

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY Novi News

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Thursday, September 14, 2006

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50c

Novi, Michigan

YOUR HOT TICKET

Only three shows left of seniors' 'That's Entertainment'

Do you turn the theme song to The Gene Krupa on his way to work? Is the opening tune to The Brady Bunch his No. 1 song on your iPod? Then Novi's annual senior show is a must-see for you.

Dubbed "That's Entertainment," the musical is based on scenes and music from landmark TV shows of the past 50 years. Tunes from Giggi's Island, All in the Family, I Love Lucy and others are featured in the show, which opened last week.

Tickets are \$15 and are available for 1 p.m. performances Thursday and Friday, as well as a 2 p.m. Sunday show.

The event is in its 10th year and features senior citizens from Novi and surrounding communities. The nearly 60 performers range in age from 60 to 93 years old.

INSIDE

Our future

Halyan Tang, teacher of the first Chinese language class ever offered at Novi High School, is convinced her students are going to shape the world.



—16A

SPORTS

It's a win-win!

Wildcats and Shamrocks both earn gridiron victories.

—1B

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Library aims for '07 vote

■ Possible design would nearly triple existing structure

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

It's time for a larger Novi library, officials say, and they're ready to put it up for a vote. The Library Board of Trustees wants to get a bond proposal to raise money for expansion on the November 2007 election ballot. The board is looking to formally make the request at a council meeting soon, although it hasn't selected a date.

Officials say timing is critical for the library's expansion hopes. A proposal failed in 1999, and earlier this year the library board decided not to try to put the initiative on the ballot again this November, citing the massive public relations required to drum up support among voters.

"To be able to use an existing upcoming election where people are focusing on local issues makes sense," said Brenda Lassier, Novi Library director. The library's tentative plan is for a \$16 million bond, which would break out to a .342 millage rate, or \$29.93 a year for a Novi resident, whose home is worth \$175,000.

A preliminary design from Plante & Moran Corporate Real Estate Advisors would add two new wings to the existing structure and tack on nearly 40,000 square feet. The wings would be constructed to allow for future expansion, likely by adding a second floor.

And with more than a year before the November 2007 elections, the board wants to get community input.

"I would like to see this be a Novi people's design," said Robert Currier, board president.

The current building is 23,000 square feet. During expansion, the library would probably need a

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Aimee Bailey looks at children's books with her daughter, Lauren, 3, at the Novi Public Library. Due to lack of space, the library is forced to stack books on top of shelves. Novi could have a measure on the fall 2007 ballot to ask voters to consider a millage increase to pay for an expansion of the library.

Novi taps Ann Arbor official for assistant city manager position

■ Administrator chosen from 75 applicants, starts Sept. 25

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Novi has filled its vacant assistant city manager job, appointing Pam Antil to the position last week. She starts Sept. 25.

Antil is assistant city administrator for the City of Ann Arbor, where she has worked since January 2004. Before that she worked for six years as an assistant city manager in Rancho Palms Verde, Calif.

Antil has also served as interim parks and recreation manager for Ann Arbor.

"She's very sincere about public service," Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said.

Antil has a bachelor's degree in political science from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Long Beach. She lives in Plymouth with her husband and two children.

"Novi gives me a little different type of opportunity," said Antil, 41. "These opportunities only come up once in awhile."

"Novi received 75 applications from across the country for its assistant city manager slot and interviewed five finalists. The position pays \$90,445 to \$117,579 per year and includes benefits.

Meet Pam Antil

- New assistant city manager for city of Novi
- Has worked as assistant city administrator for Ann Arbor
- Also worked in local California government for six years
- Has bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and master's from California State, Long Beach

"I'm stood out for her variety of experience," Pearson said.

The position has been open since Pearson was promoted to interim city manager in February, following the retirement of Rick Helwig. Pearson was named city manager in June.

Novi is still seeking to fill its vacant fire chief position. It's been open since Art Longhin retired in February after 28 years in charge of the department. Jeff Johnson is acting fire chief. The jobs pays \$79,337 to \$103,138 and includes benefits.

Greg Migliore can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or gmigliore@snetnet.com.

Taxes raised?

■ Residents could decide school bond in 2007 after redistricting

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Redistricting Novi's elementary schools could affect every taxpayer in the city.

In May, Novi residents may decide on a bond to pay for building upgrades and the construction of a new pre-school.

Resident Mary Salemi said she hopes the district is careful about asking taxpayers for more money. "We don't want to be another Northville," she said. "We don't want a millage so big it goes down in flames."

Jim Koster, superintendent of finance, said Monday that the administration has not developed a dollar amount for the bond yet because the school board hasn't approved the redistricting plan yet.

"We have to get a feel for what the board wants," Koster said. "Bond issues are not something we create in a vacuum. The next nine months will be packed full of processes."

Koster said the school board will discuss redistricting and a possible bond at a workshop scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21.

The school board is expected to vote on the proposal during the

continued on page 4

Austin resigns

■ School board must fill his seat in 30 days

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Novi school board member Dan Austin resigned from his post during the regular meeting Tuesday night so he can follow his wife, Raoul, and daughter, Nicole, to Louisville, Ky.

Austin served on the school board for 14 months before he resigned.

"I fully intended to serve at least a full term," he said. "It's hard leaving, we lived in Novi for

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Giving guidance in grieving

■ Mourners learn how to cope with death

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Some folks may recognize Michael Meyer as a current Novi planning commission member.

Others may remember that he ran for city council three times, or that in the '80s and '90s, he served as a school board member.

Or he may have been seen as the volunteering parishioner at Church of the Holy Family in Novi.

Still, people who lost loved ones may recall Meyer, who has lived in Novi for 25 years, as the man who leads bereavement sessions at Novi City Hall.

From 7:30-9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month, Meyer meets with a group of six to 12 Novi residents who need to talk about the death of a spouse, rela-

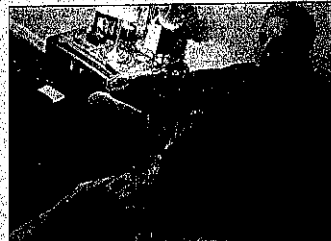
tive or friend in the mayor's office at city hall.

The meetings are sponsored by the O'Brien/Sullivan funeral home in Novi.

Meyer, also leads an annual candlelight vigil in the council chambers every December where he and residents remember those who died over the year.

Meyer, who has a doctorate in ministry from the Ecumenical

continued on page 5



Michael Meyer relaxes in his home office. Meyer is a teacher and volunteers as a bereavement counselor.

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It's the ultimate work-out fantasy. A personal trainer, a private room and tons of specialized exercise equipment. Fitness Together makes a reality out of the kind of work-outs seen on TV.

Most people have tried the gym scene. There's a lot of equipment and a lot of people, so it can be hard to feel comfortable.

At Fitness Together, there is a private room, with one fitness professional working with one client at a time. It's a place to concentrate on getting in shape, without the distractions and discomfort of a public gym.

Fitness Together starts out with a free work-out session, to give folks a chance to decide whether it's the right place. Then clients sit down with a fitness professional to discuss their goals, and put together a long-term plan, including nutrition, cardiovascular and fitness plans.

So each fitness session brings clients one step closer toward their fitness goals. Instead of floundering around without seeing much progress, clients get maximum results quickly.

Each fitness professional has a wealth of experience and credentials, including college studies in exercise and nutrition. They are warm, friendly people that make each client feel at ease. They build a personal relationship with each client, so they can truly work together to overcome obstacles.

"Our fitness professionals are incredible," said owner Boo Sadikot. The staff at Fitness Together make the biggest difference in the success of the program. They are focused on keeping each client motivated to stay on track.

It's human nature to quit exercising after a few weeks. Many waste a lot of money on home exercise equipment or gym memberships because they can't stick with it.

"What we do here is different, because it is all about helping our clients achieve their goals," said Sadikot. "We are going to keep you motivated."

Fitness Together requires no contracts or membership dues. Clients come in for two or three 45 minute sessions each week. There's not a large financial investment.

And the results speak for themselves. Clients testimonials fill up the company Web sites.

"We have an excellent success rate," said Sadikot. "Our clients rave about us."

Fitness Together is for anyone. Athletes come to Fitness Together to raise the bar on their fitness level. People seeking weight loss are finally able to shed extra pounds because the trainers keep them focused on fitness and nutrition. Often senior citizens come to Fitness Centers to build strength and improve their overall health. And parents can even bring children or teens who need help developing healthy habits.

"If we neglect our health, it usually comes back to us in the long run," said Sadikot. "We only have one body, so it's important to take good care of it."

Fitness Together is located at 47210 Ten Mile Road in Novi and 6279 Haggerty Road in West Bloomfield. Convenient appointments are available from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For more details call (248) 348-9230 or go to www.fitness-together.com or www.ftwbloomfield.com.



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Schoolcraft cooks up 15th Culinary Extravaganza

Sept. 24 event
proceeds to
assist students

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Conway Jeffress wants area residents to bring their appetites, and their checkbooks, to Schoolcraft College Sunday, Sept. 24.

Jeffress, president of the Livonia institution, invites one and all to the 15th Culinary Extravaganza at the college's \$27-million VistaTech Center at 18600 Haggerty Road.

The event that begins at 1 p.m. with a private reception for VIPs and is open to the public from 2-5 p.m. Several sponsorship levels are available, which include tickets. Individual tickets are \$50 each.

Presented by the Schoolcraft College Foundation, this is the school's premier annual fundraiser.

It celebrates the culinary talent of some of the Detroit area's finest restaurants while supporting the school's culinary arts program.

Since the extravaganza began in 1991, it has raised more than \$1,325,000 for Schoolcraft College students.

The college is dedicated to helping students obtain their education in an affordable manner.

The current state of the economy, however, is creating an even greater financial burden on today's students.

The college's foundation provides scholarships for many of these students.

Students to receive \$460,000

In 2006-2007, the foundation will award almost \$400,000 in scholarships, with the Culinary Extravaganza pulling in about \$95,000 a year.

The Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts Program includes many students who are venturing out into a new career.

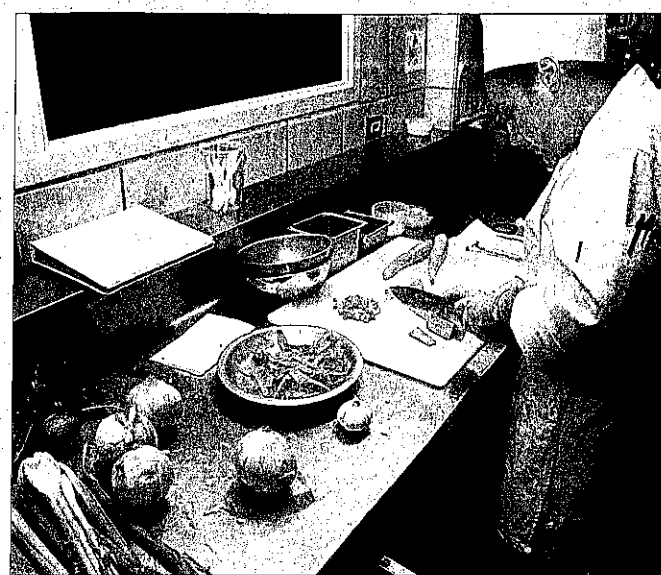
Take Polly Brown, for instance. When her job as a computer analyst was outsourced, she decided to do what she loves—baking bread. She hopes to open a small bake shop someday.

The Harris Memorial Scholarship allowed her to return to school to complete her second and final year at Schoolcraft.

Brown earned the highest grade point average in her culinary classes and the Outstanding Characteristic Student Award in April. She's currently working as a sous chef at the college.

John Walsh, executive director of development, said he and his staff have been encouraged by the outpouring of support for this annual event.

"We're really pleased," Walsh said, "even with the economy struggling as it is, these restaura-



Schoolcraft Community College Culinary Arts Program student Ashley Walters chops up some vegetables to begin making a soup on a recent Tuesday afternoon. The school will host its annual fundraising Culinary Extravaganza on Sept. 24.

ntaurants and wine distributors are really stepping up to help us out to make it a wonderful event."

The school set a goal of \$60,000 from sponsors for the event, and as of Sept. 7 had \$32,000.

Attendees will be able to sample, and re-sample if they wish, dishes and wine from almost 50

restaurants and wine distributors at the fund-raiser.

Restaurants' dishes are also paired with wine that complements their selection. Several winners are participating this year.

Walsh reminds those who want to attend the event that they don't have to arrive at 2 p.m. but can

come at any time during the three-hour event.

"If you get there a little bit later, the crowds will have dissipated a little, and it's a little more comfortable," Walsh said.

"There's going to be plenty of food, and it will meet every taste bud."

The college expects to sell more than 1,000 tickets for the extravaganza.

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

Restaurants, wine distributors

The following area restaurants and wine distributors are scheduled at the 15th Culinary Extravaganza at Schoolcraft College on Sept. 24:

A.H.D. Vintners, American Harvest, Aramark Services Inc., Asian Village of Detroit, Back Home Bakery, Black Star Farms, Cadillac Coffee Company, Cantoro Italian Market, Coastal Wine Distributors, Cold Stone Creamery, Decanter Imports, The Farm Restaurant, Gamma Grille & Company's on the Park, Five Lakes Grill and Galley Wine Distributors.

Others include Gravity Bar & Grill, The Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company, Great Oaks Culinary Club, The Henry Ford Hilton Garden Inn in Plymouth, Holiday Catering, Holiday Market Wine Shop (in at St. John's "Five" Restaurant, Jeff Zak Catering Inc., Labiscopa Italian Grille, L. Mawby Vintners, Loving Spoonful, Maria Mucchi Pasta, Michigan Wine Council, Midwest Wine Exchange distributed through Henry A. Fox Sales Co., Mitchell's Fish Market, Pelee Island Winery distributed through Josule Wine Inc., Rattlesnake Club, The Riz Carriou, Seldom Blues, Shiro, Sodeho, Station 885, Steve & Rocky's, Trader Joe's, Traffic Jam Restaurant, Tribute Restaurant, Veritas Distributors, Vine Wine Custom Winery of Northville, Wine Dimensions, Zingerman's Bakehouse and Zurita Mexican Grill.

Sponsorships, ticket prices

Sponsorship levels for the 2006 Schoolcraft College Culinary Extravaganza on Sunday, Sept. 24, include:

- Platinum, \$5,000
- Diamond, \$2,500
- Gold, \$1,000
- Silver, \$500
- Bronze, \$300

Sponsorship packages include a number of event tickets, with additional tickets available for \$50 each.

Table tickets are also being sold for \$5 each or three for \$10. For more information, call (734) 462-4400, ext. 5008, or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/culinaryext.asp.

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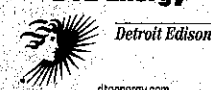


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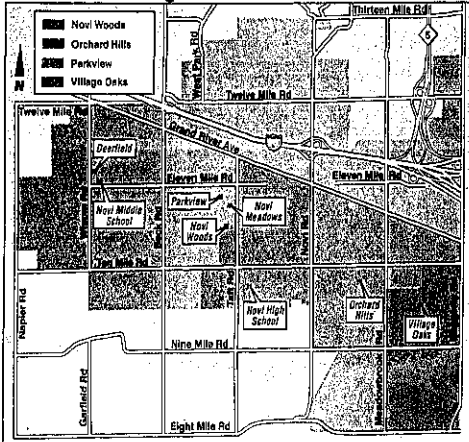
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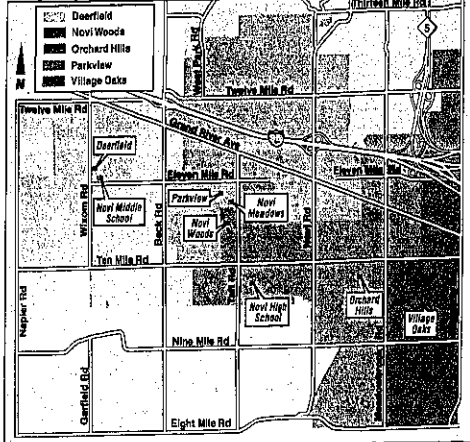
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Current Districting



SOURCE: City of Novi

Proposed Redistricting



SOURCE: City of Novi

Taxes raised? Residents could decide school bond in 2007 after redistricting proposal

continued from front page

regular 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 meeting.

Last week, school administrators presented their proposal to draw a new district map and improve district buildings during a regular school board meeting.

The administrator's proposal includes:

- Constructing gyms, music rooms, art rooms, and making renovations at Village Oaks, Orchard Hills and Parkview elementary schools.
- Installing security systems at all the district's buildings.
- Constructing a new preschool building.
- Drawing new district lines

that essentially change Deerfield Elementary from a school of choice to a neighborhood school.

The proposal made by the administrator was based on recommendations in a report made by the School Utilization and Redistricting Committee and two public forums.

The School Utilization and Redistricting Committee consisted of 27 parents, eight teachers and four school district administrators.

Committee member Kim Wagner thanked the school board during the meeting for giving her the opportunity to help shape the future of Novi schools.

"We were there to do a job," Wagner said. "We all worked together to come up with a plan."

A public forum on the administrator's proposal is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the Education Services Building, located at 25345 Tall Rd.

Renée Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsaunders@gannett.com.

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Library aims for 2007 vote

continued from front page

temporary facility, Cutler said.

Mayor David Landry noted the expansion, which would nearly triple the library's size, could mean more services are based there, such as programs for seniors.

"I think we clearly need a new library," he said.

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

A larger library for Novi?

The Library Board of Trustees wants to get a bond proposal on the November 2007 ballot.

It would raise \$16 million to fund expansion.

Possible expansion plans include adding two new wings.

A previous proposal was defeated in 1999.

School board must fill Austin's seat in 30 days

continued from front page

12 years."

Austin also retired recently from his job as deputy superintendent for Oakland Schools, a move he said he was planning to make regardless of his wife's circumstances.

Austin said his wife was promoted within her company to a better job in Louisville.

Austin said Friday morning that the rest of his family moved out of state a few weeks ago, but he plans to hang around the Detroit area at least until their house is sold.

"We wanted to get our daughter in to school in Louisville," he said. "They start school a little earlier there."

Nicole is a high school sophomore. She attended Novi schools her entire life until now, Austin said.

In the meantime, Austin said he will be traveling back and forth from Michigan and Kentucky.

In other school board action

Winter taxes

The school board authorized the winter tax levy due in December at 12.9366 mills. Taxpayers will pay the same millage rate in the summer.

New buses

The school district authorized the purchase of five buses in March. The buses were delivered to the school district and paid for at a cost of \$316,640 by using money from the general fund. During the school board meeting, the school board passed a resolution that authorized the district to borrow \$300,000 to repay the general fund as required by law.

Replacement needed

And as Austin is busy getting things in order for life in another state, the school board is busy looking for an appointee to take his place within the next 30 days.

Carol Elling, school board president, said state law requires them to appoint a new person to fill Austin's seat. That person will serve until July.

The remaining two years of the term will be up for election on May 2007.

Those interested in being considered for the position should file their applications at the Novi Community School District administration building at 25345 Tall. Deadlines to apply is 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25.

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Mourners learn how to cope with death

continued from front page

Theology Seminary in Detroit and teaches at Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, said he asks participants to share their circumstances with the group.

Meyer said he encourages participants to tell their fellow mourners who died, what their relationship was with that person and how long that relationship lasted.

"No one is put under pressure," Meyer said. "I'm simply trying to help them take the next step."

Meyer's job is to guide people through the four phases of grief and show them the four tasks mourners need to accomplish to heal.

Meyer said the four phases of grief include shock, which could last three months, yearning, which could last one year, disorientation, which could last two years and reorientation.

"Many times people ask, 'How do I know when it's over?'" Meyer said. "We don't use the word 'over' any more. We don't use the words 'reconciliation' or 'closure' anymore because of major events that have happened around the world."

Meyer said the tasks mourners are asked to complete include

Michael Meyer

Age: 60

How you know him: Michael Meyer is a teacher who serves on the Novi Planning Commission, has run for council seats three times and holds free sessions to help grieving family members and friends overcome the loss of a loved one.

Family: He has been married to his wife, Margaret, for 32 years. They have one son, Joseph, who served in Tanzania as a teacher in the Peace Corps after graduating from Kenting University. He currently resides in Farmington Hills.

Quote: "God is something I believe in, but I can't prove."

accepting the death, expressing their feelings about the deceased, adapting to life without that person and reorienting life with an element of faith.

"I'm not trying to convert any of them," Meyer said. "God is something I believe in, but I can't prove."

Renée Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsaunders@gannett.com.

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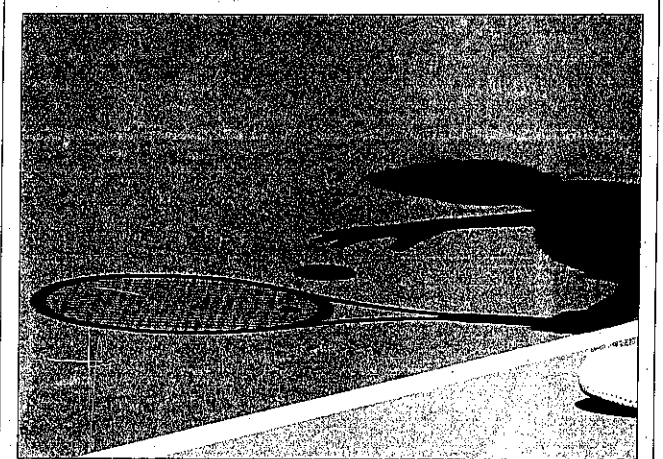
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Shadow dancing

The shadow of Novi High tennis player Carly Lyall shows her as she's about to serve to her Northville opponent during a recent match.

Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

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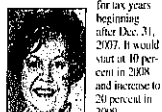
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LANSING CONNECTION

Bill to provide tax relief to low-income families

The state Senate recently passed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a state tax credit equal to 20 percent of the federal EITC...



Nancy Cassis

Earlier this year the Legislature increased the minimum wage to \$6.95 per hour starting Oct. 1, 2006, and \$7.40 per hour by 2008...

Without the passage of SB 621, employees would have been forced to change their payroll systems now, and again in a few months...

The bipartisan committee is made up of the following members from around the state: Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi), Sen. Ben Ziegenfuss (R-Ann Arbor)...

The Joint Select Committee on Economic Growth was scheduled to meet again on Sept. 12. State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) represents the 15th Senate District...

SBT replacement

The Legislature recently approved a citizens' initiative, which ends the Michigan's Single Business Tax (SBT) on Dec. 31, 2007...

Overtime pay for citizens

As we approach Oct. 1, the date Michigan's new minimum wage will take effect, it was imperative we put into immediate effect a bill to "fix" the new minimum wage law.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New city e-mail addresses

Novi staffers have switched to new, easier-to-remember e-mail addresses. The move brings Web correspondence in line with the city's new site, www.cityofnovi.org...

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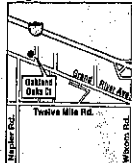
BUSINESS

Wagon Automotive in Wixom starts \$3.5M expansion

First phase of three begins

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Wagon Automotive



SOURCE: From Public Library

Wagon Automotive officials recently began a \$3.5 million expansion project at its Wixom offices, with the project divided into three phases.

The company is a European automotive manufacturing firm. The startup of each phase of the three-phase Wixom project will depend on the state of the economy...

The company received a building permit about three weeks ago to begin phase one of 200,000-sq-ft Oakland Oaks Court off the north side of Grand River Avenue.

This phase on the six-acre plot is a 450,000-sq-ft building with six truck docks.

Phase two and three will each be 250,000 square feet, said Don Jones, manager of human resources and facilities for Wagon Automotive in Wixom.

The firm has another building just down the street off an industrial park next to Old Plank Road that it rented temporarily for a General Motors Corporation job.

That program will be brought to the new building, Wagon also does some work for Ford Motor Company.

Currently, 68 employees work at the Wixom location. Jones said the firm plans to add four or five new employees for a product launch in October.

Chad McCormick, project manager from Quadtrants, general contractor for the job, said the expansion will include some additional offices, as well as the production area.

The new buildings are owned by Fitty Eight LLC, an entity of Quadtrants, with Wagon leasing the space.

"This will probably be one of the fastest jobs Quadtrants has ever done," McCormick said. "The construction from start to finish is going to take just under two months. We've been working pretty much around the clock."

Other projects in Wixom. In other construction news in Wixom, work recently began on four new buildings in the 115-acre Century Industrial Park on Pontiac Trail just west of Wixom Road.

Construction will also start soon on a new building at Beck and West roads.

And, Quadtrants is building another 16,500-square-foot speculative facility off of Wixom Road, according to McCormick.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.



Wagon Automotive manager Don Jones, left, and its CEO Andy Schoenherr take a look at their R&D facility that is taking shape along Grand River Avenue in Wixom.

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The Rock of Novi: New expo brings limelight to the city

Center plays host to Super Bowl event, GOP convention in its first year

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Cars, politics, football and food — the Rock Financial Showplace has featured a variety of spotlight events in the past year. And as Novi's premier event center marks its first anniversary, officials are pleased with its development and say it remains poised for future growth.

"I think the Rock Financial Showplace has been everything we expected it to be and more," Novi Mayor David Landry said.

The project cost \$18 million to build and was officially unveiled in August 2005. Since then it has played host to a number of events that have drawn attention to Novi, and more than one million people have passed through its doors.

Most recently, the Republican Party had its state convention at the facility, which attracted politicians from around the Michigan. It was also the first time Republicans had their convention in Oakland, the state's second-most populous county.

"That was kind of a model of the type of events that we were able to attract to the Novi community," said John Bowen, executive director and general counsel for the Rock Financial Showplace.

The facility also played host to one of the signature events of the Super Bowl last January, a charity fundraiser dubbed "Taste of the NFL" that featured chefs from each NFL city.

The Rock Financial Showplace

Opened: August 2005
Cost: \$18 million to build
Big Events: The NFL's Taste of Nation charity fundraiser, GOP state convention, the International Motorcycle Show and Automotive Testing Expo.

Quoteable: "It's a significant economic engine for the entire Oakland County area," Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said.

"To get that particular function in Novi was awesome," Landry said.

In the last year, the facility has also had the International Motorcycle Show and Automotive Testing Expo, as well as corporate functions for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., Toyota Motor Corp. and other companies.

Higher profile, cash for Novi

All of the events have increased Novi's profile in Metro Detroit, but also brought a considerable amount of cash into the area. Bowen said the facility has had an impact of at least \$20 million on the local economy, a figure a 1999 study estimated it would have.

"It's a significant economic engine for the entire Oakland County area," Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said.

The 330,000-square-foot building includes spaces for meetings, conventions, banquets and other functions. The structure has video, audio and Internet capabilities, its food service operations, Epoch



Blair Bowman and the Rock Financial Showplace celebrates one year at their new location on Grand River Avenue.

Restaurant Group, can feed up to 2,000 people.

"It's been a whirlwind," said Toni Wine Schmitt, owner of Epoch.

The Rock Financial Showplace has about 10 percent more exposure space than the old Novi Expo

Center.

While its first year has been in many respects a glittering success, the facility faces challenges as Southeast Michigan and the state grapple with tough economic conditions. To prevent a slump,

facility officials are being proactive and are already pondering expansion plans.

Bowen said adding lodging is likely and different hotel companies are being considered. The expansion could add 140 to 160 rooms with development beginning early next year.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

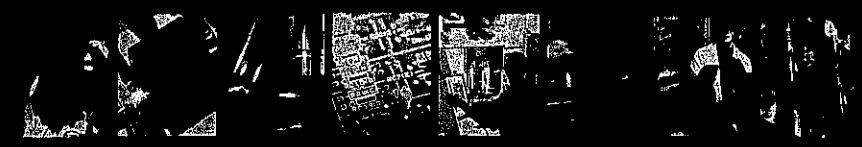
Clay Pearson
Novi city manager

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Novi's McNish Sport & Trophy still going strong after 30 years

Customers hail from many different states

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

This is a summer to remember for Chris Beaudoin.

As vice president and general manager of McNish Sporting Goods on Grand River Avenue just east of Taft Road, he can now boast that the business has been part of the community for three decades.

Exact dates are a little sketchy, but they show the business obtained its license in July 1976, and sales records are available for August of that year.

Now occupying a relatively new, 8,000-square-foot space, the store features retail, warehouse, production and shipping areas.

Trophies are hand-built, engraved on site and shipped across the country.

Focusing on team sports, they outfit volleyball, lacrosse, baseball, softball, soccer and polo teams across the state and elsewhere. The business works with hundreds of schools, providing everything from varsity jackets to sports equipment.

Although they do budget for some paid advertising, most of their jobs come from referrals.

"We're really fortunate," Beaudoin said. "Because of our word-of-mouth or relationship selling, it's a neat phenomenon."

Some of McNish's 15 employees are their best salespeople.

For example, Brian McClain is an assistant volleyball coach at Madonna University in Livonia.

Happy 30th anniversary

McNish Sport & Trophy, which has been in Novi for 30 years this summer, is located at 45283 Grand River Avenue. Store hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information, call (248) 348-1820.

Jerry Ashe is an assistant softball coach at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. Salesman John Fisher works as assistant football coach at Northville High School, and salesman Nick Michnacki is an assistant football coach at Walled Lake Western.

"What a great venue and opportunity for sales," Beaudoin said. "They just go to practice and get orders. They have a camaraderie with other coaches."

Store opened in heart of Novi

Bill McNish is now an independent insurance agent in Royal Oak. But he and his brother, Larry, who is deceased, opened the first McNish Sporting Goods at the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road.

The store was there for a few years, then moved to 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads.

Next, the store moved to 44480 Grand River Avenue and for 18 years was on the north side of the street just east of the current location.

The business has only been in the new location for a year and a half.



Chris Beaudoin and McNish Sport and Trophy are celebrating a year and a half at their Grand River Avenue address and 30 years total in the business.

Beaudoin, who married partner Bill McNish's daughter, Christine McNish, has worked in the store for 12 years.

The store still has plans for the future, however, as the business currently contracts out embroidery and silk screening and may bring that service in-house someday.

With accounts as far away as Nevada, Maine, Iowa and Indiana, there's certainly room for expansion.

"I credit the forward thinking of the owners 30 years ago who put together sporting goods and trophies," Beaudoin said. As a business model, "These are two things

that go together."

So, what pearls of wisdom does Beaudoin have to offer as the head of a three-decade-old business?

"Pay attention to your customers, your employees and their needs, and don't get your head stuck in the sand," he said. "Constantly evaluate your situation and make sure every

day you're doing the things that are going to make your business stronger."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 348-1700, ext. 105, or by email at pfleming@gannett.com.



McNish Sport and Trophy employee Josh Horn helps put together and engrave plaques and trophies at their Grand River Avenue location in Novi.

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Wixom Assembly Plant workers await word on further buyouts

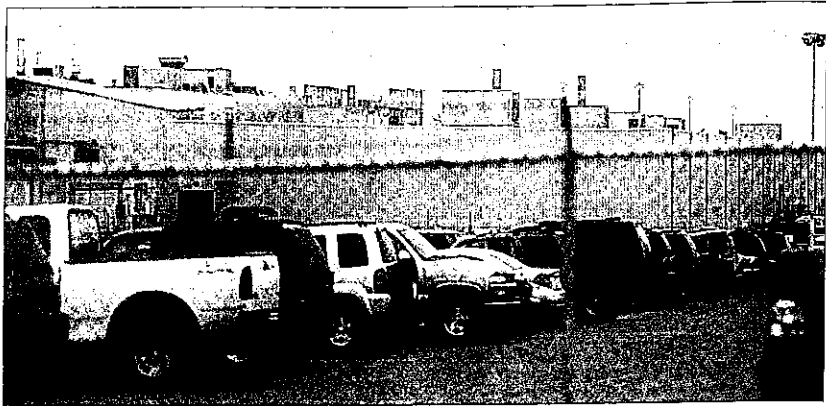
Those who got offers left June 1

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The word "buyout" is music to most auto workers' ears. But, at this time, no additional buyouts have been offered to workers at Ford Motor Company's Wixom Assembly Plant, according to company sources.

That may change, however, after the major post-work scheduled this month between Ford executives.

A number of buyouts were offered to employees at the Wixom plant earlier this year, said Marcey Evans, Ford spokeswoman. Just over 400 workers accepted those buyouts, which went into effect June 1.



File photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant in January after the auto company announced its Way Forward restructuring plan.



Jeff Potter said, "Offers that were available are closed, and those people already left the company on June 1." George Pappas, Ford sales analyst, said there are also plans to close the Wixom Assembly Plant earlier than planned, which is May 2007.

Pappas said rumors were flying after the Aug. 18 announcement of the accelerated "Way Forward" turnaround in which Ford executives unveiled a 21-percent fourth-quarter reduction.

The announcement was described as an "aggressive realignment of North American production."

"There's so many things going on with Ford Motor Company," said Mike Doran, Wixom city manager. "Every-

day, you get a different story in the news and a different rumor. It's an interesting time for this corporation."

With Ford's new CEO, former Boeing executive Allen Mulally, announced last week, Doran said everyone around the world is trying to identify what Mulally did at Boeing to turn that company around.

"He said although he wasn't ready to retire when he left Ford, he took the buyout because he felt the time was right, and it was painful to watch the plant go downhill."

"I really wasn't planning on retiring until I was about 58 or so," Potter said.

"Now, obviously, the worry for a lot of people is whether or not Ford Motor Company is going to be able to honor its commitments and obligations."

"A perfect storm..." Potter said high gas prices have

absolutely thrown a new wrinkle into the whole mix.

This is now combined with a slowing economy and the emergence of low-wage Asian competitors that don't have the legacy costs of U.S. automakers.

"The mood in Michigan has turned very sour," said Potter, adding that Ford's problems can't be attributed to the company alone.

"We're just really in the middle of a perfect storm," he said.

He believes gas prices are going to have to remain stable for a long time before consumers start making vehicle-buying decisions based on gas prices.

"They don't want to buy a vehicle that they're going to be saddled with if gas prices go back up to \$3 and \$4 a gallon," Potter said.

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

"Now, obviously, the worry for a lot of people is whether or not Ford Motor Company is going to be able to honor its commitments and obligations."

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Macy's rolls out red carpet for Twelve Oaks opening

New York retailer seeks to fill void left by Hudson's

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Macy's enters Twelve Oaks Mall and the competitive Michigan retail market buoyed by glitzy store openings and immediate brand recognition.

But its real competition in Novi could be from a store that hasn't sold anything in years—Hudson's. The Marshall Field's department store in Twelve Oaks officially became a Macy's Saturday morning, drawing more than 450 people to its red

carpet event.

The swiftness could be a positive for the mall, said Dan Jones, Twelve Oaks general manager.

"Macy's is definitely a more recognized brand," he said.

Local shoppers never completely warmed to Field's, which took over venerable Detroit retailer J.L. Hudson Co. in 2001.

"People didn't have the time to build up that strong alliance they did with Hudson's," Jones said.

Regardless of the name, Novi shoppers will be getting a larger, more modern store. Macy's plans to remodel the Twelve Oaks site and add 60,000 square feet. Construction could start early next year.

This month, 61 Field's stores in the Midwest were renamed

High-end furniture retailer exits Novi for Birmingham

Store to close by end of year, owner blames poor visibility

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

High-end furniture seller Roche Bohls is leaving Novi for Birmingham by the end of the year.

"Bucking the trend of merchants flocking to Novi for a spot in its flourishing retail scene, Roche said his closing is showroom and hopes to have his new location

open by the start of 2007.

Edgar Hagopian, who owns Roche with Greg Elliman, said the Novi site has poor visibility, which has hurt sales. He said the store is leaving because it couldn't get the city's Zoning Board of Appeals to agree to all of its requests to add more signage.

In April, the zoning board granted a variance to allow two of the three window graphics the store was seeking. The final sign was denied because of traffic safety concerns.

"I'm furious with these people," Hagopian said. "They've cost us thousands of dollars."

Hagopian noted visibility is key for his store, because it isn't well known in the area and caters to a

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Do you ever buy barbecue sauce, cake mix, dried pasta, apple sauce, salad dressing, toothpaste or shaving gel? Get all of these for free!

Do you love those that-and-scraps? I do and I only pay \$2 for them instead of \$8. Have you ever purchased brand name shampoo for 50 cents? Think those discounted tuna pouches are expensive? I stock up for 25 cents or less.

How? It's simple. Coupons help me get the biggest bang for my buck and you can do it, too.

When you grow up in a family that uses coupons, you learn early on the difference it can make.

When I was a kid, every week, my dad did the grocery shopping while I tagged along. At the time, it made me proud to be his little helper. Now, looking back, I see that it was not only a way to spend quality time with him, but a chance to learn the value of saving money.

Yes, saving big money...anybody can do it. With a little bit of effort you can easily save a bundle on your grocery bill. Between sales and coupons, I regularly save 40-50% myself. In fact, I won first place in a Valassis coupon contest last year. My sales receipt was over \$800 and reflected a \$224 savings, more than half of my total. If you think you can't do that, you can. Here's how:



A. Puteketa

It's easy to make the most out of your money. Coupons can work into any lifestyle. It only takes 10 minutes a week to cut and file them, and this can be done easily while you are watching TV or carrying on a conversation. You can get coupons in the newspaper (of course) or online.

Keep an eye on store sales. The goal is to buy each item on sale plus use a coupon on top of that. If you page through a store's circular ahead of time you can make sure you don't miss any amazing deals. When you are shopping, focus on picking up only sale items with your coupons. If something is not on sale, wait until next week. I have found most coupons I use have a four-to-eight week window within which to use them, so just wait until it's the best time for you.

A little organization goes a long way. Once you have a container for coupons labeled into categories, you're ready to rumble! For those who are already set with this, think about expanding your categories. The more you can track down your categories, the easier it will be to find the right coupon when you need it.

Be willing to try new brands or flavors. Some of the highest value coupons are to introduce and support new products. One of the products you normally use may not offer a coupon. But if their competitor does, the cost differential can really make it worth trying. Neither my husband nor I care for mustard at all, yet we tried out a new honey mustard (for free, of course) and discovered we loved it.

Timing is everything so stock up when you can. Many items go on sale and coupon on a seasonal basis. The summer's best for barbecue sauce. It doesn't take up much room and lasts all year long. Fall is great for packaged snacks and single-serve beverages (it's back to school time you know!). Winter is good for stocking up on soups and oatmeal. In the spring, we fill up our freezer because the stores run incredible promotions for Frozen Food Month. For those who have caught the coupon bug, you can make a killing in the medicine aisle during flu season.

Know the coupon rules for your local grocery store. Many stores double coupons; most up to 50 cents, but a rare few offer up to \$1. Sometimes you can even fill a triple coupon special. But, stores are putting a greater number of stipulations on their policies, so be sure to find out about any possible restrictions.

Coupons are something I am very passionate about because they make such a big difference to the bottom line. Not only will you have more food in your pantry, but more money in your wallet.

Angela Puteketa, a native of Novi and Novi High School graduate, regularly saves 40-50 percent on her shopping bill. Now a buyer at Valassis, a marketing services company, she has been a coupon clipper and savings-based shopper long before she began working for the Livonia-based company.

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ITC seeks new headquarters in Novi as company expands

City vies with two other communities for company

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

ITC Holdings Corp. is shopping for a new headquarters, and the bid appears to be Novi's to lose.

The company, which transmits electricity for about 4.9 million people in Southeast Michigan, is already based in Novi and says its preference is to stay within the city. But ITC is also considering two other undisclosed locations in Metro Detroit, as it has outgrown

its current facility.

"We're kind of bursting at the seams," said Lisa Aragon, ITC's marketing and communications director.

ITC's current headquarters, at 39500 Orchard Hill Place, is a 40,000 square-foot site. The company has about 150 full-time workers in Novi. ITC also uses up to another 200 contractors that work out of the site.

The company wants to move into a new location in 2008.

ITC's expansion has fueled its need for a larger headquarters. It recently agreed to acquire Michigan Electric Transmission Co., which will make it the 10th largest transmission company in the nation and acquire another 100 workers to be based out of Novi.

Outside of Michigan, ITC has

established a subsidiary to spur grid development across the country. It also formed a unit to help increase cross-state transmission in Kansas, as well as develop infrastructure to support renewable energy through wind farms.

The company is now considering leaving Metro Detroit, Aragon said. Since 2003, it has invested more than \$300 million in its local assets.

City Manager Clay Pearson said Novi has received requests for tax abatements or incentives. He said he hopes ITC remains in the city.

"It's a high-quality office headquarters," he said.

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ITC named 'Best & Brightest'

Novi-based ITC Transmission was named one of the "Best & Brightest" companies to work for in Metro Detroit by the Michigan Business & Professional Association.

ITC will be recognized at a ceremony Oct. 12. The Michigan Business & Professional Association will honor 100 other companies after receiving more than 1,800 submissions.

ITC is an electricity transmission company.

Michigan to hand out \$10M

Michigan's 21st Century Jobs Fund plans to distribute \$100 million to help companies grow in the fields of alternative energy, advanced manufacturing, life science and broadband security.

The fund is a \$2 billion, 10-year technology initiative administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that hopes to spur investment in the state economy.

Atlas Oil opens biodiesel fuel station

Atlas Oil Company, one of the largest distributors of petroleum products in the Midwest, announced today that it has opened its first retail fueling station for the biodiesel blended alternative fuel, B5.

The Marathon service station located on Wyom Road in Wyom, just north of I-96, will now offer customers a blended biodiesel fuel option that consists of 5% biodiesel and 95% diesel. Biodiesel is a product created from renewable domestic sources such as soybeans that is biodegradable and non-toxic.

"Not only is B5 better for the environment than regular diesel, but it can be used on most diesel engines with little or no modification," said Mike Evans, executive vice-president of business.

Meeting to update county parks plan

The public is invited to provide input for updating the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan at an information-gathering session on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Oakland County Parks is hosting the event from 4-7 p.m. at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center.

"We want to know residents' ideas and needs for the parks," said Joe Figa, chief of design and development. "Their contribution assists us in long-range vision planning for the parks system."

Displays will be set up introducing guests to existing park facilities, current programs, information on future opportunities and the role of the Oakland County Parks system.

Visitor comments and suggestions will be recorded on topics including: parkland acquisition; future park improvement and development; recreation programs and services; park linkages, greenways, and trail development; and park funding.

Oakland County Parks staff and landscape architecture planning firm CarlisleWhitman Associates, Inc., will conduct the vision fair.

Refreshments will be provided.

Volare hosts wine tasting

Volare Ristorante in Wyom will host a special tasting of wines from the Villa Vignamaggio, the celebrated birthplace of Mona Lisa, and now a working vineyard, on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 6-9 p.m.

The event will feature an array of wines from the Tuscan winery complemented by assorted hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Carla Rani, general manager of Vignamaggio, will be on hand to discuss the wines and to answer guests' questions. Cost is \$30 per person and reservations are recommended. Call (248) 960-7771.

Volare Ristorante is located in Wyom's new downtown city center at 49115 Pontiac Trail, just east of Wyom Road.

Credit union to ID children

Co-op Services Credit Union will launch a free child ID program from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, at its branch office at 1260 Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake.

Teaming up with the credit union as sponsors of the event are the Michigan Association of Police and Tutor Time Child Care/Learning Centers.

In addition to the child ID program, there will be free pony rides, prize drawings, a petting zoo, lunch and refreshments. A police car and fire truck are also scheduled to be on site. The public is welcome.

For more details about the free child ID program, call Co-op Services Credit Union at (800) 321-8570, Ext. 777.

Comedy training at Second City

It's time to laugh all the way to the head of the class at The Second City Training Center. Registration for the Fall Semester 2006 begins Monday, Sept. 18 at 9 a.m. and ends Friday, Sept. 29 at 5 p.m.

The focus of the Second City Training Center is to teach the skills which underlie the work seen on the resident stages. The classes, taught by professionals working in their fields, are dedicated to helping students develop their artistic voice, both individually and within an ensemble, and to provide the tools and techniques needed to express that voice.

The Second City Training Center draws from the company's history of ensemble improvisation, satire, and revue comedy as developed and practiced by its actors, directors, and teachers and serves as a laboratory for the exploration of the future of the art form.

Class sizes are limited, and registration is processed on a first come, first serve basis. All of the terms are subject to change without notice. The Second City Training Center reserves the right to accept or deny any application.

Tuition (\$200) for each eight-week course is non-refundable, non-transferable, and due in full upon registration. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed after 5 p.m. on September 29. Interested candidates may register for the Training Center by phone (via credit card) by calling 248-348-4448 or in person at The Second City with cash, money order, or credit card (sorry, no personal checks).

Compiled by Novi News staff

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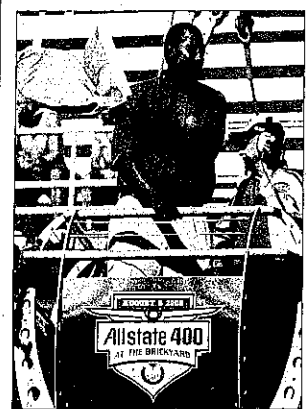
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"Start your engines!" Tom Clarkson, a Novi resident and Allstate Field vice president, was honorary starter for the Allstate 400 NASCAR qualifying races, climbing four-story scaffolding stairs to wave the green flag. He later attended a private prep meeting with NASCAR Dodge Driver Kasey Kahne and Evernham Motorsports Owner Ray Evernham before the start of the races. Clarkson attended the famed NASCAR Drivers Meeting, where all drivers met together to review the rules and regulations before the start of the race, and watched Allstate-sponsored Kahne prepare his vehicle from the pits. Clarkson joined Allstate Chairman Ed Liddy and President Tom Wilton to host actor Chris Noth Law & Order, Sex and the City at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum to celebrate the NASCAR race.

Courtesy photo

BE SCENE IN WALLED LAKE

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

Sarah Loree and Brian Gold, both of Farmington Hills, from Anonymously Silver.

Alexis Lawrence of Milford.

Left, Steve Fox from All Surface Graphics in Wyom shows off painted rocks for sale.

Left, Tim Profit of Wyom with girlfriend, Li Jun Li, and her daughter, Jenna Li, both of Farmington, look over merchandise at Renee LaLonde's booth, Museum Apparel of Bloomfield Hills.

Below, All Ambrose of Walled Lake dances with Spud.

Above, Logan and Jayden Ballard of Highland with their mom.

Left, Mike Mohr of the Painted Garden in Milford organizes some garden stones.

Right, Cindy and Nathan Lusk of Stuff-n-Snuggle in Walled Lake.

Nicole Jaros of Commerce Township from Southern Living at Home shows a painted ceramic tray.

UP Pet Awareness Day

Call Stone editor at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113

Photos by Pam Fleming

SENIORS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Seniors honor public safety during ceremony for 9/11

Generations mix at Fox Run in remembrance of the tragedy

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Justin Wray was 3 years old when the events on Sept. 11 2001 changed America. The Franklin Road Christian School student said he doesn't remember seeing two airplanes smash into the twin towers of the World Trade Center on television. He knows what happened. And though he thought it was fun to get out of class Monday morning, he knew why he was at the Fox Run senior center next door to his school.

He was there to help local senior citizens recognize the city's fire and police departments and memorialize the historical tragedy. His job was to sing "God Bless America" and "Let There Be Peace On Earth" with his classmates in the third, fourth and fifth grades at the senior center.

Administrators of the facility honored public safety departments with plaques thanking them for their service to the community and with gift baskets during the ceremony.

And both departments participated in raising the senior center's flag and lowering it to half-staff in a moment of silence.

Resident Chuck Goebel said he was glad the police and fire departments participated and were recognized for their service. "They are such an important

part of the community," he said. For some Fox Run residents however, remembering the events that happened five years ago and thinking local heroes who daily risk their lives wasn't the only focus.

Some residents thought the students highlighted the event. "I thought it was especially nice to have the children here," resident Ida Marshall said.

Resident Fran Thompson was pleased to see young people remembering the event and honoring their local public safety officials.

"I thought the ceremony was wonderful," Thompson said. "I hope that all future generations will not forget what happened."

Renee Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsanders@gannett.com

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 9/15	Shiphewana and Oktoberfest Trip
9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	
10 a.m. Body Recall	
11 a.m. Lunch	
12:30 p.m. "The Entertainment"	
1:45 p.m. Duplicate Bridge cancelled	
2-2:30 p.m. Bingo	
2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	
Saturday 9/16	85th Birthday Party
9:00 a.m. Stretch and Strength	
10 a.m. Body Recall	
11 a.m. Lunch	
12:30 p.m. Pinchito	
2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	
6:30 p.m. Clinging*	
Tuesday, 9/19	Travel Meeting
8:30 a.m. Panama Bread	
9 a.m. Line Dance*	
10 a.m. Asian Pacific	
10:30-11:30 Bookmobile	
11 a.m. "Sugar Free Cooking"	
Michigan State Extension Services	
12:45 p.m. Lunch	
2:30 p.m. Bingo	
2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	

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

SAVVY SENIOR - SENIOR-FRIENDLY CARS

Dear Savvy Senior, Is there any research that evaluates the best new cars for senior citizens? My wife and I are both in our sixties and are looking for a new vehicle. What can you tell us?

Car Shopping Seniors

Dear Car Shopping, With nearly 20 million licensed drivers in the United States, age 70 and older (that number is expected to double by 2030), auto makers have started implementing better features and options in certain vehicles to accommodate the growing needs of older drivers. But what makes a good car for seniors? For many, top priorities include a vehicle that's easy to get into and out of, easy to adjust for fit and comfort, easy to maneuver and see out of, as well as reliable and a good value.

Best Senior Vehicles

Recently, Edmunds.com (the top rated on-line resource for automotive research information) evaluated car models based on senior-friendly features as well as performance and overall quality. Here's what they came up with (and why) as the best new vehicles for seniors. All are 2006 models.

Toyota Avalon

Praised for its roominess and comfort, this full-size sedan is a top-rated favorite of older drivers. Senior-friendly features include a standard tilt and telescoping steering wheel, which makes it easy for the driver to find a safe, comfortable seating position, and available heated power seats, for soothing aching backs. It also offers a keyless ignition, which does away with grasping and twisting an ignition key (instead the engine is activated by touching a button). Manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP): \$26,775 to \$33,965.

Ford Five Hundred

This large sedan offers a tall seating position, which makes for an easier entry and exit for seniors who have problems bending and stooping. Other handy features include a standard heated, power-adjustable driver seat with memorized settings for two drivers. Seats that adjust to accommodate your size are also available, as are rear parking sensors, which sound a signal to indicate how close you are to what's behind you when you're backing up. The trunk is the largest in its class with a low "belly-line" entry level which makes loading and unloading the trunk much easier. MSRP: \$24,430 to \$28,730.

Toyota Prius (hybrid)

You may be surprised that a smaller-sized hybrid made the list but the Prius has features that make life easier for older drivers who have arthritis and other joint problems, including a buttonless, easy-to-move shifter. Other handy options include keyless ignition, touch-screen controls, and an optional voice-command system lets you control temperature, GPS navigation, audio and Bluetooth cell-phone dialing simply by speaking. An available backup camera display provides a rearward view on a screen on the dashboard, making parking easier for those with arthritis of the neck or spine. And anyone can appreciate this hybrid's excellent fuel economy - typically in the mid-40s miles per gallon. MSRP: \$21,735. (Note: Substantial federal tax credits are available to most hybrid buyers. See www.hybrid-cars.com to learn more.)

Buick Lucerne

Another long-time favorite among older drivers has been the Buick Lucerne. The Lucerne however has been discontinued, but its replacement for 2006, the Lucerne is even better. Improvements include better handling and more supportive seating, and senior-friendly options are seats that can be heated and cooled and rear parking sensors. MSRP: \$25,265 to \$34,265.

Toyota Sienna (minivan)

If you're looking for something bigger to transport your grandkids or friends from time to time, you'll like the Sienna's roominess. Handy options include power sliding doors, a power rear hatch, power folding rear seat, voice activated controls and a backup camera with front and rear parking sensors. And seniors with significant mobility problems can order a "Mobility Upgrade" package (www.toyota.com/mobility) that includes features like hand controls, electric swivel lift-up seats and a wheelchair/lift. MSRP: \$23,775 to \$38,380.

Savvy Notes

Other top vehicles for seniors on Edmunds.com's list are the Chrysler 300, Honda Civic, Pontiac Montana (minivan), BMW 7 Series and the Audi A6. Edmunds.com also noted that next year's list (2007 models) probably wouldn't change much from this year, but they would add the 2007 Mercedes Benz S-Class as a top rated senior-friendly luxury model.

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Dinner with a Doctor: Nonsurgical treatments for skin reviewed at Providence event

Taking steps to look younger

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER



Dr. M. Gowda

It's getting easier to look younger these days, according to Providence Hospital plastic surgeon Dr. Mune Gowda.

Improvements as a guest speaker from 6:30-8:30 Thursday, Sept. 21, at Providence Park Medical Center in Novi.

The topic of Gowda's talk, one of the hospital's "Dinner with a Doctor" series, is "Looking Younger - New Information about Nonsurgical Treatments."

The event is free and open to the public and includes a buffet dinner, lecture and discussion. Gowda said people spend lots of money buying various products that promise a more youthful look. He will review some that actually work.

"I want to educate people about what really happens when we age," Gowda said. "Most of the problems we see in the face are due to environmental causes - basically sun damage."

He will explain why we get wrinkles and how to prevent them. He notes that there's no one-shot treatment for younger-looking skin. It's an ongoing maintenance project.

Nonsurgical skin treatments include Botox injections, a filler material like Restylane and noninvasive laser. Gowda likes to use semi-permanent filler materials applied directly under the skin.

Phototherapy, in which light is applied to fade skin discolorations, is another popular nonsurgical technique. This works well after four or five treatments, according to Gowda, and requires no anesthesia or downtime for the patient.

Although such procedures are not covered by health insurance, unless the patient has a diagnosed skin condition such as rosacea, they may be tax deductible.

If a taxpayer's occupation focuses on their appearance, such as a model or television newscaster, the IRS may allow the cost of cosmetic procedures as a tax deduction.

How to register for dinner

Those who would like to register for the Sept. 21 "Dinner with a Doctor" at Providence Park Medical Center in Novi can call (888) 440-HEAL (7325).

There is no charge. For more information, contact Lou Martin, director of public relations, at (248) 455-4505 or at lmartin@stjohn.org.

the muscle, Gowda said. He has worked with Botox for years and believes it works best if used in more than one area of the face.

More men are becoming interested in cosmetic treatments these days, Gowda said. In the past, about 80-85 percent of his patients were women. Now the ratio is about 70-30 women-to-men. He even had a male attorney who asked to have his lips plumped.

"He felt people looked at his lips when he talked, and he wanted to improve their appearance," Gowda said. "He believed the change would produce a calming effect."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 165, or by email at pfleming@gannett.com.

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New Chinese class in session

Students lauded as future world leaders

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Hayan Tang is convinced her students are going to shape the world.

As the teacher of first Chinese language class ever offered at Novi High School, Tang said the handful of teens who chose to take her course are surely headed for a very bright, very successful future in the business world, engineering or elsewhere.

"The students in this class are going to be world leaders," said Tang, 41, who lives in Novi. "They are very smart, bright and talented."

There are 13 students enrolled in the class this fall, Tang said.

Of those students, two of them are Chinese, two are Japanese and the rest are Caucasian, Tang said.

"It's quite multicultural," she said. "The two Chinese students have lived in the country for a long time. One is very fluent in Chinese and helpful to the whole class."

Tang, who was born in China, said students in her class are learning more than just the language, the students are learning about Chinese culture, too.

By the end of the class, Tang said students will know 150 Chinese characters, how to say things like "How do you do?" and basic conversational questions and sentences in Chinese.

Culturally, students will learn about Chinese art and special occasions, Tang said.

Tang said while the course work is rigorous, she hopes students have fun learning the language, too.

"It wants to make it fun and easy."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School Chinese language teacher Hayan Tang uses her hand to describe how the language's characters are drawn with wolf hair ink brushes.

To grasp," she said. "I'm focusing on keeping the kids interested and enthusiastic."

John Lawrence, Novi High School principal said three other local school districts, Bloomfield Hills, Troy and Birmingham also offer Chinese classes.

Novi High School also offers Japanese, German, French and Spanish language classes.

Lawrence said he and administrators worked for about a year to get the class started.

He said this is the beginning of a full regimen of Chinese courses that students will be able to take throughout their high school careers.

Hopefully, one day, Novi High School may have more than one Chinese teacher.

"That's a long way down the road," Lawrence said.

Renee Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsaunders@gannett.com.

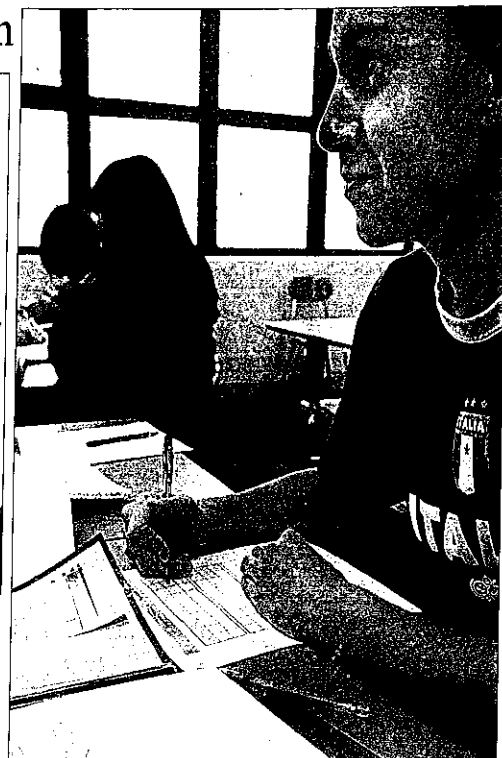


Photo by John Heider/Novi News

Novi High School Junior David Kenski tries his hand at writing the character for "forever" during a morning Chinese class.

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Super helper: Helping the football team and its boosters, Novi School Superintendent Peter Dion helps out with concession sales during the Wildcats' home game against the Pinckney Pirates last Friday.

Meet Monique Beels

One of Novi district's top leaders begins new position

By Renee Saunders, STAFF WRITER

Monique Beels can't imagine not working for kids.

Beels, the Novi Community School District's new assistant superintendent for academic services, a top leadership position in the district, said she became an educator because she wanted to make a difference.

She is replacing Nancy Davis, who retired from the position last month.

Beels, who lives in Grosse Pointe Farms, said her job entails all the curriculum and professional development in the district.

"I do just about everything that doesn't deal with human resources or budgets," she said. "There's so much to learn... I learn something every single day."

Beels started as a middle school math and science teacher.

She took her first administrative position as building administrator at Lakeview Public Schools in St. Clair Shores.

Later, she accepted a position as executive director of instruction and people services at Warren Woods Public Schools.

While her job is to help educators along in their professional development, Beels, who has a master's degree, is continuing to educate herself by earning a doctorate degree in education leadership and policy.

But there's more to Beels than school business. She is a grandmother and a mother of two daughters who are in their 20s, a knitter and a runner.

"Right now I'm training for the Detroit marathon," she said. "And I'm one of 200 runners who go to run over the Mackinac Bridge with the governor. It was beautiful."

Beels said her focus is to help the district continue to be one of the best in the state.

"I want the best for the kids," she said.

Renee Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsaunders@gannett.com.

AUSTIN'S RESIGNATION CREATES BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY. As a result of the immediate vacancy, Board President, Mrs. Carol Ellring, has set the following schedule and process for filling the Board vacancy.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-052

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Benny McCusker of the City of Novi Department of Public Works is requesting a Temporary Use Permit for a 30' x 60' material storage dome located in the DPW yard at 26300 DeWal on the north side of 11 Mile Road between Novi and Meadowbrook Roads from September 20, 2006 through September 20, 2008.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-051

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that August J. LaRuffa of Ronelli, Inc. is requesting a Temporary Use Permit for a construction trailer to be located on the Providence Park, LLC Medical Clinic Building site at 47501 Grand River Avenue from September 20, 2006 through September 20, 2007.

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RIDING MOMENTUM

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Novi football made the most of its first chance to play in front of the home crowd, earning its first win of the year.

The Wildcats will have another chance to play in their green jerseys Friday night at home against Howell.

Head coach Tab Kellepourey hopes the momentum carries over in a battle of teams with 1-2 records.

"That allows us to go into this week with confidence...and that's going to be important for us," he said. "We've got to learn how to execute at a higher level in order to maintain success."
"I think our kids really did have that sense of accomplishment that they were able to play football and do it well."

The Highlanders will bring a new wrinkle defensively against the Wildcats.

They're a 52 defense, which is a little different than our league offers most of the time," Kellepourey said.

"Offensively, we've got a little more work to do in planning for them."

But the Highlander offense is similar to things the Wildcats have already seen.

"Howell will spread. They'll line up and play double tight ends and power football," Kellepourey said. "We're not expecting much different from them."

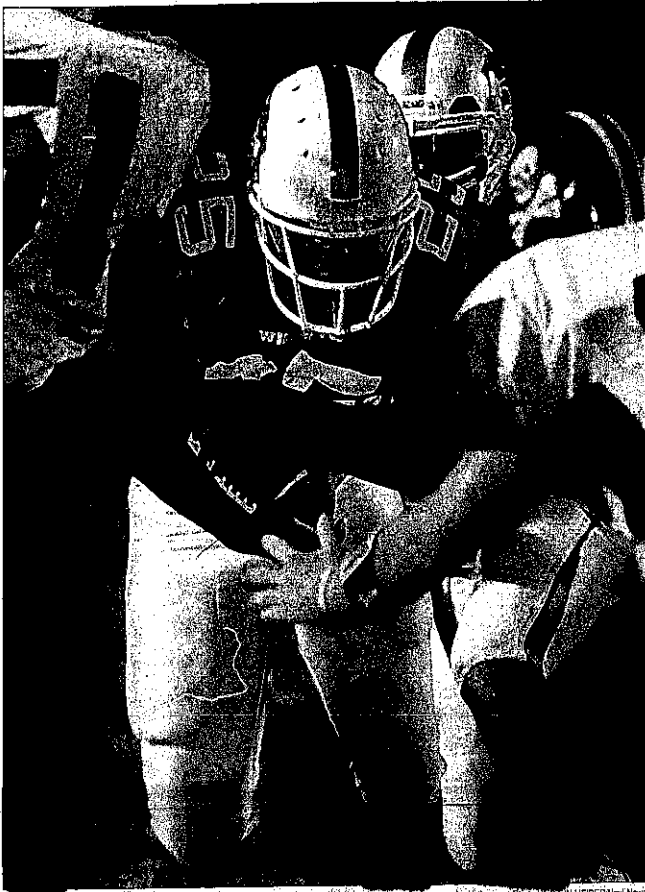
"They're a big, physical team, and they're going to come and play tough football," Kellepourey said. "They're fighting to stay in the league hunt."

The Wildcats are starting to get healthy for the first time this year. Returning quarterback Adam Chandler saw his first action this past week.

"Adam Chandler looks like he's more and more ready to go. We're looking to get some more assistance to him," Kellepourey said. "Brandon Salween got a full week of practice in the defensive backfield so hopefully he's going to be a better defensive back this week."

Game time is 7 p.m. Friday.

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



Lowering his head into the Pirate defensive line, Wildcat RJ Grubbs tries to ram his way into the endzone during the second half of last Friday's game.

Wildcats record first victory, 28-18

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Dorothy said, "There's no place like home" in "The Wizard of Oz." The Novi football team proved it Friday against Pinckney in a 28-18 win, their first victory of the year.

"We're very, very pleased that they would come out here, on their grass, in their green jerseys, in front of their student body and play hard for 48 minutes," Novi head coach Tab Kellepourey said. "It's great."

"Also, our freshmen and JV won this week, so we know that as a program that feels good that we're all headed in the right direction."

Novi quarterback Brandon Carnegie scored three touchdowns and picked up 138 yards on 13 carries to lead the Wildcat (1-2) attack.

"We had a good week of practice that helped propel us to a victory," Carnegie said. "It was a pretty good night. It could get better."

Ryan Figueroa started the scoring with a 59-yard run on the third play of the game for Novi. He finished with 71 yards on eight carries.

Friday's game

Wildcat Novi (1-2) vs. Howell (1-2)

Where: Home

When: 7 p.m. Friday

Coach Quote: (The win) allows us to go into this week with confidence...and that's going to be important for us.

"We've got to clean up some of the mistakes we're still making out there," Kellepourey said of five team fumbles. "You're in game three, you've got to clean those up."

Carnegie takes over

Carnegie scored his first touchdown with 5:15 left in the first

half.

Pinckney (1-2) appeared as though they were going to tie the game a couple of minutes later when Nick Ortiz ran back a fumble 42 yards for the score, but the extra-point attempt sailed wide.

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Wildcat QB Brandon Carnegie, center, is about to block a block from teammate Mark Heard, on Pirate Sean McEachern, during his second half touchdown run.

CC meets Rice at Ford Field

Shamrocks will try to hand Warriors their first loss.

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Anytime Detroit Catholic Central and Brother Rice get together it's going to be a big game.

Putting the game at 7 p.m. on a Saturday night at Ford Field only makes it even better for Shamrock head coach Tom Mach.

"I'm sure the kids find (playing at) Ford Field a great experience," he said. "Playing where the Lions play and getting a chance to be on the same field, it's a good experience for them."

Brother Rice brings a perfect 3-0 record to the contest. The Shamrocks are 2-1. Saturday's game will also kick off league competition for both teams.

"There's nothing like Catholic League football," Mach said of starting league competition. "This is when you gear up, and this is when your best effort comes forth. We're looking forward to it."

"I think it's going to be a real tough ballgame."

Mach said the Warriors feature an offense that can run and pass well. "They have a well-balanced team," Mach said. "If you allow them to run on you, they'll continue to run. If you can stop them, they'll throw. They have an experienced quarterback that's a senior. He throws the ball well and moves around well."

"Defensively, they're hard to move the ball on."

continued on 2B

Don't forget to enjoy sports

Sept. 11 helps put things in perspective.

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Don't ever forget... Every Sept. 11, for the rest of my life, I'm going to remember the day where everything changed.

Very few things changed for the better, but they've certainly changed.

I love sports, probably to the point of sadness. I have changed ideas, of things to do with family and friends because of sporting events.

I love everything about sports.

I think it's the ultimate way to show talent. It's the ultimate excuse to display a battle of wills. One person or team who shouldn't win does, not because they are better, but because they wouldn't let themselves lose.

Rooting for the underdog is great, when the little Chihuahua beats the Doberman.

continued on 2B

NOVI NEWS ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Scott Czekaj
Novi senior golfer



Scott led the Novi golf team in three matches this week. He shot a 35 against Millford. The Wildcats set a new low high school score at Mystic Creek against Millford.

Czekaj parred a pair of 3Bs against Northville and Pinckney. Czekaj helped the Wildcats to a 2-0 start in league dual meets.

The Novi News Athlete of the Week will run every other week.

Submissions come from the coaches only.

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CC blasts London

By Jeff Theissen
NOV NEWS

Detroit Catholic Central football did just about everything right in the first half of its 44-7 victory over the London Catholic Central (London) 44-7 Saturday at home.

The Shamrocks (2-1) pulled up 37 points in the first half and played the second half with a running clock.

"We came out and executed very well," Shamrock head coach Tom Mach said. "I was pleased with the way the kids played and they're focus on the game."

"The results speak for themselves in the first half."

London CC (0-1) went three-and-out on the opening possession and punted.

It took the Shamrocks just five plays to score with Ryan Cejola catching in a 13-yard run.

The Shamrock defense pushed London back to its own 2-yard line before the offense checked to take a safety rather than punt.

Mach said he couldn't remember another team doing that against him.

"It's very happy, I think that would be the first," Mach said.

Chris Cagle scored on the next possession from 65 yards out for a 16-0 lead in the first quarter.

Cejola added his second touchdown from 15 yards out with 10:03 left in the half.

After a fumble, Jeremy Holtzer-Gray scored on the next play from 17 yards out with 9:51 left in the half.

John Mizi scored from the 1, and the team was more than on with a 37-0 halftime lead.

Dan Foley scored the only second-half touchdown for the Shamrocks with an 80-yard run in the third quarter.

London stopped the shutout

Shamrocks face Rice at Ford

continued from 1B

The Warriors are fresh off a 28-0 blanketing of Traverse City West.

The Shamrocks are also coming in off an impressive win with a 44-7 thumping of Canada's London Catholic Central.

The last two Shamrock wins have involved a running clock for most of the second half after starting the season with a tough loss to Toledo CC. Mach says the opening week gave the team a little wake-up call.

"They knew in that game they played well but didn't win," Mach said. "They rededicated themselves to the fact that they have to improve and get better each day and hopefully that will be enough when they get the big games."

Mach had a quick answer when asked if playing at Ford Field gets him extra excited.

"Yes, I want to be on Ford Field on the last day of the year," he said with a laugh.

Jeff Theissen can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at jtheissen@gannett.com.

Don't forget to enjoy sports

continued from 1B

Seeing kids and athletes step up and perform at their best on the biggest of stages is a wonderful and thrilling thing to watch.

I'm not sure what else I would want to do with my life for more than what I do.

On Sept. 11, 2001, I was on my way to apply for a job in something other than sports writing.

I almost didn't get into the business that I now know and love.

The horrible day that happened made me rethink things. I was going to write a sports writer, no matter what. I was going to write because that was what I really wanted to do. So many people died that day and if they hadn't already, would never get the chance to do something they really wanted to.

Sept. 11 reminds me every year of the first I had that day. A fire of fury at what never could orchestrate such a thing, a fire to understand what could be the force behind it and a fire to improve myself.

I will never forget that.

I love sports. I love writing about sports.

But in the end, it's really only a game. Many lessons can be learned from work ethic, desire, ability to perform under pressure and trust in teammates are the tip of the iceberg.

But people get way too caught up in worrying about sports — the coach is out of his mind, my kid should be playing more, the refs are out to get us, etc.

Too many people forget to enjoy the sport. Most kids won't play organized sports beyond high school. Enjoy the moments as they come. Before you know it, they will be gone.

Sept. 11 is a reality that I sometimes forget about a couple of weeks or months after the yearly reminders of the tragic day. I get too caught up in the daily grind of life and sometimes forget to enjoy the little things that make life so much fun to live.

Don't forget that sports are supposed to be fun. Don't forget that sports are about the kids. Thousands of people's lives were changed on Sept. 11. Sports mean very little on that day.

Sept. 11 put a lot of things in perspective. Sports are for entertainment. They're not life and death issues.

I can't ever forget.

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Sport Shorts

Motor City Madness Tryout

Motor City Madness is hosting a tryout for girls fist pitch softball for the 2006-07 season Sept. 17.

The schedule is as follows: 9-11 a.m. for 10-under 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for 12-under 13 p.m. for 14-under 15 p.m. for 16-18 year olds.

Armed 15 minutes early to sign-up at Power Park, located off of 10 mile between Tait and Novi Road behind the Novi Civic Center.

Team tryouts are based on age as of Dec. 31, 2006.

For more information please call Chris Larson at (248) 315-1893 or email at clarson@twincity.com.

Novi Athletics Raffle

The Novi Athletics Booster Club is raffling a two-year

lease on a new 2007 Lincoln MKZ. A limit of 500 tickets will be sold for \$30. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the third quarter of the varsity football game on October 13, 2006. Raffle participants must be 18 years of age or older at the time of purchase. Winner need not be present to win.

Tickets are available at:

- Novi High School Athletic Office between 8:30-3:00 Monday-Friday.
- Varsity Lincoln Mustang, 49251 Grand River Avenue in Novi and at all Novi home sporting events through Oct. 13.
- If less than 200 tickets are sold, Novi Athletics Boosters reserve the right to switch to a 50/50 raffle.

Compiled by Jeff Theissen

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STERLING HEIGHTS: BIRMINGHAM (3:20), GRAND RAPIDS (3:35), KANSAS CITY (3:50), TAMPA (4:05), INDIANAPOLIS (4:20), JACKSONVILLE (4:35), TAMPA (4:50), INDIANAPOLIS (5:05), JACKSONVILLE (5:20), TAMPA (5:35), INDIANAPOLIS (5:50), JACKSONVILLE (6:05), TAMPA (6:20), INDIANAPOLIS (6:35), JACKSONVILLE (6:50).

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GRIDIRON GANG

ONE GOAL. A SECOND CHANCE.

STARTS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

THE BLACK DAHLIA

INSPIRED BY THE MOST NOTICED UNCOINED MURDER IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY

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STARTS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Novi soccer wins pair; boys XC tops Milford

By Jeff Theissen
NOV NEWS

The Novi soccer team beat Howell 3-1 at home Sept. 5 and Lakeland 7-0 on the road Sept. 7.

Novi scored the opening tally eight minutes in, but it was all Wildcats after that.

Nathan Robinson scored with eight minutes left in the half to pull even on an assist from Garrett Grauber.

Eight minutes into the second half, Ryan Carter scored on a free kick about 25 yards out. With 20 minutes left, Dan Kilger knocked in a cross from Carter to put the game away.

The game was delayed about a half hour because of lightning.

Against Lakeland, Robinson started the scoring 15 minutes in. He added another with just a couple of minutes left in the half, one-landing a cross from Matt Messner.

Casey Arrington made it 3-0 with a goal from Miles Reichley just two minutes in, which seemed to open the floodgates.

Arrington added another just three minutes later on a cross from Shaun Rudyzewski. Five minutes after that, Tony Berry headed in a Ryan Carter corner kick.

Roland Radinger and Messner each added penalty kicks to close out the scoring.

"We played our best full game of the season," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said. "We were intense from the opening kickoff and played the entire game that way."

O'Leary was happy with the defensive side of the game also.

"Robert Parkins and Hunter Robinson played outstanding defense, as they contained Lakeland's star forward and held him to zero shots on goal," he said. "Sean Sinusay made three saves to earn his fifth win of the year and fourth shutout."

Novi Girls Cross Country

The Wildcat girls cross country team ended the week with a victory at the Britain-Deerfield relays. On Sept. 7, the girls lost their first dual match to Milford 21-37.

On Saturday, runners paired up to race the 3.2-mile course. Andrea Kramer and Kelli Brown finished in 24:45 to claim first place. Laura Sheena and Nikki Woodruff placed fifth, and the

Higher standards

Novi golfers set new mark against Milford

By Jeff Theissen
NOV NEWS



Novi golfers started off last week by setting a new high school course record against Milford at Mystic Creek on Sept. 5.

The Wildcats lost a tough match by one stroke to rival Northville on Sept. 6 before beating Brockton Sept. 7.

Scott Czajka was the low man for the Wildcats in all three matches. His rounds went 35, 36 and 36.

Nick Prokop also shot a 36 on the final round of the week.

Alex Lyall was consistent throughout, posting three 37s.

Matt Fegeit stayed under 40 all three rounds with a 39 and a pair of 38s.

"This was a great win on a very difficult course and under tough conditions," said Coach Brad Huss on the first win. We needed this one because Milford won the pre-KVC, and we finished second."

The third match left the Wildcats undefeated in league dual matches at 2-0.

"Another important win in the KVC," Huss said. "We have Howell on Tuesday and Lakeland on Wednesday. If we can keep playing this way, we will be in the hunt for the KVC title."

Jeff Theissen can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at jtheissen@gannett.com.

High School Sports Schedule

Catholic Central	9/21 at Brother Rice, 4 p.m.	Boys Soccer	9/14 at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Novi	9/19 at Howell, 7 p.m.	Girls Tennis	9/14 at Huron, 4 p.m.
Football	9/16 Brother Rice at Ford Field, 7 p.m.	Girls Basketball	9/16 at Grosse Pointe South, Invite, TBA
Cross Country	9/16 Holly HS Invite at Springfield Oaks, 12:50 p.m.	Boys Golf	9/16 at Spartan Invite, TBA
Boys Soccer	9/15 at U of J, 7 p.m.	Girls Swimming and Diving	9/15 at Spartan Invite, TBA
Boys Golf	9/15 at U of J, 7:30 p.m.	Boys Soccer	9/19 at W.L. Western Invite, 9 a.m.
Boys Golf	9/14 Divine Child at Catusis, 4 p.m.	Boys Soccer	9/19 Howell, 4:30 p.m.

Wildcats earn first football win of 2006 campaign

continued from 1B

a 5-yard run, putting the Wildcats up 14-6 after Pat Sijan's extra point.

The Pirates again had a chance to tie after Erik Braun's 20-yard run with 5:25 left in the third quarter, but a failed two-point pass attempt left the Wildcats up 14-6.

Carnegie struck again with a 51-yard touchdown run on a third-down 13 in the third quarter. He rolled out to the right and found some open space down the Plochney sideline. He kept the jets going and out of the last defender around the 10-yard line.

Carnegie's last score came with 7:06 left to play. He borrowed in behind the Wildcat linemen for a 1-yard streak to take a 28-13 lead.

"We know he's a weapon either way," Kellepoorey said. "He threw for a long pass and also ran in a passing situation and scored on it. He's got some very exceptional ability."

But the other kids are out there blocking. The offensive line did a great job."

The Pirates struck 16 seconds later when Tim McEuen found Sean McEeachern all alone in the secondary for a 74-yard score.

But the Wildcat defense would not allow any more points, and Novi got to enjoy the thrill of winning in front of the home crowd.

"It gives us a lot of confidence," Carnegie said. "We love playing on our home field."

The Wildcats got it done on the ground, rolling up 236 yards on 52 carries. The Pirates had just 706 left to play. He borrowed in behind the Wildcat linemen for a 1-yard streak to take a 28-13 lead.

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Winning ticket will be drawn Date: Oct. 13, 9:00 p.m. Location: Novi High School Football Stadium. Times: End of third quarter. Winner need not be present to win.

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- Novi Middle School
- Novi Elementary
- 2062 Tall Road Novi MI 48248
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CLASSIC CHAMPIONS

By Jeff Theisen
NOV NEWS

Novi tennis posted a strong week with a 4-1 tie against top-10 ranked West Bloomfield before winning the Fall Classic at home on Sunday.

The Wildcats won five of the nine flights in the Classic.

"I thought it was the best tennis we've played all year long," head coach Jim Hanson said of the tournament. "I thought overall, everybody played well. We won five flights and took second in two other ones. It was a good

tournament."

The Wildcats finished with 20 points in the classic, well ahead of second place Troy with 15.

Claiming titles for the Wildcats were Katie Samuelson at No. 2 singles, Sara Carlson at No. 4 singles, Jackie Wang and Allison Yee at No. 1 doubles, Lauren Felcher and Lauren McCloskey at No. 4 doubles and Brittany Womack and Megan Wenzl at No. 5 doubles.

"Troy is a top-10 team, just like West Bloomfield is," Hanson said. "We're up to six now. Last week we were ranked eight."

The Wildcats have a full slate this week with matches already played Tuesday and Wednesday, but the biggest test will come Saturday at the Cross Point South Invite.

"It will be the toughest tournament we're in other than if we can make the state finals," Hanson said. "I'm looking forward to a good week of tennis."

Despite a solid showing in the past week, Hanson doesn't want the girls to get complacent.

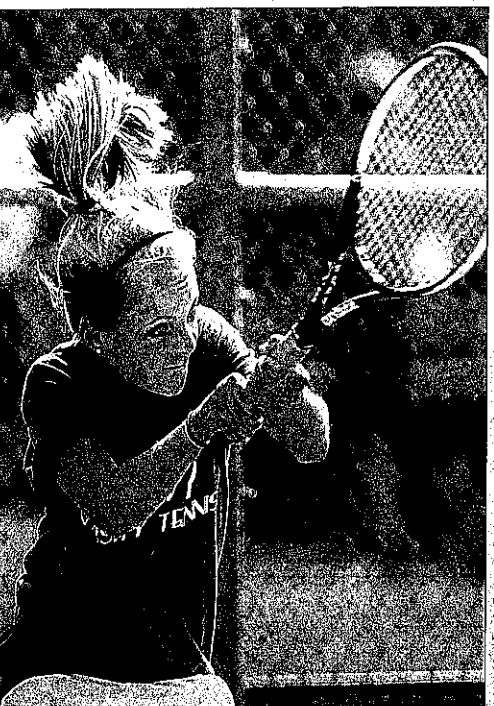
"What we have to do is continue to improve," he said. "We can't be satisfied with where we're at."



Wildcat Jennifer Felcher in action in a meet at Northville High.



Wildcat Katie Samuelson hits a forehand during a match at Northville High.



Wildcat freshman Sara Carlson hits a forehand to her Mustang opponent during an away game in late August.



Novi's No. 1 singles player Carly Lyall serves to her Northville Mustang opponent.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



Wildcat No. 1 doubles partners Allison Yee, left, and Jackie Wang in prepare to receive a serve while playing at Northville High.

FOOD

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



WELLNESS IN A BOWL

Toss Together Flavor, Taste, Color, Nutrition

FAMILY FEATURES

Everyone's hungry and they want dinner now. For a super fast meal, reach for that convenient salad.

Yes, dinner really can be that easy. And since ninety percent of us don't get even half of the nine to 13 recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables we should, making salad the entire makes good nutritional sense.

Think nine to 13 servings of produce sounds like a lot? One serving equals just one cup of salad greens, one-half cup of cooked vegetables, four tablespoons of raisins or half a large banana. An entire salad can easily offer eight servings.

Color your salad bowl! Nutritional science reveals that the richer the produce colors you eat — greens, yellows and oranges, blues, reds and purples — the higher the nutrient content and subsequent health benefits. The produce section is a gold mine of vitamins, minerals, fiber, antioxidants and other micronutrients that fight disease and add up to good health.

Health enthusiasts agree. "Eat your colors every day to stay healthy and fit," said Wiley Mullins, founder of America's Wellness Team, an initiative dedicated to helping Americans lead healthier lifestyles.

"Tossing a salad for dinner is the quickest and easiest way to wellness by creating a bowl full of produce servings," Mullins said. A unit dish salad is a no-brainer: "Just open the bag, add a few extras, toss and enjoy. Satisfaction guaranteed!"

With more than 40 colorful salad blends to choose from, Dole offers innovative meal solutions so you'll never be bored with salad entrees. From salad kits to salad blends, look for big flavors from different greens and other vegetables for satisfying dinner and meal solutions. Salad toppings don't have to be high in calories. "Herbs, spices, garlic, peppers and citrus all add some pizzazz to your salad without fat," said Mullins, who developed four blends of Salad Jazz, a line of salad seasonings that add intriguing flavors like Shallot-Pepper, Tomato-Basil, Citrus-Garlic and Chili-Lime. "Add leftover chicken or shrimp and Salad Jazz to a Dole salad blend, and you've got dinner." Salad Jazz can be found right in the produce department with its salad partners.

Wiley's Wisdom: Super Salad Ideas

- Start with a colorful salad blend! The more colors and varieties of greens in the salad, the better.
- Vary with veggies: Add green beans, cucumber, tomatoes, onions, radishes.
- Freshly add fruit, fresh or dried, like berries, grapes, oranges, apples, pineapple, mangoes or raisins.
- Get nutty: Sprinkle in sunflower seeds, walnuts, almonds or peanuts.
- Add protein: Leftover roasted chicken, black beans or grilled fish are great.
- Drizzle with vinaigrette, sprinkle with Salad Jazz (about one teaspoon per serving), toss and enjoy.

America's Wellness Team offers a free monthly electronic newsletter with nutrition and wellness advice; register at www.wellnesswisdom.com. The Dole Nutrition Institute, www.dolenutrition.com, is a rich resource for nutrition information, press, food facts and an informative monthly newsletter. Visit www.dole.com and www.saladjazz.com for more creative salad recipes.



Ensalada Fresca Con Lima

Makes 4 servings

- 1 10-ounce package Dole Mediterranean, American or Italian Salad Blend
- 1 15-ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 7-ounce can Mexican corn, drained
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon grated lime peel
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh cilantro or parsley
- 4 teaspoons Chili-Lime Salad Jazz
- 12 ounces grilled or roasted chicken breast or steak, sliced; or grilled shrimp

Toss salad blend, beans, corn and tomato in large serving bowl; set aside. Combine oil, lime peel, lime juice and cilantro in small bowl; pour over salad; toss to coat evenly. Sprinkle with Salad Jazz, toss and place equal portions on each of four dinner plates. Arrange chicken breast, steak or shrimp atop each and serve immediately.

Confetti Salad With Crispy Tortilla Strips

Makes 4 servings

- 2 10-inch flour tortillas, cut into thin strips
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons fat-free or reduced calorie Italian dressing, divided
- 1 8- (10-ounce package Dole American or Very Veggie Salad Blend or other variety
- 1 6-ounce package grilled chicken breast strips
- 2 apples, cored and chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 4 teaspoons Shallot Pepper Salad Jazz

Toss tortilla slices with 2 tablespoons dressing; scatter strips on baking sheet. Bake at 375°F for 5 to 8 minutes or until crisp and lightly browned, cool.

In large bowl toss together salad blend, chicken, apples, bell pepper, remaining dressing, tortilla strips and Salad Jazz. Serve immediately.

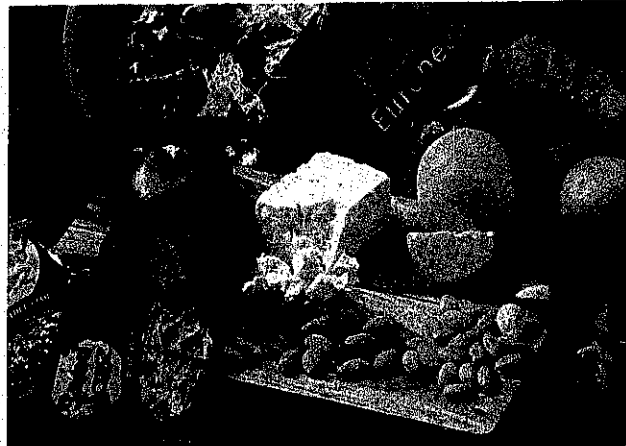
Citrus Green Salad

Makes 4 servings

- 1 20-ounce can Dole pineapple chunks
- 1 10-ounce package Dole European Salad Blend or other variety
- 1 orange, peeled, halved and sliced
- 1/2 cup halved and sliced red onion
- 1 cup chopped nuts, toasted
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 tablespoon grated orange peel
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic or red wine vinegar
- 4 teaspoons Citrus-Garlic Salad Jazz

Drain pineapple chunks; reserve 1/4 cup juice. In large serving bowl combine pineapple, salad blend, orange, onion, nuts and cheese; set aside. In small bowl, whisk together reserved pineapple juice, orange peel, oil and vinegar; drizzle over salad; sprinkle with Salad Jazz; toss and serve.

Confetti Salad With Crispy Tortilla Strips



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Call Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.nownews.com fax: (248) 349-8032

BUSINESS SENSE

ABCs of Nurture Marketing: Always Being Connected

By Karin Schaff Glazier
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

The concept of nurture marketing has been around for a long time. However, with narrowing customer markets, fierce competition and an abundance of consumer purchasing options, nurture marketing is changing from a want-to-a critical need for survival. Much of nurture marketing involves basic common sense: Treat others the way you would like to be treated to keep in touch with prospects (new and existing customers) and develop and cultivate relationships to generate new business. Here are just a few highly valuable but simple tips you can use to begin developing your nurture marketing game plan.

Know your ABCs (find D)! Before jumping headfirst into nurture marketing activities, dissect your prospect base into A, B, C and D accounts. Typically, the A and B accounts are where most of your revenue will come from in the near term, per your sales plan and ideal client profile. The C and D accounts are those that hold potential to become revenue-generating accounts, though not necessarily in the near term. The As and Bs typically receive personalized communication when possible. The Cs and Ds tend to receive more of what the industry calls "drip" marketing, which means activities are more general rather than highly personalized by account and contact type.

Become the trusted advisor. Nurture marketing helps to establish you as a trusted advisor in the minds of your prospects—and therefore puts you at the top of their list when they are searching for or trying to make a decision regarding your type of offering. Ask yourself what you need to provide so that they will see you as a trusted advisor. Remember, your product/service information is important, but it is not everything. Industry reports, case studies (industry case studies as well as your own), articles, webinar invites, etc., can also be powerful tools. These tools eventually build your nurture marketing tool kit.

Execution is key. Once you have developed your nurture marketing tool kit (which should grow continuously to keep information fresh and new), start to assign activities/materials to specific prospect types (the A, B, C, and D accounts). Record specific dates in your calendar when materials should be sent out to each prospect. You may not know what materials you will send two months from now, for example, but you should at least note that you will be sending something on X date. And, don't forget about the in-person visits and outings; they are great tools to add to your nurture activities. You should also have multiple contact per target account which value different information sent in different ways—and possibly at different times. The information sent to the A and B accounts should be personalized. Sales should lead this effort (i.e. sending an article, highlighting the important concepts, adding a handwritten note, mailing in hard copy format). Be sure to explain why you are sending the information, otherwise prospects may not understand how the information pertains to their business objectives and functional needs. The C and D accounts may receive the same information but in more of a casual/ongoing campaign type approach through mediums such as monthly e-zines or direct mailers. These activities tend to offer the same information to the same people at the same time, and the marketing department tends to oversee these efforts.

Track your activities. It's important to know what you are sending, when and why. Using technology (i.e. customer relationship management and/or sales force automation) to track all your nurture activities helps give you and others visibility into what is working, when and with whom. This allows you to continually improve your approach for better results.

The tips above are only a handful of the things you can do to proactively connect with your prospects. Nurture marketing is a forever commitment that needs some basic ingredients, such as: common sense, strategic planning, consistency, follow through and passion for getting close to your prospects so you can reap the many rewards it offers.

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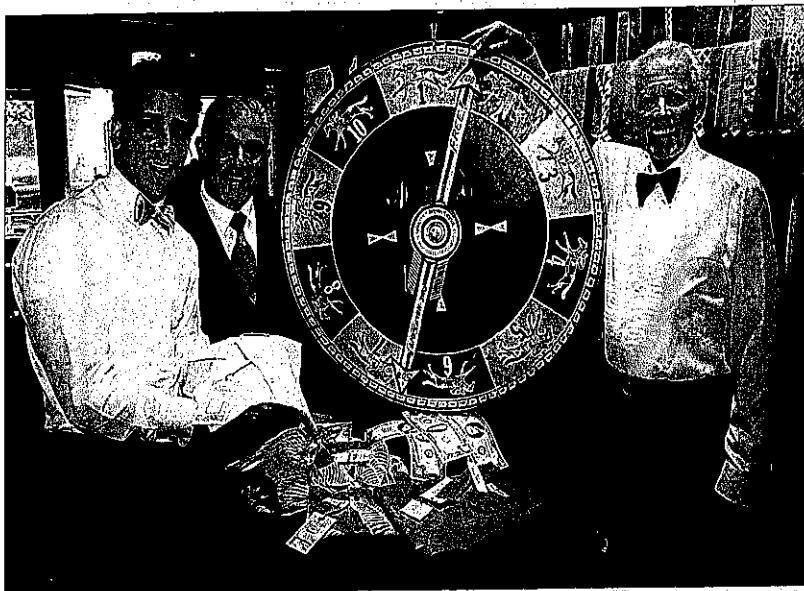


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Gannett News Service

Alexander Hamka, left, and his father Sam, center, are borrowing an idea from former Northville clothier Chuck Lapham, right. Beginning tomorrow, Alexander's customers will spin the wheel to determine discounts during an upcoming sale.

Alexander's: A perfect fit

Custom clothier mixes style with personalized customer service

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

This week, Northville will be abuzz with a Wheel of Fortune Sale at Alexander's Custom Clothiers. The 10-day sale, running Sept. 15-25 will give customers a chance to win 5 to 100 percent off men's clothing.

Alexander's is bringing back Northville's favorite men's clothier, Chuck Lapham, for a sale tradition from the popular Lapham's of Northville. Customers crowded in for the Wheel of Fortune sale at Lapham's, which finally closed after 40 years of business when Lapham retired in 1995.

"Everyone is a winner," explained Alexander Hamka, owner of Alexander's. "You could get half off or you could get an entire wardrobe for free."

Men can win large discounts on fine Italian garments like jackets, slacks, dress shirts, sports wear, sleep wear, shoes and accessories in brands like J. Paul Jones, Palzani and Zanotti. Only made to measure and custom-made suits and dress shirts are not included in the sale.

Once they've selected clothing, customers can give the Wheel of Fortune a spin to determine their discount. Every customer gets a discount of at least 5 percent — most get 20, 40 or 50 percent off, or more. And, those with a touch of luck can spin themselves a free wardrobe — whatever they have selected in advance.

Alexander's has pulled out all the stops to offer tailoring services as a part of the Wheel of Fortune Sale. Customers can bring in men's or women's fashions for bridal wear, then spin the wheel to win a big discount.

Alexander Hamka has developed a solid reputation as both a tailor and an image consultant. He's cultivated a stand-

ALEXANDER'S
Location: 124 W. Main St. in downtown Northville
Phone: (248) 349-6080

out image for players on the Detroit Lions. He's helped celebrities like "Superman" Dean Cain maintain a superior look.

Alexander offers wardrobe and image consulting at his store or at client's home. He drives to a client's home or office with hundreds of samples and photographs to create just the right clothing. Alexander steps into a crowded closet and helps weed out outdated clothing, replacing it with new clothing that coordinates with the remaining pieces.

"The right clothing changes your way of thinking," said Alexander. "When you come to work dressed in a fine suit, you feel motivated to work hard and achieve. It changes the way others think about you, too."

Alex helps create custom suits that complement the body shape of each client. Practically every piece of the suit is hand-stitched to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Custom dress shirts made of fine materials add just the right touch but are extremely comfortable for all-day wear.

The men's clothier also offers high quality made to measure suits ranging from \$495 to \$1,500. The store hits many styles and colors in stock, to fit every size and build.


"When it's right for you, you just know it, there's no wondering," Alex said. "My clothes make you feel good about yourself."

The Wheel of Fortune Sale will run 10 days only, starting tomorrow. Sale hours run Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-4 p.m.

Alexander's Custom Clothiers is located at 124 W. Main St. in downtown Northville. Stop by the store or contact Alex at (248) 349-6080.



Alexander's Custom Clothiers, 124 W. Main St. in downtown Northville offers clients full service, including fitting and custom tailoring.



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