



Novi News



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Thursday, October 13, 2005

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Volume 50 Number 19

Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



Home Improvement

This section offers tips for getting the house ready for winter, the latest trends in bathrooms, popular additions, color trends and much more.

— Special Section

Working Moms

Working Mother recently named Michigan-based Republic Bank as one of the top 100 places for moms to work. Novi resident Denise Kiepper tells why.



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SPORTS

Wildcats fall to Hartland

The Novi Wildcats, heavy favorites heading into Eagle country last Friday, found themselves on the wrong end of a 15-14 Kensington Valley Conference decision.

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City employees want new union

■ Election petition signed by a third

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City Manager Rick Helwig received an unusual fax Oct. 3.

That was the day the Teamsters Local 214 faxed him a memo stat-

ing that the city of Novi's administrative employees want their own union.

The letter regarding the petition for election advised Helwig that the local union has received authorizations from the employees and has filed a petition for representation covering all full-time, administrative workers.

With an election on a new union in the works, the city has also been warned that it must maintain the status quo as far as

wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of employment of those seeking to be in the union.

"Failure to do so will be retaliation for seeking union representative and is a violation of the Michigan Employment Relations Act," said Joseph Valenti, president, Local 214.

Should any action in violation of the act be taken by the city of Novi, Teamsters would immediately file charges with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

A copy of the letter from the local union was also sent to Mayor Lou Cserdas Oct. 3.

Tia Gronlund-Fox, director of human resources for the city of Novi, is the city's chief union

Open or closed shop?

If employees vote to form a new union, full-time administrative employees would be required to be a member of the union.

The city's director of human resources, Tia Gronlund-Fox, noted that as the chief negotiator of the contract, she may not be considered part of the union. Rick Helwig, city manager; Marianne Cornelius, city clerk; and Glenn Lammon, city assessor, would also not be part of the union, as they are hired by city council.

If Gronlund-Fox is deemed to be part of the new union, then Helwig would become the chief negotiator.

contract negotiator.

She explained that if the full-time administrative employees vote to be unionized, the city will have seven bargaining units.

Current unions out of 278 employees include the paid on-call firefighters, full-time professional firefighters, Teamsters, police officers, police command and police clerks and dispatchers.

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Gronlund-Fox
Public Employment Relations



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High's 2005 Homecoming Court: (from left, top row) Seniors Jessle Gaslorek, Steve Hart, Danielle DeBiasi, Ryan Heffernan, Amanda Zorza, Craig Lawler, Audrey Smith and Scott Smith; (front row) juniors Libby Schulte and Brad Frey, sophomores Lauren Eibel and Nick Prokop, and freshmen Jennifer Felcher and Nick Myers.

Celebrating four decades of fun

■ Novi's spirit week starts with a "celebrity day," ends with dance

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's not quite Halloween yet, but don't tell that to students at Novi High School.

It's Spirit Week in Novi, and though the event occurs every year, students and staff are determined to make it one for the decades.

The week-long theme this year is "Decades." The freshman class has adopted the 1970s, sopho-

mores took the '80s, juniors the '60s and seniors have got the '50s.

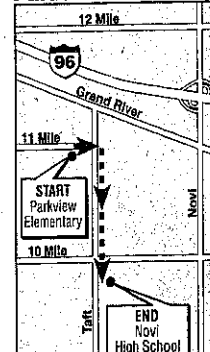
Each day this week, students and staff were assigned different outfits to wear to go along with the theme of the day.

The week will end with a flurry of activities starting with Novi's football game versus Milford on Friday night, in which a new senior class king and queen will be named publicly during halftime. The homecoming court and all the representatives will also be introduced.

The fun won't end there, however, as the school will hold a parade on Taft Road Saturday morning and will end the day with a dance.

The parade's grand marshal is assistant football coach John Osborne. Behind him will be the queen from last year, Sarah

Novi Homecoming Parade Route



SOURCE: Novi Community School District
Map by DIANA WELLS

Bielski, who will be coming in from Grand Valley State University. Ryan Pritchard, last year's king, was also invited to be in the parade, but is currently attending Princeton University and won't be able to make it.

The student council executive board and administrators will be walking behind Bielski, and different court members will come next, and then the floats. The Novi Police Department will conclude the parade.

Each float will reflect a decade and will receive points and credits for originality.

"We're promoting hand-created floats," said Mary Anne Wizinsky, Novi High's dean of students.

"We want lots of flowers, and the discussion this year had a lot to do

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Managing a sports enthusiast's dream

■ At 26, Foley just getting started

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

He was about 14 years old when he got his first job, and 12 years later Mike Foley is still with the same company.

At 26, Foley is the manager of one of the most popular sports stores in town, DC SPORTS, (inside Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall), a job he describes as "the best."

"It's a cool job because I get to talk about sports all day and get paid for it," Foley said. "I don't think there's a better job out there."

When DC SPORTS was first incorporated in 1987, it was based in Center Line, where Foley lived at the time. He was hanging around there so often that eventually they made him start working, by cleaning and straightening up the store.

Foley worked at the store's second location at Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights for about five

years before transferring to Twelve Oaks Mall. The Lakeside store is still the company's main location.

"At 14 I used to get an allowance that I'd spend all at the store," Foley said. "I was looking for ways to earn extra money, and they offered me a job. It worked out pretty well for everyone because eventually I learned the business and started as a manager at about 18 years old."

— YOUR NOVI — Neighbors

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Mike Foley, manager of 12 Oaks Mall's DC Sports.



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10-13-05

County leaders revisit pay raises

continued from front page

The 2.2 percent increase in pay would push their pay to \$32,791. All raises are scheduled to begin Jan. 1, 2007.

Both resolutions were referred to committee with no comment from any of the commissioners and will be discussed within the next two weeks.

Commissioners meet in morning sessions the first and third Thursdays of each month and are paid extra for attending committee meetings. Their next meeting is on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Taxpayers union fights raises

Members of the Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation will wait until commissioners make a final decision on the proposed pay increases before they file a lawsuit in Oakland County Circuit Court, according to B. McMaster.

McMaster, state chairman of the organization, said the organization can sue the county commission over what it alleges is a violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. He believes the act was violated because the commission, under the chairmanship of Bill Bolland (R-Highland) did not post a notice that the bonus raises for leadership were

NOVI PHARMACY

part of the budget approval meeting agenda. McMaster said Tuesday he has been discussing a potential lawsuit with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

He said Bolland was successful in getting a state law changed in May to allow county commissioners to set salary increases during their terms of office instead of at the end of their two-year terms.

"But, in so doing, he enlisted the aid of the Michigan Association of Counties' lobbyist that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners — through our taxes — pays \$700,000 a year for," McMaster said.

State law was changed

McMaster claims that Bolland also received help in changing the state law from an outside lobbying firm that commissioners pay \$4,000 a month to for lobbying efforts in Lansing.

"What state law required before is that county boards of commissioners could not increase their salaries at all," McMaster said. "But they could meet after a general election every two years and approve increases for the incoming or next group of 25 Oakland County Commissioners."

McMaster, of Sterling Heights, said the law does not mean commissioners can vote to give themselves a 2-percent raise.

Crawford said the 2-percent increase went through the committee process and that a lot of misinformation has been presented to the public.

"It went through the Personnel and Finance committees and was part of the budget," he said. "That's not an issue in my mind. These

raises put us on the same cycle as the rest of the county employees." And, he said the leadership raises are not out of line with other county commissioners' salaries.

"But, I don't know where that's going to go," Crawford said. "The leadership raises may not take effect if they don't get through the committee process."

He noted that if the budget amendment does not get through the process by the end of the year, the leadership raises will take effect. Finance committee members meet next week.

Crawford said his gut feeling is that the 2-percent raise for commissioners will go into effect in January but that the leadership raises may not take place.

"There's never ever a good time for a politician to give themselves a raise," he said. He believes the leadership raises are deserved because of the additional responsibilities and duties that these positions require.

Legal counsel for the county commission has said the Open Meetings Act only requires an annual posting of meeting dates and a specific date near the time of the meeting but does not require that the agenda be posted.

"In our attorney's opinion and in my lay opinion, and I'm not unfamiliar with violations of the Open Meetings Act, it isn't even close to violating the Open Meetings Act," Crawford said. "The meetings were well posted. You never have to post the agenda."

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

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"There's never ever a good time for a politician to give themselves a raise."

Hugh Crawford (R-Now) Oakland County Commissioner

City employees want new union

continued from front page

What's the process? To file a union election petition, 30 percent of the 58 administrative employees had to show interest in a union, according to Gronlund-Fox.

Next, the city will receive a notice from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission scheduling a plenary conference.

The city will go over issues such as how many people would be in the union.

"Then, we will get a notice about a hearing that I will actually attend in Detroit most likely, along with our labor attorney," Gronlund-Fox said.

City currently has six unions

As far as the six current unions in the city are concerned, negotiations are still under way with the paid-on-call firefighters.

"We just settled with clerks and dispatchers," Gronlund-Fox said. "Their contract expired June 30."

She is also currently negotiating a contract with the Teamsters union that represents field employees, building inspectors, Parks, Recreation & Forestry and clerical employees.

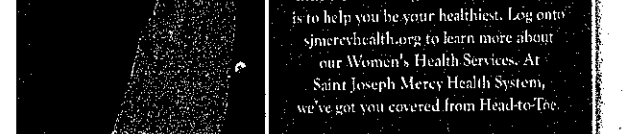
A contract was signed last year by police officers that goes through 2010. The full-time professional firefighters union contract expires June 30, 2006, as well as the police command union contract.

"I'll start negotiating with them in January or February," she said.

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

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At 26, Foley just getting started

continued from front page

As manager, Foley makes sure his store is fully stocked. He places orders, tries to keep his staff happy, makes the schedule and does everything else that goes along with being a manager of any store. One thing he stresses is to make sure the store always looks presentable to customers.

Hobnobbing with the stars As a youth, Foley used to play baseball, but now he enjoys basketball more. No matter what the sport, however, his job has allowed him to meet and greet some of the greatest athletes to ever walk the earth.

"We've had about 300 athletes at our store alone," Foley said. "I get to meet guys like Gordie Howe, Ben Wallace, Steve Yzerman and Richard Hamilton. I've met 50 or 60 hockey Hall of Famers. And the stories they come in and tell, it just makes your day when you hear them. You don't get to experience that in any other job. Each one is very memorable."

DC SPORTS invites athletes into its stores for autograph sessions often. There are also a few Detroit athletes who frequent the store to shop for anything from memorabilia to clothing.

Foley said that though the store specializes in autographed memorabilia, it does also sell anything that appeals to the sports enthusiast, including: jerseys, photos, clothing for toddlers to adults, apparel, Detroit Superbowl items and Detroit

unique in the sense of carrying jerseys of players such as Cory Schlesinger or Jason Hanson on the Lions.

"Most people who come into our store just want to talk about sports more than anything else," Foley said. "I've been watching sports since I was little, so I have a general knowledge of what people want to talk about, and I enjoy that too. It's just a friendly atmosphere, almost like a sports bar, where you just come in and talk about what's going on in sports that day."

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.

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Novi's spirit week starts with a "celebrity day," ends with a dance Saturday

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with creating and making floats which are hand-generated. With all the things going on in our country right now, we stressed that they not spend elaborate funds on machinery and technology on the floats, but basically use materials like flowers.

The royal treatment The senior class will be given the royal treatment tomorrow. They are all invited to a picnic.

"All seniors in the building will get a free lunch," Wizinsky said. "It's a barbecue put on by the administrators. They'll have hot dogs, soda pop and chips."

Tables will be set up outside for the barbecue, and about an hour later, they'll head to a pep assembly at the school's stadium.

"The entire building will go out to the stadium, where the United States National Anthem will be sung," Wizinsky said. "A tug-of-war with the football team versus some other groups will take place; they will have a mini-bicycle relay; a blindfolded apple and onion eating contest; the fall athletic teams will be introduced; and there will be many other fun

activities." The festivities will be managed by student council members and will be facilitated by the school cheer and pom teams.

Lunch time each day this week consisted of other fun activities for students as well, such as marshmallow eating contests.

"The kids will spend Friday night decorating for the dance," Wizinsky said. "They've ordered all kinds of decorations to make it

very festive with the different decades. They even have lights to put on the trees in the entrance. They're very pumped up about it, and we're expecting about 1,200 kids. It should all be very fun."

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.

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Providence Park groundbreaking set

■ Many local dignitaries to attend event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Rob Casalou will soon have a long-sought-after dream come true. He will be one of the keynote speakers at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Providence Park Hospital at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17. The \$224-million facility is scheduled to open in July 2008.

Those present at the 6:30 p.m. ceremony will include staff from Providence, St. John Health, members of the Novi City Council, Mayor Lou Casard, Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi), State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi), Cardinal Adam Maida and Father Richard Elmer from Catholic Central High School.

"Our Blue Ribbon Committee members, who helped us raise money, as well as business leaders will also be there," Casalou said.

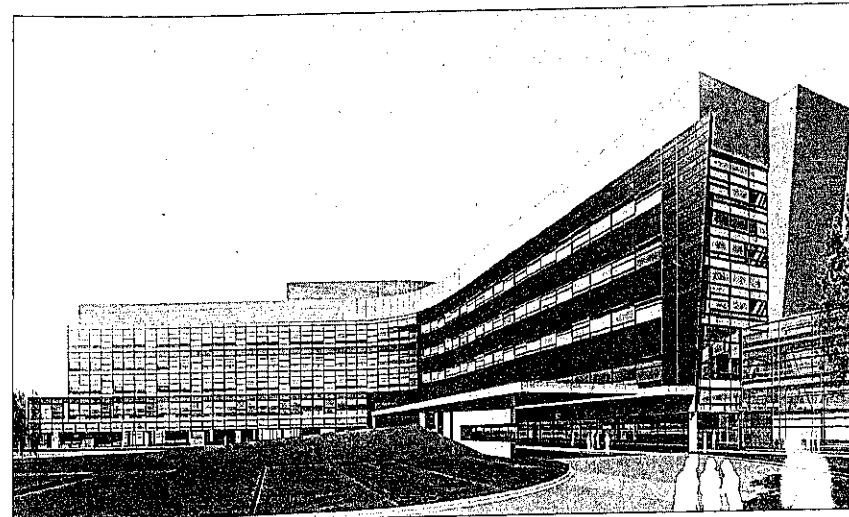
More than 450 were asked to do the invocation-only event.

Donors, especially those from the Novi community, were also invited.

"We really want to make this a nice celebration and a thank you to all the people who made this happen," he said.

During the ceremony, certain people will be asked to press their hands into cement.

"We'll then take these pieces of concrete and place them perma-



The \$224-million facility is scheduled to open in July 2008.

neously into the campus, perhaps in a sidewalk area, once the hospital is open," Casalou said.

All participants will also be making ceramic tiles with impressions of one of their hands that will be placed in patients' rooms in the new hospital.

The theme, "It's Your Hospital. Let's Build it Together," is being used at the groundbreaking.

Organizers may come up with something more creative than the typical shovels in dirt, according to

Casalou.

"We may include a backhoe or some other piece of equipment," he said.

Because the new hospital is being constructed south, where the current emergency department is located, the emergency entrance will be moved.

"We are going to continue to operate a full-service emergency department throughout the entire time that the new hospital is being constructed," Casalou said.

In other words, access won't be affected, just the entrance.

Ambulances will continue to use the same route as always. But for walk-ins, the entrance will be moved to the front of the building facing Grand River Avenue.

"That will be the ER entrance during the next two and a half years of construction," he said. The new entrance will open in the next 60 days, according to Casalou.

"This is such an exciting time for us."

Casalou did note that as far as the overall cost of the construction, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and oil prices are affecting the cost.

"We are looking at several millions of dollars of increases, and we're trying to figure out ways to absorb that," Casalou said.

"We're staying true to our budget, however."

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

Rob Casalou named hospital's president

St. John Health has named Rob Casalou as the first president of Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

Since 2000, Casalou has served a president of Providence Hospital in Southfield.

In addition to his role as president, Casalou has held several leadership positions since joining Providence in 1989. From July 1999 to April 2000, he served as interim CEO of Providence Hospital. He has also served as executive vice president and chief operating officer, vice president of Operations, vice president of Clinical and Support Services and administrative director of Oncology and Laboratory Services.

Casalou is actively involved in numerous community activities and organizations. He currently serves on the Arab-American and Children Council Advisory Board, the American Heart Association Metropolitan Detroit Board of Directors, Walsh College Novi Campus President's Advisory Council, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors.

Casalou received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan. He also earned a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in health services management and policy from the school. "Rob has played a major role in our efforts to bring a state-of-the-art hospital to western Oakland County," says Paul VanTiem, executive vice president and COO, St. John Health. "His expertise and leadership make him the perfect choice to lead our new hospital."

Emergency entrance to change at hospital

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Providence Park Hospital will have a different emergency department entrance during construction of the new facility, according to Marilouise Riska.

Riska, administrative director, ambulatory operations, Providence Park, said the new entrance for "walk-in" patients during the construction phase will be off of Grand River Avenue just west of Beck Road.

The current entrance is off of Beck Road. The ambulance entrance will remain the same during the construction phase, however, entering off of Beck.

"Walk-in patients can still use the Beck Road entrance, but it's just a longer route, because they'll need to wind around the campus on the new ring road," Riska said.

"It will be faster and more convenient for walk-ins to use the new Grand River Avenue entrance," she said.

Area police and fire personnel have already been informed of the emergency entrance change, which will take place sometime in the next two months according to Riska.

"We will also have signage directing motorists to the appropriate entrance," she said.

The key message Providence Park Hospital staff members want to communicate to the public is that the emergency department will remain open throughout the construction of the new hospital.

Riska noted that although construction work has already begun on the ring road and parking lots,

the building of the new hospital will take place after Monday's groundbreaking.

Although the construction will eliminate some current parking, the new parking lots will add about 200 total spaces after the loss of some of the current lots.

New helistop location coming

City council members unanimously approved a permanent helistop location for the proposed Providence Park Hospital at last Monday's meeting. The new helistop will be located south of the hospital. A temporary helistop was approved last May for a location west of the existing medical building. The existing helistop just south of the current emergency department entrance will be removed to allow construction of the hospital over the next few years.

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THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG)

Newcomers give straight talk

Local attorney to offer advice

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Christopher B. Kroll is a straight talker. And, he's ready to inform area women on important aspects of their life at the Novi Newcomers & Neighbors event "Straight Talk for Women: What You Need to Know."

The forum will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Novi Community Schools' Instructional Technology Center at 25345 Taff Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

finance, decision can be your worst enemy. At this forum, women will discover why having a will, power of attorney and trusts are critical in today's world and what happens if they don't have them.

Attendees will also learn basic investing principles and legal strategies to keep them and their family members protected, with a focus on matters relevant to women.

A question-and-answer period will follow Kroll's presentation.

Alison Kroll, vice president of Novi Newcomers & Neighbors, said that the free event is an opportunity for area women to learn about these important legal and financial issues in a relaxed atmosphere.

"Chris is a great speaker who can make complex terms, issues and consequences easily understood," she said.

"Novi Newcomers & Neighbors decided to approach this topic to help educate and inform women in caring for themselves and their families."

Group helps Novi library
The Novi Newcomers & Neighbors raised \$1,043 for the Novi Public Library's Match a Million Drive at their kickoff event Sept. 21 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi.

The fund-raiser included a raffle with items donated from merchants and members of the group, a fashion show from J. Jill at Twelve Oaks Mall plus hair and makeup for the models by staff at the Gina Agosta Salon in Novi.

How to register
To register for Monday's forum on legal and financial concerns that affect women, contact Novi Newcomers and Neighbor member Alison Kroll at akroll@yahoo.com or at (248) 344-1754. Sign-up deadline is tomorrow.

Bring items for soldier

Women who attend the event are also asked to bring items of a \$5 donation to the event for a care package that will go to a female soldier based in Iraq. Novi Newcomers & Neighbors will gather items for this soldier all month long.

Participants should keep in mind that only certain items are allowed to be sent to soldiers overseas.

Suggestions include letters, which are the most asked-for item; small stuffed animals, such as Beanie Babies, to give to Iraqi children; recent magazines; pens/paper; panty liners and maxi pads; shower gel; disposable razors; lotions; hair wipes; ramen noodles; cereal;

microwave popcorn; and powdered drink mixes, such as Crystal Lite and Kool Aid.

For more information, contact Alison Kroll at akroll@yahoo.com or visit www.novineighbors.com. Novi Newcomers & Neighbors is a social and civic group open to anyone in the area. Members do not have to live in Novi to belong. To find out more about the Novi Newcomers & Neighbors, call Diane Schulhoff at (248) 449-4749 or visit www.novineighbors.com.

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Imagine bikes for needy children

Novi's Enigma Theater will host a fund-raising event Tuesday to help buy bikes for needy children.

The event — called "Lights, Camera, Action!" — includes a strolling supper, cocktails, silent auction and a sneak preview of a major Hollywood feature film.

The beneficiary for the auction is Variety's Bikes for Kids.

which aims to give up to 150 needy and special needs children in the metro Detroit area brand-new bicycles as a special holiday party, called "Bikes for Kids," scheduled for Dec. 7 in Pontiac.

The children are selected by local non-profit agencies that are supported by Variety. Over the past nine years, Variety has given more than 2,800 bikes to needy and deserving children.

The strolling supper — featuring cuisine from places such as Bamboo Club, Buddy's Pizza, Northern Lakes Seafood Company, Zoup and many more — will be at 6 p.m. along with the auction. The advance showing of the movie will be at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and \$100 for patron tickets. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Variety office at (248) 258-5511.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Additional public safety budget bill approved by House

House Speaker Craig DeRoche and Appropriations Chair Scott Hummel along with their House colleagues kept their promise today to find the money to fund three state police posts slated for closure because of the governor's budget. The spending plan, introduced by Tom Casperson, R-Iscandala, and Tim Moore, R-Farwell, also includes funding for local law enforcement training, local fire protection grants and arson investigation.

"From the day the governor first proposed cutting these

important public safety priorities, we've been trying to find a way to fund them," said DeRoche, R-Novi. "The original House budget contained full funding for these priorities and we are voting to fund them again."

"Safety of residents should never be on the chopping block, but that is exactly what the governor's proposal did. Today the House said that the safety of the residents of this state is and will always be a priority."

House Bill 4307, originally sponsored by Hummel, will use a portion of the unreserved general fund balance for the safety of Michigan residents. In addition, HB 4307 restores full funding to:

- Three state police posts (Greenland Township, Iron River and Grand Haven) with \$3.05 million.
- Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to provide law

enforcement training assistance to local communities with \$1.9 million.

- Fire and arson investigation for local communities with \$1.2 million.
- Fire protection grants for communities providing fire services for state or university buildings with \$3.7 million; and
- Security for the MLB All-Star game and the 2006 Super Bowl with \$1 million.

"Throughout this entire budget process we promised residents of this state that we would fund their priorities," said Hummel, R-DeWitt. "Parents want their families safe. By approving this supplemental budget bill, we are saying loud and clear that we are listening and working to make sure state government supplies everyone with the basic needs of protection."

HB 4307 now goes to the Senate for consideration.



C. DeRoche Casperson, R-Iscandala, and Tim Moore, R-Farwell, also includes funding for local law enforcement training, local fire protection grants and arson investigation.

Raising a family, building a career

Working mothers aren't so uncommon

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER



Photo by JOHN HEDDER

Working Mother recently named Michigan-based Republic Bank as one of the top 100 places for moms to work. From left are Republic Bank human resources dept. staff Michelle Roberts, Michelle Ruprecht, and Novi resident Denise Kiepper.

Denise Kiepper is a working mother who stands true to the idea that parents can be parents and work too.

Kiepper, 42, of Novi, shares her philosophy with co-workers at Republic Bank in Farmington Hills, named one of the "100 best companies for working mothers" by Working Mother Magazine for the fifth year in a row.

"Some people are against having two working parents in a household," said Kiepper, senior vice president of people and opportunity for Republic Bank. "It works differently for everyone. I'm really excited that my kids get to see both sides of me, as both a parent and a businesswoman."

"Perhaps it will help alleviate some of that growth process for them when they thought up and start their own families and careers."

Republic Bank stands by their family-always-comes-first policy allowing employees, nearly 75 percent women and over half working parents — to create their own schedules on a daily basis.

"We are a very flexible kind of environment with several different

scheduling choices," Kiepper said. "It's hard to juggle both a family and a career. We help our employees do both with no problems."

Kiepper said Republic Bank allows employees to create schedules in order to spend time with their kids.

"We have a lot of parents who come in later in the mornings to see their kids off on the bus," she said. "We also have some that leave early in the afternoons to be home when their kids get home from school."

One thing Kiepper said that her company offers, which she has taken advantage of with her two kids before, is a sick room.

"Instead of parents having to leave work when their kids aren't feeling well, they can bring them here to watch TV and play in our sick room for the day," Kiepper said. "It's very convenient."

Republic offers maternity and paternity leave for both moms and dads. The company also offers a sons and daughters scholarship pro-

gram.

"We realize that if our employees are having fun and enjoy what they are doing," Kiepper said, "then they are more likely to stay where they are and enjoy doing their jobs."

Republic Bank, along with 99 other companies around the US have really tapped into the idea that parents can handle raising a family and juggling a career.

Republic Bank has several locations in southeast Michigan, including Northville, Plymouth, Rochester and Bloomfield Hills.

"I know how challenging it can be to be faced with a really big project and having child care issues," she said. "Work is important, but having a family is too. It's great to work for a company that understands the importance of both worlds."

"If our employees are happy, then our customers are happy. The bank is then more successful and we continue to grow. We all win."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com

Weinstein store shines once again

Novi jeweler bouncing back after August fire

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Weinstein Jewelers is back on the map.

After a fire blazed through the Novi store early Aug. 24, the Weinstein crew is ready to open a temporary location Oct. 25.

"You don't realize how much you have until you lose it," said store manager Rebekah Robinson.

"There's no easy way to put into words what you have to go through to reopen."

Robinson said the store would run temporarily for about six months while owner Gary Weinstein works to rebuild a permanent location.

"We may rebuild in the same location or at another," she said, "but we are committed to the Novi area."

Robinson said no jewelry was damaged in the fire, and the temporary store will be fully stocked with inventory.

"We're committed to full service," Robinson said. "We're going to service our customers the same way with the same staff."

Weinstein Jewelers
Located: 42400 Grand River Avenue, Suite 104
Contact: (248) 347-0303

Hours: Currently operating by appointments only. After Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, appointments only Saturday, closed Sunday

Currently, Weinstein is operating on an appointment-only basis, but by their opening deadline, the store will have an open door policy.

Weinstein is also hosting a grand opening Nov. 19, and Robinson said the store reopening is all thanks to the support they've had from the community.

"It's going to take people making appointments and doing business with us to get fully back on our feet," she said. "It's been difficult since the fire, but it's not impossible with all the support we've had."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com

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FAITH

Ramez Khuri, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@gannett.com

Novi church jazzed up for Sunday's show

United Methodist welcomes David Wells to perform

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Fans of smooth jazz are invited to the Novi United Methodist Church this Sunday for some fun and relaxation.

David Wells, a performer from West Virginia, who has been nationally endorsed by the large manufacturing company in brass instruments, will be performing at 6:30 p.m., along with his father, Stan.

The duo travel and perform a show that David described as "entertaining and at times, humorous."

"We don't have any intentions of doing this, but when you travel as father and son, sometimes it's more of a comedy than anything else just because of our everyday lives on the road and the fact we're playing music," Wells said.

"One of the things that we really push for is the importance of relationships in our concert."

Since the performance will be in a church, it will have a Christian theme, but Wells explained that there won't be any preaching. It is called a "concert" but it's also entertainment.

The concert will be an hour-long combination of Wells playing the flugelhorn and the trumpet, with his father singing.

"My music has more of a smooth Christian jazz flavor, and my dad sings and plays the piano," Wells said. "We have a good time. I get in with the audience and play, and we have

people up on the stage as well. We also have different power-point videos going on."

The two perform anything from hymns to the more contemporary music that's being played on the radio today. They perform songs from the movie "Titanic" to the song "Wind Beneath My Wings" and a wide variety of other songs in that style.

"It's traditional, to blend to contemporary-type music," Wells said. "There's really not a difference between jazz and Christian jazz it's just a title of the song and who's actually playing the music."

Wells has been performing full time for five years now, and his father has been with him for two and a half.

Wells started playing the piano at the age of 9. He is one of seven siblings who all were recruited to play the piano and a secondary instrument.

His dad was a vocalist with

the Vienna Boys Choir, and he also performed music on his children.

"I've studied music privately all my life. I've released a CD recently, which relates to people who enjoy southern gospel music," Wells said. "I majored in performance in college and always had a desire to be an instrumentalist performer."

Wells said that when people usually study music in college, they either end up teaching on a professional basis or become full-time artists.

"I've been very blessed to be able to perform," he said. "My whole focus is to bring musicians together at a church and do concerts for people."

For more information, visit www.davidwells.com.

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.

About David Wells

Born in Vienna, West Virginia and raised in Dallas, Wells grew up in a large, musical family. Through his father, a pastor for 23 years, he realized the challenges facing local churches. He has been playing and pursuing music since the age of 9. When time allows, he enjoys playing at various school assemblies and sharing ideas on making right choices and working towards excellence. Wells' concert will take place at the Novi United Methodist Church this Sunday at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge for the concert, but a free will offering will be taken.

The United Methodist Church is located at 41671 W. 10 Mile in Novi. Call (248) 349-2652 for specific directions.



Photo by TRACY MISHLER

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Making the old new again

Community gives back to aging playground

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Marilee Dechart's students can play safe thanks to Home Depot.

As both director and teacher for Faith Community Preschool at Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi, Dechart is excited that the community is helping her student playground look like new again.

"It's like the icing on the cake," Dechart said. "We really needed this for our school."

Not only do over 50 children from the preschool get to enjoy their new playground, but so do close to 50 others from Children's Ark Day Care also sharing the church.

"(Home Depot) is being very helpful to us," said Diane Miller, director of Children's Ark. "Not only are they providing the materials, but they also providing the workers - something we couldn't have done on our own."

Developed in 1992 by Home Depot executives, the Team Depot volunteer program is a way for each local engineer to give back to their communities.

Each quarter, the eight states from the northern regional districts, including Novi, Northville Township, Livonia, Plymouth, South Canton, Canton, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, receive \$250 to help out non-profit businesses within their communities.

"\$250 doesn't go very far, so as a group we decided to pool our money and do two big projects a quarter as a team," said Fuzzy Stott, district Team Depot captain for Northville Township. "This way, we can provide \$1,000 per job and have a good 30 to 40 people working at once."

Stott said they chose the Novi playground because it definitely was in need of a facelift.

"So we went out and power-washed all the wood and play equipment. Now we have to paint and repair

some toys and fencing," Stott said. "We're really going to bring it up to snuff."

Team Depot will be at the playground from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, and Fuzzy said although money is limited per project, his team will really make the playground look like new.

Team Depot is bringing in some new benches, but they are not building a new playground.

The Team Depot program consists of employee volunteers from Home Depot.

"It will be a great day, and the kids will really be happy when the works all done," Stott said.

Attention to colors

Neither school director knew the exact history of the playground, but Dechart said it had been there over 20 years.

"Some of the play structure features were donated in memory of a previous preschool teacher," she said. "These toys really encompass the children's outside motor skills, and the goal is safety."

Miller said her students probably won't notice all the work that had been done, but they will notice the fresh coats of paint.

"They're definitely going to notice their bright new bright orange jeep and train," she said. "They're going to notice the little things. But it's all so worth it, and we really thank Team Depot for everything."

Team Depots next big project won't come until early 2010.

"The playground was the last project for this year, but there's definitely more to come next year," she said.

Team Depot plans to tackle the bike path stretching from Michigan Avenue to Novi.

"That's going to be a big on-going project," Stott said. "We're going to maintain it twice a year by pulling the weeds, refilling the cracks and doing whatever needs to get done. It's all to help the community."

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



Home Depot volunteer Joe Boone paints a fresh face on playground equipment as Team Depot brightens up the Faith Community Church playground.

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Team Depot plans to tackle the bike path stretching from Michigan Avenue to Novi.

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Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@gannett.com

Novi students earn advanced placement honors

The College Board has recognized a total of 58 Novi High School students and members of the class of 2005 for their outstanding achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams taken in May.

2005 NHS graduate Prasanna Nampal qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale of all AP Exams taken, and a grade of 4 or higher on eight or more Exams.

NHS seniors Liting Chen and Wei Xu, along with 2005 graduates Mabel Nam, Adana Bohack, Christopher Britten, Andrew Glibinski, Laura Hushick, Dan Joo, Cassie Jung, Nan June, Tiffany Liu, Yuki Liu, Jingchu Mu, Caitlin O'Rourke, Radhika Patel, Ryan Regedy, Christopher Shih, Ulas Vasudha, and James Walter qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. They earned an average grade of at least 3 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more Exams.

Scholar with Honor recognition was given to NHS seniors Zhu Li, Nisha Malya, Kuchira Sriramakrishna and Sirevi Wang, and 2005 graduates Laura Bruner, Megan Busvalda, Mariam Ghanizadeh, Alyssa Roland and Jennifer Roodlight. To qualify for this honor, students must earn an average grade of 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and a grade of 3 or higher on four or more of these Exams.

NHS junior Aya Shaik, seniors Swati Kotucha, Heather Liu, Bindu Mansuri, Jack Mlyon, Jeffrey Kason, Xu Song and Nayan Wang, as well as 2005 graduates Camille Chusey, Elizabeth Clark, Lauren Crocker, Ami Hupkar, Namita Islam, Brian Jones, Cynthia Kazans, Anya Malik, Mark Moore, Subbartha Marthandey, Justin Patton, Lauren Pesson, Rebecca Reichel, Margaret Reizian, Emily Rice, Behdin Shih, Bhavana Shivakumar, Sooya Shayan and Karen Yiu have been recognized as AP Scholars. They completed three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school.



Quint drummer Scott Hokett leans into his performance during the Wildcat's award-winning production, "Prisms," at the John Glenn Marching Band Invitational on Saturday. Bass drummer Vicki Kelsey is on the right.

Novi marchers take second place at Glenn Invitational

By Diane Hanson
CORRESPONDENT

With a whirlwind of vibrant colors, detailed choreography and exciting music, the 175-member Wildcat Marching Band captured the Flight I second-place trophy along with the captain trophy for Best Marching at the 19th Annual John Glenn Marching Band Invitational Saturday in Westland.

Undaunted by the breezy fall chill and a few drops of rain, they approximately 10-minute competition program, "Prisms," also netted Novi the second-highest score (68.7, of the ten competing bands, narrowly edged out of first by Grand Blanc with a 69.8.

"I think we did really well today," said senior Natalie Kuczycki, a clarinetist. "This year's program is really fun and exciting."

Senior Carrie Shadwell, who plays baritone, couldn't agree more. "It's a great concept and it's awesome music," she said. "I think we had a really solid show."

"I'm very pleased with their progress," said Novi Director Mark Hourigan. "This is a tough show in a lot of respects. One of the difficult things about this show is from an endurance and stamina standpoint."

He noted a decline in the energy level of his marchers near the end of the show, but pointed out that the opening and closer are written at a tempo of 152 beats per minute (two-and-a-half steps per second).

"These kids are moving and playing a lot," he continued. "They don't get many breaks and on a exciting them and closer are written at a tempo of 152 beats per minute (two-and-a-half steps per second)."

That's something senior saxophonist Billy Dircks is well aware of. "It's all about perseverance," he said.

New in the Wildcat's production on Saturday was the surprise ending when the marchers whipped off their colorful socks and tossed them into the air as the color guard waved rainbow-colored flags.

"We're continuing to grow and add new things to the show," said Hourigan. "We'll be ready to peak on November fifth."

That's the date for the Michigan Competing Band Association's State Championship where 40 of the state's top high school marching bands will compete at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Next up for the Wildcats is the Great Lakes Invitational at Plymouth-Canton High School on Oct. 22.

Novi student first to win Botsford volunteer award

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Liting Chen has experienced many firsts in her life lately. The Novi High School junior was just named the first ever "Most Extraordinary Volunteer for the Summer of 2005" by Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

"This award is something that we did because of all of the nice things that people were saying about Liting," said Cynthia Bonkowski, manager of volunteer services at Botsford Hospital.

"We had to recognize her in a way that we haven't done before. We usually recognize folks who commit to 100 hours by giving them an award. But for her, she was very outstanding."

Chen donated about 89 hours of her time to Botsford this summer, working every Wednesday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the surgical waiting room, greeting visitors to doctors and to patients in for surgery at the front desk.

According to Bonkowski, Chen made sure that patients forms were filled out, and she escorted them back into surgery. She would also help deliver charts and coordinate messages from nurses to doctors and to patients' visitors in the waiting room.

"It's a very important job because when a patient comes in, they need to be acknowledged and they need to have their forms filled out," Bonkowski said.

"Liting needed to direct them to get registered and then make sure that the nurses knew that their patients for surgery were waiting for them. She learned very quickly."

Chen was very flattered to receive the award. She explained that the reason she contacted Botsford in the first place was because her friend, who went through the program two summers ago, said it was a good opportunity.

"My friend's mom works at the hospital," Chen said. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after high school, but I was thinking math or science."

Chen wanted to see what working in a hospital environment was like. "The experience was really great," she said. "Everyone was really friendly, and I got a lot out of it. I learned a lot about how to deal with people, and the whole thing really met my expectations and exceeded them."

Chen's favorite subject in school right now is chemistry, but she would like to study something that ties chemistry and biology together, like biochemistry. She said she will explore the medical profession to see if something sparks her interest.

"I've looked at a few (universities). Just because it's close and it's a really nice school, I'm leaning toward the University of Michigan," Chen said. "I think we're lucky to have a really well known school that's close to home that also has good football. I like football."

District on schedule for strings program

Violin, viola and cello to be added to fifth grade offerings

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Tim Falls, principal of Novi Meadows Elementary School, is calling it "an enhancement of the current instrumental program."

The possible addition of the violin, viola and cello to the fifth grade music program has certainly caused some excitement among administrators in past months, and it looks as though it will become a reality starting next school year.

According to Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services, plans are progressing smoothly for the strings program. The district has hired a new fifth grade teacher, Breda Anderson, who has background in the subject. Her and Kristen Hund, the current band teacher at Meadows, will work together to develop the curriculum.

"It's a new choice for the students, and a lot of parents have been asking over the years why we don't have strings," Davis said. "We are on schedule for the elementary strings program to be offered for students who will be entering fifth grade next school year."

During the spring of 2006, when all of the fourth grade students in the district normally learn about the Novi Meadows program, they will also be given information about strings. Parents will then have to decide whether they want their children to go into band or strings.

A survey sent to all parents of current third, fourth and fifth grade students, was returned by 458 parents. A meeting with all K-12 music teachers will also be held this fall to inform them of the plans and continue to enlist their support. Elementary principals will be showcasing orchestra and strings performances through assembly venues in early 2006, while parents are receiving details about the curriculum offerings at Meadows.

"I think it's been a long time coming," Falls said. "Over the years, the community has indicated that they would like to have this. I think that if we're going to have a class A band program in Novi, you have to have an orchestra component included."

Davis explained that the new program will definitely start in the fifth grade, and it just depends on if there is enough interest before the district will accommodate the sixth grade. An information and implementation timeline has also been established.

"We're trying to make this as seamless as possible," Falls said. "We're not trying to make it seem like it's an entirely new program because it's simply an enhancement of our current instrumental program."

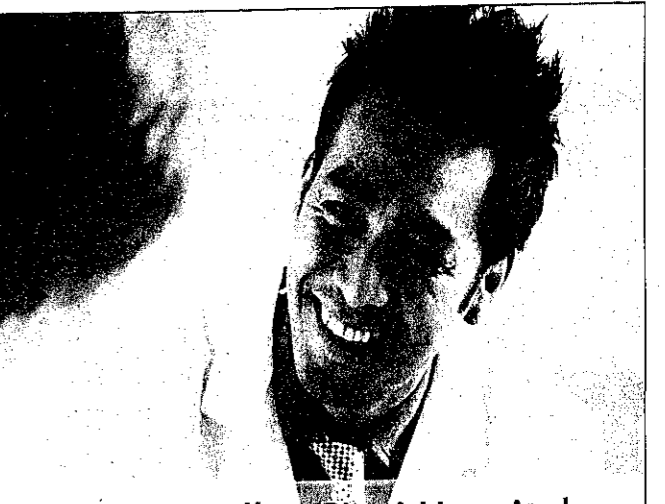
"Though the district does supply some instruments, mainly the ones that are next to impossible to carry home, parents rent to own most of them. Insurance is part of the rental program."

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.

Should the Novi Community School District offer an orchestra program?

Question	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Yes to orchestra	109	95	69
Possibly to orchestra	20	6	7
No to orchestra	43	32	76

1,400 surveys were mailed to homes of third, fourth and fifth grade parents; 458 were returned.



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FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT
TUP 05-061

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Beachwalk Apartments is requesting an extension of Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a storage trailer to be located by Building Six (6) (address of 31073 Beachwalk) at the back of the parking lot in the complex. This permit will be issued for the period from the date of the meeting to April 20, 2006.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:30 am on Thursday, October 20, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-063

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Treadwinds Spas is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow an outdoor spa at 41787 Grand River Avenue, from October 21, 2005 to October 25, 2005.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 20, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-062

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MICO Construction, LLC is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow the relocation of a construction trailer for Sam's Club at 27300 Wiamon Road, Novi, MI 48375 from October 20, 2005 through April 20, 2006.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will hold a Public Hearing on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Hearing will be held on Monday, October 24, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. EST, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2006 application in the approximate amount of \$116,769.

All interested citizens are requested to attend this Hearing. Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 5:00 p.m., October 24, 2005.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(10-13-05 NN 248676)

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OPINION

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Novi News

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EDITOR

Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Periberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramloff
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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

WHERE WE STAND

The future of Novi: Debates will determine leaders

We're glad Keith Kuhn has decided to participate in a debate with Mayor Pro Tem David Landry next Thursday at the civic center's council chambers. The event, sponsored by the Novi News and the SouthWest Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC), begins with council candidates squaring off at 6 p.m. and the mayoral candidates at 8 p.m.

The six city council candidates in this year's election include incumbent Kim Capello, Justin Fischer, Terry Margolis, Andrew Mutch, Lowell Sprague and David Staudt.

• Capello is a Novi attorney, current member of city council and former member of the planning commission.

• Fischer works in the Fixed Asset Management Division at Ford Motor Company and is a current member of the Novi Zoning Board of Appeals.

• Margolis is an associate director of the Professional Development Division at Wayne State University's School of Business, a former president and current member of the Novi library board.

• Andrew Mutch works as a systems technician for the Waterford Township Public Library, is a former member of the Novi planning commission and a founding member and current president of the Friends of the Novi Parks.

• Lowell Sprague is the chief financial officer for Integrated Health Associates in Ann Arbor and a former Novi planning commissioner.

• David Staudt is vice president and chief technology officer of Allied Printing Company in Farmdale, is a founding member of the Novi Parks Foundation and current member of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission.

• Kuhn is a Novi businessman who owns innovative Mortgage and is a board member at Walnut Creek Country Club in Lyon Township.

• Landry is an attorney with the law firm Nemier, Tolari, Landry, Mazzeo & Johnson, P.C., in Farmington Hills, is a former planning commissioner and member of the city council as mayor pro tem.

No substitutes or stand-ins for candidates will be allowed.

No campaign banners, signs, placards are allowed in the forum location. Campaign supporters attending the forum cannot wear campaign paraphernalia, including buttons, pins, hats, sweatshirts and T-shirts.

There will be no flash cameras or motor-driven cameras allowed, except for SWOCC Studios cameras. Candidates cannot bring charts, graphs or visuals.

Before the city council candidates' debate, numbers will be drawn out of a container. A third person will draw the number to determine who will go first.

These candidates will also have two minutes to respond to each question, but there will be no rebuttals. The next question will begin with the candidate who answered second in the previous round.

City council candidates will also be allowed a one-minute opening stating before the question segment and a one-minute closing statement at a time dictated by the moderator.

Council terms are four years; the mayor's is two years.

These individuals will be responsible for decisions that will affect all Novi taxpayers: city benefits, road work, residential and commercial development, union contracts and so much more.

At the very least, Novi residents should feel obligated to vote Nov. 8 — but we would like to see everyone take an active interest in these debates as well.

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Hoedown
A bluegrass band plays on a recent Thursday afternoon at the Novi Senior Center for its annual Hoedown celebration. Attendees enjoyed a lunch, some music and dressed up in their finest "duds".

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

LETTERS

Interchange is fine

This is in response to the editorial in last week's paper regarding the Wixom Road interchange in which you express your view that a new interchange is needed.

Point by point: Catholic Central - They knew what the area was like when they built it; they should have planned better so as to not have the overflow traffic problems. Providence Hospital and the 52nd District Court are both as close or closer to the Beck Road interchange which will be open next month. The Rock Financial Shopping Center is also close to Beck Road or Novi Road than it is to Wixom Road. Why would anyone want to go down to Wixom Road when the new Beck Road exit is more convenient to all these sites?

Monday 4:22 p.m. I got off the Wixom Road exit by 4:29 p.m. (Yes, the same day) I was in the Home Depot parking lot. The exit used to handle 4,000-5,000 workers per day when the Ford plant was running full time. Then it was a mess. I used to work at the plant then and had to leave home a whole five-10 clock early to get past the traffic jam. I think it's a mess especially with the possible plant closing do we really need a new multi-million dollar interchange there? I think not, but it could indeed use some improvements, like maybe a double left turn onto Grand River from Wixom Road. Or maybe getting rid of the left turn onto I-96 westbound. Both of those would greatly improve traffic flow without costing us taxpayers millions of dollars.

As for me, I'm willing to add five minutes to my day to save the millions it would cost to rebuild the interchange. I've put up with the mess at Beck Road for way too long. Give us a break from the orange barrels on yet another interchange.

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To vote is a precious right we have as Americans. I encourage all citizens of Novi to vote for Lowell Sprague on November 8th.

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COMMENTARY

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

Extending legislative term limits is worth considering

Last month, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce came forward with a reasonable, sensible, and constructive proposal — which astonished me. Over the years, I've learned not to take anything proposed by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce too seriously.

When it hasn't been acting as a transparent shell for right-wing Republicans, the Chamber too often has been a willing lackey for the libertarian ideologues at the Mackinac Center.

But now, they've come up with a sensible idea: Extend term limits for our state legislature.

The idea, according to Jim Barrett, the chamber president, would be to mount a petition drive to amend the state constitution. The amendment would allow legislators to serve a maximum of 14 years in the legislature, though they could serve them in the House, the Senate or a combination of both.

The proposal would also require disclosure of lawmakers' financial holdings. (Michigan is one of only three states not to have such a requirement) impose a ban on lobbying for two years after a legislator leaves office, and dock our highly-paid lawmakers' pay for each day they have an unexcused absence.

Here's the way it works now: Under a constitutional amendment the voters adopted in 1992, state representatives can serve a maximum of six years in that body, state senators, eight. They are barred from future legislative service — for life.

Anybody who has experienced the chaos in Lansing in recent years knows that term limits are one of the major causes.

This is why: It takes a new legislator a couple of years just to learn where the men's (or women's) rooms are. Another two years is occupied with positioning for legislative

leadership (the current Speaker of the House, Craig DeRoche, is in his fifth year in the legislature.) The final two years are typically devoted to figuring out how to run for some other office or lining up a job as a lobbyist.

The net result is that nobody knows anything. Nobody except the lobbyists remembers anything. And no complex or far-reaching policy matter is ever given thoughtful consideration.

I was not surprised to see the Chamber's proposal immediately attacked by Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer as "nothing more than a Republican incumbent plan." Criticizing Chamber initiatives is by now a reflex action among Democrats.

He figures Democrats have a chance in 2008 of taking control of the House because several GOP incumbents in competitive districts would not be able to run again under present term limits.

Extended limits might allow them to run for several more terms and lock in continued Republican dominance.

Bob LaBran, the chief political operative at the Chamber, disagrees, of course. But his disagreement isn't pure reflex, either.

According to Gungor News Service, LaBran says if Brewer wants a later effective date for extended limits, the Chamber would consider it. "If I could get Mark Brewer to endorse this particular proposal, we'd be happy to work out any starting date he wanted." If LaBran means what he says, it's a big step forward toward real bipartisanship on something vitally important to our state.

Moreover, the Michigan Education Association helped underwrite the polling and focus groups used by the Chamber in developing the proposal. Usually a big Democratic ally, the MEA has for years

opposed the current term limits, but says it has too many other priorities in 2006 to jump on board just now.

But Al Short, the MEA's chief lobbyist, said the teachers' union is prepared to take a hard look in 2008, according to Gungor.

Well, well. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is the biggest kid on the block in Michigan politics. But the MEA isn't far behind. Any time these two powerhouse organizations get together to propose something, ears prick up all over Lansing.

They certainly picked up at a national outfit called U. S. Term Limits and their Michigan affiliate, Don't Touch Term Limits. Patrick Anderson, the president of the Anderson Consulting Group in Lansing, and an author of the original term-limit amendment, told Gungor he was "pretty mad about the whole deal."

If the Chamber is serious about initiating a truly bipartisan discussion about how best to undo the damage Michigan's term limits have done, it deserves a big pat on the back. One of the reasons our politics are such a mess these days is that short-term legislators have no idea what they're doing, which puts them at the mercy of special interest groups with fat pocketbooks.

Extending the terms of service for our legislators would go a long way to repair the broken connection between our political system and the real needs of our citizens.

Perhaps not long enough. As Rick Cole, once the chief administrative officer for the Detroit Medical Center, noted that the way things now stand: "You and I are deprived of retaining quality Republicans and Democrats in legislative offices."

Still, he adds, "I am glad someone is doing something — however minor — to improve on a very defective voting rights resolution, and you can quote me on it."

So I just did.

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



Phil Power

When tragedy strikes, community responds

Destruction, terror and mayhem are what Hurricane Katrina brought to the Gulf Coast. But the overall good nature of Novi's residents

hasn't just sat by and watched it all happen. Hundreds of residents took action to ensure that as many affected people as possible would receive relief.

From a 10-year-old's bake sale, to an effort to send three truckloads of goods down, the Novi community came together as one to help.

The Novi Community School District certainly did its part by organizing an effort to school building did separate activities to donate to the American Red Cross. Each

elementary school, which is the school's Parent Teacher Organization, students and teachers.

Novi Middle School set up an activity night Sept. 9, and all of the proceeds from that evening were donated. The PTO contributed \$500 towards that amount and the total collected was \$2,000. The activity night featured a DJ for dancing, basketball, volleyball, pizza and pop. The school's media center was also open for interested students.

Novi Middle School set up an activity night Sept. 9, and all of the proceeds from that evening were donated. The PTO contributed \$500 towards that amount and the total collected was \$2,000. The activity night featured a DJ for dancing, basketball, volleyball, pizza and pop. The school's media center was also open for interested students.

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family from New Orleans who had lost their home. The school came together to give the family clothes and money. Tons of food and diapers were donated. The school also organized a truckload of supplies.

Orchard Hills Elementary School has collected money in a big jar in the main office. The school will be collecting slightly used books to help supplement a devastated library.

Novi High School, starting the same week the hurricane hit, has been busy raising funds through many different projects. The student council set up a standard meeting every Wednesday at 6:45 a.m. The kids are collecting money, cans and bottles in the cafeteria. One student, named Elizabeth Gae, designed a T-shirt that says "Katrina" and displays the universal hurricane symbol. They were produced by the school's graphic arts department and are being sold for \$10. Students also went out to the five elementary schools and met with all the principals to try to put order forms together.

The high school plans to continue this movement all year. The student council donated 10 percent of their savings, which was over \$1,400. As of press time, the school had collected about \$2,700. Also, homecoming is coming up and the price of a ticket is \$12. However, students are welcome to give an additional \$3 for hurricane relief.

Novi Meadows Elementary School also did a coin-collecting project for Katrina victims. The school put containers in each class-

room and asked students to donate any spare change they had Sept. 5 through Sept. 16. During that time, the total amount of money collected was over \$2,100 in pennies, nickels and quarters.

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SENIORS

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

Fox Run breaks ground on newest neighborhood, Renaissance Gardens

Mike McCormick, executive director at Fox Run in Novi, last Friday presided over the ceremonial groundbreaking (activities for Renaissance Gardens, the campus' newest neighborhood, Renaissance Gardens, will house the community's assisted living and skilled nursing care facilities, joining the existing independent living campus for men and women 62 years of age plus.

Completion of Renaissance Gardens is scheduled for the first quarter of 2007.

The groundbreaking was attended by Fox Run residents and staff, civic leaders and dignitaries including Novi Mayor Peter Daveli and several members of the Novi City Council as well as representatives from the offices of Governor Jennifer Granholm and Senator Nancy Cassis.

Dr. Bill Russell, regional medical director at Jackson which develops and manages Fox Run, was also on hand. Jean Landreville, administrator of Renaissance Gardens, shared the "vision" for Renaissance Gardens with those in attendance.

Landreville told the crowd of over 300 guests that the site is not only a place for Fox Run, but it's "our home. We all want to live here," said Landreville. Landreville spoke about the commitment that Fox Run has made not only to their residents

and staff, but to the whole community of Novi.

McCormick, Landreville and Russell were joined by Fox Run residents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weimer to dedicate a tree that will be planted in front of the completed Renaissance Gardens in commemoration of the ground breaking ceremony. The Weimers, one of the first couples to move to Fox Run, also participating in the original ground breaking for the community member.

Fox Run's most "seasoned" resident, Mabel Fake, who will turn 100 in 2006, climbed aboard a gigantic front loader in order to be the one to make the first "dig" for the construction to begin. Fake said she was honored to be part of the fun and is looking forward to the completion of Renaissance Gardens.

Mercy High School student, Grace Denton of Novi, unveiled the crowd with her rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." Denton has performed at numerous venues in the metropolitan area including Fox Run's first ground breaking.

"We thought it was fitting that Grace sing for us today, as she was with us from the start," commented McCormick. "We have grown so much since we first started our original construction and she has grown with us into a

lovely, extremely talented young lady."

Renaissance Gardens will be operated under the auspices of Erickson HealthSM, the nation's largest and most completely integrated wellness and health care system for people over 62 years of age. The state-of-the-art, high tech facility will provide private rooms for residents, offering services based in the "person centered care" philosophy and designed to meet the individual needs of each community member.

Landreville said, "The latest healthcare technology will be built in and will include electronic medical records keeping, medication ordering systems, wireless capabilities for call lights and bedside documentation."

"Renaissance Gardens will be the most innovative, truly unique operation of its kind, not only in Michigan but the entire Mid-west and possibly United States," said McCormick.

Resident rooms and common areas will be decorated in cheerful colors and rich furnishings unlike those found in other facilities of this type. Restaurants and dining areas will feature gourmet dining options presented in bright, contemporary settings. An extensive garden complete with bird feeders, fountains and luxurious grounds will be the outdoor focal point of the facility.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 10/14	8:45 a.m. - 10 a.m. Panera Bread	10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Asian Pacific Bookmobile
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Stretch and Strength	11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Body Recall	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Family Communication, Kathryn Bartz, Busford Care		
Monday 10/17	9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Stretch and Strength	10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Body Recall
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Goodie Lady	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Pinocchio	2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Female Trailblazers' 51
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch		
Tuesday 10/18	9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Panera Bread	10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Line Dance
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Body Recall		

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

Seniors make friends with volunteer pups

Pets cuddle up to older folks

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

With licks and wags and lots of love, volunteer dogs are cuddling up as a form of senior therapy.

Sharon Disbro and her dog, Necco, need more volunteers. The 100-year-old Manor of Novi resident remembered when he had three dogs of his own, and enjoys bringing those memories back with the help of his new furry friends.

"He always shakes hands with me," McShea said. "I do look forward to these visits."

Patricia Brown William, activities director for the Manor of Novi, said the program is a real blessing for the seniors. "If you could just see the looks on some of the residents' faces," William said, "it's worth it. It's almost like family members are coming to visit. They really look forward to it."

The Pet-a-Pet program welcomes people friendly dogs, cats and even rabbits with up-to-date shots. Although by herself Saturday morning, Disbro said Necco would visit about 15 to 20 people. "We really need more volunteers though," she said. "This is

someone other than their caregivers."

Martin McShea has spent many Saturdays visiting with Necco and other dogs in the program.

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Pet-a-Pet Club, Inc.

Contact: To volunteer your pup at the Manor of Novi, call Sharon Disbro at (734) 449-8339

Web site: www.petapet.org
Donations: Donations made to Pet-a-Pet to honor or memorialize someone, help expand efforts to bring pet therapy to more institutions in the Detroit area. To make a donation, call Judy Kirby at (313) 278-4670.

such a wonderful program, and we'd really like more people to bring their animals.

"It's not something you'd normally see in a nursing center. It's a great therapy."

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



Martin McShea spends the day with Necco at the Manor of Novi. McShea will be celebrating his 101 birthday in February.

Novi Fire Department OPEN HOUSE

Fire safety prevention week "Use Candles with Care"

The Novi Fire Department invites you to our open house on October 15th, 2005
Fire Station 4, located at 49375 West Ten Mile Road (Ten Mile & Wixom Rd.)
Open from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Meet Sparky the fire safety dog
- Fire Safe House
- Fire Safety Tips
- Tour the Fire Station and Training Tower
- Dial 911 Center
- Demonstration
- Rescue Boat/Confined Space Trailer
- Food & Refreshments

Talk to recruiters and learn more about becoming a paid-on-call fire fighter.
Call Human Resources at 248-347-3275

"It's not something you'd normally see in a nursing center. It's a great therapy."

Sharon Disbro
Pet-a-Pet program coordinator

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New Sessions Begin October 24th

Oakland Physical Therapy, P.C. offers Pilates classes in a safe, professional environment. Our instructor is a licensed, practicing Physical Therapist, Certified Stott's® Pilates Instructor and a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please Call (248) 380-3550 For Further Information
Private and duet sessions available

Morning Class	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6:00 - 7:00 am
Lunchtime Class	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	12:00 - 1:00 pm
Evening Class	Tuesday and Thursday	7:00 - 8:00 pm

\$80 per six-week session @ 1 class per week (6 classes)
\$150 per six-week session @ 2 classes per week (12 classes)
\$200 per six-week session @ 3 classes per week (18 classes)

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Calling all cooks!

It's time for the newspaper's fourth annual Holiday Recipe Collection. This special section includes original recipes from your neighbors, friends and business owners in Livingston County, Northville, Novi, Milford, South Lyon and the surrounding areas. This collection has become a much anticipated favorite in homes around the area.

But, in order for it to be successful this year, we need your family and original holiday recipes. We're looking for appetizers, soup, cake, salad dressing, stuffing, cookies, pie, roast beef, pork, vegetable and any other recipes normally served during Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's. The recipes can be simple or gourmet. They can be handed down

through your family, modified from another recipe or something you came up with all on your own. You can send in as many as you like. Even restaurants and professional chefs may submit recipes.

Everyone who submits a recipe will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$50 gift certificates to a local restaurant.

Entering is easy. Just clip out the coupon below or e-mail your entry to espiegel@gannett.com before Oct. 20.

Watch for Holiday Recipe Collection 2005 in your Nov. 9 edition of the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus, or the Nov. 10 edition of the Northville Record, Novi News, South Lyon Herald or Milford Times.

Holiday Recipe Collection Contest

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone (in case we have questions) _____

Why is this recipe special? (Attach a separate sheet of paper if needed)

Mail this coupon along with the recipe to:
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus
c/o Candy Spiegel
323 E. Grand River
Howell, MI 48843
(Photos of the chef are also appreciated)
Information can also be e-mailed to: cspiegel@gannett.com

New Year's
Thanksgiving
Christmas

All entries must be received by Oct. 20, 2005.

Make Your Classified Ad STAND OUT with Photos!

The cost for the photo will be \$10.00 for the first day and \$5.00 per day for each additional day, plus the cost of the ad copy based on the number of lines used.

Reproducible 3x5 or 4x6 photos or photos emailed to us will be used. Call for e-mail address. Photos will not be returned. Private party merchandise, auto and real estate ads. Prepayment required. No refunds.

Call 1-888-999-1288 to place your ad today!

Green Sheet CLASSIFIEDS

Excludes Business/Commercial Ads
Deadline for Thursday's publication is Monday at 12 noon
Deadline for Sunday's publication is Thursday at 12 noon

Something Good is Cooking

To place your ad in our Holiday Recipe Book

Space Reservation: October 17th
Copy Deadline: October 18th
Publication Date: November 10th

Call for more information:

LIVINGSTON COUNTY DAILY PRESS & ARGUS 517-548-7060
Milford Times 248-685-1507
Northville Record 248-349-1700
Novi News 248-437-2011
South Lyon Herald 248-437-2011

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Farmington Hills (12 Mile-Arboretum Center) 34391 W. 12 Mile Rd. 248.522.3372
West Bloomfield (Maple-Haggerty) 7950 W. Maple Rd. 248.522.3303

www.metrobanker.com

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CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Novi Theater Productions

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400
A One-Act Festival

PERFORMANCE: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12, 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13
AUDITIONS: For Guys and Dolls TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14 and Wednesday, Nov. 16
Anne of Green Gables PERFORMANCE: DATE: Friday, Oct. 28, Saturday, Oct. 29 and Sunday, Oct. 30

Maybury Farm's Second Annual Corn Maze

TIME/DATE: 5-9 p.m., Fridays, 1-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays
LOCATION: Maybury Farm, 50165 Eighth Mile, east of Napier Road in Southville. Use the farm entrance on Eight Mile and follow through the Maze parking lot — there is no fee if you use the Maybury Farm parking lot. Follow the signs to the Corn Maze entrance at the Maybury Farm Welcome Center.
DETAILS: The Corn Maze, sponsored by Metro Detroit Farmer Jack Stores, will be open through October 30.

Novi Cub Scouts Popcorn Fundraiser

DATE/TIME: 5-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 14; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 15; 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16
LOCATION: Jay-Ann ETC., West Oaks II
DETAILS: Novi Cub Scouts are raising funds to support Scout camps and programs in our area by selling popcorn products.
CONTACT: Visit Website at <http://www.puck54.us>.

Comedy Club III with comedian Dan Smith

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 15
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Meadowbrook

Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of Thirteen Mile Road.
DETAILS: Conspire Meadows Church is sponsoring this event. Tickets are \$9, or 3 for \$25 and includes a complimentary beverage and snack bar.
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700

Democrats of West Oakland County

DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 19
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Souvicki Coney Island, 31150 Novi Road
DETAILS: Supper and social hour precede the meeting at 6 p.m. Candidates for local offices will present their positions on issues and answer questions. Following the candidates' presentation, members will be given an opportunity to identify current issues of greatest importance to them. The public is invited.
CONTACT: (248) 634-7238

Borders Bookstore Events

LOCATION: 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 447-0780
Educator Appreciation Weekend
DATE: Friday, Oct. 14-Tuesday, Oct. 18
DETAILS: This event is open to teachers, librarians, principals, home school parents, school support staff and other educators. Educators must bring a school ID or paycheck stub to be eligible to receive the special discounts, giveaways and special events. In addition, all educators are invited to an exclusive reception 5 p.m., Friday, October 14.

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council
DATE: Tuesdays, Oct. 25; Nov. 9, 22; Dec. 13 and 20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 48045 Pontiac Trail

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Mondays, Oct. 24; Nov. 14 and 28; Dec. 5 and 19
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursdays, Oct. 20; Nov. 3 and 17; Dec. 1
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Tall Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

BUSINESS

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

Chamber Chat
DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 19
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
DETAILS: This is an informal luncheon discussion between chamber members on topics of mutual interest. The cost is \$10 per person, includes a catered lunch. Register by noon, Oct. 14.
LOCATION: Chamber Office, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste B, Walled Lake

CLASSES

Sixth Gate Cloggers Beginners Class

DATE: Wednesdays through Oct. 26
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 10 Mile, west of 10th Road
DETAILS: The fee is \$24 for Novi residents; \$36 for non-residents; 12:30-3 p.m., drop-in class with a \$4 fee.
CONTACT: (248) 669-2253

Travel Agent Class

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 18 and Tuesday, Oct. 25
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Tall Road, between 10 Mile and Grand River roads.
DETAILS: Community Education hosts this class on learning how to become a home based travel agent.
CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

Basement Remodeling Classes-Nowi

TIME/DATE: 6-10 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 27
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 49081 11 Mile Road, at Wixom Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 449-1206 to register 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday or visit Website www.haldensinstitute.com

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: Every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47661 Grand River Ave., Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy: a unique mix of classes sponsored by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive, Troy, Mich. 48063
CONTACT: (248) 449-0720

Providence Center for the Healing Arts — Artist in Residence

DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 1-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Creative Arts Studio, Assarian Cancer Center, 47661 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: Artist May Tevans instructs. Class will include drawing, pastels, watercolor and mixed media. There is a \$5 materials fee. Drop-in or register.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

NOVI LIBRARY

Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed during the summer. Sunday hours resume September 11.
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Help Match the Walker Million Online

DETAILS: You now can make a donation online to help the library match the \$1 million Walker challenge grant. Just go to our website (<http://novi.lib.mi.us>), and select the Make a Donation button on the homepage.

Design-a-Plate Days

DATE/TIME: 4-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18 and Wednesday, Oct. 19;

Monster Rock

DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 26
TIME: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Paint a rock with fall or holiday features. Paint, design and technique will be discussed.
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

SUPPORT GROUPS

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (parking behind the church).
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy and Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellow-

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 19
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Yoopers, Wolverines & Buckeyes: The Toledo War of 1835

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 25
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: In 1835, Michigan was poised for admission to the Union as a state, but a longstanding boundary dispute with Ohio threatened to delay the process. With armed conflict looming, Michigan lost hundreds of square miles of territory, but gained an empire of copper, iron, and lumber. Historian Tom Barrett presents the facts, so you can decide who the real winners were. Call the library to register for this free program, which is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.

Page-turners

DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 26
TIME: 4:30-5:15 p.m.
DETAILS: Kids in grades 5-6 are invited to a paperback and comic book exchange! Bring your gently used paperbacks and comics (limit of 5 each) to the library.

Design-a-Plate Days

DATE/TIME: 4-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18 and Wednesday, Oct. 19;

continued on next page

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3017

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday mornings
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

HEALTH

Providence Center for the Healing Arts-Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, Oct. 14
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence

ONGOING

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals

TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m.,

Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wellness. Open to the public. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes lunch and materials. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

LOCATION: Novi High School, Tuft Road
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.
CONTACT: Dhan Kochyan, (248) 348-5135

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

The Rock Financial Showplace is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of 15th and Novi Road). Call (248) 348-5500 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

Remodeling & Design Expo

DATE: Oct. 14-16
TIMES: Fri. noon-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
DETAILS: Over 250 exhibits and displays. Features the latest advancements in doors, windows, pools, spas, heating and cooling, appliances and more, also inspiring design ideas, decorating trends, craft ideas, projects and more.

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals

TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m.,

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors; free for children 12 and under. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (248) 737-4477 or visit www.novihomeshow.com

Motorticity Comic Convention

DATE: Oct. 15-16
TIMES: Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Comic and science fiction show. Admission is \$12 for one day; \$20 for two-day. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (248) 426-8059 or www.motorticityconventions.com

Sugarloaf Art Fair

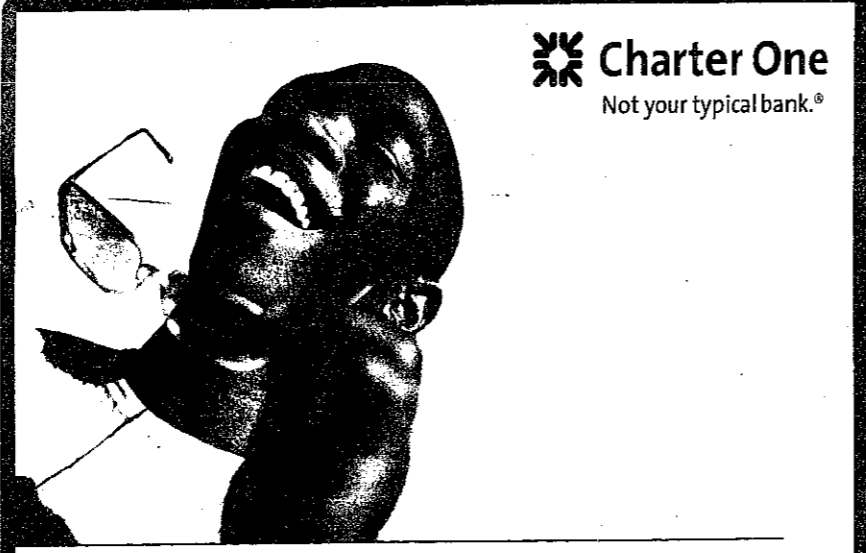
DATE: Oct. 21-23
TIMES: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
DETAILS: This area's largest indoor art fair featuring pottery, jewelry, leather, glass, clothing, demonstrations and specialty food. Admission is \$5; free for children 12 and under. Parking is free.
CONTACT: (301) 990-1400 or www.sugarloafarts.com

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@gannett.com.

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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD High & Elm Streets, Northville Lutwick Pastor Church: 309-3140 School: 349-3146 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.	BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA Lutwick Pastor Church: 309-3140 School: 349-3146 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE On Hogarty Rd. North of 8 Mile Rd. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Celebration 10:30 a.m. (248) 348-1700 Dr. Ron Blake, Pastor	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 200 E. Main St. or Huron (248) 349-0911 Worship & Church School 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Children Available at All Services Nursery, 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Shogren Pastor, Ministry, Thurs. 7:30 a.m. Rev. Neil Cook, Senior Pastor Rev. James P. Russell, Associate Pastor
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook Rd. North of 172 Mile Morning Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m. 248-348-7107 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Minister of Music: Patricia Kall	OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH WEEKEND LITURGIES: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Church: 349-2671 School: 349-3610 Religious Education: 349-2569 Rev. Gregory Korman, Pastor
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican) 10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Hogarty Phone: 248-427-1175 Sun. 7:45 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery 10 am Rev. Kaitlin Waters, Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class & 4:55 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Thomas E. Schiavone, Pastor • 349-0565
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4480 W. 10 Mile, Novi: 248-349-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor Worship & Church School 10:30 am Sunday	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 349 1144 8 Mile & Jeff Roads Worship Services: 8:30am & 10:00am Rev. John Hice Rev. Leo Cook
ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4235 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48046 Sunday 9:30 a.m. Reverend George Chagnsey, Pastor Phone: 248-337378	OAK POINTE CHURCH At Novi Middle School 11 Mile & Wixom Rd. Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary live band (248) 912-0283 www.oakpointe.org
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2480 Meadowbrook, at Novi 48045 Worship: 8:30 a.m., Sun. 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: 5:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. Fr. Joseph B. Baker, Pastor Fr. Richard Baker, Associate Pastor Pastor Office: 349-8844	HARVEST FELLOWSHIP 49329 Pontiac Trail Wixom 248-926-8332 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 3360 W. Main Rd. (S. of Hogarty) Phone: 248-429-7100 Sunday Services Mitra: Communion 10:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Rev. Fr. George M. Vassilas, Pastor www.nativitygreekchurch.org	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA 23225 64 Rd., Farmington Hills between Grand River & Foxglove 248-474-0284 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. 8:30 & 11:00, Toddler 9:30 Contemporary Sunday School 9:45
WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH At J. & M. Health 4022 16 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48334 Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 11:45 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Service Director: 482-9584/116 a.m.	CONG. BEIT KODESH 31840 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia Friday Night Services 8:00 p.m. Saturday Services 9:30 a.m. HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sept-May

CHURCH DIRECTORY
For information regarding rates call
The Northville Record or Novi News
(248) 349-1700



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Medicare Advantage Plans: Compare and Choose

	HAP Senior Plus	Company 1	Company 2
Hospitalization Coverage	No deductible or copayment. Unlimited days.	No deductible or copayment. 90-day limit.	\$165/day for day 1-90, \$50/day for days 91-180, copayment for additional days. Unlimited days each benefit period.
Routine Physical Exams	Covered	\$10 each exam. Covered up to 1 exam per year.	\$5 for each exam up to 1 exam per year.
Routine Hearing and Eye Exams	Covered	\$10 for each Medicare-covered hearing or eye exam.	\$20 for each Medicare-covered hearing or eye exam.
Prescription Drug Benefit	\$400 benefit annually with significant discounts after benefit depletion (subject to limitations).	You pay 100% for most prescription drugs.	No individual financial generic drugs, 50% limit per prescription for brand name drugs.
	\$40/month premium*	\$113/month premium	\$199/month premium

*You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium
Source: www.medicare.gov Personal Plan Finder

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ENDLESS FALL FUN!

TRIP-A-WEEK GIVEAWAY

OCTOBER 3 - 21
Enter for your chance to win the trip of a lifetime! Sweep your Players' Pledge! Card at the Reward Yourself! Kiosks each day for your FREE BALLOT.

October 7th draw: 1st prize Trip to Japan
October 14th draw: 1st prize Trip to Australia
October 21st draw: 1st prize Trip to Europe

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NOW - OCT. 26
Whether you work the night shift or you're a night owl visit us **Mon - Fri, 2 a.m. - 8 a.m.** for: Free Poker Lessons, 1.5x Cash Back, 1.5x Reward Points, \$1.50 Breakfast Specials in the Terrace Cafe.

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OCTOBER 14
2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Enjoy food specials, Bandoloni - The One Man Band and a beer lein giveaway. (while spaces last)

Halloween Spooktacular

OCTOBER 31
8 p.m. - Midnight
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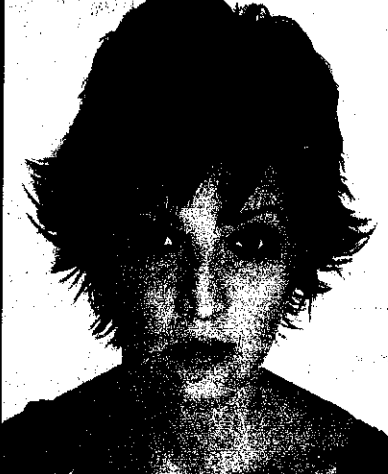
1ST PLACE - FORMAL
STYLIST - JOHN PAUL TAKACS

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COLOUR TROPHY
COLORIST - KAY SCHAECHER



YES!

The Novi Wildcats tennis team earned a trip to the state finals in Midland tomorrow after a strong performance in the regional tournament last Friday.

— Page 2B



She shoots, she scores!

The Novi Wildcats basketball team is coming back from injuries that hampered them early in the season and hope to earn some big wins through the remainder of the year.

— Page 3B



Regional Marketplace

The Our Blessings Consignment family (from left): Beth Gieseler; Isaiah Ayers; Ashley Bousc; Brady Kelly; 7; Ryan May 7; Kevin May; and Benjamin May. 1.

— Page 6B

SPORTS

Thursday, October 13, 2005

www.novinews.com

B1 Novi News

Quick Hits

Everything but the scoreboard?

The Novi Wildcats football team owned every aspect of their game against Hartland except the scoreboard.

They had 292 yards offense to Hartland's 224 and snagged the only interception of the game for 26 yards.



The biggest thing Novi didn't control was the clock. Hartland had the ball for

29:49 while Novi had it just 18:11.

With five wins under their belt and needing just one win out of the next two games to guarantee a playoff berth, we're confident Novi will still extend their season.

A trio of seniors

It's always nice to have senior leadership.

The Novi Wildcats basketball team has a trio of seniors in Rachele Folino, Jessica Gasiorok and Nicole Stephen who are all capable of being the leading scorer for their team on any given night.

The trio has been responsible for leading Novi on a pretty good start so far this year and will be key if the Wildcats hope to earn some victories in the district tournament when post-season play rolls around.

If you haven't had the chance yet, hit a Novi home basketball game and cheer the green and white to victory. They won't disappoint.

State finals bound

The Novi tennis team deserves a round of applause.

They went into what could easily be considered one of the toughest regional tournaments in the state and came out with a berth to the state finals tomorrow and Saturday.

How? Well, it has a lot to do with heart, determination and talent, but coaching shouldn't be ignored either.



Jim Hanson has had a knack for getting his kids to play their best over his career and deserves the recognition that comes with earning a state finals berth.

Congratulations to Hanson and the Novi Wildcats for yet another trip to Midland to play with the state's best.

Plenty of competition

The good news for Catholic Central fans is that the Shamrocks golf team plays its best when they've got plenty of competition.

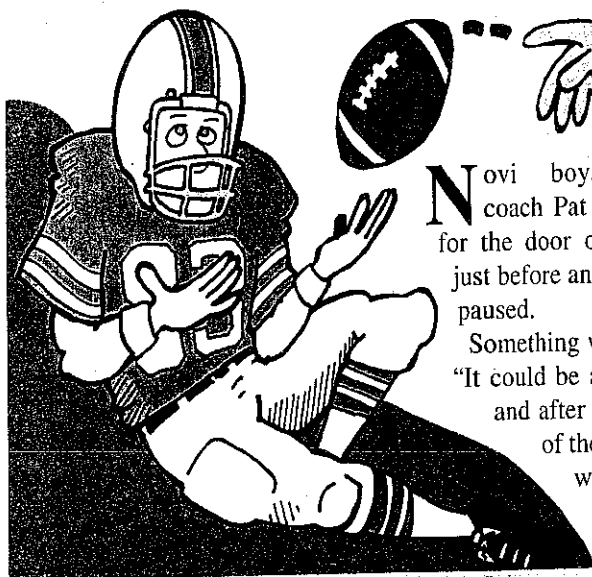
The bad news? There's more than enough competition to go around at the state finals.

Something tells us the Shamrocks are going to be just fine when they make the trip to East Lansing tomorrow and Friday. The competition is stiff, but Catholic Central isn't too shabby itself. The team qualified for the finals with a 308, which is one of the best scores of any Division I team.

Compiled by Sam Eggleston

Immaculate receptions

Where does God fit into sports?



Novi boys basketball coach Pat Schluter headed for the door of the locker room just before another rivalry game and paused.

Something was missing.

"It could be a big game and things are really hectic and after the pre-game speech I start for the door and one of the kids will stop me," he said. "They'll say 'Coach, we forgot the pre-game prayer.'"

Prayer, in public school? Where does that fit in?

"There's a place for prayer, and it's not because you scored a touchdown," he said. "God didn't let him score that touchdown. God has more important things to worry about than him scoring."

Schluter agreed. He said athletes who react to individual successes with those kinds of displays aren't acting in the role they should be — as a professional or a member of a particular religion.

"I think it's all showboating," he said. "It's kind of ridiculous. The way the NFL guys are doing that, it's not being a good role model. It's just garbage, and I don't think they should be doing that. And I don't believe in doing that."

Where does religion fit in with sports? Not every athlete prays before games and not all of them are religious.

But for those who are, prayer and thankfulness are part of the game. "Before a meet I thank God that I'm able to be there and able to compete," said Moak. "I just ask him for strength and to do my best. I know he'll be there for me."

Players pray for guidance, strength and a multitude of other elements. But what about wins?

"You should never pray to God for victory," said Charley. "It puts God in quite the predicament if you do. I used to coach at a Catholic school and if the two Catholic school teams both prayed to beat the daylight out of one another, what should he do?"

"That's not what it's all about and it's hard to tell kids that and get them to understand it and have it make sense."

In the end, does God care who wins or loses?

Schluter said he doesn't think so. He said religion in sports isn't about winning or losing, but about trying to be one's best no matter what the situation is.

It's not about who prays more or who on Sunday, but rather who leaves knowing they should have done more.

"I tell the guys that when we come back into the locker room there should be no regrets," Schluter said. "It's not about winning or losing. It's about the effort we give and making sure no one outworks us. That's our approach."

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

"There's a place for prayer, and it's not because you scored a touchdown. God didn't let him score that touchdown. God has more important things to worry about than him scoring."

Father George Charney
St. James Roman Catholic Church, Novi

Prior to a math test or a final exam, it may not be welcome. In the arena of sports — even at the high school level — it's common place.

Schluter, like many coaches, has never pushed prayer on his players. Many athletes take a moment to pray by themselves, calming their nerves and preparing mentally for the upcoming contest. Others, like the boys basketball team at Novi where the seniors lead the team in their pre-game tradition, pray together and focus on being their best.

A part of life

Father George Charney of St. James Roman Catholic Church in Novi said for many God is involved in every aspect of life. Athletics included.

"God sits in life and in everything we do," he said.

"It's not just athletics, though it should be a part of that."

Charney enjoys athletics. He's often seen at Novi football and soccer games, though basketball is his favorite. He's a fan, but he also knows church and sports often can go hand-in-hand.

Sports push athletes to learn the value of teamwork and the benefits of hard work while constantly struggling for self-improvement. Religions — and not just Christianity — quite often preach the same.

"God wants us to work hard, be good to one another, help out and be there for those who are in trouble and need us," said Schluter. "That's what he wants us to do in our life as well."

"That's what sports are about, too. You help each other and you work hard and you show good sportsmanship."

Where does religion fit?

Religion has shown itself in many forms of athletics. From touchdowns where a professional player drops to one knee and thanks the lord to moments of silence at sporting events across the country following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to Muslim athletes waiting to grab a bite to eat until after sundown at a high school football game during the holy month of Ramadan, religion has been present in sports.

But does it belong?

Prayer before games is common in athletic arenas, but it doesn't always have to be religious, said Charney.

"It doesn't have to be a papal announcement," he said. "Everyone is capable of prayer and leading prayer. You don't need a priest to pray because any coach and any kid can pray. It can be very generic and cover everyone there."

Religion, or at least the fundamental beliefs that drive it, are shown in everyday events as athletes engage each other in competition and do it with sportsmanship.

"We try to spread Christ's love to others through our sports and through our sportsmanship," said Lauren Moak, a captain of the Northville High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of the swimming and diving team. "We can display Christ through what we do. It's not about preaching, but showing it more through our actions and deeds instead of words. We try to be loving, patient and good."

When is it too much?

There are lines that shouldn't be crossed, said Charney. He said displays by professional athletes — football players pointing to the sky and crossing themselves after touchdowns and boxers thanking God after wins — aren't needed.

Captains learned to love cross country running

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS INTERN

It was the kickoff meeting, the beginning of a new season. As varsity cross country coach Marsha Reid started to talk, she was interrupted by the sound of

hysterical laughter. Seniors and co-captains Erin Haynes and Erica Howard, tears streaming down their faces, proved to be the causes of the distraction.

"Erin just looks over and she (said), 'I'm laughing at

(Erica's) laugh, it's funny,'" Reid recalled. "They were laughing at how funny each other's laughs sounded."

Together for another year of cross country, the two best friends are still having fun. In high school, Haynes and

Howard decided to start running to get in shape for soccer. Haynes has been running on the team since her freshman year, while Howard joined as a sophomore. This season, both girls have consistently finished in the top five to seven for Novi;

Howard's personal best time is approximately 21:40 and Haynes' is a 21:02.

Though their initial reasons for joining the team were not

continued on 4B

By the numbers	12-0-3	1	18	18	2	30 mph	3
	Novi soccer's record at this point with a third-place ranking in the state	Points by which Novi lost their football game to Hartland last week	Points tennis earned in regional tournament to earn a berth to the state finals	Minimum number of points a team can get to make state finals trek	Number of shots between Novi golf and a Kensington Valley Conference title	Wind speed at golf's district tournament two weeks ago	Top-10 rated teams that will play in Novi's soccer district this season

'Cats tennis earns state finals berth

Heading into the regional tournament, the Novi Wildcats tennis team was far from the favorites to make the state finals.

Four top-10 ranked teams and a slew of talented individual players were expected, but Novi didn't care. They went in, played their best and came away with a state finals berth.

The Wildcats earned points from nearly every flight, though they did not have any flight champions. The squad will head to Midland to participate in the very competitive state finals. They are currently ranked seventh in the state.

"This is one of the best teams I've ever coached."

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"I'm very proud of the way the girls played," said Jan Hansen. "We're going to go to Midland and in the state finals and we're going to play our best. It's been a great season."

Novi's score is the minimum points to make it out of a regional without finishing first or second.

The team also beat Lakeland, 4-2, with goals from Todd Jantz (2), Matt Simpson and Marc Chacevobelli. Novi beat Waterford Kettering, 2-2, in a sub-par performance with Chacevobelli and Ryan Carter getting goals.

tying contests. The squad, coached by Brian O'Leary, tied Brighton, 1-1, in a contest between two ranked squads. The outcome was thanks to a score by David Deighton on a throw in by Matt Crawford.

The Wildcats were close to taking the lead in the second half, with a Brighton kick nailing the goal post.

Novi is now 12-0-3 and 10-0-1 in the Kensington Valley Conference.

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"I'm really pumped for this weekend and so are the girls," said Reid. "We've been running tough and with a lot of heart."

Novi's Allison Yee warms up during last Friday's KVC regionals held at her high school. Yee was part of the #2 ranked doubles team, with Amanda Brandemihl.

one through four and sixth to win the meet. Meghan Barnatz continued to run tough and lead the Wildcats while Andrea Kramer, Laura Sheeran and Erin Haynes ran close together for second, third and fourth. Rounding out the top seven for Novi was Emily Barton, Erica Howard and Kelli Brown.

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CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCOREBOARD

Shamrocks bulldoze Saginaw
When Saginaw High School heard the Catholic Central Shamrocks had dropped three games this year, they probably thought it was their chance to snag their first win of the season. The Shamrocks, needless to say, had other ideas, especially since their playoff hopes are riding on winning the remainder of their games.

Golf squad makes finals
The Catholic Central Shamrocks golf team knew from the first day of practice that they had the potential to make the state finals. Now, they've done it. The team used an impressive 307 team score at the regional tournament to earn a berth to the state finals, hosted at Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing.

Leading the Shamrocks was Mike Murray, who recorded an impressive 74 as a sophomore. Ada Hogue, a senior, shot a 76 on the day while fellow senior Ron Bonatz recorded a 78. Seniors Adam Dubois and Brian King shot a 79 and 80, respectively, to help their team out of the regional tournament.

Leading the Shamrocks was Mike Murray, who recorded an impressive 74 as a sophomore. Ada Hogue, a senior, shot a 76 on the day while fellow senior Ron Bonatz recorded a 78. Seniors Adam Dubois and Brian King shot a 79 and 80, respectively, to help their team out of the regional tournament.

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Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Jessica Gasiorok in action against South Lyon.



Novi guard Amanda Harden passes the ball to a teammate while watched by South Lyon's Megan Mannarino.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER



The Novi varsity girls' basketball team lines up before the start of last week's home game against South Lyon.

Wildcats back to their winning ways

Novi tops South Lyon, Hartland in KVC contests

The Novi Wildcats girls basketball team kicked things up a notch when they took on a defeated two of their Kensington Valley Conference rivals last week.

The Wildcats, coached by Bill Kelly, beat South Lyon, 44-23, and topped Hartland, 44-33.

Against South Lyon, it was Rachelle Polino, a Division I college recruit, leading the way with 12 points and eight rebounds while Nicole Stephen scored 10 and Lisa Harden added six points each.

Two days later, the Wildcats were led by Gasiorok's 11 rebounds as they trounced the Hartland Eagles. Folino notched an impressive 14 points while Stephanie Crawford poured in nine in the victory. Stephen added eight points while Kris Chalkes sank five.



With a South Lyon defender on her heels, Novi's Stephanie Crawford brings the ball up court.



ABOVE: Novi's Rachelle Polino picks up her dribble as she heads to the hoop during last week's home game against South Lyon; LEFT: Though out of action with injuries, Novi High School basketball players Taylor Graybiel (with a foot in a cast), right, and Jamie Fratto (on crutches) urge on their teammates during warmups before last week's home game against South Lyon.

"THUMBS UP!"
A FOOT-STOMPING, HAND-CLAPPING GOOD TIME!
"A FAST-PACED, BRILLIANTLY DIRECTED. DARING, EGYD AND KEIRA KNIGHTLEY SOLIDIFIES HER GROWING STARDOM WITH A TOP-DRAWER PERFORMANCE."
JEFFREY LYONS, NBC-TV

DOMINO
"I AM A BOUNTY HUNTER"

STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LAKELAND	AMC LANSING
2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00
EMERALD CANTON	EMERALD NOVI	EMERALD WESTLAND	EMERALD WESTLAND
7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30
STAR GREAT LAKES	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R
7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00

NOW PLAYING

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LAKELAND	AMC LANSING
2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00
EMERALD CANTON	EMERALD NOVI	EMERALD WESTLAND	EMERALD WESTLAND
7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30
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STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
EBERT & ROEPER
"THE BEST MOVIE ABOUT GAMBLING EVER MADE!"
LARRY KING
"A FAST-PACED MODERN HOLLYWOOD THRILL RIDE!"
TED FYE, THE SEATTLE TIMES
"IT'S 'GLEN GARY GLEN ROSS' IN A SPORTS BAR!"
JACK ROBINSON, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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THE BEST PLACE TO FIND YOURSELF.

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STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

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2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00
EMERALD CANTON	EMERALD NOVI	EMERALD WESTLAND	EMERALD WESTLAND
7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30
STAR GREAT LAKES	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R
7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00

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7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30
STAR GREAT LAKES	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R
7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00

THERE'S MORE TO FEAR THAN YOU CAN SEE.

THE FOG

STARTS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LAKELAND	AMC LANSING
2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00
EMERALD CANTON	EMERALD NOVI	EMERALD WESTLAND	EMERALD WESTLAND
7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30	7:00-7:30
STAR GREAT LAKES	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R	STAR JOHN R
7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
STAR SOUTHWEST	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR	STAR TAYLOR
8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00	8:30-9:00

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AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LAKELAND	AMC LANSING
2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00	2:30-3:00
EMERALD CANTON	EMERALD		

Captains love cross country

continued from 1B

directly related to a passion for running. Hayes and Howard said that they have learned to love the sport. "You just get addicted to running," Hayes said. "I don't run, I get cravings to go running."

"After the first day you do it, you just keep coming back," Howard added. "You feel guilty if you don't run for a day, and the feeling you get after you run is so good ... it feels so good to say, 'I ran eight miles today. How about you?' It's just something to be proud of."

While running six to seven miles during training, Hayes and Howard are known for keeping practices light-hearted.

"They'll go out and have mud runs, where they find mud puddles and come back with mud painted all over their faces and their shirts just covered from mud fights," Reid said. "Running seven miles can be boring if you don't make it entertaining, and they make it entertaining."

In addition, Reid said that the girls' strong work ethic is used as an example for the rest of the team.

"Erin, last year ... in a half mile, showed competitiveness when she was behind. She had one lap left and there was a person (in front of her)," Reid said. "I just said to her, 'You've got to go now.' She took off and kicked it into another gear and passed this person. It was down-to-the-wire competitiveness, made other people hungrier to get better."

"Erica Howard, she's consistent and hard-working. She puts a lot of pressure on herself ... but you can always go up to her and you always know, every single race, she gave 110 percent. That's what they bring to us," Howard said. "With Erica, I get to see her more often. We get closer when we're both struggling with running or working hard or trying to be good team members, and then there's always the times where something funny happens when we laugh at each other."

As the girls complete their cross country season and senior year, it seems like a good laugh will never be far behind.

"It's kind of hard to take responsibility, to be the one that everybody looks up to," Hayes added. "Last year, we had a bunch of good senior runners, and we depended on them in races. Now, we're the ones that people are depending on, and it's more stressful."

Next year, both girls want to attend Michigan State University. Although they do not plan on running competitively, they expect to run together in their free time. Participating in the same fall sport for the past two years has strengthened their friendship, they said.

"Cross country definitely helps us out," Howard said. "It's a guaranteed three hours a day that we're together."

"Lots of my other friends, I didn't get to see them as much in high school," Hayes added. "With Erica, I get to see her more often. We get closer when we're both struggling with running or working hard or trying to be good team members, and then there's always the times where something funny happens when we laugh at each other."

For more information, call Kevin Mitchell at (248) 478-2773.

More travel baseball

The South Farmington Blues U15 travel team will hold a tryout Oct. 23 from 2-4 p.m. at Founders Sports Park, field number five.

Players must be 11 years old or younger as of May 1, 2006, to be considered.

For more information, call Kevin Mitchell at (248) 478-2773.

Laugh your skates off

The Northville High School hockey boosters will host "Laugh Your Skates Off," a fund-raising event for the hockey team.

The event will be Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus hall in Livonia.

Sieve Sabo and Bill Bushart are the featured comedians at the event, which includes pizza, munchies, an open bar, door prizes and dancing after the show.

Tickets are \$50 each and a portion is tax deductible.

For more information or to order tickets, call Kar Zionek at (248) 347-4383.

Travel baseball and softball

The Kensington Valley Baseball Softball Association (KVBSA) is accepting applications for travel baseball and softball teams for the 2006 season.

There are currently openings in all age brackets in both baseball and softball. Baseball will have divisions for U9 through U18 and softball will have divisions for U12 through U18.

For more information contact Jeff David at (586) 266-7646 or e-mail at jeff.david@kvbsa.com. You can also visit the website www.kvbsa.com.

Girls Youth Basketball

DETAILS: Fourth-Sixth grade girls basketball has been expanded with several openings. Enrollments will be accepted until league is full.

CONTACT: (248) 349-0203, extension 1405.

Coach wanted

Northville High School is in need of an assistant gymnastics coach that has experience in spotting. Please contact Bryan Mast, Athletic Director at (248) 344-8414.

Want to see your sports short listed? Contact Sam Eggleston at seggleston@gannett.com, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gannett.com.

Got a sports story idea? Contact the Novi News sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@gannett.com.

SPORTS SHORTS

Breakfast Club adult hockey program returns

It's not too late to sign up for Suburban Hockey's morning hockey instructional program for adults.

Registration is underway for the Breakfast Club presented by Labatt - Suburban Hockey's weekly morning skills and conditioning series for adult hockey players of all ability levels.

Suburban will hold two 10-week sessions, with the first running from October-December and the second going from January-March.

The Breakfast Club will take place at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at Suburban Ice-Macomb Tuesdays, and at the Onyx-Rochester Ice Arena and Dearborn Ice Skating Center Thursdays.

Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills will also be the site of the Advanced Breakfast Club program on Thursdays.

The goals of the program are to improve players' overall knowledge of the game, teach new drills, increase enjoyment of the game, build confidence, conditioning and develop skating and puck skills in a competitive and fun environment.

Coaches include former professional and college players with vast coaching and playing experience.

All youth hockey coaches receive 50 percent off tuition to the Breakfast Club! New this year is a special offer from RBK Hockey: all registered players may purchase an RBK 5K Modura pattern hockey stick for just \$75 (retail is \$150). In addition, players who refer a new player to the Breakfast Club will receive \$50 off their tuition!

This is an extremely 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 visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

Registration for Fall/Winter Learn to Skate

Novi Ice Arena will run a seven-week fall/winter session of its Learn to Skate Program from Wednesday, October 26-Saturday, December 17 (no classes November 23-26). Classes are offered Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and skate rental is available. In addition, Learn to Skate students get a punch card for free admission to open skating at Novi Ice Arena throughout the program they are enrolled in.

The following classes will be offered:

- Beginning Tots
- Snowplow Sam 1-3
- Basic 1-5
- Skate's Edge Accelerated Bridge Program - NEW!

• Adult

Classes will run once per week for 30 minutes with optional 30-minute practice sessions. Open registration for Learn to Skate begins October 17.

The Learn to Skate Program is very popular so call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novoicearena.com today to inquire about the proper class for your

level.

Want to see your sports short listed? Contact Sam Eggleston at seggleston@gannett.com, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gannett.com.

Got a sports story idea? Contact the Novi News sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@gannett.com.

Wildcats shocked by Hartland Eagles

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's a single play everyone in Hartland will be talking about for years to come, but it was so much more than that, too.

The Novi Wildcats, heavy favorites heading into Eagle country last Friday, found themselves on the wrong end of a 15-14 Kensington Valley Conference decision.

Hartland came ready to play, surging Novi through the final three quarters and winning the game on a two-point conversion that found runningback Brian Hanter spouting out of the backfield and snagging a pass from quarterback Ryan Wilkins with 7:36 left in the third quarter.

Despite "the play" being the deciding factor in the game, Novi fans and players will swear that they left the field last week that it was much more than that. It was the little things. Ball control, field goals and touchdowns. Broken coverage, bad decisions and overconfidence.

All of the packed home stands started cheering, screaming and pumping up their Eagles. It was homecoming for Hartland and they played like it was the state championship.

Though the Eagles held the one-point lead throughout the scoreless fourth quarter, it wasn't until less than three minutes remained on the clock that the game was actually decided. The Wildcats, who had fumbled earlier in the night to lead to Hartland's first score and missed a field goal to end the first half, began marching on their way to a potential game-winning situation. Junior quarterback Adam Chandler - the hero from the South Lyon game the week before - fumbled the football, which Hartland jumped on and ran out the clock with.

The victory marked the Eagles' first win over Novi since 1999. It was a game Hartland, which climbed to 3-4 overall and 2-4 in the KVC, will remember for a while and one Novi can't forget soon enough.

Novi (5-2 overall, 4-2 KVC) will play host to Milford tomorrow night at 7 p.m. for their homecoming game.

Novi has the necessary tools to beat the Mavericks. They have home-field advantage, it's homecoming and they're not too shabby as far as talent themselves. The Wildcats will have to test Milford on both the rushing and passing fronts, using quarterbacks Steve Hart and Adam Chandler as the double-threat they have the potential to be.

Rushing is going to be a must because clock control is the key to this game.

It's going to be a shoot out, with the Mavericks having as much, if not more, fire power than Novi.

But just because a team has more fire power doesn't mean they're going to win. Just ask Novi about last week's loss.

Novi's defense is key in this high-scoring contest. They're going to have to stop Milford with a focused corps of defensive linemen and linebackers being the key.

The Wildcats' playoffs aren't do or die with this game, but it sure would be nice to beat the Mavericks. It's knowing they're already made it.

Prediction: Novi 34, Milford 31

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

SCORE BY QUARTER
Hartland 0 7 8 0 - 15
Novi 14 0 0 0 - 14

LEADERS
Rushing: David Carnegie, 9-82; Adam Chandler, 7-24; John Favorite, 1-5
Passing: Steve Hart, 16-26-175; Chandler, 1-1-10
Receiving: Chandler, 8-89; Brandon Carnegie, 6-67
Sacks: Tyler Hoover, 11.5; Brad Petrosky, 10.5; Hoover, 10.5; Alex Bartlett, 8.5; Favorite, 6; Tom Spisich, 4.5

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Novi to host soccer district minus Northville

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Henry Klimes could only shake his head for the past five years.

The Northville soccer coach brought his team to easily the hardest district tournament in the state, complete with several top-10 ranked teams and a guarantee only one would make it out to continue their season.

This year, however, that's all changed. Both Northville and Novi high schools put in a bid to the Michigan High School Athletic Association for the honor of hosting the district starting Oct. 24.

Both teams were awarded districts to host.

"We put in a bid last year to host and didn't get it," said Klimes. "It's always nice to have home-field advantage. You see your crowd there, the school with you and hopefully even the football team there to cheer you on."

Not only will the Mustangs be showcasing their talents in front of the home stands but they'll be doing it against a much-less talented crew of people.

While the Mustangs used to be in a district with teams like Livonia Stevenson, the number one ranked team in Michigan, and Novi, ranked third, and Livonia Churchill, ranked 10th, they now have a district with no ranked teams. The most commonly known teams in their district are Wayne Memorial and John Glenn. Other teams in the district are Dearborn-Edzel Ford, Dearborn High School, Taylor Kennedy, Lincoln Park and Garden City.

But Klimes said it doesn't matter if the teams are well known or ranked.

"Everyone is 0-0 when the districts start," he said. "Records don't mean anything. Just look at us last year. We were 18-1-1 and that didn't scare people off."

Novi, on the other hand, will see plenty of familiar faces as they host Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Farmington, Walled Lake Western and their new neighbor, Northville Catholic Central.

"Our district got a little easier because of the fact that Northville is not in it, but our district is still very difficult," said Novi coach Brian O'Leary.

The Wildcats tied Catholic Central in a scrimmage this year and beat Livonia Churchill, 2-1. Beyond being ranked first in the state, O'Leary said Stevenson is also ranked fifth in the country.

Not to mention even the "no names" are tough teams with Walled Lake Western tying both Northville and Livonia Franklin this year.

The key, said Klimes, is to be prepared no matter who the schedule says is up next.

"We were prepared to play the best early and I think, down the road, we'll still have to play the best," he said. "I just have to make sure my team is definitely prepared for any opponents."

Northville and Novi will have a chance to potentially meet up in the later round as the district champions will be in the regional tournament together.

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Michigan moves up to fourth nationally in high school sports participation

Michigan's high school sports participation figures for the 2004-05 school year show the state moving up to fourth overall nationally in information released this month by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Michigan's figure of 313,913 participants in all sports, including those in which the MHSAA currently does not conduct a post-season tournament, rank only behind Texas,

California and New York, the nation's top three states in population and in males and females 14-17 years of age according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Michigan ranked eighth in both categories. Last year, Michigan was sixth in overall participation.

In girls' participation, Michigan's figure of 136,913 in 2004-05 was again good for fourth place; and its boys' participation of 180,901 ranked sixth.

The highest ranking Michigan achieved in any single girls sport was in skiing, when it was second. In the sports of basketball, bowling, and tennis, the state ranked third. A fourth-place ranking was achieved in swimming and diving and volleyball; cross country, golf and track and field were fifth; the state was sixth in competitive cheer and soccer participation; seventh in softball; ninth in lacrosse and

eleventh in gymnastics.

In boys and overall participation in 2003-04, Michigan ranked sixth with 173,896 boys taking part and a total figure of 302,648. In the individual sport rankings, Michigan was third in participation in ice hockey and skiing; fourth in basketball, bowling and tennis; fifth in cross country, football and wrestling; sixth in golf; seventh

in baseball and swimming and diving; and eighth in soccer. Michigan ranks eighth in the country in population of boys 14-17 years of age.

The 2004-05 totals for girls, boys and overall participation in Michigan were all time records, and girls' participation set a new record for the third straight year.

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UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Freshman basketball

The Wildcats beat South Lyon Oct. 4, 29-25. Top scorers were Rachael Barnold and Jill Passanante with six points each. Katie Caruso led the team in steals.

Novi also earned a hard-fought game against Hartland last Thursday, 29-28. Rachael Ross led the team with seven points while Kim Hildreth and Erin Zeris had five points each. Rachael Barnold was the defensive player of the game, snagging the most steals.

JV basketball

Novi started strong and finished strong in a 47-13 victory over South Lyon Oct. 4. Hayley Miller had a team high seven rebounds to go with her five points. Katie Chaklos had numerous steals leading to her 10 points. Shannon Cody and Christina Bagdon each had six points.

The Wildcats also earned a 28-16 victory over Hartland last week as they jumped to a 17-2 lead by half-time and held on for the victory. Cody led the way with several steals and a game-high 12 points while Chaklos snugged nine rebounds and five points. Christina Bagdon, the smallest player on the court, played big and added eight rebounds.

JV soccer

The junior varsity lost to Brighton last Thursday, 2-1.

JV Football

Novi beat the Hartland Eagles, 39-6.

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A joint program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PHOTO: MARIANNE WILSON/PHOTOGRAPHY

Submitted photo

Well done, Jaguars!

The Novi Jaguars U15 Premier Girls went undefeated in the annual Autumn Blast tournament held in Petoskey Michigan. The team faced competition from four other Michigan teams but ended up victorious in all cases. Coach Deepak Shivraman, also the Brighton High School boys and girls varsity coach, commented on how this year's team remained tenacious and never gave up. They kept the ball moving, using both midfield and defensive positions to create offense. The girls scored a team record of 24 tournament goals with only one goal against. The Novi Jaguars team is made up of 14 and 15 year old girls from all over the Metropolitan area and plays in Michigan State Premier Soccer Program Division One. They are Britany Black, Katie Caruso, Stephanie Miller, Novi; Lisa Pierce, Northville; Laura Easton, Jillian Nichols, Megan Walters, Brighton; Megan Morad, South Lyon; Jessica Black, Pinckney; Courtney Calka, Lisa Marlow, Jennifer Gately, Livonia; Brooke Ehman, Chelsea; Heather Lewis, Flushing; Deirdre Ratliff, Farmington; Chelsea Shrewsbury, Milford; and Jackie Vaquera, Highland.



work out" said Marsha Reid the girls' cross country and track and field coach. "Sometimes losing shows that others have prepared better."

Practice makes perfect? Not always. That's why a student-athlete's biggest victories often occur following a tough loss.

"If you always win, you don't learn lessons that a loss can teach, and that sometimes can hinder, or cap, your improvement," Reid said.

"You can learn more from a loss than a win," said Novi basketball coach Bill Kelp.

Extension of the classroom

In high school, the field of play is simply an extension of the classroom.

Lessons are learned. Maybe not mathematical or science lessons. Rather, the lesson.

Teamwork. Loyalty. Accountability. Responsibility. Combined, they form the student-athlete's curriculum.

Loving gets a student's attention and makes the lesson plan real.

"I think it's the beginning of teaching students and athletes that they could be really well-prepared for something and it may not work out the way they want things to

work out" said Marsha Reid the girls' cross country and track and field coach. "Sometimes losing shows that others have prepared better."

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, October 13, 2005

Solid economic growth to continue

The back-to-back hurricanes that slammed into states on the Gulf of Mexico left massive damage in their wake, but barely scratched the nation's overall small-business sector. According to the September NFIB Small Business Economic Trends survey, the outlook among entrepreneurs remains upbeat for continued solid economic growth.

Job-creation and capital-spending plans remained solid, and the report's Optimism Index stood firm, slipping just nine-tenths of a percentage point to 100 (year 1986 in the survey equaled 100).

The report confirmed that employment increases offset reductions — both at 12 percent. When seasonal adjustments were made, firms added a net 0.14 employees each, about the same as July and August and a solid performance.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of small businesses surveyed report capital outlays in the past six months, a four-point improvement over the August reading.

Almost half spent for new equipment, 27 percent bought vehicles and 17 percent expanded their facilities. Fifteen percent paid for furniture and fixtures; 8 percent acquired new buildings or land.

The frequency of reported outlays was higher in all categories, the median being about \$25,000, modestly larger than August readings and substantial when aggregated over millions of firms. Plans to make capital expenditures in the second half held at 31 percent of all firms, unaffected by the storms.

Those viewing the current period as a good time to expand facilities fell two points to 19 percent, and the net share expecting better business conditions in the next six months slid four points. Although weakening, these indicators are normal for long expansion periods and are no cause for concern.

Look for inventory building by small firms in the fourth quarter, Dunkelberg predicted. More firms reduced inventories in September than increased them and more firms reported stocks "too low" versus "too high," an unusual occurrence.

Those boosting sales volumes, quarter-over-quarter, fell a point to a solid net 5 percent. Seasonally unadjusted, nearly one-third reported higher sales.

Prices are rising and the outlook for energy-cost increases is not favorable. September data spiked seven points to a net 25 percent who reported higher selling prices (net of those reducing prices), wiping out a seven-point decline in the percent of owners raising prices since June.

The balance between higher compensation costs and higher average selling prices became more favorable for profits. More firms are now passing rising costs on to customers.

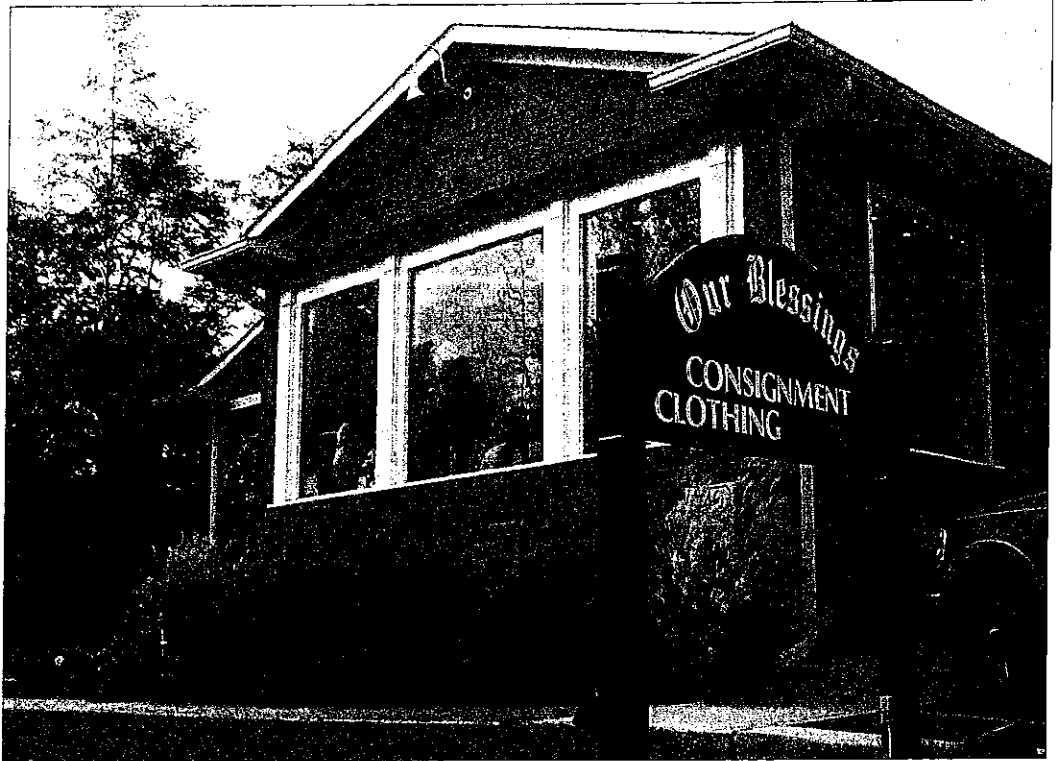
Reports of earnings gains remained solid in September, easing only one point to 22 percent. Of those reporting increases, 39 percent cited stronger sales, 9 percent noted higher prices and 5 percent said labor costs were lower. Thirty-two percent of firms reported lower earnings. Causes cited were weaker sales (31 percent), materials costs (25 percent), price reductions (9 percent) and insurance costs, financing, higher taxes and regulations (3 percent each).

Regular borrowing activity by small businesses dipped four points to 36 percent in September, but there are no warning signs in the credit outlook. The net share of owners reporting loans harder to get remained historically low, falling two points to a net 3 percent, close to where it has been for a decade.

Only 2 percent said their number one business problem was the cost and availability of credit. Thirty-four percent met all their credit needs while 4 percent noted difficulty. The net percent of owners expecting credit conditions to ease was little changed at a negative 6.6 percent — more owners expect that it will become difficult to arrange financing.

NFIB's Small-Business Economic Trends is a monthly survey of small-business owners' plans and opinions. Decision makers at the federal, state and local levels actively monitor these reports, ensuring that the voice of small business is heard. The NFIB Research Foundation conducts some of the most comprehensive research of small-business issues in the nation. The National Federation of Independent Business is the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals.

ADVERTISEMENT



Photos by MICHAEL SHUSTER

After numerous additions and expansions, the now 8,000 square-foot showroom has become one of Milford's anchor stores drawing consignors and customers from near and far.

Our Blessings Consignment

■ Offers a place to buy, sell quality used merchandise

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

At the young age of 21, Marcy May envisioned a quality consignment store reselling like-new designer and name brand clothing at a fraction of the cost of new in an upscale and organized boutique, a place where she herself would like to shop.

Now 15 years later with her husband, Kevin, this vision has blossomed into Michigan's #1 consignment store, Our Blessings in Milford, reselling not only clothing but furniture and home décor items as well.

The couple's commitment to provide customers with quality used merchandise for reasonable prices has proven to be a successful formula. The consignment business has quadrupled over the past 15 years at Our Blessings.

After numerous additions and expansions, the now 8,000 square-foot showroom has become one of Milford's anchor stores drawing consignors and customers from near and far. Receiving about 500 new items for sale daily allows Our Blessings to offer new inventory which has many customers making regular visits to see the constantly changing selection.

From designer clothing for women, men and children to china, crystal, art, fine collectibles and quality furniture, Our Blessings' customers love the ever-changing inventory and bargain prices.

"With the constant flow of new merchandise coming in daily, customers feel as though they are



The Our Blessings Consignment family (from left): Beth Gieseler; Isaiah Ayers; Ashley Boase; Brady Kelly, 7; Ryan May 7; Kevin May; and Benjamin May, 1.

walking into a new store with each shopping trip," said Marcy.

Our Blessings offers high-end clothing for women, men and children at about a third of the retail price, as well as furniture and decorative home accessories for half of the original prices. The shop also features a large selection of crystal, china, silver and other fine collectibles.

"We're one of the few if not the only consignment shop that offers everything from clothing to furniture," said Kevin. "We have always been a store that sets a very high standard so we're very selective about the quality of merchandise we accept on consignment."

Name brands such as Bebe, Dolce and Gabbana, Gap, and St. John knits are just a few of the name brands Our Blessings customers have become accustomed to seeing on the racks and names such as Baker, Bernhardt, Pottery Barn, Hooker and Eban Allen fill the furniture showroom.

"Some people shop here for the unique experience of finding one-of-a-kind items or come for the thrill of the bargain hunt," said Marcy. "We consider our consignors as friends and partners in this business and attribute much of our success to them."

Judy Coats, a cosmetology teacher and homemaker of Milford, first came to browse at the grand opening of Our Blessings and has been coming back to buy and sell things on a regular basis during the past 15 years.

"Marcy puts a lot of unique special touches into the shop," said Coats. "They have quality things for sale at good prices. You can always find a bargain here."

Coats recently purchased a small oak café table and chairs set at Our Blessings for use in a specific space in her remodeled kitchen.

"I tell everyone to come and shop here... and to bring a friend," Coats said.

"We look forward to seeing our regular consignors and customers come into the shop," said Beth Gieseler, manager of Our Blessings.

The Mays hired Gieseler to manage the consignment store about four years ago. She had previous retail management experience and enjoys working in retail.

"It's been a wonderful experience working for Kevin and Marcy in the family-owned business," said Gieseler, who spent several years working in a traditional retail business. "We have awesome employees working in a fun atmosphere."

Our Blessings has more than 9,000 consignors who have brought clothing or home furnishing items into the shop to sell over the history of the business. Receiving items on a daily and seasonal basis, they are now accepting quality fall, winter and Christmas clothing and home décor items.

DETAILS

Our Blessings
340 West Summit
in Milford
(248) 684-1594
Hours:
Monday & Friday 9-6
Tuesday-Thursday 9-7
Saturday 10-5

At this time of year, a favorite for many shoppers is the Christmas department offering a great selection in Department 56, Lenox, Longenberger baskets, ornaments and decorations of all sorts.

"We recently added a back entrance to make it easier for people to bring in items for consignment," said Kevin. "We also offer pickup and delivery of furniture and heavy items for a small fee that is deducted when the item sells."

Kevin's full-time dedication to the business has allowed Marcy to spend more time at home with their children. Marcy recently gave birth to their third son, Andy, who is now six weeks old. Benjamin is 20 months old and Ryan is eight.

Marcy's father, Harry Birch, has been involved in the family business from the very beginning. A contractor by trade, he has helped them build all of the additions and expansion projects.

The couple credits the contributions of all their employees to the success of the business and considers them part of their extended family.

The business is a blessing for Marcy, Kevin and their family. They want it to be a blessing for people who want to sell their quality used clothes and home furnishings as well as for others to purchase those items at reasonable prices.

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