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Thursday, August 17, 2006

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Volume 51 Number 12

Novi, Michigan

INSIDE

Food pantry benefit

Casey Ambrose (shown), owner of Walled Lake's Casey's and Pam Janow of the Hospitality House in Commerce, are planning a benefit for the food pantry on Sunday, Aug. 27 at Casey's. — Page 3A



SPORTS



Will fish for money

When it comes to fishing, Kim Stricker is definitely "down for the brown." The professional angler and owner of Stricker Pain Products, Inc., in Novi has an affinity for the light-brown-colored small-mouth bass. And, two weeks ago, he competed in the Wal-Mart Forrest L. Wood (FLW) Tour Championship Aug. 2-5, finishing 12th and winning \$18,000. — Page 1A

THIS WEEKEND

Around the world

Come to Main Street in downtown Novi for the International Festival Saturday and Sunday. — Page 17A

INDEX

- Be Scene in Novi 13A
- Business 7A
- Calendar 17A
- Classifieds 1C
- Community 3A
- Faith 14A
- Opinion 16A
- People 15A
- Public Safety 10A
- Regional Marketplace 4B
- Seniors 14A
- Sports 11B

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Ryder plans headquarters

City offers \$481,000 for road, utility improvements

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Automotive logistics company Ryder System Inc. is eyeing Novi for its regional headquarters. The company is considering building a 120,000 to 150,000 square foot office facility on the north side of Thirteen Mile Road between Haggerty Road and M-5. The new structure would con-

date facilities in Farmington Hills and Ann Arbor, bringing about 500 jobs to the city.

Ryder said it could add 700 to 800 workers at the company govt. Most of the jobs at the facility would be professional. The project would cost Ryder \$15.6 million for land and property over a seven-year lease, after which the company would have an option to buy.

If the company greenlights the plan, it could break ground on the facility next spring and be in the building in 2008. Ryder's board could consider the plan in October.

Monday, the Novi City Council unanimously approved \$481,000 to build a road and add

utilities around the proposed facility. Novi prefers to give upfront incentives, rather than long-term abatements.

"I think this is a win-win for the developer, the business and for us," said council member Lynne Paul.

Mayor David Landry noted if Ryder were to leave the facility in the future, the real improvements would still benefit the city.

"To me, this is a no-brainer," he said. If the plans fall through, Novi wouldn't be committed to the infrastructure improvements, said City Pearson, city manager.

The move clears the way for Ryder to secure a Single Business Tax credit from the Michigan

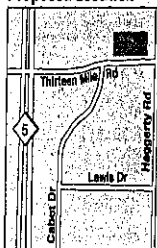
Economic Development Corp. Local governments need to make some contribution to the development before the MEDC considers incentives.

"We're in confidential negotiations with Ryder and the city of Novi that are ongoing," MEDC spokesman Paul Krepps said.

Ryder's worldwide base is in Miami, where it was founded in 1933. The company does supply chain management for auto companies and leases and rents trucks. It had revenue of \$5.7 billion in 2005.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

Proposed Location



SOURCE: City of Novi



Nancy LaVine tutors Tricia Cottrell, 10, last Friday in the Wixom Public Library.

Wixom approves library millage proposal

Council members drop initial resolution

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Lisa Hoemig hopes Wixom voters place a lot of value on their local library.

As director of the Wixom Public Library, Hoemig believes this will be the key to citizens passing a millage on the November ballot to help fund new programs and services at the facility.

Wixom City Council members passed a resolution supporting a millage proposal last month, then rescinded the resolution on Aug. 9

continued on page 2

Mediation could help resolve Novi chambers' name dispute

Deadline Aug. 25 to try third-party talks

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Outside mediation could cool the summer-long rivalry between Novi's chambers of commerce. The Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce has accepted an offer for third-party discussions, and the Novi Chamber of Commerce



is considering it, officials say. Last month, the Oakland Chamber Network, a 23-member group of Oakland County cham-

bers, proposed talks. The Novi Chamber filed suit against the

continued on page 2

Novi merchants say good riddance to business tax

Companies feel move will save money

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The early demise of Michigan's Single Business Tax is a relief to Novi merchants. Last week the state Legislature voted to repeal the tax at the end of 2007, two years ahead of when it was set to expire. Area business- es said the move could save them

thousands of dollars and allow them to re-invest in their companies.

The Novi Family Dental Center stands to pocket \$5,500 annually if it would have paid to the tax, said Pat Webb, office manager. She said the cash could be used for technology investment or to purchase

continued on page 2

Grandkids keep Cosentino busy

Paralegal takes time with grandsons

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Although she says she doesn't feel her age, Kathy Cosentino knows how fast life goes by.

Cosentino, 55, said it seems like yesterday that her daughter was a child. However, her daughter is now grown up with two sons of her own, ages 7 and 2.

"They bliss my life tremendously," Cosentino said of her grandsons.

Cosentino gets to spend plenty of time with the boys.

Her daughter is a teacher, and Cosentino often watches the boys two days a week. She calls them "absolutely the most precious gift you could have in your life, next to having your own kids."

"It keeps me busy," she said. She also stays busy working full time as a paralegal for Donald L. Samhat PC law firm in down-

town Northville, where she's been employed for 14 years. Cosentino has worked for various lawyers since she was 19 years old, and received her degree from Madonna University in Livonia.

"I do love working in law," she said. "It's interesting." Fortunately, she is able to work from home two days each week, meaning she has the flexibility to watch her grandsons.

continued on page 2

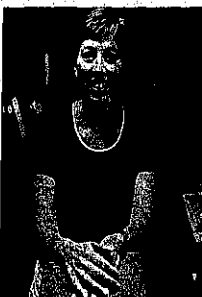


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOV News
Kathy Cosentino, co-chair of the recent Novi Park Foundation golf outing, poses for a quick photo at the Northville law office where she works.



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Wixom council members drop initial resolution

continued from front page

and approved another that reflects minor changes in the language that will be on the ballot.

"There were some questions raised about the way the ballot language was done," Hoening said. Residents even petitioned the city to put the library millage proposal on the ballot.

The library law was written in 1877, Hoening said, so that was part of the problem.

"The law is very antiquated," Hoening said. "Even though we were confident that the language would be OK the first time, we didn't want there to be any political opposition

to our millage proposal because of any question about the law.

The way the library staff is asking the millage to be placed on the ballot now is clear and legal, without question, she said.

Deadline on wording Aug. 29

The deadline for any changes on the language in local ballot proposals on Michigan November's ballot is Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Council Member Nancy Dingledy approval of revising the previous resolution on the millage proposal at the Aug. 9 meeting, but questioned why it was necessary.

"It's a concern to me that this language was submitted before checking on the legality of it," she said. "Those questions should have been answered."

Hoening said so far Wixom's citizens seem to support the library

What would the millage cost?

The proposal will ask voters to approve a 1.08 mills to fund library operations for 10 years. The 1.08 mills replaces the .865 mill that expires on June 30, 2007.

The cost of the millage depends on the value of one's property. For example, a homeowner whose home has a market value of \$200,000 and an assessed value of \$100,000 currently pays \$86.50 a year to fund the Wixom Library.

If the millage proposal passes, this homeowner will pay \$108 a year, an increase of \$21.50 a year or 41 cents a week.

Paralegal takes time with grandsons

continued from front page

Volunteerism

Cosentino's love of children has also spurred her to volunteer as secretary for the Novi Parks Foundation, where she has been the secretary since shortly after the organization was started in 2003.

She does it because money is needed to improve local parks, she said.

"I think all children should be able to play and have fun," Cosentino said.

For the past two years, Cosentino has been co-chair of the foundation's fund-raiser golf outing, which is ironic considering she doesn't golf. She helped organize the silent auction this year.

In the past, Cosentino's involvement with the city of Novi has included serving as chairperson of the beautification committee, working on economic development and sitting on the board of review.

Time to kick back

When she's not busy, Cosentino and her husband enjoy spending time at their cabin in Horton, south of Jackson. They recently purchased a boat, a luxury they haven't had time for in years.

They used to travel the Great Lakes in a 34 foot boat and Cosentino said she loves the water and enjoys swimming.

"They're also busy remodeling the cabin, painting and putting in new flooring."

Kathy Cosentino

How you know her: She is secretary of the Novi Parks Foundation.

Family: She and husband Nicholas Cosentino have been married 35 years. She has one daughter and two grandsons.

Hobbies: She enjoys fishing and spending time at her cabin in Horton.

Quote: "(My grandsons are) absolutely the most precious gift you could have in your life, next to having your own kids."

Companies think SBT cut will save money

continued from front page

new dental equipment.

"I'll go back into the business that's for sure, back into the economy," said Webb, who does payroll for the company's five employees.

On Day, owner of Flowers of Novi, said the end of the tax could help his year-old business compete amid trying economic conditions in the state.

"I'll definitely help," he said. "I'd save as a life money. Times are tough in Michigan. Any help we can get is definitely appreciated."

The move also raised eyebrows on Wall Street, and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services lowered its

Deadline Aug. 25 to try third-party talks

continued from front page

Greater Novi Chamber July 26, saying the names are too similar.

The deadline to accept mediation is Aug. 25.

The last hot issue remains the upstart Greater Novi Chamber's use of a similar name, said Joe Carrier, an attorney for the Novi Chamber. If the sides could broker a compromise over that, the dispute could blow over, he said.

"They're not looking to put them out of business," he said.

He noted courts prefer out-of-court settlements and potential legal costs make a trial unlikely.

The Novi Chamber has more

Deadline Aug. 25 to try third-party talks

than 500 members and dates to 1967. The Greater Novi Chamber started in May and has 60 members.

Mediation would be confidential and free, said Michele Hodges, president of the Oakland Chamber. She said a consultant with Vital Skills International, a mediation firm, had volunteered to facilitate talks.

"It wasn't our job to get involved in local issues, but we did want to contribute to a successful outcome. It was our attempt to reach a resolution," said Hodges, who's also president of the Troy Chamber of Commerce.

But Novi could be an exception to the network's one chamber per market policy and Hodges suggested each side carve out a niche in the market.

A whirlwind romance

Cosentino said she met her husband on a blind date when she was living in Virginia. They were married within a year. She was raised in Detroit and they moved to Novi in 1978 when her husband started working in the area.

Where does she get the energy for her busy life?

"My mother tells me I'm stubborn and ornery and just don't give up," Cosentino said. "Life's short. You gotta take what you can get."

Mar Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

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COMMUNITY

Casey's Market Day After-Glow will benefit Hospitality House

Enter raffle for 4-day cruise

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Par Janson and Casey Ambrose are ready to provide some good old-fashioned hospitality.

The two are spearheading a benefit for the local Hospitality House food bank on Sunday, Aug. 27, at Casey's Bar & Grill in Walled Lake and invite area residents to enjoy the food and festivities.

The event, billed as the Market Day After-Glow, begins at 4:30 p.m. at Casey's on the north side of Maple Road between Decker Road and Frontline Trail.

Dinner will be served until 8:30 p.m.

Market Day is an annual event on Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront that starts at 11 a.m. on the same day.

The festival includes a variety of vendors from across the area.

"We were trying to envelop Market Day, so people could hit us on the way home," Janson said.

The After-Glow will include a barbecue, two live bands — the Flying Dragon (named after a ride at the former Walled Lake Amusement Park) and the Delivery Boys — a table magician and a Kid's Corner with children's activities.

Those who enter the \$500 raffle have the chance to win a four-day cruise for two. The grand prize winner's name will be drawn at 8:15 p.m.

"Casey's been wanting to do something on a grand scale for a while," Janson said. "It's going to be a big tent party."

"We'll have a 40-foot by 60-foot tent and be cooking burgers, hot dogs, maybe kielbasa and corn," Ambrose said.

All the proceeds from the barbecue will go to support the Hospitality House.

Hospitality House began in city

Janson, one of the founding members and the current president of Hospitality House, said the food bank initially opened in Walled Lake five years ago in February 2007.

"We actually started in the back of a church," she said.

The food bank moved to another church there, then into an 1,800-square-foot warehouse facility with an office and a waiting room in Commerce Township.

Some of the clients are homeless, many don't have vehicles, so they needed a place with easy accessibility at 1600 W. West Maple Road between Ladd and Bevinson roads.

"Last year, we passed out about 131,000 pounds of food, and we average 176 families a month," Janson said. "We had to move to a facility that was centrally located to our clients."

Clients come from the Walled Lake School District, which covers portions of the five communities of Walled Lake, Novi, Commerce Township, Wixom and West Bloctonfield, plus a small extended area.

People are referred to the program and then interviewed to see if they meet eligibility requirements.

"Sometimes they tell each other," Janson said. "We get referrals from churches, schools and all over."

Those who use the food bank are allowed to be 200 percent above the government poverty level.

"We are trying to reach those people who were falling through the cracks," Janson said. "We realized that there were people who were not getting their needs met."

One of the nonprofit organization's goals is to encourage other communities to open their own food banks.

Although food is their major focus, the Hospitality House volunteers

Details

The 31st Annual Market Day, sponsored by the city of Walled Lake Parks and Recreation Commission in Historic Downtown Walled Lake, will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27.

Booths featuring arts and crafts will be set up along E. Walled Lake Drive, Market, Liberty, Fremont and Northport streets.

Market Day will take place rain or shine. For more information, contact Janella Joyce at the Walled Lake City Hall at (248) 624-4947.

teers are in the midst of a back-to-school drop in which they distribute a backpack filled with school supplies to clients who are students.

At Christmastime, Hospitality House has a Santa's Shop so their clients can have a few gifts to give their children.

"These are the only times we vary from our mission of feeding the hungry," Janson said.

She said Walled Lake residents have always supported the food bank.

"This community has put its arms around our little pantry," she said. "We are totally volunteer-run and donation-run, and it's been amazing what this community has done."

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105.



Casey Ambrose, owner of Walled Lake's Casey's, and Pam Janson of the Hospitality House in Commerce, are planning a benefit for the food pantry on Sunday, Aug. 27 at Casey's.

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PARADISE PARK Celebrating 1 Year in Novi!



Paradise Park is celebrating one year as a family entertainment "hot spot." So the park is cranking up the action with a weekend party. Stop by Aug. 25 to 27 for freebies, discounts and plenty of laughs.

It's been an incredible year at Paradise Park. The new facility offers "a day in paradise" with enough fun for everyone in the family - from an 18 hole miniature golf course, a DayZ roller coaster, a trampoline center and automatic soccer cages to climbing walls, laser tag and a really cool arcade.

Owners Jeffrey and Theresa Wainwright and teenage sons Gregory and Justin, have put together a paradise of safe, wholesome fun.

"People tell us that coming here is like getting away for a vacation," said Theresa Wainwright.

And paradise is just around the corner, on Grand River Avenue, just east of Beck Road in Novi.

The outdoor miniature golf course is the picture of paradise. It was designed to look like a theme park, with island accessories and brightly colored turf. Just thinking about palm trees makes Theresa feel relaxed, so she decided to bring palm trees into the island paradise. Several palms have been planted on the miniature golf course, nestled by waterfalls and trees. "I wanted it to look spectacular," Theresa said.

The indoor area is as much a paradise as the outside. Features of palm trees and dolphins dance across the walls. The ceiling is covered with blue sky and white clouds painted in an iridescent paint that yields a special effect at night. With the black lights on, after dark, the indoor arena is transformed into a party of lights with the patterned light glowing and arcade games flashing. Guests become part of the decorations, glowing in the colored lights.

The laser arena continues to amaze people with its incredible design. A star wars theme system with aliens and space ships sets the scene for fun. This "Laser Blast" technology arena was designed by Creative Works, Inc. which is considered the premier arena designer. Private parties, businesses, churches and community groups love the laser tag arena. As an added degree of safety, this arena is Class A fireproof.

Outdoor fun includes a trampoline center, a climbing wall, miniature golf, and soccer cages. Bumper boats will arrive next spring. The park features world class family go karts, driving on a large concrete area that includes multiple high banked turns and five steeply banked hairpin curves. The park also has special double karts that fit both an adult and a child.

The go karts and kiddie go karts (which are opening soon) both include state-of-the-art safety features. Staff members monitor the track operation from special locations, making sure that the operation is always safe and fun. Each kart is electronically controlled, allowing staff members to stop proper operation at all times.

No effort was spared on accessibility. Safety measures at the park, unlike others, was carefully laid out without a wheelchair or stroller. The laser arena and golf course are fully accessible.

"Families come here because they know it's clean, safe and fun to operate," said Wainwright. "It's different at the park because we're concerned about safety and the quality of the experience."

Since opening in August, Paradise Park has become a popular spot for parties, corporate events, and group outings. Birthday parties are available which include homemade pizza, beverages, custom decorations, game tokens and a variety of activities. The outdoor arena includes a bar, grassy picnic area, and is suitable for large parties such as corporate, bar, and family picnics.

A large venue is a place for families to enjoy the summer. Parents can watch their children play while they relax in the park's new wireless internet cafe. Wireless internet service is available in the park's internet cafe. The cafe offers a variety of food items including pizza, hot subs, sandwiches, chicken, burgers, french fries, bread sticks, ice cream and snacks.

Paradise Park is located at 45799 Grand River Avenue, just east of Beck Road in Novi. It is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 248-348-1050 or visit paradiseparknovi.com.

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Wish-A-Mile
Mark Woolfshar and Michael Belanger of Novi recently participated in the Make-A-Wish Foundation's 19th annual Wish-A-Mile 300 Bicycle Tour from Traverse City to Chelsea July 28-30. Roughly 700 people participated in the fund-raiser, which benefits the foundation. Woolfshar and Belanger helped to raise \$15,000.

Severance pay being negotiated for Walled Lake DDA manager

Lawyer reviews city's submission

Charles Long may have received an offer she can't refuse. But, let's see what her attorney says first.

Long, who last month was asked to collect her belongings and vacate the DDA office at Walled Lake City Hall, has received a severance package from the city.

Her attorney is currently reviewing it, however, and will get back to the powers that be.

Long was asked to leave her job after members of the Walled Lake city council said the DDA did not have a specific enough plan and wouldn't approve its budget.

That meant there was no money to pay Long's salary, and the DDA Board officially let her go without cause at its next meeting. Since then, the city has offered Long a severance package, which she said she would accept.

Long said she was surprised to be offered a severance package. "I was just trying to do my job," she said. "I was just trying to do my job."

Historical Commission gears up for big event

Group has marked Novi's history for 20 years

Now in its 20th year, the Novi Historical Commission is gearing up for its main fall event and looking for a new member to fill a vacant seat.

The five person commission, which is currently down to four members, is appointed by city council and is funded by the city, said chairperson Kathy Mutch.

The group's responsibilities include the historic township hall and historic markers.

"In general, we try to educate the public and raise awareness of the historical resources in the community," Mutch said.

Join the commission

The Novi Historical Commission is seeking applications from people interested in filling a vacancy on the commission. The current members are Kathy Mutch, Roy Prefontaine, Betty Nick and Gary Gudas.

For more information, contact Mutch at (248) 349-6774.

Family Day

The group's main event for the year is the Funest Family Day, scheduled for 1-4 p.m. September 10 at the historic Fuent Farm. The free event will include wagon rides, a puppet show, a storyteller in character as a farm worker, games and live music.

One apple grower from Eaton Rapids will also be at the event with more than 100 varieties of "heritage" apples that people can sample, Mutch said. The varieties are no longer grown commercially, she said. People will also have the chance to use an apple press to make their own cider.

Other projects

The group's two other main projects currently are publishing a revised map that will allow people to take self-guided tours of Novi, Mutch said. They are also trying to create a cupola on the historic township hall.

Mutch said the township hall, which has been restored, originally had a cupola, but that was not known until recently. They are trying to use photos and drawings of the building to recreate the cupola.

The commission is also always increased in leasing from residents who grew up in Novi, or who might know of people with historical knowledge of the area.

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ASK ABOUT ENERGY STAR

School redistricting forum gives public opportunity to speak up

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Monday night's public forum on the Novi Community School District school reorganization and redistricting committee's report was a bit smaller and more subdued than its July predecessor.

The forum was the second of two designed to give the community a chance to pose questions and offer feedback to the administration, which will present a recommendation on redistricting to the board of education at the Sept. 7 board meeting.

Redistricting has been a hot-button issue for the district, but even so, Monday's forum featured a slightly smaller crowd than the first forum, held in July, which attracted roughly 40 people. Fewer parents spoke up, and fewer engaged in back and forth dialogue with each other and members of the committee.

The forum began with a presentation summarizing the report by assistant superintendent for business and operations Jim Koster. The floor was then opened up for questions.

Parkview Elementary School. One person remarked that the special education had been forced to meet on the hallway for physical therapy.

Many parents had concerns over changing projects for future student enrollment in the district. They said the district's projected enrollment now looks to be smaller than originally forecasted earlier this year, and they questioned the need for redistricting at all.

Koster noted that enrollment is not declining, but admitted that the necessity of redistricting given the new projections is "one of the things we have to struggle with." He said there is a question as to whether 2007 is the proper year to redistrict.

A teacher from Parkview Elementary said overcrowding at that school makes redistricting a necessity, but some parents said Parkview was more crowded at times during the 1990s and questioned why nothing was done. Koster said it took time to build a new school.

That new school was Deerfield Elementary, which has also been a hot-button issue lately. Koster explained again at the forum — as he had in July — that redistricting was going to be looked at even if the board had not decided to make Deerfield a neighborhood school earlier this year.

"You have to divorce the fact of redistricting and the Deerfield issue," Koster said.

A parent asked about possibly expanding the program at Deerfield — which has the same curriculum but special teaching programs — to other schools in the district. Superintendent Peter Dina, who was largely silent during the open floor segment of the forum, said that the administration would consider the question.

Another parent asked why the committee had not looked at equalizing academic results among the different schools, since that was part of their mission. Koster made it clear that examining academic parity was outside the scope of the committee's mission.

A woman who identified herself as a substitute teacher in the district made the comment that all of the district's schools were excellent.

Other parents asked that the administration take things slowly when considering redistricting. A member of the committee who worked on the community education sub-committee replied that the issue will have been ongoing for 10-11 months by the time the board is scheduled to make a decision in October.

The Deerfield issue

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Matt Doran can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

Questions and comments

One parent requested a concern from the first meeting about neighborhoods south of 10 Mile Road being split up by redistricting.

Concerns were expressed about special education programs not having enough room to operate at



Photo courtesy of Kathy March

Where it will be spent

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and held a celebratory event in Farmington Hills August 8, featuring exhibits from communities that had received MNRTF grants. Pictured are Novi councilmember Andrew Mutch and Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Randy Auler showing Rebecca Humphries, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the 51 acres that Novi will acquire for park purposes using the \$846,338 recently granted to the city from the trust fund.

Daughter walks to honor mom

■ Three-day, 60 mile trek raises breast cancer research funds

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

When Ninette Douglas was told she had breast cancer last year on her birthday, the Novi resident had one person she was able to count on: her daughter Sam Douglas.

"She was my total, awesome supporter," Ninette Douglas said

of her daughter.

Sara Douglas, 27, showed that support by recently raising \$2,600 and walking 60 miles over the course of three days in a fundraiser that will support breast cancer centers in Michigan. Ninette Douglas said.

Starting each day from Stony Creek Metropark, she walked 60 miles, in spite of sore feet and huge blisters.

"I can't believe that she stuck it out," Ninette Douglas said.

Ninette Douglas said her breast cancer was discovered through a routine check-up and she went through seven months of chemotherapy and then radiation before she recovered.

"It taught me that I'm a real strong person and I never thought of myself that way," she said.

Her daughter participated in the walk to honor her, she said. Sara Douglas raised the money for the event by holding a garage sale and sending out letters to "to every single person we've ever had contact with in our entire lives," her mother joked.

Ninette Douglas said the event included 2,400 people and raised \$5.9 million for Michigan cancer centers.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

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Novi News

BUSINESS



The possible design for a new bank in Novi includes a brick exterior, a light facade marking the entryways and skylights. The design needs to be approved by the Novi City Council. The top level shown won't appear in the final design. Rendering by the Thompson-Phelan Group.

New Novi 'community' bank shoots for December launch

■ Permanent facility to open next summer

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

One of Novi's newest banks unveiled its tentative design last week.

The institution is aiming to open the permanent building late next summer, with a temporary branch opening in December.

Plans for the permanent structure, which would sit on the northeast corner of 12 Mile and Dixon, include a brick exterior with a light facade marking the entryways, as well as skylights, said CEO Satish Jasti, who's spearheading the bank's launch. He noted the design must still be approved by the City Council.

The bank will sit on property that totals 2.55 acres, which Jasti

said leaves room for expansion. He said the building is trying to blend in with neighboring structures.

"It looks very classic, very nice and also very contemporary," he said in an interview with the Novi News last week in his Lathrup Village office.

The single-story structure is expected to be about 4,500 square feet and will take about 32 weeks to build at a cost of \$1.7 million.

The property cost \$850,000, and Jasti estimated the bank will spend another \$1.2 million in startup expenses to recruit and pay workers. The bank will employ 12 in its first year and increase to 20 by the end of its second year. He said the site was chosen over a facility near Twelve

Oaks Mall.

The parent company of the bank, Lotus Bancorp Inc., was previously known as City Central Bancorp Inc. The name of the Novi branch hasn't been announced yet.

Jasti said the institution looks to carve a niche in the cutthroat Michigan banking market by catering to physicians, attorneys, certified public accountants and the general public. By targeting specialized groups, Jasti hopes the bank will be insulated from the state's sluggish economy.

"I think if you can have niche markets like this, you can beat the trend of the general economic conditions," he said.

A bank for Novi

He characterized the institution as a "community bank" and said having a Novi base will allow it to stand out in a sea of competitors that have local footprints, but are based elsewhere.

Jasti has 22 years of banking experience. He was senior relationship manager of commercial banking for Key Bank in Birmingham before he took over the Novi venture. Before that he was vice president of commercial banking for Standard Federal Bank in Livonia, and has also worked for Bank One and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Detroit office.

He said launching a new bank is a bit of a dream job.

"I always wanted to do this," the 47-year-old said.

The bank has signed on Richard Bauer to be chief financial officer. His experience includes a stint as senior vice president at Fidelity Bank in Birmingham, which he's done since the 1980s.

The startup investors include physicians and business people,

Specifics

Where: Northeast corner of 12 Mile and Dixon
When: Late next summer
CEO: Satish Jasti, Metro Detroit banker with 22 years of experience.
Details: 4,500 square feet, with brick exterior and a lighter-colored facade and skylights...Plans to make loans of up to \$1.5 million...Caters to area's thriving business and medical community.
Other: A temporary location will open in December at 45650 Grand River.

Jasti said, and many come from the area's Asian community. Initially, the bank's temporary branch will be at 45650 Grand River, renting half of the first floor of the building.

The bank is looking to raise \$11 to \$16 million in capital through a common stock offering, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bank could make loans of up to \$1.5 million.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Sobriety court stands out, says Judge Powers

■ 52-1 District Court publishes annual report

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

attention" through stringent requirements that are a turn-off to many participants, whom Powers said often start out with negative attitudes. They are upset by the intrusiveness of the curfews, drug and alcohol tests, ongoing counseling, phone calls and visits from police officers, he said.

Some people opt to drop out of the program and serve time in jail. However, Powers said many more make it through the whole 18 months and enjoy a courtroom graduation ceremony. The program has a recidivism rate of less than 2 percent, he said.

Keeping the roads safe

The seven-year-old program is the high point of the court's 2005 Community Report, Powers said. It has graduated more than 500 participants. "These stars are tremendous," Powers said. He said people younger than their mid-20s lack perspective and seem to think their lives will continue unchanged forever. They also don't have to be as responsible as older folks, he said.



"Every one of those people were on our roads and driving drunk. Somehow you have to get their attention."

Judge Dennis Powers
52-1 District Court

A hands-on approach

Once a person is in the program, they spend the first month getting tested for alcohol and sometimes drugs twice a day, in the morning and evening. After that, they get tested once a day for nine months. Participants have a curfew and are not allowed to be out of their homes after 11 p.m. or before 6 a.m. A police officer checks in with them to make sure they are complying, and officers also inspect their homes for alcohol. The program includes "intensive outpatient counseling" as well, Powers said. Participants meet once a week with a counselor and monthly with a judge. Some participants may have to check themselves into a

Structure of the program

Three judges at the district court — Powers, Robert Bondy and Brian MacKenzie — collaborate on the program, which has graduated more than 500 people, Powers said. There are also three probation officers assigned to the program full-time, as well as a police officer. A prosecutor comes to every court meeting for participants, and there are attorneys who work exclusively representing members of the program, he said. An advisory committee with members including doctors and attorneys also helps oversee the sobriety court, Powers said. Eventually, he is hoping the program will have the money to expand further.

Police captain to be added at a later date

"We will have a fire captain in place within the next 60 days," Goodlein said. The department has already solicited applications for the new \$61,668-a-year position from internal candidates. "We're going to look at those first before we decide whether or not we're going to go outside the organization," Goodlein said. Lori Rich, city council member,

called the Wage and Salary Committee's recommendation a bone fide package at the Aug. 9 council meeting. "I do realize that times are tough and we need to be restructuring and revising pay plans. But, we also need to be able to attract new employees and maintain current ones," Rich said. "I hope this isn't so far below the mark compared to other communities that we're cutting off our nose to spite our face." By comparison, the salary range for the Novi Fire Chief is \$79,337-\$103,138 a year. Rich said she would like for her fellow council members to at least be open to reviewing the salary for this new position at a later date.

Three men trapped under granite

■ Trio injured when strap breaks

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Fire Department rescued two men who trapped under 1,000 pounds of granite last week. The accident occurred at Baltic Granite, 22635 Venture, when one of the straps holding the granite slabs together in a cargo trailer broke, said Jeff Johnson, acting fire chief. One man sustained head trauma and the other had broken bones in his hand. A third man was also trapped, but escaped with the help of a nearby forklift operator before rescue workers arrived. His injuries included cuts and bruises.

All three were taken to Royal Oak Reumont Hospital. Johnson said two were released August 11 and the status of the third is unclear. The rescue, which also involved the Northville Fire Department, took more than an hour.



Rescue personnel lift one of three victims in last week's granite accident.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-047

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Karl Holmister of Lifestyles Hot Spring Spas is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to hold a tent sale in the southeast corner of the parking lot of the Lums Building located south of Grand River and east of Main Street at 42875 Grand River from September 1, 2006 through September 3, 2006.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 9:30 a.m. on August 23, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to August 23, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0580

(8-17-06 NN 304729)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS NEW 2006, 2007 VEHICLES

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for New 2006, 2007 Vehicles according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE JANUARY MARKED.

NEW 2006, 2007 VEHICLES BID

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informatics or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

(8-17-06 NN 304756)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS "2006 FALL STREET TREE PLANTING"

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for "2006 Fall Street Tree Planting" according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Thursday, August 31, 2006 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE JANUARY MARKED.

"2006 FALL STREET TREE PLANTING"

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informatics or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

(8-17-06 NN 305084)

Theft cases up in Novi's court

■ Judge says embezzlement increased in '05

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Powers said he is seeing a high number of women in court on theft charges. Some single mothers are given lists of items to steal by thieves who then give the women money so they can buy groceries, he said. Powers said some women hide stolen items in their baby strollers. Items commonly stolen include cigarettes, alcohol, jewelry and even underwear, Powers said. "Often people tell him they don't know why they stole, he said. "These aren't heavy criminals," Powers said. "They are people with problems."

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider GREAT LAKES CORPORATE CAMPUS, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-043. FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, UTILITIES AND PERMITS, WATER AND PERMIT, AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 13, AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF TWENTY NINE MILE AND THE NORTH-SOUTH SIDE EXIT RAMP IN THE DISTRICT PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. The subject property is 20.22 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct four separate buildings, including offices, a hotel, and a bank.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 23, 2006.

(8-17-06 NN 305087)

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
MARK PETERSON, SECRETARY

LOCATION MAP

Map showing location of property at intersection of 29 Mile Road and Exit Ramp.

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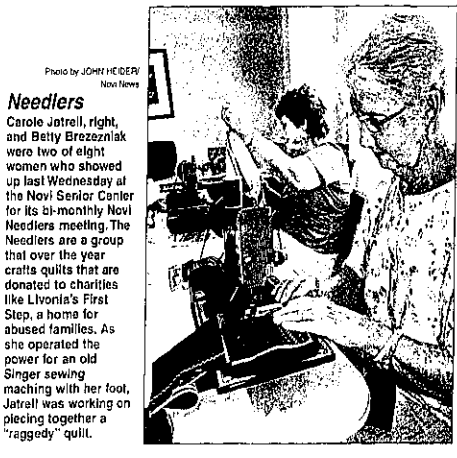
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Needlers

Carol Jettrell, right, and Betty Brezennik were two of eight women who showed up last Wednesday at the Novi Senior Center for its bi-monthly Novi Needlers meeting. The Needlers are a group that over the year crafts quilts that are donated to charities like Livonia's First Step, a home for abused families. As she operated the power for an old Singer sewing machine with her foot, Jettrell was working on piecing together a "raggedy" quilt.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 8/18	12:45 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	Message by appointment
9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength	10 a.m.	Body Recall	
11 a.m.	Lunch	12:30 p.m.	Diap. Bridge	
12:45 p.m.	Bingo	2:30 p.m.	Message by appointment	
Monday 8/21	8:45 a.m.	Men's Golf		
9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength	10 a.m.	Body Recall	
11:30 a.m.	Clubs			
12:30 p.m.	Lunch			
2:30 p.m.	Message by appointment			
6:30 p.m.	Clubs			
Tuesday, 8/22	8:30 a.m.	Patent Read		
9 a.m.	Line Dance			
10 a.m.	Asian Pacific			
11-12:30 p.m.	Computer Class-Intermediate			
	Lunch			
Wednesday 8/23	9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength		
9:15 a.m.	Women's Golf last day			
10 a.m.	Body Recall			
11 a.m.	Black Pressure			
11 a.m.	Take Off Pinks Sensory class			
1 p.m.	Gene Day-free			
1:2 p.m.	Aging to Perfection series: "Who Moved My Cheese?"			
2:30 p.m.	Message by appointment			
Thursday 8/24	9 a.m.	Line Dance		
9 a.m.	Mixed Golf League			
11-12:30 p.m.	Computer Class-Intermediate			
Lunch				
12:15 p.m.	Contract Bridge			
1:2 p.m.	Line Dance			
2:30 p.m.	Message by appointment			

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center-45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-4414.

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational
 LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: Rev. Ed Williamson, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7257, visit www.mbcce.org or gancee@meadowbrooktrch.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 10 a.m.

Novi United Methodist
 LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2652

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
 LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile
 CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m.
 Sunday School
 TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7: 10 a.m. All ages.
 Lunch Hour Worship
 TIME/DAYS: 12:10-12:50 p.m., Wednesday, ongoing.
 DETAILS: This will include scripture and Holy Communion.
 Youth Worship
 TIME/DAYS: 7 p.m., second and fourth Sunday of every month.
 DETAILS: All youth welcome.

Oak Pointe
 LOCATION: Novi High School, 34062 Tall Road
 CONTACT: (248) 912-3043 or visit www.oakpointe.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

St. James Catholic
 LOCATION: 40325 10 Mile
 CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

Commerce United Methodist
 LOCATION: 1155 North Commerce Road, Commerce Township
 CONTACT: (248) 363-3935

First United Methodist of Northville
 LOCATION: 777 W. High Mile Road, Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.

Community Healing Service
 DATE: First Monday, monthly
 DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life, or that of someone close to them.

Crosspointe Meadows
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

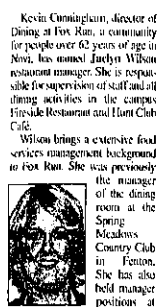
St. Paul Lutheran
 LOCATION: 291 Elm St., Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
 Kindergarten Registration
 DETAILS: Children who will be 5-years-old by Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

St. John Lutheran
 LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
 CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
 Youthful Little School
 DATE: Monday through Friday
 TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
 DETAILS: The cost is \$15 per person. The theme is "All About! The Gospel Express."
 Sunday Worship
 TIME/DAYS: 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 8:30, 9:50 and 11 a.m., Sunday
 Sunday School
 TIME: 9:45 a.m.

Holy Family
 LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamily.org
 Catholic Faith Questions
 DATE: Monday, Sept. 11
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: This meeting will include information for "Being Catholic: What's it all about?"
 CONTACT: Maria, (248) 349-8847 or e-mail mfq@holyfamily.org
 Adoptive Parent Networking
 Meeting
 DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
 TIME: 10-11 a.m.
 DETAILS: Free informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Childcare available. Registration required.
 CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-3595

PEOPLE

NAMES IN THE NEWS



J. Wilson

Kevin Cunningham, director of Dining at Fox Run, a community for people over 62 years of age in Novi, has named Jody Wilson restaurant manager. She is responsible for supervision of staff and all dining activities in the campus Riverside Restaurant and Hunt Club Café.

Wilson brings a extensive food services management background to Fox Run. She was previously the manager of the dining room at the Spring Meadows Country Club in Fenton. She has also held manager positions at Daniel's Chophouse in Burton and The Palm Golf Club.

"Jackie's enthusiasm and energy makes her perfect for the position of restaurant manager," said Cunningham. "Her knowledge and experience in the food industry is invaluable."

Wilson is a graduate of Division High School and a resident of Fenton.

Hansen is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan where she earned her Master of Social Work degree. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Oakland University.

Jablonski also announced recently the graduation of Jan Bayer, LMSW, ACSW to resident services manager at Fox Run. Bayer was previously the resident services coordinator in the community's resident life department. Bayer played a sign language program at Fox Run, when she recognized that she could assist a hearing impaired couple with communicating with staff and their neighbors.

"Jan's initiative in learning sign language and leading classes for our staff as well as residents is a perfect example as why she is the right choice for this position," said Jablonski.

Before joining Fox Run, Bayer held diversified positions that utilized her social work background including Senior Counseling Services, LLC, Jewish Apartment and Services, Jewish Family Services, Renaissance Health Care and the Jewish Community Center. Bayer received her bachelor of science degree in social work from Eastern Michigan University and her master of social work degree, specializing in aging, from the University of Michigan. Bayer is currently a resident of Oak Park.

WEDDING



Mr. and Mrs. Keith Benoit

Both Anne Rice and Keith Richard Benoit were married June 23, 2006 at Cape Cod, Mass. John Benoit officiated the ceremony. Both families vacationed on Cape Cod with the couple prior to the wedding. A reception was held at Oak Crest Cove Yacht Club, Cape Cod.

The bride is the daughter of Jay and Sharon Rice of Novi. She earned a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology at the University of Michigan. She is currently employed as a First Lieutenant LH-60 Blackhawk Pilot in the United States Army.

The groom is the son of Danny and Eileen Benoit of Worcester, Mass. He earned a bachelor's degree in History at Worcester State College. He is currently employed as a First Lieutenant OH-59 Kiowa Warrior Pilot in the United States Army.

Both are currently stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. Keith will deploy to Iraq and Josh will deploy to Afghanistan in a couple of months.

ENGAGEMENT

Benton-Magi

Mrs. Susan Benton of Novi announces the engagement of her son, William Thomas Benton to Asuka Magi, daughter of Mr. Osamu Magi and Mrs. Emiko Magi of Ikegami, Japan.

The groom-elect is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School and is in the United States Navy. He is a 1st Class Petty Officer, USS Curtis Wilbur and is stationed in Japan.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Meiji Gakuin High School in Yokohama, Japan. She is employed by Yokohama Institute, a swimming school in Japan.

A September 2006 wedding is planned.

IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Airman Dominic N. Arcoña has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Albert Arcoña of Commerce Township and Linda Postma of Novi.

Arcoña is a 2005 graduate of Walled Lake Northern High School.

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Coming next week: Fall Sports Previews

SPORTS

B¹

NOVI NEWS

novinews.com

Thursday, August 17, 2006

PAID TO CATCH FISH

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to fishing, Kim Stricker is definitely "down for the brews."

The professional angler and owner of Stricker Paint Products, Inc., in Novi has an affinity for the light-brown-colored small-mouth bass.

And, two weeks ago, he competed in the Wal-Mart Forrest L. Wood (FLW) Tour Championship Aug. 2-5, finishing 12th and winning \$18,000.

Although he finished last on the final day, only the top 12 fishermen are even allowed to vie for the \$500,000 grand prize that goes to the first-place professional on the last one-day challenge.

Brent Fieber, a 29-year-old from Redlands, Calif., won the half-million dollars, the largest first-place award in the history of professional bass fishing.

Stricker, of Howell, owns the family paint business his father opened on the west side of Novi Road just south of the CSX railroad tracks in 1987. His wife, Sara, and their son, Danny, are also heavily involved in running the business.

The fate of Stricker Paint, however, is up in the air, with an overpass proposed to be built over the railroad track in the next few years. The Strickers fear the overpass will make their business inaccessible, especially to large trucks. Stricker has hired an attorney to represent his interests in the matter.

In the meantime, it's business as usual with Stricker's dual career as paint store owner and professional angler.

The FLW Tour is named after Forrest L. Wood, founder of Ranger boats and one of Stricker's current sponsors on the FLW Tour, along with Chevrolet.

The annual championship took place on Logan Martin Lake near Birmingham, Ala., and included 96 professional and amateur anglers. The tour starts in January, and competitors fish one week a month for six months.

The top 48 professionals and top 48 amateurs are invited to compete in the four-day championship in Birmingham — bass capital of the country, according to Stricker.

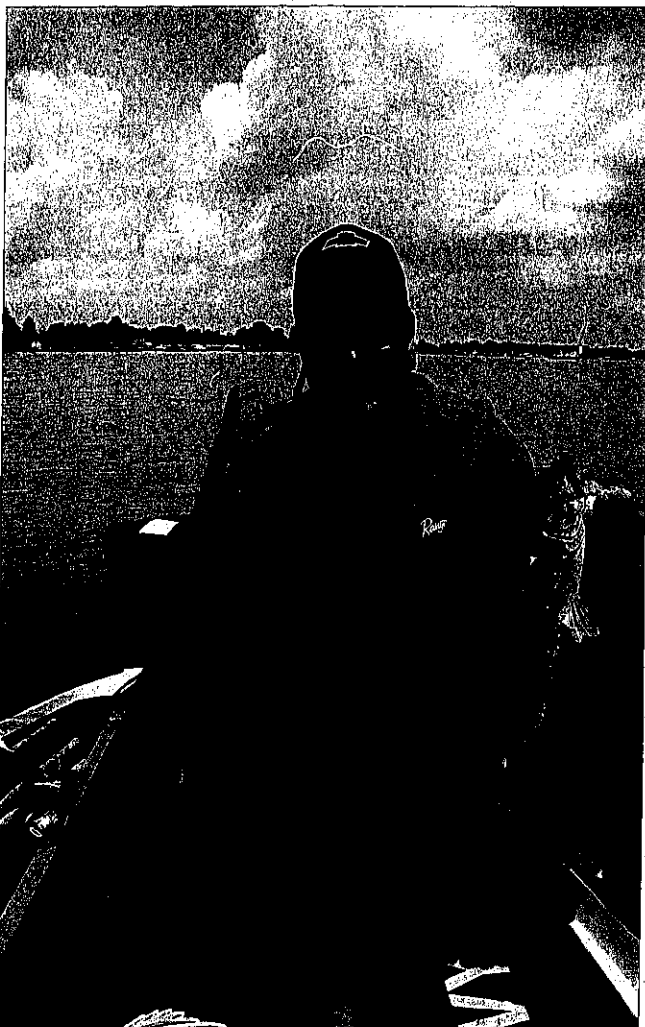
Based on a point system, Stricker was the 46th seed after this year's tournament season.

Finalists get helicopter ride

He said one of the highlights of the championship was the final weigh-in, when anglers were flown from the lake via helicopter by members of the National Guard, one of the sponsors of the event.

"They shut down Interstate-20 during the transport and made it look like the National Guard was coming to our rescue," Stricker said. The footage appeared on the Fox Sports Network show that airs at 11 a.m. Sundays and the Armed Forces network worldwide.

"FLW is trying to make a spectator sport out of fishing,"



Kim Stricker shows off a smallmouth bass caught during a Aug. 10 fishing trip on the St. Clair River.

Photo by Pam Fleming

Stricker said. Stricker also won the championship's Keep Going Award trophy, sponsored by Eveready Batteries, based on the lowest qualifying seed to become one of the top 12 finalists.

Besides filming the underwater video for the FLW Outdoors programs, with son Danny's assistance, Stricker said his new DVD, "Smallmouth Neighborhood — Volume I: Follow the Forage," is doing well.

The DVD is available locally at Glider Mountain in Novi's West Oaks Mall and at Stricker Paint. Or, visit www.kimstricker-productions.com.

Stricker is working now on

"Smallmouth Neighborhood — Volume II." This DVD will have even more underwater footage, including a segment in which he spars with a 3-pound male smallmouth bass.

"After the eggs are laid, the female leaves, and the male guards the nest," Stricker explained. "This fish would not leave the nest, and

even let me pick him up and move him around." The new DVD will be available sometime next year.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

Hope abounds with practice starting

Hope. Every team has it to begin the season. If last year didn't end right, there's hope this year. If last year rocked, there's hope it happens again.

All fall sports are now practicing. Some kids are hoping to make the team, while others are hoping they get back to state competition. There's hope everywhere.



Jeff Thelsen

Northville football coach Ryan Heckman is hoping for a breakthrough season after a 2-7 campaign in his first year with the Mustangs.

Novi football head coach Tibb Kellermann hopes for another Wildcat playoff run.

Detroit Catholic Central hopes for a return to dominance on the gridiron.

Some parents will hope their kids are good enough to make varsity, while others will hope to see their kid make the freshman squad.

Coaches hope their kids show up with all the paperwork necessary to practice. Athletic directors across the state hope for a few make-up dates as possible.

Referees hope for understanding from fans that think every high school level referee should make the correct call every time.

Managers hope players take care of their equipment and put it in the right places so they don't have to look for it.

Trainers hope for a never-ending roll of tape.

Cross-country workers hope the crowd is longy. And if not, maybe wind could blow the popcorn smell at the crowd to inspire sales.

Swimmers hope for bigger lungs. Swimming coaches want better times.

Football players hope for the big hit. Football coaches want better tacklers.

Soccer players hope for goals. Soccer coaches want to see the goals set up better.

Cross country runners hope they keep down lunch at the end of a race. Cross country coaches hope for the same (1 hope).

Golfers hope for birdies. Golf coaches hope for consistency.

Tennis players hope for aces. Tennis coaches look for good fundamentals.

Basketball players look for highlight plays. Basketball coaches highlight not turning the ball over.

As sports junkies, we just hope for a good season loaded with competitive games and fantastic finishes.

Sports writer Jeff Thelsen can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 104 or at jthelsen@gannett.com.

inside

Photo page highlighting the first day of cheer practice at Novi High School 3B.



Photo by JOHN HEIGER/Novi News

Courtney Carroll practices a routine with her Novi High School Cheer team-mates.

Fall sports in full swing

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Splish! Gooaaaah! Fifteen, serving love. How many more lips, coach?

All this and more could be heard as the rest of the fall sports opened practice Monday across the state.

Boys soccer and cross country, along with girls cross country, tennis, basketball and swimming took to their respective practice surfaces Monday. Football and boys golf started the previous week.

The first day of practice is usually the toughest one to get started as coaches have to deal with physical cards and other paperwork procedures. But once on the field, coaches admit the adrenaline kicks

in immediately. Northville boys cross country coach Chris Cronin said, "I'm excited not only for the season to start, but I'm really excited to be working with this group of guys."

Some coaches have an extended amount of time before the season starts. Northville swimming doesn't face outside competition until Aug. 31.

On the other hand, Novi golfers will be involved in their third competitive round today.

"This week coming up is crazy," Novi golf coach Brad Hest said. "Once you make it through this week we can kind of take a little breather and step back and get a chance to regroup a little bit."

"In a perfect world we would be able to start a little bit earlier but it is what it is. It's no big deal. We work through it and everybody's ready to go."

Coaches walk into practice with an idea of who is coming out, but they never really know what the final turnout will be.

"I couldn't wait. I couldn't hardly sleep last night," Novi cross country head coach Bob Smith said about the night before the first practice. "Good turnout, great turnout — 34 boys and 27 or so from last year. A real good core of guys coming back."

"It's evident that they did their homework. They're in pretty good shape. Now we need to get in racing shape."

Novi girls basketball coach Bill Kelp has to find replacement players for several girls that graduated last season.

"We graduated six seniors," he said. "It's kind of a young team. It's kind of a new beginning."

"The goal is to figure out everybody's role and who is going to step up and be these leaders."

At Northville, basketball got off to a good start. "Everybody came in ready to work," Northville basketball head coach Pete Wright said. "We had a really nice first day."

Find what you're looking for in the Green Sheet Classifieds Call 1-888-999-1288

Sport Shorts

10-U Powercats schedule tryouts

The 2007 10U Novi Powercats travel baseball tryouts are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Aug. 20 and 4:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at Sallis Maci Home Loans Field, located in Maybury State Park off Eight Mile Road.

U-11 Powercats travel baseball tryouts

Try-outs for the Novi Powercats U-11 Baseball Travel Team will be Tuesday, Aug. 22 at the Maybury State Park Field. Players must be 11 years old or younger on or before May 1, 2007.

Novi Heat baseball U15/16 tryouts

The Novi Heat U-15/16 baseball team will hold its tryouts 1-3 p.m. Aug. 20 and 27 at the Novi Sports Park.

Novi Powercats baseball tryouts

The 2007 10-U Novi Powercats travel baseball tryouts are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Aug. 20 and 4:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Sallis Maci Home Loans Field located in Maybury State Park.

Roller hockey league looking for players

Anyone interested in playing Roller Hockey during the 2006-07 school year and contact Jim Emerson at (248) 349-6337.

Motor City Madness to host two clinics

The Novi Motor City Madness will be hosting two clinics Monday, Aug. 21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for a defensive girls fast pitch clinic and Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for an offensive clinic.

Youth basketball league to start registration

The Northville Parks and Recreation begins accepting player registrations for fall youth basketball Aug. 22-Sept. 15, or the league is full. The leagues for girls are for grades fourth through sixth. The boys' league is for grades fourth and fifth and another for sixth and seventh.

Novi Ice Arena to hold fall/winter hockey leagues

The Novi Ice Arena will hold fall/winter multi-hockey leagues for adult teams, including 18 & Over "D" on Sunday nights, 18 & Over "C" on Friday nights, 18 & Over "B" on Tuesday nights as well as 30 & Over "B" on Wednesday nights and 30 & Over "C" on Thursday nights.

BEATING THE HEAT

By Cecilia Olek GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

The obsession that is prep sports cranks during the past two weeks with some teams officially starting practice for the fall season. But the word "fall" confuses many, which means it's hot.

Between 1995 and 2005, 20 high school football players died from heat stroke in the United States, according to the National Federation of High School Associations.

The best way to avoid a meltdown is to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids before, during and after exercise.

Don't wait for thirst Thirst isn't a good gauge of whether you're dehydrated.

What to do: Take a break, get something to drink, sit in the shade and use a cool compress.

Heat stroke: The most severe form of heat-related illness, this can cause permanent damage or death if left untreated.

Heat cramps: Symptoms include painful muscle spasms, usually in the abdomen, cramps, legs, caused by an imbalance of minerals.

Heat exhaustion: A more serious form of heat illness, you might have the following symptoms: frontal headache, changes in mental function, dizziness and loss of balance.



From the left, Justin Leo of Rochester Hills, pours water over his head, while Luke Wheldon of Rochester drinks his water at a soccer conditioning session at Rochester High School on July 27.

What to do: Find a cool place to rest and drink a sports drink that has electrolytes.

Heat-related illnesses include heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat stroke, heat stroke.

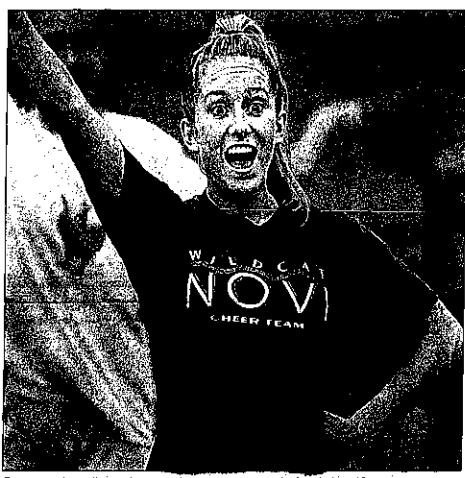
Heat cramps: Symptoms include painful muscle spasms, usually in the abdomen, cramps, legs, caused by an imbalance of minerals.

Heat exhaustion: A more serious form of heat illness, you might have the following symptoms: frontal headache, changes in mental function, dizziness and loss of balance.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



The Novi High School Cheer team practices outside for their upcoming fall events.



Courtney Carroll practices a routine with her Novi High School Cheer teammates. Carroll was recently named overall "Camp Champion" at a 600 girl cheer camp at Alma College for her exemplary stunts, gymnastics and leadership.



The Novi High School varsity cheer team runs through a routine.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



The Novi High School Cheer Team performs in unison a back-flip during an afternoon practice outdoors.

Accepted movie advertisement: ONE OF THE SURPRISE HITS OF THE SUMMER. Both raucously funny, yet full of heart and soul.

World Trade Center movie advertisement: TIME "GRIPPING, A POWERFUL MOVIE EXPERIENCE that glorifies that which is best in the American spirit."

Zoom movie advertisement: THE FAMILY ADVENTURE OF THE SUMMER! THEY'RE GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD AS LONG AS THEY'RE HOME FOR DINNER.

Now Playing movie advertisement: WALL FERRELL TALLADEGA NIGHTS THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY.

Now Playing movie advertisement: WALL FERRELL TALLADEGA NIGHTS THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY.

Now Playing movie advertisement: WALL FERRELL TALLADEGA NIGHTS THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 4B

Novi News

Thursday, August 17, 2006

BUSINESS SENSE

For some customers, call 'waiting' is a big hangup

By Misti Wolanski
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS

In your business, you will sometimes have to keep callers waiting while you figure out answers to their questions or find the right person to answer their questions. You could just leave the phone off the hook, perhaps, but callers' caveat-dropping is only desirable to a point. There are several ways that you can entertain callers when you put them on hold. Here are five options to consider.

Staying silent

You could put nothing on the hold line, leaving callers to hear only silence. With no recording, you do not need to worry about the overlap of repetitive recordings. Unfortunately, the person put on hold has absolutely no way of knowing if you are coming back to the phone, or if you have ditched him or her. Lengthy waiting periods will probably result in the caller hanging up — and probably being disgruntled as well.

Wait for the beep

A variation on the silence theme, this option adds a beep every few seconds so the caller knows he or she is on hold and has not been disconnected. Because the simple beep is easy to keep in a cycle, callers do not realize when they have reached the restart time of the recording. This grows annoying fast, though, and may result in a number of customer hang-ups — though fewer than would occur with silence.

Sounds of music

One of the more common methods for entertaining callers put on hold is music. The music is supposed to be soothing, but the problem is, there are different definitions of "soothing" for different types of people. Some people may find Celtic or classical music soothing; others may find it depressing or even outright hate it. Some callers may even find it difficult to concentrate as the music soothes them to sleep. Music with some form of beat may be preferred by some and loathed by others. With carefully chosen musical selections, the caller can have a hard time noticing when the recording repeats itself.

Chat them up

Do you like it when someone starts talking halfway into a sentence or cuts out halfway? If you decide to use the time in which you put callers on hold to educate them about your products, times of business or other information, you must consider that this will happen to some, if not, most callers. The few callers interested in what is being said will probably also be frustrated, since they will most likely find themselves interrupted while absorbing the information. It is also virtually impossible to hide the restart of a recording when you go on this route.

Finding the best mix

Some businesses make a lengthy music recording and, after each cycle, thank callers for waiting and reassure them that someone will be attending them shortly. The "thank you" betrays the music's restart — even if the music itself does not — but some people may find this method more polite. Speech and beeps can also be mingled, though any repeat of the recording is noticeable to the caller.

Where would you be without your customers and clients? Whatever route you choose to go when putting customers on hold, keep customers and clients in mind. Work with your telephone service provider or telephone software specialist to find the best on-hold method for your business and your bottom line.

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Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Quorum News Service

Kids of all ages enjoy the art of dance at Dance Unlimited, located in Plymouth at 15067 Northville Road.

Dance Unlimited: Unlimited fun

Plymouth dance studio offers fun, instruction

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

There is no limit to the benefits of dancing — with Dance Unlimited. At the Plymouth studio, students receive training in dance, while getting a physical and intellectual boost that will last a lifetime.

A number of Dance Unlimited graduates have gone on to college studies like science, engineering or law and now pursue successful careers. Many continue to dance after high school, using the experience as a springboard for other challenges.

Owner Barbara Raschke has seen the transformation of children at her dance academy over the course of 30 years. It's incredible to watch them grow — as dancers and as capable students.

"You have to concentrate on the music and the movements, while being aware of the people and space around you," explained Raschke. "It involves complex multi-level thinking."

Raschke has found that dance nurtures confidence and poise. It's a way for shy students to feel assured with their bodily space and with their place in life. It also helps students learn to work in a team, with each member contributing to the overall group success.

The students that are involved in several dance classes learn to balance their schedules and pursue their priorities. They are busy enough that they learn how to use their time wisely to make room for homework and self-improvement.

"This experience helps with organization and focus on school work," said Raschke. "It also will help them later in life in a number of ways."

Dancers at Dance Unlimited also gain a greater physical presence. Dance classes build strength, cardio-vascular endurance, and nimble reflexes. The students' gain balance, learn graceful movement, improve peripheral vision and gain a bet-

DANCE UNLIMITED
Lessons: Ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and modern dance
Location: 15067 Northville Road in Plymouth
Phone: (734) 420-4430
Web: danceunlimitedplymouth.com

ter sense of their surroundings. This makes other sports much easier, and improves everyday functioning.

It's more than just dance. It's a new way of life.

Dance Unlimited instructors make dance fun while teaching proper technique. Just going through the motions isn't good enough. There is a focus on learning how to do it right from the start.

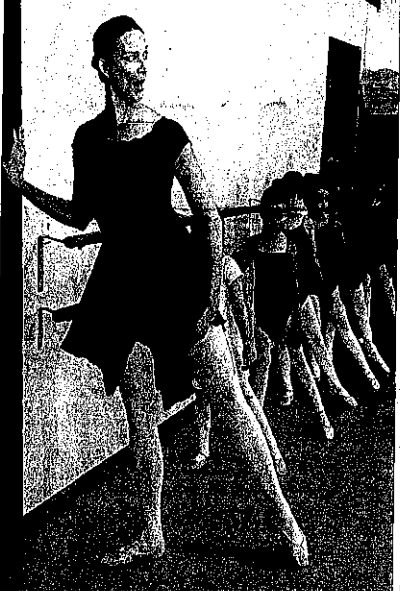
"It's important to us that students learn the proper technique and that they learn to present it in a performance," said Raschke. Creating a fun experience makes the kids willing to put time and sweat into learning to dance.

Even preschoolers can have a good time during dance class. Instructors work on learning standard technique, but also engage the little ones in dancing games. Every week kids get a chance to dance with something out of a surprise box. The class might get to try out skirts or magic wands, using their own creativity to heighten the lessons learned.

Instructors Sarah Carlson and Heather Moxford combine professional experience with experience teaching children to create a perfect atmosphere for learning and enrichment.

And the performances are half the fun. Dance Unlimited provides opportunities for advanced students to audition and become a part of professional performances. Students become a part of "Dance Ensemble West," a performing group which releases at the Dance Unlimited studio.

In September, dancers can audition for the Moscow Ballet's Nutcracker, which will be held at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit Nov. 25. Raschke is the local dance coordinator and will be running rehearsals.



Dance Unlimited owner-instructor Barbara Raschke teaches students ballet during a class at her Plymouth studio.

And Dance Unlimited puts together a spring recital. This year, the school is performing Hansel and Gretel. The full-length ballet teaches students to think of dance as a way to communicate and tell a story. Then putting together the story with costumes and sets is fun for all of the students.

Classes are available in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, modern dance, pre-ballet and creative movement for 3-year-olds. Registration for fall classes begins later this month. For more information, call (734) 420-4430, or go to www.danceunlimitedplymouth.com.

Pre-school through Adult • Ballet • Hip-Hop • Jazz • Modern • Tap

DANCE UNLIMITED

Since 1975 • Barbara Raschke, Director

• Beginning Through Advanced • Creative Movement Program for 3 Year Olds

Barbara Raschke, Director of Dance Unlimited is the local Dance Coordinator of the Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker to be performed Saturday, November 25, 2006 at Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

15067 Northville Rd, Plymouth
734-420-4430 • 248-349-7916
www.danceunlimitedplymouth.com

- Fall Registration begins Aug. 28
- Fall Classes begin Sept. 11
- Call for a FREE copy of our brochure