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SENIORS, PAGE 4A

Novi News

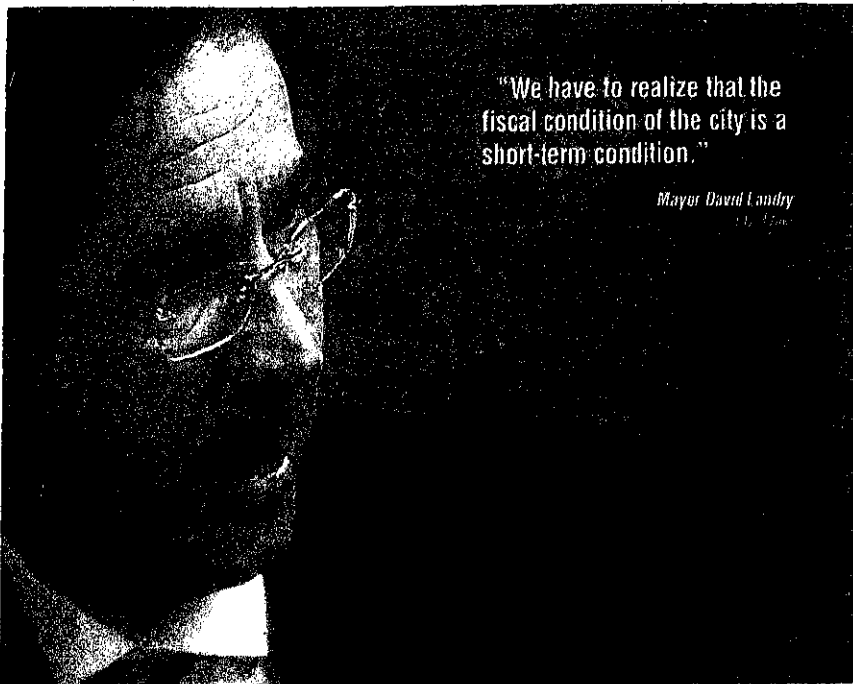
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007 • WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM • VOLUME 51 • NUMBER 35 • NOVI, MICHIGAN • 50 CENTS

THE STATE OF THE CITY



"We have to realize that the fiscal condition of the city is a short-term condition."

Mayor David Landry

Mayor David Landry talks about the future of the city of Novi during an in-depth meeting with the Novi News. Today, he will make his annual State of the City address during a luncheon at the Rock Financial Showplace.

STATESMAN

Mayor delivers address this morning

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

For Mayor David Landry, assessing the state of Novi is fairly simple. He looks at just three categories: Roads, public safety and water and sewers. Sixty topics, they are not. But Landry believes a city is the most basic form of government. And those three areas, above all else, are most pressing. "You have to address each of these issues every year — or it becomes a crisis," he said. Those issues, the "Big Three," as Landry dubs them, will highlight his second State of the City address today at 11:30 a.m. at the Rock Financial Showplace. He will also give the speech at the Homeowner Association Leaders' Breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Civic Center. In a wide-ranging interview with the Novi

SPOTLIGHT NOVI: MY GOVERNMENT

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

News, the 52-year-old mayor previewed his speech, which he said takes him days to write. Clad in a dark suit and using animated hand motions to illustrate points he's passionate about, Landry repeatedly stressed he's concerned about basic elements of present-day life in Novi.

Still, the mayor has an eye on the future — between 2015 and 2020 to be exact — when Novi should reach build out.

Between now and then, Landry sees an opportunity to position Novi for a stable future.

The State of the City: The Economy



The state of Novi is intrinsically linked to economic growth. Some recent milestones include:

- Ryder System Inc. and ITC Holdings Corp. announce plans to build new headquarters.
- The city loosens height and sign rules for businesses.
- Novi officials say they plan to add a new staff position to coordinate economic growth.

"We are as geared as any of our competitors, and we are focused on improving," he said.

Landry is quick to tick off ways the city is trying to get better. He noted officials recent-

See ADDRESS, 14A

What is SPOTLIGHT NOVI? Quarterly, the Novi News reviews different aspects of local life. Visit www.novineews.com for the week's preview: MY EDUCATION

CHANNEL 13: RE-BROADCAST OF MAYOR LANDRY'S ADDRESS BEGINS FEB 1!

CHARGE: MURDER

Local man charged with 1997 murder of his wife

— AS FIRST REPORTED ON NOVINNEWS.COM

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

It took more than nine years, but Novi police believe they finally have their man.

Last week, authorities charged Daniel Pittao, 47, of Highland Township with one count of open murder in the 1997 slaying of his estranged wife, Tamara.

He was arraigned in 52-1 District Court Friday and is being held without bail at the Oakland County Jail. Police arrested him at Detroit Metro Airport as he returned from a trip. Pittao pleaded not guilty.

"The evidence is there," Novi Deputy Police Chief Thomas Lindberg said. "It's been gone over a number of times."

See CHARGES, 7A



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Dan Pittao enters his arraignment handcuffed in Judge Dennis Power's 52-1 Novi courtroom last week. He was charged with the 1997 murder of his wife, Tamara Lynn Pittao.

STORY CHAT
What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM.

Inside Look

What broke the case? See how Novi police investigators finally broke the case. Page 7A.

MY EDUCATION:

District Exceeds Meap Standards

By Renee Gates
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Novi Public School District scored in reading, math and science and consistently exceeded state standards across grade levels in each of the three categories, according to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test results released this week.

"Overall we did very well," said Superintendent Peter Dion. "Compared to last year's scores, we were either the same or increased. There is only one area

we went down in and that was fifth grade writing." The test was taken in October 2006 and illustrates how a district measures up to the state standards in the categories of English language arts, math, science and social studies for grades 3 through 9.

"The purpose of those (scores)

See MEAP, 13A



NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

FRIDAY

Head to The Second City Detroit's Preview for its 29th Revue tonight at 8 and 10 p.m. The show features new, old and first-time scenes. Tickets are \$20. The Second City Detroit is located at 42705 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

SATURDAY

Financial expert and local radio show host Rick Bloom will host a free financial planning seminar 2 p.m. today at the Novi Home Show inside the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 932-5200.

SUNDAY

Muscular Dystrophy Association "Hit a Home Run" fund-raiser 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Total Baseball, 30890 S. Wixom Road. (248) 658-0166.

My Novi Bulletin Board!
Novi's official events calendar. Page 19A.

INSIDE MY NOVI NEWS!

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Booking a Bond: Library Proposal Moves Forward

Library officials prepare \$16 million millage for November ballot

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi is inching closer to a new library. City Council members signed off on a plan Monday to allow library officials to retain advisors and prepare a \$16 million bond proposal for the November ballot.

The proposal would fund an expansion that would more than double the size of the 31-year-old library to 60,000 square feet.

If approved by voters, construction could begin in early 2008. Officials haven't determined if the library would move to a temporary site during construction.

Eventually, the library could be expanded to 90,000 square feet to accommodate future population growth, officials said.

"The library has exceeded its capacity," library trustee Larry Czekaj said. "We are in desper-

STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM.

ate need for additional space." About 800 people use the library every day, officials said. "We'd like to see it be a social magnet," Czekaj said.

The bond breaks down to a millage between .299 and .342 over its 20-year life. The owner of a \$400,000 house would pay about \$68 annually.

A \$20 million bond proposal was defeated by voters in 2001 that would have expanded the library to 80,000 square feet.

The current facility sits on a prime location on 10 Mile Road, between Novi High School and the Civic Center. When it opened in 1976, Novi had 9,668 residents. The city has 54,288 as of Jan. 1, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimated.

"I think the need is obvious, and this is the time to move forward on it," council member Andrew Mutch said.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



Novi Library Director Brenda Lussier shows a blueprint of the proposed library expansion, including improvements to the young reader area. Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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— ONLY IN MY NOVI NEWS! — My SENIOR LIFE

JOIN STORY CHAT TODAY AND SEE WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS STORY AT WWW.NOVI NEWS.COM!

Seniors: Age is Just a Number

By Tracy Mishler
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Though arthritis has slowed her down, Dolores Felice won't let it stand in the way of meeting her goals.

Felice, 88, of Novi, started on the Weight Watchers diet last winter, and has since lost 26 pounds.

"It's good to have goals and losing weight was mine," she said. "My family is proud of me. They're really happy about my weight loss and cheer me on."

Felice is one of many Novi seniors who has taken the opportunity to better her health, despite her age.

She said she gained 30 pounds after moving into her Fox Run home nearly three years ago, blaming good food and nagging arthritis.

"It's hard to keep weight off when you've got arthritis as bad as I do," Felice said. "I've never been real thin or real heavy, but I've always been a few pounds heavier than I'd like to be."

"I can say (I was) at the beach, I've ever been, and my inactivity had a lot to do with it."

Tony Logan, wellness coordinator for Fox Run, said many seniors set goals for themselves in regards to their health because they want to continue living.

"Everyone has goals," Logan said. "Older people have goals on the same lines as young people."

STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVI NEWS.COM.

Four exercise types:

- Strength
- Balance
- Stretching
- Endurance

Source: National Institute on Aging, www.nia.nih.gov/health

He said many seniors strive harder to achieve their goals because they know they have to.

"They might be slower and it might take longer, but with hard work and dedication, (older people) can achieve the same goals as the younger ones," Logan said.

No giving up

Conrad Ganshorn believes, exercise is the reason he's able to continue enjoying good food and time with his wife, Phyllis.

The 80-year-old Fox Run resident said he used to exercise at home. But when he was stricken with congestive heart failure and a number of other ailments, he said he knew he'd have to work harder.

"They've got me on medications and exercise daily," Ganshorn said. "I came to Fox Run in a wheelchair. But two years later, I'm back to normal."

Ganshorn said he's made it his goal in life to keep going.

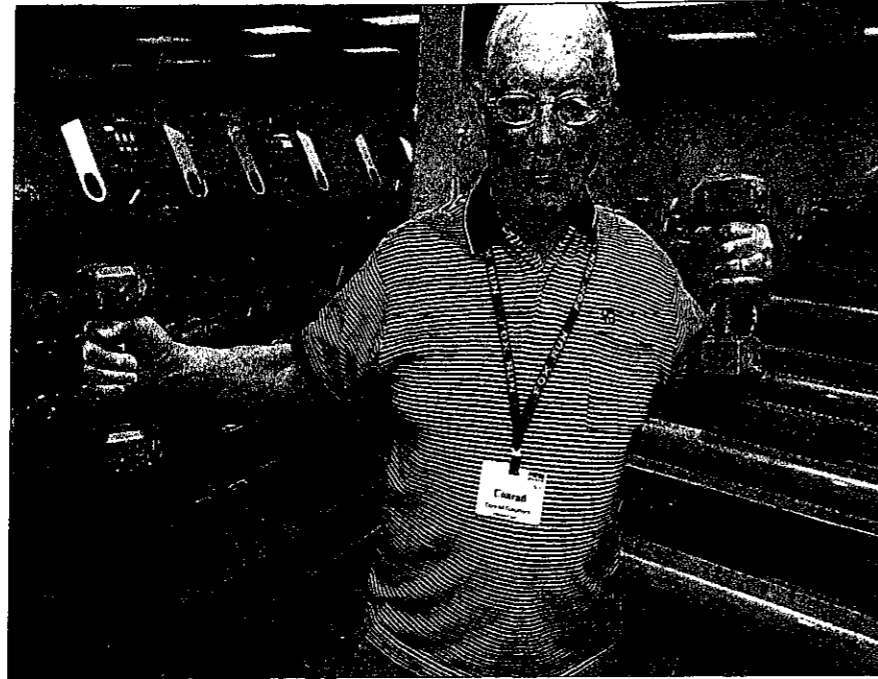


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Fox Run Village resident Conrad Ganshorn, 86, believes working out and keeping fit is an important at any age.

"I exercise daily and sometimes I take a swim," he said. "And my test results are looking better now."

Jane McPherson, of Novi, said despite her recent 75th birthday, she thanks her daughter, Sue, for her good health.

"If I sat on the couch watching television all day, not only would I weigh 200 pounds, but I'd probably be dead," McPherson said. "Instead, I help baby-sit my great grandchildren and walk with Sue daily."

McPherson, who goes to the mall with nothing but her tennis shoes and water bottle, said she has never suffered from severe health problems and believes exercise is the key.

"I came to Fox Run in a wheelchair. But two years later, I'm back to normal."

Conrad Ganshorn
Resident, Fox Run in Novi

"No matter how old you are, your goal in life should be your health," she said. "People might laugh at me for walking the mall, but I'm still alive."

Fitness Facts



Studies show that staying physically active and exercising regularly can help prevent or delay many diseases and disabilities. So while most fall over moderate exercise and physical activity can improve the health of people who are frail or who have diseases that accompany aging. An inactive lifestyle can cause older people to lose ground for years that are important for staying healthy and independent: strength, balance, flexibility, and endurance. Growing older doesn't mean people have to lose their strength or their ability to do everyday tasks. Exercise can help older adults feel better and enjoy life more, even those who think they're too old or too out of shape.

SOURCES: National Institute on Aging, www.nia.nih.gov/health

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Submitted photo
 Here's looking at you!

Nicholas, 3, Lexie, 5, and Brittany, 7, Moeller take a break from the activities during the first City of Novi Preschool Fair held at the Civic Center last Saturday. Attendees said the event was a success with more than 100 interested parents and children turning out to learn more about Novi's early education community.

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— ONLY IN MY NOVI NEWS! — My GENERATION

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Parkview Students Travel 10,000 Years Back In Time

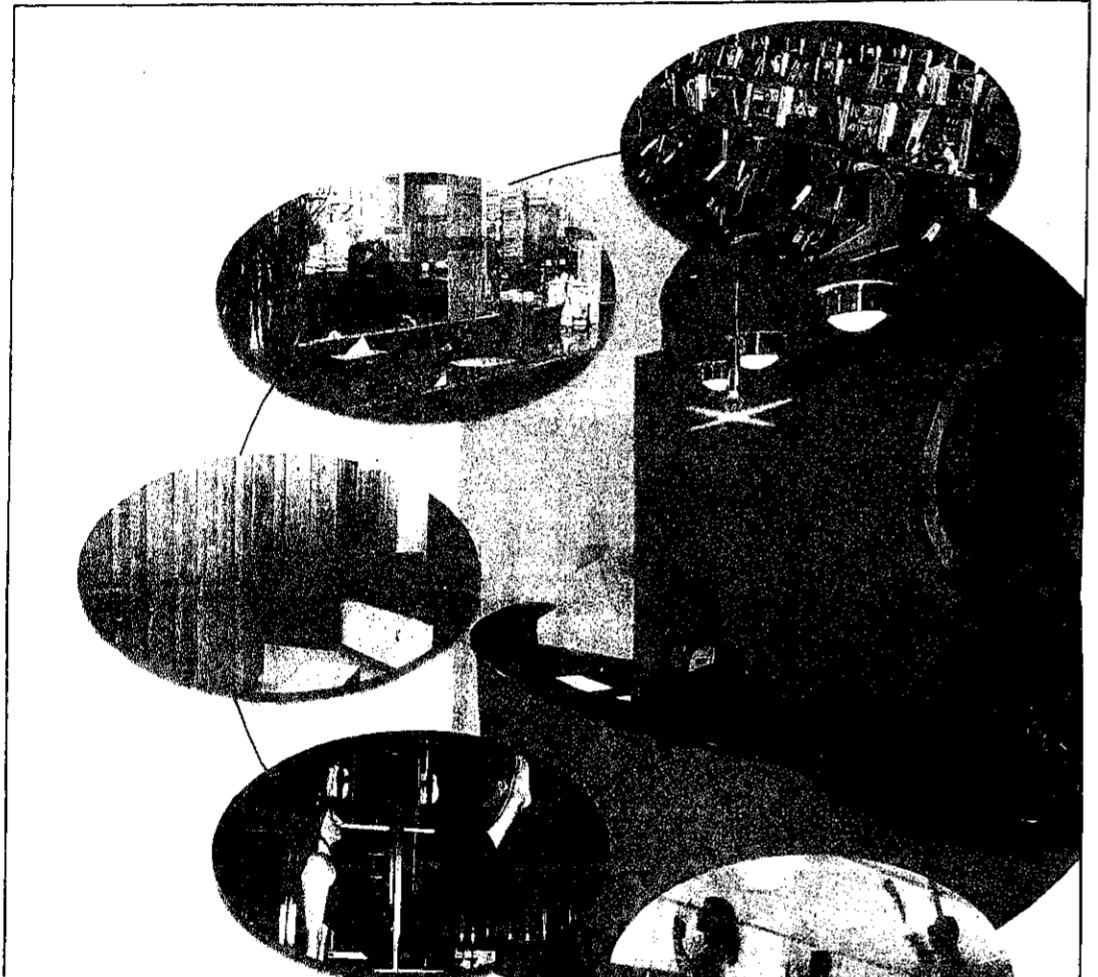
Submitted by Parkview Elementary School

Imagine jumping into the pages of a history book and actually living the story of our rich Michigan history! Some children learn best by reading, others by listening, and still others by seeing. But all children's learning is enhanced when they can learn by becoming engaged in the lesson. Recently at Parkview, third grade students learned about the history of the Anishinabe, a Michigan Native American tribe, by stepping into the book, "A Face to the Rock," and acting out the story that it tells.



Josh White and Rachelle Ballard have been coming to Parkview to present their "Story Living Lesson" of the Anishinabe people for most of the past seven years. Their two hour lessons "kick off" takes the students back in time to when the peaceful people of the Anishinabe tribe first encounter a "white man" sickness that might kill them all. When another tribe challenges them to war, the students are put into a situation where they must help the tribe decide whether they will stay in peace, and possibly die from this sickness, or end their history of peace and fight to save their people.

You can see more information on Josh White at www.joshwhite.com and Rachelle Ballard's Story Living Lessons at www.onlivinglessons.com. Josh White and his wife are residents of Novi.



Traveling back even further they explore the roots of the Native American's deep connection with nature and the belief that their ancestry lies with the animals who taught them to live in harmony with the balance of nature.

Two charged in failure to report possible child abuse

By Korie Wilkins GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Two more administrators at a nationwide day-care chain with several Detroit metro locations are facing charges after failing to report the suspected sexual abuse of a Novi toddler to state officials.

Mirjana Milosavljevic, 52, and 1st Grail Wiesner, 41, were charged Wednesday with failure to report a 93-day misdemeanor. Both were administrators at the Childtime Learning Center on Halsted Road in Northville. The charges come on the heels of similar ones in Plymouth, after the director of the Childtime Learning Center there failed to report suspected abuse. The child in that case, 2-year-old Allison Newman, later died and her foster mother, 40-year-old Carol Ann Poole of Canton, is charged with murder.

Both Milosavljevic of West Bloomfield Township and Wiesner of Farmington Hills pleaded not guilty. Lt. Victor Lauria said the Novi Police Department was contacted by state officials Nov. 27. An investigation revealed Milosavljevic and Wiesner had been told about the allegations by a staff member but did not report it. The girl, 3, had told a teacher that her father had molested her in her vaginal area. Lauria said, and the teacher filed a report with her supervisors.

A few weeks later, the teacher discovered the case had been sent to state officials. Lauria said the teacher called the state herself. The Northville facility remains open and its license is still valid, according to the state. Spokeswoman Amy Papp declined to comment on the status of Milosavljevic and Wiesner but said they were no longer at the center. She said the company hired a director of compliance to assist with the mandatory reporting process after the Plymouth case. In that case, Jacqueline Halvina, 36, of Westland was charged in October after authorities say she failed to report seeing bruises and scratches on Allison. The Plymouth center has been closed since Oct. 16.

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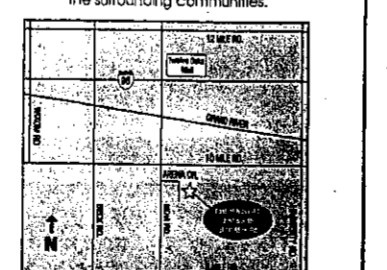
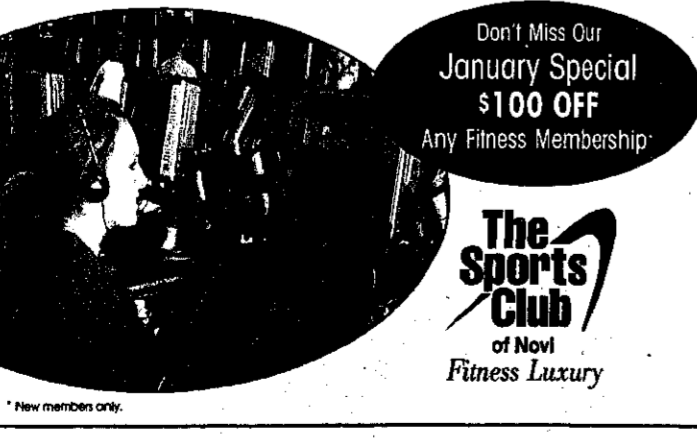
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Submitted Photo
Well done!
Third and fourth graders at Deerfield Elementary School designed and constructed simulated roller coasters as the final assessment of their "Forces and Motion" science unit. Using only foam insulation tubing and masking tape, each team built a track that allowed a marble to move unassisted through a loop, a hill and a turn. Pictured: (left to right) Nakoul Makim (fourth grade), Tiffany Tsang (fourth grade), Nicholas Co (third grade) and Ram Kaplstatem (third grade).



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My CLASSROOM

JOIN STORY CHAT TODAY AND SEE WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS STORY AT WWW.NOVI NEWS.COM!



Happy Campers

This week is the last week for Novi Meadows Middle School's fifth grade Outdoor Education Experience. This year marks the 29th year the school has taken its students to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center. During the three-day, two-night sleep over, the woods become the classroom and students, parents and teachers enjoy the outdoors while studying nature.

TOP: Novi Meadows Middle School teacher Mrs. Rance, observes fifth grader Madison Marzoni as she carefully takes a sample of water.

MIDDLE-RIGHT: A group of fifth graders stand by the "George Washington" tree with Novi Meadows Assistant Principal Lisa Fenchel.

RIGHT: Fifth graders Kristina Kenny and Cassidy Cirka.

BOTTOM-LEFT: Fifth graders Rishitha Dalavayi, Cassidy Cirka, and Cristina Kenney stand on the dock near the Huron River.

BOTTOM-RIGHT: Fifth graders pose for a shot.

Photos provided by Novi Meadows Middle School



My EDUCATION

JOIN STORY CHAT TODAY AND SEE WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS STORY AT WWW.NOVI NEWS.COM!

My CLASS NOTES

Student Community Service Awards

The Optimist Club of Northville/Novi is offering \$500 awards to area youth through its Student Community Service Award Program. High school students that are residents of Northville, Northville Township, and Novi are eligible, and must meet the following criteria: full time student in good standing; passing grades in classes for the current school year; provide two letters of recommendation; write a 250 word or less essay on what they have learned through their experience in community service and why being involved in community service is important to them and society. Applications may be picked up in the counseling offices of the Northville or Novi high schools. The deadline for submission is March 16, 2007. The applications and essays should be sent to: OCNN-(CSA), 143 Cady Center No. 76, Northville, MI 48167.

School Board Recognition Month

The Michigan Association of School Boards and Gov. Jennifer Granholm have designated January as School Board Recognition Month. The state proclamation says school board members face challenges every day making tough decisions regarding budgets, personnel, curriculum and other matters to help students achieve. Designating a month in their honor acknowledges the dedication and countless hours of personal time school board members give to schools.

Old Village School Needs Fund-Raiser Assistance

Old Village School is asking for community support to increase chances of winning the \$15,000 Hamburger Helper is planning to award. The school's Leisure Recreation Program allows students with severe disabilities to participate in roller skating, swimming or hands-on museum trips, activities that help them develop skills while enjoying the community. Northville and Novi residents can help by going to the Hamburger Helper site and convey their support for the program. Follow these steps: 1) Go to myhomestownhelper.com, and click on "Find A Project" 2) Enter "Old Village School", and then 3) Click on "Kids Are Special." From there, you can scroll down and add your comment as to why you support this program. The more visits to this Web site, the better the chances are that the Leisure Recreation Program will win the award.

Early Childhood Center Curriculum Night

The Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Center will hold its first Curriculum Night 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Northville Senior Community Center. The evening is planned to provide parents with information on the Early Childhood Center's programs, curriculum, and enrollment procedures. Childcare will be available at the licensed 501 W. Main St., Room 207, location. Children must be at least 2 1/2 and be toilet trained. Please call (248) 344-8465 to register by Feb. 1. For more information on the programs offered for the 2007-08 school year or 2007 summer programs, visit www.northville.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood.

College Night

Eighth graders and their parents can get prepared for college by attending "Middle School College Night" at Schoolcraft College, 4-7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the DiPonio Room of the VisTech Center. Students and parents can visit the exhibits of Schoolcraft College, Cleary University, College for Creative Studies, Lawrence Technological University, Madonna University, Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University. For more information contact Schoolcraft Admissions Office at (734) 462-4426 or e-mail admissions@schoolcraft.edu.

Novi Meadows and Plymouth Whalers

Come to Family Fun Hockey Night tomorrow, 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Sports Arena. Tickets are \$10. Proceeds go to Novi Meadows PTO. For more information contact Bobbie Murphy at (248) 305-8501.

Novi Board of Education Working Session

The Novi Board of Education is having a working session tonight at 7:30 p.m. The session is open to the public. The board will be discussing MEAP results, the elementary school transitional plan and high school curriculum improve-

ments.

2007 Novi Board of Education Election

Three seats will be available for the election to be held on May 8. Potential candidates must file a "School Board Candidate-Affidavit of Identity and Receipt Form" with the Oakland County Election Division located at 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac, no later than 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13. When filing the form, candidates also have the choice of paying a nonrefundable \$100 filing fee in lieu of petitions. Once filed, the deadline for withdrawal is 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 16.

The seats that will be avail-



Lucia Do writes in her journal during a Deerfield English Language Learners (ELL) class. In Do's household, Vietnamese, Spanish and English are spoken.

WHO LOSES?

DISTRICT AWAITS BAD NEWS FROM LANSING ABOUT POSSIBLE FUNDING CUTS

By Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Michigan Legislature discussions about cutting education funding has the Novi school district looking at a loss of up to \$1.4 million, if state decision makers decide to make mid-year slashes to meet a projected near billion dollar deficit.

James Koster, Novi Community School District Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, said it has not been determined where cuts would come from.

"We're trying to figure that out," he said. "It is still a moving target. We don't know yet."

State officials said last week Michigan funding issued to public school districts may be cut by up to \$220 for each student.

The announcement followed the Michigan January Revenue Consensus Conference where officials announced Michigan's budget is about \$850 million in the red.

The deficit projections by the House and Senate fiscal agencies were based on actual tax revenues through the end of last year, state officials said.

Cutting per-pupil foundation amounts and other educational areas like special education and at-risk programs, have been discussed as solutions to the budget shortfall.

Tom White, executive director of the Michigan School Business Officials,

said the school state aid fund totals about \$377 million of the near billion dollar deficit.

"The problem is much larger than we originally thought," he said.

White does not believe the entire shortfall will be replaced by cutting the maximum \$220 per student.

"I would call that the doomsday scenario," he said. "It is inconceivable they would do that."

White said he believes reductions will come from a combination of cuts in student funding and educational programming.

"It is like do you want us to cut you off at the knees or the shoulders?" he said.

Koster said if the state went with a \$100 cut for each Novi student, the outcome would be a loss of about \$620,000 for the district.

He said the cuts would also be devastating for the 2007-08 school year and even worse the following year.

White said forcing a cut in March to adopted school budgets would most likely force Michigan districts to reach into their rainy day funds to conclude current-year business.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm approved in August increasing the per-pupil foundation spending amount by \$210 for all Michigan districts.

According to Novi Community School District count day data, enrollment for the 2006-07 school year is 6,325 students.

Koster said the district's

"It is like do you want us to cut you off at the knees or the shoulders?"

Tom White
Executive Director, Michigan School Business Officials

current near \$73 million budget is based on receiving \$8,695 per student.

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or vmitchell@gannett.com.

What now?

Tom White, executive director of the Michigan School Business Officials, said it will take anywhere from 30-60 days to see how state education funding will be affected by the state deficit.

"It is going to take awhile for it all to unfold," he said.

He anticipates any cuts in per-pupil funding will be deducted from school district's March state aid payments.

White said Gov. Jennifer Granholm will lay out her solutions to curing the state's about \$850 million deficit in February.

He said the Michigan legislature will then have 30 days to respond.

"If they do nothing, then they take the full per-pupil amount," White said. "Straight proration." Upcoming dates: Feb. 6: Governor's State-of-the-State; Feb. 8: Address on the state budget.



Deerfield Elementary English Language Learner teacher Betsy Zielinski works with students, from left: Shian Maidens, Lucia and Ian Do, and Trinayand Yeduru.

Shortfall background

Here's the bottom line on the revised estimates for the School Aid Fund.

- The \$85 million carry over anticipated at the end of 2005-06 did not occur.
- The 2006-07 revenues are \$322.4 million less than previously anticipated.
- The state is estimating a \$20 million unanticipated expense to the SAF for a property tax case settlement in Midland.
- The state has 7,300 fewer students for 2006-07 than previously estimated which saves the state \$65 million.

The net outcome is a \$377 million shortfall or about \$224 per pupil.

That would be the amount of a proration if Lansing does not address the above-described shortfall.

Source: Michigan School Business Officials

MEAP: Distict aces annual state test

continued from 1A

How did Novi do?

Want to know how Novi students did on the MEAP test? Go to <http://www.michigan.gov/meap> and click on "Downloadable MEAP Files." Double-click on the link to "Fall 2006, Grades 3-9 MEAP Test Results" and download it to your desktop.

"This is important to us. What we're doing here in Novi is what the public wants and expects from our schools. They want good test scores and they want kids engaged and involved in extra-curricular activities."

Renee Gates is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or by e-mail at rgates@gannett.com.

SPOTLIGHT NOVI: MY GOVERNMENT

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

ADDRESS: Mayor delivers State of Novi

continued from 1A

re-revitalized the Novi Economic Development Corp. and are aiming to add a coordinator to help build relationships with the business community. He also expects the city's Office, Service and Technology district to spur development.

City officials have long believed economic developments, and the lucrative taxes they take in, are key to keeping the city financially strong.

"We have to realize that the fiscal condition of the city is a short-term condition," said Landry, who served on city council from 2001-2005 and is also an attorney. "The reason we're doing OK is because we're developing."

Other issues loom

Growth and development are the buzz words for Novi at the moment, but beneath that lies several thorny issues that will confront city officials this year. Most pressing: The gun range controversy and library bond.

Landry is blunt about the gun range. He predicts it will be an election issue this fall, and isn't expecting movement on it until then. In December, a Landry-backed plan left one vote short of approval by city council. It would have allocated \$1.2 million to build the range and improve police headquarters. It also would have set aside \$1.4 million for future payroll of police bonds.



"I don't think this council's going to be able to resolve the issue... Whoever's elected next fall will deal with it," he said.

The library bond will also be on the ballot this fall. The proposal failed in 1999, but Landry is anticipating voters will approve the 37,000 square-foot expansion. The \$16 million bond is expected to break out to a millage rate between .299 and .342. For a Novi resident whose property was valued at \$400,000, it would cost \$68.40 annually.

"We need a new library," he said. "That building was never built as a library. It was retro fit."

Though controversies are never far from Landry's mind, they aren't what consumes him most as mayor. In his mind, evaluating the state of Novi is simple: "A city is really just people. How we doing there?"

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



Roads and traffic are key issues in Novi. Here, traffic at Beck Road and 10 Mile backs up, a common experience for many local drivers.

The State of the Economy: Growing in Novi

Mayor points to ITC, Ryder as evidence

Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi leaders are working to thaw the city's frosty reputation for commerce, and last year they were able to chalk up two major victories for new development.

ITC Holdings Corp. and Ryder System Inc. announced plans to build new headquarters in Novi, which should add jobs and boost the tax base, officials said.

"That's Exhibit A and Exhibit B," Mayor David Landry said.

The new development is evidence the city's efforts to become more business-friendly are paying off, Landry said. Last year, Novi relaxed its height ordinance, allowing for taller buildings in the commercial districts. It also loosened signage rules to give businesses more visibility.

Merchants have long complained about city ordinances they say are too stringent.

The city also plans to add an economic development coordinator to work with local businesses.

Being flexible to the needs of the business community is key for Novi because its central location gives it an advantage over other Metro Detroit suburbs, Landry said.

The city is easily accessible from Detroit, Lansing and Ann Arbor because of the network of roads

and freeways that run through Novi.

"You can get to wherever you want to go," he said.

Additionally, city officials can capitalize on Novi's slew of entertainment options to help spur the economy, Novi Chamber of Commerce President Nora Champion said.

"Businesses want to work within a city that is pro-business, and they want to be in an area where people want to live," she wrote in an e-mail.

ITC spokeswoman Lisa Aragon said officials helped smooth the development process as the company moves towards a ground breaking early this year.

"The government of Michigan, the government of Novi, have been very supportive," she said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The City of Novi faces a big challenge: What to do with Beck Road?

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
City of Novi Mayor David Landry.

SPOTLIGHT NOVI: MY GOVERNMENT

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Eyeing the future

Novi Mayor Looks Past Current Reign; Weighs Options

By Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITER

With a healthy rainy day bank account and booming growth, you'd think David Landry would be basking in a glorious mayoral reign.

But that isn't the mayor's way of governing. Instead of resting comfortably on the city's fiscal health, Landry is keeping his eye on Novi's future.

"The reason we're doing OK is because we're developing. Our tax base is growing every year," he said. "There will come a time when we're built out, where our revenues will not increase year to year."

The city's general fund balance is currently 14 percent, estimated at \$5.3 million, larger than the city's portion of state shared revenue, officials said.

"The city could afford, perhaps, to spend more in '07 than in '06 in certain areas because the revenue is increasing," Landry said. "There will come a time when that doesn't happen and that is what we have to be planning for."

"It is almost like smoke and mirrors."

"It would be easy for us to be the nice guys now ... but you're not doing a good job if you're doing that."

David Landry
Mayor, City of Novi

"It is almost like smoke and mirrors."

David Landry
Mayor, City of Novi

STORY CHAT
What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
ITC project manager Joseph Bennett stands at the site of the Novi electricity management company's new headquarters, near M-5 and Haggerty Road. Construction of the facility is underway.

According to Southeast Michigan Council of Governments documents, the future of Novi looks like this: 79,264 residents in 2030. Estimates of Novi's build-out issued by state and county documents project it will occur a decade sooner, between 2012 and 2020.

Landry said he wants to make sure the city's tax base is large enough so when Novi is ultimately developed, the city's budget will sustain needed public services.

So he keeps his eye on development opportunities benefiting the future, expanding Novi's sewer system on developers' bank rolls and keeping roads and public safety growing and meeting the needs of residents.

And, Landry said, he maintains his futuristic glimpse on everything from parks and recreation to city employee health benefits.

"Novi is fortunate we're so young," he said, noting you have to look 20 years out.

"Which is why you have to put the brakes on now," Landry said. "It would be easy for us to be the nice guys now ... but you're not doing a good job if you're doing that."

Landry said promises are meant to be relied on.

"If it doesn't work in 2020 you have a problem," he said. "So you have to make sure from 2000 to 2020 that it (the city) has the right mix."

To the mayor it would be irresponsible to turn his attention away from Novi's future.

THE STATE OF THE CITY

The city is offering two opportunities to hear Mayor David Landry's State of the City address.

Jan. 25
11:30 a.m. at the Rack
Financial Showplace
Luncheon hosted by the city, Novi Chamber of Commerce and Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce

Jan. 27
9:30 a.m. at Civic Center
Homeowner Association
Leaders' Breakfast
Open to representatives of neighborhood groups
Free, but reservations are required
City departments will have exhibits
RSVP (248) 347-0437

SOURCES: City of Novi

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ENTRY BLANK

Hey...Novi

It's Time to Pick Your
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service.
This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll. Join in on the Balloting!

Drop Off Or Mail In Ballot To: People's Choice Awards - Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167
Only one entry per person per week, 18 years or older. Ballot box stuffing will not be allowed. Partial ballots may be disqualified.

BEST FOOD OUTLETS	BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES
• Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels _____	• Best entertainment for kids _____
• Best specialty coffee house _____	• Best bank _____
• Best place for breakfast _____	• Best consignment store _____
• Best Sunday brunch _____	• Best eyecare _____
• Best deli _____	• Best funeral home _____
• Best fast food restaurant _____	• Best salon _____
• Best family restaurant _____	• Best nail salon _____
• Best place for soup _____	• Best tanning salon _____
• Best place for salad _____	• Best jewelry store _____
• Best place for burgers _____	• Best real estate company _____
• Best place for hot dogs/coneys _____	• Best real estate agent _____
• Best place for subs _____	• Best mortgage provider _____
• Best place for desserts _____	• Best accountant _____
• Best Sushi restaurant _____	• Best auto dealer _____
• Best Italian restaurant _____	• Best auto service _____
• Best Asian restaurant _____	• Best oil change shop _____
• Best Mexican restaurant _____	• Best collision shop _____
• Best Greek restaurant _____	• Best tire store _____
• Best place for pizza _____	• Best veterinary service _____
• Best martini _____	• Best travel agency _____
• Best wine selection (store) _____	• Best video store _____
• Best wine selection (restaurant) _____	• Best landscaping business _____
• Best beer selection (store) _____	• Best health/fitness club _____
• Best beer selection (restaurant) _____	• Best car wash _____
• Best place for romantic dinner _____	• Best flower shop _____
• Best after work meeting place _____	• Best garden center _____
• Best sports bar _____	• Best dance studio _____
• Best place for dancing _____	• Best orthodontist _____
	• Best dentist _____
	• Best custom home builder _____
	• Best apartment complex _____
	• Best insurance agency _____

All Entries Must Be Received By March 6th

My Conversations

PUBLIC OPINIONS & LETTERS, ONLY IN MY NOVI NEWS!

PAGE 16A

JOIN THE DISCUSSION AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

Novi News

David Aguilar
EDITOR

Grace Peret Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Perleberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramhoff
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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.

IN OUR OPINION:

State of Novi Depends on You

Don't Pine for Local Change — Get Involved

This is a good day for a dose of perspective. As you're reading this, Mayor David Landry is probably giving the yearly State of the City address at the Rock Financial Showplace.

It's good for Landry, as the highest-elected official, to pause and reflect on where the city is and where it's going. Clearly, his observations are insightful and carry weight. But at the end of the day, his musings aren't the most important. Neither are those of his fellow council members or even City Manager Clay Pearson.

The state of Novi rests on you, the citizens of Novi. How is your life as a resident of one of the area's fastest growing communities?

Take a step back and think.

Is the city heading where you want it to go? Are the priorities of city officials in line with your own? What would you change?

This could be a touchstone year for Novi. The gun range controversy is looming. The library bond is pending. Development projects are sprouting on seemingly every corner. How these issues and a slew of others turn out will directly affect the everyday lives of residents.

So what now?

Get involved. The state of the city hinges on its citizens, and just about anyone can have a say in decision-making. Run for office. Write letters to the editor. Call city officials and complain. This November, vote. But do something. Find a voice and take action.

The state of the city is a snapshot in time. Get in the picture.

Story Chat: What's on Your Mind?

OK Novi, what do you think?

You've read the paper, now go to novinews.com and weigh in.

It's your community. It's about you. Have a voice. Take a stand.

It's simple. At the end of every story is a "Story Chat" opportunity. Express your opinion. It's much like a real-time blog. Type in what you think and hit the button.

Your voice is just as important as ours. Let's hear it.

NEWS SOURCES

Hey, Novi: What's Your Story?

We're looking for you! The Novi 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 senior who has an interesting job?
- 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?

- During the past six 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.



Former Novi Public Information officer Cindy Stewart greets honorary Novi Chamber of Commerce member Ernie Aruffo during last week's luncheon at Fox Run.

Novi Chamber of Commerce Celebrates 40 Years

This year marks the 40th year the Novi Chamber of Commerce has served Novi businesses and the community.

On Jan. 17, more than 180 members and dignitaries including Sen. Nancy Cassis and House Republican Leader Craig DeRoche, attended a 40th Anniversary Celebration held at Fox Run Village in Novi.

The keynote speaker at the event was David Brantford, chairman and chief executive officer of Domino's Pizza, Inc.

Official proclamations, honoring the Chamber for its distinguished service to the community, were received from Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Commissioners Bill Bullard and Hugh Crawford and Novi Mayor David Landry.

Former Novi Chief of Police Lee Boegle, eloquently recounted the early history of the Chamber, and Lee Mamola, AIA, a former president of the Chamber's Board of Directors, also provided insights into the chamber's history and accomplishments.

Highlights of those accomplishments include orchestration of a multitude of municipal projects including the construction of the Beck Road



Art Johnson, the new president of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, addresses a luncheon at Fox Run Village during the swearing-in of its new committee members last week.

board members include: Art Johnson; JPS Marketing; Rob Casalini; St. John Providence Hospital; Fred Moschetti; Fox Run; Greg Chapman; The Sierra Group at Citigroup; Robert Thorne; Peland Novi; Anita Dellacolla; Cityscape Architects; Greg Carr; Averill Accounting; Ron Dowdy; National Credit Card Processing; Peggy Hayes; Twelve Oaks; Patti Maida; Renieria United Realty; Karen Anderson; Smart Office Systems; Valerie McDonald; National City Bank; Eddie Bourque; Lucky Strike Lanes; Rene Saenz; Two Men and a Truck; Kathleen Beagan-Miller; Relocation Central;

LETTERS

Thanks to our Volunteers

Many of you may not know how fortunate our community is and I wanted to share some information with you. We have many volunteers in the city of Novi who are willing to share a little of themselves to improve our city. We had an Appreciation Dinner acknowledging our staff as well as our volunteers. We had our largest amount of attendees this year, at 480 people. I wanted to take the time to wish each and every volunteer as well as our employees a heart felt thank you. Each and every person contributes so very much to Novi and that is why our city is so great! Thank you for volunteering your times and efforts!

Lynne Paul
Novi City Council Member

My Hometown Novi Photo Winner

I would like to thank the Novi Historical Commission and the Novi News for co-sponsoring the "My Hometown Novi" Photo Contest. I had a lot of fun searching out scenes that depicted my Novi (which has been home for 31 years). Novi to the repre-

sents my family, my farm, history and the many children I've encountered through the years as the "farm lady" and former 4-H leader.

The scene of Larry making maple syrup in my winning photo represents all that, especially in the memories, the area holds for me. The large homes in the background are my reality today and while I would rather see the trees that were there before, at least, the image gave me a winning photo and in the end what can you do? I will say, we always knew the land around us would be developed and living surrounded by Island Lake Estates isn't so bad — there are perks.

Anyway, thanks for a fun photo contest and I would suggest that those of you out there in Novi just sitting around today, dust off your cameras and take part in the My Hometown Novi photo contest in 2007. Watch out though, because I now have a digital camera, have moved into the modern world and have my sights set on the "biggie prize" again.

Margaret Schmidt
Novi

Disagree Considerately

Local elections must be coming up this fall. I understand that there will always be differences of opinions among city council members, whether it's regarding priorities for the spending of our city budget monies or

continued on 21A

COMMENT

JOIN THE DISCUSSION AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Kalamazoo Promise: It's a Step in the Right Direction

"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or gazelle. When the sun comes up, you better start running."

These words hang on the wall of a fast-growing factory in China, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Thomas Friedman's best-selling book, "The World is Flat."

They are also a perfect description of what we face in Michigan as we confront a rapidly globalizing world economy. We are currently home to far too many lumbering lions, and too few speedy gazelles.



Phil Power
Political Columnist

Now, extinction is looming for many of them unless they, and we, swiftly change the way we do things and the way we view the world. Without a doubt, the best way to make our workforce lions more agile is to provide our people with investments in their brain power, skills and capacity to add value.

That is usually called "investing in human capital." To many in Michigan, it starts with a specific goal: Doubling the percentage of people in our workforce who have college degrees.

Michigan colleges, now struggling with foreign competitors and their cheap labor, need high-skilled, productive workers to compete. Workers benefit, too: the average difference in annual earnings for a full-time worker with a bachelor's degree and one with a high school diploma is a considerable \$14,000.

That means investing in "human capital" makes sense — and nobody is doing it in a more exciting way than Kalamazoo.

Last week, more than 200 scholars, school folks, policy wonks and ordinary citizens gathered Jan. 17 at a Center for Michigan-sponsored forum in Kalamazoo to explore a landmark human capital initiative called the Kalamazoo Promise.

Made possible by anonymous donors in 2005, the Promise offers any Kalamazoo graduate who was enrolled in that city's

public schools since kindergarten free, fully-paid tuition at any of the 44 public colleges or universities in Michigan. Kids who arrived after kindergarten but before high school get aid on a sliding scale.

What a brilliant — and brilliantly simple — idea!

Although folks in Kalamazoo caution us about interpreting early results, the first indicators are remarkable. The first full year since the program was announced has seen:

- A 10 percent increase (987) of kids enrolled in Kalamazoo public schools
- A 44 percent increase in African-American high school seniors who are staying in school
- A 12 percent increase in white students in grades K-8, reversing a 35-year trend of

whale flight from the city schools.

Evidence is even stronger at the other end of the pipeline. Last fall, 318 proud high school graduates received the first-ever Kalamazoo Promise scholarships. Did they make a difference?

Statistics show that Kalamazoo had a 17 percent increase in graduates enrolling in community colleges and a whopping 55 percent jump in the number attending four-year universities. Eighty-three percent of Kalamazoo school graduates are now attending college!

But would it work statewide? Much of the discussion at the Center for Michigan's conference revolved around the question of whether components of the Kalamazoo Promise could be scaled up into a Michigan Promise.

We're part way there. The \$1,500 Michigan Merit program provides just about enough funding so that every Michigan high school graduate can get their tuition paid for an associate degree at a community college.

But getting to full funding for four-year universities is much tougher. Offering a full tuition grant at public universities would cost around \$900 million, based on the number of students attending now.

If you add board and room costs, the number rises to \$1.65 billion. That's a lot of money

for a state facing a current budget deficit of around \$3 billion. And naturally, both figures would increase if and when, as hoped, more kids go to college.

Some think that as a halfway measure, we should tweak college tuition guarantees to encourage talented graduates to stay in-state and reduce the brain drain from Michigan to places like Chicago and New York. Good idea, but still expensive. If we reduced tuition at public universities to those who stay in Michigan after graduation, for say, five years, the annual bill would come to around \$700 million.

Yet when their views were surveyed, conference participants overwhelmingly advocated scaling up the Kalamazoo Promise. Seventy percent urged it be offered statewide, although opinions on how and who should pay for it were mixed. Some felt and feared a big statewide program would chill local initiatives.

As I came away from the conference, I realized most of the discussion was quantitative in nature. Not should we do it so much as... how much would it cost? Who would pay? How would we run the program?

But a qualitative dimension was missing. So far, the Kalamazoo Promise appears to be changing the culture in many local families. People who saw lifelong learning as rather pointless now recognize that getting a college degree is essential for future success.

Jack Hopkins, head of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, put this thought most eloquently in a closing comment: "The real point of the Promise is that it transforms our vision of ourselves."

Ourselves, and our state. In considering Michigan's current economic doldrums and lumbering lions, we all might want seriously to consider how best to transform our vision of ourselves — and how to best grasp the competitive promise-cultural change might offer.

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 1995. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do 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@bcmnet.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



My Letters to the Editor

We welcome your comments regarding editorials, columns and other topics discussed in the Novi News. Only submissions arriving by 5 p.m. Monday and including the author's full name, address and day and evening phone numbers — for verification by the Novi 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 Novi News, may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

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

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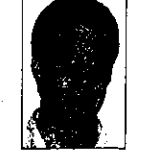
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Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

TROUBLE AFOOT

Often mistaken for sprains, Lisfranc fractures (named after the French doctor who first described the injury) occur at the mid-foot, where a cluster of small bones form an arch on top of the foot. Lisfranc injury involves a rupture to the key ligament connecting the mid-foot to the forefoot. There may be some bruising, and if the injury is severe, the foot may not be able to bear weight. Left unrecognized, Lisfranc injuries can lead to joint degeneration and compartment syndromes, in which a buildup of pressure within muscles can damage nerve cells and blood vessels.

Whether you require rehabilitation after surgery, care for neck and back pain and arthritis, or would like information about exercise and keeping fit, our caring staff is here to help you. For additional information, call NORTHVILLE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION P.C. at 248.349.9339 to schedule an appointment. We are conveniently located at 215 East Main, Suite 10. New patients are welcome.

As an acute care center, we accept private insurance and Medicare. We are currently accepting new patients. Lisfranc injuries are becoming increasingly more common.

www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

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EVERY 14 SECONDS, A CHILD IS BORN INTO AN ORPHAN

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION



MY BULLETIN BOARD

JOIN STORY CHAT TODAY AND SEE WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS STORY AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM!

EVENTS

Lakes Area Optimist 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 top winners at district and international levels. CONTACT: Kevin Terry, (248) 345-6437

Muscular Dystrophy Association Fund-raiser

DATE: Sunday, Jan. 28
TIME: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Total Baseball, 30990 S. Wixom Rd., Wixom
DETAILS: Total Baseball, in partnership with MDA, will hold the third annual "Hit a Homerun" fund-raiser. All batting cage proceeds will go to the MDA, and will stay in Oakland and Wayne counties. Reservations are not necessary but can be made for a team for one hour with a donation of \$100 or more. CONTACT: Sue Collins at MDA, (248) 474-0258, or Lee Berke at Total Baseball, (248) 668-0166

New Book Club

DATE: Friday, Feb. 16
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Starbucks, 302 East Main St., Northville
DETAILS: The book for February will be "In Cold Blood". CONTACT: northvillebookclub@gmail.com

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, Feb. 05
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

City of Novi State of the City Address

DATE: Today
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Cost is \$20 per person. R.S.V.P. by Jan. 19. CONTACT: (248) 347-0445

Preschool Open House

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 27
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Novi Co-op Preschool, located at Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: The preschool is currently enrolling 2, 3, and 4 year old children for the 2007/2008 school year. Teachers will be available to answer questions and children are welcome. CONTACT: (248) 349-3225 or visit www.NoviPreschool.com

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

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

New School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 8
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School

Eton Academy College and Career Night

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 31
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Eton Academy, 1755 Melton, Birmingham
DETAILS: Representatives from colleges, universities, trade schools and other organizations will be present to provide information on their programs for students with learning differences, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, or dysgraphia. The evening is free to parents and students. CONTACT: (248) 642-1150

Colored Pencil Workshop

TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: The cost is \$2. Beginners are welcome.
Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: There is a \$10 materials fee.
Knitting Yarns
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Join others and create hats and shawls for those in need.
Tai Chi Class
TIME/DATE: 10:15-11 a.m. Thursday
DETAILS: This is an ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance and strength. No experience is necessary. The cost is

Novi Chamber of Commerce

The chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, proactive advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area. We are business and professional people working together to enhance the life of our community and the businesses in it. For more information, visit www.novichamber.com or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-3747

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

The Greater Novi Chamber is a nonprofit business association. We provide enjoyable 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 McClellan, executive director at (248) 347-4622 or wmgcc@novi.com

Financial Round Table

DATE: Monday, Feb. 2
TIME: 8 a.m.
LOCATION: Leo Conroy Island, Beck and Grand River Roads
DETAILS: Meet and chat with your peers about what works in your business and theirs.
Member Appreciation Luncheon
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 7
TIME: 11:30 a.m. registration, noon Lunch
LOCATION: Hotel Baronette
DETAILS: This luncheon is to highlight the Chamber members and thank them for their support. The cost is \$25 for members, and \$30 for non-member members. R.S.V.P. by Feb. 5.
BBQ Breakfast
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 14
TIME: 7:45 a.m.
LOCATION: Suburban Shared Center, on Eight Mile Road, 1/4 mile east of Farmington Road
DETAILS: Enjoy networking and light breakfast till 8:15 a.m. Cost is \$5 for members, and \$10 for non-member members. R.S.V.P. required.
Save-the-Dates
Feb. 22: Business Accelerator After Hours
Mar. 8: Business Accelerator Luncheon with Dennis Archer

Snack Tales

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 24
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Stories and cooking projects for children in Kindergarten through third grade. Please call to register.
Lego Club
DATE: Monday, Jan. 29
TIME: 6-7 p.m.
DETAILS: This is the once-a-month Lego show-and-tell, building activities, and swap time for children in Kindergarten through fourth grade. The library supplies the Legos. Registration is not required.
Learn to Download Audiobooks
DATE: Saturday, Feb. 3
TIME: 1-2 p.m.
DETAILS: Learn how to download and transfer audiobooks using the library's Web site and a high-speed internet connection. Pre-registration necessary.
Special Library Board Meeting for Building Planning
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 7
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, City Council Chambers
DETAILS: The Library Board is the policy making body which controls the expenditure of library funds, construction, and the care of all library facilities and grounds. The public is invited to attend this and all meetings.
Women Who Changed America
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 8
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Storyteller, historian, and actress Marie Papocik brings Mary Todd Lincoln and Susan B. Anthony to life in her one woman show.

Novi Kniters

DATE: Monday, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26
TIME: 6:30-9 p.m.
DETAILS: This is an informal knitting group that meets in the youth area of the library most second and fourth Mondays of the month. Children, teens, and adults of all knitting levels are welcome. Woolgatherers Knitting Guild member will be in attendance at most sessions to answer knitting questions.

Yoga Classes

TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday (for back); 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday (for strength & endurance); 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Wednesday (for back); 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (for back)
DETAILS: The cost is \$10 for walk-in; \$50 for 10-class card and \$70 for seven-week evening session. Pre-registration required.
Message
TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is shown to be effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician's referral. Call for a 50-minute session. The cost is \$50 for a 90-minute session.
Lira Banding
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; \$8 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
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Story Times
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 14
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
LOCATION: Suburban Shared Center, on Eight Mile Road, 1/4 mile east of Farmington Road
DETAILS: Enjoy networking and light breakfast till 8:15 a.m. Cost is \$5 for members, and \$10 for non-member members. R.S.V.P. required.
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LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, serving the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Wovensee 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) 808-2825
Evening Connection
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Feb. 1
LOCATION: Tribute at Wixom Village Center, 148 Center Blvd., Wixom
DETAILS: Stop by after work and enjoy this free event.

BUSINESS

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group

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 women can share solutions in a nonthreatening, noncompetitive, non-sales round-table. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, e-mail jphubard@walshcollege.edu

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts

LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
Wanted: One-Time Art Workshop Instructors
DETAILS: We are looking for people who 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.

Simple Photography Tips

TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Feb. 7
DETAILS: Participants will learn about photographing: lighting, cropping, posing, candid shots and more. The workshop will be taught by professional photographers from Focal Point Studios. Bring your camera to class. There is a \$5 materials fee.

Walled Lake City Library

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Thursdays, weekly
DETAILS: The drop-in story time is for children ages 3-5.
Toddler Time Story Hour
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 31
DETAILS: This 45 minute program for children 2 and 3 years old includes stories, finger plays, crafts, music and games.

Dinosaurs Galore Story Hour

TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Tonight
DETAILS: Families are invited to listen to stories about dinosaurs and play games. Prizes and refreshments will be provided.
Kids' Club Lego Creations
TIME/DATE: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30
DETAILS: This program is for students in Kindergarten through fourth grade. Stories, games, crafts and snacks will be included.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturday, ongoing
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49325 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

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NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Friday

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Duplicate Bridge
12:45 p.m.: Bingo
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Monday

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinochle
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Tuesday

8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread
9-11 a.m.: "Line Dance-Intermediate"
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
noon: Lunch
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Wednesday

9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure
11 a.m.: Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
11:30 a.m.: "Clogging"
noon: Lunch
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Thursday

9-11 a.m.: Line Dance-Int.
10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Income Taxes by appt.
11-15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Line Dance-Beg.
noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
1-2 p.m.: Yoga
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance

Friday

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-3395

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a moms night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 380-0998.

Friendship Circle

DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 45325 10 Mile Road, between Tall and Beck Road
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 851-6700, Florence Voght, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Iovalto, (248) 348-9138, joyovalto@earthlink.net

MOMS Club of Novi

DATE: First Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Moms Offering Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes.
CONTACT: jessungfleming@yahoo.com

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Wachs Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference area are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, (248) 437-5456.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturday, ongoing
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49325 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
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DETAILS: This is an informal knitting group that meets in the youth area of the library most second and fourth Mondays of the month. Children, teens, and adults of all knitting levels are welcome. Woolgatherers Knitting Guild member will be in attendance at most sessions to answer knitting questions.

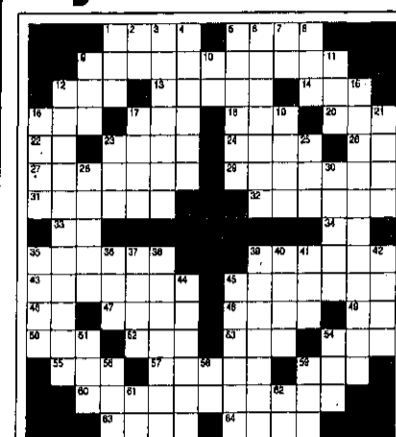
Novi Kniters

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TIME: 6:30-9 p.m.
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Novi Kniters

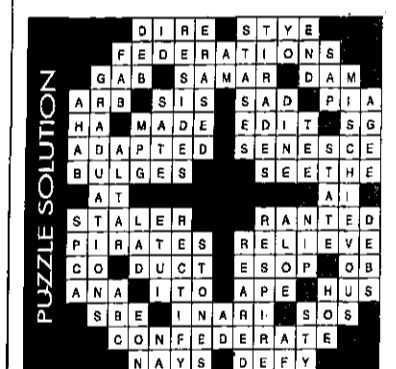
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My Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Straight rock road
5. Eyelid infection
9. Unions
12. Talk
13. Philippine island
14. Water obstruction
16. ... orist; two expert
17. Fungus sibling
18. Lendy
20. Singer Zolota
21. Singers surprise
23. Casest
24. Copyright
26. Specific gravity (abbr.)
27. Adjusted to fit
29. Snow owl
31. Sticks out
32. Bolt or screw inwardly
33. Indicates position
34. Artificial intelligence (abbr.)
35. Lest fresh bread
39. Talked excitedly
43. Blackboard and Captain Kidd
45. Take away another
46. Western state (abbr.)
47. Tape with a thousand uses
48. Employee stock ownership plan
49. Baby doctor (abbr.)
50. Sana... winds
52. ... Hirobami; Japanese Prime Minister
53. Minute
54. ... the and hushe
55. One point east of due south
57. City in Finland
59. Diatess signal
60. Ally in a cause
61. Negative
64. A way to stand firm

CLUES DOWN
1. Girl having a coming out party
2. Potato state (abbr.)
3. Occupies
4. In a way, renewed
5. Conditions of balance
6. Long angry speeches
7. Hello (slang)
8. Quilted fabric or bib
9. Wandering (slang)
10. Morning
11. Maple syrup ingredient
12. Commemorative
15. Playful in a naughty way
16. Whole ship captain
17. Satisfy to excess
19. Have dinner
21. Phil... former CIA
23. Fuel measurement (abbr.)
25. Golf ball marker
28. Elevation at the front of a ceremonial place
30. Any one of 50 in the USA
35. Prevents harm to creatures
36. Youthful male
37. Small ornamental bag
38. To set right
39. Breathe
40. Healing plant
41. Quilted fabric or bib
42. Labor organizer Eugene
44. Small rocks
45. Brought up a child
46. Commemorative
54. A way in ill
56. Geological time
58. A public promotion of some product
59. An enclosure for swine
61. Sodium
62. Newest Washington memorial (abbr.)



FAITH

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 593-5017

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group

DATES: First and third Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: For more information call Al Biggs (313) 865-7605, or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, (888) 737-2322.

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Colleen, (248) 685-9226

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter

TIME/DAYS: Wednesday, 11 a.m., weigh-in, 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership includes handbook \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: Rebecca Boye, (248) 305-8646

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m., Sunday School
TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7; 10 a.m. Family Worship; 11 a.m. Bible Study; 6 p.m. Family Movie Night; 5:30 p.m., the fourth Sunday of every month.

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continued on 22A

RUFFING IT

Annual Show Features Top Dogs

Photos by JOHN HEIDER
Novi News

See the show!
Miss the show? No problem. Novi News photographer John Heider will take you on a video tour at www.novinews.com.



Suzannah Skatsky dances with her dog, Missy, as part of a demonstration put on by the Freestyle Fanatics during last weekend's United Kennel Club dog show at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

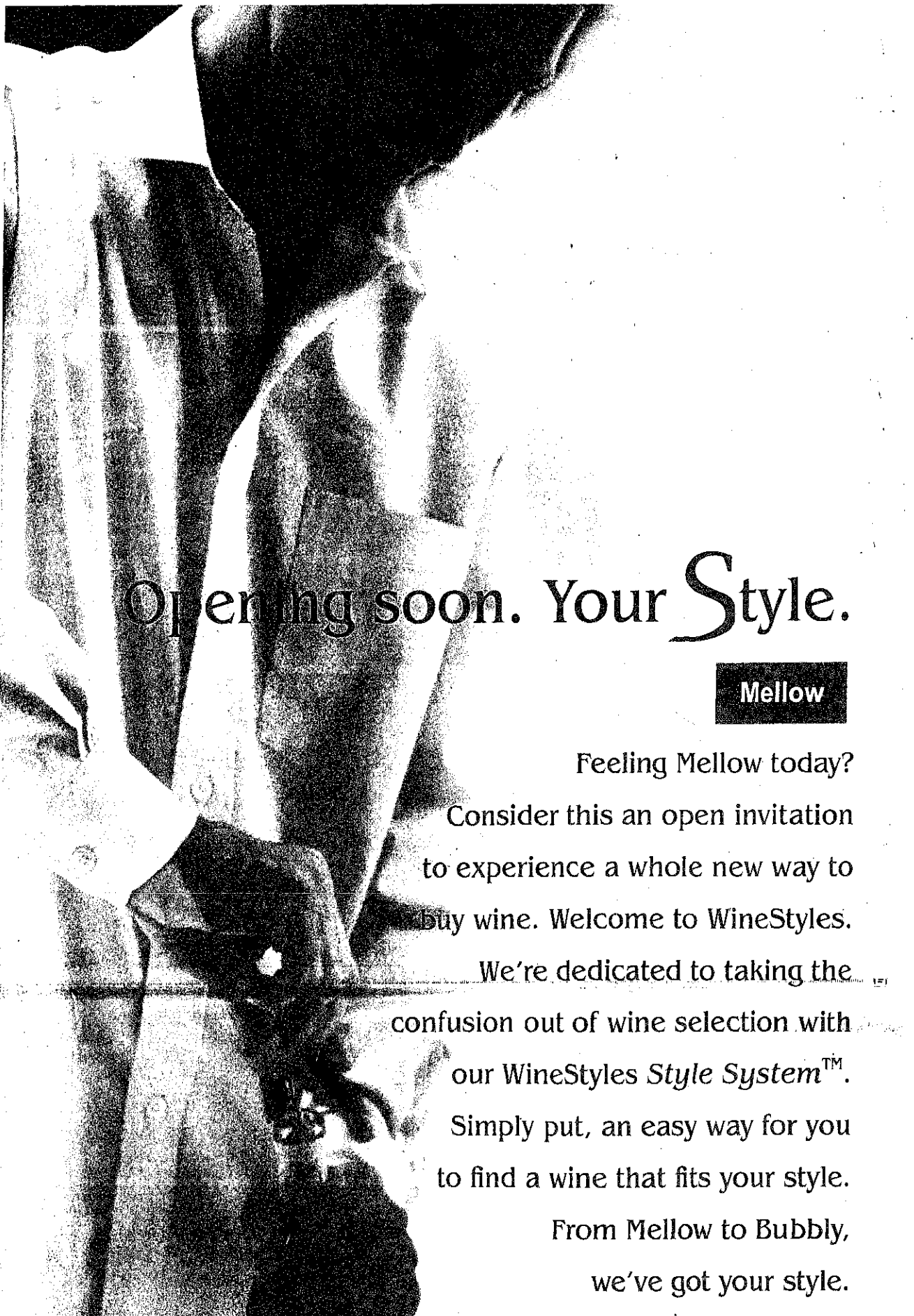
Virginia McCoy parades her pomeranian, "Winona Wi," around the ring during the United Kennel Club's dog show held at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.



A group of handlers with their golden retrievers await judgement at the UKC dog show.



With a leash in her mouth, Cheryl Hill grooms "Mattie," her yorkshire terrier before taking her to the show ring.



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Mellow

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Consider this an open invitation to experience a whole new way to buy wine. Welcome to WineStyles.

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GRAND OPENING

You're invited.

Come join us for wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres as we celebrate our Grand Opening.

Friday January 26, 2007 • 5pm - 9pm
 Saturday January 27, 2007 • 11am - 9pm
 Sunday January 28, 2007 • 12pm - 5pm

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Crisp Silky Rich **Bubbly** Fruity Mellow Bold Nectar

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONT'D)

continued from 16A

Andrew Mutch. I served with them proudly on the Planning Commission. They are always prepared and never afraid to challenge the opinions and/or findings of City staff or consultants. They give due diligence to every decision, always in consideration of the taxpayers of Novi. I don't find this objectionable or serving as an obstruction. This is the type of dedication I look for from everyone who takes on the challenges of a council member or commissioner.

I hope that residents of Novi will look beyond the "yes" and "no" votes of council, and instead look at the rationale for those

votes. Look for the consistency in maintaining low taxes.

The city council members represent you. You need to let them know how you feel about the issues for which they are making decisions. And when you don't agree with their decision, offer constructive arguments rather than personal attacks or destructive innuendo.

Phil Power said it best in his recent column. "The ability to disagree respectfully is a quality that was once the core of our political system. And it's a quality that has been very sadly largely lost in the scorched-earth partisanship of today."

Lynn Kocan
 Novi

Good-Bye Art Buchwald

Our heart goes out to the late Art Buchwald and his family. His many fans at PETA will not only miss him for his knack for making us laugh and look at the lighter side of life but also for his boundless compassion for animals.

Mr. Buchwald's soft spot for animals was as legendary as his sense of humor. Possessing a special affinity for companion animals, Mr. Buchwald actively helped homeless dogs and cats at the Washington Humane Society for many decades. When not poking fun at Capital Hill, he often devoted column space to his

canine buddies—using humor and heart to educate others about how to be their dog's "best friend."

As a tribute to this extraordinary man, let us keep his love for animals alive and carry on his legacy of helping them by practicing kindness and compassion toward all creatures. For more information and ideas, please visit www.HelpingAnimals.com.

Amy Skylark Elizabeth
 People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

No surprise: Michigan roads in bad shape

By Matt Helms
 GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

This will come as no surprise to Michigan drivers, but the state doesn't fare well nationally when it comes to the conditions of its freeways and major roads, according to a study released Monday.

While the national average of urban interstates in good condition was 56 percent, only 41 percent of Michigan's urban interstates got a good rating in the study by the East Lansing-based consulting firm Anderson Economic Group.

The group's report said the disparity is worse for Michigan's rural interstates; the state's number in good condition was 42 percent, compared with 72 percent nationwide. The report said reasons for the disparities include Michigan allowing heavier truck weights than surrounding states.

State House Republican Leader Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) commiserated the report as part of a series of studies he said he initiated to help the state improve its economic situation.

The study is available at www.andersoneconomicgroup.com.

Daniel Boone Log Home Auction
 Kalamazoo, MI • Sat, Feb. 3rd
 26 New Log Home Packages to be auctioned.
 This delivery up to one year.
 Package includes 220-hour, logs, windows, doors, rafters, roofing, etc.
 Daniel Boone Log Homes
 For More Info, Call 1-800-766-9474

NOVI NORTHVILLE MONTESSORI
 NOW ENROLLING FOR SUMMER & FALL 2007
OPEN HOUSE
 Sunday, March 4, 2-4 pm
 9-11:30am / 12:30-3:00pm / Full Day 9-3 • Daycare available 7:30am and 3:00pm
 We welcome you to experience the excellence of Montessori education which N.N.M.C. has provided since 1983.
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 Call (248) 985-HELP (4357) for a FREE consultation
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A.G. Edwards is not endorsed by or affiliated with Ford Motor Company.

Thomas S. Kerns, MBA, AAMS
 Financial Consultant
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 Northville, MI 48168
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In serving you, we generally act as a broker-dealer, but may act as an investment advisor for certain accounts for which we are appointed as investment advisor, and our obligations will vary with the role we play. Unless we otherwise specifically indicate in writing, we are acting only as a broker-dealer. Please consult *Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards* on agedwards.com for a discussion of the difference between our brokerage and advisory services.

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Home For Sale By Owner
 411 Horton Street, Northville, MI

Open House
 Sunday January 28, 2007 • 12 pm to 4 pm

Offered at \$439,000
 Contact Tom at: (248) 756-3929

Downtown Northville home overlooking Mill Pond has been completely remodeled. Enjoy all the comforts of a new home with the charm and character of a historic home.

- 1,650 square feet in home
- Circa 1890 farm house with original hardwood floors
- Enjoy entertaining on large wrap around porch
- Four car heated garage with bonus room above
- Extra large kitchen with vaulted ceiling
- Well appointed inside and out
- Lawn sprinklers and extensive perennial gardens
- Highly rated Northville Schools

My BULLETIN BOARD (CONT'D) ... FOR A COMPLETE CALENDAR LISTING: NOVINEWS.COM

continued from 19A

Holy Family
LOCATION: 21505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

Second Saturday of each month, offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's

DATE: First Monday of every month
DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life or in someone close to them.

Career Ministry Meetings
DAYS: Sunday
TIME: 1:30-3 p.m.
DETAILS: The Career Ministry program is to help meet the needs of job seekers and others in career transition. It is free of charge and is focused on providing career development resources, programs, and networking opportunities to anyone in the Northville/Novi area.

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 2920 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Kendallton Registration
DETAILS: Children who turn 5 years old before Friday, Dec. 1, may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baha'i Faith
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.bahai.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME: 11 a.m., last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Ruppel Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
LOCATION: 777 W. Lynn Ave., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fpcnorthville.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Communion & Hymn Service

Diverse Recovery Workshop
TIME/DAY: 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday
LOCATION: Emeritus Room
DETAILS: This seven-week workshop will cover a range of topics presented by a variety of speakers. The cost is \$35 per person including the book, "Growing Through Divorce". Child care will be available for toddlers through children in sixth grade with registration at least two weeks before the workshop begins. Upcoming topics are:
Tonight: Putting Your "Ex" in Focus, presented by Del Deaton.
Feb. 1: Post-Lock Dinner and Legal Aspect of Divorce, presented by attorney David Brone.
Feb. 8: Church & Divorce, Spiritual Help and Forgiveness, presented by W. Kent Clise.
Feb. 11: Helping Children Through Divorce, presented by Sharon Bergman, Clinical Psychologist.

Gracepointe Presbyterian Worship and the Arts Ministry
CONTACT: (248) 497-3178 or e-mail: gracepointe@mac.com
"Preview" Worship Service
TIME/DATE: 6-7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28
LOCATION: Holiday Inn and Suites, 37259 Grand River, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: The public is invited for worship and to stay after for fellowship and learn more about Gracepointe. Child care will be available.

Men of Grace Concert
DATE: Tonight
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: This will be a special concert of gospel-blues music, spirituals, hymns, and original music. Men of Grace are from Grace Centers of Hope of Michigan, and are examples of how lives can be transformed by faith. A \$5 contribution is requested.

Walking Group
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturdays, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
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

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novl Classes
LOCATION: 47501 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

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 11657 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2632
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 9:45 a.m.

First United Methodist of Northville
LOCATION: 777 W. Lynn Ave., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fucnorthville.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Communion & Hymn Service

Novi Planning Commission
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.noviplanning.com
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TIME: 9, 11:15 a.m.
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

Novi Planning Commission
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.noviplanning.com
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY WORSHIP
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continued from 22A

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave., Call (248) 349-9500 or visit <http://rockfinancial-showplace.com/> for more information.
Home Improvement Show
SCHEDULE: noon-9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28
DETAILS: The 15th Annual Novi Home Improvement Show features over 300 exhibitors including the latest technology, products, and services for all parts of the home. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and free for children 12 and under. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (248) 737-4477

Great Lakes Aviation Conference

SCHEDULE: Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3
DETAILS: This comprehensive conference will feature seminars, presentations, exhibits and much more for the aviation enthusiast. Advance registration required.
CONTACT: www.greatlakesaviation-conference.com

Healthy Lifestyle Show

SCHEDULE: 2-7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2; 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 4
DETAILS: Admission is free, parking is \$5. Exhibits on nutrition, fitness, spa, and beauty products, financial planning, weight loss, kids fitness area and much more will be available.
CONTACT: www.health-fitness-show.com

Antique Arms Show

SCHEDULE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11
DETAILS: Buy, sell, and trade antique arms. Admission is \$6, free for children 12 and under. Parking is \$5. The show will be located in Hall A.
CONTACT: (248) 676-2750

Bridal Expo

SCHEDULE: noon-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, and Sunday, Feb. 11
DETAILS: This is Michigan's largest bridal expo. It will feature prizes, gift coupons, fashion shows, and hundreds of experts. Admission is \$8 and parking is \$5. The show will be in Hall C.

Special Olympics Bowl-A-Thon

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 10
LOCATION: Drakebridge Lanes, 35000 Grand River, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: Team Farmington Special Olympics is hosting their 15th Annual Bowl-A-Thon to raise funds for their program. Proceeds will be used to purchase training equipment, uniforms and other items necessary to keep the athletes active year-round. Team Farmington is looking for corporate and business sponsors to help put on the event, as well as teams of five bowlers to participate. To become a sponsor, or register a team, please contact the Team Farmington office as follows:
CONTACT: (248) 499-3649 or e-mail bowl-a-thon@bcbglobal.net
Canata Academy Choral Love Songs Concerts
DATE: Saturday, Feb. 10
TIME: 8 p.m.
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Avenue, Farmington
DATE: Sunday, Feb. 11
TIME: 4 p.m.
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 5005 Chicago Road, Warren
DETAILS: The concerts will feature songs of love and romance. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students.
CONTACT: (248) 358-9668 or www.canataacademychoralebravo-host.com
Mentor Volunteers
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 10
LOCATION: Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
DETAILS: The Oakland County Youth Assistance is looking for volunteers for its Mentor Plus program to be a positive role model for someone 5-18 years old.
CONTACT: (248) 868-0041

REGIONAL

Tile Painting Party Benefit for Detroit Zoo

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 27
TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Detroit Zoological Park, Ford Education Center, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak
DETAILS: Children from all over the area are invited to paint floor tiles that will be used in the Zoo's new department at the new Woodstrom's being constructed at Twelve Oaks Mall. Each child can select their favorite zoo animal to paint two tiles, one for use in creating the floor, and the other for storage should a tile need to be replaced. Participants will receive an apron, goody bag and light refreshments. The cost is \$50 per child, with all proceeds going to the Detroit Zoological Society. Reservations by Jan. 24 are necessary for the hourly sessions held on Jan. 27.
CONTACT: (248) 541-6717, ext. 3750

Beckridge Choral Auditions

TIME/DATES: 7 p.m., Jan. 30
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
DETAILS: The Choral is inviting the public to open auditions for the spring concert titled "Sing for the Cure." All proceeds from this concert will go to the Barbara Karmanos Cancer Institute.
CONTACT: (734) 416-9885

Plymouth District Library Baseball Series

LOCATION: 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth
CONTACT: (734) 453-9750, ext. 4
DETAILS: The following programs require advance registration by calling the library or online at plymouthlibrary.org



Ready set, eat!
Dan Hool, right, attacks the second of his third burritos during last week's preliminary round of the SuperBowl Burrito eating contest at Novi's Rio Wraps. Hool, who came in third place, and six other contestants tried to eat three burritos as quick as they could to advance to Feb. 2 finals in Dearborn. The finals winner will take home \$7,500.

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LAKESIDE	13909 Hall (Across from Lakeside near Old Navy)	586.532.8055
LIVONIA	31629 Plymouth Road (1 block West of Merriman)	734.425.1500
NOVI TOWN CENTER	(South of I-96)	248.348.5494
ROSEVILLE	32098 Gratiot (Across from Macomb Mall at Masonic)	586.294.8360
ROYAL OAK	2807-N. Woodward (South of 12 Mile)	248.414.6909
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TAYLOR	22385 Ecorse (1/2 Mile East of Telegraph)	313.291.3603
TROY	3536 Rochester Road (Bet. Big Beaver & Wattles)	248.743.1088
TAYLOR	23650 Eureka (Near Southland Mall)	734.287.0454
WARREN	26645 Hoover (in the Hoover - 11 Shopping Center)	586.754.1500

Volleyball photos on Page 3B



High school schedules and standings, P. B3



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My Novi Sports

Novi hockey plays to undefeated week SPORTS, 3B

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007 • WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: WRESTLING

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

THE WILDCATS' LITTLE BIG GUYS



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat wrestlers (from left) Justin Pullin, Jon Lichorobiec and Robbie Yusko have combined to win six tournaments titles already this season.

Lichorobiec off to 27-1 start with 22 pins

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The phrase, "it isn't the size of the dog, but the fight inside the dog," applies to three Novi wrestlers.

Three of the smallest guys on the Wildcat team have accounted for five individual tournament titles, including one prestigious Oakland County championship.

Junior 103-pounder Jon Lichorobiec has four titles and claimed the Oakland County championship, senior Justin Pullin won the Salem Invite at 112 pounds, and 125-pound junior Robby Yusko picked up his first title at the Brighton Invite.

"We've always been good in the lower weights," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "We have one of the toughest tournament schedules in the state, and we do that on purpose."

"In duals, it's imperative that your top kids do what they have to do and these guys have done it all year."

Impressive records

Lichorobiec started the season on fire. He won his first 17 matches and is 27-1 with 22 pins as of Jan. 20. He won all five of his matches at the Oakland County tournament by pin, including his first match in 15 sec-

onds. His other titles are from Brighton, Williamston and at Howell.

"It felt really good. It got my confidence up," Lichorobiec said about winning his first tournament of the year. "I've been working hard all year. We wrestle hard all practice and it finally paid off."

Lichorobiec is a wrestling rarity as an upperclassman at 103 pounds. The lightest varsity weight is usually a freshman or a sophomore before they hit their growth spurt. But Lichorobiec is just a small-framed guy who is reaping the benefit of having more

See WRESTLING, 2B

Novi hoop suffers loss

Wrestlers pin opponents, posting lop-sided victories

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Novi basketball team suffered its first loss in league play Friday night to Lakeland. The Eagles (7-2, 3-1) suffocated the Wildcat (7-2, 3-1) offense and posted a 35-29 victory.

Caleb Dean scored seven points for the Wildcats.

Wrestling

The Novi wrestlers beat South Lyon on Jan. 10 and Pinckney and Lakeland on Jan. 19 in dual meets and finished fourth at the Brighton Invite on Jan. 14 and ninth at the Williamston Classic on Saturday.

The Wildcats pounced all over South Lyon, winning 49-15.

Jon Lichorobiec picked up a win at 103 pounds with a pin in 32 seconds.

Other wins included Justin Pullin (112) by pin in 1:05, Aditya Sathi (119) by pin in 1:30, Robbie Yusko (125) by pin in 1:13.

Brady Frey (130) in a 10-6 decision, Jeremy Young (145) by pin in 47 seconds, Janie Espinoza (160) in a 5-0 decision, Joe Pritchard (171) 5-3 in overtime, Zach Erickson (189) a 10-7 decision, Joey Shada (215) a 14-4 majority decision and Nadaniel Jones (275) a 5-3 decision.

The Wildcats finished fourth at the Brighton Invite.

Lichorobiec and Yusko each won an individual title, both going 3-0. Espinoza and Pritchard both finished runner-up, going 2-1.

Aditya Sathi was fourth at 119 pounds, going 3-1. Frey and Young were both fifth, each going 3-2.

Earning wins by pin in a 70-3 win against Pinckney were Lichorobiec (29 seconds), Pullin (1:48), Sathi (void), Frey (2:33), Steve Debono (void), Ryan Thomas (3:57), Pritchard (1:42), Ryan Ridenour (1:01) and Charles Satterwhite (void).

Yusko won by technical fall (15-0), Adam Ballantyne won 12-4, Mike Cash won 17-6 and Joey Shada won 8-7.

STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Wins in a 68-9 victory against Lakeland came by Lichorobiec (pin, :19), Pullin (tech fall, 17-0), Sathi (pin, 1:14), Yusko (pin, 2:43), Frey (18-11), Debono (void), Espinoza (pin, :46), Pritchard (pin, 3:40), Ridenour (pin, 2:59), Shada (void) and Satterwhite (void).

Lichorobiec and Pullin led the Wildcats at the Williamston Invite. Lichorobiec won his fourth title with four pins to take care of the competition.

Pullin was second, going 3-1.

Novi Cheer

Novi continues to rack up wins, knocking off Howell in a dual meet Jan. 17.

The Wildcats took a lead of 178.5-125 after the first round. Novi extended the lead by winning round two, 191.1-150.5. A 280-218 advantage in the final round left the Wildcats with a 649.6-493.5 victory.

The JV team posted a 498.2-209.9 win, and the freshmen team contributed to the sweep with a 398.2-295.6 win.

Catholic Central Hockey

Greg Merrill scored 26 seconds into overtime, lifting the Shamrocks to a 5-4 win against Grosse Pointe North.

North tied the game at four with three minutes left to send the game into sudden death.

Chad Wilhelm tallied a goal and two assists, and Greg Holland made 12 saves in net for the win.

Catholic Central is 11-2, 5-1 in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League.

Catholic Central Basketball

The Shamrock basketball struggles continue with a 62-42 defeat at Brother Rice on Friday. Dustin Hess scored eight points to lead Catholic Central (2-8, 1-5). Pat Ebbing scored 21 for Brother Rice (8-2, 4-2).

What is SPORTS SPOTLIGHT? Each week, the Novi News takes a closer look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? E-mail: jtheisen@gannett.com.

AT NOVINNEWS.COM: NOVI WILDCATS SPORTS SCHEDULE. CHECK IT OUT!

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NOVI NEWS

Athlete of the Week

Novi senior Jessica Jodoin, Cheer



Jodoin filled in for a teammate that fell ill before the Novi Invitational. She stepped in and performed the part of her teammate as well as hitting the back tuck during the second round. Her ability to step in and perform helped the Wildcats finish in fourth place but only a couple points out of second.



Hillside battles in 'Meet in the Middle'



Submitted photo

The Hillside swimmers stand together after the meet against Meads Mill.

Submitted to the Novi News by David Wagner

Hillside vs. Meads Mill

(Event, First place, School)

The Meads Mill Middle School Patriot swim team took an early lead and held off the Hillside Raider swimmers to win the crosstown rivalry 94-77 Jan. 11 at the Northville High School pool. "This meet means every thing to the Meads Mill swimmers," said head coach Amy Balog. "This is the first time Meads Mill has beaten the Hillside swim team. I am so proud of the kids."

Swimming in front of a full house of parents and family, the middle school teams received encouragement from the Northville High School varsity boys and girls swim coaches, Rich Bennetts and Brad Brockway. "Our varsity teams draw swimmers from the middle schools. Come out for the high school team. Swim fast," said Bennett as he and the Northville boys swim team headed off to their meet at Stevenson. Brockway congratulated the swimmers and had the varsity girl swimmers who had volunteered to be timers encourage the middle schoolers to join the team next year.

Meads Mill's 200 medley relay team of Leah Erlandson, Shannon Lohman, Susan Morris and Maddie Evasic won the first event (2:14.27). Alec Wagner from Hillside won the next event, the 200 freestyle (2:18.95). Hillside's Alex Miller finished first (1:09.67) in the 100 individual medley, setting the stage for the rest of the close meet.

"Since Hillside does not have a diving team, Meads Mill received 13 points with Kevin Bain (1:73.40), Shannon Lohman (1:59.67) and Jennifer Jones (1:48.55) finishing first through third. After the diving, Hillside threatened but could not catch the Meads Mill swimmers.

The 100 freestyle saw the closest race of the afternoon with Bofeng Zhang of Meads Mill beating Kevin Courtney of Hillside by inches. Hillside rallied in the 200 freestyle relay with Ryan Winkler, Beth Hadley, Zach Taylor and Miller taking first (1:56.28).

The Patriots and Raiders traded first place finishes in the next two events. Erlandson (1:11.90) from Meads Mill won the 100 backstroke and Hillside's Wagner (1:21.59) finished first in the 100 breaststroke.

In the final event, the 400 freestyle relay, the Meads Mill team Zhang, Ladhoff, Erlandson and Morris touched seven tenths

of a second ahead of the Hillside swimmers cementing their victory.

The Meads Mill team led by captains Kevin Bain, Brittany David, Jill Dobronski and Olivia Martin and the Hillside team led by Bridgett Dunn, Alex Miller, Emily Sklar and Alec Wagner are looking forward to swimming for Northville High School next year.

Hillside coaches Jody Gomez, Jennifer Lawson and Heather Atkinson and Meads Mill coaches Amy Balog, Lisa Bush and Heather Lahee are excited about the progress the swimmers and divers are making.

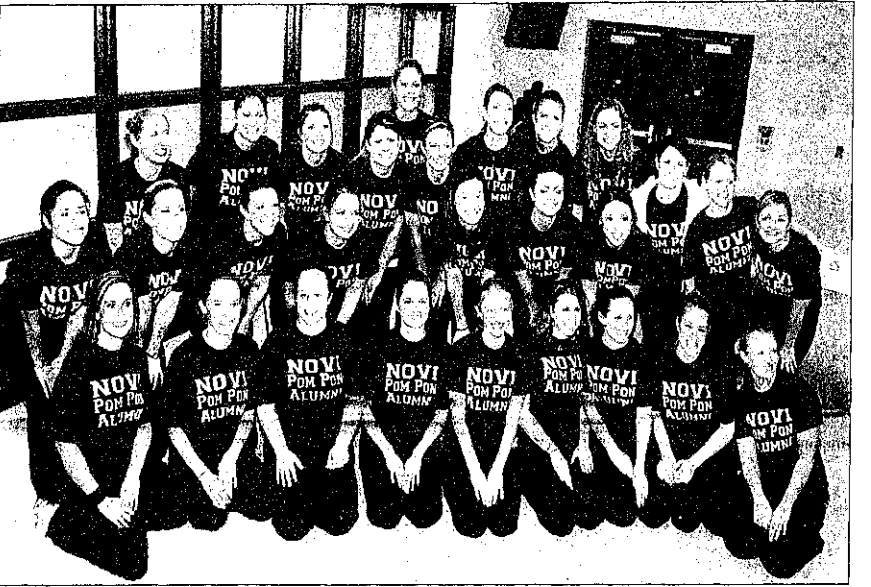
"Our main job is to get the kids ready to compete for Northville High School," Lawson said.



Submitted photo

ThunderCats claim title

The Novi ThunderCats, Pee Wee #2 team participated in The Chicago Midwest Classic hockey tournament Jan. 13th-15th. The ThunderCats capped a fun and exciting weekend by winning the Championship Game. After defeating teams from the Chicago and St. Louis areas, the ThunderCats beat the USA Ice Dragons from West Bloomfield in the semi-finals and then won the final game 4-1 over another great team from Novi, the BobCats. "It was a thrill for the kids to play in the championship game and great to see two teams from Novi defeat teams from across the Midwest to meet in the finals," said ThunderCat coach Dan Meyers. The ThunderCats feature a potent offensive attack led by Tyler Cohen, Sean Danaher, Anthony DeGiorgio, Ben Jenkins, Jake Lennard, Danny Meyers, Sean O'Keefe, A.J. Patrick, Tyler Smith and Nick Wykoff. Goaltender Steven DeMattia is supported by a strong defense anchored by Thomas Borgers, Donovan Burress, Nick Doyle, Paul Fowler, and Erik Frasier.



Submitted photo

Wildcats forever!

The Novi alumni returned to perform a pom pon routine during halftime of a recent basketball game.



Submitted photo

Memories!

The Novi alumni pom pon team performs during halftime of a recent basketball game.

Sport shorts

U-M hosts 3-on-3 soccer tourney

The University of Michigan soccer team presents the fifth annual 3-on-3 Micro-Soccer Shootout Camp on Feb. 10-11 at Oosterbaan Fieldhouse. The \$90 team fee includes four guaranteed games for competitive and recreational divisions for ages seven and older to adult for boys and girls.

Registrations can be found on www.umsooccer.com. For more information, call (734) 647-1201 or e-mail ldurkee@umich.edu. Registrations must be post-marked by Feb. 5. Proceeds will subsidize the men's and women's soccer teams at U-M.

Piston clinic coming Jan. 27

The Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic is coming to Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville on Saturday, Jan. 27. Coach Steve

Moreland will conduct his clinic for boys and girls, grades 1-3 from noon-2:30 p.m., and grades 4-6 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Each participant will receive a "Piston Basketball" T-Shirt free. Parents will be able to purchase Piston tickets at a discount and be invited to attend with their children the popular pre-game shoot around at courtside. Refreshments are provided. Bring your basketball and camera. Cost is \$15 per child. Pre-registration is necessary at (248) 374-5932.

Cash in double digits again

Junior guard/forward Jim Cash (Northville/Detroit Catholic Central) posted 15 points and eight rebounds as Albion College dispatched Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association rival Kalamazoo College, 77-59, Wednesday night. He was 5-of-12 from the field, including 2-of-4 from 3-point range, and 3-of-3 from the free throw line.



Submitted photo

The Meads Mill 400 freestyle relay team smiles after winning the race in 4:12.93.

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Bright

Standings

	KVC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Pinckney	3	1	6	3
Novi	2	1	6	3
Lakeland	2	1	6	2
South Lyon	2	1	3	4
Howell	2	1	3	5
Hartland	1	3	3	6
Milford	1	3	2	7
Brighton	0	3	1	8

	KVC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Hartland	3	0	28	0
Howell	3	0	11	1
Novi	3	0	8	1
Milford	1	2	4	6
Brighton	1	2	9	3
South Lyon	1	2	10	12
Pinckney	0	3	2	11
Lakeland	0	3	0	8

	KVC			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Brighton	7	1	1	11	4	2
Howell	5	2	1	8	4	3
Hartland	5	2	2	9	6	2
Lakeland	4	3	2	7	5	3
Novi	3	4	1	5	7	2
Milford	3	5	1	5	8	3
South Lyon	2	6	0	2	7	0
Pinckney	1	7	0	5	10	1

	KVC			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Lakeland	4	0	0	9	1	0
Novi	4	1	1	16	6	1
South Lyon	3	1	1	14	6	1
Howell	2	2	1	11	5	0
Milford	2	2	1	17	4	2
Brighton	1	2	2	2	6	0
Hartland	1	4	1	10	8	4
Pinckney	0	4	0	8	5	2

Schedule



Basketball
1/26 South Lyon, 7 p.m.
1/30 Hartland, 7 p.m.

Hockey
1/31 Lakeland, 6:30 p.m.

Volleyball
1/25 at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
1/30 at Hartland, 7 p.m.

Wrestling
1/26 KVC at Howell, 5:30 p.m.
1/27 at Holt, 9 a.m.

Boys Swim and Dive
1/25 at Lakeland, 6 p.m.

Cheer
1/31 Brighton, 6 p.m.

Ski Team
1/31 St. Mary's Prep at Alpine Valley, 4 p.m.

Figure Skating
1/27 at Taylor Sportplex, 4 p.m.



Basketball
1/26 U-D Jesuit, 7:30 p.m.
1/30 at Orch. Lake St. Mary's, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey
1/26 at Culver Academy, 7 p.m.
1/27 at Culver Academy, 2 p.m.
1/31 Trenton at Kennedy Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling
1/25 at Ann Arbor Pioneer, 5 p.m.
1/27 at Livonia Churchill, 9 a.m.

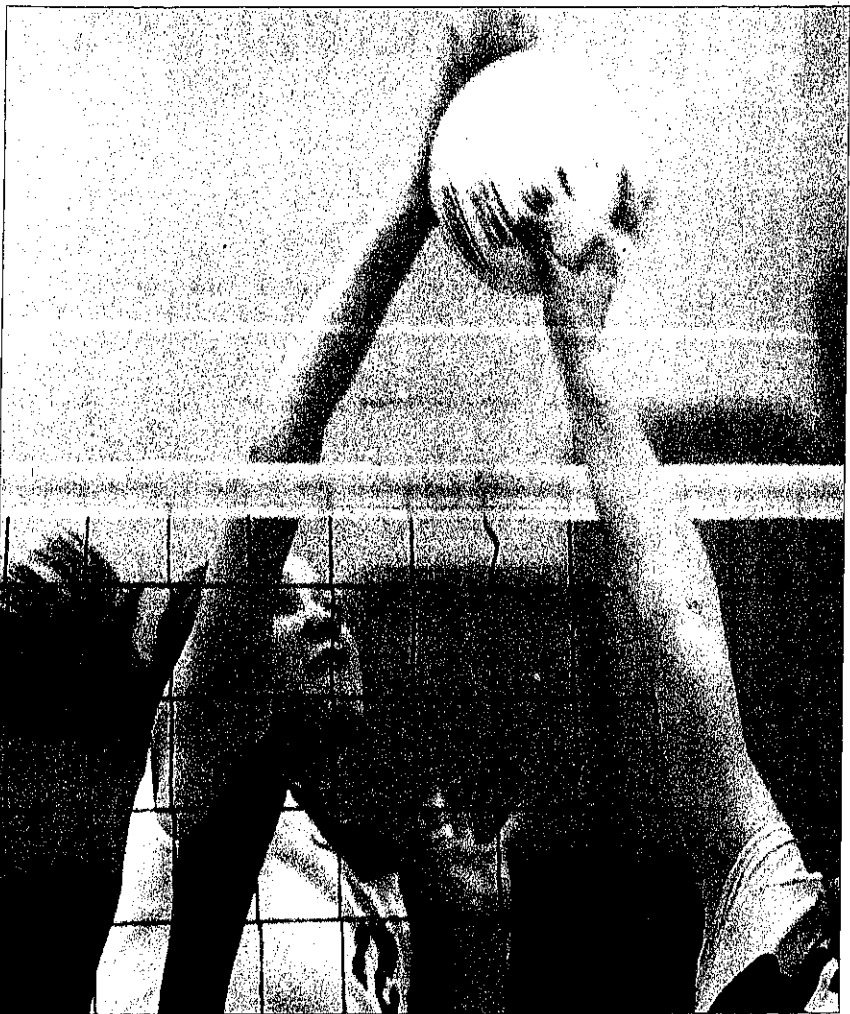
Swim and Dive
1/25 at Ann Arbor Huron, 6 p.m.
1/27 at Lahser HS, Noon

Bowling
1/25 Farm. Harrison at Drakeshire
1/29 Clarenceville at Woodland Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
1/31 Divine Child at Cherry Hill, 3:30 p.m.

Ski Team
1/25 U-D Jesuit at Mt. Brighton, 4:30 p.m.
1/30 Seaholm/Groves at Mt. Brighton, 4:30 p.m.

SMASHING SUCCESS

Novi hockey ready for tough teams



Novi's Lauren Purdy goes up for a spike during the Wildcats' January contest against Hartland.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



Novi's Shannon Cody digs for a serve during warmups to a home game in early January.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



Junior outside hitter Paige Janer celebrates a point during a home match against Hartland.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi Wildcats hockey team faced two non-conference teams this past week and came away undefeated.

Facing Ann Arbor Pioneer last Thursday, the Wildcats were prepared for a tough contest at Ann Arbor Ice Cube. A hard-fought first period saw the Wildcats get on the board first with a beautiful goal from Senior Jeff Donohue, who notched his first of two goals on the night.

The Pioneer tied the game with a fluky shot slipping in undetected by almost everyone except the officials.

Coming back quickly with a go-ahead goal was senior captain Robert Lewis with a blistering wrist shot from the high slot.

Back-and-forth action kept everyone excited through the middle of the second period with this game tied at two goals each, when suddenly, the Wildcats unleashed a barrage of four unanswered goals. Goals by Kyle Potocki, Scott Eberline, Adam Szajner and a second goal by Donohue gave the Wildcats the cushion they needed to keep the Pioneers at bay.

Standing tall in goal was Junior Kevin Michalczuk who was able to log the win for the Cats in a 6-2 win.

Novi 2, Stoney Creek 2

In their second non-conference game of the week, the Wildcats traveled to the Onyx Arena in Rochester on Saturday night to face the No. 6 ranked team in Division 2 — Rochester's Stoney Creek High School. Stoney Creek, coming into this contest having lost only one game all season, was riding high atop their league standings and considered a front runner for the state championship this year.

Fast paced is the only way to describe the action in this game as both teams came out flying right from the first drop of the puck.

"Stoney Creek has tremendous speed and we made the adjustments necessary to play at a higher level tonight," said Novi head coach Todd Krygier.

The Wildcats kept Stoney Creek at bay throughout the first period with junior goaltender Joe DeNova making a number of key saves.

After taking two penalties during the same play and giving Stoney Creek a two-man advantage, the Cougars capitalized on the power play and scored to go up 1-0.

Not waiting long to get on the scoreboard, senior Robert Lewis got the Wildcats back into the game, banging home a rebound off Shawn Baxter's shot during a Wildcat power play of their own a few minutes later.

The third period got off to another fast start with both teams having good scoring opportunities at both ends of the ice. The Cougars went up 2-1 on a go ahead goal with less than six minutes left in the game, but the Wildcats battled back with a tying goal by Senior Ryan Richardson just two minutes later, taking full advantage of a late game penalty by Stoney Creek.

"Some ties are good ties, and this was a good tie for us" noted coach Todd Krygier following the game. "This was a top-ranked team in the state that we've battled in the past two weeks without a defeat. This says a lot about how hard these guys have worked this season and how much they've learned."

"I'm proud of the way they've played since coming back from up North."

Submitted to the Novi News

WRESTLING: Wildcat lightweights turn it up in tournament competitions



Novi Wrestling teammates Robbie Yusko (125 lbs.) and Justin Pullin (112 lbs., middle) weigh Jon Lichoroblec (103 lbs.). The three make up a mighty force on the lower end of the scale for the Wildcats.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Continued from 1B

experience than most of his opponents. "My freshman year I was JV. Last year I was mainly JV, got a couple of looks at varsity and didn't do so hot," Lichoroblec said. "This year I know what I'm expecting and what I need to get done."

Huss puts a lot of value into winning the Oakland County tournament.

"To pin his way though that tournament is really exciting," Huss said. "You don't have that many Oakland County champs. It's a big deal."

"People had been hearing about him just through some of the offseason tournaments that the kids wrestled in. When he won Oakland County, that woke everybody up. Immediately he was ranked in the state."

Pullin also started the year on a hot streak, getting wins in his first nine matches. He is 24-5 as of Jan. 20.

Pullin won the Salem Invite with an 8-7 win in the final match, but he also has placed second at the Howell invite and in the Williamston tournament and fourth at Oakland County.

"It feels good to accomplish a goal of mine," Pullin said. "It feels good to have an individual title from an invitational. We

try and lead by example — hard work and dedication and hope the rest of the team follows."

Yusko broke into the championship club in Novi's last tournament at Brighton. He earned a pin in the first match, won a close 8-6 match in the next match and finished off the finals with a 7-1 win.

Yusko is 25-8 and has started the season with seven straight wins.

"It was great," Yusko said of getting the title. "That's what I've been working hard for all summer, going to camps and stuff."

Lofty goals

All three have season goals of making it to the state meet and going for a medal.

Huss agrees with their thoughts.

"We're going to take it one goal at a time," he said. "We're going to start with the KVC championships, and then we'll worry about districts, regionals and state. I think they all have potential to place at state."

"If they got hot, who knows what could happen."

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

Wet 'n' Wild-Cats



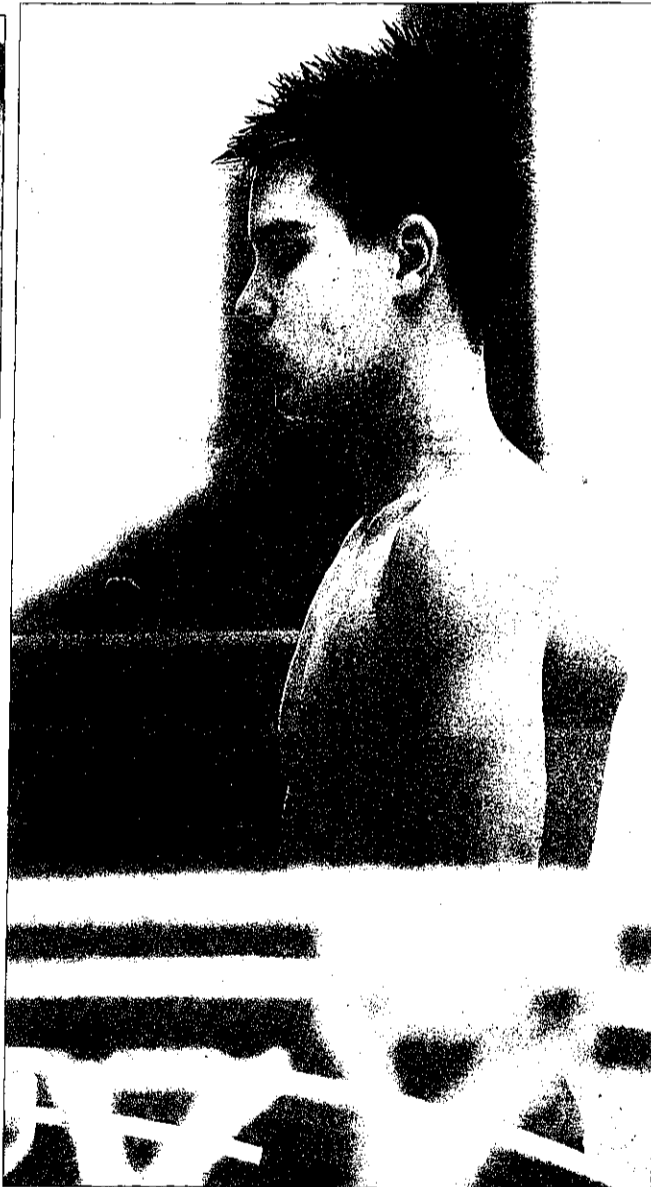
Shoichi Tamura swims the 200-meter medley for Novi High during a January home meet. Tamura won his heat in the time of 1:08:10.



Wildcat Dan Melster swims for Novi High School.



Novi's Kylie Malarkey swims in a home meet against Pinckney.



Wildcat Alex Arbour contemplates a dive before hitting the water during a home meet.



Novi Wildcat Rob Oikarinen swims during a home meet against Pinckney.

Photos by
**JOHN
HEIDER**
Novi News

Photos on the Web:
www.novinews.com

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Festive WINTER FLAVORS

FAMILY FEATURES

There's a chill in the air. Winter is here. As the days grow shorter and the weather gets colder, savory courses and rich, delectable sauces replace lighter meals. Soon it will be time to entertain friends and family at special holiday meals.

A delicious, juicy New York strip steak from Allen Brothers crowned with a sweet sauce of California Raisins and red wine makes a special meal, anytime. Crunchy, roasted USA-Grown Peanuts add depth and flare to a green bean salad for a generous reminder that winter brings a multitude of new flavor options. Combinations of familiar ingredients like USA-Grown Raisins, California Raisins and Allen Brothers prime meats increase flavor options to unbelievable levels. Consider serving up the best pairings of ingredients, as showcased in the following dishes. Each recipe serves six, or can be doubled, tripled or increased even more for larger crowds. For more information on the additional side dishes shown in the photos, visit www.LoveYourRaisins.com.

Order The Great Steakhouse Steaks, the very finest selections of USDA prime beef, from Allen Brothers at www.absteaks.com or call 800-957-0111. Then, serve your choice with one of these tasty recipes or one of many others found at www.LoveYourRaisins.com and www.nationalpeanutboard.org.

Wise Choices Sweepstakes

What's the wisest choice you've ever made? Go to www.LoveYourRaisins.com to enter the Wise Choices Sweepstakes for a chance to win a trip to a luxurious California spa. Enter and receive a Wise Choices On-the-Go bag filled with spa treats as well as healthy snacking options with California Raisins. Supply is limited so enter now. Contest ends January 15, 2007.



Spicy California Raisin-Wine Sauced New York Strip With Warm Green Bean-USA-Grown Peanut Salad

Spicy California Raisin-Wine Sauced New York Strip With Warm Green Bean-USA-Grown Peanut Salad

Serves: 6

New York Strip
2 tablespoons chopped garlic
2 tablespoons cumin
2 tablespoons ground coriander
1 1/2 tablespoons salt
1/4 cup olive oil
6 New York strip steaks (about 12 ounces each)

Spicy Raisin-Wine Sauce

1/2 cup red wine
1/4 cup California raisins
1 tablespoon honey
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon chopped fresh oregano
1/2 tablespoon chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon chipotle peppers canned in adobo sauce
1/2 tablespoon chopped shallot
Salt and pepper to taste

Warm Green Bean Salad

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 1/2 pounds fresh green beans, trimmed and blanched
2 tablespoons chopped shallot
1/2 cup roasted red peppers, cut into matchstick-size pieces (Julienne)
1 cup roasted USA-grown peanuts
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine garlic, cumin, coriander, salt and olive oil in small bowl and mix together. Rub onto steaks and arrange in shallow dish; refrigerate 1 to 2 hours.

In small saucepan, heat wine just to boiling for sauce. Measure raisins into small bowl and pour wine over; let stand 10 to 15 minutes until raisins are soft. Add remaining ingredients and puree in food processor or blender; set aside.

For salad, heat oil in large skillet and sauté shallot over medium-high heat 2 to 3 minutes. Add remaining ingredients; cook until heated through and beans are tender-crisp.

To serve, remove steak from refrigerator; drain and grill over high heat for 4 minutes per side until preferred doneness (145°F for medium rare). Remove from grill and drizzle with raisin wine sauce. Serve with green bean-peanut salad.

Grilled Veal Chop With California Raisin Pilaf and Toasted USA-Grown Peanuts

Serves: 6

Veal
6 veal chops (about 10 ounces each)
1 12-ounce bottle garlic-olive oil marinade
Salt and pepper, to taste

Rice Pilaf

1 5.9-ounce package rice pilaf mix
1/2 cup California raisins
1 cup USA-grown peanuts, toasted
1/4 cup chopped parsley

Combine chops and marinade in shallow pan; let stand 1 to 2 hours in refrigerator, turning occasionally. Cook pilaf according to package directions. Add remaining ingredients to hot pilaf and mix together. Keep hot.

Remove chops from marinade. Discard used marinade and grill chops over high heat 5 to 6 minutes per side until done (145°F for medium rare). Spoon 1/4 cup pilaf onto each serving plate; arrange grilled veal chop on top. Serve immediately.

Grilled Filet Mignon With California Raisin-Onion Jam and USA-Grown Peanut Garden Sauté

Serves: 6

Raisin-Onion Jam
1/2 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced (julienne)
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1/2 tablespoon honey
1/4 cup California raisins
1 small sprig fresh thyme
1/2 teaspoon fresh lemon zest
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Salt and pepper to taste

Blue Cheese Glaze

1/2 cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1/2 tablespoon chopped parsley
1/2 tablespoon chopped chives
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Garden Sauté

3 ounces steak-cut bacon, diced
2 1/4 tablespoons chopped garlic
1 1/2 tablespoons chopped shallot
6 cups fresh chopped Swiss chard leaves or beet greens, stems and ribs removed
3/4 cup roasted USA-grown peanuts
Salt and pepper to taste

Filet

6 filet mignon (about 6 ounces each)
Olive oil
Salt and pepper, to taste

For jam, heat oil in 12-inch skillet over medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft. Stir in vinegar and honey; cook 1 minute. Add raisins, thyme and lemon zest; cook over medium heat until reduced. Remove thyme sprig and divide mixture in half. Add half to food processor or blender and pulse until smooth. Combine with remaining mixture in skillet and mix well. Season to taste and set aside.

In small bowl, combine ingredients for blue cheese glaze; mix well and set aside. Cook bacon in large sautépan over medium-high heat for 6 to 7 minutes, until almost crispy. Add garlic and shallot; cook 2 to 3 minutes more until soft. Stir in Swiss chard; cook and toss until wilted, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in peanuts and season to taste.

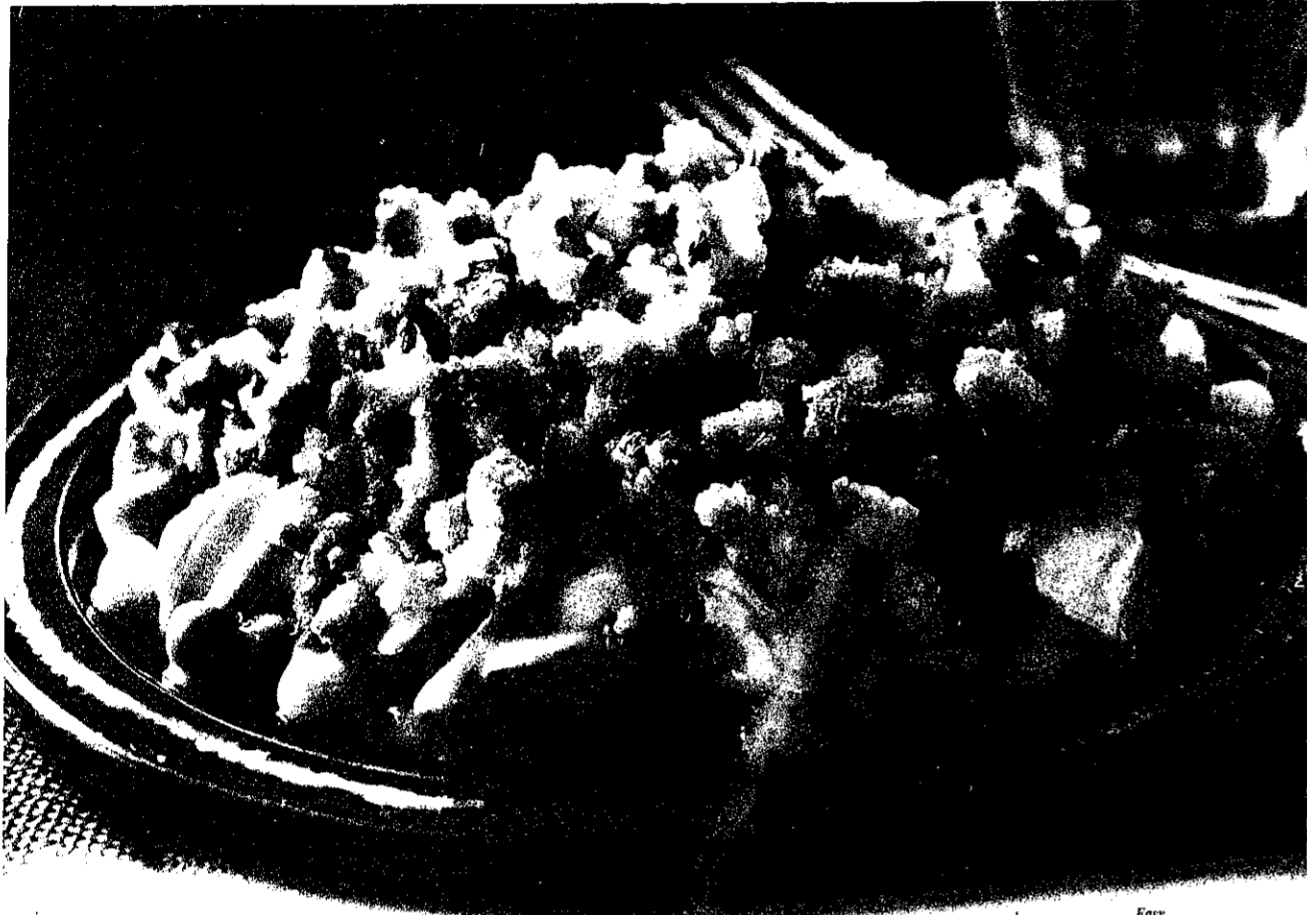
To serve, brush steaks with oil and season with salt and pepper. Spoon 1 to 2 tablespoons of glaze onto each steak. Grill steaks over high heat for 4 to 5 minutes per side until they reach preferred doneness (145°F for medium rare) and glaze is golden brown. Remove from grill and add a heaping dollop of jam. Serve with garden sauté.



Grilled Veal Chop With California Raisin Pilaf With USA-Grown Toasted Peanuts

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Easy Chicken Bake

Easy ONE-DISH MEALS Give Chilly Days a Warm Boost



Bruschetta Chicken Bake

FAMILY FEATURES

With the chill in the air, winter days are just the right time to heat up the kitchen with warm and inviting meals. By using dinner as the centerpiece for fond family moments, you'll have the makings for a tradition that can be repeated anytime of the week.

Even with a busy schedule, you can make time for an easy one-dish meal — especially one that can be prepared in just 10 minutes. That means more time to enjoy family and friends.

One out of two moms reports that she prepares a one-dish meal at least three times a week, according to a national survey conducted by Opinion Research Corp. and Kraft Foods that recently polled 1,143 women 18 years and older in the United States. In general, 40 percent of women cook a one-dish meal three or more times a week, while more than half of women typically prepare a one-dish meal twice a week or less. Being able to put together a complete meal, with the meat and vegetables in one dish, can be an appealing option on busy weeknights at the family dinner table.

With an easy, home-cooked meal, you can give the family a chance to "chill out" after dinner by planning an at-home movie or game night. Time will be on your side when you keep dinner prep and cleanup to a minimum by fixing a satisfying one-dish recipe like Easy Chicken Bake. These recipes use items you typically have on hand in your kitchen so you'll always be ready to prepare a favorite one-dish meal on busy weeknights.

Consider bringing a popular appetizer to the center of the plate with this inspiring Bruschetta Chicken Bake — a one-dish meal that's sure to warm up the family after a chilly day. For more warm and inviting meal ideas, visit www.stovetop.com and www.kraftfoods.com.

Easy Chicken Bake

Prep: 10 min.
Bake: 30 min.

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) Stove Top Stuffing Mix for Chicken
- 1-1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/3 cup Breakstone's or Knudsen Sour Cream
- 1 bag (16 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed, drained

PREHEAT oven to 400°F. Prepare stuffing mix as directed on package. Set aside. **MIX** chicken, soup, sour cream and vegetables in 13x9-inch baking dish; top with the stuffing. **BAKE** 30 min. or until chicken is cooked through.

Makes 6 servings.
Nutrition per serving: 420 calories, 15g total fat, 4.5g saturated fat, 80mg cholesterol, 990mg sodium, 35g carbohydrate, 3g dietary fiber, 5g sugars, 31g protein, vitamin A 30% DV, vitamin C 67% DV, calcium 8% DV, iron 15% DV.

Easy Cheesy Chicken Bake

Prep: 10 min.
Total: 40 min.

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) Stove Top Stuffing Mix for Chicken
- 1-1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 bag (14 oz.) frozen broccoli florets, thawed, drained
- 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1-1/2 cups Kraft Shredded Cheddar Cheese

PREHEAT oven to 400°F. Prepare stuffing mix as directed on package. Set aside. **MIX** chicken and broccoli in 13x9-inch baking dish. Add soup, milk and cheese; mix well. Top with the prepared stuffing. **BAKE** 30 min. or until heated through.

Makes 6 servings, about 1-1/3 cups each.
Nutrition per serving: 480 calories, 23g total fat, 9g saturated fat, 100mg cholesterol, 1,180mg sodium, 30g carbohydrate, 3g dietary fiber, 5g sugars, 38g protein, vitamin A 30% DV, vitamin C 60% DV, calcium 30% DV, iron 15% DV.

Bruschetta Chicken Bake

Prep: 10 min.
Total: 40 min.

- 1 can (14-1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) Stove Top Stuffing Mix for Chicken
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 tsp. dried basil leaves
- 1 cup Kraft Shredded Low-Moisture Part-Skim Mozzarella Cheese

PREHEAT oven to 400°F. Place tomatoes in medium bowl. Add stuffing mix, water and

garlic; stir just until stuffing mix is moistened. Set aside. **PLACE** chicken in 13x9-inch baking dish; sprinkle with the basil and cheese. Top with stuffing mixture. **BAKE** 30 min. or until chicken is cooked through. Makes 6 servings, 1 cup each. **Substitute:** Prepare as directed, omitting the garlic and using Stove Top Stuffing Mix Italian Style with Roasted Garlic. **Nutrition per serving (recipe only):** 310 calories, 7g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 80mg cholesterol, 710mg sodium, 25g carbohydrate, 2g dietary fiber, 4g sugars, 33g protein, vitamin A 10% DV, vitamin C 15% DV, calcium 20% DV, iron 15% DV.

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The dads they are a changing ... diapers that is!



"Uh-oh! Let's go find Mommy."

Dirty diapers can be a surefire way to prompt some guys to call in reinforcements and run for the hills. Dads admit their roles in parenting may be changing, except when it comes to messy diapers.

More and more men are seeking new ways to bond with their children — especially with new babies. Armin Brott, "Mr. Dad" radio show host and author of "The New Father: A Dad's Guide to the First Year," calls today's dads the "trailblazers" since they are doing many things, including changing diapers, which many of their own dads didn't do.

Although 92 percent of dads consider themselves "skilled" at diaper changing, more than half admit to avoiding the task or passing it off, usually to mom, especially if the diaper is "messy," according to an August 2006 survey conducted by Pampers in the United States. Only 10 percent of dads surveyed view diaper changes as a valuable time to bond with their babies, which Brott has identified as a missed opportunity for fathers.

"Even though some dads don't perceive diaper changing as a bonding experience, it really is a great way to get to know your new baby and to start building a strong relationship — that's a secret that mothers have known for years," said Brott, author of five books and a newspaper column about dads' roles in parenting. "I encourage dads to maximize every moment spent with their babies, and there are a lot of moments spent changing diapers during their first few years."

Brott suggests that moms help dads by setting them up for success and giving them the right tools to help them make the most of everyday moments like diaper changes. Using quality diapers and wipes can make a difference when it comes to helping moms and dads alike feel more comfortable changing diapers. Pampers Sensitive Wipes and Baby Wipes have a new mesh liner that helps absorb wetness and runny mess, keeping it away from baby's delicate skin. Having the right sized diaper with a snug yet comfortable fit that does not gap or sag also helps avoid leakage. Babies grow and change so much during the first years that it's smart for parents to be prepared with the next size up — just in case.

Another way to increase dad's comfort zone with diapering is to prepare a diaper bag just for Dad, or even a backpack that fits his style (without the pasted teddy bear designs) that will be comfortable and easy for him to carry when he's out about. Stock dad's bag with all the essentials — diapers, wipes, toys, change of clothes, etc. — so that it's packed and ready to go whenever dad is.

Finally, they may not ask for help, but don't assume any new parent intuitively knows how to change a diaper. Talk them through a demonstration, and practice during less stressful times at home when they are not alone with a crying baby.

"Mr. Dad's" Diapering 101

For nervous new dads, changing their own newborn may be their first diapering experience. "Even basic tasks like diaper changes can be overwhelming at first," said Armin Brott, parenting radio show host and author known as "Mr. Dad." "There's nothing wrong with admitting that we all need a little help!" Brott and Pampers offer step-by-step diapering tips:

- Usually obvious signs or behavior will signal the need of a diaper change, but if uncertain, check first for odor or fullness. Always put on a fresh diaper before bedtime, nap, going out and when baby wakes up.
- Ready supplies before starting: new diaper, wipes and fresh clothing, if needed. Have a towel handy just in case.
- Find a flat, sturdy surface and lay down a soft, clean changing pad.
- Keep one hand on baby at all times. Don't rely on changing table belts to keep squirming babies safe from falls.



- Hang a mobile above the changing table at home (but out of baby's reach) to help occupy baby during changes.
- Clean baby's bottom well using a gentle baby wipe such as Pampers Sensitive Wipes to both clean and condition baby's delicate skin. Wipe a baby girl from front to back.
- Gently lift by baby's ankles when removing the dirty diaper and slide a clean diaper under her bottom.
- Fold down the front edge of the diaper on newborns so it doesn't rub the umbilical cord area. Using a quality diaper can help make diaper changes easy — new Pampers Swaddlers have a mesh liner that helps capture wetness and runny mess to keep it away from baby's delicate skin.
- Fasten the diaper snugly without pinching baby's skin. The fasteners on quality diapers allow for readjustment if needed.
- Wash up. Diaper wipes are great for cleaning changing area surfaces, changing pads and hands if soap and water are not readily available.
- Practice makes perfect. Diapering is an acquired skill, so more experience means less time spent on each change. In no time new dads will be able to do it with their eyes closed, although they probably shouldn't.

More diapering and parenting tips and expert advice for all of baby's stages can be found at www.pampers.ca.



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, January 25, 2007

Home Owners Do You Know About... Environmental Risk???

Also January 2007 is National Radon Awareness Month

Environmental Risk: It's routine in today's market for buyers to hire inspectors to examine the home they plan to buy, however a growing number of home owners are also seeking information on possible environmental risks nearby. Until recently, it was mostly commercial property buyers who sought such information, or home sellers required by state laws to disclose it.

We can provide Environmental Reports which contain information about local environmental concerns such as immediate proximity to a hazardous waste site, or a former gas station or dry cleaner leaks in underground tanks, spills, etc.

Consumers are developing an insatiable appetite for more and more information about the local area they live in. Environmental Data Resources, which has a business arrangement with our franchise organization, Pillar to Post®. We are providing this type of information to home buyers and home owners.

These reports are based on searches of federal, state and local databases that list environmental hazards located in the local area of a residential property. The reports provide both good news; no environmental hazards nearby, as well as identify locations which have been identified with environmental issues. This allows the home owners to be informed of environmental conditions in the local environment.

Radon in your home: Even closer to home is the issue of elevated levels of Radon in home. More than 20,000 deaths annually have been attributed to Radon Gas.

Radon is not caused by the age of the home, or style of house. It comes from a radioactive decay of uranium in the soil. Typically Radon Gas enters the home through the foundation, around floor drains, sump pumps, wall cracks, etc. The process to measure for Radon Gas in your home is simple.

We are certified to measure for levels of Radon in homes. We place a Continuous Radon Monitor in the lowest livable level of the home. A Certified Radon Test requires a minimum of 48 hours to collect the sample. We typically test for 60 - 72 hours duration. You can live in the home during the measurement process. The exterior windows and doors must remain closed; however normal entry/exit is fine. Normal use of the Heat & Cooling is recommended.

If your home has elevated levels of Radon Gas there is a simple solution and fix. A ventilation stack with a fan that runs 24 hours a day is installed. This will place a reverse suction on the soil gases, and pull the Radon gas from the soil under your foundation, and safely vent it to the exterior where the wind blows it away. It is also recommended that cracks in the foundation floor, walls, and slabs be professionally sealed.

The system is typically installed using your sump crotch which also has the cover sealed. Professional Radon Mitigation Companies provide a guarantee that the levels of Radon will be reduced to a level in accordance with EPA safe guidelines. (2 pCi/L or below)

Elevated levels of radon can be fixed. Don't allow levels of radon to be a health concern for your family.

Call us to have your home checked for elevated levels of Radon in your home as well as provide you with an Environmental Data Report for your local area.

Randall Patterson
Certified Pillar To Post®
NAHB-CRI Home Inspector
(248) 753-3422
Toll Free: 877-787-3800

Randall Patterson is a Certified Home Inspector with Pillar To Post® serving Western Oakland and Livingston Counties.

For additional information please visit our web site at www.pthome.com/westside/indivision.

We provide professional home inspections and home environmental testing services for Radon, Mold, Pest, Well & Septic, Air & Water Quality testing.

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Mandell helps ease emotional, financial stress of divorce

Family law attorney takes a unique approach to law

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

Mark Mandell is a well-respected attorney who many in the community trust to handle legal matters that are of the utmost importance. The family-law attorney helps ease clients through divorces with as little financial and emotional stress as possible.

Mandell has spent the last eight years working with clients who have substantial assets that they wish to preserve, even after a divorce.

After spending a number of years at Fausone Bohn, LLP, he has just been made partner. Mandell is now more committed than ever to providing quality legal representation in divorce matters that need careful attention.

PRESERVING BUSINESS ASSETS

Business owners face a particularly daunting situation during a divorce, because a divorcing spouse is often entitled to half of the value of the business. If the business is not valued fairly, substantial losses can occur.

After providing representation for a number of well-known business owners and CEOs of major corporations, Mandell is familiar with the process of correctly valuing business assets. He is someone who understands the process and can make sure that business assets are dealt with fairly.

Recently Mandell represented Roderick Rickman, CEO of MPS Environmental, the sixth largest minority-owned business in Michigan with gross revenues in excess of \$400 million a year.

Mandell teams up with highly respected professionals who work together to minimize loss of assets during a divorce. He works with CPAs and financial professionals who have experience and credibility in valuing businesses and presenting the information to the court.

"I choose professionals that are credible and are respected by the judges," said Mandell. "That makes a big difference."

"Some attorneys don't understand the difference between the revenue and the value of a business. Or they have a 'smoking gun' witness who provides an expert opinion that is way off base. The judges can tell where the truth lies."

"I know that using credible professionals is going to stand up to the scrutiny of a judge and go farther than those who try to stretch the truth."

GOOD JUDGMENT, SOLID EXPERIENCE

Experience and good judgment make Mark Mandell an asset to all of his clients.

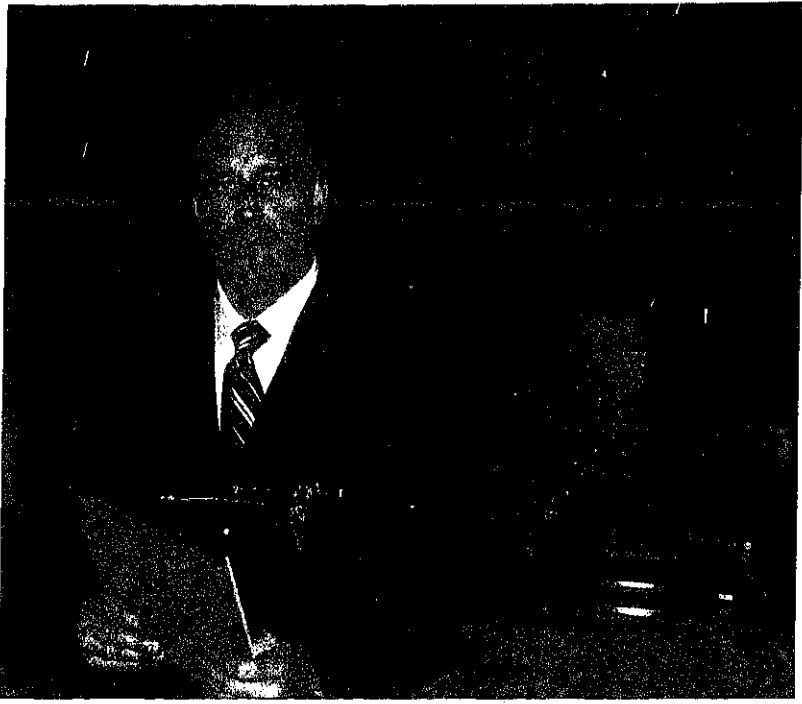
He makes realistic requests of the court that he believes have a good chance of being granted. He's not a show-boast lawyer who makes wild demands on the other party that are sure to be denied by the court.

And he favors resolving differences amicably rather than fighting over small details. It's usually the best thing for both parties, and makes a favorable impression on the court.

"I don't argue. I advocate for my clients," said Mandell. "I use logic and common sense to advocate and to get a good resolution."

"Going through a divorce is very stressful. I talk to my clients about seeking the help they need from counselors and doctors, plus taking care of themselves by eating well and exercising. It's all an important part of getting through the divorce and piecing your life back together."

— Mark Mandell
Attorney



Photos by ED FLEMING/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Mark Mandell teams up with highly respected professionals who work together to minimize loss of assets during a divorce. He works with CPAs and financial professionals who have experience and credibility in valuing businesses and presenting the information to the court.

But when amicable discussions aren't fruitful, Mandell is not afraid to try a case in court.

He's an experienced trial lawyer in both civil and criminal law. Mandell was a township prosecutor in the past. He earned awards for trial advocacy during his time at the Thomas Cooley School of Law and later became an adjunct professor in trial workshop.

In addition, the firm of Fausone Bohn, LLP can help clients with their overall legal needs. Mandell also provides representation for cases of drunk driving. His partners and associates can take care of other types of legal matters such as probate and corporate law, plus business and estate planning.

RESPECTED COMMUNITY LEADER

Mark Mandell is respected in both the legal field and the community at large.

He grew up in a well-known Northville family who lived just around the corner from where his offices are today.

Mandell spent his childhood on the sidelines of the Northville High School football team with his dad, Dr. Robert Mandell, who was the team physician for 40 years and also served on the school board.

After playing football at Springfield College and graduating from James Madison College at Michigan State University, Mandell has turned around to help support the Northville football program. In the past he coached the junior varsity team. He was just appointed director of football operations.

Now Mandell is bringing in Mark Dantonio and the coaching staff of the MSU football team for a coaching workshop. Coaches from across Southeast

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Michigan will benefit from the training. In the past Mandell served as chairman of the 13th Republican Congressional Committee so he has experience working closely with elected officials at the local, state and national level.

Mandell still lives in his hometown of Northville with his wife, Vanessa, and his sons, Jack and Tom.

MAKING DIVORCE LESS PAINFUL

Mandell is just as committed to the total welfare of his clients. He operates according to a holistic philosophy, taking care that his clients are served legally and financially, but also that he provides referrals for their physical and mental health.

"Going through a divorce is very stressful," he said. "I talk to my clients about seeking the help they need from counselors and doctors, plus taking care of themselves by eating well and exercising. It's all an important part of getting through the divorce and piecing your life back together."

The experienced attorney tries to make the unpredictable divorce process more predictable. He explains important concepts early on, so that clients can begin to accept the realities of the legal system and not feel disappointed with outcomes.

It can help clients work toward healing when they understand and feel satisfied with money and custody judgments.

Mandell has seen that there is nothing worse than couples bickering about every detail or fighting out unrealistic positions, sometimes for the sake of revenge. He helps clients to see the divorce from the perspective of resolving conflicts, not starting conflicts that can make things worse for a family.

"I ask my clients to take the time to think about how their actions affect the lives of their children," said Mandell. "We have a duty to think about what is best for them."



Mark Mandell is respected in both the legal field and the community at large.

REDUCING ATTORNEY FEES

During a divorce, high attorney fees can only exacerbate financial stress. Mandell specifically works with clients on keeping his fees low.

He encourages clients to go through personal types of paperwork on their own, if possible, instead of charging to prepare it as other attorneys commonly do. He also gives couples an opportunity to decide what belongings each person will take from the home, instead of accumulating fees by disputing it.

"It's not worth it to spend \$500 in fees arguing about \$25 pots and pans," he explained. "It's best for everyone to resolve things amicably."

Many clients over the last decade have found that Mark Mandell charges reasonable fees as he helps resolve a divorce with the least amount of financial and emotional stress possible.

We turn the legal process into your problem solving tool

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FAUSONE BOHN, LLP

Attorneys and Counselors

Mark Mandell

Family and Criminal Law

- Civil Litigation
- Land Use Law
- Environment Law
- Corporate Law
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- Criminal Law
- Veterans Law