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INSIDE



Ready for the Big Game?

If you're going to throw a party for the Super Bowl, we can help. Couch potato exercises? We've got those, too. If you really want to tip it up in style, we've got the scoop on the Taste of the NFL event, being right here in Novi.

—Page 5A



Stretch it out

Treat depression naturally. Find out which of the latest diet books are good, discover a new treatment for depression, follow tips to stay in shape, set up a gym at home and discover much more inside Health & Fitness.

—Special Section

INDEX

Business	17A
Calendar	18A
Classifieds	1D
Community	4A
Education	14A
Faith	11A
Food	5B
Health	12A
Opinion	16A
People	9A
Public Safety	10A
Regional Marketplace	6B
Seniors	13A
Sports	1B

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Redistricting vote Thursday

School board looking at Deerfield and other issues

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Bagdady believes there are two major issues facing the Novi Community School District. Novi's school board president

said decisions must be made by next Thursday on the status of full-day kindergarten for next year, and if, how and when the district will have to redistrict its neighborhood school boundaries.

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

"The issues are related in many ways," said Bagdady, a few days after listening to over 50 parents voice their opinions at last Thursday's school board meeting.

Reducing class size and expanding full-day kindergarten both require space, and could impact how the district's boundaries are drawn or result in the future need for additional classrooms, or possibly even an additional elementary school.

"This is why we need to know the long term ramifications of such decisions before taking any drastic steps," said Bagdady.



Photo by Ramez Khuri

Roxanne Laitin was one of many parents to speak to the Novi Community School District Board of Education at a meeting last Thursday night. She's in favor of Deerfield Elementary becoming a neighborhood school.

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

Roxanne Laitin, a parent who spoke at the meeting, said there is



Photo by Ramez Khuri

Linda Conroy is a member of the Deerfield Task Force. She addressed the Novi Community School Board of Education at a meeting last Thursday night. She'd like there to be a debate conducted before any decisions are made.

an inequity existing within the district between Deerfield and the four other K-4 elementary buildings.

continued on page 2



Photo by JOHN HEDDER/Novi News
Margie Karp-Opperer, head of teen and youth services at the Novi Public Library, reads "Where's My Mommy" to visitor Megan Feury, 3, on a recent Friday morning.

Miss Margi entertaining kids for years

Novi Library's Karp-Opperer a familiar face to all

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Margie Karp-Opperer has a good philosophy on life.

"She's got a good sense of humor, a good outlook and she tries to stay positive all the time, no matter what the situation."

All of those attributes help her to be successful at her job, but the most important one is the fact she likes people.

Karp-Opperer has been the Novi Public Library's head of youth and teen services for the last 12 years. It's a job she loves dearly and wouldn't trade for the world.

"I really like the type of people who go into librarianship," she said. "They're real genuine people with great values. I also truly enjoy working with the youth. Here at Novi, I can work with kids from elementary to high school and beyond, because they do keep coming back to say hi."

Karp-Opperer explained there are certain criteria people have to have in order to become a librarian. For example, they must love reading and have a master's degree.

"It's a wonderful profession," she said. "Especially as a youth librarian. It's great exposure to fantastic literature that gets better and better each year."

One would think doing the same job for so long would get old after a while, but not for Karp-Opperer. She commented on how committed and devoted her co-workers are to offering the best service with the most accurate information.

continued on page 3



Plant closure won't hurt Wixom

Dornan says non-automotive tax base pays off

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Wixom City Manager Mike Dornan said he was prepared for last week's announcement that the Wixom Assembly Plant is closing.

"That was a pity for families and friends of the plant to reflect on their futures," he said. "In the following months, he said he will work in concert with representatives from Ford Motor Company to further and more specifically understand what they meant by the announcement."

"We want to identify what their timetable is so we can assist our partner of nearly 50 years to achieve their goals in a timely manner," Dornan said.

The manager said as his staff

continued on page 3



Photo by JOHN HEDDER/Novi News

Mike Dornan

They're coming to Novi!

Area hotels ready for Super Bowl visitors

By Tracy Miahlor
STAFF WRITER

"Danielle Bastianelli anticipates filling 122 rooms with guests headed to Super Bowl XLII this weekend."

With more than 100,000 visitors descending into the metro Detroit area for football, and fans, the account executive for sales at

the Courtyard and Townplace Suites by Marriott Novi said her hotel had already been promised to the National Football League.

"Marriott as a whole went into an arrangement with the NFL a year ago for guest rooms," Bastianelli said. "We've been sold out for quite some time."

Bastianelli said the hotel will be opening up their dining area all day for drinks during Super Bowl Sunday, something they haven't done for many years.

"We're also selling licensed Super Bowl apparel and will be

continued on page 8



Photo by JOHN HEDDER/Novi News

Hotel Baronette front office manager Sara Chan takes a reservation over the phone as other patrons check into the Novi hotel near Twelve Oaks Mall. The Baronette and other Novi-area hotels will be very busy with guests as the Super Bowl approaches.

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The history behind Deerfield

■ The "Deerfield Difference" and how it became what it is today

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Bagdady and the Novi Community School District's Board of Education have some big decisions to make come next Thursday.

Should they keep full-day kindergarten in all the elementary schools? Should Deerfield Elementary become a neighborhood school, or should it stay a school of choice?

But these issues don't pose to this board. In fact, a very similar incident occurred during the summer of 1997, when overcrowding forced administration to research best practices for the district of an elementary program that would be an innovative approach to K-4 education in the Novi district.

That program eventually turned into Deerfield Elementary School. Similar to today's challenges, which forecast Parkview Elementary being over its student capacity in just a few years, it became apparent in December 1997 the growth of the K-4 student population would necessitate the need for an additional elementary school.

At the time, the intent was to house such a program in one wing of the present Novi Meadows facility, but that idea was quashed when projected population growth numbers became available.

"We needed to have another school for the population that we were getting," said Richard Njus, Deerfield Elementary principal. "In the process, they decided to create an innovative school instead of a neighborhood school."

Researching the new school

A committee formed to research the charge based their work on answering the following questions:

- How do people learn?
- What should be learned?
- How should learning be designed?
- How will we know if learning occurs?
- How should schools be designed to accommodate the desired learning?

"The intent was to have new ways of teaching that would tick-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Deerfield Elementary students walk in the hallways while heading to the Novi school's gymnasium for an assembly.

It's killed as a "unique school of choice"

The Deerfield difference includes:

- Multi-age classrooms with kindergarten through fourth graders working and learning together
- Instruction and projects with themes
- Grouping of students to meet their learning needs
- Common curriculum themes throughout the school
- Quarterly reports
- A variety of assessment instruments, including portfolios
- Parent involvement
- Art, music and physical education integrated into the basic curriculum
- Consistent use of interactive media and technology to enhance all curriculum areas

Information obtained from the Novi Community School District

le down into the other elementary schools, and to an extent that has happened," said Njus. "We have

School board looking at Deerfield and other issues

continued from front page

"All we've heard lately is how Deerfield is just different," said Latta. "It's not better, it's the same curriculum, and it's just a different style of teaching. However, a lot of people who spoke before me, as I waited in line, insinuated that should the Deerfield philosophy not be available, they may look into private schools. That was kind of disturbing because that means they really do think it's better."

But Deerfield Principal Richard Njus believes otherwise. He said the division among parents stems from people not having a full understanding of what Deerfield does programmatically.

"I think we should continue, as a district, pursue what we're doing that's so good," Njus said. "We (at Deerfield) are in no way trying to say we are better than anyone. We're different, just like other schools are different. We need to celebrate our differences rather than use them as an excuse for things that are negative."

Though this sub-plot has been the topic of much discussion among parents, Bagdady believes the community realizes the board

only wants to do what's right for the students. He said while recent board discussion has given a short-term appearance of disagreement, once a decision is reached the community will look forward and continue to do what is best—support all of the district's students and schools.

"The board needs to communicate more," said Linda Conroy, a parent who spoke at the meeting, and member of the Deerfield Task Force. "They need to set up a process so these issues are fully debated, rather than brought forth and decided really before any discussion has been made."

Conroy explained the Deerfield Task Force is a parent group focused on providing the board of education financial and MEAP score information.

The task force is also trying to look at why there is discussion now of reconsidering the magnet school system six years after it was implemented. "It was brought forth by the board, the communities and the administration," Conroy said. "All thought it was a great idea. And based on the test scores and financials, it's still a good idea."

Conroy said the ultimate goal of the task force is to keep Deerfield

as it is, and keep full-day kindergarten as it is, unless there is new information that proves it would be better otherwise.

"A debate would bring that new information forward," she said. "Maybe there is good reasoning behind not having a magnet school. But from what we know, we don't see one."

Factors to consider

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

- What is best for students and for the community
- What is most fair and equitable
- What is most economically beneficial
- What is the most sound decision
- I believe that the board will be ready to make a decision (by next Thursday), said Bagdady. "I don't know if that decision will please the majority of parents, but I do know that we strive to do what is best for the students."

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 Library's Karp-Opperer a familiar face

continued from front page

tion to all library users. Also, the enthusiasm of children inspires and enlightens her each and every day. She spoke of how inspiring and heart-warming it is to have adults remember her years after they've graduated high school.

She was a teacher first

Being a librarian wasn't Karp-Opperer's first choice in careers. Her undergraduate degree was in teaching, and she taught elementary school.

"I always wanted to go into some area of education," she said. "I remember when I was younger, playing teacher with the chalkboard. I loved it."

After teaching for a number of years, Karp-Opperer stepped to raise her two daughters, Carolyn and Stacy. After that, the urge to work led her once again.

She decided to speak with a career counselor and determined her love was still to work and educate children, but she also wanted to have some exposure with adults.

"I thought if I went back into education, I probably would be just mostly with the kids," said Karp-Opperer. "So I thought I would try this, and I'm glad I did."

Karp-Opperer graduated from the University of Michigan in August of 1993 with a master's degree in librarianship. The public library allowed her to work with both adults and children.

"We're a little unique here at the Novi Public Library because usually you don't have to work both the adult section and the youth section," she said. "It's really wonderful because it keeps you well informed and educated. It keeps you on your toes."

Becoming "Miss Margi"

Kids know Karp-Opperer mostly as "Miss Margi" because she's been going "into Novi's elementary schools and reading to the little ones for years."

That started by talking to some of the teachers who visited the library on a regular basis. "I'd tell them I'd love to come and read to the kids," she said. "They said that was fine and word spread."

Margi Karp-Opperer

Occupational head of youth and teen services for the Novi Public Library

Family: husband, Margi; two daughters, Carolyn, Stacy; step-son, Josh, and his wife, Rachel; step-daughter, Amy

Hobbies and/or interests: reading, outdoor sports, knitting, tennis and walking

Advice: "You have to be patient and accepting," she said. "You can't be judgmental, and you have to be willing to give people what they're looking for. You also have to be willing to stay informed and keep on your toes."

Schools: She graduated from Southfield High School, earned her undergraduate degree from Wayne State University and her master's from the University of Michigan.

Years in business: 12 years

Grew up in: Detroit, but moved to Southfield in ninth grade

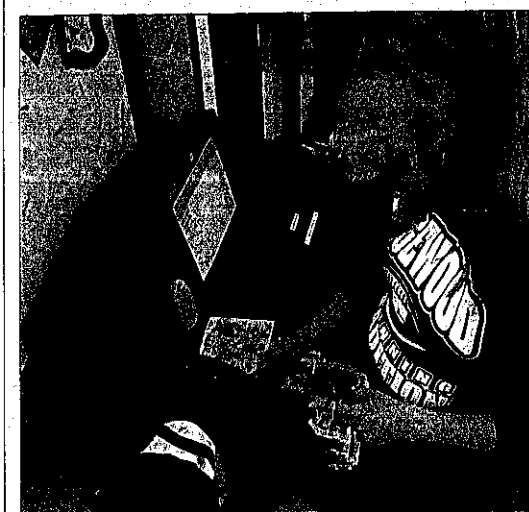


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Express Check
Glenn Lynch uses the Novi Public Library's "Express Check" system to borrow some books. The system allows patrons to scan in their library cards and then scan the barcodes of books and videos they'd like to borrow. Lynch said, "It's very convenient to use, especially when you have little ones."

Doman says non-automotive tax base pays off

continued from front page

identifies milestones along that timeline. Wixom's contingency plan will become more specific.

Describing Ford's announcement as "rather cryptic," Doman said the implementation of the automaker's plan won't immediately cut a leg off of the city.

"This is time for the city to really craft very specific alternatives and plans, just like Ford Motor Company took time doing their own Way Forward plan," he said. "They don't really know exactly

when they're going to close the plant," Doman said.

"The financial impact on the community will be spread out over the same period of time that it's going to take them to close the plant."

Because the property is so valuable, Doman said the revenue stream from the plant to the city of Wixom will continue even after the plant closes.

"Ford keep paying for the building and the land even after the movement of employees, product and equipment," he said.

He says the city has already adjusted its budget to reflect the reduction of tax revenues from Ford in the past few years.

"A lot of the impact of the plant's loss is already reflected in our budget," Doman said.

All in all, he doesn't believe the loss of the plant will be that much of a detriment to the community.

"The challenges that our friends and partners face (at Ford) couldn't come at a more appropriate time for us, when development is occurring and Wixom is a world-class city," Doman said.

"Property values are up, and this property can be redeveloped in a short period of time," he noted.

"Maybe it was time for us to move on and for us to help our longtime partners at Ford Motor Company move on as well."

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

What Ford assembly plant is to Wixom

- Represents 2.49 percent of Wixom's tax base
- Represents 4.29 percent of Wixom's total industrial real property
- Accounts for \$5.5 million in annual taxes to schools, Oakland County and Wixom (city taxes alone are \$1.2 million)
- Generates 12 percent of Wixom's total tax revenue
- Contributes 7.3 percent of revenues Wixom derives from industrial facilities

Sources: City of Wixom

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Sgt. Pat Fanning of the Novi Police Department chats with Richard and Susan Graham of Delino Estates at last Saturday's Homeowners Association Leaders Breakfast at the Novi Civic Center. Several city departments had displays at the event.

City seeks input on pathways

Homeowners talk at yearly meeting

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever been walking or riding your bike in Novi and been annoyed when a path just ends? Or, can you think of an area where Novi's pedestrian and bike paths could be more connected or need to be widened?

What about a portion of sidewalk or bike path that is crumbling?

If you can respond to any of these questions, the City of Novi Planning Department wants to hear from you.

The department featured a map of the city's sidewalks and bike paths at the city's annual Homeowners Association Leaders Breakfast last Saturday at the Novi Civic Center.

The Greenways Pathways Study included in the fall 2005 in the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Departmental program registration booklet provided some response. But the city needs more.

The typical sidewalk is 5 feet wide, while bike paths are 8 feet wide.

The city staff may have some areas that need attention recorded, but it may not have them all.

The Rails to Trails Conservancy, in which miles of railroad tracks were converted into a bike path across the state, goes through the middle of South Lyon and Kensington Park.

City planners would like to have Novi look into this system sometime in the future.

"It's a lot easier to get state grant funding if a city has a solid greenways and pathways plan," said Jane Schimpf of the planning department.

"They take that a lot more seriously," she added.

She noted that building sidewalks around schools are part of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Residents who would like to comment on a sidewalk or bike path issue can call the Novi Planning Department at (248) 347-0475.

A look at South Pointe condos

One of the homeowners associations represented at the breakfast was South Pointe Condominiums.

The residents in the small complex, located on South Lake Drive on the border of Novi and Walled Lake, collect items for the needy every Christmas.

Maggie Laurie and Betty Ann Casemere serve as co-volunteer.

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Subscription Rates:
Inside Counties \$26 one year home delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$40 per year, prepaid. Out of state, \$40 per year.

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Daddy Daughter Dance next week

Tickets are still available

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

A 15-year tradition will be back, as the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is presenting the 2006 Daddy Daughter Dance at the Novi Civic Center next Friday and Saturday.

"Every year we try to create a memorable experience for the dads and the daughters," said Tracie Ringle, event and marketing coordinator. "This year will be no exception."

Fairly new in the last three years has been a theme to the event. This year's is a tropical theme. The idea is to have guests feeling like they're somewhere warm. A professional disc jockey has been hired, and professional photographers will also be on hand.

"People will get to take the photos home that night," said Ringle. "We'll have chocolate fountains, light hors d'oeuvres and lavish desserts, which include chocolate dipped fruits."

Traditional favorite sing-alongs will be performed, as well as some of today's popular music and some of dad's favorite music from his generation.

Guests don't have to be dressed in the luau theme, however. As a semi-formal dance, dads usually have on a tie and the girls are known to wear holiday dresses.

"If they dress in a luau theme,

Dance details:

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department's Daddy Daughter Dance will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11 at the Novi Civic Center. Tickets are \$12 per person and are on sale now.

In addition, white orchid wrist corsages, provided by Flowers of Novi, may be reserved with ticket sales at \$5 a piece, and may be picked up at the dance.

Tickets are being sold only in advance by either calling (248) 347-0400, in person at the Novi Civic Center between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m., by fax with a credit card or by filling out a registration form online. Tickets may not be reserved without payment.

"That's all the better, but it's not necessary," Ringle said. "It's always sold out, and it's been very well received. Between the two dates we have 600 tickets available every 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.

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HERO AT HEART

Dr. Gary Goodman

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. But the heart doctors of Providence Heart Institute are working to change that. And that's why we salute this week's Hero At Heart.

Meet Dr. Gary Goodman, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Providence Heart Institute.



Q: Dr. Goodman, when did you know you wanted to be a doctor?

A: Halfway through medical school. I was one of those people who knew from the age of 5 I had a strong aptitude in science, but it wasn't until the end of college — along with some pressure from my parents to get a career — that I chose to be a doctor. Medicine seemed like a good fit, and I developed an interest in cardiac surgery during my residency. I get that decision validated daily when I participate in sustaining a patient's health when they encounter a life-threatening condition. The technical demands and success rate of cardiac surgery are constantly challenging but always rewarding.

Q: What do you think are the challenges of practicing medicine?

A: Certainly in terms of cardiac surgery the aging population and ability to treat heart conditions in the advanced stages pose a challenge to practicing medicine. As aspects of cardiac illness become more complicated, it is a continuous challenge to achieve good results under progressively complex circumstances. The next challenge will be facing the fiscal task of caring for the aging baby boomers with the same excellent outcomes.

Q: What makes a good patient/physician relationship?

A: Honesty on both sides of the table. A good doctor will not only be a medical professional, but also, in a way, a homemaker. Attending to the personal side of medicine is very important. If a doctor can empathize with the patient, the relationship and treatment will be a success.

Q: What's on the horizon in heart care?

A: Technology in cardiac surgery is accelerating at an incredible pace. These advancements provide surgeons with exciting opportunities to achieve improved results with minimally invasive procedures. A new operation to correct Atrial Fibrillation, which affects more than 2 million Americans, has proven to be very effective. Other technical surgical approaches to heart failure such as pacemaker implantation and heart remodeling are also achieving great results.

Q: What is some medical advice the world can't do without?

A: It's ironic that we are often guilty of not following our own advice. Patients today are smarter; however, they often don't take the time to receive the proper screenings, or to understand and manage the cardiac risk factors. Primary prevention of illness is preferable to effective treatment.

Q: Why did you choose St. John Health?

A: I grew up in New York and trained in Florida, but I came to southeast Michigan 25 years ago. I chose St. John Health because they are, by far, the most extensive system. With hospitals in many counties, St. John Health provides excellent care to a broad array of patients. St. John Health is a health care system that is truly for everyone. As a faith-based organization, St. John is here and shoulders above other systems because they treat the patient as a whole person — body and soul. The commitment of the medical staff, the dedication of the associates and the striving of the administration combine to make an unbeatable team.

To find out your risk for heart disease, visit us online and take our 2-minute heart assessment at www.realmedicine.org/heartcheck

You can find Dr. Goodman in his office location in Southfield or at Cardiac Surgery Institute, PC, in Detroit. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 1-888-440-REAL or visit us online at www.realmedicine.org.

Dr. Gary Goodman is an independent physician on the medical staff of Providence Heart.

Providence Hospital is the only hospital in the southeast to be PCI-compliant with a PCI-eligible catheterization lab, and is a national leader in minimally-invasive heart surgery.

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SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Taste of the NFL at Rock Showplace

John Bowen, executive director, Rock Financial Showplace, and staff are getting ready to host The Taste of the NFL in Novi at 6 p.m. on Saturday on Grand River Avenue just west of Tift Road.

The 15th annual event is the largest fund-raiser for Super Bowl Weekend and benefits local food banks.

A large portion of proceeds from this year's Taste of the NFL will stay in the metropolitan area, going to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Metro Detroit and Forgotten Harvest.

Funds raised from the Feb. 4 event will help these food banks provide more than 24 million pounds of food to needy people in the area.

"Detroit has been extremely generous in its donations to the victims of recent national disasters," said Wayne Kotsoski, Taste of the NFL founder and executive director.

"But with Detroit listed as the poorest city in America, there are many hungry residents right here that need assistance."

"Taste of the NFL is proud to help raise awareness and funds to support Detroit and extend those benefits to other food banks across the country."

Bowen said the chefs, which come from other NFL cities, will serve their favorite dishes. Many former and current NFL players will also attend at the event.

Bowen said 3,000 to 4,000 people from all over the world will be in attendance.



Ready for the big game?

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Unless you shelled out a couple grand for a Super Bowl ticket via a broker, or you're extremely lucky, you're probably going to be sitting at home for the big game like the rest of us.

Not a big deal. It's more comfortable, cost effective and you don't have to put up with the agonizing slow pace of the game thanks to all the TV time-outs that interrupt the action when you're there live.

So, if you're home for the game, here's our guide to making the most out of it.

Halfback screen

There's no reason to skip in this category. If you have a great television already, cool. If you're thinking about getting a new one anyway, then you might as well buy a good one.

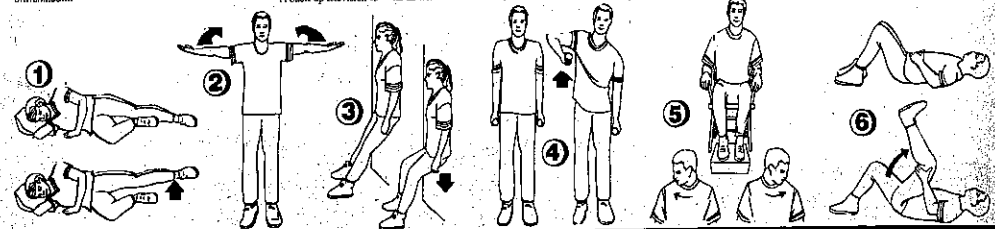
Sure, you could go to Wal-Mart and buy some 27-inch model, but why not just spend a few extra bills? Televisions are falling in price thanks to the incredible jumps in technology.

Projection televisions are as low as ever, but the picture isn't nearly as crisp as plasma or high definition. With those, you'll probably flinch when a linebacker meets a runningback at the line of scrimmage.

ABC Warehouse in Novi is selling a 42-inch HDTV plasma TV for \$2,997 or a 50-inch Panasonic for \$3,999. If you just want a flat television, then grab the 47-inch Daewoo HDTV projection television for \$794.

Throw it up with some surround sound, which will add to the like and the cheese. Of course you'll have to listen to the announcers blab from every direction, too. Bowe is the way to go if you want to shell out \$3,000, but a strong Sony version is available, also at ABC Warehouse, for \$797.

A back-up television is



COUCH POTATO WORKOUT

1. Lateral leg "kick-out"
You'll need to move from the couch to the floor for this one. Lie on your side with a pillow under your head. Keep your stomach tight and bend your bottom knee toward your chest while extending your leg straight. Slowly lift your leg about six inches.

2. "Tuck Back" stretch
Stand on a non-slip surface with your back against a wall and your feet against a wall about 18 inches apart. Keep your feet 6-8

inches apart. Inhale as you keep your stomach in and head forward. Slowly slide your back down the wall to a near-sitting position. It is important to be sure that as you slide down your knees are behind or directly over your ankles. Exhale as you lower your body. Hold for 5-10 seconds and then return slowly to start.

3. "The Back Stretch"
Stand with your legs 6-8 inches apart. Stand with your legs 6-8

apart, a full, unopened can of soda in each hand and knees slightly bent. Tighten your stomach and keep your arms at your sides with your palms facing inward. Slowly bend at the waist to one side while you let the opposite arm bring the can up under your arm. Return to start. Repeat with opposite side.

4. "Red Bull" Back Rotation
Get off the couch and into a sturdy chair with your feet sup-

ported on the floor or a small footstool. Have your arms supported on the armrests and your shoulders down and relaxed. Keep your back supported against the back of the chair. Begin by gently looking in your chair, then slowly and gently turn your chin to your right shoulder. Keeping your chin as close to your chest as possible, slowly sweep back across your chest and to your left shoulder. Keep your shoulder level

Crackers with cheese and sliced pepperoni and summer sausage is a nice addition, giving fans a variety of snacks.

Don't forget the substantial. Fans can only survive on chips and crackers for the first few pre-game hours. Then, haul out the subs (cut into small, hand-held chunks), chicken wings, pizza and hot dogs.

Spinach dip? Fine. Baby spinach in a balsamic vinaigrette? Um, no. The only healthy food in the entire room should be veggies stacked on the sides.

The key is to keep the food close to the television so fans don't have to go far to load up.

The water boy

Wondering how much it takes to keep the fans satisfied as far as the beverages are concerned? Thinking of a keg? Well, you better have the Detroit Lions at your house as you'll never empty it. There are 31 gallons trapped inside there — that's 331 seltzers filled with 12 ounces of ale. A quarter barrel still provides over 50 glasses full, which should be plenty.

Of course, ordering it by the barrel leaves a very limited option. Smaller parties should consider going with a variety of six- or 12-packs for better selection. Once again, Meijer or Farmer Jacks are the way to go. Good selection and decent prices.

Don't forget to have wine coolers and lighter drinks on hand for those who were forced to come to the party by their football-fanatic significant others.

Apt. lastly, plenty of water, soda and juice should be available for the less-than-legal crowd.

Half-time hoopla

Let's just make one thing clear: There are no going to be any more half-time wardrobe surprises, ever. Unless

you're a die-hard Rolling Stones fan, there's really no reason to keep tuned in for half-time.

Just turn down the television and do some, bring fun. Grab some trivia cups, play a few games or take a moment to do some of the handy exercises we've listed below. And, of course, it's the perfect time for the much needed bathroom break, so get in line while you still can.

Be prepared

The beauty of the Super Bowl is that the excitement usually runs out long before the game does. About 90 percent of the games played in the Big Game are blowouts.

Have some cards handy and maybe a few people will know how to play Texas Hold 'Em or craps. If all else fails, blackjack, five-card stud and go fish are good alternatives.

Half the fun of a Super Bowl party is being with friends, family and fellow fans. Enjoy it and don't let it get ruined if one team starts whipping the other.

The aftermath

The day after the Super Bowl isn't going to be easy. There's probably still a mess at the house, the dog is still in hiding and there's an unidentified person sleeping on your couch.

But, maybe that can all change. White Castle (yes, home of the sliders and where Harold and Kumar went) is heading the Super Bowl a national holiday. C'mon, even senators, congressmen and the president probably don't want to go to work. Check out their Web site (www.whitecastle.com) to sign the petition!

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

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PEOPLE

Col Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext. 113 colstone@gannett.com fax (248) 349-9832

IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Aviator Shawn A. Laque has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the aviator studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received

physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, aviators who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Tracey Kobo of Novi and grandson of Dennis Morris of Walled Lake.

The aviator is a 2005 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Macprofessionals appoints Todd Tobin education account representative

Novi-based Macprofessionals announced the appointment of Todd Tobin to education account representative. In this role, Tobin is responsible for business development within school districts across southeast Michigan.

Tobin is a curriculum integration specialist. Among the services and products he supports include service contracts, training services, network support, deployments, and special education technologies.

Tobin has previously an account manager for Silver-Milton group in Livonia. He is a resident of Dearborn.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce honors board members

The Annual Meeting of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce was held Jan. 17 at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce Township. Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter provided the keynote speech.

At the event, board members celebrating milestone anniversaries were honored for their service to the chamber and to the Lakes Area business community.

James W. Pancy, publisher of the Spinal Column, West Oakland's Newsweek, was recognized for 25 years of service to the board.

Robert McElroy, secretary of the Commerce Township Planning Commission, was honored for 20 years of service on the board.

Jon Retherford, president of Goddard-Talmy Agency, Inc., Walled Lake, was honored for 20 years of service to the chamber.

Matt Burns, secretary/treasurer of the chamber since 1999, and a member of the accounting firm of Thomas M. Burns, Walled Lake, was honored for 10 years of service to the chamber.

Diane Allen, leisure travel manager with Hamilton Miller Hudson & Payne Travel Management Corporation, Southfield, was also honored for 10 years of service.

Joseph Dudak, vice president, Resource and Asset Management for International Transmission Company (ITC) in Novi, was introduced as the newest member of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce board. ITC transmits high-voltage electricity throughout southeastern Michigan, providing the gateway for energy delivery to the Midwest and Canada.

Automation Alley elects 2006 Board of Directors

Automation Alley, which drives the growth and image of Southeast Michigan's technology economy, elected six new members to its 2006 board of directors during its annual meeting at the Troy Marriott. The board of directors serve as key decision-makers within Automation Alley and play an instrumental role in the organization's growth, program development and member services. "Our board of directors includes some of Southeast Michigan's most experienced, influential and hard working

professionals," said Ken Rogers, executive director, Automation Alley. "The continued support of the region's technology, business and educational communities, as represented by our board, is a testament to the strength of Automation Alley and its members."

The newly-elected board members will serve a three-year term and include: Brian Balow, member, Dickson Wright; Ed Demom, president, Flint-Geneesee Economic Growth Alliance; Kathy Elston, vice president, Michigan marketing and sales, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Scott Gonnem, executive vice president, BMW Technologies; Dennis Herrick, senior vice president and CFO, Beaumont Hospital and Bob Nichols, vice president corporate relations and enrollment

at Kettering University. Jerry Rush, senior director, government and community affairs, ArvinMeritor, will remain in his position as president of Automation Alley throughout 2006.

Other remaining board members include: Stephen Cassin, executive director Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development; Macomb County; Deborah Huxley, director of business outreach, County of Wayne; Frederick Hoffman, state relations director, DaimlerChrysler Corp.; Claudia Killen, manager of economic development, General Motors Corp.; Brian Kurlinger, president and CEO, Analytical Process Systems; Gary Mayo, director government affairs and corporate responsibility, Visteon Corp.; Brian McConally, executive vice president of finance, Texco Engineering Inc.; Charlie Pryde, government relations officer, Ford Motor Company; Ken Rogers, executive director, Automation Alley; Dennis Tuffolo, deputy county executive, Oakland County; John Voorhorst, vice president, Denso International America, Inc. and Peter Zeller, business development representative, City of Detroit/Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

Quicken Loans Announces Promotions

Quicken Loans has promoted Lori Swarthout of Novi. Swarthout, a Plymouth native, achieved a bachelor's degree in international business from the University of Michigan. Swarthout is in 1992 and a master's degree in finance from Walsh College in 1996.

She joined Quicken Loans in February 2005. Swarthout was promoted to senior mortgage banker where she assists clients with their home purchase or refinancing needs.

Architect resigns

Novi landscape architect Lance Shipman said his good-byes last Friday as he made the decision to open a new chapter in his professional career elsewhere.

Shipman spent close to three years with the Novi Planning Department and said in his letter of resignation that it was time to make a change. Shipman informed Novi officials he would like to make filling his position a smooth transition. There is no word on who Shipman's replacement will be.

ENGAGEMENTS



Baront-Dennis

Biff and Pat Baront of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Ashley Baront, to Michael Raymond Dennis, son of Elaine and Roy Dennis of Tronton.

The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Northville High School. She is currently attending Schoolcraft College, graduating May 2006, with an associates degree in business. She is employed at CVS, Northville.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Trenon High School and is currently employed as a manager of CVS, Plymouth.

A June 2006 wedding is planned.



Abbott-Petrella

Phyllis Abbott of Novi and Bruce and Becky Abbott of Florida announce the engagement of their son, Bradley Joseph Abbott, to Gwyn Christine Petrella, daughter of Cheryl and Mike Wilkins of Davison and Dexter Petrella of Grand Blanc. The bride-elect is a 1988 graduate of Novi High School and a 1990 "graduate" of Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He is currently employed as a Senior Mortgage Advisor with First Horizon Home Loans, Brighton.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Goodrich High School. She graduated in 2001 from the University of Michigan, Cooley Law School. She is currently an Attorney in Grand Blanc.

A September 2006 wedding is planned.

OBITUARY

FAITH R. HOGE

Age 90 of Novi, passed away January 28, 2006. A funeral service was held Wednesday at Casteline Funeral Home, Inc. of Northville. Mrs. Hoge was laid to rest at Grand Lane Cemetery in Detroit.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$1 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.

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

For more information, call 800-999-1288 or contact your funeral home. *Daily deadlines are subject to change.

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Share your life, share your decision. Michigan Coalition on donation

Organ & Tissue

COALITION ON DONATION
Share your life, share your decision



Calls for help

Novi Police dispatchers say jobs are never predictable

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi Police Dispatcher Justin Short never knows when he might answer a suicide-related call. "It's never predictable," he said. "It could happen today. It could happen tomorrow."

Short said dispatchers often see patterns, with more suicide-related calls coming around the holidays — Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter.

"Valentine's Day is another one if there are hardships going on in the relationship, such as people losing their jobs."

He said such calls do have some effect on dispatchers. "It's very hard to talk to someone who wants to end their life, and then find out it did happen," Short said.

Sometimes dispatchers are able to get police in route and save a life; other times calls hang up.

"We only have so much control over what happens," Short said.

Cathy Rich, the newest dispatcher, who started in May 2005, said their intensive training helps when they have to take such a call.

"You shadow a dispatcher, and then they gradually have you do things after."

you've watched them," she said.

"You listen to phone calls and kind of get a feel for the type of calls that come in," she said.

She can range from a lost animal complaint to a possible suicide and worse.

Dispatchers are under constant supervision, work different shifts and are eventually on their own. The training program takes about a year.

Classroom instruction includes gun and hostage negotiation. "Even your tone over the radio can affect these situations," Rich said.

What they learn

When it comes to dealing with suicide calls, Short said, "They try to teach you how to build a rapport, how to become instant friends, how to communicate with them and make them feel at ease until we can get someone there."

One of the toughest parts in dealing with suicide-related calls is focusing on that call, especially when it's busy.

"You are focused on that call," Rich said. "You have to stay with that person, because it could affect the outcome."

Although she's not had a sui-



Novi Police 911 dispatcher Kelly Mesh and her fellow telecommunicators who take emergency calls occasionally have to answer calls from individuals who are suicidal.

cide-related call yet, Rich said that if and when she does, she'll be able to handle it.

"It's just a matter of talking to the person and getting as much information as you can without making them scared or defensive and getting officers out there as soon as possible."

The Novi Police Department has 12 dispatchers and four shift leaders, who work one of four shifts. Day-shift dispatchers work 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., while the night shift staff works 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The busiest times on night shift is usually from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., especially in the summer when school's out.

What they think about

When it comes to an attempted suicide, dispatch has to be concerned not only about the person on the other end of the phone but also the officers in route.

"Does this person have a weapon? Are they maybe going to shoot themselves? Who else is in the home? There are a lot of things that you have to look at," Rich said.

"If somebody is seriously considering suicide, they're going to find a way to do it. And you want to make sure that they don't take anybody with them."

Barb Fritz, who has been with the department for 14 years and is a shift leader, talked for 45 minutes to a South Lyon man who barricaded himself in his home with a gun.

"He was shooting up his house because he was distraught over a divorce," she said. The depart-

ment's crisis management team talked to him and got him to come out.

"I had a girl who came downstairs and found her mother shot," Fritz said. "The mother shot herself and then tried to kill her husband."

Barb Dombrowski has worked dispatch 20 years; Donna Roy has worked there 23 years. Dombrowski remembers an incident involving a man who tried to commit suicide by cutting his neck with a chain saw.

"That was probably the most bizarre call that I've ever had," Dombrowski said. "The man had cut his neck from side to side, but I do believe he lived. That's the bad part — a lot of times we don't find out the outcome."

Rich said. "Our goal is just to get the police out there as soon as possible," Marzoff said.

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Dispatchers say it's co-workers who help them

It's a job you can't take home

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

We all deal with job-related stress from time to time. But how do police dispatchers not take their jobs home with them?

Most of them will tell you that it takes a special type of person to be a dispatcher. And an important part of the job is trying to not let your job get to you.

Novi Police Dispatcher Justin Short said experience and talking to fellow dispatchers helps them forget about disturbing calls.

"Over the nine years, I've been able to control that," Short said. "You watch your co-workers and learn from them."

He came from a dispatch job in Allegheny County, Pa., before moving to Novi.

"We had a lot more homicides, shootings and stabbings," he said. "We were averaging one a night in certain areas."

"You learn to deal with this over the years," Short said. "You see how your co-workers react, how they put a call behind them, pick up the next call and start right over again."

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here," said dispatcher Kellie Marzoff.

"Some calls get under your skin, especially those involving children."

However, all of the dispatchers seem to like their job.

"I think the first five years that you're in this job are the hardest that you will ever have," she said.

"But if you didn't like this job, I don't think you'd be here very long," she added. "I really enjoy my work."

Leanne Summers, who has been a dispatcher for three years, said she's taken the suicide intervention class a couple of times.

The class teaches you how to deal with distraught callers in general," she said.

Janet Kaplan, Novi police dispatcher, said she's been a dispatcher for two years and was a dispatcher for more than nine years in Billings, Mont., which is about twice the size of Novi.

Although she hasn't had any suicide-related calls in Novi, she had several while she was in Billings.

Kaplan said suicide intervention training is key to helping someone on the other end of the line.

"You learn how to relate to people human to human," she said.

She also said that talking with her co-workers is the best way to deal with a troubling call.

"The only people who really understand are your co-workers," Kaplan said.

"We talk to one another, and we watch out for each other," Short said. "This is a team, and that's what it's all about — working as a team and backing each other up."

That's what really helps a lot of us. I can trust my co-workers to back me up and to help me if I've got a problem."

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Group gives two kinds of comfort

Mihistry is first of three for Faith Presbyterian

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

First there was the Star Wars Trilogy, and now this.

The Faith Community Presbyterian Church has unveiled the first of three new ministries set to improve and update services.

It's called HandiCrafters: a group of women who belong to the church and have begun knitting prayer shawls for those who are hospitalized or who are just going through a difficult time.

"This came about because we

wanted to reach out to some of the people in our church," said Jani Martin, director of family ministry. "We also make prayer scarves for our graduating high school seniors."

The shawls and scarves are being presented during worship. As they're being knitted, the people receiving them are being prayed for.

"We give prayer scarves to the parents and have them place it on the child," Martin said. "It gives the love from the church and the parents to the child as they make this next big step in their lives."

The church is also looking to update itself with different types of banners, and ways to make the atmosphere restful.

"We have several different things in the works, some that we haven't even started yet," said Martin.

Martin brought the idea of prayer scarves to the church after seeing prayer quilts being made at a church she used to attend. After determining there were more knitters than quilts at Faith Community, the idea was born.

The ladies meet quarterly, but their projects are ongoing. They work on their knitting at home because it's an activity they can do without having to be at the church.

"That way you can share in the ministry without having to commit to another meeting," said Martin. "It's a way to reach out with prayer. We tell people when they put the scarf on or the prayer shawl on, that the prayers of the church are with them and to remember they're not forgotten."

"It's a physical sign of the support the church can give people," she said. "It makes me feel really

prayer scarves to the church after seeing prayer quilts being made at a church she used to attend. After determining there were more knitters than quilts at Faith Community, the idea was born.

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HEALTH

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

Seniors finding the fountain of youth

■ Active life means more years

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

John Treanor walks four miles a day to stay young.

The 82-year-old Northville Township resident believes staying active is the key to finding the fountain of youth.

"What are (seniors) doing?" They're sitting at home watching television," Treanor said. "They need to get more involved, because as long as you stay active, you'll be happy all the time."

Treanor said exercise is the key to good health.

"I would like to see more seniors get involved," he said. "I'd like to see more dancing."

Rachel Zagari, senior services manager for the Novi Senior

Center, said the key ingredient to a longer life is both physical and mental activities. "Seniors have to do other things than just sitting at home," Zagari said. "We offer activities like tennis, volleyball, table tennis and a walking club to keep the mind and body active."

Zagari said when it comes to senior involvement, there is something for everyone.

Living life to the fullest

"I can't sit around all day," said Mary Arlington. "I'd rather be up and doing things than sitting at home."

The 78-year-old Northville Township resident said she participates in several activities in Northville and surrounding communities.

"My wife died 5 years ago and I was very lonely when I lost her," he said. "But I figured it wasn't my time, so I had to move on."

"So I met new people and am living my life to the fullest. When you sit on the couch and watch televi-

sion you have no energy. I want to keep living, so I don't sit on that couch anymore."

Dennis Smith said the Northville Senior Community Center has plenty of activities for seniors who want to stay young.

"People just need to take advantage of the opportunities," said the senior adult service program supervisor. "It's up to them to make the initiative."

Novi Senior Community Center

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414
Events hotline: (248) 347-0473 press no. 5
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

The Northville Senior Community Center offers several exercise classes and opportunities for seniors to learn about their health.

"Some (seniors) have told us they need something to do," Smith said. "We offer several volunteer opportunities - they just want something to keep them busy. It's a reason to

YOUR HEALTH

Nurse anesthetists become patients' eyes and ears during surgery

For many, the knowledge of impending surgery can be worrisome. Thoughts of cold operating rooms, keeping monitors, masked faces and sharp instruments all add to the unease. The reassuring news is that an expert anesthesia provider will keep you safe and comfortable during your procedure. More often than not, that expert will be a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

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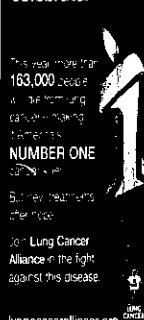
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FIT FOR LIFE - DON'T FALL FOR THE NEXT FAD DIET

The low fat and low carb trends have finally passed. Can we all try being sensible now?

Magazines like *Good Housekeeping* claim "lose 10 pounds this month!"

AOL tells its subscribers via e-mail that it's time to lose weight.

NBC recently rolled out a special edition of *The Biggest Loser*.

Weight loss tips have been on every channel since the day after Christmas.

Yes, it's that familiar time of year following the holidays called the "diet season" - the

time of year when more than 76 million Americans set their sights on losing 30-50 pounds or more, as soon as possible.

Americans spend more than \$33 billion a year on diet books, foods, programs, etc.

Well, you may have heard about it in the news. The company that marketed the widespread "Low Carb" fad diet recently declared bankruptcy. We in the industry have gone ahead and officially announced that another diet trend has come and gone.

So what will you and the other 75,999,000 Americans do this year to really make some lasting positive weight changes?

Before you jump on to some unrealistic plan or program or send in for that magic pill consider the sobering news: After decades of dieting, about two-thirds of the American popula-

tion still remains overweight, some 30 percent are obese, and more than half of them are dieting.

The patterns from the ongoing National Weight Control Registry should help you adopt some winning steps. This source tracks people who have lost 30 pounds or more and maintained the loss for at least a year. There are some 5000 people in the registry, most eat a lower calorie diet, record their food intake, and move or exercise at least an hour a day or more.

Here's the bottom line: Try to eat as healthily as you can, but at the end of the day, when it comes to weight loss, it doesn't matter what you eat or when you eat it. What does matter is the difference between the calories you take in and the calories you burn. The best way to control

this is through reducing traditional meal and snack sizes and eating small meals throughout the day. And, if you eat a little more in a day than you should have, that's OK - just be sure to move a little more that day.

When I say move I am talking about anything that burns at least three calories a minute, and the list is endless - from walking the dog to cleaning house to shoveling snow. If you happen to move less one day, just be sure to eat less that day.

Don't make it a fad; make it a lifestyle. It is that simple!

Chris Klebba owns and operates the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville, and is a certified fitness trainer, regular columnist and public speaker. For more information call (248) 449-7634 or go to www.waterwheel.com.



Chris Klebba

Loser, and weight loss tips have been on every channel since the day after Christmas.

Visit us on the Web: www.novnews.com

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

Washington, D.C. - A Carpal Tunnel Syndrome hotline has recently revealed a "missing" location that is often overlooked by many physicians when they diagnose and treat their carpal tunnel and wrist pain. To discover what your doctor may not know about carpal tunnel syndrome, call the carpal tunnel/wrist pain hotline toll-free at 1-800-233-9372 (24 hr. recorded message) or go to www.freesrtpaininfo.com.

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SENIORS

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Photo by JOHN HEIDERMAN/Novi News
Waltonwood Senior Community Center resident Robert Miles tries out some of the equipment in the center's new fitness room.

No pressure

Air resistance helps seniors get into shape

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Fitness coordinator Terry Dibble wants to make sure the seniors at Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks are physically fit and healthy.

Dibble came to Waltonwood in November to help build the community's fitness center, which celebrated its grand opening Monday.

"What we have done is put together strength training equipment that is senior friendly to help keep them active," he said. "The goal is quality of life, and it's important to keep our independent living residents healthy and strong."

With the purchase of HUR exercise equipment from Finland, Dibble is sure more and more residents will be inspired to join the program.

resistance is all dependent on how much pressure you put on it."

Dibble said there are "no weights involved."

Dibble is currently working with all five Waltonwood senior communities to introduce new exercise programs.

"We also have a Tai Chi and posture and balance class, which is a good way for the seniors to interact with each other."

"A number of our seniors at Twelve Oaks don't normally take part in our programs," said the regional manager of operations and marketing. "But it seems they really want to know about the fitness equipment."

"We've started some residents on the machines prior to the opening," he said. "We've gotten a good response from everyone, and I think they're really enjoy it."

"We have started some residents on the machines prior to the opening," he said. "We've gotten a good response from everyone, and I think they're really enjoy it."

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

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 23	8:45 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast	1-3 p.m. - "Ask the Lawyer" with Eric Glick, by appointment
9 a.m. - Stretch and Strength	2-3:30 p.m. - Message	
10 a.m. - Body Recall		
11 a.m. - Lunch		
12:30 p.m. - Dupli Bridge		
12:30 p.m. - Bingo		
2-2:30 p.m. - Message		
Monday 26	9 a.m. - Stretch and Strength	
10 a.m. - Body Recall		
11:30 a.m. - Goodie Lady		
12:30 p.m. - Lunch		
12:30 p.m. - Pinocchio		
2-2:30 p.m. - Message		
6:30 p.m. - Cloggin'		
Thursday 29	9 a.m. - Line Dance	
9 a.m. - Medicine Assistance by appointment		
10 a.m. - Income Taxes by appointment		
11 a.m. - Computer Lab open		
12:30 p.m. - Lunch		
12:30 p.m. - Cloggin'		
Friday 30	8:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast	
9 a.m. - Coffee and Conversation		
10 a.m. - Line Dance		
11 a.m. - Asian Pacific		
12:30 p.m. - Lunch		
12:30 p.m. - Bingo		

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

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OPINION

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Novi News

Cal Stone

Grace Peret Perry
GENERAL MANAGERRichard Periberg
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

WHERE WE STAND

Novi Youth Assistance: A cause worthy of your support

One has to love it when a new business comes to town and immediately jumps into community involvement head first. That's the case with Bonefish Grill, whose managing partner is Brian O'Hara.

The new restaurant, located in the southwest corner of the Novi Town Center, is hosting a fund-raiser for Novi Youth Assistance tomorrow from 6-8:30 p.m.

The event has been sold out, but we've just learned that a limited number of tickets became available. And just \$25 per person for two drinks, appetizers and a main course tasting, it's a win-win. All proceeds will go to the NYA program.

For those unfamiliar with Novi Youth Assistance, it's another one of those little gems that make this community shine. It's a joint effort between the Oakland County Probate Court/Circuit Court-Family Division, the Novi School District and the city of Novi dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect.

NYA is made up of volunteers who are assisted by a professional staff in providing positive growth experiences for families through a number of services: education, youth recognition, summer recreation, scholarships, mentoring and counseling.

It works. Be a part of the solution and pick up some of the few remaining tickets for Friday's charity event. Call Gail O'Connor at (248) 449-1713 or e-mail gaoconnor@novi12.mi.us.

Corrections / Clarifications:

In last week's business feature, "Kicked up taste," the incorrect phone number was given for Ya Ya's Flame Broiled Chicken. The correct number is (248) 374-9292.

In last week's Your Novi Neighbors feature, "Meet the only known rabbi in the Novi/Northville area," contact information for Rabbi Avraham Susskind was inadvertently left out. He can be reached at (248) 790-6075 or novijewishcenter@gmail.com.



Looking up, looking back
In the atrium of the Novi Civic Center, steps from his office, city manager Richard Helwig talks about his pending retirement. See the full story on page 4A.

Photo by JORDI HEDER/Novi News

3 NFL greats in Novi

A ticket to the Big Game Sunday? Yeah, right. Up until last week, I was wondering where, or even if, I'd be watching the Super Bowl on television. Thankfully, some friends (probably with a sweet TV) came to the rescue, but better late than never.

For example, just an hour or so before this week's paper went to press, I received a phone call and fax from a Sprint representative about an event that I think readers — at least football fans — will definitely want to know about.

From 6-8 p.m. tonight, Lucky's in the Fountain Walk mall will host three of the great football players to ever strap on a helmet: Steve Young, Emmitt Smith and, yes, Barry Sanders. If I have to further explain why any of these gentlemen are, then you better skip down to Tracy's column right now.

It's billed as a "town hall meeting" hosted by ESPN's Mike Tirico. "Those in attendance will have an opportunity to interact directly with the three former NFL greats with a question and answer session," according to the press release.

Afterwards, everyone will have an opportunity to meet the players and have their photographs taken with them. It's only open to about 200 individuals on a first-come, first-served basis, but it's free to the general public.

If you're an autograph hound, sorry — none will be given. The event will be repeated Friday night at the Novi Family YMCA in downtown Detroit (1401 Broadway Ave.).

I don't know how Lucky's landed this one, but it's just another testament to how happening this city is becoming. Of course, the Taste of the NFL (see page 5A) will be held Saturday at the Rock Financial Showplace. The local hotels are sold out (see page 1A), and the eBay auction of these 40 celebrity NFL footballs on display at Twelve Oaks Mall will conclude at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Novi's looking Super, but that's not news, is it?

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

Steelers, Seahawks — Who cares? It's the commercials we want

There are two types of Super Bowl fans: the die-hard football buffs or the over-the-top commercial viewers.

Whichever category you fall into, there is simply no way to avoid the once-a-year hype known simply as Super Bowl commercials.

This Sunday, millions will tune in to watch the Pittsburgh Steelers

take on the Seattle Seahawks. Although the bulk of men will swear they're only watching the game, they can't help but take notice of the side-sipping Budweiser ads and the controversial GoDaddy.com girl, Candice Michelle.

The Super Bowl has become the number one time slot on television for companies to promote their products. Each year, the cost to advertise goes up, from \$2.5 million last year to \$2.6 million this year.

According to Admatics.com, Anheuser-Busch will air 10 com-

mercials during the game at 30 seconds a piece for a mere \$26 million.

The reality behind spending so much money on commercials during the Super Bowl is that more people actually remember the advertisements (and therefore mal-

functions) over and over again. The winning field goal in the fourth quarter.

There have been issues with past Super Bowl commercials and halftime shows, and if league executives seem to act more offensively than defensively, they have a billion reasons why.

The Super Bowl is and always will be a gold mine, and no matter who is playing, the real money comes with what the people want to see.

This year's road to 40 will not only feature quarterbacks and tight ends on the field, but also cellular phones, monkeys and pizza off the field.

Although big game advertisers like McDonald's and Visa are expected to spend their money on the Olympic time slots, viewers can still look forward to seeing Pizza Hut, Dove and CareerBuilder.com sometime during the game.

According to a survey taken in January by the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association, 34.5 million American consumers believe the Super Bowl commercials are the most important component, while others watch the game primarily to socialize with friends.

Although I can't speak for everyone, I know a little bit about football, but I would rather watch the commercials.

For those looking for a little pre-game commercial insight, more than 27 brands will be featured during this year's Super Bowl.

Pizza Hut, Warner Bros. and Burger King are sure to be some heavy hitters according to the 2006 advertising scoreboard from Adage.com.

When it comes down to crunch time this weekend, pay attention, take notes and remember the memorable moments from Super Bowl XL at Ford Field in downtown Detroit: the commercials and the Rolling Stone's halftime show.

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

LETTERS

Don't Delay

This week, House Republicans in Washington, D.C. will select a replacement for Tom DeLay as Majority Leader. All three candidates, Roy Blunt (Missouri), John Boehner (Ohio), and John Studdard (Arizona) claim to carry the banner for reform. But close examination shows they are cut from the same cloth as DeLay.

Blunt was DeLay's right-hand man, collecting millions from corporate interests for his political fund and voting their way 90 percent of the time. Boehner is known in DC as the "traffic cop" for the business community. And Studdard boasts that he took only \$4,250 from DeLay's PAC. Lucky for us, Representative Mike Rogers (R-Brighon, Mich.) took his bat out of the ring, since he received three times this amount from DeLay, and voted 95 percent of the time Tom's way.

Let's not wait for our Republican legislators to clean up corruption in Washington. Let's put them out of business in November.

Donna Glowacki
Lake Orion

Redistricting not new

In regards to the redistricting subject that has consumed the Novi School Board Meetings — I have watched both meetings and not once has the following been mentioned. Back in 1998 the Novi School District was in the same situation it is now, we were overcrowded and needed to redistrict. In 1998 a group of concerned parents, teachers, administrators and community members met many, many hours getting the word out to the community, campaigning for a bond that would provide additional improvements to the High School and at the same time provide the funds to build a "neighborhood" school not a "magnet" school. In March of 1998 the citizens voted and approved this bond for a "neighborhood" school, then the game plan changed and a committee was formed to decide what kind of school, thus Deerfield.

This should have never happened, but it did and now look where we are at — right back at square one. I have to believe that if a vote was taken today the results would be the same. The majority wanting a "neighborhood" school.

As of 9/30/05, the attendance at the five

elementary schools totaled 2,330. Deerfield makes up 497 plus 70 on the waiting list (per the Detroit Free Press). So, give or take a few, it looks like 1,763 students have parents that are not waiting to get into Deerfield and are very, very happy with their "neighborhood" school.

In regards to the communication of "redistricting," this is not a new topic. Redistricting has been on the table since 1998, it should have been done then, but wasn't and now is the time, we cannot wait any longer. We need to do it and be done with it.

In regards to the Board not communicating to the public, I think one of the biggest things in Novi is that the parents don't get involved until it affects them personally. There is all kinds of communication out there as to what is going on in the district at all levels, if only parents would take the time to obtain it. My daughters are now in high school — but I still care what goes on at all levels in the district.

Michelle Sankovic
Proud Parent of two Orchard Hills Alumni

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. **Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 **E-mail:** cstone@gannett.com **Fax to:** (248) 349-9832

COMMENTARY

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

Gov's speech offers new ideas

Anybody who doubts the political smarts of Gov. Jennifer Granholm would do well to look carefully at the State of the State address she delivered last week.

Other politicians in her shoes might have approached this speech with dread, for the state of the state is not, by any measure, anything to brag about. The governor is saddled with a terrible economy, a formidable (and fund-raising well-insured) Republican opposition and a GOP-dominated legislature that will do anything and everything it can to make her life difficult.

Yet Granholm responded with a speech that was both masterfully delivered and which showed a street-level understanding of the probable electoral landscape come November.

As you listened to her speech, you could see her systematically clicking through a list of likely political targets, be they Democratic, independent or moderate Republican.

She laid something for workers for small companies; for poor people without health insurance; workers scraping along on the minimum wage; college-bound kids and their parents; K-12 students and their families; and entrepreneurs and venture capital types.

She knows perfectly well that the legislature is not about to approve any of her proposals, but politically, that won't hurt her a bit.

Wasn't it Harry Truman who laid out a similar set of challenges and won an upset victory for President in 1948 by campaigning against "a do-nothing Republican Congress?"

Let's consider Granholm's main proposals, and to whom they are likely to appeal.

• She called for a new 401(k)-type savings retirement plan for employees of small businesses that don't offer pensions. Her idea was that the state should set up the apparatus for the program without kicking in any matching funds.

"People shouldn't be counting on

Social Security for their retirement nest egg," State Treasurer Jay Rising told the Detroit News. "We know that 60 percent of firms with 25 employees or less offer no 401(k)."

Hard to see how conservative voters can argue against this. For years, Republicans have asserted that workers should take more individual responsibility for their own retirement.

• The governor proposed creating a health insurance pool for the 850,000 working poor who have no health care coverage. That proposal will need approval from both the state and the legislature.

That will take months, even assuming a tiny sliver of good will and willingness to work together on the part of the legislature (hah!).

There was no clue as to what this would cost, or where the money would come from. But the half million plus Michigan folks affected certainly are not going to blame their governor for standing up for them — or reward the GOP for sneaking at the idea.

• Likewise the low-wage workers who would stand to benefit by an increased minimum wage. Granholm proposed increasing the wage by nearly \$2 an hour to \$6.85, effective January, 2007. And she pledged to lead a campaign to place the issue on the statewide ballot this fall. What a wonderful way to appeal to union voters to turn out strong in the middle of a tough campaign.

• College-bound kids and their parents, both increasingly concerned about increases in tuition, will be pleased by Granholm's proposal to re-jigger the Merit Scholarship program to award a full \$4,000 to students who complete two years of college.

There's more than politics lurking behind this one. In comparison with other states, Michigan's labor force falls far behind in percentage of workers with college degrees, and four grand for kids who stick it out for two years should be a pretty good incentive.

The prospect of a much tougher school curriculum — including four years

of English and math, two of social studies and science and two years of a foreign language — might make kids in school nervous.

But most of them can't vote yet — and their parents, at least, are by now beginning to realize that merely getting a high school diploma without really knowing anything is hardly the route to a secure economic future for their children.

They'll look kindly on the governor's proposal. (Even the Republicans are unlikely to stop this one.)

• The rapidly growing health sciences sector in Michigan cannot but be enthused at her call for repealing current medieval state restrictions on stem cell research that could lead to cures for diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

A fair number of companies that might locate in Michigan have said they won't come as long as the legislature's head-in-the-sand attitude toward scientific research persists.

The overall picture is clear. If the major purpose of a politician's life and career is to get reelected, Governor Granholm did a mighty fine job of preparing for political conflict coming this fall.

The only sad thing is that nowhere in her speech did she tackle the really fundamental issues facing Michigan and its urgent need to restructure our hemorrhaging economy. Those include the chronic structural state budget deficit, now at well over \$1 billion per year; and the archaic, arcane and business-unfriendly Single Business Tax.

Worst of all may be the many cuts higher education has suffered in recent years, which have damaged the launch pad for creative innovation on which our economic future depends.

I know, I know. The governor knows perfectly well she won't get anywhere banging her head against a legislature and a political system that is both unable and unwilling to deal with these issues. But sooner or later, somebody's got to. And as Moses could have told her, sometimes a leader just has to lead.

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

BUSINESS

Tower reorganizes

Novi-based Tower Automotive's top priority is to develop a plan of reorganization that permits its U.S. operations to exit from bankruptcy as a profitable, competitive automotive supplier. This will enable us to continue supporting our customers and offering our colleagues valued employment because the only real job security is to be competitive. This can only come with sacrifice from all key parties.

Salvage and non-union colleagues have already made concessions totaling \$32 million annually. We need our union colleagues to participate in a fair and equitable manner or many jobs will be jeopardized. While we know these concessions are difficult, they are some of the necessary actions to ensure that Tower's Plan of reorganization is successful in a very competitive environment.

Tower Automotive remains committed to negotiate with its unions outside of the court process. Tower Automotive remains ready to meet at any time with its unions to negotiate a settlement.

Getting ready to build

General contracting firm Oliver/Hatcher is setting its sights on square construction in Novi.

The 30,000 square-foot building, located on Meadowbrook Road south of 12 Mile, is scheduled for completion in September. It will have two tenants and plenty of room for Oliver/Hatcher's staff to grow.

The firm is perhaps best known for building the Brownstown Business Center off I-75, a distribution center with nine buildings totaling more than 1 million square feet. Its single biggest project was the \$45 million renovation project at the Warren Tank Plant.

Oliver/Hatcher is managing construction of distribution centers in Orion Township and Lansing for New York City-based Ashley Capital LLC, which owns the Brownstown Business Center and is the largest industrial developer in Michigan with buildings totaling 13 million square feet.

Send us your business news!

Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you wearing up your grand opening? Is your business looking for an exciting new product? Celebrating an anniversary of moving? If so, we want to know. Send your business briefs to:

Business News

Novi News

104 W. Main

Northville, MI 48167

or e-mail to:

cstone@gannett.com

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

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

Beautiful your Valentine

Salone Nadwa and Day Spa is offering men a contest they will love. In 100 words or less, Salone Nadwa officials want you to explain why their ladies should be beautified at Salone Nadwa and Day Spa on Valentine's Day.

Salone Nadwa will select the lucky lady who will receive a day at the spa including a facial, massage, manicure and pedicure, hair care treatment, along with a hair-style and make-up application. This is a \$340 value.

Entries should be sent to: Valentine's Day contest, Salone Nadwa and Day Spa, 43230 Eleve Mile, Novi Town Center, Novi, MI 48375. The deadline to enter is Monday. Entries may also be dropped off at the front desk.

The Jeep Commander in History contest is open to all seventh graders. Students are asked to submit an essay with their thoughts on the following: choose one of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial presidents and explain what you feel was his most important contribution to the history of the United States, or what advice would you give the current president and future commanders in history that would support America's ideals of freedom? For additional information and complete contest rules, visit the Web site: www.jeepcommanderhistory.com.

Funding for Automation Alley

Automation Alley recently announced it received \$92,000 in state funding to expand its capabilities to attract, grow and retain technology focused businesses in Southeast Michigan.

The state acknowledged Automation Alley as a Southeast Michigan Information Security Regional Skills Alliance (MIRSA) recipient. MIRSA is a regional and industry-hosted partnership among employers, educational institutions, training providers, economic development organizations, and public workforce system agencies.

Automation Alley will receive the funding to implement a number of goals, including identifying career ladder opportunities within the information security industry, identify opportunities for Southeast Michigan businesses in information security development, provide information to K-12 students through 12th grade students regarding information security careers and provide timely and accurate information to adult learners regarding information security careers.

Remington Hotel Corporation, the premier service provider to the hospitality industry, has announced that it has been selected by JBC Bank to provide Property Management services to the 217-room Doubletree Hotel Novi near I-96.

Mark A. Sharkey, Chief Operating Officer of Remington, said, "The Doubletree Hotel Novi is the third Doubletree-branded property in our management portfolio. Remington has a long track record with the brand, and we are pleased to have been selected to manage the hotel and look forward to implementing our proven company revenue and satisfaction, for our guests and the operating performance for our client."

Remington is one of the largest independent hotel service companies in the U.S. The company currently has property, project and asset management assignments from coast to coast for many of the world's leading hotel owners and developers.

Commanders in history

President's Day, celebrated on Feb. 20, honors those who have served in the most powerful position in the world. However, nearly 90 percent of Americans can't name the four famous presidential faces carved into the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, according to a Jeep/Goodman study.

To shine the spotlight on our commanders in chief, the Jeep brand, which includes several dealer locations, including Novi's Suburban Chrysler Jeep on Haggerty, developed the Jeep Commander in History essay contest, an educational program to encourage America's youth to take an earnest interest in our nation's deep history and the legacy of our founding fathers. The contest also celebrates the launch of the all-new Jeep Commander, which includes the 65th anniversary of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, an icon of American history and the commanders in chief.

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Raising money

Petland shares nationwide, including the Novi location, raised more than \$28,000 for charity dedicated to finding cures for childhood cancer.

More than 60 corporate Petland employees were arrested in January and charged with kindness by a judge from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Petland stores nationwide were called to help the employees make bail, set at more than \$21,000, the amount raised last year.

Compiled by Tracy Misher

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Wednesday, May 10, 6-8pm

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CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@pennnet.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9622

EVENTS

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-4410

Art Show

TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 7-Friday, March 11
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: "A Quest for Hope and Recovery" is a collection of original artwork by local artists and cancer survivors. The show is free and open to the public.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

City of Wixom 4th Annual Wine Tasting

DATE: Friday, Feb. 10
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: This event is for ages 21 and up. Merchant's Fine Wine will bring wines and cheeses from around the United States. A buffet table including breads, assorted crackers and fruits will be available. The cost is \$25 per person; registration deadline is 3 p.m., Feb. 8.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2890

Valentine Dinner Dance

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 11
TIME: 6 p.m.-midnight
LOCATION: Baker's Restaurant, South Mill Road, Milford
DETAILS: Silent Hands, a non-profit Christian organization, is hosting this event. This charity provides temporary assistance to families in need in the area. Tickets are \$50 per person and includes a buffet dinner, silent auction, door prizes and "The Notekinders" performing.
CONTACT: Mary Davis, (248) 684-3338

Valentine's Ball

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 11

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Sheraton Hotel
Novi, 21111 Haggerty Road
DETAILS: The Philippine American Community Center of Michigan is hosting the 2nd annual Valentine's Ball. The speaker will be Dr. Sook Wilkison, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Americans.
CONTACT: For further information or tickets call Fred Pate, Executive Director, (248) 440-7037.

Northville Genealogical Society

DATE: Sunday, Feb. 12
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St.
DETAILS: Kathy March will speak on "History of Novi".
CONTACT: Grace Wilfong, (248) 349-9609 or visit www.rootsweb.com/novis

Sudan: War in Darfur

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 14
TIME: 6-8 p.m.
LOCATION: The Northville/Novi American Association of University Women (AAUW) invites participants to come and discuss foreign policy topics. At the conclusion, opinion ballots are distributed, information gathered will be presented to the White House, Department of Defense and U.S. Congress.
CONTACT: Beth Ann Kneisley, (248) 305-8992

American Cancer Society Relay For Life Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 22
TIME: 6-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main St., Northville
DETAILS: This meeting is for residents to learn more about Relay For Life. The Northville-Novi Relay will be May 20-21, Ford Field, Northville.
CONTACT: Barb Iwan, (248) 483-4317

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesday

TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 39445 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 9
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 25549 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

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Certification Orientation

Session for Women Business Owners
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23
TIME: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a workshop for businesses at least \$1 per person, operated and controlled by women, needing resources to help expand and finance business growth. The fee is \$25 per person, including all materials. Registration required.
How to Write a Business Plan
DATE: Thursday, March 9
TIME: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The fee is \$40 and includes materials.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Line Dancing

DATE: every Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-8:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novis residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.
CONTACT: (248) 348-4116

Walled Lake Community Education Seminar

DATE: Monday, Feb. 27 and Wednesday, March 1
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Walled Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute will offer this seminar, "Basement Remodeling." The instructor will explain many facets of basement remodeling including space planning, meeting building codes, insurance, permits, estimating materials as well as the basics of construction. The seminar costs \$99 plus \$10 for textbook and materials payable to teacher. Space's discount is half of the tuition. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, Feb. 23 to Walled Lake Community Education, (248) 956-5000, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45345 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Etiquette Program

DATE: Today
TIME: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Etiquette experts from the Charnelle School are offering this class on social etiquette and manners for ages 5-8. Class size is limited to 25 children. The cost is \$15 per child, payable the day of the program. Registration is required.

Snack Tales

DATE: Monday, Feb. 6
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: This program is for kindergarten through third grade and includes a story and refreshments. Registration required.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Providence Center for the Healing Arts

Cultural Percussion Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
DETAILS: This is a free class. CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
Art in Residence
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m., first and third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
DETAILS: This is a free class. CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

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Thomas Jefferson

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 7
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Actor David Donati portrays founding father Thomas Jefferson. Registration is required for this free program, sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Etiquette Program

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 9
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Etiquette experts from the Charnelle School will offer a class on social etiquette and manners for ages 9 and up. Class size is limited to 25 children. The cost is \$15 per child, payable the day of the program. Registration required.

Book Sale

DATE: Saturday, February 11
TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
DETAILS: This is a used book sale and includes coffee table books, cookbooks and videos. Sponsored by the Friends of the Novi Library.

Starlight Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 14
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration required.

Page Turners

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 15
TIME: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
DETAILS: This is for fifth and sixth grades and includes the movie, "Summer of the Swans" and a snack. No registration is required.

Battle of the Books Registration

DATE: The Battle of the Books is a program designed to encourage reading and to recognize young people who like to read. All fifth and sixth grade students who live or attend school in Novi are eligible to participate by organizing teams of 3-6 students, plus an adult coach. It is not necessary for teams to be from the same school or grade. Students read from a

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LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 25549 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

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continued from page 18

list of five books and then participate in a contest where each team answers questions about those books. The first 12 teams to return their registration forms will be eligible to participate in the Battle, which will be held in March 2006. For more information, please contact the library's Youth and Teen Services department.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 15
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chamber at the Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
Weekly Story Hours
TIME/DATE: 10-10:30 a.m., Monday-Wednesday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday
DETAILS: Includes stories, crafts, finger plays and games. Designed for ages 1-5. No registration required.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need around the house without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Trice, (248) 383-0598

Friendship Circle

DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck roads.
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 351-0730, Florence Voigt, (248) 477-3832 or by e-mail: (248) 348-9138, jvoigt@carh-link.net

MOMS Club of Novi

DATE: First Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for "MOMS" who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.
CONTACT: daniel@momsof-novi.org

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Wicks' Hot Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, (248) 437-5496.

Healing Prayer Service

DATE: First Monday of each month
TIME: 4 p.m.
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road
DETAILS: This service is open to all faiths and is a service of hope.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Sunday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATE: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Comm. Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.

JOE'S PRODUCE

Super

PARTY IDEAS

Michigan's Finest

Cellar Selection.
Keug Brut Champagne
Vintage 1988
Nearly Perfect
99 Points
Wine Spectator

Clos Mimi
Petite Roussee
Syrah '04
\$20.99
Unique and
Massive
Rich Fruit
and Velvety

- PARTY TRAYS**
- FRUIT TRAYS
 - SPECIALTY CHEESE TRAYS
 - VEGETABLE PARTY TRAYS
 - TROPICAL FRUIT SALAD
 - GARDEN SALADS, GREEK
 - CHEF AND PASTA SALADS

Party Planning IDEAS

Keep it simple! You can easily serve snacks and appetizers and still have a fabulous time.

Have a Sandwich Buffet. An easy way to entertain! Put out an array of breads, meats, cheese and sandwich fixings and let everyone help themselves! Want to go all out? Cook a whole turkey or ham to slice for sandwiches!

Turn your table into a field. If you have a rectangular table, drape it with a piece of green fabric and draw on the yard lines and the end zones with white fabric paint.

Use your empty dishwasher or washing machine to ice down extra cans and bottles of drinks. When the ice melts, the water just drains away.

Set up a football pool and give gag gifts to the biggest losers.

Give away door prizes, like team t-shirts and other NFL paraphernalia.



Oso Sweet Onions
99¢ lb.



Florida Grape
Tomatoes
2/\$3.00

Firm & Crisp

California Andy Boy Romaine Hearts
2/\$3.00
22 oz. bag

Golden Ripe Pineapples
\$3.99 ea.
Whole, cut & cored

Crisp & Sweet

Try this with Columbus Salami

Annabella '03 Napa Cabernet
\$13.99
750 ml
Bright Fruit with a Smooth Finish

Columbus Salame
\$5.39 ea.
Traditional Flavors of Italy

Bricco Riella Moscato D'Asti '05
\$10.99
750 ml
This is a sweet and full bodied Desert Wine with a light bubble

Try this with Joe's Peach Praline Pie

Great for Parties

Colby Longhorn Cheese
\$2.49
Mild & Tender Flavor

Alouette Spreadable Cheese
\$3.99
All Flavors
Great Cheese Dips

Delice de France Grand Camembert
\$8.99
Mild, Mushroomy Flavor

Great with St. Urban's Hot '04 Reeling

All Natural No Cholesterol

Joe's White Corn Tortilla Chips
2/\$4.00

Joe's Salsa All Flavors
2/\$6.00
15 oz. Jar

Joe's Organic Blue Corn Tortilla Chips
2/\$5.00

Great with Joe's Salsa

Great for your Super Bowl Party

Cape Cod Tortilla & Potato Chips
2/\$5.00

T. Marzetti's Veggie Dips
\$2.99
All Varieties
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Good Thru
Feb. 5th, 2008

SUPER SPECIALS!	
Ground Chuck Any Amount.....	\$2.19 lb.
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Grade A Skinless Chicken Breast.....	\$1.49 lb.
Lean Beef Stew.....	\$3.69 lb.
Meatloaf Mixture.....	\$3.19 lb.
Tilapia Fillets.....	\$4.19 lb.
Cooked Shrimp.....	\$7.89 lb.
Byrd's Cooked Turkey Breast.....	\$5.98 lb.
Kowalski Polish Ham.....	\$4.98 lb.

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Defensive specialist

The Novi Wildcats graduated a lot of defensive players last year and with the addition of a "libero," or defensive specialist, this season they had to find someone to fill that role.

Shannon Cody was the team's choice.

— Page 31



Getting ready

Novi girls basketball just ended in the fall, but players are already suiting up to get ready for next year.

One of those players is Taylor Graybiel, who has a whole season to make up for after an injury sidelined her in the fall. She's not only working out and working hard, she's working for her school, too, as a co-op with the athletic department.

— Page 48



SPORTS

www.novinews.com

Thursday, February 2, 2006

NOVI NEWS, PAGE B1

Splish, splash

■ Novi senior Derek O'Branovic is a leader in, out of pool

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Derek O'Branovic doesn't worry about earning state cuts or Oakland County titles. The senior captain of the Novi swimming and diving team worries about being a good example for others to follow. It's a role he plays well.

"I've been trying to be a leader ever since I became an upperclassman," said O'Branovic, who will attend Michigan State University in the fall. "I want to stay a good role model for the younger swimmers and do my best to help keep them on the team."

O'Branovic focuses on being a leader outside of the pool as well. He carries an

"That's how sports have helped me. I've always been busy and it's taught me how to keep a tight schedule, stay focused and get things done."

Derek O'Branovic
Novi Senior Swim Captain

impressive 3.92 grade-point average and maintains a challenging course schedule.

He doesn't skimp in the pool either. As one of the team's top tankers, O'Branovic is expected to lead by example. He swims mostly the 100 backstroke and the medley relay, but he has tried his hand in the 500 and 100 freestyle races as well.

He said leading this year's team hasn't been difficult.

"We're a really good team this year because we have fun together and everyone gets along," O'Branovic said.

"The team stays close by participating in events such as sledging and team dinners. Sometimes before a swim meet, they gather at Denny's near the Twelve Oaks Mall.

Though they try to enjoy themselves as much as they can, O'Branovic said he's still aware of the other part of his role as a captain. Competitive leadership.

"We try to have as much fun as possible, but we still get the work done," he said.

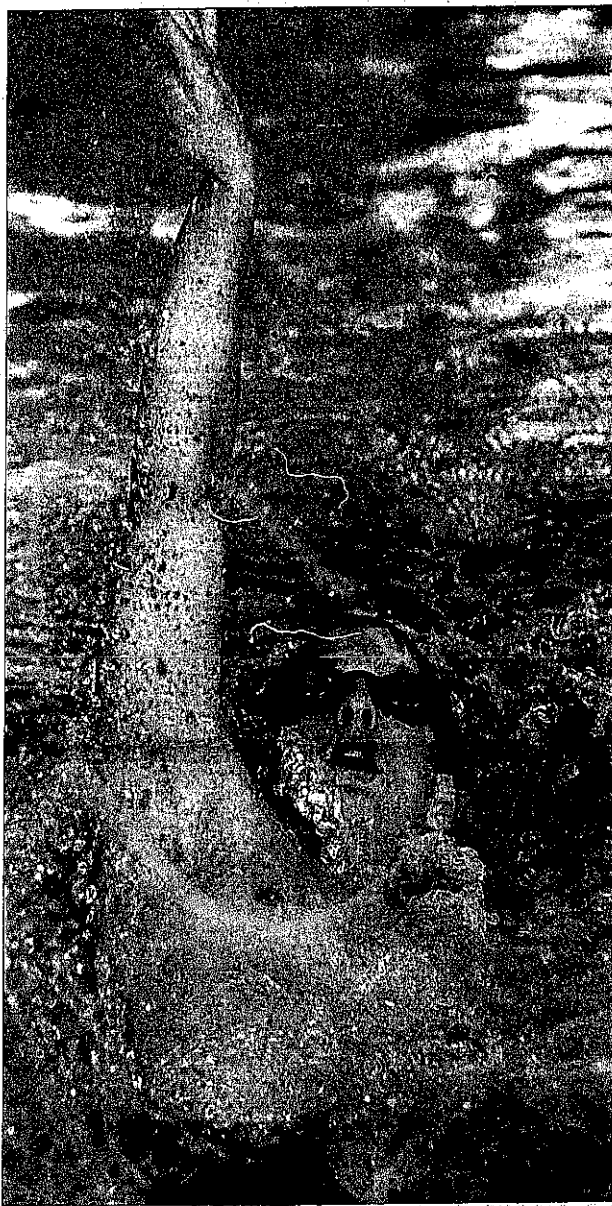
He's everywhere

If the name O'Branovic sounds familiar, it could be one of two things: First, O'Branovic's older brother, Evan, was an athlete at Novi, too. Second, O'Branovic also lent his hand to some very successful football seasons for the Wildcats.

He's also easily found in the summer working as a counselor at a summer camp, Camp Daggett, near Walcott Lake.

"I started going there when I was eight and it was something that was a lot of fun for me," he said. "I decided I would stay on as staff."

O'Branovic has seen some ups and downs with the swimming and diving team, too. There was a stretch when they didn't even have a home pool, swimming all of their meets on the road and practicing at the newly constructed Walled Lake Northern High School.



Derek O'Branovic takes to the Wildcats' pool. He is a senior captain this year.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

O'Branovic didn't mind. In fact, he said it helped the team grow closer during the season.

The bus rides back and forth to the Walled Lake pool kept them close as they were able to get to know one another in more detail than regular practices would have allowed.

"I think I'm just like everyone else," he laughed. "It's hard to focus and stay on track at times, but I manage."

"That's how sports have helped me. I've always been busy and it's taught me how to keep a tight schedule, stay focused and get things done."

And he's definitely getting things done. O'Branovic has qualified for the Oakland County meet this weekend and is just a few seconds away from qualifying for the state finals in the backstroke.

Cheering him on every step of the way are his parents, Tom and Laura.

"They're great," he said. "They always support me. My dad is always taking my times down and my mom is really involved with the team with team dinners and food after the meets."

"It makes things a lot easier because I have my parents there supporting me in everything I do."

And O'Branovic is hardly planning on taking any time off after the season. He has spring break, graduation and all summer to plan.

If his career in high school is any indication, he's going to make sure it's full of fun times, great memories and plenty of quality leadership.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 3194 or at seggleston@gannett.com.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School senior and varsity swimmer Derek O'Branovic.

Quick Hits

Happy Birthday!

Last Friday, Novi junior Taylor Graybiel earned her 17th mark, celebrating her birthday with her friends.

Graybiel, a near 6-foot-1 Wildcat girls basketball player, has had quite the beginning of the year.

She's the new co-op at Novi High School's athletic director's office and she's working out with Bill Kelly, her coach, in weight training class.

She also earned a place in this week's sports section thanks to her hard off-season work.



Walled Lake Western gridiron headed to college

The Walled Lake Western Warriors football team, coached by Mike Zaleski, recently announced they have two players headed to the collegiate level this fall.

Travis Matzky will head to Alma College to take to the gridiron while Randy Wright earned plenty of attention from Saginaw Valley State University.

The two players have been integral parts of the Warriors football program and the team will be celebrating their accomplishments this week with a small party.

Where's your sports results?

If you don't see your sports results in the newspaper each week, it means the sports department isn't receiving the results.

If you're a parent who would like to become a team liaison and submit statistics, scores, records and comments from the coaches, please e-mail the Novi News sports department at seggleston@gannett.com for more information.

Interested in writing?

The Novi News sports department is currently looking for interested candidates to cover Catholic Central High School. The Shamrocks have everything from a premier hockey program to a ski team and provide plenty of opportunity for articles, features, columns and photos.

If you like sports and you like writing, e-mail Sam Eggleston at seggleston@gannett.com for your chance to report on the outstanding athletics at Catholic Central High School.



Not a good situation.

Rumor has it the Michigan High School Athletic Association is considering putting an end to combined teams, like the Novi.

Northville gymnastics team. It's a benefit to both schools, which wouldn't have enough participants for teams of their own, and it has worked well for several years.

One day, hopefully, the MHSAA will learn to be a little more flexible on things that work alone and focus on things they are always messing up, like post-season pairings and assignments.



By the numbers

2-0

Novi cheerleading's all-time record against Northville's team.

589

Novi's score at the varsity level from last week's meet against the Mustangs.

491.5

Northville's all-around score against Novi during last week's cheerleading meet.

487.5

Novi's junior varsity score against Northville during their dual meet.

344

The score awarded to Northville's JV team by the cheerleading judges.

438

The score collected by the Novi Wildcats freshman cheer squad against the Mustangs.

0

The number of freshman cheer teams at Northville High School this year.

Graybiel wants to improve

■ Novi junior wants to make up for missed games by fall through hard work, off-season training



Novi's Taylor Graybiel is planning on being back on the basketball court next fall.

Taylor Graybiel is hard to miss. She has bright blue eyes and plenty of blonde hair — oh yeah, and she's almost 6-foot-4.

She also attends just about every game the Wildcats play in football, volleyball, basketball and hockey.

Come next season, she's going to be even harder to miss. Why? She's planning on making a lot of noise on the basketball court.

Graybiel started for Bill Kelp's Novi Wildcats girls basketball team last fall but her season came to a crashing halt just four games in when a Wallase Lake basketball player stepped on the back of her leg, breaking her fibula.

"I thought it was a miracle, so I kept playing," Graybiel said. "I didn't realize it was broke, but when we found out it was it was out for half the season."

Graybiel made a return to the team after missing 12 games but couldn't find her niche again. The junior went from starting to falling out of her "groove."

But she's not going to let that happen again. Graybiel is determined to be a leader next season. She wants to be a captain and she's willing to work to get the job.

With the off-season in full swing for girls basketball players, Graybiel joined the local Michigan Motion AAU basketball team with her fellow Wildcats despite offers to play with other squads.

"I love the girls on the team," she said. "It's better that we practice together as a team."

When she isn't with her team, Graybiel can often be found shooting hoops and working on her overall game. She's determined. That's easy to see just by watching her for a few minutes.

Graybiel isn't just working on the court. She's also working for the school.

As a co-op, Graybiel reports to the athletic director's office and does work like filling physicals, contacting schools to verify game times and locations and makes herself useful in any way she can.

"She's been doing a wonderful job," said Carol Sprys, athletic department secretary.

The co-op position does keep Graybiel away from lifting weights with the other members of the girls basketball team. To make up for her absence, she took a weight



After re-cuperating from a broken foot, Novi Wildcat basketball player Taylor Graybiel works in the school's athletic department office.

training class under the guidance of Kelp for this semester.

Though the class hasn't been going for very long, Kelp said he knows she'll work hard at it.

"She wants to play more and she's willing to work at it," Kelp said. "Last summer she was the team's most improved player. If she makes the jump this year like she did last year, she's going to be a really big part of our team."

"She's going to be one of the keys to a successful season. She definitely has the ability to become a really good player. Now, she just has to go out and show everyone what she can do."

And that's exactly what Graybiel wants to be — a good player and a major component for the Wildcats.

It's not an easy task, considering she's going to try to fill the shoes of All-area players like Rachelle Folini, Jessica Gasiorek and Nicole Stephens, who will graduate this spring.

She said she's going to listen to what her coach tells her to do.

"Coach Kelp is an amazing coach," she said. "I cannot say anything better about any other coach. He has taught me so much. I know if I listen to him and do whatever he tells me to do and work as hard as I can, I will be the best I can be."

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

SPORTS SHORTS

3-on-3 basketball tournament

Northville Parks & Recreation will be hosting the first March Madness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament March 25-26 at the Recreation Center located at Hillside Middle School on the corner of Eight Mile Road and Center Street.

The cost is \$85 per team with three or four players on each team. T-shirts will be given to all participants and awards will be given to the first-place team.

For more information, call (248) 349-0203 for more information.

Coach wanted

Northville High School is currently in need of a girls junior varsity soccer head coach for the upcoming spring 2006 season. Interested candidates should contact Bryan Masi, Northville Athletic Director at (248) 344-8414.

Adult hockey

Sign-up now for the winter season of the Breakfast Club Adult Hockey Series. Registration is underway for the Breakfast Club presented by Labatt-Suburban Hockey's weekly morning skills and conditioning series for adult hockey players of all ability levels. The 10-week season will run through March 16.

The Breakfast Club will take place at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills on Tuesday and Wednesday; Suburban Ice-Macomb on Tuesday; Day's-Rochester Ice Arena and Dearborn Ice Skating Center on Thursday. Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills will also be the site of the Advanced Breakfast Club program on Thursday.

The goals of the program are to improve players' overall knowledge of the game, teach new drills, increase enjoyment of the game, build confidence, conditioning and develop skating and puck skills in a competitive and fun environment. Coaches include former professional and collegiate players with vast coaching and playing experience.

All youth hockey coaches receive 50 percent off tuition to the Breakfast Club. Now this year is a special offer from RBK Hockey — all registered players may purchase an RBK SK Modano pattern hockey stick for just \$15 (retail is \$150).

In addition, players who refer a new player to the Breakfast Club will receive \$50 off their tuition.

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

Novi Heat fund-raising event

The U13 Novi Heat baseball team will be holding a fund-raising event at Gennetti's Hold in The Wall restaurant Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.

The team over the past two seasons were USSSA World Series consolation finalists as well as last year's run to Puerto Rico, which included being Michigan District champions, Ohio Regional champions and a berth to the World Series in San Juan.

The team also played in the Cooperstown Dream Park tournament.

The cost is \$50 per ticket, which includes dinner and wine with dinner. A cash bar is also available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Pete Talbot at (248) 349-5688 or (734) 905-4578.

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

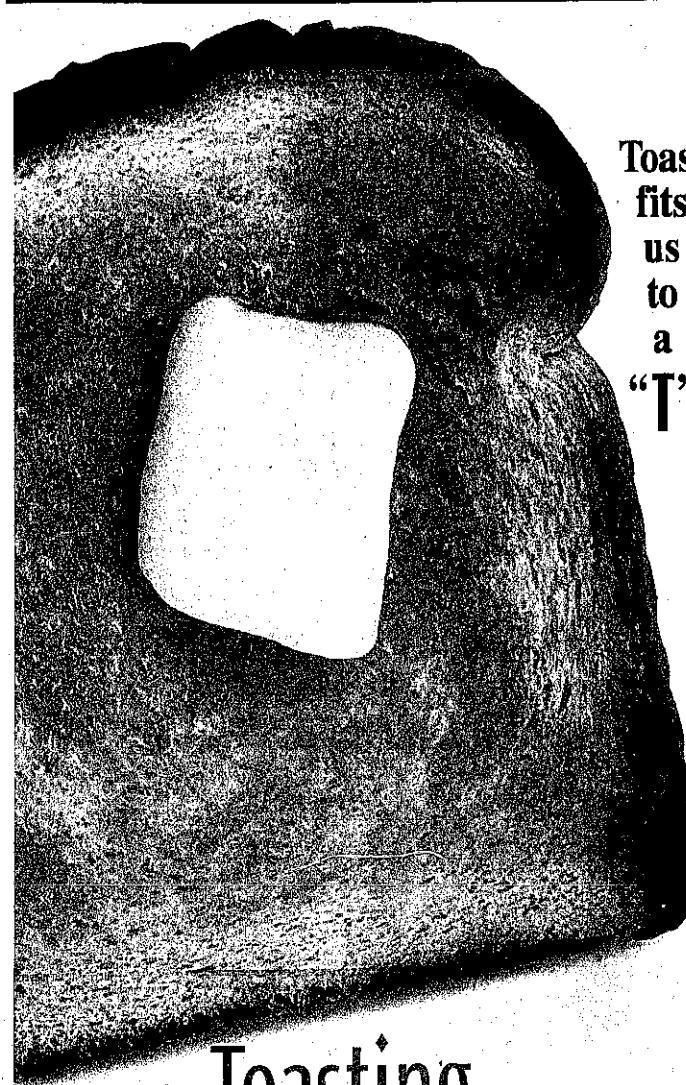
Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp.

This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19, are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Seinfeld, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from every state and 13 countries attended the 2005 camp.

College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Lebanon, Tenn.; Prescott, Ariz.; Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Sterling, Colo.; Bridgeport, Conn.; Eden Park, Pa.; Gainesville, Fla.; Champaign, Ill.; North Manchester, Ind.; Towson, Md.; Ypsilanti, Mich.; N.Y.; Hickory, N.C.; Commerce, Texas; Blacksburg, Va.; Lynchburg, Va.; and Belmont, Wis. For more information and a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

FOOD

Cal Stone, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-6832



Toast fits us to a "T"

Toasting... TOAST!

The best thing since sliced bread

MAKES FEWER BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The warm, crunchy, golden brown staples on breakfast tables in more than 90% of American homes is one of life's simplest pleasures.

This humble breakfast hero is also an iconic symbol of all that's right and good in American life. Toast is the great leveler, a symbol of democracy. Crunchy toast is enjoyed in humble homes and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

America's love of toast has given birth to toaster collections, a national toaster museum, children's books, songs about toast and cookbooks full of toast recipes.

One hundred years since the introduction of the first electric toaster, Americans are faithful to their long-lived love affair with toast. In fact, a recent survey commissioned by the Grain Foods Foundation and conducted by Harris Interactive indicates that more than 95% of respondents say they enjoy toast any time of day.

How passionate are Americans about toast? Nearly 10% of adults surveyed confessed they'd rather enjoy their morning toast than, um, a passionate interlude with their significant other. More than half of the survey respondents would choose toast over candy, and nearly 40% over chocolate. That's some serious craving for toast.

Hum a few bars in the key of "T"

"Americans are passionate about toast!" exults comedian Heywood Banks. Banks is singing all the way to the bank, having hit solid gold with his song about toast that he's parlayed into an animated cartoon (at comedyhome.com). Banks has created a children's book, CDs and music CDs based on the lyrics to his song "Yeah, Toast!" Toast lovers like Banks are delightfully quirky — he plays a toaster as a percussion instrument.

Love, craving and science in the kitchen

"There's nothing more satisfying than a piece of perfectly toasted bread," says Ted Allen, cookbook author and food and wine consultant for television's popular "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." "One of the most comforting, simple moments you can have is to make yourself a slice of toast. The scent of bread caramelizing in the toaster is wonderful."

The process that caramelizes toast — cooking the sugars in the bread and turning them golden brown — is the Maillard reaction, which gives toast its flavor and its crunch.

So push that lever down, get out your favorite toppings and tap your toe to the toast dance while waiting impatiently for the tantalizing aroma of caramelizing bread. If that's not true love, we don't know what is.

For more intriguing, fun and delicious information on grain-based foods like bread and toast, visit www.grainpower.org.

Write down this recipe for ... toast

Chief and toast enthusiast Jesse Ziff Cool has written a tome to toast. "Toast: 60 Ways to Butter Your Bread & Then Some" includes 60 recipes, from sweet to savory, for every meal occasion.

"Toast is still the greatest thing since sliced bread — and getting better all the time. Toast is the perfect beginning for an appetizer, sandwich, entrée, snack — even dessert," says Cool, chef, restaurant owner and cookbook author.

But Cool was not the first to document toast recipes. The White House cookbook of 1887 contained five entire pages and 21 recipes devoted to toast.

Mighty (toast and nutrition) Guilty pleasure? Hardly.

Toast is one of those perfect foods that will never go out of style. Warm, crunchy and golden brown, toast is delicious, affordable, easy to make and a low-fat, low-calorie source of grains," says Judi Adams, MS, RD, president of the Grain Foods Foundation. "With the variety of vitamins and nutrients packed into a slice of bread, it is one of the more nourishing choices for breakfast" or any time of day.

Recipe courtesy of Jesse Ziff Cool, author of "Toast: 60 Ways to Better Your Bread & Then Some"

Winter Breakfast Sandwich With Maple Syrup, Toasted Walnuts and Cream Cheese

Serves 4 to 6

2/3 cup (about 3 ounces) coarsely chopped walnuts

8 ounces cream cheese at room temperature

3 tablespoons real maple syrup, plus more for pan-frying

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

8 bread slices

Preheat toaster oven to 350°F. Put walnuts on baking tray and toast 5 minutes. Let cool to room temperature. In medium bowl, combine cream cheese, 3 tablespoons maple syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla; stir to blend. Toast bread.

Spread one-fourth of cream cheese mixture on each of 4 slices and sprinkle with walnuts. Drizzle with a little maple syrup. Top with a slice of plain toast. For bite-sized tea sandwiches, cut into 2, 4 or 6 pieces.

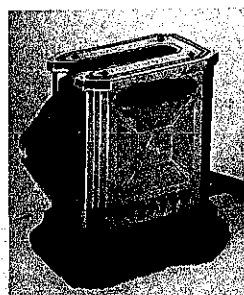
Recipe courtesy of Jesse Ziff Cool, author of "Toast: 60 Ways to Better Your Bread & Then Some"



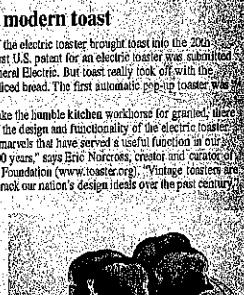
The first U.S. patent for an electric toaster was submitted in 1909 by General Electric for an appliance surrounded by a wire cage to hold the bread. This model, the D-12, is considered the first commercially successful toaster in U.S. history — porcelain bottom with hand-painted detail, warming rack above.



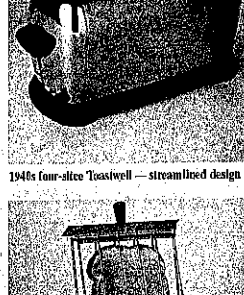
1920s Sweetheart Toaster — heart-shaped swing door to turn toast



1930s Hotpoint Gazelle — art deco design, manually tips toast out of a side panel



1940s four-slice Toastwell — streamlined design



1970s Traveler, Empire Mfg. — plugs into car's cigarette lighter

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULES

Novi

Boys Basketball

Varsity					
2/3	Away	Pinecay	7 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Lakeland	7 p.m.		
JV					
2/3	Away	Pinecay	5:30 p.m.		
2/7	Home	Howell	5:30 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Lakeland	5:30 p.m.		
Freshmen					
2/3	Away	Pinecay	4 p.m.		
2/7	Home	Howell	5:30 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Lakeland	4 p.m.		

Volleyball

2/2	Home	Howell	5:30 p.m.		
2/4	Away	Schoolcraft Invite	TBA		
2/4	Away	Northville Invite	9 a.m.		
2/6	Away	Lakeland	5:30 p.m.		
2/9	Home	Brighton	5:30 p.m.		

Swimming

2/2	Home	South Lyon	6 p.m.		
2/3	Away	Oakland Co.	12 p.m.		
2/4	Away	Oakland Co.	12 p.m.		
2/9	Away	Hartland	6 p.m.		
2/10	Away	MISCA	TBA		

Gymnastics

2/4	Away	Canion	TBA		
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Cheerleading

2/4	Away	Ladywood Invite	9:30 a.m.		
2/8	Away	Hartland	7 p.m.		

Hockey

2/6	Away	South Lyon	6:30 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Michigan Showcase	12 p.m.		

Wrestling

2/3	Away	KVC Quad	5:30 p.m.		
2/4	Home	JV Invite	8 a.m.		

Bowling

2/4	Away	Howell	8 a.m.		
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Catholic Central

Basketball

Varsity					
2/3	Away	De LaSalle	7:30 p.m.		
2/7	Away	O.L. St. Mary's	7:30 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Divine Child	7:30 p.m.		
JV					
2/3	Away	De LaSalle	6 p.m.		
2/7	Away	O.L. St. Mary's	6 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Divine Child	6 p.m.		
Freshmen					

Bowling

2/4	Tri-County Tournament	2 p.m.			
2/6	Northville	3:30 p.m.			
2/9	Cleeneville	3:30 p.m.			

Hockey

2/3	Home	U of D Jesuit	7 p.m.		
2/10	Away	Showcase	8 p.m.		

Ski Team

2/2	Brighton/S. Lyon/ U of D	4:40 p.m.			
2/9	Divisional	10 a.m.			

Swimming

2/2	Home	U of D Jesuit	7 p.m.		
2/4	Away	Oakland County	12 p.m.		
2/9	Away	GP North	6:30 p.m.		

Wrestling

2/4	Away	SHS Invitation	9 a.m.		
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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Novi News

Thursday, February 2, 2006

Ready for the (real) Big Game?

The Big Game will be exciting. Watch for brilliant moves by the defense, but never underestimate the power of the offense to launch a dazzling end run or throw a Hail Mary pass that will turn the tide in their favor. As the contest gets heated, there will be fumbles, interceptions and calls of unsportsmanlike conduct. But this grueling spectacle won't feature half-time entertainment or slick advertisements and the television audience will be very small.

Jack Faris

Unlike the professional football playoffs that are flooding the airwaves of America, the confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito Jr. will capture a much smaller share of the nation's attention, but the stakes of this game are much greater than any sports event.

Among those sure to be paying not attention to Capitol Hill's latest grilling of a justice-to-be are small-business owners whose enterprises are increasingly threatened by state and federal government agencies that stretch the interpretation of laws beyond their original intent. Many are aware that the National Federation of Independent Business Legal Foundation's defensive posture helped block an end run by the U.S. Tax Court last year. Taking the case for small business all the way to the Supreme Court, the foundation successfully turned back the tax court's secretive practice that allowed special trial judges to withhold reports from taxpayers who had appealed decisions.

NFIB's Legal Foundation has a flexible game plan: it can play defense or offense, depending on the challenge. Created to represent the interests of small-business owners in America's courts and to educate entrepreneurs about legal pitfalls, the affiliate of the nation's largest small-business organization scored several victories in 2005.

Weighing in on a Fair Labor Standards Act case, the group helped overturn a district court ruling that determined finance and insurance employees, who earn money from commissions on goods and services sold at dealerships, were not exempt from overtime requirements. By prevailing against payments, this effort results in significant savings for small firms.

Taking another case to the Tennessee Supreme Court, the foundation successfully argued that "loss of enjoyment of life benefits" should be excluded as part of a workers' compensation award. The ruling will keep workers' compensation insurance premiums from escalating, which, according to a recent NFIB study, ranks as the third-most important issue of concern for small-business owners.

In New York, the Legal Foundation added a few more points to the small-business scoreboard by successfully halting the expansion of workplace-safety liability. Agreeing with its reasoning, the State Court of Appeals ruled that an employer cannot be held liable for the personal injury to an employee's spouse due to secondary exposure to asbestos.

There won't be any replays highlighting the foundation's leaps across the legal goal lines, nor will you see any locker-room interviews with champagne toasts, but the small-business sector will celebrate the results on their bottom lines. They'll be able to use more of their hard-earned dollars to expand their enterprises and create jobs as a result of these unheralded legal victories. And I'd say that is something worth celebrating.

Jack Faris is the president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at www.nfib.org.

ADVERTISEMENT



Photos by Hal Gould

In their new, expanded offices at 56330 Grand River Avenue, the staff at Brenda W. Smith & Company, P.C. is ready to serve you this tax season.

Brenda W. Smith: small business solutions

Accountants offer satellite office for customers on the go

For small business owners, a visit to a Certified Public Accountant can be a nerve-racking experience. Some proprietors avoid consulting a CPA, or put off the chore until a day that they are better organized.

But delaying the process of getting help can be costly. Knowing how to manage the financial aspects of a business makes a difference in overall success. Staff at Brenda W. Smith & Company, P.C. make it much easier to run a business.

Small businesses audited

Small businesses are being audited more now than ever. Messy bookkeeping can lead to mistakes that attract the attention of the Internal Revenue Service and increase the chance of an audit. An IRS audit is time consuming and stressful - certainly something to avoid.

Getting help from the CPAs at Brenda W. Smith & Company, P.C. goes a long way to preventing unnecessary audits.

Consultation prevents errors

A good accounting strategy is key to a small business. While some may delay in getting help, those who start off right will be a step ahead.

"Mistakes made in the first year cost more than doing things right by setting up an initial consulting arrangement," said Brenda Smith, owner of the accounting firm.

Brenda W. Smith & Company offers a no cost, no obligation, hour-long consultation with potential business clients. This is one way Smith puts customers at ease.

"It's a good opportunity for the client to interview us to see if



Brenda W. Smith & Company staff (left-right) Debbie Farneth, Patty Speer, Brenda W. Smith, CPA, Mary Noll, CPA and Amy Haselnuhn, CPA.

there's a good personality fit," she said. "It's very important that they can communicate comfortably with their advisors."

For start-up businesses Smith and her staff answer questions about what type of business entity will work best in the situation, how to keep records, and what taxes are required. If the business is already in operation, staff will look over prior returns or financial statements and answer questions about management, computerized accounting systems and planning for the future.

Small business specialists

Smith is the owner of a small business herself and understands the everyday struggles that business owners go through. She can put together a comprehensive plan that includes everyday record keeping and periodic tax payments.

The friendly, personable staff can assist clients with numerous questions. There are many times when a client needs to resolve a problem, but doesn't know where to turn.

"We can usually put them in touch with the right person, even if it's not us," Smith said. "We're a touchstone for all those other serv-

ices such as legal, financial services or even equipment maintenance."

Making tax filing easy

Brenda W. Smith & Company offers complete services for accounting and taxes. This includes bookkeeping, quarterly payroll taxes, financial statement preparation, business and personal tax return preparation, and IRS problem resolution.

The firm can help keep clients in compliance with all government regulations and obligations for tax returns. It can facilitate various tax filings such as state, local, sales tax and personal property tax.

"There are many different taxes that a small business should be aware of, keep up with and pay," Smith said. "That's one area where our experience shows - we excel at keeping people in compliance with taxes."

Quick data access

In today's world, a business must have quick access to decision making data.

"If someone is still doing books manually, they're spending time writing and adding, and they are not getting the benefit of instant information," said Smith.

BRENDA W. SMITH, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants
Location: 56330 Grand River Avenue, near I-96 and Millford Road
Phone: (248) 437-8010

Computer based accounting software allows much of the manual, work, and time involved on tax time and increase accuracy tremendously. Smith recommends that small businesses use some kind of computer software right from the start - while the business is small.

"It's easier to learn when working on a smaller scale," she said.

The selection, set-up and training for computerized accounting systems is another area of expertise for Brenda W. Smith & Company. Mary Noll, CPA and Amy Haselnuhn, CPA are both Certified Pro Advisors for QuickBooks.

"We deal primarily with QuickBooks and Peachtree accounting software products, but work with other software as well," Smith said. "We can help our clients convert from manual books to a computerized system or help them improve their existing computer system. This will provide the business owner with the right information and reports needed to better manage their business."

Experience counts

Brenda W. Smith & Company can handle a variety of accounting situations because of the depth of experienced staff. The firm has over 60 years of experience in bookkeeping, accounting and taxation.

Staff can help guide emerging businesses towards planning for future growth and owner retirement planning.

Although small businesses make up a large portion of the practice,

Brenda W. Smith & Company also handles non profits, estates and trusts, and all types of personal tax issues.

"People tend to match their accounting firm with the size of their business," said Smith. "Our firm is small to medium business. We do as much or as little for a client as they need."

"One of our goals is to educate business owners to help them better manage their business. I believe that our clients - whether they're signing a tax return or giving a financial statement - to a bank - need to understand where the numbers came from and what they mean. We can help business owners improve their bottom line through education."

Satellite office solutions

New, expanded offices give Brenda W. Smith & Company the facilities to provide telecommunications and small business clients with office and conference room space. Flexible rental plans are available for both facilities.

The new suite includes a conference and training room plus a fully equipped office available for public use. The multi functional conference and training room seats up to 20 people. It is equipped with high speed Internet access, presentation boards and a kitchenette.

The office space offers a distraction free setting for business people to meet with customers, check in with a home office, return e-mail or compose correspondence. Copy, fax and notary services are also available.

"It sure beats signing papers in a office shop or answering e-mail from the front seat of your car," Smith said.

The office is easy to access from most West Oakland and Livingston County area businesses. Brenda W. Smith & Company P.C. is located in New Hudson at 56330 Grand River Avenue near I-96 and Millford Road.

Brenda W. Smith & Company, PC Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors



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