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Novi News

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Thursday, December 14, 2006

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Volume 51 Number 29

Novi, Michigan

What you NEED to KNOW

Breakfast with Santa
Members of the Novi Lions Club will host an 8-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 breakfast with Santa at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Free Kidsight Vision screening will be available for children ages 1-6. Cost for the pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee breakfast is \$5 for adults and children age 11 and older and \$4 for children under age 11. For more information, call (248) 417-2903.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Happening in town
Check out Novi's official events calendar. Page 9A

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ON THE WEB: MAYOR DAVID LANDRY TAKES AIM ON CITY COUNCIL GUN RANGE REJECTION



Photo by JOHN HEDER/Novi News

Brian Larson hustles around the counter with a notebook and necklace during the busiest time of his retail year: the Christmas season. Larson routinely works 70-80 hours during the holidays.

ON SPECIAL: Fatigue, hope and constant motion

■ Holiday hours pile up for small business owners

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Brian Larson loves the holidays. So much that he doesn't go to parties. Or out for festive seasonal meals. In fact, he doesn't even watch much TV. That's because he's working.

Larson, 41, is the owner of Larson Jewelry Design Inc. in Novi, which like many small businesses, faces challenges handling the heavy workload during the holidays.

The holidays may push many small businesses into the black, but doing so often leaves resourced-strapped

The holidays are crunch time for small businesses in Novi. Sales often increase, but their resources are stretched. Some problems the season brings include:

- Long hours burden small staffs
- Can get lost in glut of advertising by large corporations
- Weather — often the shop owners have to clear sidewalks to open for business



SOURCE: Small Business Administration of Michigan

owners seeing red.

Larson said he puts in an extra 15 to 20 hours per week between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and works every day at his seven-year-old store at Main Street.

"If the store's open, I'm here," said Larson, who has been a jeweler for 30 years. "The hours pile up for the rest of the Larson Jewelry staff, which like many small busi-

"You can always go out to dinner in January."

Brian Larson
Larson Jewelry Design Inc.
Main Street, Novi

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Eyes on the future

Novi seeks economic development coordinator

■ Role would aim to attract, retain businesses

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Novi officials are considering adding an economic development coordinator to help entice new companies to the city.

There's no timetable yet for filling the position, but city administrators expect to flesh out the specifics of the role and make recommendations to city council in February's City Manager Clay Pearson said.

The coordinator would visit companies, plot marketing strategies and work with Oakland County officials to spur new development in Novi. The job would also focus on retaining current businesses and help them with expansion plans amidst cut-throat competition from other

The Novi Economic Development Corp.

- Founded in 1979
- Made up of nine volunteer residents
- Has been dormant in recent years, now expects to meet regularly and has set goals

SOURCE: City of Novi

suburbs and a revitalized downtown Detroit.

"We need to have a strong business community," Pearson said.

The position would likely be a salaried "middle manager" job and come with benefits, Pearson said. He did not reveal any potential candidates, noting the final responsibilities of the job haven't been completely ironed out. City documents refer to the position as a coordinator, although Pearson said the actual title hasn't been set.

The idea drew considerable

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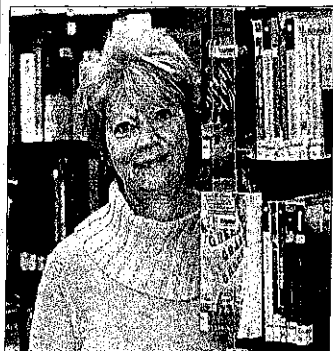


Photo by JOHN HEDER/Novi News

Novi Public Library director Brenda Lussler will retire in February.

Director of Novi Public Library to retire after 27 years with city

■ She'll stay on staff through February

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi Public Library Director Brenda Lussler will be stepping down after almost three decades at the facility.

Lussler announced her retirement in a Nov. 29 letter, with members of the library board

accepting her resignation at their Dec. 6 meeting.

Her last day will be Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Lussler said she decided to retire after 27 years with the city to spend more time with her new husband, Dave Lussler, his children and grandchildren. She also plans to travel.

Her departure comes at a critical time in the library's history with a proposed merger in the

continued on Page 2A

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RETIRE: After 27 years, Library director says good-bye

continued from 1A

works for the November 2007 ballot to help fund a building expansion program.

"Hrenda's been a key person in the library's success," said Clay Pearson, city manager.

The library board will be responsible for finding a replacement for Lusier. The Southfield Public Library is in the process of firing a new director and conducted a nationwide search.

Library board members did not discuss at the Dec. 6 meeting if they would look outside the area to find a new director.

Millage Issue addressed

Four concerned citizens came to the meeting to address the board about its progress on the building expansion program.

Norm Young said it has been five months since architectural plans have been completed, and it was only about 10 months until the November 2007 election.

"I need some assurance we're on the right track," Young said. "I personally don't see that we've made five months' worth of progress."

Steve McClain said the thought publicity work on the proposed 2007 library millage should have begun last June.

Board member Larry Czekaj said, however, that hard-core campaigning won't even begin on the millage proposal until next summer, so the board has plenty of time.

Heather Van Wacker of the Michigan Municipal

League in Ann Arbor and Karine Stover of Raleigh, Stover & Associates human resources consulting in Birmingham gave presentations on organizational structure and compensation analyses planned for the library.

The board, however, decided to hold off on these studies until they name a new library director. The analyses are estimated to take three-four months.

Lusier said the library currently has 55 employees and 15 different staffing levels.

The board did decide to try to get on the Jan. 22 city council agenda to make its presentation on the library millage proposal, which must first be approved by council before a campaign gets under way. Such a proposal failed with Novi voters in the 2001 general election.

One of the tasks the board wants to complete by the January meeting is a list of questions that will be included in a phone survey of residents that would be conducted by staff from Plante & Moran consulting firm. The survey, which was also conducted prior to the 2001 election, will cost about \$15,000.

The board also wants to hire Bev Parry, former director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Public Library, as a consultant for the Novi library millage campaign.

"We've got to get an awareness out in the community," Young said. "This isn't going to be an easy push. We need to keep the fire lit."

"This is going to be a learning experience for all of us," said Bob Cutler, library board president.

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@novinews.com.



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Courtesy photo

Capitol idea!

Fourth-graders at Orchard Hills Elementary in Novi recently traveled to Lansing to visit the state capitol and historical museum. Two classes went Dec. 5, and two went Dec. 6. Students from Cathy Brandao's class met Gov. Jennifer Granholm and House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi), pictured, who invited them to visit the House floor and his office.

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A 'Stone's' throw!



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

FAR LEFT: Novi Co-op Preschooler Gavin Parenti, with bandana and cowboy hat, waits to perform Stone Soup for a small audience.

LEFT: Students of the Novi Co-op Preschool perform a quick version of Stone Soup, a Swedish folktale, about the importance of acts of kindness to strangers. The kids put on the play for their parents and then enjoyed a vegetable soup they helped to prepare.



Novi Co-op Preschooler Gavin Parenti, with bandana and cowboy hat, waits to perform Stone Soup for a small audience.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trinity announces new hire

Novi-based Trinity Health has named Robert D. Adkins, Jr., as president of Integrated Services, a key position on the executive management team.

In this new position, he will be responsible for financial services, information services, supply chain and capital planning, managed care operations and insurance and risk management.

Previously, Adkins spent 30 years with Accenture, where he was a senior manager, most recently serving as U.S. country managing director and chief diversity officer for the global consulting, technology services and outsourcing company.

His first day with Trinity Health will be Jan. 23, 2007.

Adkins earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and an MBA in accounting and finance from the University of Michigan. He is also a certified public accountant.

He currently serves on the corporate advisory board of the University of Michigan's College of Engineering and has served in national positions, such as Accenture's representative to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Telcom opens new branch

Telcom Credit Union, headquartered in Novi, has opened a new, full-service branch in South Lyon. The branch is located in the new Glenwood Shopping Plaza at 21985 Pavilion Trail, just south of Nine Mile Road.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new branch took place Nov. 9. "We are excited to open and join the

community," said Stephanie Almsley, Telcom branch manager.

"We are South Lyon's first credit union. We look forward to serving the hundreds of current Telcom members in and around South Lyon, as well as enhancing the financial lifestyles of new members who live or work in the area."

Telcom's main branch and headquarters is located at 41575 West 12 Mile Road, with other branches in Canton and Southfield.

Founded in 1936, Telcom is now able to offer membership as an employee benefit to local businesses and organizations, as well as individuals in the southeast Michigan area.

Survey says: Workers happy

Despite the everyday gripes that are typical in most work environments, a new study by staffing company Kelly Services finds the overwhelming majority of American employees are happy in their work.

One key to that, they give high marks to their bosses.

Nearly two-thirds of U.S. employees — 65 percent — reported that they were either happy or very happy with their current position, while 10 percent were at the opposite end of the satisfaction spectrum.

The Kelly Global Workforce Index surveyed the views of approximately 70,000 people in 28 countries including almost 4,000 in the United States.

"American managers are doing a great job to motivate and engage their employees. The challenge is to continually provide interesting and meaningful work as well as opportunities for employees to learn and grow daily develop their own skills," said George Corrao, senior vice

president of Kelly Services.

Job satisfaction is also heavily influenced by how employees view their bosses. Asked to rate their bosses on a 10-point scale, the American workers gave supervisors 7.3 on average — second only to the 7.6 their Mexican counterparts gave their bosses.

Managers were rated on five attributes — communication, leadership, team spirit and delegation skills. The U.S. workers felt their bosses were best at delegating effectively and weakest when it comes to communication.

"Time and again, workers tell us that they want a workplace with good morale, stimulating work, a degree of autonomy and meaningful feedback from their bosses," said Corrao.

"That feedback need not be limited to formal evaluations. Even informal feedback, especially if frequently provided, can make a big difference."

Used cell phones help others

Many area residents will receive new wireless phones and accessories as gifts this holiday season. Rather than string unused devices in a drawer or throwing them away, they can donate the equipment to Verizon Wireless' Hopeline program.

Through Hopeline, Verizon collects discarded wireless phones and accessories regardless of the condition or wireless service provider. Most of the phones and equipment are sold to a third-party company, and 100 percent of the proceeds from the sale of these used phones support shelters and organizations that help domestic abuse victims. Verizon has already collected

25,000 phones in Michigan so far this year through the program.

Locally, phones can be dropped off at Verizon locations at 43025 12 Mile Road in Novi and at 20580 Haggerty Road in Northville. For more information, visit www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline.

Learn through experimentation

The Lean Learning Center in Novi, a provider of lean curriculum and consulting to a variety of industries, has expanded its offerings to include lean education and training tools with the launch of its new simulation, The Mouse Trap Learning Experience: The Power of Lean Learning.

This simulation teaches the central lean principle of learning through experimentation, reflection and PDCA (plan-do-check-act).

In addition to the standard game pieces, each Lean Learning Center Mouse Trap Experience kit contains Standard Work Instruction Tent Cards, Improvement Instruction Cards, stopwatch, Improvement Materials and spiral-bound Facilitator and Participant Guides, which are also supplied on a USB along with Power Point presentations. The Facilitator Guide enables the simulation — designed to last three hours with minimal prep and setup — to be led by someone early in their understanding of lean. Since its founding in 2001, the Center has promoted simulation as one of the most effective educational strategies in helping adults understand lean principles.

Two versions of the Lean Learning Center Mouse Trap Learning Experience simulation game are available. The standard, out-of-the-



Courtesy photo

Gathered Friends!

The Friends of the Novi Library had their fourth annual "Gathering of Friends" Friday, Dec. 1, at the Chelsea Federal model home at Island Lake, which was provided by Toll Brothers developers. About 75 members and guests gathered to celebrate the year's activities, renew friendships and make new ones. Guests were asked to bring a new, unwrapped story book to be donated to the Gift of Reading program the library sponsors annually.

Resident co-chairs fund-raiser

Michael Bernan of Novi recently served as co-chair of the annual Variety, The Children's Charity, Bikes for Kids event Dec. 6 in Pontiac.

As many as 175 needy and special-needs children in Metro Detroit receive brand new bicycles each year at this special holiday party. The children are presented by several local nonprofit agencies that are supported by Variety. Variety has distributed nearly 3,000 bikes. Funding for the bikes is raised at Lights, Camera, Auction! and also through a special giving campaign. For the past 12 or 13 years, Bernan has played Santa Claus at the event.

"The smiles on their faces are worth a million," Bernan said. "That's why I do this every year."

Bernan has been involved with Variety for about 15 years. He has served on the organization's board and as treasurer, vice president and president.

Benjamin Franklin
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FUTURE: Novi seeks economic coordinator

continued from 1A

support from the city council earlier this month, when members approved a list of economic goals for 2007.

"I think having an economic position makes a great deal of sense," Council Member Terry Margolis said.

Revitalized economic group

As proposed, the coordinator would work with Novi's Economic Development Corp. (EDC), a nine-member volunteer committee of residents that started in 1979.

The group has been dormant recently and met only occasionally. Mayor David Landry said at a council meeting the city simply hasn't asked much of the EDC. But now the group expects to take a more active role in the community, and one of its goals is to highlight the impact development has on Novi.

"They are doing some very exciting stuff," Landry said. "This is an example of when they challenge our residents, they come through."

EDC member Robert Churella said the group is pondering ways to help spur investment in the city.

"We have to get the right tax base here so we can continue to live the way we are," said Churella, who founded the Novi investment and insurance service firm FDI Group in the early 1960s and remains its chairman.

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

"I think having an economic position makes a great deal of sense."

Terry Margolis
Novi City Council

CITY HALL INSIDER

Hot topics: More drug money, Rock, Landry

By Greg Migliora
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Police Department received more federal drug forfeiture money last week.

Police said \$739,161 was deposited, the city's chunk of a \$1.5 million drug bust near Toledo, Ohio, made by Novi and Drug Enforcement Agency officers. In total, Novi has received \$6,472,102 in federal forfeiture money.

Rock wants tax tweak

TBON LLC, owners of the Rock Financial Showplace, is requesting a tax adjustment on the Novi convention hall. The matter could come before city council Monday.

Novi gave TBON a tax abatement based on original estimates that the project's investment would total \$12 million. It actually cost \$16.7 million.

TBON officials are hoping the change will be effective

for 2007.

Landry prepped

Novi Mayor David Landry, a vocal proponent of the police gun range, blasted critics in a lengthy column posted on the community Web forum, Novi.org. It's also linked to the Novi News site, novinews.com.

Landry fired specific shots at council members Lynne Paul, Tom Nagy and Andrew March. The three voted against the plan to build a gun range at the Field Services Complex on I Mile, siting it at least for the short term.

The dissenters voted against the plan for various reasons, but mostly were concerned with the long-term financial impact of the gun range.

Beck Road study available

The entire Beck Road Scoping Study is now available on

the city's Web site, cityofnovi.org. The study aims to offer City Council members options for improvements to Beck Road from Eight Mile to Grand River Avenue.

The issue has stirred controversy this fall, and the city has searched for a delicate balance between neighborhood concerns and the evolving needs of a burgeoning city.

What do you think?

Novi's survey is now available on the Web. The print version was sent to 1,200 homes this fall and results are expected later this month. But if you simply want to weigh in, take the survey. Your results won't count statistically, but the views you provide will be noted by city officials.

It takes about 20 minutes.

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

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Drunk Driving poses sobering realities

■ Holiday party ends quickly for those who overindulge

By Maureen Johnston
RECORD STAFF WRITER

A holiday buzz can quickly turn into a handcuff click. One are the days when police officers gilled drivers with a free pass because they were close to home, said Northville Police Chief Gary Goss. Penalties await revelers driving behind the liquid holiday cheer, he said.

"Ten or 15 years ago, if somebody had one too many and got behind the wheel, you laughed it off," Goss said. "I think as a society, it's no longer acceptable. You're seeing people take the keys and people giving up the keys."

Exceeding the state's legal limit is cause for arrest. "Buzzed driving is operating while impaired," Goss said. "If you're feeling that good, you're probably over it."

It's also setting a bad example for children watching their parents' holiday behavior, Goss said. Before climbing behind the wheel, drivers need to consider their state and the potential fate of their passengers and others sharing the road.

Role modeling

Kids learn behavior by watching adults, said Goss. "You really need to think about that during the Christmas season, particularly if you have a teen," he said, adding minors arrested for drunk driving face the same type of penalties as adults.

Goss recalled the drunk driving arrest of a 17-year-old whose blood alcohol content measured .21. He said when his father came to the jail to take custody of his son, he broiled at questions about his own alcohol consumption.

"I told him, 'Your son is a practiced drinker to be at .21 at 17,'" Goss said. "He was in an absolute denial. He said, 'I did the same thing when I was a kid. It's a rite of passage.'"

"Six months almost to the day, his son got in a very serious accident — his second offense."

The judge ordered the teenager to attend Alcohol Anonymous meetings as part of his sentence, Goss said. Months later, the father visited Goss and acknowledged he had been right about the problem.



Avoiding Overconsumption ...

Drug names: Alcohol
Other names: Beer, wine, liquor, booze, mead, cider, punch

Effects:
Inebriation (alcoholism)
Dizziness
Slurred speech
Disturbed sleep
Nausea
Vomiting
Impaired judgment
Impaired motor skills
Violent behavior
Impaired learning
Fragile Alcohol Syndrome (severe depression after binge)

Effects for parents: 25 percent of eighth graders have admitted to being intoxicated at least once.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education

"Under 21, if you've had anything to drink, you better stay out from behind the wheel of a car," Goss said.

Effects of alcohol

Officers stop drivers they suspect are under the influence. Six

■ Tips for parents ...

Northville Police Chief Gary Goss said parents can take precautionary steps to help keep their teen-agers safe. His suggestions include:

- Keep track of alcohol you have around the house, whether it's in the liquor cabinet or a refrigerator in the garage.
- "It's very easy for parents to become enablers," Goss said. • Set a good example. "Particularly if you get behind the wheel," he said. "If your son

or daughter did that, you're sending the wrong message."

- Check on your kids. Never condone drinking, but don't fail-safe advice, Goss said. "Sometimes as kids get older, they make the right choices," he said. "Tell your kids if they don't want to drink, that's OK. I'll come and get you."

■ Drunk driving facts ...

Statistics reveal holidays "some of the most dangerous

"Don't even look for a break. We can no longer afford to give you one."

Gary Goss
Police Chief, City of Northville

that's even before you start reaching that legal limit," he said. "The penalties for a drunk driving conviction vary, Goss said, increasing in severity with an accident, injury or fatality. Consequences include fines, potential loss of a driver's license, community service and imprisonment.

"Don't even look for a break," he said. "We can no longer afford to give you one."

Judgment is the first thing to go when someone drinks alcohol, Goss said, like whether to stop at an amber signal.

"You start taking more risks, glassy bloodshot eyes, alcohol odor and decreased dexterity when reaching for their registration."

Maureen Johnston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or via e-mail at mjohnston@gannett.com.

Novi's top building official to retire in March

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Novi's top building official, Don Saven, plans to retire in March. Saven has worked for Novi for more than 24 years, spread out over two stints. He's been building official for the last 15 years. His last day is expected to be March 23.

"Don's definitely a Novi institution," City Manager Clay Pearson said. "He's irreplaceable in a lot of ways."

Saven was out of the office on Monday and unavailable for comment. He currently supervises a staff of 16.

Before taking over Novi's top building position, he was deputy building official from 1995-1999. He also worked for the city as building inspector from 1974-1977.

Saven has earned a slew of awards during his long career. The South Lyon resident was named the region's outstanding building official in 2005 by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan. He was named building code official of the city in 2000 by the Building Officials Conference of Michigan and has served as that organization's president. He also has been president of the Oakland County

Building Officials Association. He's well-respected and known by the industry," Pearson said. "He's a very high-quality person. We're going to miss him a great deal."

Search begins after holidays

With Saven's departure imminent, speculation will turn to his possible successor. The search will begin after the holidays, and the position could be tweaked, Pearson said.

He did not identify any potential candidates.

The next building official will preside over the growth of one of the most rapidly developing communities in Metro Detroit. Novi officials will be looking for an experienced person who can help build the city's tax base, Pearson said.

"The pace and the demands of any kind of supervisor position like this would be somebody seasoned," he said.

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



Veteran Novi Building Official Don Saven (seated) goes over plans. He's retiring in March.

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Novi Jaguars, Tyrell recognized at Parks Foundation gathering

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

It's not often that Santa Claus receives an award. But on Nov. 14 Novi Parks Foundation members recognized Novi resident Dan Tyrell, Novi's official Santa Claus for 15 years, with the 2006 Hugh and Kathy Crawford Award.

They thanked Tyrell for his outstanding service, leadership and support of the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department and members of the Novi Jaguars Soccer Association for their \$11,300 contribution.

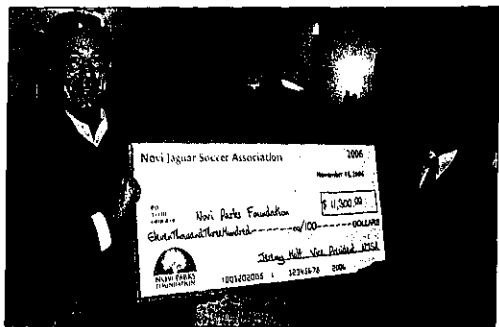
New officers elected

The Novi Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 2004 to raise funds to supplement funding for the city's park and recreational facilities, also elected David Staudt president, Lynn Blair as vice president and Kathy Costantino as secretary/treasurer that evening.



Courtesy photo

Novi resident Dan Tyrell was presented the Novi Parks Foundation's Hugh and Kathy Crawford Award at the organization's Nov. 14 meeting. The award was presented for his leadership and support of the city's Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. Tyrell has been an umpire, driver for the city's senior van and the city's official Santa Claus for 15 years.



Courtesy photo

Mary Caruso, president, Novi Jaguars Soccer Association, and Jeremy Holt, right, vice president, presented a check for \$11,300 in contributions to David Paul, Novi Parks Foundation board member at the foundation's Nov. 14 board member.

More than 400 families donate

Mary Caruso, president, Novi Jaguars Soccer Association, and Jeremy Holt, vice president, presented the association's check to the foundation, which represented a \$25 contribution from 452 families in Novi and surrounding communities.

The Novi Jaguar families are thrilled to partner with the foundation and contribute to such a worthy effort. Holt said "it's important for our families and all Novi residents to support, maintain and develop the quality and quantity of our soccer facilities and programs in our community."

Tyrell has been involved in Novi recreational activities for many years. He spent 12 years on the Novi Parks and Forestry Commission, serving as chair for three years.

Besides serving as Novi's Santa Claus, Tyrell has been an umpire for city recreational leagues and a driver for the city's senior van. "I can't think of anyone better

deserving of this award," David Staudt said, the newly elected president. "Mr. Tyrell has provided tireless support and leadership to improve the quality, services and opportunities in the city's recreational activities."

The Hugh and Kathy Crawford Award is presented annually and is displayed at the Novi Civic Center. In recognition of the award's namesake, Hugh and Kathy Crawford were also added as honorary members of the Novi Parks Foundation.

Foundation members also recognized major contributors that helped make its second annual "Get in the Game" golf outing a success, including JTC Transmission, Inter Seating Systems, Tom Hiltzer Ford, LaSalle Bank, Moe's on Ten Recreation, Discount Tire, JPS Marketing Communications and Cal Stone, former editor of the Novi News.

Others recognized for past efforts were Marie Bright, past chair of the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission; Charley Stubb, past chairman of the Novi Parks Foundation; Sue Engebreton, past treasurer of the Novi Parks

Foundation; and Brian Burke for his efforts in making the golf outing a success for the past two years. For his efforts, Burke is also now an honorary member of the Foundation.

Foundation members also recognized Mayor David Landry for contributing payments to the organization he earns for marry-

ing people and Mayor Pro-Tem Kim Capello and Council Member Lynn Paul for contributing fees they receive for attending council meetings.

"We are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize all of our major supporters and contributors," Blair said. "The support of our contributors allows us to provide additional funding opportunities for our parks, services and scholarship programs, which makes Novi a better place to work, live and play."

Foundation members thank the Novi Charlatines, who provided entertainment at the meeting, and George's Senate Restaurant in Northville for hosting the event, providing dinner and refresh-

"Mr. Tyrell has provided tireless support and leadership to improve the quality, services and opportunities in the city's recreational activities."

David Staudt
President, Novi Parks Foundation

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

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Local gardeners: Pull the pics

Local magazine scouting area for show-case gardens

By Maureen Johnston
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Proud of your garden? Send information and photographs detailing your garden in the summer. Submit to: Gardens of Northville & Novi, P.O. Box 344, Northville, MI 48167. Deadline: Thursday, Dec. 20.

For info: maureenjohnston@novi.com or (248) 348-1946

Do-it-yourself appeal

DeMattos said contact with the magazine resulted from her efforts in publicizing the three-year-old club's garden walk last July. She mailed press releases to several regional and national magazines detailing the 27-member club that caters to working women.

The marketing theme of the upcoming magazine article will be projects readers can undertake, DeMattos said, aligned with the club's focus. The Nov. 10's "sex-tone" tour always winds up with informational demonstrations and plant vendor sales.

"That is the key thing," she said. "Many of the gardens on garden walks — much of it is professionally done."

"I think that was one of the other things that attracted them: 'You can do this.'"

Yvonne DeMattos
President, Gardens of Northville and Novi

"I think that was one of the other things that attracted them: 'You can do this.'"

Local spotlight

While sifting through potential sites for the magazine, DeMattos will have an eye peeled for prospects for her club's annual tour.

Both she and the magazine editor are seeking gardens with several features, such as water, paths, a variety of plants and outdoor structures, she said. In addition to photos, DeMattos suggested gardeners send a detailed description of the features a photograph may not convey.



Courtesy Photos

Gardeners of Northville and Novi officials will be showing Martha Stewart Magazine editors pictures of local gardens for an upcoming article. Officials are asking for more photos.

"(The editor) will select the ones she's interested in," she said. "If she wants to go out and get the lay of the land, we can do that."

A photo spread in a national magazine would be a feather in any gardener's cap, she said. "The few people I've talked to so far are very excited about it."

"Of course, with a dedicated gardener, they're never really finished," Maureen Johnston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or via e-mail at mjohnston@gannett.com.



"To have a garden from Northville or Novi highlighted in 'Martha Stewart' is quite a feat."

Yvonne DeMattos
President, Gardens of Northville and Novi

SEASON'S GREETINGS



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Novi's Official Events Calendar • For a complete local events calendar, visit www.novinews.com



Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

Listen up! Michelle Schwab and her son Andrew, 2, listen to a recent storytime for kids at the Novi Public Library. For more information on the storytimes, call (248) 349-0720.

EVENTS

Lakes Area Optimal Club Essay Contest
DETAILS: Area students are encouraged to submit essays based on the theme, "I Want to Make a Difference Because..." for the 2007 Optimist International Essay Contest. Winners will receive local recognition and the essays will be sent to compete at the district level. College scholarships are available to the top winners at district and international level.
CONTACT: Kevin Terry, (248) 345-6437

Novi Concert Band Holiday Concert
DATE: Sunday
TIME: 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The Concert Band will perform traditional and new songs, and include an audience sing-along.
CONTACT: Uwan Kochyan, (248) 349-9135

Hometown Photo Contest Reception
DATE: Jan. 6
TIME: 6-8 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Atrium
DETAILS: The winners of the "Hometown Novi" photo competition, sponsored by the Novi News and the Novi Historical Commission, will be announced at this reception. This is also the opening of a month-long exhibit of the entries in this year's competition. The public is invited to attend and submit their vote for a People's Choice Award among all of the photos exhibited. Entry forms and rules for the 2007 competition will be available at the reception, and at the city's web site beginning Jan. 1.
CONTACT: Kathy Mutch, (248) 224-4211

Mary Storch reads the book "How Do I Love You" during a toddler storytime at the Novi Public Library.

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 2
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi School Board Meeting
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 11
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Woods Elementary

DATE: Today
TIME: 8 a.m.
LOCATION: Franklin Bank, 19000 Haggerty Road
DETAILS: This reception is for new and renewing members. The cost is free. Please RSVP to the Chamber.

The Chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, pro-active advocate of business interests in the greater Novi.

continued on 10A

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONSIDERATION OF AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE UNDER ACT P.A. 198 OF 1974 AS AMENDED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT TEGON, LLC/BOCO Enterprises, Inc. (Rock Financial Showplace) has submitted, for filing, a request with the City of Novi for an adjustment to the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate under the "Pilot Rehabilitation and Industrial Development District Act, P.A. 198 of 1974" in order to increase the exemption amount to reflect the full value of the improvements as constructed.

The project is located on the north side of Grand River, between Beck Road and Fall Road, described as follows:

50-22-16-251-021
T1N, R9E, SEC 16 PART OF NE 1/4, ALSO PART OF SE 1/4 BEG AT E 1/4 COR, TH S 07-28-37 W 1329.12 FT, TH S 87-42-26 W 124.50 FT, TH S 01-24-20 E 347.84 FT, TH ALG CURVE TO RIGHT, RAD 83807.18 FT, CHORD BEAF-S N 73-03-46 W 329.67 FT, DIST OF 328.67 FT, TH N 72-57-25 W 755.69 FT, TH N 04-46-33 W 547.10 FT, TH N 73-01-11 W 108.66 FT, TH S 88-13-27 W 83.17 FT, TH N 01-46-33 W 800.29 FT, TH S 70-44-04 E 45.95 FT, TH S 34-37-33 E 20.66 FT, TH S 74-00-10 E 1693.39 FT, TH N 85-34-29 E 148.03 FT, TH S 16-01-01 W 420.39 FT, TH S 87-20-02 E 993.07 FT, TH S 02-16-20 E 243.31 FT TO BEG. 48-23-A 16-20-04 FR 002, 006, 011, 012, 013, 014, 016, 018, 019 & 020.

Pursuant to Section 4 (3) of said Act, a public hearing shall be held on December 18, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the Novi City Council Chambers, located at 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, during which any property owner within the proposed Industrial Development District, and any resident or taxpayer of the City of Novi may appear and be heard in relation to the consideration of the aforementioned Industrial Development District. If you have any comments regarding this proposal, they may be presented in writing or during the Audience Participation section of the Agenda.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CMC
NOVI CITY CLERK
(12-14-06 NN 327604)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.209

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOW CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.209, to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, Section 2509, Landscape Standards, in order to require the placement of street trees in connection with single-family home sites not located within subdivisions or site condominiums.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, December 4, 2006 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(12-14-06 NN 327604)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.211

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOW CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.211, to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, to amend the process for outdoor eating areas to streamline the review and approval of applications.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, December 4, 2006 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(12-14-06 NN 327605)

it's a gift

Give the gift of choice: THE LORD & TAYLOR GIFT CARD

Available at all Lord & Taylor stores, lordandtaylor.com and by phone at 1-800-223-7440. No fees, no expiration date.

It's a gift everyone's sure to love, and it's a gift to help children in need.

FEED THE CHILDREN Feed The Children will receive a portion of the proceeds from every "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" gift card sold through December 15th.

WAL-MART Available in select locations.

Oakland Community College

Get ANYWHERE from here...

- University Transfer programs in Liberal Arts, Science, Business, Education, Health Services, and Criminal Justice
- Five convenient campus sites in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Westland, Novi, and Waterford
- More than 130 Certificate and Degree programs to help you get where you want to go
- Affordable tuition - \$56.80 per credit hour for full-time students
- Thousands of classes from which to choose
- Register on campus, online or by phone
- No charge to apply

Enroll NOW for WINTER Classes

Touch*Text*Web Registration Now, through January 5, 2007

Final Registration January 3, 4, 5, 2007

Classes begin Monday, January 8, 2007

Register for classes online www.oaklandcc.edu

For information call 248.341.2350 Visit our website www.oaklandcc.edu

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

What's Going On? (cont'd)

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

The Greater Novi Chamber is a non-profit business association. We provide valuable networking opportunities for our members; act as a bridge between local business and government; help businesses stay aware of other member's services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact: Whitney McEllan, Executive Director at (248) 347-4522 or whmcc@novichamber.com

Healthy Lifestyle Round Table
DATE: Monday, Dec. 18
TIME: 8 a.m.
LOCATION: Lifetime Fitness
DETAILS: This is the first meeting to develop a committee for health and fitness in Novi, including a 5K run.

First Annual New Year's Eve Diamond Gala
DATE: Dec. 31
TIME: 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showcase at the Diamond Center
DETAILS: Live music by Steve King and the Ditties. Hosts d'ouaves and hosted bar, elegant four course dinner, champagne and debut bar all evening; ataglow 11:45 p.m.; party begins; live Times Square broadcast; \$90 per person. Overnight accommodations and shuttle services available at participating Novi hotels. Call for information and reservations.
CONTACT: (248) 348-5003 Ext. 293.

Save-the-Dates
January 10, Luncheon sponsored by member Lotus Bank.
January 18: B2B Breakfast sponsored by member Rock Financial Showplace.
January 25: State of the City address held by member City of Novi, at the Rock Financial Showplace.

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake,

Walled Lake, Waterford, Whitom, Wolverine Lake, and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a unified voice on behalf of the business community, provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest, serve as a source of information and develop programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.
CONTACT: (248) 529-5825

BUSINESS

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group
TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m. Third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Walsh College, Troy Campus
DETAILS: Walsh Business Leadership Institute invites women who own, are partners in, or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues and share solutions in a nonthreatening, non-competitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, ehubbard@walshcollege.edu

Novi Rotary James Bond Holiday Party
DATE: Friday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Country Club, 8 Mile Road, Northville
DETAILS: This is a fund-raiser for the Rotary's humanitarian efforts. The event will feature live entertainment, fabulous food, and James Bond themed activities. Black tie optional. Tickets are \$50 per person, and reservations are required.
CONTACT: Miranda Frost or Christmas Classes at (248) 320-5877

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
LOCATION: Assaifan Cancer Center, 4701 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
WANTED-ART WORKSHOP
INSTRUCTORS
DETAILS: We are looking for people that have an art or craft that they would like to share in our series of one-time workshops. Please call (248) 465-5455 if interested.
Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: The cost is \$2. Beginners are welcome.
Artist to Residence
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Note: The library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 25
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 348-0720
Story Times
DETAILS: Fall 1 Story Times are

now underway. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

Battle of the Books Registration
DETAILS: This program is offered for all fifth and sixth grade students that live or attend school in Novi. They can participate by organizing teams of three to six students, plus and adult coach, to compete in a test of their knowledge, or books they read that will be selected by the library. The first 12 teams to return their registration forms will be eligible to participate. The Battle of the Books will be held in March, 2007. For more information, please contact the library's Youth and Teen Services department.

Friends' Special Used Book Sale
DATE: Saturday
TIME: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
DETAILS: This special sale on used books and other media includes coffee table books, cookbooks, videos, and more!

Lego Club
DATE: Monday, Dec. 18
TIME: 6-7 p.m.
DETAILS: Lego show-and-tell, building activities, and swap time for children in grades kindergarten through fourth. We supply the Legos, you supply the imagination. No registration required.

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9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
12:30 p.m.: *Pinchile
2 p.m.: Tea, 51 at door, Harpist
Katherine Opperman
2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment
6:30 p.m.: *Clogging

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Betty Drake chats with Santa Claus during last week's Novi Rotary Club Senior Holiday Party at Novi Middle School.

Novi Middle School student Connor Smentak escorts Barbara Cross to her dining table during last week's annual Novi Rotary Club Senior Holiday Party.

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What's Going On? (cont'd)

continued from 10A

Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Pipers Bread
9 a.m.: *Line Dance
10 a.m.: *Aston Pacific
10:30-11:30 a.m.: Bookmobile noon; Lunch
12:45 p.m.: Bingo
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall cancelled
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure cancelled
11 a.m.: Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
11:30 a.m.: *Clogging noon; Holiday Celebration (sold out)
1:30-2

OPINION & LETTERS

COMMENT

Promise Grant: A state vow worth keeping

Michigan high school graduates planning on going to college will get a nice present under the state Christmas Tree (no longer saddled with the silly "Holiday Tree" name, thank goodness).

Starting with the class of 2007, graduates will get \$4,000 in state scholarship money if they complete at least two years at a public or private college or trade school in Michigan and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average.

The program, originally called the Michigan Merit Scholarship Program, has now been renamed the Michigan Promise Grant. It's a way to help pay college tuition for graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Here's how the Michigan Promise Grant works. Students who pass new ACT-based standardized tests and go on to college will get \$1,000 at the start of their freshman year, another \$1,000 at the start of sophomore year and \$2,000 when they finish the second year.

Checks will be sent directly to participating schools, which will apply the money to student bills. Best guess is the program will cost about \$110 million in 2007-2008, somewhat less than the present \$2,500 Michigan Merit program cost the state. Within a few years, however, it will cost more — and that will be money well spent.

Thank you notes from students (and their tuition-paying parents) should go to Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Concerned about the low skill and education level in the Michigan work force in the face of a rapidly globalizing economy, she convened the Chery Commission back in 2004 to study the problem.

Their report recommended a goal of — within a decade — doubling the percentage of Michigan high school graduates who get higher education degrees. However, the Chery Commission ducked the issue of how to pay for it. This is a first step in that process.

Credit should also go to the legislative leaders of both parties who finally got together with the governor in the lan-

guage session to approve the program. It's easy to criticize lawmakers for being too partisan and ineffective. I've done it lots of times.

But the reality is that most of them want to do the right thing most of the time, and the passage of the Michigan Promise Grant is a case in point. There's no doubt that this is the right direction.

Forty percent of people in the economically leading states have associate degrees or better and 33 percent have B.S.s, according to the Chery Commission. But in Michigan, the comparable numbers are 29 percent and 22 percent.

We're way, way behind our competition. Worse, 90 percent of Michigan ninth graders say they want to go to college. But only 41 percent enroll directly out of high school and only 18 percent actually graduate within four years. Plainly, there's a big disconnect between our young people's hopes and the realities — many of them financial — they face when they actually try to go to college.

So the \$4,000 represents an incentive for graduates to make it through the first two years of university or community college. But is it adequate to produce a highly educated work force in Michigan?

Nope. Average tuition (not including books, room and board) at Michigan universities this year is \$7,661. The \$4,000 is a good first step, but is just that — a step, not a solution for the real problem.

What's needed is a far more dramatic and effective device to unlock the human capital and talent of Michigan's young people. That's the real reason the Kalamazoo Promise has stirred up such enormous interest. Already, communities as varied as Jackson and Holland/Zeland in Michigan, Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio, and Newton, Iowa, have proposed variations on Kalamazoo's experiment.

Michelle Miller-Adams, a researcher with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in Kalamazoo, is writing a book about the transformative potential of the Promise.

She told the Kalamazoo Gazette, "The Promise gets at a combination of important issues, like economic development, access to college and decline of urban areas."

Michigan should think seriously about taking components of the Kalamazoo Promise statewide and creating a real Michigan Promise (not this misleadingly named Michigan Promise Grant).

Think what would happen to our state's national and international standing if we had a true GI Bill for all Michigan citizens. That is, a program where any high school graduate who maintains a good grade point average gets tuition paid at a university or community college, and any laid-off worker gets serious job training so they can resume a productive life of work.

Naturally, anything like that would be terrifically expensive, far beyond the state's current tight budget.

So we ought to start thinking — right now — about how to create a trust fund that could finance a real Michigan Promise. It could involve contributions from our state's great foundations. It might include proceeds from school districts selling unused schools and real property to fund college for graduates from their high schools.

The Michigan Promise account could be configured as a revolving fund in which recipients who get their college degree — and as a result double their annual incomes — accept the obligation to pay back to the trust fund some of their additional earnings.

Doing that would be something serious and distinctive, and make our state enormously competitive. And, more, it would demonstrate to the nation and to ourselves that we have the will to address our problems in a far-reaching, broadly acceptable way.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president of the Michigan Education and Labor Council in Michigan. He has written for Michigan, a moderate think-and-don't tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of the Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@themut.com.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



Letters to the Editor

We welcome your comments regarding editorials, columns and other topics discussed in the Novinfo News. Only submissions arriving by 5 p.m. Monday and including the author's full name, address and city and evening phone numbers — for verification by the Novinfo News — will be considered for publication. Letters to the editor of 400 or fewer words have the best chance of being published. All submissions may be edited for length, accuracy and clarity. Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns, and articles submitted to the Novinfo News may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

Mail Letters to the Editor to: David Aguilar, Novinfo News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9832. E-mail: daguilar@gannett.com.

Flying colors!



Ivan Johnson-McCall, center, and his Novinfo Woods Elementary School classmates stand in front of the American flag flown over a base in Falluja, Iraq, by Ivan's dad, U.S. Marine Sgt. Charles McCall. Ivan and his class, led by Barb Ray, have kept in communication with Sgt. McCall throughout his deployment.

LETTERS

Anti-Granholm

One can bet money that our Republican controlled lame duck legislators will not pass any tax program proposed by Gov. Granholm, regardless of any compromises she is willing to accept.

Now, likely, if Granholm's proposed tax bill, if incredible direct intervention, somehow guaranteed a tax reduction for every business and individual taxpayer, they would approve it.

Why? If they stay in partisan character, they would rather let the state go bankrupt before they would concede the governor anything that could be considered an achievement.

Patrick M. Downey
Novi

Gun Range

Congratulations to the three council members who had the guts to vote against the proposed new gun range. They are looking out for our taxes down the road on this police Christmas list. I have never heard of real long-term cost to the city. I mean, as taxpayers, is somebody afraid to tell us?

As far as the other three council members, smart thinking long-term for the citizens' interests of this community, not on feel-good projects.

Gary Reamer
Novi

Not the Time for the Gun Range

The Michigan economy is in the doldrums. The median price of homes in the Detroit metro area declined 10.5 percent over the same period last year. Six out of the 10 cities with highest real estate markets are in Michigan. Ford Motor plans to lay off one third of its salaried workforce. Now is the time of city officials to be fiscally conservative. With property tax revenues declining, Novi will not be able to fund new projects with an ongoing budgetary impact.

The council did the right thing for the taxpayers by not approving the gun range. The police and all departments should have the funding to provide necessary services to the citizens of Novi, but future projects need to be carefully scrutinized in light of the current economic forecasts.

We appreciate the police department, administration and council members who have spent time and effort on this issue. Perhaps if the economy improves, the gun range plan can be revisited.

Lynda and Ron Baca
Novi

Thank-you for Parade Support

The Ringing in the Holidays Committee and the City of Novi would like to thank the following sponsors for their support and contributions: Real Estate One, Salom

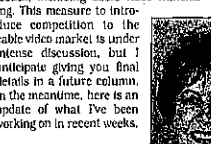
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Event/Marketing Coordinator
Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry

GUEST COLUMN: STATE SEN. NANCY CASSIS

Important issues face Michigan Legislature

This week brings to a conclusion the regular legislative session of the 93rd Legislature. As this column goes to press, we plan to take up several large issues, including cable video franchise.

This measure to introduce competition to the cable video market is under intense discussion, but I anticipate giving you final details in a future column. In the meantime, here is an update of what I've been working on in recent weeks.



State Sen. Nancy Cassis

Restoring local control of speed limits

Earlier this year, lawmakers decided to make speed limits uniform on unmarked gravel roads throughout the state. During the debate, I, along with several of my colleagues, demanded assurance of some local input. Although we were told flexibility was built into the law, the flexibility proved nonexistent. On Nov. 9, the law invalidated Oakland County's 25 mph limit on some gravel roads. To fix this problem, I partnered with local and state officials from Oakland County to find a solution.

This week, we approved new legislation allowing local governments to ask the county road commission to set

speed limits on gravel roads. Senate Bill 245 re-evaluates the speed limit law on these roads and will allow speed limits posted before Nov. 9, 2006 to remain in effect.

Although there were some legitimate reasons for the law, I didn't feel local officials and communities were given a meaningful opportunity for input. Local officials and residents are the best people to make speed-limit decisions for their gravel and dirt roads. This measure keeps control of speed limits on these roads in the hands of the community to help ensure our streets and roads are safe.

Data theft notification

The Michigan Senate recently approved legislation requiring companies to notify Michigan residents when their personal, credit or medical information has been stolen or misused. Currently, Michigan law does not require companies to notify affected individuals when their information is stolen or used for fraudulent purposes, while 35 other states already have measures in place. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

As we approach the holidays with the hustle and bustle of picking out gifts for loved ones and arranging holiday travel, it is my wish for you that the joy of the season be unmarred by identity theft and the headaches and financial harm that it brings with it.

Have a safe and blessed holiday season.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis represents the 15th District, which includes Novi.

Novi News

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Richard Ramboth
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Doing smart business in Novi

Novi officials are pondering adding an economic development coordinator in the city's hierarchy.

Here's some unsolicited advice: Do it. And do it soon.

Novi needs a talented point person who can highlight the city's many assets and help lure investment. The economy is brutal in Metro Detroit, and competition for jobs is intense. Having someone whose full-time role is to help business can only be a good thing.

City officials should take a hard look at adding someone with a solid business background — someone who speaks the language and understands the corporate culture. Someone who can make a phone call to a Fortune 500 company (there's a few of them around here) and get their call returned.

They should also have an idea what it's like for the small-time entrepreneur, surviving on guts, shaky credit and hope.

An economic development role is a common sense, proactive solution to a problem that isn't going away — the economy.

Give the person responsibilities and give the position some teeth.

Get it done.

Novi Community: Providence Hospital on the move

St. John Health System will open a 200-bed hospital, Providence Park Hospital, in July 2008. Recently, the hospital broke ground on its new Orthopedic Center on the Novi campus. This business venture will bring talented orthopedic specialists to the city and an ambulatory surgical site. The health system also just broke ground on its new 200,000-square-foot medical office building and Neuroscience Institute that will bring a host of neurosurgeons to Novi. The building of these structures mean area residents will be able to stay closer to home rather than have to drive to Southfield to see a variety of specialists — saving time, gas and money.

NEWS SOURCES

What's your story, Novi?

We're looking for you! The Novinfo News is currently looking to interview local residents regarding the following topics:

- Are you a high school student who receives an allowance from your parents?
- Are you a high school student who has an interesting hobby?
- Are you a Novi senior citizen with an interesting job or hobby?
- Are you a working woman who has recently returned to work?
- Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?

months, have you moved into a newly constructed home?

- Do you spend more than \$100 per week on gasoline?
- Are you a single parent?
- Has your home been for sale for more than one year?
- Is there something specific about Novi you would change, update or eliminate?
- Are you planning a unique holiday party or family get-together?
- Is there someone on your street who needs a helping hand?

Contact Novi News editor David Aguilar at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or via e-mail at daguilar@gannett.com.

• During the past six

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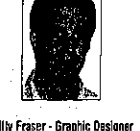
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION / NOTICE FOR FORMATION OF BANK HOLDING COMPANY

Louis Bancorp, Inc., 45650 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan 48374, has applied to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to form a bank holding company. We intend to acquire direct control of all of the outstanding voting common stock of Louis Bank (In Organization), to be located at 45650 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan 48374. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application including the record of performance of banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application / notice to Patrick Wilder, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The comment period will not end before January 13, 2008 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications / notices may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing professional applications / notices may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the application / notice, contact Anca Williams, Vice President and Community Affairs Officer, at (312) 322-5310 or to request a copy of an application, contact Patrick Wilder at (312) 322-6463. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application / notice if they are received by the Reserve Bank on or before the last date of the comment period.

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Gary D. Greely D.D.S. P.C.

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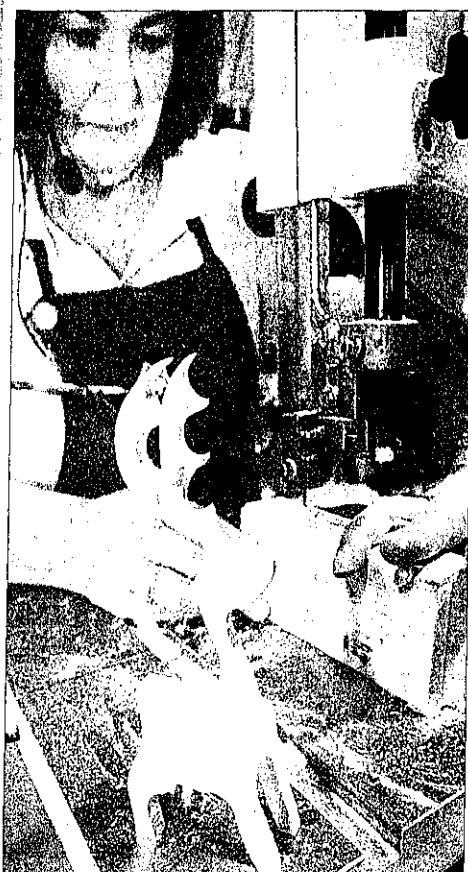
Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

ASTHMA CONTROL IN SENIORS

Asthma and allergies can develop any time in life, even in your senior years. Many people who you already know have some other conditions, especially those that require regular medications, can be a challenge. Some eye drops that seniors use for glaucoma can increase an asthma response. Eye doctors are ACE inhibitors taken for blood pressure control can cause problems in asthma. Gastrointestinal reflux disease (GERD) or heartburn after eating can also provoke asthma. In addition, lung function begins to decrease when people reach 40 years old. Wearing a scarf over your mouth in the cold weather can reduce asthma symptoms brought on by cold weather. Talk to your physician if you are experiencing breathing symptoms of asthma, or chest tightness.

This helpful column is appropriate for all who suffer with allergies. Call the ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN to arrange for a consultation. We are caring and professional, and

www.allergyinfo.org



On Blitz
Barbara Peters, of Bethel Park, Pa., uses a Jol bandsaw to create reindeer figures during last weekend's Woodworking Show at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace.

Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

WHAT'S GOING ON? (CONT'D)

continued from 11A

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 23200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road.
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 221 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Kindergarten Registration
DETAILS: Children who will be 5-years-old by Friday, Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baby's Faith
CONTACT: (248) 473-0356 or visit www.babysfaith.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME: 7:15 a.m. last Saturday of every month.
LOCATION: 23803 Pigeon Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focused on prayers for babies. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Single Pledge Ministries
CONTACT: www.singlepledge.org (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singlepledge.org
Divorce Recovery Workshop
TIME/DATES: 2:30-9 p.m., Thursdays
DETAILS: A variety of speakers and topics will be covered to assist those working through the divorce process. The cost of the workshop is \$35, and includes the book, *Growing Through Divorce*.

Walking Group
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: First, Second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Patera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington
DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

St. John Lutheran
LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohnlutheran.com
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 11, 15 a.m.

Sunday School
TIME: 10-15 a.m.
CONTACT: Dyan Kochan, (248) 348-5135

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 4440 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Cantata
TIME/DATE: 9, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

Grace Petale Presbyterian
Worship and the Arts Ministry
CONTACT: (248) 497-3178 or e-mail: gracepointe@mac.com
TIME: 8:30-9 p.m.
DATES: Monday
LOCATION: Patera Bread, Novi Road and Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a biblically based forum for those interested in the arts in the Novi area.

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novi Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
Childbirth Education
DETAILS: Evening or weekend series helping you and your partner get ready for the birth of your baby.
Childbirth Refresher
DETAILS: A one-time class to review important information for birth of your baby.
Breastfeeding Preparation
DETAILS: A one-time class for mom and her partner helping to provide tips for successful breastfeeding.
Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one-time class with practical information about how to adapt to life with a baby.
Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two-session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

World International Motorcycle Show
TIME/DATE: 4-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7
DETAILS: The show will feature the BOSS Start Show, Suzuki Give-away, interactive game experience, wine & displays, and a kids cycle center. Tickets are \$43 per adult, \$5 for children six to 11, children five and under are free. Parking is \$5.

Novi Town Hall Lecture Series
TIME/DATE: Thursday, Jan. 11
DETAILS: Cardiologist Vicky Savoy, M.D., will present "Little Known Medical Facts".
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5878 or Diana Coups, (248) 349-1822 for ticket information and reservation form.

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School, Tall Road
Send your calendar items to David Aquilar, editor, Novi News, 124 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 348-9832; or e-mail to dquilar@psnet.com.

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

48100 Grand River Avenue. Call (248) 348-5500 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

Diamond Center New Year's Eve Gala
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m., Dec. 31
DETAILS: Persons 21 and older are invited to celebrate New Year's Eve with this evening complete with hors d'oeuvres, four-course dinner, dessert, open bar, champagne at midnight, pizza and snack bar, and entertainment by Steve King and the Pettites. Tickets are \$90 per person. Tables of 10 are available for \$850. Reservations are required.
CONTACT: (248) 348-5500, ext. 200

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Spotlight on Business

Variety amazes at Novi Fine Wine



There's a sense of awe when people walk into Novi Fine Wine and Liquors for the first time. The shelves and shelves of every variety of wines, liquors and beers are like nothing else seen at other stores.

"This is like a candy store for adults," said owner Andy Nofar.

The store carries hundreds of wines, from Michigan wineries, small California vineyards and even some from throughout Europe. Organic and non-sulfite wines are always in stock. The new Madonna wines and special holiday wines have just arrived. Many aren't available anywhere else in Michigan.

It's no wonder that the shop was voted best selection of fine wine and liquor in People's Choice Awards for the last three years in a row. Plus Andy is always ready to give a wine recommendation, to help customers pick out the perfect bottle for a special occasion.

"People love coming in here and talking to me about what they should choose," said Andy.

And those looking for beer have just about as large a selection. Domestic beers, including local micro-brew line the cooler. Another cooler is filled entirely with imported ales, lagers and stouts. Topping the beer section is a little like taking a class in geography.

But the most variety could be found in the fine liquors lining the shelves. Just about everything is available, from traditional Irish whiskey to specialty items like Starbucks Cream Liqueur.

"People love picking out really unique things for their bar, beautiful colors and ornate bottles, in every shape," said Andy, pointing to fish-shaped bottles.

There are even sections with Asian and Indian beer, wine and liquor. Many customers come by just for the hate-to-find items.

Price is another reason that customers come to Novi Fine Wine and Liquors. The store sells liquor at the lowest prices allowed by the state. No other store could possibly go lower.

With the holidays coming up, there couldn't be a better place to shop for gifts than Novi Fine Wine. A surprise like a bottle of champagne or a fine liquor can compare to an average sort of gift. There are hundreds of holiday gift sets that contain a nice liquor and glasses or a fun bar set.

There is also an assortment of fresh cigars that are perfect for holiday celebrations and gift giving. Andy can help select a good cigar that doesn't cost a fortune.

"These are the perfect gifts for somebody that has everything," said Andy. "I keep the shelves stocked to overflowing during the holidays so everyone can find just the kind of gift they are looking for."

Gift certificates are also available, for the truly accommodating gift giver. The Nofar family recently remodeled the unique brick sports theme store. The entire family has provided family-style service since they bought the business six years ago.

The family supports a range of community groups, kids sports churches and Novi Schools. The store supports the schools as well as Novi sporting events. Novi Fine Wine and Liquors is a popular place to grab a bite to eat. Pizza Marvelous opened up inside of the store a couple years ago, with the best pizza in town. Only the finest Italian cheese tops the pizzas, along with home-made sauces. Entertaining is simpler with fresh salads, ribs and party packs from Pizza Marvelous.

There's no delivery charge for food, which can be delivered along with beer, wine, liquor and cigarettes to Novi area residences with a valid ID. For pizza delivery call (248) 348-1000.

Novi Fine Wine and Liquor is located at 43340 W. Ten Mile Road on Novi Road in Novi. The store is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to midnight; Sunday noon to 10 p.m. For more information call (248) 349-9690.

By Kate Phillips

Novi News

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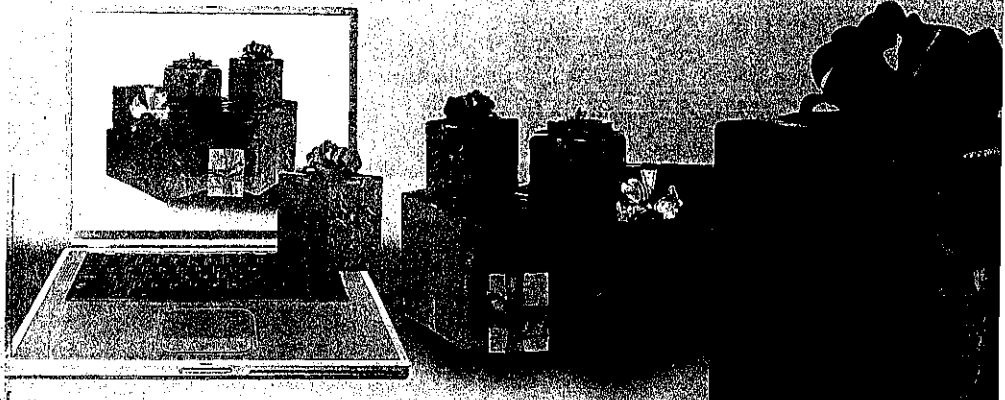
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DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Wildcat wrestlers suffer rash of injuries early in season

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Just when things were looking good for Novi wrestling, the injury bug took a big bite out of the Wildcats.

Ryan Thomas (145 pounds) broke an ankle during Saturday's tournament. Adam Palantyne (135) is out a month with an injury and Al Vellalhotan (112) has a respiratory problem that could sideline him for the year.

Despite all the sudden injuries, head coach Brad Huss knows the show must go on.

"We've kind of been hit by some bad luck here," Huss said. "We'll get through it. Sometimes those things happen."

"These are life lessons. Things don't always go your way, but we've got to work through it."

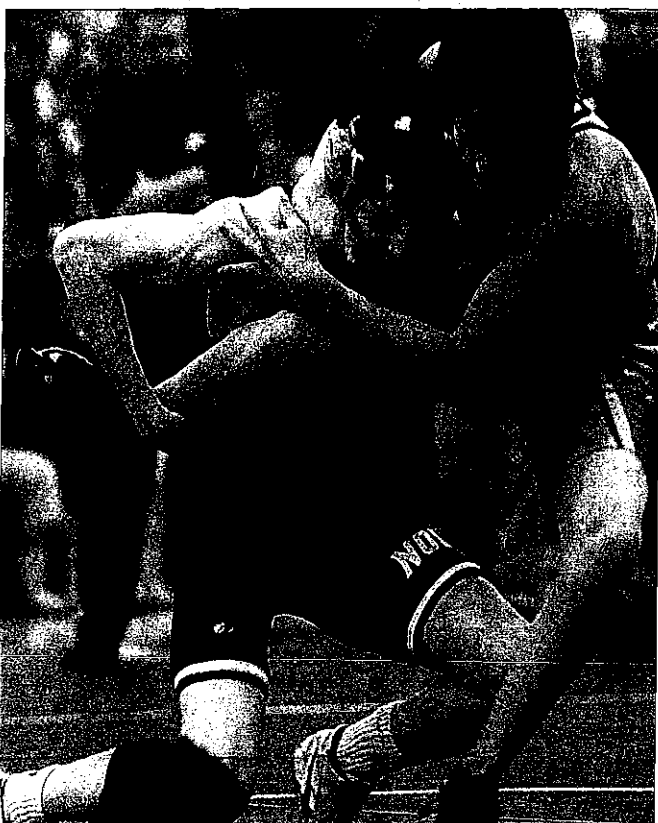
The Wildcats do still have plenty of healthy wrestlers.

Jon Lichorobiec won the 103-pound title this weekend at the Howell Invitational. Justin Pulfan finished runner-up at 112.

Other wrestlers include Dan Spisich and Nohaniel Jones at 215 and heavy-weight positions respectively. Ryan Riemer holds down the 189 spot. Joe Prichard will compete at 171 pounds. Robby Yusko is at 125, Brad Frey at 130, Steve DeBono at 140, Jeremy Young at 155 and Dan Young is at 160.

"These kids are willing to do what it takes to be as good as they can possibly be," Huss said. "They're great guys. They work extremely hard. They're really a fun group to coach."

Huss said the team goals don't



Novi's Jon Lichorobiec, left, battles Northville's Mike Bagian.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

On the Move

Don't let cold stop running

It is starting to feel a lot like winter outside and the real cold, snowy and blizzard weather is yet to come. But that doesn't mean putting your running shoes away until spring. Winter running and exercise can be very enjoyable and will help maintain your fitness level.

Keeping Warm

The hardest part of running in winter is getting outside. It is easy to make excuses and defer to another day. With the right clothes, however, it takes only a short distance to warm up and appreciate the outdoors. Some of my most enjoyable runs have been through Northville neighborhoods with Christmas decorations lit and snow coming down.

Today's high tech fiber fabrics (polyester or poly blend) wick away moisture and are far superior to 100% cotton. Keep your head, hands and legs covered, and layer your clothing. But remember, if you are comfortable at the start of a run, you are probably dressed too warmly.

Where to Run and Exercise

The plowed and well-lit city streets are great for winter runs — just be cautious, visible and watch out for ice. Hines Drive, with its plowed shoulders, is another excellent location — especially for longer runs. (It even works better if you run out with the wind and have someone drive you back.) Other alternatives include treadmill running and laps to warmer climates.

Winter is an excellent time for alternative exercise. Consider walking in the mall, into town or in your neighborhood. Swimming, strength training, cross country skiing.

Continued on 2B

Packing inside punch

Novi's Dean, Hoover give Wildcats down low options

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Novi basketball is looking to fill the roles of six departing seniors from last year's 9-12 team.

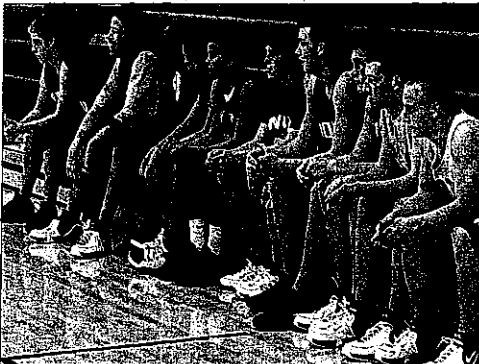
Caleb Dean, a 6-8 junior, has stepped up in the first two games, but coach Pat Schluter is looking for more players to elevate their game.

"He's getting looked at by a lot of Division I schools. He's our go-to guy," said Schluter of Dean. "We just need somebody else to step up."

"Our defense is ahead of our offense right now. We just have to find a way to score more points."

Joining Dean in the starting rotation are sophomore Chris Bellamy at point guard, senior Adam Chandler at guard, senior Mike Longo at guard/forward and junior Tyler Hoover at center.

Continued on 3B



The Novi basketball team prepares to take the floor during a Monday afternoon practice.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Rodriguez coaches 40th, final year for CC

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Catholic Central wrestling head coach Mike Rodriguez enters his 40th and final year as head coach of the Shamrocks.

"I'm excited about the season, but everything has to end at some time," Rodriguez said. "It's going to be kind of a hard lumpy to swallow toward the end. I've had some awesome young men that have helped me to win the things that we've won."

He will turn the team over to Mitch Hancock, a former All-America wrestler at Central Michigan University, who also wrestled for Rodriguez at CC and graduated in 2001.

But before Rodriguez hands over the whistle, he's got one last go-around with the Shamrocks. Catholic Central returns just two from a 17-6 squad last year.

Leading the way for Catholic Central are Ryan Brown at 152 pounds, Nicko Lanni at 119-125, captain Joe Kinville and Mike Martin at heavy-weight.

The Shamrocks have struggled a little in a couple of early matches, but Rodriguez put some of that on kids wrestling at varsity for

their first time. He's looking further down the road in the season for the team to peak.

"These kids that I have right now, they're taking a beating but they're tough, they scramble and they fight," he said. "This is my toughest schedule I've ever made up. By the time we get to the Super Dual, we'll be very competitive — that's the second week in January."

"When they're young it takes a little while to develop their bodies and minds so that they can think the things out instead of being nervous and forget everything they've been taught."

Rodriguez expects Brother Rice and Divine Child to compete with Catholic Central for the league title.

His ultimate goal for the team, "We'd like to get out of regionals and get to state."

What a finish it would be for the man who has dedicated more than half a century (51 years) to coaching the sport.



Athlete of the week

Jon Lichorobiec
Novi junior wrestler

Lichorobiec won the 103-pound title at Saturday's tournament in Howell. He also started the meet against Northville with a pin on Friday.



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'An amazing journey'

By John Mueller and Jeff Theisen
Sports Writers

If you wanted to mention every little detail, talking about Carlie Green's high school cross-country career and the things she accomplished would take hours and hours.

Or, you could just use six little syllables.

"An amazing journey," Milford cross-country coach Brian Salyers said of his star's four years as a Mariner runner.

For her outstanding achievements this season, Green has been awarded the 2006 All-Area Cross-Country Dream Team Runner of the Year. The Dream Team is comprised of the best athletes from Milford, Lakeland, South Lyon, Novi, Northville and Detroit Catholic Central and is picked by the sports staffs of the Milford Times, the South Lyon Herald, the Novi News and the Northville Herald.

Green has been Milford's undisputed leader for several years now. She is a four-time state finalist, a three-time All-State, a three-time regional champion and a three-time Keweenaw Valley Conference champion (the first in the history of the KVC among both females and males).

She's also the school record holder and home-course record holder for the Mariners.

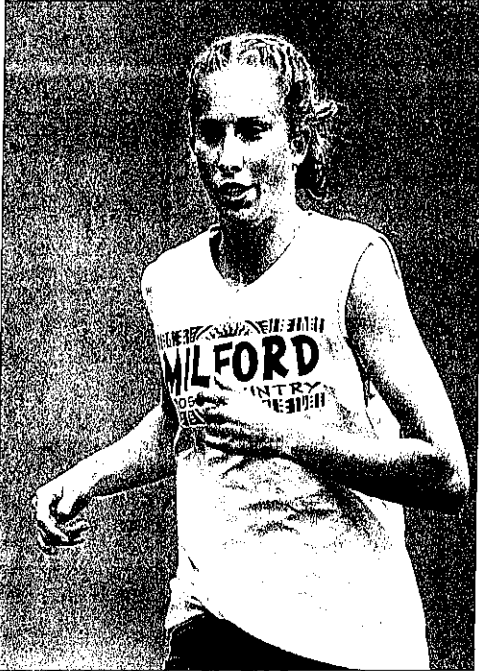
Things culminated perfectly last month when Green finished in first place — in all classes — in the MHSAA state finals in a time of 17 minutes and 40 seconds. In doing so, she became Milford's first individual female state cross-country champion in school history.

Less than a week later, Green was named Michigan's Ms. Cross-Country by the Michigan Cross-Country State Coaching Association.

All these accomplishments would make any proud coach's head spin. But there's more to Green than just the numbers, the times and the accolades.

"It's been a privilege to coach her not only for her talent, but also for her character," coach Salyers said. "She's humble, she's genuinely enthusiastic, and she cares a great deal for other people. Those are the qualities you'd appreciate forever."

Kramer makes First Team
Cross-country seems like a



Photos by HAL GOULD/Gannett News Services

Milford's Carlie Green is selected Michigan's Ms. Cross-Country and the All-Area Cross-Country MVP.

such a serious sport. The runners usually have a look of pain on their face, especially at the end of the race.

Despite all the seriousness, Novi senior Andrea Kramer usually found a way to have a good time.

"You need someone like Kramer to keep running entertaining and fun," Novi head coach Marsha Reid said.

But despite her ability to find the lighter side of things, she also put in the best performances for the Wildcats. She was the lone Novi representative at the state meet after a 12th-place finish at regionals.

"She's an all-around great athlete," Reid said. "She's a good kid both in the classroom and out. She wants to run in college."

Other Huron Valley females who earned spots on the All-Area Cross-Country Dream Team list include Milford's Emily Matrygdie (27th place at the state finals), Marissa Baranowski (104th at states), Sarah Maertens (155th at states) and Kate Selliek (174th at states), as well as Lakeland's Mikalaha Crum (27th at states) and Becky Allor (first at states).

Northville's Mary Spender, Lindsay Hagan and Stephanie Hamel each earned All-Area Dream Team status, too.

The following Huron Valley runners earned Honorable Mention as a result of their very impressive seasons: Milford's Madison Henry, Rachel Harless and Lyndsay Jaworski and Lakeland's Kelsey Hill.

Also earning All-Area Honorable Mention status on the girls side are South Lyon's Amy Lecamus and Angie Primmore, Novi's Taylor Hoover and Northville's Kelsey Katsynski, Anna Hardenbergh, Karina Puskorius and Amy Kadloff.

ON THE MOVE: Cold running

Continued from 1B

an aerobics class and climbing stairs are also good choices.

Safety

Michigan Running News recently published a list of "Top 10 Safety Guidelines" from Dan Richmond, a runner who was hit by a truck on a country road. They are:

- 1) Run as if you are invisible.
- 2) Be alert.
- 3) Run on park paths (or sidewalks) if at all possible.
- 4) Run facing traffic.
- 5) Know your escape route if a car heads your way.
- 6) Save the headphones for the treadmill.
- 7) Wear reflective gear or clothing in the dark and low light.
- 8) Wear bright clothing during the day, especially in the woods.
- 9) Avoid the woods during hunting season.
- 10) Run defensively.

Upcoming Events

Here are two great end-of-year events to consider:

Dec. 30: The Riverbend Striders and YMCA host the New Year's Resolution 9K Run and 5K Walk in Flint at 2:00 p.m. It features plenty of free parking, a seasonal cafe and indoor facilities. (www.riverbendstriders.com)

Dec. 31: The 37th Annual Belle Isle New Year's Eve Family Fun Run/Walk will start with a 1 Mile Run/Walk at 3:00 p.m., a 4 Mile Walk at 3:45 p.m., and a 4 Mile Run at 3:30 p.m. All events start and finish at the Belle Isle Casino (sorry, this is not a gambling casino). Free parking. (www.nauhsiliga.com)

Northville resident Jerry Minium is an avid runner and was appointed to Oakland County Fitness Ambassador by Gov. Granholm. He has completed over 500 races, including 55 marathons. He can be contacted at jim997@hotmail.com.

Sports Shorts

Novi alumni hockey game

The sixth Annual Novi High School Alumni Hockey game will be held at Novi Ice Arena from 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday. Attendance is free.

Novi volleyball camp

Novi volleyball head coach Julie Fisette is holding a camp for kids in grades 5-8. Registration will take place before the Dec. 19 Novi home game against Ingham. All registered campers will receive free admission to the game. Cost for the camp is \$80. The camp will run 7-9 p.m. Dec. 20, 3-6 p.m. Dec. 21 and 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 22 at Novi High School. For more information, contact fisette at jfisette@aol.com.

CC to host baseball camp

Catholic Central High School will host a baseball camp 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 16 and 1-4 p.m. Dec. 17

for kids in fifth through eighth grades. The cost is \$20 per session or \$35 for the entire camp.

For more information, contact Kevin Walters at (248) 596-3886.

Crawford named High School Scholar Athlete of the Week

Stephanie Crawford has been chosen as "High School Scholar Athlete of the Week" by a panel from WXYZ and McDonald's. This program is designed to recognize students who excel both on and off the field and who maintain a high degree of success in all areas relating to academics, good citizenship and outstanding sportsmanship.

Crawford and Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis will be interviewed by Doug Shuck and aired on the Dec. 17 Sunday Sports Update (Channel 7, 11:30 p.m.). She also will be introduced on a Dec. 16 Saturday Action News at 11 a.m. and profiled on the Channel 7 website.

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DIGGING SUCCESS

Fisette has high hopes for Novi volleyball

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Novi volleyball head coach Julie Fisette hasn't had a team finish below .500, and she doesn't expect this year to be any different.

Novi started the season Saturday with a 5-1 tournament win at Kalamazoo. The loss came in the semifinals.

The Wildcats have a mix of returnees and solid leadership that every coach is looking for. The four seniors, Meghan Goldsmith, Natalie Frask, Lauren Purdy and Amanda Diacuno are all part of a leadership council.

Fisette is naming herself the captain with the seniors handling the leadership duties.

"It's working out great because all the kids pretty much have an equal voice," Fisette said. "When it comes to doing things, they work together. We're very democratic on what we do and how we do it."

On offense, outside hitters Goldsmith and Paige Jener will be looking for kills. The middle hitters include Purdy and Stephanie Cripps.

Setting up the ball will be Frask, sophomore Kari Hildebrith and sophomore Sarah Robb.

The Wildcats have a host of liberators juniors Hayley Miller, Shannon Cody and Lauren Farley. In all, the Wildcats have the luxury of seven returning players.

"We've got a steady flow of young talent that keeps building us up."

Novi finished in the upper half of the league last year with Lakeland winning it. Fisette expects Lakeland to be in the mix again, but she expects a very competitive league from top to bottom.

Fisette wants to win mostly, she wants her team to have fun doing it.

"We definitely have goals of bringing the fun back to the game," Fisette said. "I think when they win they tend to relax and play better. They do better and get more out of it."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi varsity volleyball team member Shannon Cody digs for a ball during a Monday afternoon practice.

"Although I'm a very competitive person and hate to lose, winning is not necessarily our top priority."

The Wildcats won district two years in a row before falling short

last year.

"That's what you play all season for is the state tournament," Fisette said. "One of our goals down the line is to be that district tournament back and then try

to advance further than any Novi team has ever advanced."

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

Shamrocks bring young team to pool

CC boosts numbers from nine to 17

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Catholic Central head coach Shannon Dunwoth is just happy to have some choices about whom he can put in certain events.

Last year's Shamrock team fielded just nine swimmers. Catholic Central almost doubled in size to 17 this year.

"It's just nice to have some numbers out there," Shannon Dunwoth said. "It's tough to win a meet when you can't fill the lanes. This year we've got some numbers. I'm very optimistic."

"As long as we're building on what we've done in the past, we're doing things right."

Returnees sophomore Alex Zubanski and breaststroke state qualifier Josh Radke will lead the Shamrocks. Newcomer and freshman Brady Small has been

impressive in the pool early. Dan Chubala is the captain of the team.

"We're young," Dunwoth said. "We've got a lot of seniors on the team. Last year we didn't have any."

"The silver lining of being so young is we've got time and we can get things done the right way. CC has a terrific, rich history in swimming. It just hasn't been there in a while."

Dunwoth knows his team's chances of winning meets is still difficult with just 17 swimmers, but he just wants to see continued improvement.

"Fortunately in swimming, you can measure your success of failure without using the scoreboard," he said. "Our goals for this year — we just laid one out — we'd like to win last year, we'd like to win last year, we'd like to win last year. We'll take it hopefully get a couple of relays to the state meet."

Dunwoth expects Brother Rice and U-D Jesuit to be the top contenders in the league.

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

Hess leads inexperienced Catholic Central hoops

Dyer takes over Shamrock basketball program

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Catholic Central basketball gets a new coach in Bill Dyer, who inherits a team with just one returnee with extensive varsity playing time.

"We're very inexperienced, very young," Dyer said. "Those are two big hurdles to overcome. We're starting four guys who really haven't played hardly any varsity basketball minutes."

Dyer said the players are working well through the transition of a new coach.

"It's going to take some time. We're doing some things differently from what they've done in the past," he said. "The kids are great. They're typical CC kids. They work super hard. They compete hard in practice."

Senior Dustin Hess returns as the go-to guy, but the Shamrocks will look to rebound the team from last year. Hess is back in the team, but he is out after suffering a torn ACL in football.

Shamrock junior Jared Morris was voted the team captain. Dyer said he isn't concerned

with predicting the team's final record. He just wants to see continued improvement.

"I'm hoping to see us become better basketball players," he said. "I hope I see our skill-level improve, and we get a little bit better as a team as the season goes on."

"I'm not worried about the fact that we've got some kids that haven't played before. That's just where we are right now. We're just going to have to find some way to get better as the season goes on."

Dyer said he is not committed to forcing a style of play on his players. He will form the team's play around its personnel.

"This year it looks like we're going to have to control the tempo a little bit more," Dyer said. "We're not really kind of a freebreathing team. We're a little finished in that sense — maintain possession of the ball and get the best shots of the game."

Orchard Lake and DeLaSalle appear to be the early favorites for the league title, according to Dyer.

But Dyer said being back in the Catholic League is a big thrill.

"I'm very fired up," he said. "I graduated from Divine Child High School. We're back in the Catholic League. It's very exciting for me personally."

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BASKETBALL: Inside punch

Continued from 1B

Sixth man off the bench is sophomore Brandon Bradford.

Other contributors include senior JB Brown, senior guard Dan Piligan and senior DeAngelo Jones, also at guard.

Brown, Long, Chandler and Piligan are the team's captains. Schuler also has a freshman on varsity for his first time in 13 years of coaching in guard/forward Robby Laney.

"We're young. A lot of my seniors hardly played last year," Schuler said. "I know we're very young, but we're not going to accept that just because we're young. We want to win."

Inside scoring will be one of the main weapons for the Wildcats.

"We've got some great size inside. Calch is 6-8, Tyler is 6-7 or 6-8," Schuler said. "We've got to find ways to get those

guys the ball.

"I think we could be a pretty good team after Christmas. We're just learning how to play with each other because we have a lot of new guys. The first five games before Christmas are going to be a learning experience. We're going to take those games and just try to get better for league."

One of the main goals for the Wildcats is the league title.

"Last year we didn't win it, but the three previous years we won it," Schuler said.

Schuler said despite South Lyon's 0-2 start, they should be considered the front-runners for the league.

"They're whole team is back," he said. Schuler said several teams are right after South Lyon.

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WRESTLING: Freak injuries

Continued from 1B

change from year to year.

"We start with Oakland County ... then the KVC, districts, regionals and state," he said.

The league front-runners are reflected in the early season rankings.

"I think Highland is ranked No. 1 in the state, and I think Howell. We're not really kind of a sport is wicked. It's just wicked good."

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IT CAN KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.

UNTRIED DEPRESSION

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Wildcat swimmer Tyler Vincent swims the breaststroke during a Friday afternoon practice.

Wildcats start season tonight

Wildcats get extra practice time after missing meet

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Novi thought it was headed to its first meet on Saturday, but the bus never arrived to take the team.

Head coach Bill McCord was hoping to get to see his team compete for the first time. Instead, tonight will be the Wildcats' first meet at home against Walled Lake Western.

"That was a huge disappointment," McCord said. "That's what that meet is all about really — just show kids in and see who can get

down and back. To not know that going into a dual meet, which will be a challenge that hurts a lot, but Oh well! Not much you can do about other than to get in the pool and see what we've got (tonight)."

It's a young team," McCord said. "It's a nice training environment because athletes are positive and people are getting along well. I'm enjoying going to practice."

Leading Novi through early practices are senior captains Alex Arbour and Sean Baglio.

Arbour returns after making it to regionals as a diver. Baglio qualified for state in the medley relay and the 200 freestyle.

Other key performers for the Wildcats include junior Drew LaDuke in the breaststroke and medley relay, senior Mason Irvin, a second-year diver, junior Colin

Woods, a versatile swimmer that can also help in distance freestyle and sophomore Tyler Vincent returns bigger and stronger from his freshman campaign.

Junior Dan Meister had his season ended early by sickness last year, but will look to rebound in backstroke.

Breaststroke seniors Babak Shohbizad, Rob Oikarinen and Shoichi Tamura will add depth.

"I've been really happy," said McCord of the early practices.

"I've really been impressed primarily with their desire and willingness to deliver what I ask of them. That's really important that they are quite focused and cooperative and intent on being purposeful in our practices."

McCord said the team strengths lie in the individuals so far.

"We'll definitely have some

holes to fill in, and we're going to have to fill them in fast," he said.

Competing for the league title is always a goal, but McCord sets his sight on the biggest goal.

"Number one is we want to get people to the state meet," McCord said. "We expect Sean to return, and for Dan to get also. Hopefully we can team up two other people with them and send two or three relays."

McCord sees the Howell co-op and Brighton as the top competition in the league. He would love to see Novi compete for the league title, but says he doesn't think the Wildcats are an early favorite.

"The one thing that is important is that we peak at that time, that week," he said. "Even if we can't win the thing, that we have a team where everybody swims and dives their very, very best."

2006-07 Novi winter schedules

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE	
12/15	at Northville
7 p.m.	7
12/20	Plymouth High
7 p.m.	TBA
12/29	at Livonia Stevenson
a.m.	11
10:30	Walled Lake Central
p.m.	7
10:05	Millard
at Pinckney	7 p.m.
1/12	at Lakeland
p.m.	7
1/23	at Brighton
p.m.	7
1/26	South Lyon
p.m.	7
1/30	Hartland
at Millard	7 p.m.
2/02	at Millard
p.m.	7
2/06	Pinckney
p.m.	7
2/09	at Howell
p.m.	7
2/13	Lakeland
p.m.	7
2/15	Brighton
p.m.	7
2/23	at Hartland
p.m.	7
2/27	at South Lyon
p.m.	7

WRESTLING SCHEDULE	
12/15	Regional
3/10	TBA
12/16	Oak. Cty. at Lake Orion
12/21	at Pinckney
12/28	at Salem
1/10	at South Lyon
1/13	at Brighton
1/19	KVC Quad at Lakeland
1/20	at Williamston Classic
1/26	KVC Quad at Howell
1/27	at Holt Justice
2/02	KVC Quad
2/10	KVC Championships at Hartland
2/14	Team Districts
2/17	Individual Districts
2/21	Team Regionals
2/24	Individual Regionals
3/03	Team Finals at Battle Creek
3/10	Individual Finals

BOYS SWIM AND DIVE SCHEDULE	
1/04	at Millard
1/06	at West Bloomfield
1/11	Pinckney
1/16	at Walled Lake Western
6 p.m.	6 p.m.
9 a.m.	9 a.m.
6 p.m.	6 p.m.
7 p.m.	7 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	
12/19	Pinckney
12/26	at Walled Lake Central
1/09	Hartland
1/11	at How3H
1/18	Lakeland
1/20	Volleyball Invitational
1/23	Brighton
1/25	at South Lyon
1/30	at Hartland
2/01	Millard
2/03	Varsity Invitic
2/06	at Pinckney
2/13	Howell
2/13	at Lakeland
2/21	at Brighton
2/27	Bisnics
2/27	South Lyon
3/05	Bisnics

SKI TEAM SCHEDULE	
1/08	Lakeland at Alpine Valley
1/11	W. Bloomfield at Alpine Valley
12/16	WL North at Alpine Valley
1/22	Millard at Alpine Valley
1/23	Brother Rice at Alp. Valley
1/31	St. Mary Prep at Alp. Valley
2/08	Divisional Championships at Alpine Valley
2/15	Regional Championships
2/20	SISSA League Championship at Mt. Holly
2/26	State Championship

BOWLING TEAM SCHEDULE	
12/15	Brighton
12/16	Howell
3:30 p.m.	noon



2006-07 CC winter schedules

Varsity Basketball Schedule	
12/15	Notre Dame Prep
12/22	at U of D Jesuit
12/29	at Oakland Lake
1/05	Rumford Classic
1/15	Orchard Jk St. Mary's
1/22	at Divine Child
1/26	at DeLaSalle
1/29	at Brother Rice
1/31	at Notre Dame Prep
1/26	U-D Jesuit
1/30	at Orchard Jk St. Mary's
2/06	Divine Child
2/09	DeLaSalle
2/13	Brother Rice
2/18	CHSL Playoff
2/21	CHSL Playoff
2/25	CHSL Championship
3/03	Operation Friendship

Varsity Wrestling Schedule	
12/15	at St. John's Ohio Tournament
12/28	at Hartland/Pine Knolls/Holchester Adams
1/09	Troy Athens/E. Detroit
1/13	CC Invitational
1/20	CC Super Dual
1/25	at Adrian/Ann Arbor Pioneer
1/27	at Observeland, Livonia Churchhill
1/29	at Chas/Warren Woods-Towers/Lake Orion
2/10	CHSL Championship
2/15	Team Districts
2/17	Individual Districts
2/24	Individual Regional
3/02-3	Team Finals
3/08-10	Individual Finals

SWIM SCHEDULE	
12/26	at Dundee High/Brother Rice
1/11	Grosse Pointe South
1/13	at Cranbrook Academy
5:30 p.m.	7 p.m.
9 a.m.	TBA

VARSITY BOWLING	
12/15	Div. Child at Super Hon
1/05	North Farmington at Thandlebud
1/06	Ladywood Holiday Classic at Oak Lanes
6 p.m.	10 a.m.

SKI TEAM SCHEDULE	
1/09	Howell at Mt Brighton
1/11	Pinckney at Mt. Brighton
1/16	Okemos at Mt. Brighton
1/18	Evan Lansing at Mt. Brighton
1/23	Brighton at Mt. Brighton
1/25	U-D at Mt. Brighton
1/26	Seaborn/Groves at Mt. Brighton
2/01	S. Lyon at Mt. Brighton
2/08	CHSL Meet at Mt. Holly
2/08	MBSA League Meet at Mt. Brighton
2/15	State Regional at Mt. Brighton
2/22	SEMIS Meet at Alpine Valley
2/26	State Finals at Marquette Mountain

Drunk Driving jeopardizes your freedom, your life, and the lives of others.

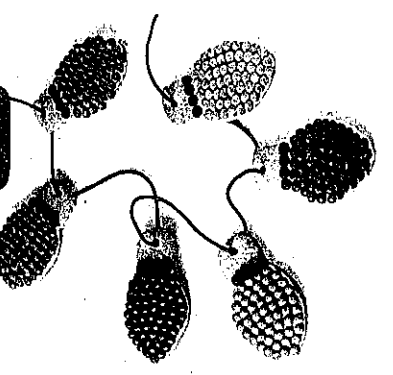
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FOOD

Wrap It Up

Bright Ideas for Christmas Fun



It's Christmas yet at your house? Make your visions of sugarplums come alive with holly jolly treats using your favorite candies — some in special holiday colors — that look as great as they taste. And the best part? Gathering your family around the table, sneaking a few bites (Santa doesn't mind as long as you've bought extra candy) and making wonderful memories together. Your Gift-Wrapped Cake can be the centerpiece of the holiday table. Fun and festive sugar cookies a gift for that special teacher or neighbor. For even more recipes, entertaining tips, decoration and gift ideas to help make your celebrations fun, effortless and unforgettable, visit www.brightideas.com.

Sweet Santa Cookie Pops
Prep time: 30 minutes
Baking time: 12 to 17 minutes
Decoration time: 20 minutes

- (14-ounce) bag M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for the Holidays
- 23 cup all-purpose flour
- (18-ounce) roll store-bought refrigerated cookie dough
- (16-ounce) can vanilla frosting
- Red food coloring
- 1 bag mini marshmallows
- 10 large cookies, left with red frosting (optional)
- Reynolds' Parchment Paper

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 2 cookie sheet pans with Reynolds' Parchment Paper.

Knead flour into refrigerated cookie dough until smooth. Roll out dough to scant 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out 10 triangles and 10 circles, re-rolling scraps if necessary.

Line up circles on prepared pans, and press 1 lollipop stick halfway into each circle. Arrange 1 triangle on top of each circle, overlapping by 1/2 inch, with tip curved to resemble hat.

Bake 12 to 17 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.

Tint 3/4 cup frosting light pink; set aside. Tint remaining frosting red and spoon into 1 resealable plastic bag; then snip small corner and pipe frosting onto each hat to cover. Decorate with M&M'S; place 1 mini marshmallow at very top. (For better results, stack one cookie on a time.)

Spread pink frosting onto circle part, and arrange face with M&M'S for eyes, nose and mouth. Use marshmallows cut in half for beard, and white marshmallows for fur on hat.

Tip: Presenting cookie pops in cupcakes is optional. If you prefer, simply offer them as pops. When serving them for a special occasion, consider wrapping each in a piece of cellophane (about 12 inches square), tied closed with a piece of cooking ribbon.

Makes 10 pops

Gift-Wrapped Cake
Prep time: 15 minutes
Baking time: 30 to 35 minutes
Decoration time: 30 minutes

- (14-ounce) bag Snickers Mints
- (14-ounce) bag M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for the Holidays
- (13.3-ounce) bag Starburst Fruit Chews
- (17-ounce) bag Milky Way Milk Chocolate Covered Caramels
- (18.25-ounce) box yellow cake mix
- (16-ounce) can plus 1 cup vanilla frosting

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line two 8 x 8-inch cake pans with wax paper; grease and flour both.

Reighly chop 30 Snickers; set aside. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Stir chopped Snickers into batter before dividing it evenly between prepared cake pans.

Bake 30 to 35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Transfer to wire rack; cool about 10 minutes. Invert until set and cool completely.

To make ribbon pieces, soften 20 red Starburst chews in microwave about 2 to 3 seconds. Roll softened candy into 8 x 6-inch rectangle between 2 sheets wax paper. Cut evenly lengthwise into 2 strips, each 1-1/2 inches wide. Fold both strips in half, making bow loops. Stretch bottoms of 2 remaining strips, making bow's ribbons. Set aside.

Place 1 cake layer on serving platter. Spread with 3/4 of frosting. Place remaining cake layer on top and cover with remaining frosting. Arrange unwrapped chocolate-covered caramels around the top of cake.

Gently tuck top of cake with a cross, dividing it into 4 equal squares. Arrange M&M'S in 3 rows over marks, on top and down sides of cake. Arrange bow pieces on center of cake.

Makes 16 servings

Christmas Holly Cookies
Prep time: 20 minutes
Baking time: 12 to 17 minutes
Decoration time: 20 minutes

- (14-ounce) bag M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for the Holidays
- 23 cup all-purpose flour
- (18-ounce) roll refrigerated cookie dough
- (16-ounce) can vanilla frosting
- Green food coloring

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Knead flour into cookie dough until smooth. Roll out dough to scant 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out 18 holly leaf-shaped cookies, re-rolling scraps if necessary. Transfer cookies to prepared cookie sheets.

Bake 12 to 17 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.

Tint frosting green. Spoon into resealable plastic bag; snip 1 lower corner. Pipe outlines on the cookies, then fill in outlines with light zigzag pattern. On about half of cookies, spread frosting smoothly with small spatula or toothpick.

Bake 15 cookies. Transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.

Makes 18 cookies

Tasty Table Lights
Prep time: 10 minutes
Baking time: 45 minutes

- (9.5-ounce) bag M&M'S Mints Milk Chocolate Candies
- (18-ounce) roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 23 cup all-purpose flour
- (16-ounce) can vanilla frosting
- (14-ounce) package red licorice faces

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Knead flour into cookie dough until smooth.

Roll dough out to 1/4-inch thickness. Using printable pattern (www.brightideas.com/christmascookies/1363_1.jpg) or Christmas light cookie cutter, cut out shapes.

With spatula, gently transfer cookies to baking sheet. Using drinking straw, press hole through bottom of light bulb "stem" for each cookie.

Bake 15 minutes. Transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.

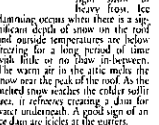
Separate out different colors of chocolate candies, and set aside. Spread vanilla frosting on top of each cookie. Arrange a single color of chocolate candies on top of each cookie. Let cookies dry 30 minutes. Run licorice faces through each hole, connecting cookies into 1 continuous strand.

Makes 18 cookies

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

- Ice damming and attic condensation are related—both are caused by warm (moisture laden) air migrating from the house and meeting the attic. The problem may be more pronounced in newer homes since they are built tighter and the sides encouraging warm air to rise into the attic.
- ICE DAMMING LEADS TO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE AND LEAK.
- PREMATURE DETERIORATION ON SIDINGS AS THE WARM AIR CONDENSES ON COLD SURFACES.
- MOIST PROPS AND BUCKLING SHINGLES AS THE WARM EXITS MEET THE COLD AND CONTRACTS AS IT DRIES OUT.
- GROWTH OF MOI DAMMAGE WITH LEAKS TO ROOF.
- FAILURE AND RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS FOR THE OCCUPANTS.

A well insulated and sealed attic will unlikely have ice dams—there will be no warm air to melt the snow. If there is sufficient insulation to keep heat from the house escaping into the attic, and there are no holes or air leaks, then the attic should be in good shape. The attic air should be cool and dry just like the outside air.



Ice damming occurs when there is a significant depth of snow on the roof and outside temperatures are below freezing for a long period of time.

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

- Following the principle of 1 square foot of ventilation for every 300 square feet of insulated attic space still between the roof and soffit vents (1 to 150 square feet in colder climates or non-insulated roofs) should be sufficient. Given the "stack or chimney effect" in a house—the tendency to draw cold air from the basement and expel it at the top, it is important to stop all the air leaks from the house into the attic.
- MINIMIZING WARM AIR INTO THE ATTIC.
- INSULATE EXHAUST FANS AND VENT TO THE OUTSIDE (SOLID DUCT NOT FLEX DUCT).
- INSULATE HEATING DUCTS RUNNING THROUGH THE ATTIC.
- INSULATE ABOVE POCKET DOORS AND LOWERED CEILINGS.
- INSULATE AND SEAL THE ATTIC HATCH.
- SEAL AROUND PROTRUSIONS INTO THE ATTIC: LUMBER, STACKS & CHIMNEYS.
- SEAL HOLES FOR LIGHT FIXTURES, ELECTRICAL WIRING, CABLE & PIPING.
- SEAL LEVEL JUNCTIONS (OUTSIDE WALLS SEARED WITH ATTIC SPACE).
- SEAL CEILING AND WALL FIXTURES, ELECTRICAL RECEPTACLES & SWITCHES.
- SEAL DOOR AND WINDOW TRIM.
- SEAL AROUND THE BASE BOARD OF PERIMETER, AND PARTITION WALLS.

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

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At Orin Jewellers, (left-right) Orin Mazzoni Jr., Orin Mazzoni III, Gina Mazzoni, Carole Urban and Joshua Summers value customer service.

Orin Jewellers thrives in downtown Northville

■ Serving local customers for 24 years

Orin Jewellers has been serving local customers for 24 years from its store in the historic building on the corner of Main and Center streets in downtown Northville. The jewelry business has been a tradition for three generations of the Mazzoni family for more than 70 years. Orin Jewellers was operated for 54 years in Michigan and 24 years in Northville.

Orin Mazzoni opened his first store in West Virginia in 1933. Orin and his wife, Mary, moved their family to Michigan in 1935 and opened a store in Garden City under the name Orin Jewellers. When he retired in 1969, Orin Jr. took over as president and CEO of the business.

The family decided to expand in 1983 and opened their second showroom in downtown Northville at their present location. Orin Jewellers has become a fixture in the community under the direction of the Mazzoni family.

Orin Mazzoni III joined the family business in 1998 and today serves as manager of the Northville store. In the tradition of his namesakes, Orin strives to provide customers with fine quality jewelry, personal customer service and superior jewelry repair, all at affordable prices.



Siblings Gina and Orin Mazzoni III help customers feel at home at Orin Jewellers in downtown Northville.

"With Christmas coming in the next week, Mazzoni wants to emphasize their tremendous selection of gifts for \$25 and up for special loved ones in our lives. Orin carries a variety of beautiful diamonds and colored stone jewelry for every age and taste.

"Our mission is to have a friendly jewelry store, a human store that places customer satisfaction above all else," said Orin. "A store where our customers can recommend their friends and relatives and be assured they will be pleased for their recommendation."

Orin Jewellers is one of only 500 jewelers in the world that carries "Hearts On Fire" diamonds and jewelry. Hearts On Fire is the world's most perfectly cut diamond. They offer a large

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Web: www.orinjewelers.com

selection of engagement and wedding rings, and other bridal jewelry.

Along with the "Nominations" Italian charm bracelet, Orin's has a large selection of the Pandora bracelet. It is a new type of charm bracelet that allows people to customize their own with different links (charms). The bracelet, starting from \$19 with the charms costing from \$6 each and up, makes a great gift for Valentine's or other special occasions.

"You want to come in and see the affordable things they have to offer," said Tammy Morris of Northville, who is president of the Catholic Central High School Mother's Club. "You get the quality and the service and you're now part of the Orin family."

Orin Jewellers is truly a family business with everyone in the family working in the business. Orin's sister Gina works with him in the Northville store, while his father, Orin Jr., works between the Garden City and Northville stores. Carole Urban has also been part of the Orin family for over 25 years since she started working in the Northville store.

"We treat all our customers like family," said Orin III, who remembers his grandfather teaching him and his sisters that philanthropy from a very young age.

"We have more professional jewelry titlesholders through the Gemological Institute of America or the American Gem Society than any other jeweler in the

state," said Orin, Jr. emphasizing the qualifications of their staff.

The backbone of Orin Jewellers has always been its quality repair and design department. It's how Orin Sr. started his business, and it's still a very important part of it today.

All of the repairs are done in the Garden City store where Orin Jr. personally makes sure that every piece of jewelry receives the highest care and quality.

"We are very customer-oriented," Orin III said. "We welcome everyone to visit our store and offer free jewelry cleaning and inspection for anyone bringing their jewelry into the store without having to make a purchase."

Orin Jewellers' business has grown tremendously over the years. They attribute their success to the dedication of their staff to make sure every customer is satisfied, having the best customers in the world, being involved in the community, and having a great landmark building in downtown Northville.

"We had a great Christmas season and it is a wonderful feeling to know that we made so many people feel special during the holiday season," said Orin III.

Orin Jewellers is pleased to be part of the community and supports the local schools and many local events which bring people downtown to shop at the variety of businesses located there.

"With many new businesses at town, we have almost everything you need downtown with clothing, girls, restaurants and specialty stores," said Orin III. "People enjoy shopping downtown throughout the entire year and the goal of downtown merchants is to make it a more enjoyable experience in the future."

Orin Jewellers in Northville is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, 12:00 p.m.-5 p.m., Sunday.

ORIN JEWELLERS

101 East Main at Center, in downtown Northville, (248) 349-6940

Garden City: 2317 Ford Road, (734) 422-7930

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