the State Address 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, in the House Chambers at the State Capitol building in Lansing.

closure rates at an all-time high, Landry reflects upon Novi's successes in 2008.

"We're very fortunate that our unemployment rates and our foreclosure rates are lower than the states," he said. "We have been able to attract businesses even in this economy."

Landry recognizes the city's approach to diversifying its tax base as a major reason for Novi's fiscal health.

"In the face of the economy, you don't stop what you're doing, you just get smarter."

CITY OF NOVI MAYOR DAVID LANDRY

The mayor notes developments such as ITC Transmission, Ryder Systems, The Art Institute of Michigan, Harman Becker, Staybridge Suites, JPRA Architects, and a number of medical facilities as significant additions to Novi's more than 1,600 businesses.

During 2007, Landry said the nonresidential tax base in the City of Novi increased by \$50 million.

"You have to keep a well-balanced tax base and make sure your infrastructure is up to speed," he said.

Substantial improvements

made in 2008 to what Landry refers to as a city's "big three" — roads, public safety and water and sewer — include the addition of two miles of sewer main, improvements to more than two miles of neighborhood roads and the renovation of Fire Station No. 2, located at 13 Mile and Novi roads.

He said safety and the ability to get around the city are among the reasons Novi was selected as one of the top 100 places to live by *Money Magazine*.

Please see **MAYOR, A7**



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, left, and Novi Mayor David Landry were in attendance at the grand opening of Novi's ITC headquarters.



Let Freedom Ring

The Novi Middle School Liberty Belles perform at Monday night's Unity in the Community gathering honoring Martin Luther King Jr. at Novi High School.

Novi schools, businesses ax peanut butter products

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Local grocers, as well as the Novi Community School District, are taking precautionary measures in dealing with the salmonella scare recently linked to peanut butter.

"We're going to play it safe and pull off anything containing peanut products," said JoAnn Clements, director of the school district's nutrition and food services department.

Ongoing investigations have revealed a nationwide outbreak of salmonella typhimurium has sickened about 475 people, including 25 in Michigan, since early September, and may have contributed to the deaths of at least six people.

"Salmonella is a bacteria that you usually ingest and it generally causes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramping," said Dr. Tammy Lundstrom, chief medical officer at Providence Park Hospital in Novi. "Some people have to be treated with antibiotics, but most people get better on their own."

Lundstrom, who is an infectious disease specialist, said most people contract the illness within 12-72 hours after eating salmonella-contaminated food, and will be sick for four to seven days.

The latest sources of salmonella were traced to products produced at a Georgia plant, owned by Peanut Corporation of America. The company manufactures peanut butter and peanut paste for distribution to be used in commercially produced products including cakes, cookies,

crackers, candies, cereal and ice cream.

According to the government, Peanut Corporation of America does not sell peanut butter directly to consumers, and major national brands of jarred peanut butter do not appear to be affected.

Novi Community Schools food service officials confirmed that no peanut products sold to district cafeterias are part of the current food recall, but to ensure the safety of Novi students, suspended the sale of peanut products in school cafeterias and vending machines until the health problem is resolved.

"We do serve very minimal peanut products as it is," Clements said.

Due to allergies, no peanut products are sold in K-five and very limited peanut products are sold to students in grades sixth-12.

Many companies have also voluntarily recalled peanut butter products, pending the FDA investigation. Kroger has recalled Private Selection Peanut Butter Passion Ice Cream, and Meijer has recalled Meijer Cheese and Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers, Meijer Toasty Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers, Meijer Peanut Butter and Jelly Ice Cream and Meijer Peanut Butter Cup Ice Cream.

Customers who have purchased any of the recalled items from Kroger or Meijer can return them to the stores for a full refund.

An updated list of recalled products can be found on the Food and Drug Administration Web site at www.fda.gov.

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Monday marks last district community forum

Novi High School schedule changes discussed

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

The last opportunity for residents to learn more about the Novi High School proposed schedule change is Monday.

NOVI HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUM

6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26
Instructional Technology Center, 25345 Taft Road

The final community forum will take place 6:30 p.m. in the Instructional Technology Center, 25345 Taft Road behind the Educational Services Building. An initial forum was

held Jan. 15.

The schedule recommended is a 4X4 alternating block, a change from the 4X4 block the high school uses now.

The most notable change is students would take eight yearlong classes on alternating days, one-credit per class, eight credits per year. Students would not change classes and no class would require two credits to complete.

District officials state the

changes are needed for many reasons. The driving force is in 2006, the State of Michigan imposed the Michigan Merit Curriculum, beginning with the Class of 2011, mandating specific courses with a specific curriculum students must pass in order to graduate.

Another reason stated by officials is the change reflects feedback throughout the years

Please see **FORUM, A9**

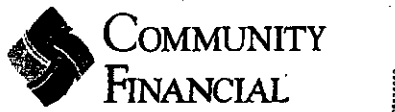
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Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 households in Michigan.

*See branch for complete details. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2009 Community Financial

For every new checking account opened in January 2009, Community Financial will contribute \$10.00 to THAW.*



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Inside

Getting help for DTV transition

Community, A2

Volume 53 Number 35

Novi prepares for DTV transition

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

As the deadline looms for the federally mandated digital television transition, local businesses are offering consumers the necessary products and solutions to make the switch as smooth as possible.

Digital Communication Solutions in Walled Lake said the goal of its Web site is to explain the transition and offer services to help facilitate the change.

As of midnight Feb. 17, all television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to digital broadcasting.

"If someone is currently using a standard definition television with an over-the-air antenna, then on the date of the transition their TVs will just go to snow," said Jerry Chapman, president of the Novi-based Solid Signal.

Those who are currently connected to cable, satellite or any other pay TV service should not be assisted.

In an effort to assist with the transition, the government is offering \$40 TV Converter Box Coupons for

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

■ Solid Signal
www.solidsignal.com
(866) 374-4625
■ Digital Communication Solutions
www.transitionmytv.com
(888) 485-8049

households who wish to keep their analog television sets.

The Novi-based Solid Signal is an online retailer of high-tech consumer electronics and a government-approved vendor of digital television converter boxes.

"We carry a variety of products for those who want a choice," Chapman said, noting his company sells 5,000-7,000 converter boxes a week. "I think people think it's going to give them cable, but it just enhances what you've already got."

On average, Chapman said converter boxes range from \$50-\$90 and are offered with various amenities.

Other transition solutions include purchasing a new television with a built-in digital tuner or subscribing to cable services through a local provider.



Jerry Chapman, of Novi's Solid Signal, has been selling thousands of these digital TV signal converter boxes through his business off of Haggerty Road.

According to Digital Communication Solutions, the transition is happening because broadcasters became interested in high-definition television and providing more channels to viewers,

while Congress backed the move to digital to free up the analog channels for emergency communications and advanced services.

Among the benefits of the switch to digital, Chapman

said it will offer different programming options and a clearer picture.

Although the switch day is still Feb. 17, a postponement, supported by the Obama administration, could be

voted on by lawmakers in coming weeks.

For more information regarding the switch, visit www.dtv2009.gov.

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THE NOVI NEWS
Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
101 Lafayette
South Lyon, Michigan 48178
Periodical
At South Lyon, Michigan

Subscription Rates:
Inside Counties \$9 for 13 wks. home delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$20 for 13 wks., prepaid. Out of state, \$25 for 13 wks.

The Novi News is published by Federated Publications, Inc. a wholly owned subsidiary of Gannett Co. Inc. Postmaster, send address changes to: The Novi News, 323 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48844. POLICY STATEMENT: All advertising published in The Novi News is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, The Novi News, 101 Lafayette, South Lyon, Michigan 48178. (248-349-1700). The Novi News reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. The Novi News and its stations have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

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Novi property owners are required to remove snow from fire hydrants located on their property. Clearing the snow allows firefighters to access the hydrants immediately in the event of an emergency.

"We want to remind residents and business owners to keep the hydrants located on their properties clear of snow," said Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith. "When we arrive at an emergency, precious seconds could be wasted digging out a hydrant for use. By keeping the hydrant clear of snow, it allows firefighters to provide the best possible service to your family, neighbors and businesses."

For more information contact the Novi Fire Department or visit www.cityofnovi.org.

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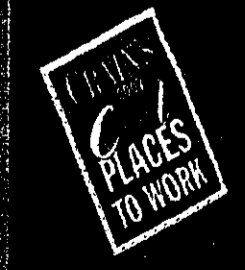
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Maybe some people are getting the message

True, Michigan still has a flawed budget system that creates a billion-dollar-plus structural deficit in the general fund every year. Forecasts show state tax revenues are — no surprise — below projections, the consequence of our terrible economy made even worse by the nation's financial crisis. Experts say that without any money from the federal stimulus package, the fiscal 2010 budget is facing a \$1.4 billion deficit — or worse. Yet

for the first time, some of the politicians seem to get it. More on that shortly. But first — if this bleak scene seems familiar, it is because it is. Two years ago, Michigan was facing a eerily similar situation. Gov. Jennifer Granholm then summoned some of the smartest and most experienced folks in the

state to serve on a Emergency Financial Advisory Board. The board was co-chaired by former governors Bill Milliken and Jim Blanchard. EFAB, as it came to be called, produced a short, comprehensive and sensible report that called for far-reaching structural changes in government cost and organization.

Among them were recommendations to trim generous pension and fringe benefits enjoyed by state employees, achieve comprehensive health care reform and, encourage local governments and schools to share administrative services. The report also called for Lansing to get a handle on the skyrocketing costs of our prison system. But to the administration and legislature's disgrace, the report was quickly forgotten, and nearly all these highly sensible recommendations were ignored. Now, after two years of vigorously kicking the can down the road, we face much the same situation. This time, however, there are some encouraging signs of change. Corrections spending offers a good example. Nearly everybody recognizes that our

practice of spending \$2 billion a year on warehousing felons — more than we spend in our colleges and universities — is a poor idea. Republicans have generally urged changes in prison management, including cutting down millions of dollars in overtime caused by rigid work rules for prison guards and privatizing some functions such as health care and food service.

Democrats pointed to prisons bulging at the seams, something that is the product of rigid and tough sentencing guidelines. Alas, nobody was willing to meet the other side halfway, and so year after year, nothing changed. Then late last year, an unprecedented coalition of groups — including various chambers of commerce, Detroit Renaissance, the Small Business Association, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Hospital Association and The Center for Michigan — issued an open letter to Michigan citizens calling on the governor and legislature to cut "several hundreds of millions from corrections spending" over the next several years. Eyes widened in surprise.

Suddenly, there are signs that the Department of Corrections and legislative leaders have agreed to modify the workings of the parole system so as to get inmates out of the system, thereby saving \$20 million to \$30 million annually. Coalition members, while praising this as a good first step, are calling for more cuts.

On another front, Gov. Granholm last week announced "nothing is off the table" when working to balance the budget, including possible major changes in the organization of state government. Lt. Gov. John Cherry let the obvious be known: That Michigan's governmental structure is based on a 1950s manufacturing model and needs to be brought into the 21st century. There's a long way to go. While the state today has 22,000 fewer workers than it had 30 years ago, it has three times the number of employees working in prisons.

Yet some valuable ideas are already beginning to percolate through. Lansing, Kevin Prokop, co-chair of the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency, said last week that his commission will be proposing \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion savings when it reports later this spring. And a group including Detroit Renaissance, The Center for Michigan and both the Detroit and Michigan Chambers of Commerce will release this week a comprehensive list of ways to save billions, including the kinds of structural changes in state government that both parties have resisted for years.

Without a doubt, Michigan must cut spending in order to get coming deficits under control. Far more important is the need to resolve the structural deficit that will mount to \$10 billion by 2017 if nothing is done. Getting our financial house in order is an essential first step in a long-term program to put Michigan on the right track.

Another important step is to reform the tax system that was jury-rigged with a new Michigan Business Tax two years ago. The tax itself was at first seen as an improvement on the old Single Business Tax — till lawmakers couldn't agree on a variety of other ways to raise necessary revenue. So at the last moment in September 2007, a 20 percent surcharge was slapped on top of the new MBT. That infuriated many businesses, who felt betrayed. Finally, though it has taken a long time coming, those we elect to lead us seem to be getting the message. This may sound like a cliché, but it just might be that in Michigan's case, the crisis of 2009 will turn out to be much too valuable a thing to put to waste.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics and economics. He is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think tank which publishes the Michigan Scorecard. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of The Center. He welcomes your comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

Business communication seminar at Walsh College

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is hosting a series of communication seminars designed to help businesses communicate news to internal and external audiences during tough economic times. In cooperation with the Michigan Chamber, Rick Kamel, president of PRBYTHEMINUTE.com will present the seminar from 9-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5 at Walsh College, Novi campus, 41500 Gardenbrook Road. The seminar costs \$95, or \$75 for Michigan Chamber members. For more information or to register, visit mes2.nichamber.com.

Volunteers needed for city boards and commissions

Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Board of Review, Building Authority, Construction Board of Appeals, Economic Development Corporation, Historical Commission, Library Board, Planning Commission, Public Access Promotion Commission and the Stormwater Management and Watershed Stewardship Committee.

Anyone interested in volunteering to serve on a board or commission must be a registered City of Novi voter. Applications are available at www.cityofnovi.org or at the Novi City Clerk's office, located inside the Novi Civic Center at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. The deadline for filing an application is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27. All applicants must be present at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2 in council chambers for interviews.

NOVI BRIEFLY



Jeff Sneed leans over to interpret his daughter Jacquelinne's wishes while the two pause on the dance floor at last year's Daddy Daughter Dance.

Glitter and Glam

Novi Parks is hosting its annual Daddy Daughter Dance 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 and Saturday Feb. 7 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. The event will feature the glitz and glamour of the red carpet, and include appetizers, desserts, swag bags and dancing. Photo packages are available for an additional fee.

As the platinum sponsor of the event, Novi's Larson Jewelry & Design is offering a commemorative sterling silver charm for \$8. Corsages are also available for \$8 and both purchases can be made during registration, which ends Jan. 23. Register online at www.cityofnovi.org for \$12, or in person for \$17.

One month free at Sports Club of Novi

Anyone thinking about joining a health club can register for a free 30-day trial, no obligation membership at the Sports Club of Novi until Jan. 31. Located at 42500 Arena Drive, the fitness center includes cardio equipment with personal entertainment systems; resistance and free weight equipment; state-of-the-art yoga studio and classes; Stott Pilates mat classes; 12 tennis courts; an eight-lane, 25-meter lap pool; individual steam, sauna and whirlpool rooms for men and women; luxurious, safe and secure locker rooms with towels; cool down cafe; and a kids center is available. To take advantage of the offer, call (248) 735-8850.

Novi middle schoolers design self-sufficient places to live

BY PEGGY WALSH-SARNECKI
FREE PRESS EDUCATION WRITER

Moving walkways, doors that open by pushing a button on a wristband and cities built in layers were a fraction of the ideas from 800 students representing 25 middle schools competing last Wednesday in the Michigan Future City Competition in Novi.

The students' challenge this year was to create a self-sufficient city where homes conserved, recycled and reused water. Their only limit was their imagination. Most teams spent upward of 100 hours developing their projects.

"It involves kids from all walks ... to really develop the city they want to live in in the future," said Ronald Smith, director of education for the Engineering Society of Detroit,

which sponsors the annual event intended to encourage students to study engineering, science and math.

This year's winning effort came from St. Julia Lutheran Middle School in Rochester, but there was no shortage of entries that got the judges' attention.

Novi Middle School's city, Wimmersville, used microwave and solar power and collected rainwater from homes. Dearborn Heights Montessori School students' Hydropolis was layered so residents could travel mostly by conveyor belt or tram, instead of by car. All the homes were self-sufficient, using a hydrogen fuel cell and recycled rainwater.

"In the future, there's not so much fossil fuels left, so there's a lot of people to buy our bio-fuels, so that's the basis of our

economy," said eighth-grader Chris Wepler, 13, of Belleville. Students from Shrine Catholic Academy in Royal Oak took apart an outdated computer and used the parts to build Shrineopolis, including CDs for towers and circuits for mechanical parts. They dabbled up on water power — hydroelectric from a river and tidal from the ocean surrounding their island city. They also burned their trash to heat water for steam power and ramped up their solar power with special panels that would gather even more energy.

"The most surprising was probably how all of our ideas mixed together," said Daniel Trestnak, 13, an eighth-grader from Royal Oak.

"It's nice to know we'll be in good hands some day," Smith said.

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Early Childhood Information Meeting
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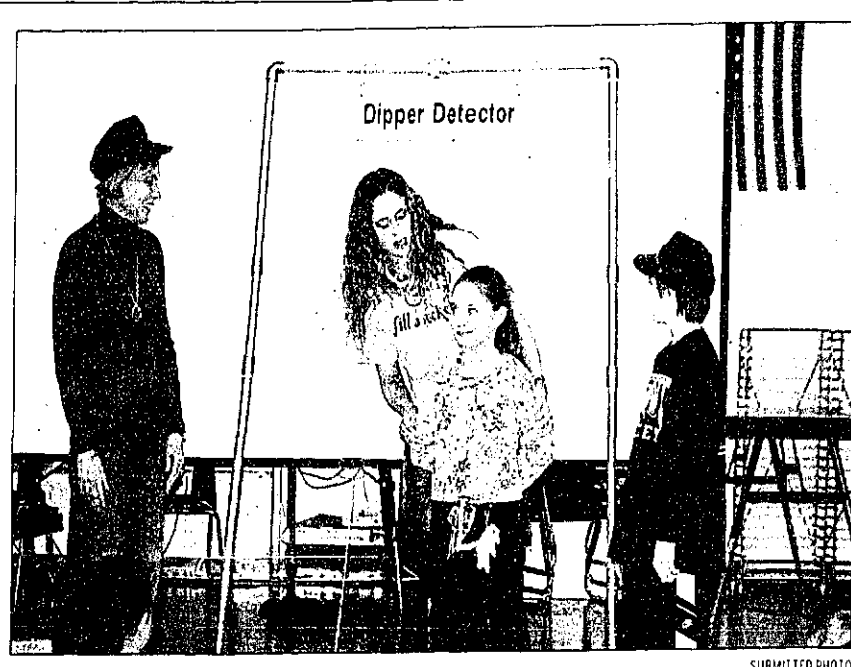
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Bucket Fillers!

On Friday, Jan. 9, the students of Novi Woods had an assembly based on the book by Carol McCloud "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?"



Don't be a Bucket Dipper

Novi Woods students learn the difference between being a bucket filler and bucket dipper during a recent assembly at the school.

High School Daily Schedule Information

A decision on the proposed high school daily schedule for implementation in the 2009-10 school year has been delayed.

Curriculum Night

community involvement. To facilitate the process, a community forum will take place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 at the Instructional Technology Center on Taft Road.

CLASS NOTES

High School will be holding its Curriculum Night-Open House for all parents and guardians wishing to meet the teachers and see the classrooms their students will be learning and growing in throughout the course of the second semester.

International Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders

The public is invited to attend the first International Conference on biomedical and other treatments that offer hope to individuals and families with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Save the Date

The Novi Educational Foundation's Green Gala is March 21 at the Rock Financial Showplace.

Raising Resilient Kids

Novi School District is pleased to present: Raising Resilient Kids. The free workshop with parent coach Nancy Pristly will take place 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 inside the Community Education (CIE) Forum.

OBITUARIES section header and introductory text.

KAREN L. LEY Age 54, passed away January 13, 2009. She was born on March 11, 1954, to the late Marvin and Meha (Stark) Ramsey, Karen is survived by her three children: Jill Ley, Mike (Kay) Ley, Debra Ley, her siblings Dennis (Sean) Ramsey, Ken (Sandy) Ramsey, Jan (Jerry) Suzzere, Judy (Wayne) Versuis; loving companion Kevin Thomas; and three grandchildren. Visitation was held on Thursday, a funeral was held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon, MI. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

HELEN A. WALLACE Age 79, of Plymouth, passed away January 11, 2009. Helen was born on August 15, 1915, in Palo Alto, Michigan, daughter of Harold R. and Olive (Roberts) Compton. She is preceded in death by her three sons, Richard E., Donald S. and Michael A. Wallace; her husband, Russell B. Wallace; and her sister, Jeanne (Robert) Mettetal. She is survived by her two sisters, Catherine Sherrick and Doris (Herrick) Close, both of Northville. Also surviving her are loving daughters-in-law, Yvonne Wallace and Nancy Wallace; grandchildren, Deborah J. (Wallace) Cook, Michael (Dawn) Wallace, Bruce (Patricia) Wallace and John (Lorrie) Wallace; and great-grandchildren, Kevin Wallace, John Wallace, Stephen Wallace, David Wallace, Jonathan Foules and Rebecca Browne. She will be sadly missed by her many nieces and nephews and their families, as well as neighbors and the hundreds of friends over the years. Funeral was Saturday, January 17 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Burial in Davisburg Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Helen's son, Michael, and Southwest Indian Children's Fund, Box 506, Broken Arrow, OK 74013.

KEITH JAMES LYDDY Age 79, and a resident of Milford, passed away on January 12, 2009. A Memorial Service was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, on Friday, January 16, 2009. Memorials may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society or to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

GERALD ARTHUR GORMAN 3/25/1929 - 1/6/2009. Formerly of South Lyon, MI. Jerry died suddenly, peacefully in his sleep at his home in Bonifay, FL. He was the son of Leonard J. Gorman and Katherine Franz-Gorman of Farmington, MI. Survivors are his wife, Joanne Hallman-Gorman and five children: Michael Leonard (Kelly) of Pasaland, TX; Patrick Eugene (Janet) of South Lyon, MI; Kevin Edmund (Amy) of Byron Center, MI; Barbara Ziegler of Mooresville, NC; Daniel Joseph (Kimberly) of Chelsea, MI. Also surviving are two brothers, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Gorman was a retired Regional Manager of the Hobart Corp in Belleville, MI. He was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon, MI. He was a past president of the St. Joseph Parish Council, was a member of the Mens Club, Ushers Club and became an Extraordinary Minister. He was also active in the Boy Scouts. In retirement, he was a member of the Dogwood Lakes Golf Club in Bonifay, FL. His hobbies included Bowling, Golfing, Traveling and playing card games particularly cribbage. Most of all, he enjoyed being with his family and friends. A Memorial service will be held in Mil during the Spring at a date to be later announced. Donations can be made to the Covenant Hospice, Marianna Team, 4440 Lafayette St., Suite C, Marianna, FL 32446. Phone (toll free) 888-817-2191.

MORENO SPADONI January 11, 2009. Beloved husband of Eglida, Dear Father of Marco (Laura) & the late Franco. Grandfather of four. Brother of Roberto (Lia) & Stephano Nirella. Services were held at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

CHARLES A. STROBRIDGE Age 84, of New Hudson, passed away 1/13/2009. Beloved husband of Rose. Funeral Service was held last Friday at Cassette, one brother, John, Inc. of South Lyon, MI. Contributions to New Hudson United Methodist Church appreciated.

EMILY S. JARVIS Age 97, of Northville, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2009. She was born March 8, 1911 in Hartford, Connecticut to Joseph and Mary (Hannick) Schwartz. She was raised in Dearborn and spent most of her life there before moving to Northville 19 years ago. She graduated from Fordson High School. Emily was a secretary at Long School in Dearborn for 25 years. She was a devoted member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Northville. Emily is survived by her children, Patricia Abrigtz Jarvis, Frances Doughter, and Germaine (Jon Znamierowski) Jarvis; her sister Sophie Long; her grandchildren, Patrick, Shelley, Shannon, and Emily; and nine great-grandchildren, Sean, Lauren, and Maximilian. She was preceded in death by her husband Francis, her parents, and four sisters. Visitation will be held Friday, January 23 from 10-11am with the funeral service at 11am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Elm St., Northville, MI 48167. Pastor Christopher Fairbairn will officiate the service. Emily will be laid to rest at "Rural Hill" Cemetery in Northville. Donations are suggested to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Arrangements entrusted to Cassette Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

GERALDINE G. SUGRUE Age 84, of Northville, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2009. She was born April 30, 1924 in Warren, MI to John and Julia (Blazak) Wolfe. Geraldine, a devoted homemaker, had been a resident of Northville since 1957, where she was a life long friend to many families. She is survived by her loving children, Jay Sugrue, Jack (Connie) Dowd, and Mary Sugrue; her sister Donna (Bob) Fitzgerald; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her first husband Jack Dowd, her second husband Jim Sugrue, her parents, one brother, and one sister. A Funeral Mass will be held Monday, January 26, 2009 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 133 Orchard, Northville. Father Denis Theroux will officiate the service. In lieu of flowers contributions to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154 would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Cassette Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One. Includes a graphic of a flower and a ribbon.

Novi High School Winter Drumline Parent representative, Catherine Wall will be contacted at cwall@sboglobal.net for local information.

Novi High School Wind Ensemble will be performing in Grand Rapids at the Michigan Music Conference 1

Cassis' early intervention legislation signed into law

Legislation to help prevent early learning problems and give students the skills required to succeed in school and life was signed into law, said Sen. Nancy Cassis, sponsor of the SAVE the Children measure. "This act will support classroom teachers and staffs build upon their knowledge of children to identify problems early and intervene with solutions," said Cassis, R-Nowi. "As a former school psychologist, I have seen that a team approach is the most effective way to overcome learning obstacles. Having parents, teachers and educational specialists working together is vital to giving our young learners the best start possible."

MAYOR FROM PAGE A1

LOOKING AHEAD

As Landry looks to the future, he notes the importance of maintaining the "big three," highlights upcoming developments and addresses challenges expected in the upcoming year. "As I look to 2009, I think it's important to realize what got us to where we are today," he said. "You have to be smart, you have to be frugal, but you don't have to change a successful formula."

decrease in state shared revenue, and will be faced with finding other ways to make up for the lost revenue. "A challenge yes, but we can handle it," he said, adding that raising the general fund, find balance from 8-12 percent to 14-18 percent has allowed the city to stash more money away. "We're actually becoming more prudent, more fiscally conservative."

Landry expects voters to be faced with a bond proposal in 2009, for the development of a Signature Park on the southwest corner of I Mile and Beck roads.

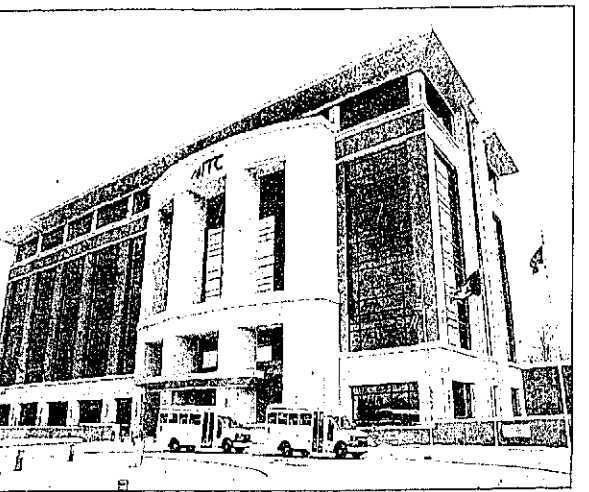
"We have always pursued enhancements to our parks and recreation facilities, and we have a very unique opportunity here," he said. "Any building, any center, the most expensive part is the land, and we have an opportunity to acquire the land basically for free."

"In the face of the economy, you don't stop what you're doing, you just get smarter. This is exactly the time to be enhancing our parks and rec because we need to stay competitive to keep our tax rates down in the long term."

Construction of the new Novi Public Library will continue in 2009 and the majority of the Fuert Park is slated for completion in the summer, Landry said. "Another project you're going to start to see in Sri

Venkateswara Temple," said Landry of the Indian temple and cultural center that is going to be located on Taft Road, just south of Grand River Avenue. "It is going to be a unique facility, especially with the large Indian population we have in Novi."

Landry will also give a State of the City Address in conjunction with the Novi Homeowner Association Leader's Breakfast, at 10 a.m. Saturday, at the Novi Civic Center. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information, visit www.cityofnovi.org.



ITC's six-story building can easily be seen from M-5.

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches across various regions including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, South Lyon, and White Lake. Each listing includes church name, address, and service times.

The two job markets

You've been scanning the classified ads in the newspaper each week only to find disappointment. Few jobs listed in your area of interest or your applications to the jobs go unanswered. Pretty soon you feel like giving up - the job market stinks.

Don't give up. You need to understand that there are two job markets. The visible job market is found in newspaper classifieds, online job boards such as the Michigan Talent Bank, Careerbuilder and Monster, and anywhere else that employers publicly solicit candidates for their open positions. Most people spend nearly 100 percent of their time applying to publicly posted jobs and are frustrated and disheartened when these sources produce few interviews or offers.

The reason for this is that publicly posted openings may account for as few as 20 percent of available jobs AND your competition for these jobs is huge. You are competing with everyone who relies on the same job posting source which may be hundreds, thousands or even

YOUR NEXT JOB

millions of jobseekers. Even if your application is reviewed and you are a strong candidate, you might be among 50 strong candidates with the HR department so overwhelmed by responses that they end up bringing in just the first 10 candidates who respond for interviews.

Most jobseekers don't realize that up to 80 percent of real job opportunities are never advertised anywhere. They are filled by referrals from existing employees or other contacts, by recruiters, or by direct application from jobseekers who targeted that employer. This seems impossible, but it has been verified over and over again in labor and employment studies.

How do you tap into this hidden market? There are two basic approaches - research and networking. First, find reliable media sources that cover business news and look for information on employers who are coming into your area, opening new facilities, adding new lines of business, or making changes to their staffing. Learn more about these employers by looking for business news on the internet or by going directly to the employer's website. On the website, look

for direct links to job opportunities.

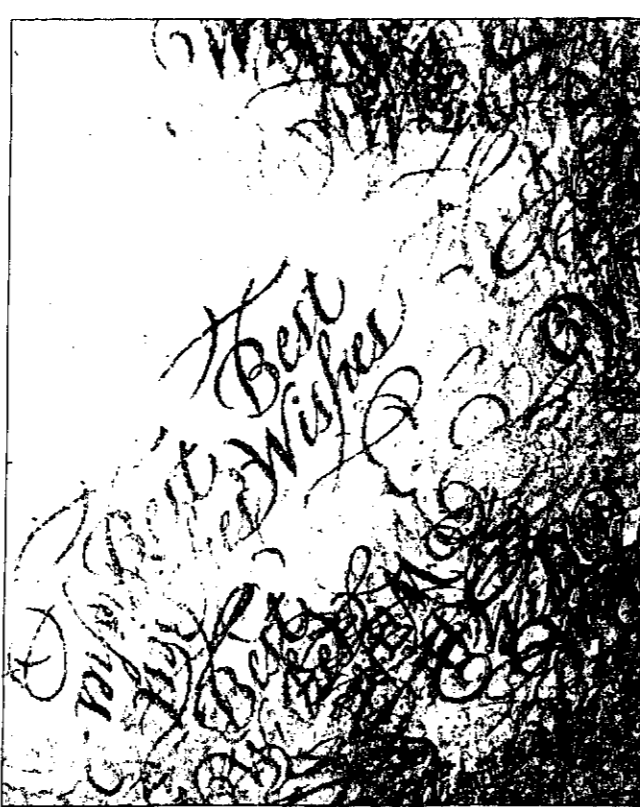
You can try to contact these employers directly to find opportunities. Those employers who have websites with job opportunity links will have a way for you to apply directly online to those opportunities. It may be as simple as filling out an online form, uploading your resume and attaching a cover letter. It may be a request for you to fax, email or mail your resume and cover letter. If there is no online job information, or you want to increase your chances of being noticed, you should turn to your network.

Your networking skills are one of your best means to learn more about these employers and get a referral to key decision makers in these firms. After you've done some basic research using media sources and the employer's own website and have determined that you might have some skills or experience that would be of value to particular employers, use your network contacts to learn more and to obtain referrals to additional contacts who can help you find your way to key people connected to the firm. Even if the firm requires you to apply for jobs on the website (which they may do for tracking reasons) the internal contacts that you make will ensure that your application gets a thorough look. In fact, the key internal contacts that you make may notify the recruiting staff to look for your application and pull it off as soon as it comes in.

Martha G. Adamson is a consulting professional with a diverse background in Human Resource Management and Career Development. She is a Certified Career Development Facilitator, a Certified Career & Job Search Coach, and a Certified Professional Resume Writer. She is the co-author of Job Search Navigator, a workbook-style guide to assessing yourself and managing your job search (www.jobsearchnavigator.com) which was first published in 1999 by Prentice-Hall and revised and published by Success Press in 2005. From 1993 to 1996, she authored a monthly column "Your Job Search" in the Saratoga Springs, NY newspaper - The Saratogian.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD



Above, Jeff Cancelsi, a Northville Resident and member of its Northville Arts Commission, will begin a show in Lansing of some of his portraits created with rubber ink stamps. From left is "A Questionable Beginning", "The Inner Child" (on wall) and "Portrait of No One". At left, Cancelsi created the portrait "Portrait of No One" using a rubber ink stamp with the words "best wishes" on it. Here is a closeup.

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High-Tech for Low Vision

Dear Savvy Senior,
What types of products or technology can you recommend to help people with severe vision impairment? My wife has macular degeneration and I'm looking for some good low vision helpers.
Looking Around

Dear Looking,
With around 14 million Americans living with incurable vision impairment today, more and more low-vision products are being developed that can help with almost any need. Here's what you should know.

LOW VISION AIDS
There are literally hundreds of products on the market that can help improve the quality of life for the visually impaired. For example, to help with daily living tasks, you can find a wide array of "talking" or "jumbo-sized" products such as clocks, watches, remote controls, thermostats and kitchen aids, as well as a huge

variety of magnifiers. There are even home telephone devices that can dial a person by simply saying their name, and drink indicators that you can hook onto your coffee cup that beep when it's almost full. You can find these products and many others online at sites like www.independentliving.com or call (800) 537-2183, and www.maxiaids.com or (800) 522-6294. Or visit www.able-data.com, a Web portal that lists almost every type of low vision product and where you can buy it. In addition to daily living helpers, there are some never-high-tech devices you should know about that offer some incredible features. Here are some to check out.

Portable video magnifiers: While hand-held magnifiers have been around for years, today there's a variety of small, high-tech options that provide

looking at pictures. While this type of technology has been around for a while, more styles and variations are available today with prices ranging from several hundred to several thousand dollars. Some good places to find these are at: www.enhancedvision.com or (888) 811-3101; www.freedomvision.net, (800) 961-1334; www.humanware.com, (800) 722-3393; www.optelec.com, (800) 826-4200; www.clarityusa.com, (800) 575-1456; and www.freedomscientific.com, (800) 444-4443 - which also sells a machine (called SARA) that can read printed material aloud without a computer.

Desktop video magnifiers: While hand-held magnifiers have been around for years, today there's a variety of small, high-tech options that provide

much more clarity, contrast and flexibility than an ordinary magnifying glass. Some of these devices can even freeze an image on the screen, allowing you to take the image to another location. Prices range from around \$250 to over \$1,000. You can find these devices at many of the same sites that sell the desktop video magnifiers previously listed (<http://www.freedomscientific.com/>), or if you're looking a hands-free magnifier the JORDY glasses (\$2,795; www.enhancedvision.com) are great for reading and watching television.

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



Ski time
Wick Yonker heads out on cross country skis at Maybury State Park on a recent Tuesday afternoon. Even though Yonker had just moved to Michigan from L.A., he's used to the frigid January temperatures as he grew up on the west side of Michigan.
PHOTO BY JOHN HEDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

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check out the numbers in today's Sports section

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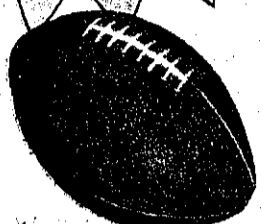
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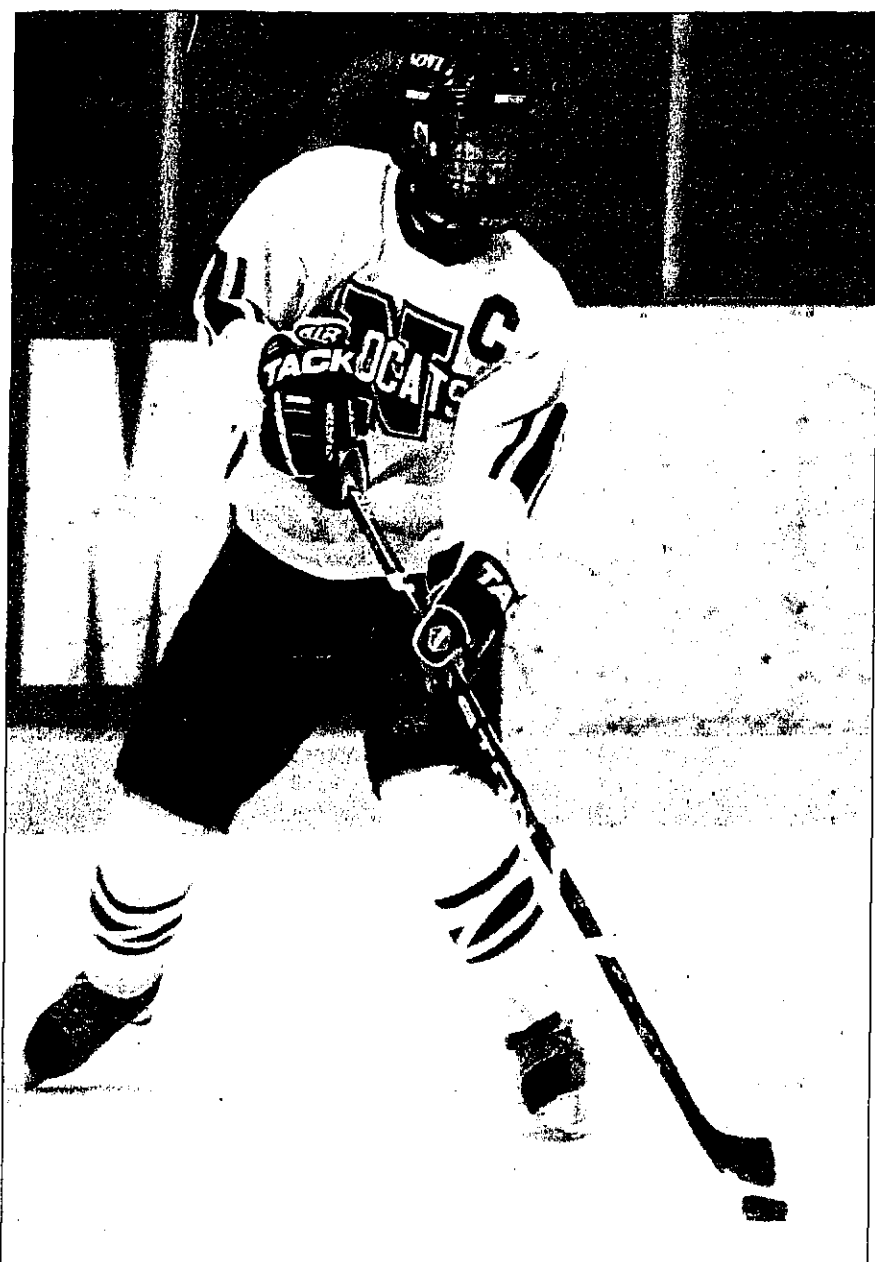
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(MM)

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Community Weeklies

www.hometownlife.com



Novi Wildcat hockey captain Shane McCusker controls the puck Monday against South Lyon.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS



Novi's Nolan Valleau checks a South Lyon Lion.

Cats are all tied up

Novi skates to 1-all ties with Churchill, South Lyon

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The benefits of a tie certainly outweighed any loss Friday night for both the Livonia Churchill and Novi boys hockey teams.

After a scoreless opening period where Novi had a 11-6 shot advantage, the Wildcats

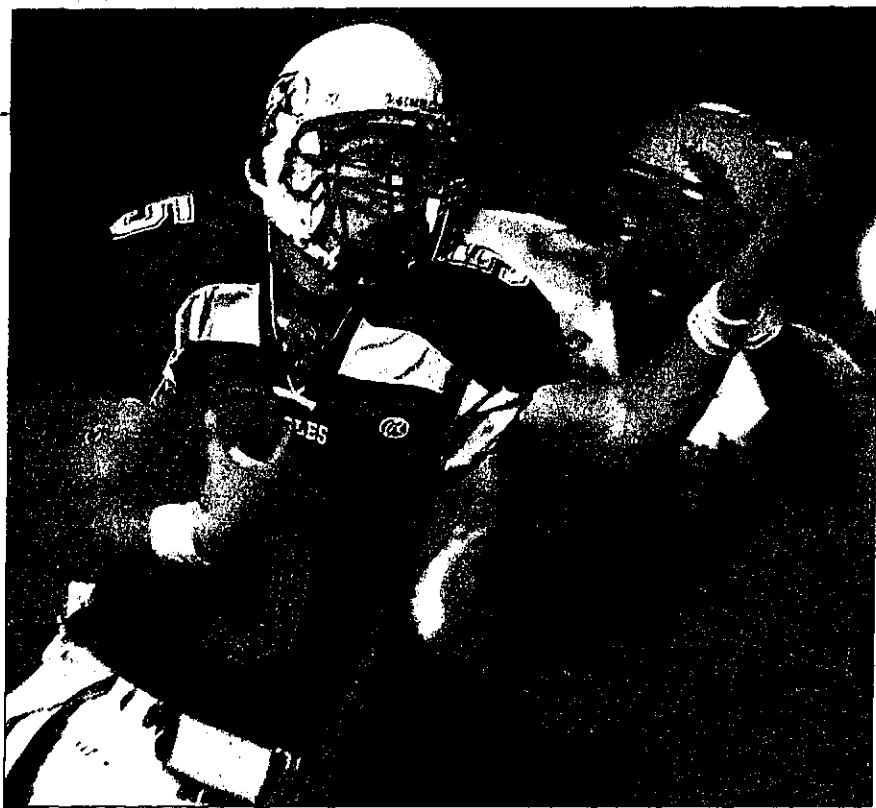
continued to apply even more pressure in the second period and cashed in.

Evan Dixon scored unassisted when he won the draw off right face-off circle, controlled the puck, and slid wrist shot while falling to ice past a stunned Churchill netminder Adrian Motta at the 7:02 mark. Novi certainly carried the

play through the first two periods, outshooting the Chargers, 23-12.

"We out-chanced them most of the game and we were in their zone more - we had our chances, but just didn't capitalize," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "We had one-on-zeros and

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**



Blake Heiman gains yardage during a recent contest.

PHOTO BY HAL GOULD/NOVI NEWS

Conference all-stars lead All-Area gridgers

BY MIKE ROSENBAUM
STAFF WRITER

The traditionally strong west Oakland football area saw numerous standout performances this season, making the 2008 All-Area team a tough one to crack. All the first team selections from the KLAAs schools earned All-KLAA honors, while Catholic Central's picks all received either All-Catholic or All-League notice. The following lineup was selected based on the consensus of area coaches.

Lakeland enjoyed its best-ever football campaign last season, finishing with a 9-3 record and reaching the state regionals. Leading the way was the Eagles' senior quarterback/safety, Blake Heiman, the All-Area Player of the Year. The 6-foot-1,

185-pound Heiman ran Lakeland's high-powered offense efficiently and made numerous key plays, none bigger than the last-minute, game-winning touchdown pass to Clint Penokie in the district final against Birmingham Brother Rice.

Heiman threw for 1,476 yards and 16 touchdowns while running for another 475 yards (a 7.9-yard per carry average) and five TDs. Heiman was the KLAAs North Division Offensive Player of the Year.

Penokie, Heiman's favorite target, also earned All-Area honors. The wide receiver/defensive back caught 29 passes for 808 yards, for a whopping 27.8 yards per reception. He ran for 206 yards (10.7 yards per carry) and scored 13 touchdowns overall.

Lakeland's Josh Mulligan played guard but really stood out at linebacker, where he was the Defensive Player of the Year for the KLAAs North. He finished with 166 tackles, including four quarterback sacks, and returned a fumble 70 yards for a touchdown.

Other Eagle first team honorees include: FB/LB Max Hill (272 yards rushing, 4 TDs, 124 tackles, 4 QB sacks); G/DT Lee Lopez (56 tackles, 5 sacks); and TE/DB Sean McCarthy (15 catches, 228 yards, 69 tackles, 5 QB sacks).

Catholic Central's four first-teamers are led by WR/DB Steve Harding, who had 20 catches for 324 yards and five touchdowns offensively, 40 tackles and two interceptions defensively.

Please see **ALL-AREA, B2**

Cats fend off Canton Chiefs 70-56

Bellamy's 26 leads three Novi players in double digits

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Getting back into the groove was the main point for the Wildcats, playing just their third game in nearly a month because of the holiday layoff.

Novi (5-1) ran up a big lead and held off a couple of comeback attempts for a 70-56 win Friday at home against Canton (3-3).

That's twice in the last three games where we had very efficient first quarters, and then we just kind of coasted the rest of the game," Heitsch said. "That doesn't cut it."

Chris Bellamy scored 16 of his 26 points in the second half to lead the offense. He also led the team in rebounds with 13 for a double-double.

Brandon Bryant was next with 14 points, 10 of which came in the fourth quarter. Tyler Wenson was the third Wildcat in double digits with 10 points. Nick Brockman pitched in nine points.

"We've been much more balanced the last three times out, which has been nice," Novi head coach Cory Heitsch said. "The most impressive thing is Chris' individual scoring hasn't dipped."

Bryant, inserted into the starting lineup after coming off the bench to start the year, knows how important it is for the Cats not to rely solely on Bellamy to lead the offense.

"We've got to get in the flow," Bryant said. "If we get in the flow, Chris will be in the flow. If we score, than it's going to leave Chris a little open."

"When we go up and down the floor, it's hard to run with us. We're not that big, so we have to run. That's our key." Novi wasted little time



Wildcat Nick Brockman dribbles near the net.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

running out to a big lead. After trailing 2-0 early, the Wildcats went on a 20-4 run lasting into the opening moments of the second quarter.

Following a Canton timeout, the Chiefs caught fire during an 11-0 run to get right back into it. The Wildcats never lost the lead and managed a 30-26 halftime advantage.

The Wildcats started the second half with a 10-2 run, but again the Chiefs cut back into the lead, leaving Novi up 46-39 heading into the fourth.

The Chiefs were never able to get within five points throughout the fourth.

Bryant got hot in the fourth and hit all four of his free throws when Canton had to foul to try and keep the

clock alive.

"I like starting," he said. "When my adrenaline gets pumping, I'm in the flow, and it's hard to stop me."

The Chiefs struggled big time at the line, hitting just five of 19 freebies. Novi went 8-for-11 at the charity stripe.

Dietrich Lever led the Chiefs with 15, followed by Kyle Biega with 10.

The win was Novi's first of 2009, following its first loss of the season to open the new year.

"I thought for the most part, especially that first quarter, that really set a tone," Heitsch said. "(Brad) Kotylo, Wenson and Ryan Jok were really latching onto people. It was a nice thing to see early."

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ALL-AREA

FROM PAGE B1

"Steve is a great competitor and a fine athlete," said CC coach Tom Mach. "He helped our football team in all phases of the game."

Other Shamrock choices include: RB/DL Niko Palazeti (104-560 rushing, 11 TDs, 36.5 tackles, 4.5 sacks), "Niko is a hard nose player that plays with reckless abandon. I like his toughness and determination," Mach said; C/DL Jeff Sherman (36.5 tackles, 3.5 sacks), "Jeff can play any position on the line. He has good athletic ability and is very tough," Mach said; OT/DT Khaled Mheisen (53 tackle), "Khaled improved 100 percent this year and was the mainstay of the defensive line," Mach said.

Milford earned a playoff berth last season, led by senior quarterback Steve Buglione. Buglione completed 83 of 163 passes for 1090 yards and eight touchdowns. He also ran 98 times for 590 yards and four TDs.

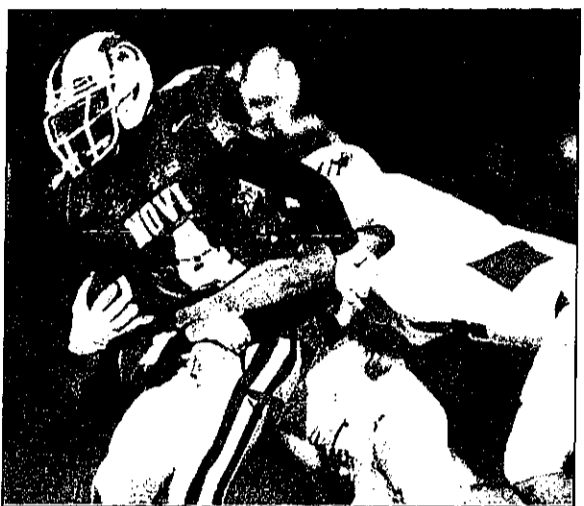
Other Milford All-Area choices include: RB/DB Kyle Podvin (128-721 rushing, 29-44 receiving, 17 total TDs), LB Joe Grabowski (87 tackles, 2 sacks, 3 fumble recoveries, two interceptions), KLA West Defensive Player of the Year; and LB Grant Vandebussche (72 tackles, 3 sacks).

Northville's contingent is led by FB/LB Jake Weddle, who led the Mustangs with



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEDER/NOV NEWS

Novi's Garrett Green reaches for the ball in the season opener against Milford.



Wildcat Brandon Bryant fights for more yards against Canton.

player," said Novi coach Tab Kellepprey. Other Wildcats include: DB Brandon Bryant (64.5 tackles, 2 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries), DB Garrett Green (42.5 tackles), FB/LB Brad Kotlyo (4-101 rushing with 1 TD, 32.5 tackles, 5 TFL); and OT/DL Jack Petrosky (21 tackles, 2 TFL). South Lyon East produced a pair of standouts in its first varsity football season. In eight games junior QB Collin Hochberg completed 147 of 289 yards for 1550 yards and nine touchdowns and ran 166 times for 705 yards and seven TDs. He also finished with 356 yards in kick returns, including a 100-yard score. "Collin is the best quarterback that I have ever coached in my entire career," said East coach Todd Pennyuff. "He has tremendous speed and a quick release. If Collin had the opportunity to play with seniors this year, his stats would be tripled."

Sophomore Patrick Powers caught 53 passes for 635 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 135 yards and three more TDs. He had 19.5 tackles and quarterbacked the Cougars to their first-ever victory when Hochberg was injured. "You will not find a tougher kid than Patrick Powers," Pennyuff said. "He led the Ann Arbor area in receiving and was not afraid to catch the ball over the middle. He has true leadership ability and mental toughness."

2008 ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM

Player	position	School
Steve Harding	WR/DB	Catholic Central
Khaled Mheisen	OT/DT	Catholic Central
Niko Palazeti	RB/DL	Catholic Central
Jeff Sherman	C/DL	Catholic Central
Blake Heiman	OB/DB	Lakeland
Max Hill	FB/LB	Lakeland
Lee Lopez	G/DT	Lakeland
Sean McCarthy	TE/LB	Lakeland
Josh Mulligan	G/LB	Lakeland
Clint Penokie	WR/DB	Lakeland
Steve Buglione	QB	Milford
Joe Grabowski	LB	Milford
Kyle Podvin	RB/DB	Milford
Grant Vandebussche	LB	Milford
Kyle Hnatuk	DE	Northville
Matt Kreager	QB	Northville
Josh Pratt	LB	Northville
Anthony Sergi	FS	Northville
Jake Weddle	FB/LB	Northville
Brandon Bryant	DB	Novi
Paul Favorite	RB	Novi
Garrett Green	DB	Novi
Brad Kotlyo	FB	Novi
Jack Petrosky	OT	Novi
Anthony Baskin	RB/S	South Lyon
Jake Geise	LB	South Lyon
Ken Osborne	OL/DL	South Lyon
Eric Wedesky	OL/DL	South Lyon
Collin Hochberg	QB	South Lyon East
Patrick Powers	WR	South Lyon East

SECOND TEAM

Anthony Capatina	RB/DB	Catholic Central
Butch Herzog	RB/LB	Catholic Central
Joe Snyder	TE/DE	Catholic Central
Brandon Williams	TE/DE	Catholic Central
Scott Larson	OL	Lakeland
Ben Nicolay	OL	Lakeland
Ryan Offutt	RB	Lakeland
Dan Schroeter	OT/DE	Lakeland
John Bonhard	DB	Milford
Joe Goodin	WR	Milford
Tyler Kohrs	K	Milford
Pat Niebauer	LB	Milford
Jake Thompson	OL/RB/DL	Milford
John Westfall	OT	Milford
Kris Baumgardner	WR/CB	Northville
Adam Fuhrman	DE	Northville
Ryan Gerbilick	LB	Northville
Pat Keady	LB	Northville
Chris Bellamy	Novi	Novi
Andy Donatto	TE	Novi
Shane Lemere	OT	Novi
Randall Moore	DE	Novi
Sam Valkanos	G	Novi
Matt Bacche	DL	South Lyon
Craig Blatchford	QB	South Lyon
David Loveland	RB	South Lyon
Joe Powell	LB	South Lyon
Eric Tyahla	DL	South Lyon

Honorable Mention

Catholic Central: John Jakubik, Nick Landry, Jon Saukus, Corey Smith, Lakeland: Austin Berger, Matt Rail, Jacob Rohde, Garrett Reichle, Milford: Carter Fox, Bryan McCallum, Brian Wackerman, Northville: Aaron Brown, Chase Olender, Sean Sassaman, Novi: Krister Engja, Will Mikkelsen, Jimmy Pitcher, Brandon Rydzewski, South Lyon: Justin Butler, K.C. Chamberlain, Jared Elliott, David Ferguson, Evan Sharp, South Lyon East: Mike Arcuragi, Petar Radakovic, James Smith, Alec Sturos.

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Novi's Nick Hansen takes a faceoff.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

two-on-ones four or five times and their goalie came up big."

Senior Ken Masarczyk picked up a puck just inside the blue line and ripped a slap shot into the upper right-hand corner with 8:38 remaining in the final period to give Churchill a 1-1 draw with the Wildcats. "I won't lie, we're not satisfied," Krueger said. "We had plenty of opportunities. Their goalie won it for them. The kid (Motta) did a great job, but our goalie (Michael Pesendorfer) made some key saves for us as well."

"It was a good high school hockey game. Both teams deserve credit for how hard they worked and played." Churchill, however, owned the third period outskooting the Wildcats by a 10-1 margin. And the Chargers nearly won it with nine seconds remaining when Pesendorfer stopped a short back-hand attempt by Steve Klisz.

"The third period we talked about keeping things simple," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We had a lot of unforced errors the first two periods. The third period we did a good job of going north and south with the puck."

"What kids want to do now



The Novi High School hockey team stands on the blue line for the National Anthem.

is the pretty stuff, made the extra pass. But sometimes good-old fashioned work is the best remedy."

NOVI 1, SOUTH LYON 1
The Wildcats and Lions skated to a 1-1 tie Monday night.

Both goals were scored in the second period. Novi's Nolan Valleau started the scoring with Tyler Perpich getting the assist.

The Lions tied the game with a goal from Christopher Eckler.

Michael Pesendorfer stopped 14 of 15 shots for Novi (9-3-3, 4-2-2). The Lions are 7-4-2, 2-2-2.

Novi is back on the ice 6 p.m. Friday against rival Northville.



Novi's Erik Appelbacher tries to catch up with a South Lyon player.



A small crowd forms in front of Novi goalie Michael Pesendorfer.

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The Novi cheer team surrounds its second-place trophy won at the sixth annual Wyandotte Invitational.

Novi cheer claims second at invitational

STORY SUBMITTED
The Novi cheer took advantage of Churchill's misfortunes and capitalized with a second-place finish at the sixth annual Wyandotte Invitational. Eleven Division 1 teams com-

peted with first-place honors going to Troy Athens (731.042 points), second place to Novi (684.5376) and third place to Livonia Churchill (670.6072). Novi was in a tight race around 1 and 2 behind Troy Athens and Churchill. The

Chargers performed the final round and had several stunning errors which opened the door for Novi. The Wildcats took the mat and executed a clean round, out-scoring Churchill 267.8 to 248.9. This put Novi ahead for the well-

deserved second-place finish. Coach Matheny was thrilled with the victory and the girls were all smiles holding some newly won hardware. The Novi cheer team will travel to Grosse Ile on Jan. 24 for its next competition.

Shamrock wrestlers post trio of wins

Against Cranbrook, Dan Brown and Brent Darnell scored shorthanded goals in the 2-1 tie. The Shamrocks are ranked No. 1 in Division 1.

BASKETBALL
Another game, another win for the Shamrock basketball team. Its eighth in a row for the Shamrocks (8-0, 2-0) after dispatching Divine Child 61-41 Friday. Brett Smith led the Shamrock offense with 18 points. Matt Doneth was next with 14. Anthony Manno had 18 points for Divine Child (3-5, 0-2 Central). Warren DeLaSalle became the seventh victim in as many games with a 53-46 decision Jan. 13. Balanced scoring was the key for the Shamrocks, with Matt Doneth, Brett Smith and Steve Harding each scoring 10 points to pace the offense. DeLaSalle also had two players tied for the team high in scoring with 10 points.

HOCKEY
CC completed a sweep of Indiana powerhouse Culver Military Academy and tied in-state powerhouse Cranbrook during the past week. The Shamrocks beat Culver 3-2 in the first game with Steven Hensley, Jimmy Botti and David Swierczyk scoring for CC. In the second game, Catholic Central won 4-2. Chris Waterstreet scored a pair of goals to lead the Shamrocks.

Wildcat girls hoops beat Canton, fall to Franklin

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcat girls split a pair of games, beating Canton 37-33 and losing to Franklin 42-34. Against Canton, Novi survived a tightly contested game. The teams were tied at seven after the first with Novi jumping out to a 22-17 lead by the half.

shooting at the free throw line. Chantel Hill was next with eight points, including 6-for-6 free throw shooting. She also passed out a team-high five assists. Kelsey Masseran pitched in seven points. Things didn't go Novi's way against Franklin. Churchill pulled away late for a 42-34 victory Jan. 13. Jessica Cingel led Novi with 10 points, followed by Caroline Johnson led Novi with 11 points, including 4-for-4

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL
The Wildcats improved to 6-1 with a 38-24 win against Franklin. Novi raced out to a 29-6 lead and held off Franklin the rest of the way. Rachel Staudt led with 14 points and five boards. Megan Henry pitched in nine points. Canton handed Novi its second loss, 34-25. All D'Annubale led the Cats with 12 points.

The Novi freshmen continue to impress, moving to 8-0 with a pair of wins against Franklin and Canton. The Wildcats hammered Franklin 55-15. Shannon Sherwood led all scorers with 12 points. Natalie Paul tallied 11, and Kelli Timar finished with eight. Against Canton, Novi won 30-25. The game was tied at the half and the Wildcats trailed heading into the fourth before the comeback kept the perfect

season alive. **WRESTLING**
The Wildcats had a strong match with Plymouth, winning 45-17. Winning for the Wildcats were Connor Caldwell at 112 (pin), Beau Bielski at 119 (6-2), Ryan Pollard at 125 (4-2), Clayton Caldwell at 130 (pin), Chris Caverly at 140 (10-6), Martin Bunney at 145 (pin), Alex Engrebretson at 152 (8-6), Adam Troher at 160 (pin), David Sparring at 189 (pin) and

Adam Mencer at 215 (6-5). The Cats also competed in the Brighton Manning View Invitational, going 1-4. Holland won the invite. Novi's win came against Pinckney, 36-27. The win was aided by voids, but winning individual matches were Bielski at 119 (pin) and Bunney at 145 (pin). Novi lost matches to Holland, Penton, Dewitt and Brighton.

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JPRO Architects' new office building in Novi was awarded LEED@Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's leading rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and highest performing buildings. The office, having the distinction of being Novi's first LEED certified new construction, is situated on 2.32 acres of the 12-acre Campus Tech Park in Novi, which includes five acres of wetlands and conservation area. JPRO Architects' new office building was designed by the firm's principals to achieve LEED certification for energy use, storm water management, water efficient landscaping, day lighting and material use as well as incorporating a

variety of other sustainable strategies. Low VOC interior materials were used throughout in combination with a high-efficiency HVAC system that maintains healthy levels of outside air and CO2.

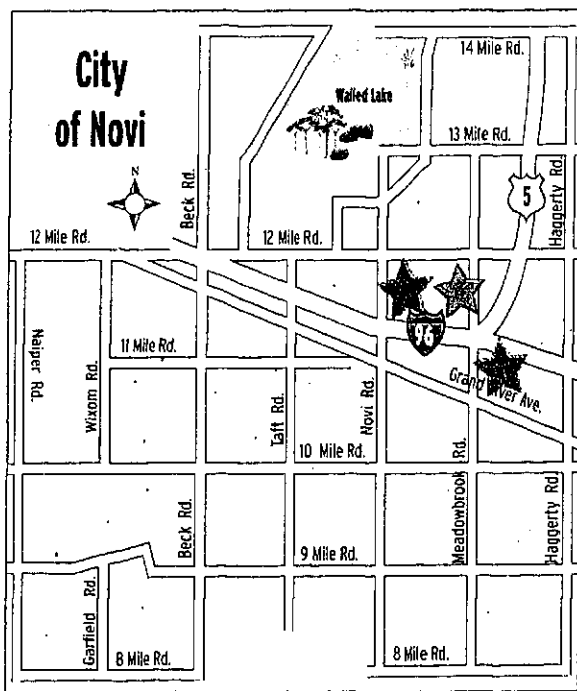
SPECIAL EVENTS

BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP
Build-A-Bear Workshop announces its search for the 2009 Huggable Heroes class. Each year, for the last five years, thousands of people have helped identify the best young leaders in the United States and Canada by nominating them to be a Build-A-Bear Workshop Huggable Hero. Participants may nominate a candidate online by visiting www.buildabear.com/huggableheroes or they may pick up an application at the nearest Build-A-Bear Workshop store, including Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. This year, 10 noteworthy young people from the United States

and Puerto Rico and two from Canada will be selected and named Huggable Heroes. Each will receive a prize worth \$10,000 (\$7,500 in the form of an educational scholarship from Build-A-Bear Workshop and \$2,500 from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation to be donated to the 501(c)(3) charity of their choice). For more information, call 888.560.BEAR (2327) or visit www.buildabear.com.

CLASSES

Walsh College
The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is hosting a series of communication seminars at the Walsh College Novi campus. The first seminar presented by Rick Kamel will take place 9-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5 at 41500 Gardenbrook Road. The cost is \$75 for chamber members or \$95. Email mcs2.michamber.com.



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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Art Van of Novi offers neighborhood furnishings

Q. Who is behind Art Van Furniture of Novi?

A. Jim Dierickx, Store Manager

Q. Your hometown?

A. Troy, but I am at the store more than home!

Q. When did this location open?

A. 1981 in Novi, Art Van 1959 - celebrating 50 years!

Q. How many employees do you have?

A. About 140

Q. Your business specialty?

A. Home Furnishings

Q. Tell us about your business, including the types of services and products you feature?

A. Art Van Furniture is a full-line furniture retailer. It was founded on the philosophy of offering quality merchandise at affordable prices with great customer service. The company offers furnishings for the entire home that is backed by a Total Satisfaction Guarantee, complete delivery service (including next day options), full in-house service and repair support, special order capabilities, consumer financing, interactive Web site and even a Kids Castle supervised play area. We have the largest bedding assortment in Michigan with brand names including: Sealy, Stearns & Foster, King Koil, Kingsdown, Tempur-pedic and Simmons. Popular name brands on our showroom floor include: Broyhill, Huntington House, MaxHome, Natuzzi Leather, Bermex, Gascho, La-Z-Boy and Lane. Our Clearance Center offers new merchandise at exceptional value.

Q. What makes your business unique?

A. Art Van's large in stock position allows the guest to receive their merchandise quickly. Our most popular furniture collections are from our own Michigan H.O.M.E.S. brand that includes two groups: Copper Harbor and Grand Shores. These collections were designed by Michigan native, Dan Yates,



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi Art Van sales associates Selma Nikoviz and Sami Bayari stand near pieces of the store's Huntington House furniture collection. Art Van is located along Novi Road in the West Oaks plaza.

ART VAN FURNITURE

Business address: 27775 Novi Road
Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday noon-6 p.m.
Business phone: (248) 348-8922
Web site: www.artvan.com

exclusively for the lifestyle of Michiganders. Art Van offers its own University to train its sales force and backs every purchase with its exclusive Total Satisfaction Guarantee. Art Van Furniture in Novi is one of 30 stores in the chain. The company is family owned and operated and services the entire state of Michigan. This year marks the 50th year of operation. Art Van Elslander, founder and chairman, is still actively involved in the company operations. The company has won the Retailer of the Year Award and Van Elslander has been inducted into the Furniture Hall of Fame.

Q. How did you first decide to open the business?

A. Art Van chose to open a location in Novi in 1981. The surrounding community was scheduled to be growing for years to come. As new residential homes are built, consumers look to their neighborhood to purchase their furnishings.

Q. Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far?

A. Not funny but ... Art Van's success equation includes on-going community support. In past years, the Novi community has benefited from local blood drives, flu clinics, trees donated for Arbor Day, free seminars, promotions with neighboring businesses and furniture donations to local non-profits. As the company celebrates its 50th anniversary, look for monthly events to be hosted in the Novi store that will support community initiatives. This month, \$5,000 will be given to schools as part of a "Sit For School" campaign held in store on Jan. 24 and 25. Visit the events page at artvan.com for details.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



Ryan Barrett

Ryan Barrett, D.O., joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital. Dr. Barrett is a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the World Spine Society, the Neurocritical Care Society and the American Osteopathic Association. He practices at Michigan Spine & Brain Surgeons, P.L.L.C. located at 26850 Providence Parkway, Suite 215 in Novi along with locations in Southfield and Warren. The office number for all locations is (248) 569-7745.

Dr. Barrett received his medical education from Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed his internship at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed a Neurological Surgery residency at Providence Hospital in Southfield and a Neuro-Oncology fellowship at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute at the University of South Florida.



Barbara Bloom

Long-time Novi resident Barbara Bloom snagged the lead role in the Spotlight Players comedy "Divine Stella Devine." The role requires several different personalities and all of them are a delight to play, Bloom said. The broad comedy appeals to all age groups with its vividly drawn, over the top characters. Spotlight Players is the resident adult theater group for the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. Formerly the Plymouth Theater Guild, Spotlight Players is a non-profit organization.

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By advertising alongside features geared toward local business, you can reach your target audience faster.

If it's important to you, it's important to us.

For advertising information, please call:
Oakland County: 248-901-2500
Wayne County: 734-582-8363
West Oakland County: 248-437-2011



CHAMBER CHAT

■ The State of the City Address and Luncheon will take place 11:30 a.m. today, at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. Mayor David Landry will provide Novi citizens and business partners an opportunity to reflect on 2008 accomplishments and goals to strive toward in 2009.

■ The 10th Annual Threads of Power event will take place Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Nordstrom Bistro in Twelve Oaks Mall. Registration is 7:45 a.m. with an 8 a.m. breakfast. Enter at Nordstrom North Entrance. Join us for breakfast and bring a donation of clean, gently used business

attire for men and women. The event is sponsored by Telcom Credit Union, Twelve Oaks Mall, Two Men and a Truck and Modern Floors. The fee is \$20 plus one item of clothing; \$30 at the door.

■ A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place 5-6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 at Mirchi Indian Restaurant, 43317 Grand River Ave. Enjoy networking and sample food from this new restaurant. No fee. Visit www.novichamber.com for more information.

■ Committees and Round Tables:
• Jan. 22 - Sales Leads 1, 8:30 a.m. Waltonwood 12 Oaks

• Jan. 27 - Sales Leads 3, 8:30 a.m. Picasso Café.

• Jan. 28 - Financial Round Table 8:30 a.m. Picasso Café.

• The Race in Amazing Novi - a new opportunity to help Rotary of Novi put on a fun community event and raise money for some good causes. Contact gsobotta@finlan.com.

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities. For membership information, visit our Web site at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743.