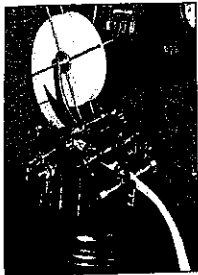


INSIDE

Mourning a matriarch

Take a picture worth a thousand words and multiply that hundreds of times. For Kathy Ervin, reviewing eight decades' worth of her mother's photos, all those images brought a singular conclusion. "She had a wonderful life," Kathy said of Betty Jane Ervin, matriarch of the local name known for landmark orchards, a country store, and exemplifying what a 20th Century American family could be.

- 11A



Time machine

Royal Oak artist Klaus Berner creates these handmade stock tickers fashioned after one invented by Thomas Edison. Berner, who is a good friend of Novi jeweler Brian Larson, has one of the devices on display at Larson's Jewelers on Main Street.

- 13A

SPORTS

'Cats want KVC'

Dan Phelps doesn't pull any punches when it comes to his team's goals. The veteran hockey coach lets everyone know he wants a Kensington Valley Conference title. From there, his eyes are on the playoffs.

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Photo by TRACY MISHLER

Stuff for the troops

Margaret Hauser, left, Elizabeth Coleman and Rachel Zagaroli stuff goodies into stockings for the soldiers overseas at the Novi Senior Center. See the full story on page 23.

Jeweler offers support for Weinstein Theatre Fund

Royal Oak store aids local charity

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Heather Kroot has a special cause this holiday season. The Royal Oak jeweler, who owns Foland's Jewelry, is donating a portion of her store's sales this season to help the Weinstein Theatre Enrichment Fund started by Novi jeweler Gary Weinstein. Weinstein created the fund after the tragic deaths of his wife, Judy, and sons, Alex and Sam. Foland's is located at 630 E. 11 Mile Road in Royal Oak east of

Weinstein Jewelers open for business

Weinstein Jewelers of Novi is operating at a temporary location after the original store burned down this fall.

The store's current location is at 42400 Grand River Avenue, Suite 104, between Novi and Meadowbrook roads. For more information, call (248) 347-0303.

Main Street and west of Campbell Road. Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, founded the theater fund to honor

the memory of his wife and two sons, who were killed in an automobile accident near 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads on May 3.

The goal of the charity is to build a theater bearing the family's name.

Kroot is supporting the fund because of her professional and personal connection with the Weinstein family.

Kroot met Gary Weinstein about a year ago when he came into the store to introduce himself. "He wanted to meet me when he learned that we were both third generation jewelers," she said.

Since that day, the two have had lunch several times and became good friends.

"The Weinsteins were just such

continued on 3A

Association backs off on nativity scene

Novi family refuses to take down display

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The homeowners association that ordered a Novi family to remove a nativity scene display on their front lawn sent a letter of retraction and apology Tuesday - but the damage has already been done.

"We're not going to accept the apology," said Joseph Samona, 16-year-old son of Frank and Batoul Samona yesterday. "We're not going to accept anything, and tomorrow there is going to be a live nativity scene in our front yard."

The Novi family says the nativity display is something they've been putting up for the last three years.

"We've never heard complaints about it in years past," said Joseph Samona, 16. "I can't believe someone really had the time and the nerve to actually go and complain, and someone else had the time and nerve to write us this letter. We don't have the time, but we're going to take the time, and we're going to have to take

further action if they don't get off our backs about it."

The Samona's, who have been living in Novi for two-and-a-half years, recently received a letter from the Kramer-Triad Management Group, an association that represents the Novi subdivision. Joseph said the letter stated that the family take down the nativity scene or be fined. Samona also said the letter stated that no outdoor art or lawn ornaments can be displayed.

"What I find funny is, they said please take down your nativity scene, but our flower pot is outdoor art and our two little lions are outdoor art," Joseph said. "They specifically targeted our nativity scene. I believe it's something religious that they're targeting us on."

But according to Craig Koss, president of Kramer-Triad Management Group, the first letter was the first step to look at the situation and have some correction made.

"I don't think anybody's intention was to make them take it down," Koss said. "We need to have some approval from the board of directors of the subdivision for it."

Koss said that community associ-

continued on 3A



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Batoul Samona and her son Joseph with their nativity scene at their Tollgate Woods subdivision home in Novi.

Businesses nervous about Wixom / I-96 work

More orange barrels to come in 2006

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Pat Anderson is concerned her business will rapidly decline once the I-96-Wixom Road interchange construction begins next year. The owner of the Bagel Station in Wixom said she knows business will be a lot slower. "Any business coming from the south will be gone," Anderson

said. "They should have done this construction long ago. Why do it now?"

Anderson is among several businesses concerned about future construction plans that will divide the cities of Wixom and Novi.

"People are going to use other roads and completely bypass this area altogether," said Kurtis Shiraz, assistant manager for Marathon on the south east side of Wixom Road. "Business will really hurt even more if they decide to close the Wixom Ford plant across the

street at the same time as the construction," Shiraz said. "Not only will we lose those just passing by, but we'll lose all the customers from the plant."

Plans for the interchange construction came Nov. 17 after Gov. Jennifer Granholm approved the project and the Michigan Department of Transportation's third attempt.

"It will probably be better in the long run," Shiraz said. "But in the meantime, it could kill several businesses in the area."

Moe Leon doesn't support the

construction. "If that interchange is closed for two years," Leon said, "that could put me out of business."

The owner of Leon's Family Dining on Wixom Road and Moe's on Ten' in Novi said although it will be better in the future, it's going to be hard for people to access Wixom Road and it will definitely hurt him.

What to do?

Dean Silver is concerned that drivers on I-96 will pass his dealership by and head toward others. "We do a lot of advertisement showing this exit," said the gener-

al sales manager of Varsity Lincoln Mercury in Novi. "We draw a lot of people in off that exit. This definitely isn't going to be good for business."

Both Silver and Shiraz said they are going to have to change advertisements and sales to keep their businesses booming during construction.

"I'm just sick of construction," Silver said. "This is a vibrant and growing area, but this construction will definitely create an initial slowdown."

Silver said he was interested in knowing exactly when construc-

continued on 4A

She's the woman behind the newsletter

Novi Schools' communications coordinator keeps parents informed

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Kristyn Zinner knew she wanted to be a writer since she was in fourth grade. That was when she was first eli-

gible to enter a "Young Authors" program, and she was taught the fine art of interviewing.

Zinner, who is now 25 years old, even remembers the story she wrote for the program, called "Bubble Trouble."

"It was about two kids who gave their dog a bath," she said. "Their mom wasn't home, and they put too much soap in the bathtub and the bubbles filled their whole house. Before their mom got home they had to figure out how to get all those bubbles

out of their house."

Today, Zinner is the Novi Community School District's communications coordinator. She's come a long way from writing

"Bubble Trouble" in elementary school to working as a reporter at the Monroe Evening News for about five years during college to more recently working for the Plunkett and Cooney P.C. law firm.

continued on 3A

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Coordinator informs parents

continued from front page

Out of all her jobs, however, she says the one she has today is the one she likes the best.

"My option after graduating college was, I could stay at the Monroe Evening News or could I see where else I could take this," Zinner said. "The law firm was fine, but it just wasn't me. Then I found Novi, and it was much more appropriate for me."

What she does in Novi

Zinner's main responsibility for Novi Schools is to keep the community informed on everything that's going on in the district through a quarterly newsletter called "Focus" and the district's Web site and cable channel. She also helps Superintendent Peter Dion with his newsletter once a month and updates the district calendar.

"I definitely don't have a daily routine," Zinner said. "I'll take pictures for the newsletter, and a lot of times I'll send those pictures back to the schools to use however they want. The job is pretty much gathering what's going on in the district and then pushing it out to others who can use it — whether that's the public, the schools themselves or the media."

Zinner explained that her day is never what she plans it to be, but that's just fine with her. "If I drive to work in the morning and have a schedule in mind, it's

Kristyn Zinner

Age: 25

Occupation: communications coordinator for the Novi Community School District

Family: husband, Joel

Pets: a dog named Lilo

Hobbies and/or interests: She enjoys reading, cooking, doing crafts work, traveling, pilates, going out to dinner and attending Detroit Tiger games

Advice: "You have to be creative," she said. "You have to be a people person, and you have to be able to handle the unpredictable because every day is different. You have to like to have fun."

Schools: She attended Monroe High School, Monroe County Community College and graduated from University of Toledo with a major in communications.

Years working for Novi Schools: one

Grew up in: Monroe

very unlikely for those things to happen in one day. So, I have to be pretty flexible," she said. "I don't sit at a desk all day. I get up and go find things, and that's what drew me to journalism in the first place — that unpredictable aspect."

Though she's not considered a journalist in her current position, Zinner has found many similarities between the two jobs. For instance, she doesn't have a "9-5, sit behind your desk and do the same thing every day" job.

"Every day there were new people to meet," Zinner said about journalism. "I think it's really interesting that everyone has a story to tell. In that sense, the two jobs are very similar."

Zinner describes herself as a creative, friendly and caring person. One thing she is proud of is being able to transform the Monroe

County Community College's campus newspaper into what it is today.

"I still keep in touch with the advisor, and I go back and check out the newspaper to see how much it has changed and grown," she said. "It's nice knowing that it was me who started the changes to the newspaper, which are still continuing today."

Zinner knows that hers is a competitive field. That's why she feels proud and fortunate to be in the position she's in now.

"It's a highly sought-after field," she said. "There is one of me in all of Novi, and communication majors are a dime a dozen. This is fun, high energy, happy and positive environment. Great things are always happening in the schools."

Royal Oak store aids local charity

continued from front page

a great, loving family," Kroot said.

"I remember going to see Gary and his sons, Alex and Sam, in a performance of the 'Wizard of Oz' and being blown away by the family's passion for theater. They were all just glowing."

Buy a wristband or key chain

Fotland's Jewelry carries wristbands and key chains designed by the Weinstein Theatre Enrichment Fund, volunteers, with all sales of these items benefiting the charity.

The \$3 purple, plastic wristbands are stamped with "Choose Responsibility" to encourage people to be responsible for themselves and their communities.

The slogan stems from the fact that the three Weinstein family members were killed in an alcohol-related accident.

Thomas Wellinger, the



"The Weinstains were just such a great, loving family."

Heather Kroot
Owner, Fotland's Jewelers

Farmington Hills man who hit the Weinstains' car, had a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit at the time of the accident.

The \$20 key chains benefiting the theater fund feature the birthstones of the Weinstein family members and a sterling silver charm designed by Gary Weinstein with the names of his family along with the words, LIVE LOVE LAUGH.

The slogan is a reminder for everyone to follow these words each day.

For more information about the Weinstein Theatre Enrichment Fund, visit www.wtefund.com. Kroot said she gives to several different charities in the area.

"I decided to give to the

Weinstein Theatre Fund because I had a connection to the family," she said.

Fotland's Jewelry, founded in 1947 by Lawrence Reich, is now owned and operated by Kroot, Reich's granddaughter.

"My grandmother, Ruth Reich, remembers Gary's father," she noted.

The store's collection includes fine diamonds and gems; name brand jewelry and watches; and giftware.

For more information, call toll free, (877) FOLANDS (365-2637) or visit the Web site www.fotland.com.
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Association apologizes

continued from front page

ations, like the one that's in the Samson's subdivision, are operated by a board of directors.

"The board of directors are volunteers that hire management companies like ours to implement their decisions," Koss said. "We don't make their decisions for them. There was a complaint that was filed, and when you have complaints, they are alleged until the people that are supposedly receiving the complaint have an opportunity to tell their side of the story. It's a due process."

Attorney Edward White was contacted by the family last Monday to provide legal representation. He explained that his focus is to ensure that the nativity scene remains on the Samson's property.

"It's their own private property," White said. "Tuesday morning about five or six cars drove by while I was out there and every one gave a thumbs up and supported the family."

White said that citizens have called the family offering to pay any fine that is imposed.

"The neighbors like the display," White said. "Apparently there is one person who is the Ebenezer Scrooge in this neighborhood, but it's a beautiful display."

Despite the letter, Joseph said that the display will not be taken down. In fact, he said that the family is planning to add to it.

"This letter has done nothing but encourage us to add to it," Samsona said. "According to what I understand, this group is not the government, and only the government can issue a citation. The city of Novi agreed that we can keep it up."

The family, which includes three other sons, lived in Southfield for 23 years prior to moving to Novi. The mother, Beatrix, agreed with her son Joseph.

"I won't take it down no matter what," she said. "Let them send me a million fines, I don't care. I'll rip

The following statement was issued Tuesday by Kramon Field Management Group, the association that represents the Novi subdivision.

Tollgate Woods Subdivision

TO: All interested Parties
FROM: The Board of Directors Tollgate Woods Subdivision
DATE: November 29, 2005

The Board of Directors of the Tollgate Woods Subdivision has retracted the notice that was sent concerning a lawn ornament display in the subdivision. There was no intent in the notice to denigrate the holiday spirit as displayed by the residents of our community. The homeowner that filed the original complaint has also retracted the complaint. We have sent a letter of retraction and an apology to the Samsona family. Community associations are governed by a Board of Directors who are responsible for the maintenance of the common areas and the enforcement of covenants. Interpretation of how these restrictions are enforced and the due process in their application is essential in this process. We are hopeful that this situation will educate other community board members to act with discretion and fairness when making and enforcing rules.

them all up. If they think I'm going to take Mary, Jesus and Joseph away, they're crazy. We're in a free country and I'm not doing anything against the law."

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@gannett.com

Police monitor Wixom/11 Mile intersection

No traffic signal slated right now

By Pam Fleming

City Manager Rick Helwig knows that high traffic volumes combined with students could become a recipe for disaster.

Lynne Paul, city council member, brought up the issue at a recent council meeting, and Kim Capello followed up with phone calls to the police department.

These actions prompted police to begin taking a closer look at traffic at this intersection near Deerfield Elementary and Novi Middle schools.

Steps toward safety

Oakland County's Traffic Improvement Association staff members suggested the city take the following steps to ensure the safety of students attending the schools located at Wixom and 11 Mile roads in Novi.

■ install school signs on northbound Wixom Road south of Deerfield Elementary and south of 11 Mile Road,

Novi Community School District Transportation Department staff members said they are also routing bus traffic from Deerfield and Novi Middle School onto 11 Mile Road eastbound to Beck Road.

■ paint a crosswalk on the east and north legs of the intersection.

■ install a school crossing sign at each of the painted crosswalks in both directions on Wixom Road

■ install a school sign already exists on Wixom Road north of Deerfield Elementary.

More orange barrels to come in 2006

continued from front page

tion was set to begin so he can prepare in advance.

The I-96-Wixom Road interchange is one of 158 projects funded by an additional \$618 million the state will use for critical road and bridge projects across the state over the next two years.

According to Michigan Department of Transportation officials, the I-96-Wixom Road interchange initial design work will begin in early 2006, and an estimated \$70 million has been committed to the project.

According to Granholm, construction across the state will represent more than 600 lanes-miles, 12 bridges, and six capacity improvement projects.

It might help in the long run, but it's going to hurt in the near-term," Silver said. "There definitely is a lot of construction in this area, and it would be nice if the state actually did something to help us."

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 197, or at tmishler@gannett.com

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POLICE REPORT

Aggravated assaults

During the Oct. 24 city council meeting, Mayor Pro Tom Kim Capello asked the Novi Police Department staff for a breakdown of the 40 aggravated assaults in Novi reported in the 2004 FBI Uniform Crime Report.

Specifically, he asked if departmental staff could determine how many of the assaults were related to domestic violence and how many of the involved individuals actually knew each other.

Staff reported back to council via a letter on Nov. 21 that out of the 40 assaults, 28, or 70 percent of the assaults, involved parties who did not know one another.

Seven or 17.5 percent included parties who did know one another, and five or 12.5 percent of the assaults involved domestic relationships.

Lifetime Fitness theft

A 37-year-old Farmington man reported at 9:24 a.m. on Nov. 28 that he had several thousand dollars worth of jewelry stolen at the Lifetime Fitness Center at 40300 Highway 127 between 8 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. on Oct. 23.

The man told police that he took his watch and ring off and placed them on the floor of his locker.

He said that he believes he secured the locker when he left to go work out.

He returned about 45 minutes later, didn't notice anything suspicious about the locker and used

Burglary, forced entry

A 23-year-old Waterford man reported a 7:17 a.m. Nov. 17 that a \$2,200 construction compressor was stolen, as well as several other items, between 4:30 p.m. Nov. 9 and 7 p.m. Nov. 16 from his truck parked near the intersection of Haggerty and 12 Mile roads.

The man said the items were stolen from a construction truck that belonged to a 55-year-old Armada, Mich., man and Westlake Concrete.

The padlock on the enclosed box of the truck was cut and left at the scene.

Sam's Club theft confirmed

In a recent police report in the Novi News, it stated that a theft had been reported at the Sam's Club building being constructed at Wixom Road and Grand River Avenue, but that it could not be confirmed at press time.

A 35-year-old Leoni, Mich., man did report to police at 7:35 a.m. Nov. 16 that several items

had been stolen from his truck between 4:30 p.m. Nov. 15 and 7:30 a.m. Nov. 16 at Wixom Road and Grand River Avenue.

Stolen property of the construction equipment included two Honda 5000 generators valued at \$2,000 each; a Pentax Total Station, valued at \$10,000; a Sokkia Transit, which is a piece of surveying equipment valued at \$1,500; a saw valued at \$149; another saw valued at \$129; and a drill valued at \$80.

Total value of the stolen items was \$16,578.

The man told police that his truck was parked and secured on the southeast corner of the new Sam's Club building.

When he returned to his truck, he noticed the rear left door to the box truck was open and that the above items were missing.

Speeding leads to arrest

A 19-year-old White Lake man was arrested for lack of identification and marijuana possession when he was caught speeding at 11:09 p.m. Oct. 31 at Beck and 10 Mile roads.

While traveling northbound on Beck Road north of 10 Mile Road, an officer clocked a 2004 black Chevrolet Cavalier traveling 57 mph in a 40 mph zone.

When the officer pulled the man

Horse show incident

A 48-year-old woman from Waukesha, Wis., told police at 2:08 p.m. Nov. 23 that someone stole two saddles from her booth on Nov. 11 during the recent North American Horse Show Spectacular at Royal Financial Showplace at 46100 Grand River Avenue.

The woman had booth #102 at the show the weekend of Nov. 11-13.

On Nov. 11, she noticed around 3:30 p.m. that one of her English saddles was missing from her booth.

The saddle was valued at \$2,695.

Then on Nov. 13, she was going to sell a used saddle to a customer. When she went to get it, she discovered this saddle

Disorderly conduct

A 26-year-old White Lake man was arrested for disorderly conduct at 11:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at Ole Ole Restaurant at 1103 East Lake Drive.

Police were called to the scene because two men were arguing in the parking lot.

The men were arguing because restaurant management had refused to serve them since they were too drunk and the bar had already had last call.

The arrested man became belligerent after being arrested, police said, telling officers he would beat them if they took the handcuffs off.

When the officer pulled the man

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COMMUNITY

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 348-1700, ext. 105 pffleming@gannett.com

Homeowners bring their issues to forefront

Leaders Forum meets quarterly

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

In his first public appearance since being sworn-in, new Mayor David Landry came to city hall Nov. 15 to kick off the annual Novi Homeowners Association meeting.

"This is Novi," Landry said. "Novi is at a critical stage in its life in the state. We're expanding, we're building, and we're expected to hit build-out in the next 15 years, which is not a long time. But, apart from the expansion, what we're really doing is developing the character of Novi, and that's where you come in," Landry said.

"It's the people who live here and do business here that are the heart of Novi. You help define the city."

The annual homeowners association meeting is a chance for residents to air their concerns.

"Tonight is for you to tell us what you need," Landry said. "Don't be shy — tell us what you want."

Other city officials present were Cindy Uglow, Neighborhood Services; Clay Pearson, assistant city manager; David Molloy, chief of police; Sheryl Walsh, community relations director; and Lynn Norman, Department of Public Works.

"The city is growing by leaps and bounds," Uglow said.

She added that chairpersons from four homeowner associations are now part of leaders forum that meets quarterly.

"We need to know what you

need from us to make your neighborhoods better," Uglow said. "We pride ourselves on seamless service, and we want to enhance that."

Ron Boron is president of the 285-member Novi Homeowners Association.

"It's really important that we get everyone involved in the community," he said. "We learned this during the blackout of 2003."

Molloy talked about emergency preparedness in the city. He said

Uglow has created a group of comfort station volunteers to help out during emergencies.

"Those are going to be great resources," Molloy said.

The city wants to train local residents through the Community Emergency Response Training program.

This includes education in basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and some preparedness measures.

The police chief said residents

must be prepared.

"Have a plan. Have water and nonperishables," Molloy said.

"One thing we've learned from the Gulf Coast region, and we've known it for a long time here in Novi, is that you can't rely on the federal government to get there right away. We know we're not going to have assistance for a minimum of 72-96 hours."

The annual Novi Homeowners Association Leadership Breakfast will take place in January.



Photo by PAM FLEMING

Novi Mayor David Landry, left, chats with Asa Smith, president of the Lake Area Homeowners Association, at the Novi Homeowners Association meeting.

Holiday decorating contest

The city of Novi will have its annual Holiday Decorating Contest where local residents can show off their outdoor decorating talents.

Homeowners association presidents are asked to submit the top three best-decorated homes to Cindy Uglow, Neighborhood Services, no later than Monday, Dec. 12.

The winner will be announced at the Dec. 19 city council meeting and will receive a gift certificate from Meijer.

Top homeowners' concerns

- trash pickup
- snow removal on private roads
- motorists speeding in and using subdivisions as cut-throughs
- road repair
- enforcement of building codes on home improvements and city ordinances on yard maintenance
- city tree replacement

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ring in the Holidays

Free food, an electric light show, tons of children's activities and Santa Claus. All of that and more will be available and on display from 6-9 p.m. tonight at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry's "Ring in the Holiday" celebration.

The event will take place in downtown Novi on Main and Market Streets. The electric light parade route will be the same as last year but the direction has changed. The show's electric light parade has been an annual event since 2001 and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The annual "Spirit of Giving Award" presentation will take place after the parade, along with the lighting of the holiday tree. Inside of the Main Street building, there will be about 15 interactive activities, like crafts for children and their families. Kids will also be able to walk away with some items. This year the building will be decorated with every Dr. Seuss character one can imagine.

There will be three bands performing: The Novi High School band, the Novi Middle School band and the Catholic Central High School band. Carriage rides will be available as well.

Sponsors for the Dec. 1 event are Providence Hospital, International Transmission Company and Singh Development.

e-mail: exclusiveMagazine@flash.net

The event will also feature the following charities: The Children's Hospital of Detroit, Alzheimer's Association of Michigan, Red Cross (Katrina), and both the Cleaners and the Food Banks of Oakland County.

Skating Club of Novi to hold Holiday Exhibition

Members of the Skating Club of Novi will perform in the Skating Club's Holiday Exhibition, which will take place noon-2 p.m. Saturday, December 10 at Novi Ice Arena. Skaters of all ages will be skating to their favorite holiday music during this United States Figure Skating Association-sanctioned event.

There will be a \$2 donation at the door. Established in 1998 with 25 members, the Skating Club of Novi is a volunteer organization that has been a member of the USFSA since 1999. Since then, the club has grown to over 150 members. In addition to the Holiday Exhibition, the Skating Club of Novi and Novi Ice Arena will also host the annual ice show, themed "Route 66" on April 7-8, 2006.

For more information, call (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novicearena.com.

Charity event at Imagine Theater Thursday

The fourth Annual ExclusiveMagazine.com Charity Event 2005 will take place from 1-10 p.m. next Thursday at Novi's Imagine Theater, located in the Fountain Walk Shopping Center.

The first 450 people to donate a minimum of five canned goods and the minimum of one children's toy/book on the day that will receive the bonus of a free ticket to see a brand new Hollywood movie that very same night at 8 p.m.

There will also be a charity raffle ticket drawing directly after the movie. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event. Starting at 1 p.m., there will also be both a Silent Auction and a Buy-It-Now availability for a host of autographed movie and music merchandise and some signed Pistons memorabilia as well.

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Courtesy photo

Choralaires Concerts set

Novi Choralaires, from left, Nancy Molloy of Novi; Rose Johnson of Livonia; and Karen Darkowski of Plymouth at a recent rehearsal prepare for the Novi Choralaires Christmas Concerts titled, "Glad Tidings We Bring." The concerts will take place at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Avenue, in Farmington; at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, in Farmington Hills; and at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook Road, in Novi. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and children and can be purchased at the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department office in the Novi Civic Center, from any Choralaire or at the door. For more information, visit the Web site www.novichoraires.org.

LANSING CONNECTION

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday.

Local FIRST Robotics Teams Continue to Excel

LEGO Leagues have sprung up in our nation's schools. Locally, the For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology (FIRST) LEGO League challenges teams of about 10 students each to design, build, program and test robots. This outstanding program teaches young people from ages 9 to 14 the value of team work, stresses technical/writing proficiency, math and science skills as well as approaches to problem solving that help them succeed in life.

Congratulations to the "Pollution Nukers" from Johnson Elementary/Muir Middle School and the "Mastorminds" from Kurtz Elementary/Muir Middle School.

Both of these FIRST LEGO teams took first place at the Eighth Annual HOT SHOTS HAVOC Regional League Tournament hosted at the new Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

These teams, both from the Millard area, will advance to the state tournament at the Rock Financial Showplace, on Dec. 10, where I am once again honored to be a judge.

FIRST LEGO also serves as the

introduction to FIRST Robotics, a high-school level program that attracts support and input from industry leaders.

Earlier this year, I was proud to introduce the Novi High School and Huron Valley Schools First Robotics World Champion teams at the state Capitol to receive special recognition from the Michigan Senate. I have been a strong supporter of the FIRST Robotics program for the last nine years.

In the new economy, we envision a continuum of opportunities meeting the diverse needs of students ranging from technical training, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. I salute schools providing programs like the FIRST Robotics Competition and offer my best wishes to the bright students who continue to impress and excel.

I expect legislative tax measures will be sent to the governor again in early December. I also anticipate work to continue on long-range tax restructuring in the New Year to benefit all Michigan citizens.

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

State Senator Nancy Cassis, a Novi Republican, represents the 15th Senate District.

been vetoed twice by the governor — most recently in October. I will continue to work with the governor and legislative leaders to ensure this crucial road project is restored and funded.

Improving Michigan's Business Climate

Michigan's economic revival and job creation are a top priority. Tax reform is a major concern of the Legislature. Gov. Granholm's recent vetoes of the tax relief bills were a setback. I've been working diligently with the Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the House, and, indirectly, Gov. Granholm, to craft legislation to move Michigan's economy forward.

I expect legislative tax measures will be sent to the governor again in early December. I also anticipate work to continue on long-range tax restructuring in the New Year to benefit all Michigan citizens.

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

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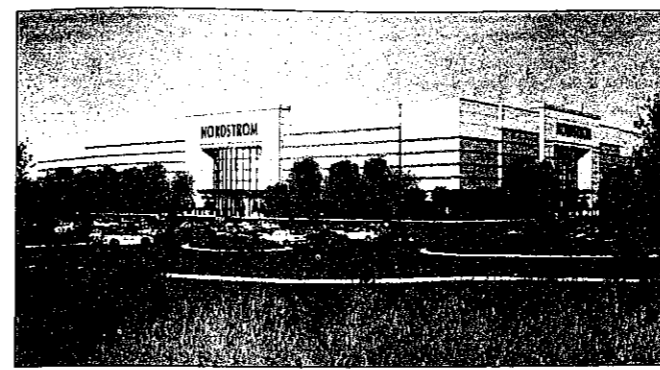


Illustration courtesy Nordstrom

A 169,000-square-foot new Nordstrom department store will be an exciting addition to Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall in the near future. The new major retailer is just one of many plans to the landmark mall slated for completion in fourth quarter 2007.

Council approves plan for Twelve Oaks Mall

Expansion set for fall of 2007

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

John Eggert got the answer he was looking for this week.

The representative of Taubman, parent company of Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, won approval from Novi City Council Monday night for major improvements to the mall.

The plan will result in an expansion of Novi's landmark shopping center, which opened in 1977, from 1.2 million square feet to 1.5 million square feet of gross leasable area.

Renovation of the existing Marshall Field's department store, soon to be called Macy's, will take place.

A relocation of the existing ring road on the southwest side of the shopping center will allow for an expansion of the parking lot in that area, providing about 450 new spaces.

What the expansion means

- 97,000-square-foot addition to the mall
- 169,000-square-foot Nordstrom department store

- expansion of the existing Marshall Field's department store, soon to be Macy's, by 60,671 square feet

- new ring road and parking lot area with 450 spaces

- about 800 permanent jobs and 1,100 construction and design jobs

Eggert said a fall 2007 completion date is scheduled for the expansion project. Planning commission members approved Taubman's preliminary site plan last month.

Barb MacBeth, director of planning, said the mall will have 7,003 parking spaces after the addition of the 450 new spaces.

She noted that a recent study by the city's traffic consultant showed that improvements to Novi and 12 Mile roads will ease traffic congestion in the area. Currently, the mall employs about 2,500 people, with the number rising to about 4,000 employees during the holiday season. The expansion is expected to increase the number of persons employed at Twelve Oaks Mall by more than 30 percent.

Council Member Andrew Much asked if Taubman staff had considered having parking decks built instead of adding only surface parking.

"That option is not being considered at this time," MacBeth said.

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.

City to offer online registration

Rec program to begin first quarter 2006

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Randy Auler said Novi residents can soon register for recreation programs and reserve sports facilities with a click of their mouse.

Auler, director of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, said the city's new online registration for his department's programs and facilities will begin in January or February 2006.

City council recently appropriated \$35,000 in the 2005/2006 budget to upgrade the existing recreation department's software system.

The new system will:

- provide Internet program registrations allowing individuals to register for recreation programs 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- automate the registration process;

- automate the sports league management process; and
- enable the department to integrate the registration process with the city's future financial management software.

"The new software should improve efficiency, service and give staff more time for other departmental activities," Auler said.

He noted that the software selection process included vendor product demonstrations and extensive contact with area communities.

"We wanted to learn about their experiences with the various software programs available," Auler said.

"According to other cities who use the product, it's state-of-the-art software and the best one available."

Auler's staff members worked with Rob Petty, manager, Information Technology, and his staff to find the right software.

"This software will meet the needs of both the citizens and the city," Petty said. He added that residents will find the Internet registration process easy to use.

The current system had not been updated since 1992, is no longer being maintained by its developer and had outgrown the database it was operating on in the city.

The cost of the new program includes installation and staff training, which is currently taking place.

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

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Matriarch remembered for her 'great love for everybody'

By James Mitchell
STAFF WRITER

Take a picture worth a thousand words and multiply that hundreds of times. For Kathy Erwin, reviewing eight decades' worth of her mother's photos, all those images brought a singular conclusion.

"She had a wonderful life," Kathy said of Betty Jane Erwin, matriarch of the local name known for landmark orchards, a country store, and exemplifying what a 20th Century American family could be.

Born to Lavene and Winifred Wilcox Sept. 18, 1922, Betty grew up in Detroit before marrying Ed Erwin in 1947 and settling first in Novi and then in the South Lyon area.

Betty Erwin, 83, passed away Nov. 14 at her winter home in Zephyrhills, Fla., having kept a watchful — efficient eye — over a loving family. Services were held Friday at New Hudson United Methodist Church, and Betty was laid to rest in Northville near her son, Richard, who passed away in 1967.

Erwin Orchards was the family business when Betty married Ed, whose father James planted his seeds in Northville during the

1920s, continuing a longtime tradition.

"The Erwins started farming in Southfield in 1842," said Ed. The next generation moved to Farmington, and then Northville in the 1920s. The Erwins seem to have been one step ahead of Oakland's westward migration since, arriving in the South Lyon area in 1969. "We're just about to the county line now," Ed said.

No matter the location, Betty was as involved with the community as with her family. When she wasn't serving as a bookkeeper for the orchards, she taught Sunday School at Northville's First Presbyterian Church and, since 1969, dedicated her energies to New Hudson United Methodist Church.

Even semi-retirement in Florida didn't change that. Ed listed some of Betty's activities in their winter community, including a newsletter Betty wrote and her morning pick-up-and-delivery of newspapers to about 100 subscribers.

"She just had a love for everybody," Ed recalled. "Just a real good woman, with great hospitality for anyone who showed up."

But her first priority, Kathy said, was always family, right up until the end.

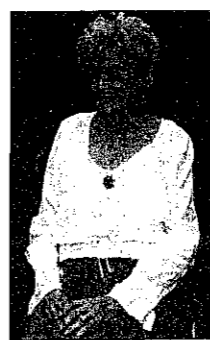


Photo by HAL GOULD

The matriarch of a family known for apple orchards, Betty Jane Erwin was laid to rest in Northville. The Erwins operated their landmark farm in South Lyon since 1969.

"She nagged me into taking a cold pill," Kathy said of her final visit, which Betty spent making sure her daughters were taking care of their own kids. "She was interested in the grandchildren."

Betty was survived by her hus-

band of 58 years, Edward A. Erwin, children Kathy and Pat Zandstra, and grandchildren Sarah, Rebecca, and Jacob Zandstra. Her brother, Fred Wilcox, lives in Texas, and she was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Richard Erwin.

Beyond her close kin, Betty was remembered last week by the extended family acquired in both the South Lyon and Northville communities.

Betty's nephew, Bill Erwin, may be the last of the line to operate the family apple orchards, the persistence of which he credits to Betty and Ed.

"If it wasn't for her and my uncle's generosity, the orchards may not be here," Bill said of the support given to him and his wife, Linda. No matter how large the "extended family" became, Bill said Betty never forgot a birthday or holiday card for relatives, friends, employees and so many others whose lives she touched.

"If you did not meet her, you missed something in life," Bill said. "She was just such a sweetheart."

James Mitchell is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at 248-437-2011 or at jimitchell@gannett.com.

Caught with tail between legs

Novi's funniest kid a hit on TV show

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Karen Snell never thought of her four children would be a television star.

Now, the Novi mother will see her Novi Woods Elementary School second grader on America's Funniest Home Videos in December, vying for \$10,000, thanks to an on-stage faux pas during a student skit last spring.

Snell said her son Luke tucked the tail of his bright green alligator suit between his legs in response to fellow actors playfully yanking on it.

The awkward result was caught on videotape and later sent by the family to the television show, commonly featuring blunders, foibles and everyday mishaps.

"I showed it to my family, and they were all saying I had to send it in to America's Funniest Home Videos," Snell said. "I sent the tape in and about two weeks ago got a phone call back from them saying they were really interested in it."

On Oct. 14, while standing in line at the post office, she received one more phone call from the show saying that her son was a finalist and that the whole family will be flown to California the following Saturday to tape the show.

"I found out later why (Luke) did what he did," Karen said. "You don't see the other boys pulling on his tail in the video, but that's why he put it up between his legs in the front. He just started hitting (the tail) and it just looks really funny. We were just about in tears laughing when we saw it."

The family received round-trip airplane tickets, \$600 for meals, a free hotel room and limousine service to and from the airport.

As a finalist, Luke will win at least \$2,000 if he finishes in third place, \$3,000 for finishing second, or \$10,000 for first.

The show will air some time in December, though Snell didn't have the exact date yet.

Before the family took off, Luke was excited to go on his very first plane ride.

"We're going to win at least \$2,000," he said. "I'm excited about seeing some statues in California."

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.

SWOCC STUDIO HAPPENINGS

SWOCC Studios has brought back "SWOCC Around the Block," a magazine-style show that highlights community events and activities. The show allows for Staff to get out into the community and inform you of

The latest show showcases plenty of exciting events. The first takes you to Heritage Park for the annual three day Haunted Hike. SWOCC Studios Melissa Cohn braved the ghosts and goblins for a trek through! See what she encountered.

The second story takes you over to the Farmington Hills Main Library for the Farmington Rotary's Fluoridize Charity Auction. Four feet metal butterflies were flying around all of Farmington and Farmington Hills this past summer. Local artists volunteered to showcase their artistic side and paint the

butterflies which were auctioned with proceeds going to the Children's Park at the Library. It's a very colorful story you're not going to want to miss.

The third segment takes you down the road to the Glen Oaks Golf Club for the historic Longacre House 36th annual fashion show. This charity event took place to raise money for the Longacre House. Fashion and glamour were on display as local city celebrities came out and strutted their stuff down the runway for a good cause!

Rounding out the program is an episode on the grand opening of the Walker E. Sundquist Pavilion and George Riley Park nestled right in the heart of Farmington. Doves of people attended the opening festivities over a brisk October weekend and SWOCC Staffers were on hand

to capture the excitement. SWOCC Around the Block caheists on channel 15: at 9:45 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

SWOCC has also invited Santa back to the studio for the annual Santa Call-In Show. The live call-in show features kids calling in to talk to Santa live on channels 13 and 15. This year's show takes place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15. So mark your calendar for the kids to call SWOCC Studios at (248) 478-2828.

SWOCC Studios is ready to serve the communities better than ever before. You can also catch the latest Community happenings by tuning to your access channels: INFO TV-12, Farmington 15, Farmington Hills 8 and Novi's TV13.

Visit us on the Web: www.novinews.com



Ham-O-Rama

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November 7 - December 16

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'02 - '05 IMPALAS STARTING AT \$8,900⁰⁰	'03 - '05 TRAILBLAZERS STARTING AT \$10,900⁰⁰
2006 IMPALA LT Auto, Stereo, Cruise \$18,828⁹⁵ 36 mos.	2006 MALIBU LS Auto, Power, Cruise \$14,425⁹⁵ 36 mos.
2006 COBLALT LS Auto, Stereo, Cruise \$14,804⁹⁵ 36 mos.	2006 TRAILBLAZER LS Auto, Stereo, Cruise \$208⁹⁵ 24 mos.
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1999 Buick LeSabre \$4,400	2001 Saturn SL-1 \$4,900
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2002 Chevy Cavalier \$7,500	1999 GMC Sierra 4x4 \$10,900
1999 Chevy Monte Carlo \$6,500	1999 Chevy Blazer 4x4 \$8,900
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The Sports Club of Novi
1st Annual
Holiday Shop**

Relax and Enjoy Some Holiday Shopping While Supporting a Great Cause!

Sunday, December 4th from 12:00-4:00 pm
Meet Susan Gaidica wife of
WDIV's weatherman Chuck Gaidica

Local vendors will display glassware, jewelry, stationary, clothing, purses, bath items and much, much more. Hosted by the newly remodeled Sports Club of Novi. You can win prizes donated by the vendors and The Sports Club of Novi through a raffle. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the local chapter of the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA), a non-profit organization which raises funds for research to help combat diseases such as Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, MS, Vasculitis and many others. Susan and Chuck Gaidica are volunteers for the AARDA.

Tell Your Friends. See You on Sunday!

Here is another event sponsored by The Sports Club of Novi. Proceeds benefit Novi Youth Assistance.

The Metropolitan Ballet Theatre & Academy presents:

The Nutcracker

December 17, 2005
at 2:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Novi High School Auditorium

Tickets: \$12.00 per person
Ages 2 and under - Free
Proceeds will be donated to Novi Youth Assistance.

Reserved seating tickets may be purchased at The Sports Club of Novi or at the door. Bring your entire family to enjoy a holiday classic.

For ticket information or performance questions, call (248) 735-8850, ex. 3112.

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The Sports Club of Novi
Just Right

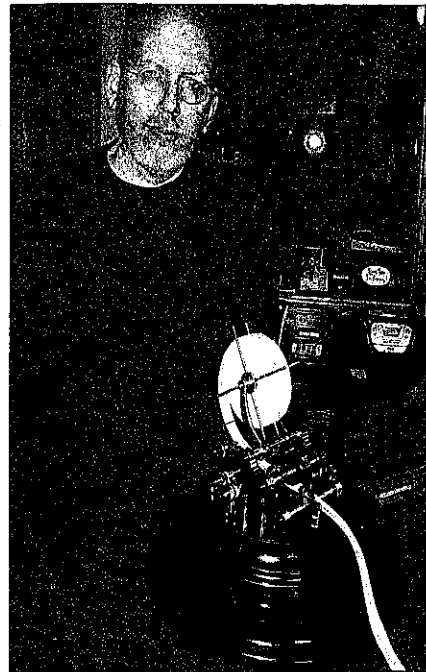


*This offer good for 30 days. Must be 19 years of age. Nonmembers only.

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@gannett.com



Novi jeweler displays stock ticker

Device brings history to life

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

In the early 20th century, businessmen used to keep track of Wall Street's happenings by pulling numbers from a stock ticker tape.

Now, people can have a replica of such a device right in their own home or office thanks to a Novi jeweler.

Klaus Berner, who is a close friend of Brian Larson, owner of Larson's Jewelers in Novi, makes such a device.

Berner recently brought one of the stock tickers to Larson recently to display for marketing purposes in his Main Street store.

Berner, who has a master's degree in fine art from Cranbrook Art Academy in Bloomfield Hills, owns Berner Machine Labs of Pontiac and makes the stock tickers from raw metal stock made to the actual scale of the museum original.

"It's a reproduction of Thomas Edison's stock ticker," Berner said. "They were invented in the 1870s. This version is

Stock ticker features

Royal Oak artist Klaus Berner's handmade stock tickers, which cost \$3,250, feature more than 125 different mechanically assembled components, including:

- hand-polished, lacquered brass
 - heat-blued steel screws
 - hand-wound copper coils
 - Intricate pieces made to their original specification.
- The complete package, along with the stock ticker, includes:
- a roll of ticker tape with custom printout,
 - glass dome,
 - cast metal sub-base
 - cotton covered wires that plug right into the ticker.

For more information, visit www.bernermachine.com.

the earliest prototype, which is on display at the Henry Ford Museum."

The item is intended for display, according to Berner. "It's meant as a kind of machined sculpture," he said.

The artist said the item celebrates the early mechanical age, not unlike mechanical watches. "This seems like a good place to display it," he said. He added that an actual working stock ticker costs more than \$30,000.

"It includes a whole interface, mahogany pedestal, has many more parts and software, so you can print live stock quotes off

drawing, built it and got it going," the artist said.

Berner said the stock ticker was originally a printing telegraph.

"You didn't have to have an operator who knew Morse code," Berner said. "It could print out text. This launched a significant chapter in our high-speed information age, since the stock ticker was invented a few years before the telephone. Edison even made a version with a keyboard that was used to send messages across town. In a sense, it was Victorian e-mail."

Established in 1994 by Berner, the Berner Machine Lab has artists with extensive experience in designing and building metalwork for art and industry. They specialize in precision metalsmithing, historical reproduction and restoration.

Their work has been seen in the Tom Hanks' film, "Road to Perdition," on Fox's Neil Cavuto, PBS' Louis Rukeyser and has been featured in the New York Times, on National Public Radio and in Hour Detroit magazine.

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

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Walk*

*December 9th
6:00 to 11:00 p.m.*

Walk among the luminaries as Northville's downtown merchants extend their store hours to welcome you with holiday savings. Enjoy unique shops and galleries, free parking, exceptional service, and the attention to detail you deserve. Stroll store to store until 11:00 p.m. - just enough time to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Take in the Victorian charm of downtown Northville by relaxing with a free horse-drawn wagon ride, sponsored by Varsity Lincoln Mercury.

*Treat yourself to holiday shopping without the hassles—shop at
Northville's Candlelight Walk*

This event brought to you by
Northville Central Business Association,
Northville Downtown Development Authority, and the Northville Chamber.

*For more information, call
248-349-7640
or visit www.northville.org.*

Businesses can beef up advertising

■ Stores must use bell art

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Local businesses can ring in the holidays this year with bells on their signs.

That's because Novi merchants were given the go-ahead by city council Monday night to place signs on private property again during this year's holiday shopping season.

The only catch is they must incorporate a "bell" theme on their signs to coincide with the city's holiday event, "Ringing in the Holidays," that takes place today from 6-9 p.m. at Main Street Novi.

Members of the Novi City Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution to allow businesses to display one additional sign from Tuesday through Jan. 2.

The original resolution stated that the signs would be allowed only from Tuesday, Nov. 29, through Dec. 24.

But Council Member Bob Gatt suggested on Monday to extend the time from Dec. 24 through the first of the year.

Gatt also wanted to expand the size of the sign allowed from 2 feet by 3 feet to 12 square feet.

Why did the city do this?

The rationale for the holiday sign allowance is to help counteract the impact the two-year construction on the I-96 and Beck Road interchange has had on local businesses' profits.

Council members approved a similar resolution last year for local businesses after considerable road construction in the city.

Information about the temporary city sign ordinance waiver is posted on the city's Web site and was mailed and e-mailed to various businesses and the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

Holiday sign rules

- Only one additional sign per business is allowed.
- The sign must be portable.
- The sign cannot exceed 12 square feet in area and five feet in height.
- The sign cannot be placed on public property, public road right-of-way or any roadway easement.
- The sign can only be displayed from Tuesday, Nov. 29, through Monday, Jan. 2.
- The signs must be placed on the same private property as the business being promoted.
- No permit is required for the sign.

For more information, contact Cindy Uglow, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, (248) 347-0437, cuglow@ci.novi.mi.us, or Melissa Place, city manager's office, (248) 347-0478, mplace@ci.novi.mi.us.

Tenants will need to coordinate and receive permission from property owners before placing signs on their premises.

Businesses are urged to be aware to not block areas for drivers entering and exiting businesses.

The city can change sign placements to maintain safety.

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.



Photo by MIKE SHUSTER

Giving Tree 2005

Pamela's Salon, located at 23965 Novi Road, Suite 160, south of 10 Mile Road in Novi, is hosting its Giving Tree for the second time this year benefiting the girls at Vista Maria, Michigan's largest nonprofit female child welfare agency. The salon's staff is asking clients and others to purchase a robe and slipper set for more than 170 girls this year. The goal is to have a robe and slipper set purchased, wrapped and tagged specifically for each girl. The salon has the girls' names and sizes. Anyone interested in helping can pick a name off the tree while in the salon or call to have a name assigned to them. Robe and slipper sets need to be brought to the salon by the close of business on Dec. 16. Pictured (left to right) are Carrie Welch-Martin, Sara Fukui and Meredith Buyers.

software across all computer platforms.

Arch Card for sale

McDonald's restaurants throughout Michigan, including the Novi location on Haggerty and Eight Mile roads, will debut the Arch Card this December for a new holiday gift idea.

The card is a rechargeable convenience gift card and is available in \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$50 denominations.

The card can be purchased and redeemed inside or at the drive-thru and is good for any item on the menu. The Arch Card has an expiration date and can be used anytime of the year.

Compiled by Tracy Mishler

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lucky Strike Lanes to open

The opening of Lucky Strike Lanes at Fountainwalk, scheduled between Dec. 5 and 8, will bring a new era in dining and bowling to the Detroit area. With a singularly upscale ambience and characteristics of a bowling alley - vintage elements, modern decor, state of the art technology and a menu, that "speaks to the inner child" (L.A. Times) - owners Steven and Gillian Foster have created a high-end "bowling lounge."

Lucky Strike, at 15,000 square feet will feature:

- 12 state-of-the-art lanes with automatic scoring and the latest in ball return technology
- Custom lounge seating replacing the traditional molded plastic chairs
- A warm, intimate contemporary décor with a 1930s/1940s retro feel
- A 100-foot by 10-foot video wall over the pins exhibiting current shows from emerging artists of all genres (graphic, photographic, video, fine, etc.), as well as music videos, film clips and customized images for special events
- A private room with seating for 50 people or more
- The Fosters expect families

and children during Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons as well as business people for weekday lunch hour (with a food-and-bowling offer). They also expect a cocktail crowd, couples on dates, dinner guests and a late-night lounge scene (after 9 p.m.). Lucky Strike Lanes will be 21 and over.

Expanding to Mississippi

Novi-based auto parts supplier Jovon Automotive Inc., which declared bankruptcy earlier this year, has announced plans to build a new plant in Meridian, Miss. Jovon filed for bankruptcy protection in February, citing lower auto production volume and high steel prices. It since has laid off hundreds of employees and has announced the closing of at least five other plants.

The Meridian plant is part of a company-wide restructuring designed to help Jovon emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy and will create more than 200 new jobs.

Macprofessionals awarded

For the second straight year, Macprofessionals, a Novi-based complete information technology

solutions provider, is the recipient of the Apple 2005 Value Added Reseller Impact Award for the Central region.

The award was presented to Macprofessionals by the Apple Pro Film and Video Value Added Reseller Channel.

The Apple 2005 VAR Impact Award recognizes resellers who exemplify outstanding sales, service and support.

Macprofessionals was honored for its work with clients in the area of Professional Film and Video. Macprofessionals is Michigan's only authorized Professional Video and Film specialist.

Macprofessionals mission is to provide best-in-market customized solutions for its clients' requirements including hardware

Just one more way we're closer to our customers.



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We also invite you to stop by any of our banking offices today to see firsthand how we're committed to meeting your financial needs. To find out more, call 248-305-8307.

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EDUCATION

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

Mad Hatter Tea Party shows off local ceramic works of art

■ Novi High students ready to display art

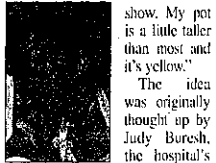
By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

For Novi High School senior April Lucas, this is more than just a class project.

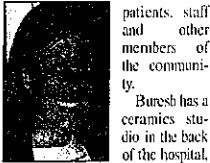
Her creation for the Mad Hatter Tea Party and Exhibition is complete and on display in the high school, right outside of art teacher Erin Worden's classroom.

And this will be her chance to show off her talents to the rest of the community.

"This is my first time in the show," Lucas said. "I made a geometric tea pot and a nature tea pot, but my nature one will be in the



K. Hinman



A. Lucas

show. My pot is a little taller than most and it's yellow."

The idea was originally thought up by Judy Buresh, the hospital's artist in residence, four years ago.

This is a gala event for the community, patients and staff, Buresh said. It's a customized event and the theme is Alice in Wonderland. There will also be snacks.

Buresh will play the role of the Mad Hatter, and she's encouraging all in the community to bring their kids in costume as well.

Every year, ceramic tea pots are made by a variety of people. Some come from the students at Novi High School, and some come from

patients, staff and other members of the community.

Buresh has a ceramics studio in the back of the hospital, where every-thing is fired.

The event features costumes, food and awards, with children and adults creating works of art.

This will be the second year Novi High senior Kaitlyn Hinman will be submitting her work to the event.

"It's just a fun show at Providence Hospital," Hinman said. "I love working with ceramics, and it's neat because all of our work has tea involved in it somehow."

Buresh said that the tea pot judges look for imagination in the

Mad Hatter Tea Party
This year's Mad Hatter Tea Party will take place at Providence Hospital in Novi from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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

ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Scott Kortlandt spent the semester teaching chemistry at Battle Creek High School. He is a senior majoring in chemistry education and mathematics education at Albion College. Scott is the son of George and Patricia Kortlandt of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Novi resident Matthew Lewis has been named to the dean's list at the University of Northwestern Ohio for the October session, 2005.

Novi resident Andrea Joyce Rowe was among the spring 2005 graduates of the University of Michigan. She earned a master of social work degree. Previously she earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology.

Andrea is a 1990 graduate of Novi High School and the daughter of Wendell and Connie Rowe of Novi.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

School board meeting time and location change

Tonight's Novi Community School Board of Education meeting has been changed from 5:30 p.m. at Novi High School to 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Building, located at 25345 Taft Road. Call (248) 449-1200 for more information.

Seeking hosts

The EF Foundation is seeking families to host foreign exchange students for one semester starting in January. Share your American home, family, high school, and community with a representative from another culture. Call Linda Lesdy at (248) 349-5599 with any questions.

Christmas Tree Sale!
Optimist Club of Northville/Novi

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MY HOMETOWN
NOVI

Awards: The Novi Historical Commission will award \$100, \$50 & \$25 to the top three photographers as judged by a committee of professional photographers based on photographs entered in this contest. A total of \$175 will be awarded. A "People's Choice" Award will be selected by popular vote of those attending an exhibit of entries to be scheduled in late 2006. Winning photographs will be published in the Novi News.

Exhibits: The 2005 My Hometown Novi Photo Competition winning photographs will be exhibited at a reception to be held at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi at a date following the close of the competition. Additional entries may be selected for exhibit or for publication as outlined in the release form. Photographs randomly selected from among entries received may be published in the Novi News during the course of the competition to promote the competition and to encourage additional entries.

Work(s) Eligible: Photographs submitted should be an image that represents the photographer's interpretation of the competition theme of "My Hometown Novi".

- Each photographer may submit up to five photographs.
- Each photograph will be judged as an individual entry.
- Altered photos (any alteration that distorts the original image) are not eligible for prizes. There is no residency requirement for entrants.
- All entries whether submitted by amateurs or professionals will be judged as a single group.

Specifications: Entries must be 8" x 10" photographic prints, window matted using white matte board. Using the format shown on the entry form, provide name and contact information on the back of each photo entered. Labeled photographs must be submitted with a completed entry form and entry fee by the November 3, 2006 deadline. Keep a copy of your entry for your records; photos will NOT be returned.

Judging: Preliminary judging will be of the prints as originally submitted.

Entry Form: Complete the entry form. Form may be photocopied, but submitted entry forms require an original signature.

Contest fees: Each photo entry is \$5. Photographers can enter up to five photographs. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "City of Novi 2005 Photo Competition" and be submitted with the completed entry form and matted photograph(s). All contest fees are non-refundable.

Contest deadline: November 3, 2006 is the last day that photos and entry fees will be accepted for the competition. (All entries must be received at the Novi News office by 5:00 p.m. or postmarked by that date.)

For more information contact Cal Stone at 248 349 1700 or Kathy Mutch at 248 224-4211.

Entry forms and rules can be found online at www.novi.news.com, at the Novi News office (184 W. Main, Downtown Northville) or at the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. 10 Mile Road) Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.

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Dynamic duo pushes each other to success

Teachers achieve board certification

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



Emily Parker (left) and Kathleen Ader both became nationally board certified teachers.

Board certification benefits

National board certification is a symbol of professional teaching excellence, according to www.nbt.org. A certificate shows that a teacher was judged by their peers as one who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about students' best interests and acts effectively on those judgments.

Parker and Ader knew that only 30-40 percent of teachers who attempt to become nationally board certified are successful on their first try.

Benefits include not having to

work four hours a night for four months working to earn the certification.

"It was a big-time commitment," Parker said. "We both knew it was worthwhile, but sometimes you get frustrated. It was so helpful to have her there encouraging me."

They said becoming a nationally board certified teacher isn't easy. Ader compared it to achieving a master's degree in about four months.

But their similarities don't end there. The duo, who are good friends, just added one more similarity to their professional lives. They recently became nationally board certified teachers on their first try, a feat accomplished by only one other teacher in the district — Novi Meadows' David Ascher.

Parker said they helped each other achieve the certification.

"We both had someone there to encourage us the whole way. It would have been so much harder if Kathleen wasn't there," she said.

Parker said the two spent about

"In today's job market, where jobs are so volatile in teaching, I think it's good to know that we are that much more marketable to a district," Ader said.

"It was a huge accomplishment. I was so thrilled when we did it. I remember looking at our scores and screaming. You just feel a great sense of validation for all that work and time you put in."

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

School district to continue collecting taxes twice a year

Decision made to keep it 50/50 in winter and summer

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

are some districts that collect 100 percent at once, but we're not one of them."

Koster explained that a small triangle-shaped section of the Novi Community School District property lies within the city of Wixom's border.

The decision passed by the board requests that the city of Novi and the city of Wixom agree to collect 50 percent of the total 2006-07 levy during the summer 2006 tax period.

"It would be big news if we changed it and made it once a year," Koster said. "We discussed that back in the 1990s and decided not to do it. It's been a number of years since we've been collecting taxes twice a year."

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.

Novi High teacher to present in Grand Rapids

Rogers will demonstrate an easier way to teach CAD

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



Dale Rogers

Throughout his teaching career, Dale Rogers has never found a textbook that he considered good enough for his students in the subject of auto computer-aided design.

So, instead of just settling with what he had, he decided to take action and created a program that he thought would be suitable.

His creation has been noticed, and the Novi High School computer-aided design and multi-media computer technology teacher was asked to present it to the Michigan Association for Computer Users and Learning conference in Grand Rapids from March 8-10, 2006. It will be his

fourth time presenting to the group.

"I was looking for something that would let me teach the software while teaching design at the same," Rogers said. "Right now, if I look at my classes, I only spend maybe less than a third of the time teaching them how to use the software. The rest of the time is having them use the software to do designs and drafting work."

As a result, Rogers came up with this idea in the early 1990s of developing his own book in which he would recreate part of the screen showing what menu to choose or what command to use; then take it over to a Microsoft Word document and write a narration about how to do it step by step.

He used that book for quite a while. But, unfortunately, the software changes continuously, and the screens in his book were always needing to be changed to reflect the updates.

"It was time consuming," Rogers said. "I thought that maybe I could record my screen with a video camera and have tapes the

kids could watch. But, in my research I found relatively inexpensive software, and you don't need a camera that captures what you have on the screen. As you're doing it, you can use a microphone to narrate and create videos."

That technology is what Rogers uses today in his classrooms to teach his kids.

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.

Novi Schools receive \$5,500 grant for Japanese interpreters

Funds to pay for interpreters

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Business Society of Detroit is to establish and enhance understanding and mutual cooperation between Japanese and American businesses, as well as the communities they serve. The society seeks to provide its members with a forum for the open exchange of ideas, information and resources.

The society's activities are aimed toward helping businesses and individuals identify and maximize opportunities.

Hopefully, these opportunities will benefit companies' operations in the Detroit market.

Activities that the society offers its members include information sharing, multiple educational support programs and monitoring issues that may impact its members' success.

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.

PEOPLE

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

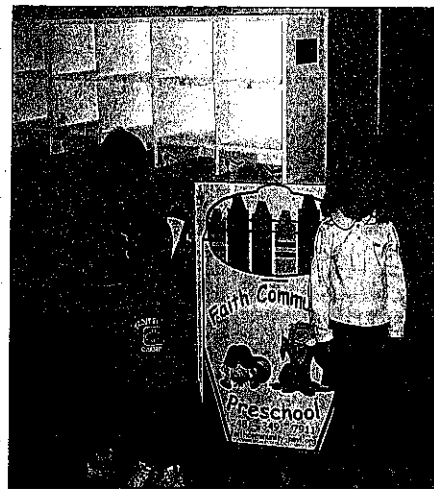
Local resident earns rank of Eagle Scout

Daniel Church from Boy Scout Troop 407, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout during a ceremony held on Nov. 13 at Faith Community Presbyterian Church. Church is the son of Michael and Janice Church of Novi.

In order to achieve the rare scouting honor, one which only 4 percent of scouts reach, Church was required to earn 21 merit badges and complete a service project. In order to meet this requirement, Church designed and built new well-mounted cubbies for Faith Community Preschool.

In his 12 years of scouting, Church has accompanied his troop on Sea Base and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He has served his troop as senior patrol leader and was den chief helping younger cub scouts from his former Cub Scout Pack 54 at Novi Woods Elementary School. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, a division of Scouting which promotes Scout camping traditions and Scout habits of helpfulness into a life of purpose of leadership and cheerful service to others.

Church graduated cum laude in June from Novi High School where he was Novi Marching Band drum major, active in Teen Court, basketball, broadcast TV/radio, and was the high school sports writer for the Novi Information Network. He is currently a freshman at Central Michigan University Leadership Institute, majoring in broadcasting.



Daniel with Jeremy and Andrea Fox from the preschool and the cubbies he built for his Eagle Scout project.

IN THE SERVICE

Navy Seaman Recruit Christopher W. Singleton, son of Kathleen D. Singleton and stepson of Frederick A. Bitterman of Novi, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Singleton completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Singleton is a 2001 graduate of Churchill High School of Livonia.

ENGAGEMENT



Herbst-Southworth

Hank and Barbara Herbst and Deborah Southworth, all of Novi, announce the engagement of their children, Angela Yvonne Herbst and Kevin Moore Southworth. The bride-elect graduated from Novi High School in 2000 and Michigan State University in 2004. She is currently pursuing a teaching certification at Eastern Michigan University.

The groom-elect is also a 2000 graduate of Novi High School and a 2004 Michigan State University graduate. He is currently employed by Artemis Solutions Group, Inc. of East Lansing.

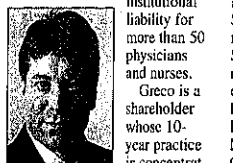
A December 31, 2005, New Year's Eve, wedding is planned.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

David Greco of Novi recently spoke in Frankfort, Mich., at the Harley Medical Center 2005 Terry Thomas OBGYN Update. Greco discussed the issue of institutional liability for more than 50 physicians and nurses.

Greco is a shareholder whose 10-year practice is concentrated in the areas of medical malpractice and general personal injury litigation. Greco also concentrates in the area of nursing home negligence. He lives in Novi.

English Gardens Landscape Department won 12 Environmental Improvement Awards from the Michigan Green Industry Association (MGIA). The awards include three gold, four silver, and five bronze, and were presented at the MGIA's 2005 Association's Annual Banquet and Holiday Celebration on Dec. 2.



D. Greco

Local English Gardens landscape designers and teams receiving awards include Novi resident James Stefanica, a bronze award for residential landscape reconstruction of \$25,000 to \$50,000 and Wixom resident Christine Brown (nee Szczepanska); a silver award for residential landscape construction of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Jamey has a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University and Christine has a bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Michigan State University.

Kathleen Harmon of Novi has joined Market Day Gourmet as a consultant for the direct-seller of gourmet foods, spices and kitchen accessories.

"I'm excited to be in on the ground floor of Market Day Gourmet, which provides me the opportunity to build my own business and make new friends in the community. Plus, I am proud of the fact that my work will help support many of our local schools and organizations," said Harmon.

Market Day, founded over 30

years ago based on the spirit of giving back to the community, is the nation's largest food fundraising company. Today, Market Day reaches over a half million parents and has continued over \$350 million to schools and charitable organizations across the country.

Peter J. LaRosa of Novi has been named manager of Event Services for Continental Services, Michigan's largest private held food management firm, by President Jim Barry. He will work out of the Meadow Brook Hall office in Rochester, Mich.

LaRosa is the former vice president of Burton Manor Conference and Banquet Center in Livonia and general manager of the Fairlane Club and Grand Manor in Dearborn.

In his new role at Continental, he will concentrate on operations management at Meadowbrook Hall, Sheswell-Gustafson Pavilion, Kalbe-Cousins and R. & S. Sharp golf courses at Oakland County Country Club, the Gratiot Mabry Banquet & Conferencing Center in Warren, and the

Summit on the Park Banquet/Event Facility in Canton.

LaRosa is a certified food and beverage executive and has been an instructor of Food and Beverage Accounting and Controls at Mercy College of Detroit. He is currently residing in Novi with his wife, Tracey.

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CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Novi Theaters Productions

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road...

Training Center Classes

Conservatory Program. Advanced training in the art of creating and performing a Second City Act...

Maybury Park Programs

LOCATION: Maybury State Park, Eight Mile Road between Beck and Napier roads...

Oil Prowl

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3 TIME: 6 p.m.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts Exhibit

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 6-Jan. 3, 2006 LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi

Industry

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 13 TIME: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 6 and Jan. 3 TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

Borders Bookstore and Music

LOCATION: 43073 Crescent Boulevard CONTACT: (248) 447-0780

Harville Tours

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 10 TIME: noon-2 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

Ice Skating Exhibition

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 10 TIME: noon-2 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Dr.

Holiday Band Concert

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 18 TIME: 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, Dec. 5 and 19 TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: today TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Second City Detroit, Novi Happenings

LOCATION: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi, located across from the Novi Town Center

Novi Chorales Christmas Concerts

First United Methodist Church of Farmington PARK: Friday, Dec. 2 TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Treats and Treasures

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3 TIME: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. LOCATION: Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

American Legion Open House

DATE: Friday, Dec. 3 TIME: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road, Novi

Holiday Shoppe

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 4 TIME: 9 p.m.-1 a.m. LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., east of Beck Road

Singles Coalition Benefit Dance

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 3 TIME: 9 p.m.-1 a.m. LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., east of Beck Road

Holiday Shoppe

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 4 TIME: 9 p.m.-1 a.m. LOCATION: Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Arena Drive

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, Dec. 5 and 19 TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: today TIME: 7:30 p.m.

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continued from page 20

LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Taft Road CONTACT: (248) 449-1200.

BUSINESS

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

Spotlight Lunch TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Today

\$6 for non-residents. CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Providence Center for the Healing Arts - Artist in Residence

ONGOING: Thursday TIME: 1-2:30 p.m. LOCATION: Creative Arts Studio, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturdays TIME: 9-10:30 a.m. LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Livonia

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of the month LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room

Friendship Circle

DATE: Second Thursday of each month TIME: 1 p.m.

Stacy Time Notes

DETAILS: Story Time for kids ages 1-5 are now underway. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in story time session are available in the library.

Line Dancing

DATE: every Monday and Friday TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermittent

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVI, MICHIGAN

CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT TOLL Brothers of Island Lake is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a construction office trailer at 50757 Calvert Isle Drive from the date of the meeting to December 8, 2005.

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

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Board of Review, Election Commission, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee, Historical Commission, Public Access Promotion Committee, Woodlands Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

CITY OF NOVI SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a special meeting on MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005 AT 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, for the purpose of interviewing candidates for appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

Snack Tales

DATE: Monday, Dec. 12 TIME: 7-9:45 p.m. DETAILS: Kids in kindergarten-3rd grade can enjoy a story and make an edible treat based on the story.

Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 13 TIME: 7-7:30 p.m. DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration needed.

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(248) 851-6730, Florence Voight, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Iovall, (248) 348-9138, joyiovald@earthlink.net

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATE: Second Thursday of each month TIME: 7 p.m. LOCATION: Wich's Hat Depot, 300 Deroyal St., South Lyon

Healing Prayer Service

DATE: First Monday of each month, Dec. 5 TIME: 4 p.m.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturdays TIME: 9-10:30 a.m. LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Livonia

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of the month LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room

Friendship Circle

DATE: Second Thursday of each month TIME: 1 p.m.

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HEALTH

Yoga Classes

DATE: Beginning Monday, Jan. 9 TIME: 12:30-1:15 p.m., Monday: 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Friday

Providence Medical Center Classes

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Ave. CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Festival of Trees

DATE: Now through Sunday, Dec. 4

Providence Center for the Healing Arts Colored Pencil Workshop

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 10 TIME: 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CITY OF NOVI SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a special meeting on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2005 AT 9:30 A.M. in the Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, for the purpose of interviewing City Manager professional recruitment firms.

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HERO AT HEART Dr. Shukri David. This year, 1.2 million Americans will have a heart attack. Half of them will die. The truth is that heart disease is still the number one cause of death of adults in America - and in Michigan.

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FAITH

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Meadowbrook Congregational Church invites everyone to attend a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. A Treats & Treasures Sale will take place from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. For sale will be all kinds of homemade items and baked goods as well as attic treasures.

Also, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the church will host a musical drama called "Amahl and the Night Visitors." It's about a poor crippled boy and his mother who have an encounter with the Three Kings. Reservations are recommended. A freewill offering will be accepted.

The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757.

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

Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m.

Worship Service of Compliment is held at 8:30 p.m. Rate 13 (ages 11-14) and 12A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. Youth Worship Service is held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofholycross.com.

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

The Advent Workshop will be from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday. This is an opportunity for you and your family to make gifts for one another, plus hear the Christmas story. The church Mid-High youth group will be performing a live nativity scene. The church will get a visit from Santa and may even have a live baby goat. Everyone is welcome.

Dr. Henderson will be teaching an Amos and Hosea class on Tuesday's at 10 a.m. and Wednesday's at 7 p.m. Cost for the book and class is \$19. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

The Holy Family Church is presenting "Come to Bethlehem, an Adult Journey Through the Christmas Story,"

Before the rush, before the lines, before the planning, take some time to pray, to reflect on the gospel stories, listen to music, to listen to the Spirit, to prepare for "An Adult Christmas." Christmas is not only for kids!

The First Thursday Catholic Update will take place 7-8:30 p.m. tonight. Maria Koncius will be the facilitator.

The church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamily-novi.org.

Church of the Holy Cross, where Pastor Karen Henry serves as Coordinator for Hurricane Relief

Efforts for the Diocese of Michigan reports that Christmas presents for children in Mississippi are being collected at Holy Cross and other churches throughout the Diocese of Michigan. The toys should be dropped off at the church by Monday, Dec. 12, unrapped.

Two Women and a Truck will be wrapping, labelling, transporting and personally delivering these toys on Christmas Eve to children in Mississippi who have lost everything. If you prefer, a \$20 donation will purchase a gift card for a child aged 12 and over.

Looking for a Christmas gift for someone who has everything? For \$75 a bed will be sent to Louisiana beds (for volunteers who are coming in to help with the cleanup work). Currently there are 195 beds on order and 35 of them are heading for New Orleans this week.

Another Caravan of Hope Truck, carrying cleaning supplies to New Orleans, is scheduled to

leave Michigan on Monday. Donations of cleaning supplies are needed, including new mops, rakes, shovels, towels, and new tools to help rebuilding.

Financial donations to pay for any of the above items or to help offset fuel costs for trucks are most welcomed. Make tax-deductible donations payable to The Bishop's Fund, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201, and make sure to mention hurricane relief and specific item (as mentioned above).

Volunteer opportunities abound for those willing to donate a week of time in Mississippi or Louisiana. For further information: www.dcomi.org (go to the main page and link on the hurricane symbol).

The church is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads). Visit www.churchofholycross.com for more information.

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

St. John Lutheran Church is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Saturday service begins at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday traditional services are at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday contemporary service begins at 9:50 a.m. and Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. Nursery is provided.

Call (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com for more information.

Crosspointe Meadows Church meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School. Services are at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Fresh brewed hot coffee is available from 10-10:30 a.m. The church also has children's programs for all ages and a nursery available. The church is located at 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of 13 Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-2709 or www.crosspointemeadows.org.

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

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

Stocking up for the holidays

Seniors send cheer overseas

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Coleman remembers what it was like for her husband to be off at war.

Now, the 84-year-old Meadowbrook Commons resident said she knows how hard it must be for the soldiers serving overseas to be away from their families during the holidays.

"I really feel for the boys and girls fighting over there and especially for their families," Coleman said. "It's horrible to have your children in combat."

Coleman and several residents from Meadowbrook Commons are filling stockings for soldiers this holiday season.

"We're sending everything from heavy socks and hand-held games to phone cards, but chocolate and candy," she said. "It's all to keep their morale up because they need it. It's hard for them to be over there."

The Novi Senior Center has joined forces with the national nonprofit organization Soldiers' Angels and REMAX 100-Team Savage of Novi, whose goal is to collect and send more than 7,000 filled stockings to the soldiers this year.

The Soldiers' Angels mission is to provide aide and comfort to any of the armed forces and their families.

"Our seniors really like helping others, especially the troops," said Rachel Zagari, senior services manager for the Novi Senior Center. "The small things really help, and this is a non-expensive way for them to give back to the people helping them."

Zagari said they are asking the seniors to include a holiday



Photo by TRACY MISHLER

Margaret Hauser, left, and Elizabeth Coleman stuff goodies into stockings for the soldiers overseas.

card or letter in each stocking simply addressed to soldier or hero.

She said they've had over 25 people participate in the stockings for soldiers and said it was a nice gesture during the holiday season.

Boxes filled with red-and-green stockings were picked up Tuesday by Team Savage and will be shipped overseas Friday in order for the troops to receive them before Christmas.

"I filled two stockings," said Margaret Hauser. "I just went and bought a whole bunch of stuff and found I had enough for two."

"This is a really good idea during the holidays, because a lot of the stuff we're sending are things the troops normally wouldn't have over there."

Hauser said her son served in the Navy, and she said it was very lonesome for him to be away during the holidays.

"I want all those boys and girls overseas to know there are a lot of people back home thinking about them," said the 79-year-old Meadowbrook Commons resident. "By sending them stockings, this is a wonderful way to send a little holiday cheer. We're very proud of each and every one of them."

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

SENIORS

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

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Day	Time	Activity
Friday 12/2	8:45 a.m.	Pancera Bread
	9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength
	10 a.m.	Body Recall
	12:30 p.m.	Dupl. Bridge*
	2:20 p.m.	Massage cancelled
Monday 12/5	9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength
	10 a.m.	Body Recall
Tuesday 12/6	9 a.m.	Pancera Bread
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	10 a.m.	Asian Pacific
	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Arthritis, Dr. Kintz
	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Computer Lab open
Wednesday 12/7	9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength
	10 a.m.	Body Recall
	11 a.m.	Blood Pressure
	11 a.m.	Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
	12:30 p.m.	Clogging*
Thursday 12/8	9 a.m.	Line Dance*
	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Computer Lab open
	12:15	Contract Bridge*
	1-2 p.m.	Line Dance
	1-3 p.m.	Book Discussion "The Red Bird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg

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

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Well done
Bob Smith has made a career out of building tradition in Novi. He's thankful for the success he's had and his runners are thankful for the chance to be part of such a great legacy.
— Page 3B



Scores!
Check out how the Novi Wildcats and the Catholic Central Shamrocks did last week in hockey action. Scores and highlights are printed in each week's scoreboard.
— Page 2B



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— Page 4B

SPORTS

Thursday, December 1, 2005

www.novinews.com

B1 Novi News

Quick Hits

Flight of the Wildcats

The Novi Wildcats hockey team will be once again heading to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in January to play against two of the Yooper's hockey pride in Hancock and Calumet. Their mode of transportation will once again be a team bus.

Some parents and fans, on the other hand, will be heading up via their own plane. A group of Wildcat fanatics have booked their own plane, dubbed Wildcat One, and will make the trek. It's better than the alternative, which is a nine-hour drive or a six-hour flight through Minnesota.

Is that a bird? A plane? It's the Wildcats!

Passing the torch — again

This could be the last year as head coach for Novi legend John Osborne.

Osborne, who coached Novi football for 30-plus years, is looking at this season as his last for coaching the relatively young bowling team at Novi. It's been a good time for Osborne, who has helped his team to a regional championship and a berth to the state finals already.

And, like in football, Osborne's bowling days are going to be a hard act to follow next year.

Freeway Fritz

Former Novi coach Tom Fritz is a few miles away these days. The long-time helmetsman for several Novi sports made the move to Traverse City for his retirement.

There, he's been pursued by two high schools hoping he'd pass on his knowledge of wrestling. He's kindly said no so far, but it's probably only a matter of time until the itch gets him yet again.

Fritz will be missed in Novi. He's always been a great icon for other coaches to look to and his first concern has always been the kids.

We wish the best of luck to Fritz in his retirement. He's a stand-up kind of guy and we know, one day, he'll one day start passing on the lessons he has already taught so many kids.

Pritchard in Princeton

The thing about Novi graduate Ryan Pritchard is that he's so darn easy to like. This guy just oozes ability, intelligence and charisma.

We're not the only ones to notice either.

Pritchard recently found out that he was selected as the recipient of the Donold B. Lourie Award, which is given annually to the freshman offensive player who, by his ability, conduct and attitude, has most clearly demonstrated in the best Princeton tradition the qualities of leadership and the spirit of amateur athletics.

Just goes to show that leadership isn't taught at the college level, but rather right in the halls of Novi High School.

Wolverine pride

The Churella brothers are still going strong. Ryan and Josh earned wins against their opponents from Penn State to help No. 3 ranked Michigan topped the Nittany Lions.

Ryan, ranked third in the nation, pinned his opponent at 165 pounds while Josh, ranked seventh, earned a major decision at 145.

By Sam Eggleston

'Cats want KVC

Novi hockey returns plenty of talent, experience

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Dan Phelps doesn't pull any punches when it comes to his team's goals.

The veteran hockey coach lets everyone know he wants a Kensington Valley Conference title. From there, his eyes are on the playoffs.

"It's really the same every year," Phelps said. "We've got a lot of kids returning from last year's squad and they've set a good foundation for us to build on."

The Wildcats are fortunate to have their leading scorers back from last year. Tom Claverilla, Ryan Fox and Mike Arnold return along with Alex Mallott, Kyle Mouch, Greg Morissette and Shamus Finnerty.

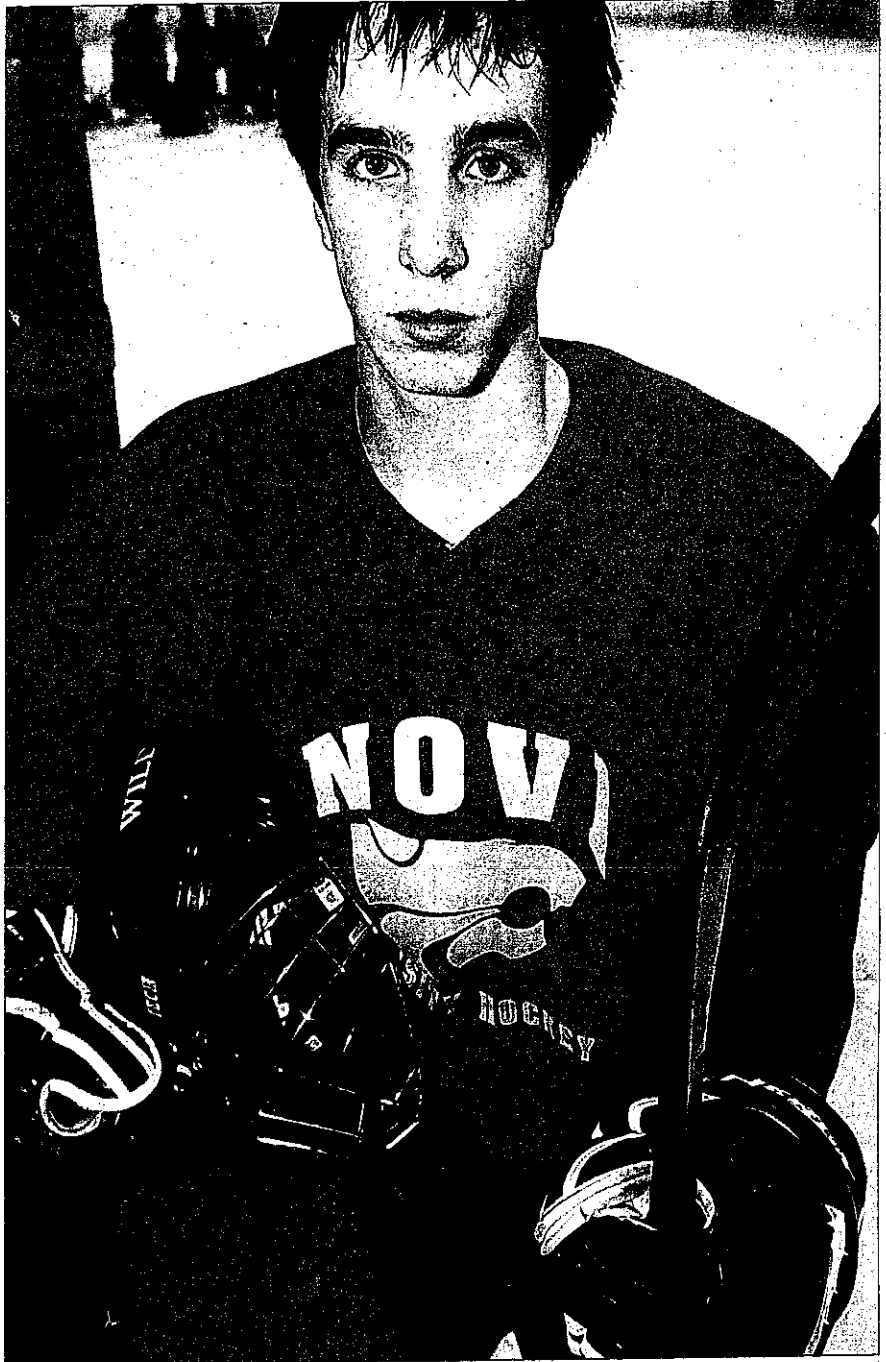
Other Wildcats who will be playing big roles for the Wildcats include Robert Lewis, Ryan Richardson, Matt Ericson, Brett Walczak, Justin Jaffe, Kevin Donague, Marc Bernier, Ryan Timar, Craig Howell, Kevin Michalczuk, Scott Eberline and Eric Waggy.

Sophomores like Timar, Howell, Michalczuk and Bernier are expected to be vital players for the Wildcats.

"They have the potential to be impact players," said Phelps. "They've shown what they're capable of so far and they have a lot of good attributes."

The Wildcats will have plenty standing in their way once again when it comes to the hunt for the Kensington

continued on 2B



Wildcat forward Tom Claverilla will be expected to step up and lead the Novi hockey team this season as they look to compete in the KVC and beyond.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

How safe are our student-athletes?

Last Monday, during a game, Detroit Red Wing Jiri Fischer collapsed after suffering a seizure. He was saved. That same day, 15-year-old Howell High School sophomore swimmer Mackenzie Watts suffered a seizure and died.

Fischer and Watts were both treated immediately. One survived and the other didn't.

No one can say why the stars aligned for one athlete and not the other. But it does beg the question: How prepared are local high schools?

"Like all MHSAA participating schools, our student-athletes are required to take physicals on an annual basis," said Novi athletic director Curt Ellis. "The whole idea of a physical is that underlying medical conditions are identified at that point."

According to officials, Northville and Novi high schools are prepared at several levels. Qualified athletic trainers are on-hand for a majority of the school's events,

coaches have the option of becoming CPR and first-aid certified and automatic external defibrillators are available at various sites throughout the two schools.

"Last spring the athletic department approached the booster club and asked for a portable defibrillator for our trainer," said Northville athletic director Bryan Masi. "She now has a defibrillator with her at all times. The booster club approved it without hesitation and donated the money for that purchase."

Staying safe

Ellis said spectators and players should feel safe in the halls of Novi. He said all ninth grade students are required to learn how to use defibrillators, first-aid and CPR.

"During school there are 1,400 students in the building who are all first-aid certified," he said. "We also offer training for people to maintain their certifications."

Ellis said Novi, like many schools throughout the state, will hold meetings to review their safety procedures.

Masi said the Northville athletic department is constantly reviewing its procedures. Thankfully, they've yet to have to use them.

For Ellis and Masi, the scariest moments have come from the stands, not the playing field. Both athletic directors have witnessed heart attacks during games.

"That gentleman had an internal defibrillator because of his chronic health problems," said Ellis. "The life-saving potential of defibrillator units is just amazing."

Better safe than sorry

In the world of athletic competition, it's not uncommon for athletes to play while injured. At Novi and Northville, student-athletes have to be cleared by physicians before they're able to play again after being hurt.

"If there's any kind of incident, right down to sprained ankles, where a student-athlete misses practice time, we do not allow them to return to practice or competition until they have a statement clearing

them to return," Ellis said.

"None of us are physicians. We're coaches here and we teach sports and fundamentals and skills. We want to make sure to leave the important medical decisions to the experts."

At Northville, one of the first steps in their emergency action plan calls for emergency services to be contacted.

"Our coaches are expected to call 911," said Masi. "They're supposed to call and let the professionals take over."

The two communities are fortunate to have quickly available services. Professionals are quick in response and knowledgeable.

But that doesn't mean districts shouldn't be prepared like Northville and Novi are.

"When parents entrust us to take care of their children, they entrust us with the most precious thing they have," Ellis said. "That means we are doing everything that can be reasonably expected to make it a safe environment for them."

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

By the numbers	1-2	5-4	24	2	3	3	3-0
	Novi's hockey record following losses to Northville and Pinckney	Hockey's score in a loss against the Pinckney Pirates last week	Days until Christmas is finally here and Santa Claus arrives!	Hockey wins Pinckney has earned in school history over the Novi Wildcats	Seconds remaining in game when Pinckney scored game-winning goal	Powerplay goals scored by the Pirates in the second period of play	Catholic Central's hockey record after big wins over Churchill and Davison

Wildcats fall to Pinckney

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Novi Scoreboard

To say Novi was a little upset at their performance last week against Pinckney is a bit of an understatement.

The Wildcats, coached by Dan Phelps, took a 5-4 loss against their Kensington Valley Conference foe last Wednesday with just seconds remaining in the contest. The result was some very unhappy skaters over Thanksgiving break and, come Monday, tired skaters.

"It looks like they just skated, a lot," said Northville coach Brad O'Neill at Novi Ice Arena Monday. "And without a puck."

Northville had taken to the ice following the Wildcats practice and found the surface chopped and soft — signs of plenty of work being done in a short amount of time.

But why wouldn't Novi be upset? It was only the second time in school history they had fallen to the Pirates and they knew exactly what the cause was: Penalties.

After taking a 3-0 lead in the

Shamrocks whip hockey competition

Catholic Central Scoreboard

To say the least, it's been a great start to the Catholic Central hockey season.

The Shamrocks have skated out to a 3-0 start with victories over Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Livonia Churchill and Davison.

Catholic Central celebrated Thanksgiving in style, playing two games over the holiday break and winning both of them.

Against Livonia Churchill, the Shamrocks tallied a 3-0 victory and out shot their opponents 40-18.

Against Davison, Catholic Central simply dominated, putting up a convincing victory, 6-1.

The shots on goal statistics were as equally one-sided as the

Shamrocks put up 40 to Davison's three.

Scoring for Catholic Central were Wade LaFever, Tim Batters (2), Steve Jankowski, Christopher and Scherer.

Catholic Central also beat St. Mary's in a close contest, 8-7.

The Shamrocks are on the road tomorrow against Gilmour Academy before coming home Saturday at 7 p.m. when they host Gilmour at Compuware Arena.

It all adds up for Novi



Wildcat forward Tom Ciavarella leaps off his skates as he rushes to block a shot.

continued from 1B

Valley Conference title. Brighton is the first and foremost on the list, but Phelps said there's always plenty of talent in the conference.

"The KVC is one of the stronger conferences this year," he said. "Even the teams that haven't been the most successful in the past have started to really build programs. It's going to be a lot tighter throughout the whole conference."

The biggest goal for the Wildcats has nothing to do with titles or points and everything to do with getting better.

"We want to take it each and every day and build from our daily experiences," Phelps said. "It's not what's on the right side of the equation, but what's on the left. If you try to build each day, the answer is always going to be right."

And Phelps said he has the right combination of talent, experience and fresh faces to make everything work.

"We have a great nucleus and a good group of kids who like to work hard," he said. "That's what you need to have a successful season."

"It's not what's on the right side of the equation, but what's on the left. If you try to build each day, the answer is always going to be right."

Dan Phelps
Novi Hockey Coach

Grapplers gear up for season, tough KVC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Al Vellathoham, John Favorite, Adam Ballantyne, Dan Sprys.

The Novi Wildcats wrestling roster reads like a list of alumni who just refuse to go away. The team, once again, is packed full of familiar faces and talents.

Vellathoham will be looking to showcase his potential this year as he leads the Wildcats as one of the top juniors on the team. Another junior who has a ton of experience is Adam Ballantyne, who was hurt last year and will be expected to make up for lost wins.

Seniors that are expected to have major impacts on the season outcome are Nic Lichorobiec, Derek McClelland, Dan Sprys, Matt Crawford and Kiley Lokar.

Other seniors on the team are Joshua Freeman, Andrew Lee, Ben Lichorobiec, Justin Masiarczyk, Dan Matheny, Kris Mehrotra, Tim Nally, Justin Pullin, Jeffrey Rauen and Michael Zarek. Juniors are

Mike Cash, Jaime Espinoza, Brad Frey, Steven Good, Adam Horc, Avinash Kotte, Jeffrey Lai, Brent Palkian, Kurt Rice and Jeremy Young.

Surphomones are Alex Calbert, Scott Davis, Steve Debono, Zachary Erickson, Aaron Haight, Henry He, Nabil Kestou, Jon Lichorobiec, Brian Lloyd, Anthony Matejewski, Dennis McElough, George Mugerian, Joe Pritchard, Ryan Ridemour, Aditya Suthi, Charles Satterwhite, Kyle Simons, Freshmen include Ben Fraser, Jason Freeman, Abdulhadi Khan, Nick Marcus, Charles Mallo, Nick Nuell, Brandon Pence, Zachary Rothenel, Thomas Szozycki and Dan Young.

"I'm real pleased with the number of kids we have right now," Huss said.

With plenty of new faces to mix

with the veterans of the program, the Wildcats have adopted a new strategy in coaching.

Huss and an assistant take the first-year wrestlers for the first half of practice while the more experienced grapplers lift weights. The two teams come together for an hour and practice and then the experienced wrestlers stay for more training while the first-year players head home.

Happily, said Huss, it will be work out to make Novi an even more competitive team.

"If not, we'll go back to the old way of doing things," Huss said. "Right now we look to be in good shape. I think we can wrestle with anybody as long as we're committed."

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

GUEST COLUMN

Why we run

An insider's perspective on Novi Wildcats cross country



Alex Prasad

It's a question that every cross country runner has been asked at least 1,000 times. Why? Why do you run?

Nine times out of 10, the harrier asked will shake his head, say he doesn't know and offer a few clichés about hard work and dedication. But the Novi cross country runner may mention something unique to Novi — we've been to the state meet and been in the top ten in the state the last 10 years. We've really kept the momentum going.

The 1997 reconstruction included the implementation of new stretching, weight training, and practice routines. Smith said that becoming accustomed to the program, although it was successful, was a challenge for himself and his athletes.

"The whole thing, at the time, was quite revolutionary," he said. "Some of the things that everyone does now, like hydration, were pretty new... we had to change things, and for awhile, it was pretty rough because people are creatures of habit and they like to train the way they've been taught. It was very difficult for me, too, because I came from a background of interval training, just pound, pound, and if it doesn't hurt, you're not working hard enough. My homework was to be on the cutting edge of understanding the physiological end, how the body responds to certain training."

Smith has had plenty to be thankful for

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS INTERN



Novi High School track team coach Bob Smith has also done well with his cross country team; he holds a trophy from their Class A 1998 State Championship season.

Last Thursday, Robert Smith had countless reasons to give thanks.

He is the coach of a state-caliber cross country team and a track team of almost one hundred athletes. He has had the opportunity to see his former athletes continue running in college, most recently in the NCAA Division I National Championships. For 25 years, he has been able to teach the sport he loves.

Smith began running for track clubs in Detroit as a child, later becoming a member of the South Lyon High School and Alma College track and cross country teams. Due to a lack of a formal track conditioning program at South Lyon, he joined cross country in the fall and ran with the wrestling team in the winter. Smith, a NCAA National Qualifier and current school-record holder, was inducted to both the South Lyon and Alma Hall of Fame earlier this year.

He would, however, rather discuss the Wildcats track and cross country teams.

"My concern, at my point in my life, is really coaching the (Novi) athletes," he said. "I had some successes... but right now, it's green and white. It's not green and maroon, or blue and gold. These guys are really a big part of my life now."

Smith considers the 1998 and 1999 cross country state championships among his greatest coaching accomplishments.

"We really came out of nowhere," he said. "We weren't even at the state meet the year before, but we revamped the program in 1997 and turned it around, and then did it again in 1999. Those were some high benchmarks that we're still enjoying... we've now been to the state meet and been in the top ten in the state the last 10 years. We've really kept the momentum going."

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Although the Novi cross country team continues to be one of the best in the state, Smith has learned to not set specific team goals.

"We were second in the state in 2000, and they were so disappointed," he said. "Here we were, state runners-up, and the athletes were disappointed. They were so accustomed to having the bar set so high that it hurt them."

Instead, he prefers to establish personal objectives for each athlete, including running best times and individually qualifying for the state meet. To achieve these goals, he stresses

the importance of summer conditioning and the need for student-initiated workouts.

"They have to come into the season prepared to race," he said. "We don't really have the luxury anymore of starting at ground zero. For the kids to be successful at this level, they have to already be in shape... and the y do on their own, they take ownership. That's really the beauty of this team now, that I'm not out there all summer long telling them what to do. They're deciding what to do."

Now, as he travels to winter meets with his cross country athletes while beginning to pre-

pare for the track season, Smith can still find time to be thankful for the dedication of his athletes and the support of the community.

"I try to lead by example, but I think the athletes and this program speaks for itself," he said. "Summing up my career, I don't think it could have happened anywhere else but Novi."

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

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PRIDE & PREJUDICE

Keira Knightley

SPORTS SHORTS

AAU tryouts

The 2006 Western Wayne Wolfpack (Northville) AAU girls basketball tryouts will be next week. Following are the age groups and their practice times and locations:

U10: 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Northville High School and 7:45-9:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at Northville High School.

U11: 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Northville High School and 6:15-7:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at Northville High School.

U12: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Senior Community Center and 6:15-7:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at Northville High School.

U13: 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Senior Community Center and 7:45-9:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 at Northville High School.

Motion tryouts

The Michigan Motion girls basketball club will be holding open tryouts Dec. 10 and 11.

The tryouts will be at Novi Middle School, located on 11 Mile Road.

and requires players to be present 20 minutes before their tryouts are scheduled and to be fully dressed to play basketball. A parent or guardian must sign players in.

On Dec. 10, the U10 and U11 teams will tryout from 9-11 a.m. while the U12 and U13 teams tryout from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Ages 14-17 will go from 2-4 p.m. The following day, U10 and U11 go from 12:30-2 p.m.; U12 and U13 from 2-3:30 p.m.

The fee to try out is \$20 per player.

For more information, call Pat or Mike Tuck at (248) 485-1515 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. or e-mail them at michiganmotion@aol.com.

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Novi News

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Home Owners Do You Know...What causes Ice Damming & How to Avoid?

Ice damming and attic condensation are related—both are caused by warm (moisture laden) air migrating from the house and entering the attic. The problem may be more pronounced in newer homes since they are built tighter at the sides encouraging warm air to rise into the attic.

- ICE DAMMING LEADS TO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE AND LEAKS
- PREMATURE DETERIORATION OF SHINGLES AS THE WARM AIR CONDENSES ON COLD SURFACES
- NAIL TOES AND BUCKLING SHINGLES AS THE WOOD EXPANDS WHEN ITS WET AND CONTRACTS AS IT DRIES OUT
- GROWTH OF MOLD/ MILDEW WHICH LEADS TO ROOF FAILURE AND RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS FOR THE OCCUPANTS

A well insulated and sealed attic will unlikely have ice dams—there will be no warm air to melt the snow. If there is sufficient insulation to keep heat from the house escaping into the attic, and there are no holes or air leaks, then the attic should be in good shape. The attic air should be cool and dry just like the outside air (ice dams are rarely seen on barns or detached garages). One of the first signs of a potential problem is to look for bare spots or melt lines (around rafters/trusses or knee walls) after a light snow or heavy frost. Ice damming occurs when there is a significant depth of snow on the roof and outside temperatures are below freezing for a long period of time with little or no thaw in-between. The warm air in the attic melts the snow near the peak of the roof. As the melted snow reaches the colder soffit area, it refreezes creating a dam for water underneath. A good sign of an ice dam are icicles at the gutters.



Randall Patterson

There are methods to minimize ice dams and their effects. Insulating and sealing membranes about 3' from the eave under the shingles does not stop ice dams; they just prevent the water from leaking through the roof sheathing. Removing gutters will keep them from becoming ice traps, but may lead to further problems such as wet basements and perhaps foundation settlement. Electric cables may alleviate the problem but can use a significant amount of electricity as well as being an eyesore. Another misconception is to increase attic ventilation. Certainly, in the spring/summer an attic needs to be vented to dry it out. However, in the winter, the outside cold air cannot carry moisture away from the attic—passive ventilation doesn't move much air through the attic. Further, additional ventilation may make the attic colder which encourages condensation. The best way to fix a wet/damp attic is to locate the source and to stop air movement from the house. A well-sealed roof will not need additional ventilation.

Following the principle of 1 square foot of ventilation for every 300 square feet of insulated attic space split between the roof and soffit vents (1 to 150 square feet in colder climates or low-sloped roofs) should be sufficient. Given the "stack or chimney effect" in a house—the tendency to draw cold air from the bottom and expel it at the top, it is important to stop all the air leaks from the house into the attic.

MINIMIZING WARM AIR INTO THE ATTIC:

- INSULATE EXHAUST FANS AND VENT TO THE OUTSIDE (SOLID DUCT NO-FLEX DUCT)
- INSULATE HEATING DUCTS RUNNING THROUGH THE ATTIC
- INSULATE ABOVE POCKET DOORS AND LOWERED CEILING
- INSULATE AND SEAL THE ATTIC HATCH
- SEAL AROUND PROTRUSIONS INTO THE ATTIC: PLUMBING STACKS & CHIMNEYS
- SEAL HOLES FOR LIGHT FIXTURES, ELECTRICAL WIRING, CABLE & PIPING
- SPLIT LEVEL JUNCTIONS (INTERIOR WALLS SHARED WITH ATTIC SPACE)
- SEAL CEILING AND WALL FIXTURES, ELECTRICAL RECEPTACLES & SWITCHES
- SEAL DOOR AND WINDOW TRIM
- SEAL AROUND THE BASE BOARD OF PERIMETER, AND PARTITION WALLS

Call us if you would like your home evaluated for proper insulation, ventilation, and help avoid Ice Damming.

Randall Patterson
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(248) 755-3422

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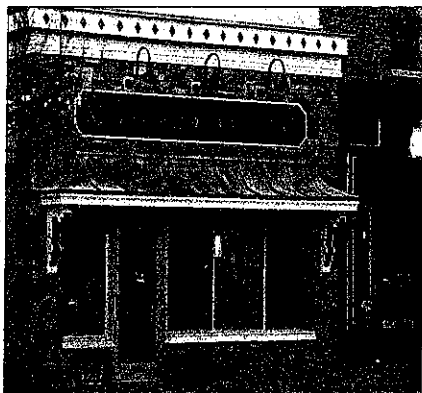


Photos by HAL GOULD

Sibling co-owners of Milford Jewelers, Jacques Chopjian and Tamar Aguilar, value customer service and quality craftsmanship above all else at their 441 N. Main St. store in historic downtown Milford. The store is open every day through Christmas Eve: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-4 p.m.

Milford Jewelers: a store for all seasons

■ Friendly approach, affordable prices make downtown Milford store a holiday favorite



Milford Jewelers prides itself on quality craftsmanship, including platinum, gold and silver. Specialties include custom jewelry, GIA-certified diamonds and gemstones, repairs, remounts and on-staff GIA gemologist and co-owner Jacques Chopjian.

Can you keep a secret? Milford Jewelers doesn't care much about selling you a ring. Or a diamond. Or the unique bracelet in the distant showcase.

They care more about you. And even though only a handful of jewelers nationwide can match the handcrafted excellence produced daily inside the 441 N. Main St. Milford store, siblings Tamar Aguilar and Jacques Chopjian have loftier ambitions than simply being the world's top-selling jeweler.

"We care more about treating people well than selling jewelry," Tamar said. "What's most important to us is building friendships with people who visit."

Three years and 2,500 customers later, Tamar just may know what she's talking about. Her family has spent nearly 30 years crafting jewelry for rich, famous and everyday people. Each person has a unique story, she said. And each jewelry piece is a unique extension of that story.

"That's what makes this job fun," Tamar said. "If our customers didn't become our friends, it just wouldn't feel right."

She doesn't begrudge jewelry retailers who flash expensive brand names and run trite television commercials. Tamar simply thinks they are selling their customers short.

"Nowadays, people don't need cute punch lines or fancy brands," Tamar said. "They need information and someone they can trust. They need to know the person on the other side of the showcase is motivated by something other than simply selling them a piece

of jewelry." What's considered an extra at other jewelry stores serves as the benchmark at Milford Jewelers. Friendliness and affordability is the Milford Jewelers gold standard.

Throw in precision craftsmanship by a family of five siblings (four brothers and a baby sister, Tamar) who operate four retail stores — Milford, Birmingham, Southgate and Southfield. Then add a family-owned, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, affording customers the freedom to design and create any jewelry piece they can imagine, for less.

Finally, stir professional excellence and industry resource into a relaxed downtown Milford atmosphere where regular customers wave from a Main Street sidewalk, stop in on the way to lunch or simply sit down to talk

about the weather. What you're left with is a jewelry store that feels more like a family room. And a retailer who feels more like a member of the family.

Looking for glitz, glamour and high prices? Find another jeweler. At Milford Jewelers, showcases are merely the starting point. If you can imagine it, Jacques and Tamar can create it — for less.

"We take so much pride in making sure our customers end up with exactly what they imagined," Tamar said. "Many times they tell us a piece has been passed down by their grandmother and all they want to do is reset a stone or hand-engage the setting."

"That is a tremendous honor for us." And an invaluable benefit for anyone searching for a jeweler they can trust.

A REAL GEM: A MILFORD JEWELERS BABY

Like wise men, they arrived Monday bearing gifts.

One person, an artist, delivered hand-sculpted wooden baby boots. Someone else brought a homemade chicken pot pie ("Bake at 425 degrees for 20-25 minutes.") A local politician (Highland Clerk Mary McDonell) dropped by just to turn over the handmade baby blanket she finished the night before.

Someone else bought two containers of potato soup, and yet another person delivered a card and more baby clothes. A Milford post office worker dropped by with her daughters after work, just to help wash the store windows and polish the showcases.

That was just Monday. Tamar Aguilar, co-owner of Milford Jewelers, has gotten used to people stopping by, calling in and e-mailing: "How are you? Is there anything you need? Are you resting? Are you having a boy or a girl?"

Tuesday was supposed to be Tamar's day off, a day to rest, the last day before the scheduled delivery of her and husband David's first child.

Forget it. Too many people had already called ahead: "We are coming in Tuesday to say hello. We want to see you before you leave. You'll be there, right?"

Some are well-wishers. Most are customers. All are friends.

How do you measure annu

al retail sales? If friendships count, no one does more business than the little store at 441 N. Main St. in downtown Milford.

"I am so touched by how nice people have been to me," Tamar said. "They have constantly asked about the baby and always made sure I was OK. Several people have even offered to fill in at the store while I was gone."

"How could I possibly say thank you? There's just no way."

Sure there is. Tell us if it's a boy or a girl.

"No, I can't do that," she said coyly, pretending until the last minute she had no clue about what the stork had scheduled. "I just wish I could be at the store the very next day, so I could show our new (baby) how generous people have been."

If possible, she'll stop by the store in December. In the meantime, be patient with her brother, Jacques. He'll be answering the phone a lot during the next few weeks: "Yes, she had the baby ... Wednesday, Nov. 30... uh-huh, it's a... she's doing fine."

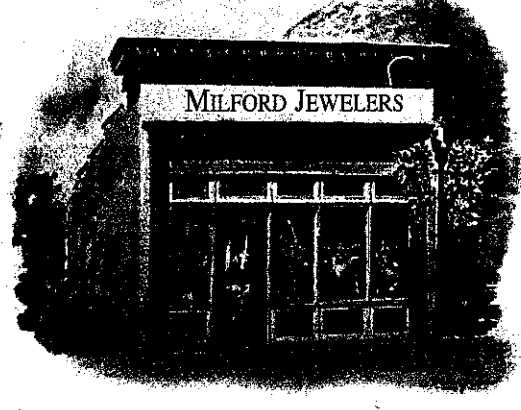
Just in case, he's got her home phone number close by. She won't be far.

"I miss seeing everyone already," Tamar said. "Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for me. And tell them I will be back soon — with a new baby for them to meet!"

MILFORD JEWELERS

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