

# SEASON'S GREETINGS

# Novi News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2007

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## Fuerst Future

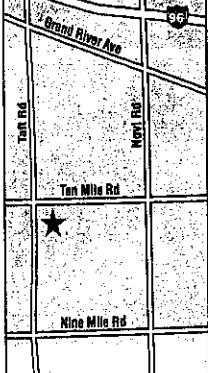
■ Review of historical property begins

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

Plans to review potential uses for the Fuerst Farmstead are in motion.

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### Fuerst Farmstead



SOURCE: City of Novi

Currently, upon the 6.5 acres of the city-owned, historical property, sits a home, two barns, a well house, gardens and an orchard on the southeast corner of 10 Mile and Taft roads.

Some city officials feel the public property is an underutilized resource in the core of the community.

"I think we need to know all the options for this property," said councilman David Staudt. "We really need to decide if we want our only real historical district to be on the corner of our municipal property."

The idea to review potential uses for the property became a priority with plans for the new library.

"The construction of the new library may cause the Old Township Hall building to be relocated," said Randy Auler, Parks, Recreation and Forestry director. "So it makes sense to look at the whole property and its future use."

With the city council's 5-1 approval Monday night, requests for proposals were sent out. Councilman Andrew Mutch dissented.

Once a consultant is hired, they will be responsible for preparing a report with recommendations regarding the permanent location of the Old Township Hall, whether it be the Fuerst Farm or another location, and the long-term uses of the farmstead property.

"If they go ahead and hire a consultant, I think it's critical they

hire someone with adequate, professional background and expertise in the potential of historical properties," said Kathy Mutch, chair of the Historical Commission. "What makes that particular house and those barns valuable and historically significant is they are in their original location."

Some examples of potential uses that may be identified for the property include a historical park that would incorporate the farmstead and Old Township Hall, an active recreational use such as a soccer field, a community or cultural center or a use associated with the library.

"What you want is a site that offers a variety of activities that serve a broad range of interests," Mutch said. "Most people who are involved with historical preservation realize that adaptive re-use is the most common way of preserving buildings."

Auler said a plan was done in June 2000, but never implemented. "It's a good time to look at what the community wants to use that property for," he said. "We want to have a lot of citizen involvement for the potential use of that property."

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext 103 or kmurad@gan-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

### Snow Day!

The hill at Novi's north Lakeshore Park was packed with sledders Monday afternoon. Novi schools were closed and the Department of Public Works' employees worked hard managing the season's first major snowfall, despite the fact Winter doesn't officially begin until Saturday.

## No trade for Novi center

■ Plans pulled for possible flea mart

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER



Submitted photo

Former Novi Expo Center owner Kevin Adell.

Kevin Adell, owner of the former Novi Expo Center pulled the plug on plans of opening the 320,000-square-foot facility at Novi Road and Interstate 96 as a Gibraltar Trade Center-like business.

Adell was scheduled to reappear in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the third time next month, but withdrew the petition. "I decided not to go forward

with the trade center," Adell said. "I realized it was a lost fight."

Adell said his decision is a result of interference of former Expo Center manager Blair Bowman.

The interference, Adell said, is regarding parking, and he has filed a lawsuit against Bowman.

Bowman, who is president and owner of Novi Expo Center Inc., refutes Adell's claims.

"Kevin Adell, through his company Novi Trade Center, is claiming without any basis in fact that Blair Bowman, has allegedly interfered with his attempts to open a trade center in the former Novi Expo Center facility ... Mr. Adell is once again abusively

using the court system to harass and attempt to intimidate Blair Bowman and Novi Expo Center Inc. from protecting its rights under the long-term lease of the former Novi Expo Center facility," said a statement issued by Novi Expo Center Inc.

Scott Smith of Clark Hill, on behalf of the Adell Brothers Children's Trust, was petitioning the zoning board for release of a previous decision deaying the use of a retail trade center at the building or, alternatively, a use variance.

At the November meeting, Zoning Board of Appeals mem-

continued on 5A

## Students ring the bell, entertain crowd



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Ben Maynard (left), Evan Giampa and Leslie Brown.

By Chrls Jackett  
STAFF WRITER

Sixteen-year-old Novi High School juniors Leslie Brown, Evan Giampa and Benjamin Maynard spent eight hours at Twelve Oaks Mall the weekend after Thanksgiving, but they didn't spend any of it shopping.

The students were just a few to spend their time at the mall ringing the bell for Salvation Army since Thanksgiving.

"We have been doing this since

at least 1990 through the Farmington Hills branch Salvation Army," said Barbara Clift, volunteer coordinator and business teacher at Novi High School. "I'm pretty proud of the kids. They've been doing it since Thanksgiving, Fridays from 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. There's over 150 kids, from freshmen to seniors. People give more when there's young people standing there."

Maynard got involved with the program last year as part of his

service requirements for National Honor Society, although Clift said more than half the kids have no ties to the society.

After his first experience, Maynard spread the word and added some excitement.

"I did bell ringing last year and it was kind of boring, so we thought we'd draw a little more attention. Instruments make a lot of noise," Maynard said with a laugh. "I got a bunch of friends because we wanted to help out together."

As the trio collected donations at the Sears entrance closest to Lord & Taylor, Maynard and Brown played trumpets and Giampa, with bass clarinet available, juggled Koosh balls for passers-by. All three are members of the high school band and played Christmas music the band had been working on.

"I thought it would be a good way to help out the community. I actually had fun, in particular,

continued on 11A

## NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



### FRIDAY

Join the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce for a Financial Round Table discussion at Garnish, 25875 Novi Road, from 7:30-9 a.m. The gathering is free to all. Contact Whitney at (248) 347-4622 or wmgnc@yahoo.com or visit www.greaternovitchamber.com for more information.

### SATURDAY

It's the first day of winter! Take a trip to Kensington Metro Park, 2240 W. Bruno Road, in Milford from noon-4 p.m. for Sleigh Rides or Hayrides. The weather will deter-



children 3-12 and \$3 for adults. Call (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178 for more information.

### SUNDAY

With two days until Christmas and three days until Kwanzaa, it's time to crunch down on getting any remain-



ing holiday shopping finished. Twelve Oaks Mall, 27500 Novi Road, will be open from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. to provide a multitude of stores. Santa Claus will also be seeing children at the center court from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. The mall will be open 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, with Santa seeing children from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. each day, and 6-8 p.m. all weekend. Visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com for more information.

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# MY CITY COUNCIL

## Winners of the holiday house contest announced

Neighborhood and small business manager Cindy Uglow and Mayor David Landry presented Jeff and Carol Seelenbinder and their two daughters with a prize and certificate for winning the holiday house decorating contest. The Seelenbinders, who live in Aldington Park subdivision, said they used between 20,000-25,000 lights.

For the first time ever, there was a tie for first place. Along with the Seelenbinders, Michael and Karen Curtis also received a prize and certificate, but they were not in attendance at the meeting.

### MEETING NOTEBOOK

to award a two-year agreement for the city's general legal counsel services to Secrest Wardle.

The agreement includes an increase in rates.

The partners and associates will receive a \$5 per hour increase and the senior associates will receive a \$10 per hour increase.

Councilman Andrew Mutch said he has been very happy with City Attorney Tom Schultz's legal services, but recommended the Consultant Review Committee perform a bidding process for legal services in the future since it is such a considerable amount of the city's budget.

The two-year agreement ends Dec. 1, 2009.

**Regional basin improvements**

The City of Novi was awarded a federal grant through the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project for improving the Taft and Bishop regional detention basins.

The Taft basin is located north of Grand River Avenue, between Novi and Taft roads, and the Bishop basin is north of Grand River Avenue, east of Meadowbrook Road.

The city was awarded a 50 percent matching grant for the projects in July 2007.

The total amount estimated for the project is \$405,000.

Council unanimously approved the agreement between Wayne County and the City of Novi for the project.

A request for qualifications is advertised and the city hopes to award the project in January, for the project to be completed by Dec. 31, 2008.

**Final PRO approved**

Council approved, by a 6-0 vote, the final planned rezoning overlay (PRO) agreement and zoning map amendment for the Haggerty Road development.

The PRO allows the developer to rezone the property east of Haggerty Road and north of Eight Mile Road from FS (freeway service district) to B-3 (general business).

Council unanimously approved

**Legal counsel will remain with Secrest Wardle**

Council unanimously approved

**Lindberg returns from FBI Academy**

Chief David Molloy of the Novi Police Department recognized Deputy Chief Thomas Lindberg for his success and completion of the FBI Academy.

The 11-week program included courses in academics and physical fitness.

Lindberg also ran in the Marine Corp. Marathon while he was there and achieved his personal best time.

**Goal setting session rescheduled**

Novi's City Council attempted its goal setting session Dec. 10, but, due to technical difficulties and misunderstandings, council suggested rescheduling the session in January.

**Howling good time**

Although the Rock-N-Roll K-9s are available for smaller events, they're at their best in a larger venue when they can have 20-25 dogs perform over a 45-60 minute time frame.

Of a pool of about 50 dog owners and nearly 150 dogs, the Koons' have K-9s on the move from all sides of the state, traveling from Birch Run, Marine City, Goodrich, Howell, Livonia and other locations within a two-hour

**Drive of Novi.**

"It's a lot of fun. We're always looking for new members. We take people of any age. There's a 12-year-old girl looking to get on the team," Koons said. "We're mostly looking at the dog or the idea of Rock-N-Roll K-9s wasn't even a concept yet."

"When I first got my dog, my mom was part of a therapy group that'd take dogs to hospitals and senior homes," the 30-year-old Novi resident said.

Following in her mother's dog-loving footsteps, Koons, at 16, began training another white shepherd, Ashlee.

Ashlee, who passed away in 1998, was a piece of the foundation for the Rock-N-Roll K-9s that Koons and her mother, Pam, started nearly 13 years ago. Since then, the 12-year-old lady - a sheltie earning some recognition through a Petco contest for her jump roping ability - has become one of the key pieces to the performance group along with the Koons' other four dogs.

"We had been part of similar groups. We were helping a friend's obedience group (with a demonstration at the Michigan 50s Festival)," Koons said.

The demonstration at the Michigan 50s Festival was so positive, they heightened up with other dog owners to bring the event as the Rock-N-Roll K-9 Performance Team the following year.

**Do a trick**

The tricks and treats of the performances vary by dog, but are promised to entertain. Even older dogs are a part of the group, as the dogs' ages range from 1 to 12.

"When dogs are active, they have a higher chance of injury. (Luger) was 13 and a half years old and he still did tricks. The stuff he does changes - no jumps," Koons said. "We've got a couple dogs in the double digits. It depends on the breed too."

Luger, a white shepherd, was a founding father of the Rock-N-Roll K-9s. He passed away last December, but not before providing the group with two new members in 8-year-old siblings Lazer and Kimber.

Luger and Rowdy, a border collie from Goodrich who also died last year, were some of the most popular dogs in the show. Luger's son, Lazer, and Rowdy's housemate, Toggle, a border collie, are also in the show.

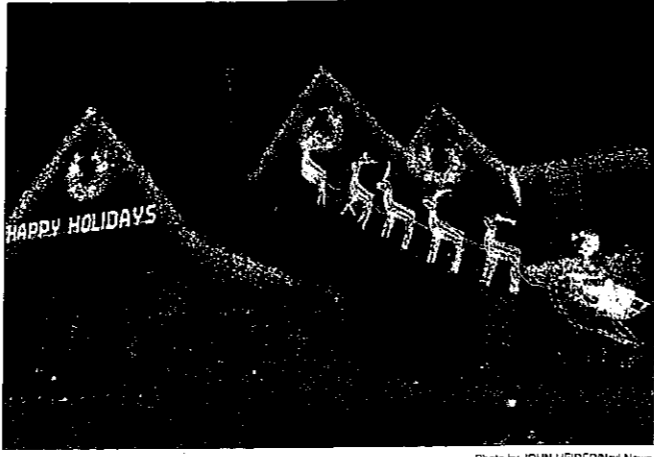
Information on shows and joining the group, in addition to pet pictures and profiles, can be found at [www.rocknrollk9s.com](http://www.rocknrollk9s.com).

**Novi resident Michelle Koons gets a loving lick from her sheltie 'Indy'.**

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**Pam, left, and daughter Michelle Koons, co-owners of the Rock N Roll K-9s, pose with their white German shepherds and shelties.**

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



This home on Elizabeth Lane in Novi's Adlinton subdivision has been amongst the top in Christmas decorations in the city for years now. The home is owned by the Seelenbinder family who estimates they used about 20,000-25,000 lights.

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**GOT A STORY IDEA?** Contact the Novi News to spread the word about what's going on in Novi

Victoria Mitchell, editor  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
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# MY NEIGHBORS

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
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## Tricksters 'ain't nothing but a hound dog'

By Chris Jackett  
STAFF WRITER

When Michelle Koons received her first dog, a white German shepherd named Crystal, she had no idea what she would get throughout the next two decades. The idea of Rock-N-Roll K-9s wasn't even a concept yet.

"When I first got my dog, my mom was part of a therapy group that'd take dogs to hospitals and senior homes," the 30-year-old Novi resident said.

Following in her mother's dog-loving footsteps, Koons, at 16, began training another white shepherd, Ashlee.

Ashlee, who passed away in 1998, was a piece of the foundation for the Rock-N-Roll K-9s that Koons and her mother, Pam, started nearly 13 years ago. Since then, the 12-year-old lady - a sheltie earning some recognition through a Petco contest for her jump roping ability - has become one of the key pieces to the performance group along with the Koons' other four dogs.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**Pam, left, and daughter Michelle Koons, co-owners of the Rock N Roll K-9s, pose with their white German shepherds and shelties.**

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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## The Novi High Class of 1978 Announces our 30 year Class Reunion Saturday, July 19, 2008

The Novi High Class of 1978 is pleased to announce the details of our 30 yr. Class Reunion to be held on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at the Rock Financial Center, Novi, Michigan.

This is a great way to reconnect with classmates, meet up with old friends and enjoy an evening together to catch up and be reacquainted.

January 2008 we will begin sending out additional information to help get all of us excited about this event.

We are still in search of several classmates that we would like to contact or have them contact us, so we can get them updated with all the details with hopes they will be able to join us and enjoy this evening of fun.

Many families of our classmates still reside within the Novi area and there may even be some of our classmates or their friends who still work in the area. We are asking for help locating the following 1978 classmates:

- |                   |                  |                 |                    |                   |                       |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Tim Alexander     | Kim Dalton       | June Harris     | Robert Lewis       | Joseph Perry      | Greg Thompson         |
| Debbie Anderson   | Kathy Dameron    | Gay Hayball     | Embell MacLewie    | Carol Hester      | Julie Tobel           |
| Sue Arrington     | Mark Delegrante  | Tom Henrich     | Dennis Miles       | Sandy Holliman    | Mary Beth Turpin      |
| Kevin Ary         | Robert Dobransky | Kevin Hillstrom | Bill Mason         | Kevin ...         | Sandi (Lynn) VanDoren |
| Betty Banks       | Mike ...         | Rodney ...      | Beth ...           | Phillip ...       | Ulla Vappula          |
| David Barr        | Joe Duran        | Debbie Jones    | June McBride       | Jim ...           | Tom Vaughn            |
| James Blackburn   | Todd Emmons      | Reynolds ...    | Bob ...            | Bob ...           | Susan Ward            |
| Claudia Blanchard | Roger ...        | Barbara ...     | Raina Ruland       | Tom Sasena        | Wendy Warneke         |
| Georgia Bledsoe   | Laura ...        | Angela ...      | Christia Schneider | Christa Schneider | Connie Washburn       |
| Terri Brooks      | Sue ...          | Steve Kerr      | Chris Schol        | Chris Schol       | Ron Watkins           |
| Bob Brough        | John ...         | Eric Knight     | Imeanne Short      | Imeanne Short     | Ron White             |
| Mark Byberg       | Michael ...      | Laurie ...      | Mary Shoupe        | Mary Shoupe       | Mickey Wilson         |
| Carol Calone      | David ...        | David ...       | Richard Skinner    | Richard Skinner   | Bill Withers          |
| Tom Campbell      | Robert ...       | Robert ...      | Rebecca Swanberry  | Rebecca Swanberry | Richard Wright        |
| Fred Ciampa       | Jeff ...         | Jeff ...        | Luz Szalma         | Luz Szalma        | Joan Wrobel           |
| Gary Cline        | David ...        | David ...       | Mike Tamm          | Mike Tamm         | Tom Yakel             |
| Colleen Collier   | Francis ...      | Nicholas ...    | David Tautianen    | David Tautianen   | Rene Zaguroli         |
| Gino Coppola      | Mary ...         | Mary ...        | Sue Nagy           | Sue Nagy          | Sue Zarish            |
| Jeanette Couch    |                  |                 | Dan Nelson         | Dan Nelson        | Dan Zide              |

Do you have any information that can help us locate our classmates? Please contact us:

Debbie (Pretty) Rogers - E-mail: [DRogers7786@aol.com](mailto:DRogers7786@aol.com)  
Monica (Summitt) Winget - E-mail: [moniwini@aol.com](mailto:moniwini@aol.com)

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Victoria Mitchell, editor  
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vmitchell@gannett.com

# MY GOVERNMENT

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
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## Commission agrees: No changes to city's southwest

Members make recommendations for Master Plan

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

Residents within the southwest section of the city, reshaping their neighborhood environment, can rest at ease.

The planning commission recommended no changes to the Master Plan regarding that study area at their Dec. 12 meeting.

"There was not enough substantial data to support commercial development (in that area) at this time," Burke said.

The other two study areas

Planning Commission member Brian Burke. "The most citizen input came from the southwest quadrant, (they) wanted everything left alone and that's exactly what happened."

The southwest residential quadrant, which is primarily from Beck to Napier roads, between Eight and 10 Mile roads, is currently among single-family zoning categories.

When the City began the Master Plan review, residents of those areas feared the plan would be amended to allow high-density residential coupled with commercial zoning.

"There was not enough substantial data to support commercial development (in that area) at this time," Burke said.

The other two study areas

under review for possible amendments to the Master Plan were the 12 Mile, Napier and Wixom roads area and the Novi Road and Interstate 96 interchange.

Consultants of Birchler Arroyo Associates Inc., who were contracted by the City for the project, provided two alternatives regarding land use for each of the three review areas.

For the study area at 12 Mile and Napier roads, the planning commission recommended to amend the current Master Plan and allow single-family residential at a density of 3.3 units per acre, an educational facility and community commercial development.

There is currently a proposal for an all-girls Catholic high

school and residential property in that area.

For the area at I-96 and Novi Road, also known as "downtown west," the Planning Commission recommended allowing office and light industrial uses.

"What we're making room for is some OST (Office Service Technology) in that area," Burke said. "As the economy starts to turn, that land becomes more valuable and that's the kind of business that would enhance that area."

The Planning Commission adopted a resolution last week regarding the Master Plan review and it will go before city council for adoption.

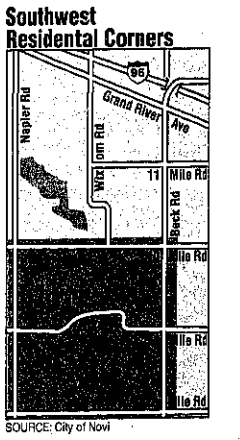
"They adopted the resolution, which basically directs the staff and the Master Plan and Zoning

Committee to prepare a final Master Plan review, report and draft Master Plan amendment based on the alternatives they selected," said Barb McBeth, deputy community development director.

Although senior housing was an alternative suggestion in both the southwest quadrant and the Novi Road and I-96 area, Burke said he didn't feel those were the appropriate places for it.

"I think that going forward, any time we look at a section for future use, we're going to see if senior housing is viable in that area."

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or [kmurad@gannett.com](mailto:kmurad@gannett.com).



## State of Michigan primary reduced to 'beauty contest'

By Chris Jackett  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan voters will be the third in the nation to step to the polls for the presidential primary election in 2008, but their votes may not count.

In hopes of gaining more influence on the national process, Michigan legislators passed a law Sept. 5 moving the state's joint presidential primary to Jan. 15, making it the third state to hold a primary, after Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Our hopes are we get maximum participation," said Rep.

Craig DeRoche (R-Novi). "Ideally, we wanted full slates. Unfortunately, that didn't happen."

The four 2008 Democratic nominees are Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, Mike Gravel and Dennis Kucinich. Additional nominees Joe Biden, John Edwards, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson have removed themselves from the Michigan primary ballot, cited throughout the media as calling the state's primary a "beauty contest" without the delegate significance of the other 48 primary elections.

Democratic voters will also have the option of voting for

"Uncommitted," as is suggested for those favoring Biden, Edwards, Obama or Richardson, or a "Write-in" candidate.

"I respect it. I wish they didn't do it. It does send a bad signal for where Michigan is as a priority. They want to win Iowa and New Hampshire. It doesn't send a strong signal," DeRoche said.

"We want both parties to go through Michigan to get to the oval office. Every Republican candidate has come to Michigan to speak."

The nine Republican nominees are Samuel Dale Brownback, Rudolph Giuliani, Mike

Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo and Fred Thompson.

All nine remain on Michigan's Jan. 15 ballot.

The date change violated party rules and, on Dec. 1, the Democratic National Committee

penalized Michigan by banning the state's 156 delegates from participating in next summer's presidential nomination process.

The Michigan law changing the date, listed as a one-time deal, will move the presidential primary to the fourth Tuesday in February for future primary elections in presidential years.

Visit [www.thegreenpapers.com/P08/pa.html](http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P08/pa.html) to see when each state holds its presidential primary election.

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or [cjackett@gannett.com](mailto:cjackett@gannett.com).

or not the tax was going to be eliminated, businesses had spent several weeks and thousands of dollars preparing for its implementation.

SB 967 is expected to be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

## Plans pulled for possible flea mart

continued from front

bers expressed parking as the most critical concern regarding the opening of such a facility.

"If I don't have the parking, I'm going to lose," Adell said.

Adell began advertising and

selling vendor space for the proposed Novi Trade Center in July, and said he had more than 4,000 people wanting a booth.

The future of the facility now lies in the hands of CB Richard Ellis, the commercial real estate company Adell said is going to lease the building.

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or [kmurad@gannett.com](mailto:kmurad@gannett.com).

## Cassis continues to support businesses

State Sen. Nancy Cassis introduced legislation Wednesday that provides relief for businesses burdened with expenses in preparing to comply with the short-lived service tax.

Senate Bill 967 creates a credit for the Michigan-Business Tax equal to the expenses

incurred by a company as it got ready for the tax.

"I voted 'no' on the implementation of a service tax on October 1," said Cassis (R-Novi).

The service tax kicked in at 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 1. Just before 5 a.m., the Senate passed the Michigan-Business Tax because of the uncertainty regarding whether

or not the tax was going to be eliminated, businesses had spent several weeks and thousands of dollars preparing for its implementation.

SB 967 is expected to be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

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Publication Number USPS 396290

**Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update**  
by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

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One problem that seems to afflict a large percentage of the population is tight hamstrings. There are three hamstring muscles at the back of each thigh, two on the inside and one on the outside. As these muscles tighten, they become a major cause of muscle imbalance. As the upper body leans forward to perform various everyday tasks, the hamstrings oppose the force to balance the shift in weight. As a result, stress is exerted on vertebrae in the lower back, and pain ensues. To relieve hamstring tightness, lie on your back with your left knee bent. Grab your right calf, and pull your leg toward your chest. Perform this exercise on each leg after exercise. We are committed to providing outstanding programs and care tailored to each of our patients' needs. Our staff keeps abreast of all the latest physical therapy advances and techniques and we strive to deliver high quality, cost effective health care in the community that we serve. Whether you need rehabilitation for a sports injury or another orthopedic problem, we are here to help. For more information, call NORTHEVILLE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION P.C. We are located at 215 East Main, Suite B and can be reached by calling 248.349.4339. New patients are welcome.

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OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Beautifying Michigan

Novi hosts quarterly meeting for south-eastern communities

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Leslie Weirmer has been gardening ever since she married her husband 33 years ago.

It was just three years ago she became a member of the Novi Beautification Commission and, last Thursday, Weirmer was elected first vice president of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan.

"It's a very good fit," she said. "The people are fabulous and I support what they stand for, (which is) making southeast Michigan appealing and making our communities a much more pleasant place to live."

The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan held its quarterly meeting in Novi last Thursday for the first time since 1998.

"Our commission has been kind of small over the last 10 years," said Novi Beautification Commission Chair Moira Robinson. "I don't think Novi could have hosted the event successfully until we had grown in size."

Organized by the Novi Beautification Commission, the event brought in nearly 100 people from 21 communities representing Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties.

"The meeting was outstanding," Weirmer said. "You get to meet a lot of people and do a lot of sharing. It gives you inspiration."

The half-day event was packed full of information from three speakers prominent in the Novi community.

The keynote speaker of the event was Roy Prentice, director of Tollgate Farms.

"We had worked real closely with Roy Prentice," Robinson said. "He had donated a site for us to plant our rain garden, so he was kind of a natural choice as the keynote speaker."

Parks and forestry operations manager Steve Printz began the event by introducing attendees to Novi's forestry program, which he essentially refers to as an "urban forest."

Members of the various communities were interested in an inventory that was conducted a couple of years ago of all the trees in the community.

"Look at it as an investment for the future, you need to know what you have," Printz said. "Trees actually, over time, increase value and quality of life."

The inventory revealed more than 18,000 trees throughout the Novi community, not including its

## Novi Beautification Commission

The next meeting of the Novi Beautification Commission will be at 2:15 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Novi Civic Center.

For more information contact Moira Robinson (248) 249-8205.

parks, with an estimated value of about \$10 million.

Deputy Community Development Director Barb McBeth was recruited to speak about green building initiatives in Novi and surrounding communities.

"We thought the topic would be of particular interest to that group," Robinson said.

Members of the audience seemed particularly interested in the concept of green roofs, which is a roof completely or partially covered in vegetation.

According to McBeth, green roofs can absorb as much as 70 percent of the rain water they receive.

"It was a great turnout," Robinson said. "They (attendees) thought we have a beautiful community and they were impressed with all we had going on here."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

City of Novi Beautification Commission member Moira Robinson takes a look at some of the donated door prizes the commission was to give away at last week's quarterly luncheon-meeting. The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan met at the Novi Civic Center last Thursday for their quarterly meeting. Guest speaker at the event was Novi's Tollgate Farms' Manager Roy Prentice, who talked about their use of resource-conserving rain gardens.

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# T-bone accident shuts down Eight Mile, ends in death

**By Chris Jackett**  
STAFF WRITER

Traffic was completely blocked off on Eight Mile Road between East Glen Haven Circle and Meadowbrook Road from noon-2 p.m. last Friday after a three-vehicle accident left one woman dead.

Marian Heinenhart, a 77-year-old Novi resident, was driving a maroon Buick Lesabre heading southbound on East Glen Haven Circle and attempted to make a left turn onto eastbound Eight Mile Road. Police received a 911 call at 12:08 p.m. that the Buick was hit on the driver's side by a Jeep headed west on

Eight Mile Road, driven by a 28-year-old Orchard Lake woman. A third vehicle received minor damage as a result of the accident. Heinenhart was transported to William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and was pronounced dead at 1:19 p.m., according to police reports.

The fatality was the second on Eight Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Novi roads in the past two months, following a fatal single-car accident on Oct. 24 where a westbound car ran into a tree just east of Meadowbrook Road, killing the driver.

"I can't remember any before records. According to Northville Township Police, there have been 110 accidents on Eight Mile Road between Haggerty and Napier roads this year, 49 of which Northville Township Police took reports, listing 22 injuries and one fatality. Novi Police took 42 total reports.

# City completes '07 road projects, future looms large

**By Chris Jackett**  
STAFF WRITER

With the winter weather hitting the roads, it's important to know where construction projects remain. Novi City Engineer Rob Hayes said all roadway construction projects were completed close to schedule and now open for traffic.



completed last week and widened to a full five lanes, including two each way and a left-turn lane.

Resurfacing on Taft Road from Nine Mile Road south to Eight Mile Road in Northville is complete, and the single-lane roundabout at Morgan Boulevard and Taft Road in front of Cooke School is open to traffic. Nearby Galway Drive and all other City of Novi Neighborhood Rehabilitation Program side streets are also complete.

The reworking along Beck Road between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue is complete.

Work on the Beck and 10 Mile road intersection will be a part of next spring's Michigan Department of Transportation project.

The City of Novi's sidewalk project completed all installations intended to this year.

Interstates 96, 696 and 275, along with improvements to the I-96 and Novi Road ramps are also planned.

Novi Road between Grand River Avenue and 10 Mile Road is scheduled for widening to five lanes while a bridge is constructed over the CSX Railroad tracks. The project is planned for early spring through late fall 2009, with some portions completed in early 2010.

Oakland County Road Commission Programming Supervisor Tom Noechel said the recent \$13 million in cuts to the state's Transportation Economic Development Fund will not affect the project because it is categorized as a Class C project, which is a class untouched as part of the \$13 million.

"We're keeping with the schedule of bidding the right-of-ways in 2008 and starting construction in fall 2009 and into 2010," Noechel said.

The Novi Road project is the only currently planned Class C project in the city.

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.

## Late 2007 road recap

The two-lane portions of Haggerty Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads were

# Red Wings ring bell in Novi; SWOCC replays holidays

For two hours Dec. 11, Detroit Red Wings players and staff took the bell at many metro Detroit locations to raise money for Salvation Army.

Johan Franzen and Valteri Filppula were at the Sam's Club in Novi and Ken Holland and Mike Babcock were at the Hillier's in Northville. Kirk Maltby, Aaron Downey and Jiri Hrdlic also gathered donations at Grosse Pointe Park and Troy locations.

The total nine-hour day at a kiosk usually raises about \$300. In two hours, Holland and Babcock raised \$858.83. As a team, the Wings raised \$2,469.84 between four kiosks, according to Gannett News Service.

## My Novi, briefly

Program cablecasts: 12:30 and 8:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays; and 4 p.m. Sundays. Click on [www.swoccstudios.com](http://www.swoccstudios.com) for more great programming days and times.

This year's Santa Call-In Show was a success. Thirty-eight kids called in to talk to Santa Claus, who was joined by City of Farmington councilwoman, Joanne McShane, and City of Novi Community Relations Manager, Sherry Walsh. The Santa Call-In Show will return until New Year's Day on local access Channel 13 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m.

Pañera Bread offers a new variety of artisan breads and other specialty breads, along with bagels, pastries, baked goods and hot and cold espresso beverages.

The new bakery-cafe in Commerce will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, offering hand-tossed salads, signature sandwiches, hand-crafted pizza and hearty soups served in edible sourdough bread bowls.

With a tradition in handcrafted, fresh baked artisan bread, Pañera Bread is committed to providing quality food that people can trust. Highlighted by all-natural, antibiotic free chicken, whole grain bread and a menu free of non-meat trans fat, Pañera's bakery-cafe selection is rooted in great tasting, wholesome offerings. The menu includes a wide variety of year-round favorites to complement new items introduced seasonally.

"Spirit of Giving Award" in recognition for their community activism, support of, and contributions to the City of Novi. City of Novi Mayor David B. Landry presented the honor to ITC at the annual Ringing in the Holidays event last month.

The largest independent electric utility transmission company in the country, ITC has been a very generous partner to the City of Novi. The \$500,000 will be distributed throughout the course of five years. The \$100,000 annual pledge will provide the Novi Parks Foundation with the means to pursue its long-term strategic recreation vision in Novi - a vision that includes potential development of a transmission corridor trail system, spray-ground, new playgrounds, lighting, a dog park and installation of sports turf at existing recreational facilities. In recognition of ITC's gift, the Novi Parks Foundation will designate the park at Eight Mile and Napier roads as ITC Community Sports Park.

ITC joins past recipients Novi Lions Club President Tom Marcus, former City of Novi Mayor Richard Clark, Rock Financial Showplace President Blair Bowman, Emagine Entertainment and the Executive Board of the Michigan Fifties Festival as Spirit of Giving honorees.

## SWOCC programming

You're not going to want to miss Novi's Ringing in the Holidays 2007. SWOCC Studios taped the fifth annual family holiday event, which included an electric light parade, cookie decorating, holiday crafts and Santa Claus along with interviews from spectators throughout the program, hosted by the SWOCC staff. This

## Pañera Bread opens new location

Pañera Bread recently opened its first bakery-cafe in Commerce Township at 39450 14 Mile Rd. Known as the nation's "bread

## Deadline approaches for commenting on transportation program

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) reminds the public the deadline is approaching for commenting on the department's draft 2008-2012 Five Year Transportation Program. Comments need to be postmarked or electronically dated on or before Dec. 21. MDOT has posted a comment

## OBITUARIES

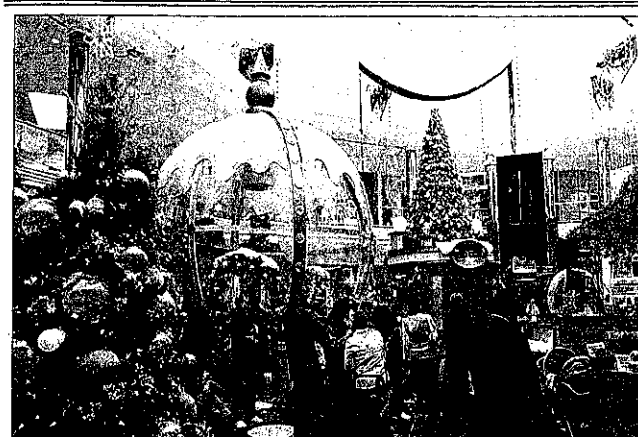
**OBITUARY POLICY**  
The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.  
\*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.  
For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home.  
\*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

WANT TO BE FEATURED? Let us know about your event or send us photos to be published

Victoria Mitchell  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
vmitchell@gannett.com

# BE SCENE IN NOVI

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
[www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)  
fax: (248) 349-9632



Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall's lower level is decorated for the Christmas holidays. This year's theme follows the movie "Fred Claus." Visitors wait to see Santa, at right.

Christina Rivera, Sindy Goodman and Mary Myers pose near some of their 2007 Goodman Orthodontics' gingerbread house contest entries. The houses were all created by local orthodontists and were donated to local hospitals like Providence in Novi.

Sunday Service 9:45 a.m. Sermon: "Advent - Love - God With Us" Reverend June M. Smith

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols  
Safe Glow Sticks for Children for Silent Night  
Our Vision - People Growing with God  
Come. Pray with us for Peace - First Sunday of each month 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

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# Tis the Season



Caroline Giese spreads her arms wide as she acknowledges appreciation of a "Sing-a-long with George and Caroline" attendee. The visitor had just acknowledged the volunteer efforts of Caroline and her husband George, right, who run the sing-a-longs on the second Wednesdays of the month at the Novi Senior Center.



Nyree Giragosian helps Novi Woods student Milton Alexanders navigate some of the hundreds of gift possibilities at the school's holiday store. Students shopped for gifts for their parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, grandparents and friends.



Kids get into the holiday shopping spirit at Deerfield Elementary School's annual holiday shop.



Amy Cockfield (left), Jenny Bentley, Justine Galat and Christine West don wings and halos to distribute "Angel Tags" at the Fox Run of Novi holiday event. The Fox Run residents gave almost 200 gifts to children.



Santa visits his friends at the Northville Early Bird Kwanis' Saturday Bowling Group Christmas party at Novi Bowl. Novi High School National Honor Society and Rotary interact members served as volunteers.

**NEWSTIP HOTLINE:** Call (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 any time, any day with your news tips!

Victoria Mitchell, editor  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
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# MY SHOPPING TRIP

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
www.novinews.com  
fax: (248) 349-9832

## Twelve Oaks Mall is trained and secure

By Chris Jackett  
STAFF WRITER

Following the Dec. 5 shooting at the Von Maur of Westroads Mall in Omaha, Neb. that left nine dead, national interest has increased on exactly how safe malls are, especially at a time of year when malls are busy with holiday shoppers.

If 19-year-old Robert Hawkins can make it to the third floor with an AK-47 assault rifle in his hand before shooting down 11 people - killing eight and himself - what precautions do malls have to prevent something like this from reoccurring?

"We don't discuss specific plans (in public), but, ultimately, safety and security of our customers and staff is very important," said Dan Jones, general manager at Twelve Oaks Mall. "We work closely with Novus (Police Department). We do train with them in a variety of scenarios. There's a broad variety that includes things most people might consider minor to the catastrophic.

We're prepared for the situation, if need be.

"Part of the reason we train together is to make sure everyone (and understand each other's) expectations."

A major shooting has never happened at Twelve Oaks Mall, but Novus police do many exercises whenever and wherever they could occur.

"On Nov. 20, we practiced that very same scenario in a table-top exercise. We train all of our sworn officers," said police chief David Molloy, adding that four-officer strike teams are used to neutralize the threat.

"We did an active shooter exercise last December at Novi High School. We had hundreds of bystanders from the school watching."

Jones said the security and safety of everyone in the mall is the highest and most-discussed priority among mall administrators, especially considering the high density population visiting the mall daily.

"We don't have people or traffic counters, but the mall sees millions on an annual basis," he said. "By the nature and size of activity, I expect it to be in the top 2-3 percent of all malls in the United States."

The mall is protected and patrolled by IPC International, a highly regarded shopping center security company. Novus police and Community Emergency Medical Services are also on hand, in addition to individual security personnel some stores may hire.

"We will continue to partner with Twelve Oaks and Taubman Centers. We've had a proactive partnership for over two decades," Molloy said. "Twelve Oaks Mall is a safe place to go. This time of year, we have increased patrol at the mall."

Novus News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.

### Holiday shopper safety tips

With the holiday rush of shoppers to the mall, it is important to exercise caution to keep yourself and your belongings safe. Here are some tips to keep the season moving smoothly and safely.

- Keep purses and shopping bags close at all times. Never leave them open, unattended or sitting on the floor. Consolidating multiple bags into one or two large bags is also a good idea.
- If parked far from the entrance or it is dark out, have someone walk to the car with you to make sure you get there safely. If possible, park near a well lit area, especially if you plan on leaving after dark. Check the back seat before getting into the vehicle.
- Do not leave purchases sitting in open view on car seats. Tuck them away in the trunk or somewhere safe. Make your expensive purchases your final purchases.
- Do not leave children unattended, even if it is in a public area like a food court, play area or arcade.
- Be careful on the escalators. Don't lean on the sides and watch toes, bags and children at the end to ensure nothing gets caught in the steps as they rotate underground. If using a stroller, use the elevator.

Source: www.kennocoffee.com

Ho, ho, ho!

Time is running out to visit Santa Claus at Twelve Oaks Mall. Santa greets visitors in the center court Monday through Saturday with one-hour breaks from 1-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Santa greets children on Sunday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. Photos are available for an additional fee. Packages are available along with gift merchandise. Twelve Oaks Mall is located in Novi at Novi Road and Interstate 96. For more information, visit [www.shopweloveva.com](http://www.shopweloveva.com) or call (248) 349-9400.

## Twelve Oaks Mall opens the first aerie by American Eagle

Twelve Oaks is pleased to announce the opening of aerie by American Eagle and Starbacks.

### SHOPPING SHORTS

The aerie by American Eagle store is the first of its kind in the state. Located on the lower level near Lord & Taylor, aerie carries comfortable and cozy apparel for women. Selections include lingerie, pajamas, robes, slippers, socks and much more.

Starbacks, a well known name among coffee drinkers, opened its second location on the upper level near Nordstrom. The store's café design allows customers to sit back and enjoy their coffee after a busy shopping trip. The store's lower level location will remain open for customer convenience.

Twelve Oaks is also happy to announce that Naturalizer has opened its new store on the lower level near Macy's.

Twelve Oaks is a major regional shopping center located in Novi, Michigan at Interstate 96 and Novi Road. The center features over 300 shops and services along with Nordstrom, Macy's, Lord & Taylor, JCPenney, Sears and the Lifestyle Café Food Court. Shopping hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. You may also visit us at [www.shopweloveva.com](http://www.shopweloveva.com).

### enjoy shopping lounge.

A special seasonal area features Nordic Walking clothing and accessories such as light weight fleece, down vests, trail trekker shoes and trekking poles.

In women's, look for sweater essentials - everything from classic fine gauge cotton V-necks, twinsets and a new T-neck alongside a special cotton baby cable sweater that's available exclusively at the Lands' End Shop at Sears.

Men will find cozy lambswool sweaters, gentleman's rugby shirts, new denim styles and no-iron shirts. Kids will find all their favorites including embroidered corduroy, denim, fleece and down vests.

The bold and striking Lands' End colors, true navy and white, are used throughout the area to help customers easily locate the new shop within Sears. While in the shop, customers can place orders through catalogs and on [landsend.com](http://landsend.com) with free shipping - delivering a world-class, multi-channel shopping experience and ensuring customers get exactly what they want.

The Novi Lands' End Shop at Sears that has opened since 2005.

Lands' End® is one of the world's largest consumer-direct retailers of casual and tailored clothing for women, men, children and infants around the world.

only the second retail location of its kind in the state. The store carries footwear and accessories for the infant to teen market.

The regular Journeys store has recently opened in its new, larger location.

Please visit the store in the lower level near JCPenney.

days should make sure the intended recipient really wants a pet. There are alternatives for gift-givers who want to give someone a pet on Christmas morning. Petland suggests picking out a new pet a few days before Christmas, but waiting a day or so after the holiday to pick up the pet.

Then what can be placed under the Christmas tree?

"A gift-wrapped photograph of your new pet will satisfy curious family members and even create some anticipation and excitement," said Bob Thorne, Operator of the Petland store in the Twelve Oaks Mall.

Petland also recommends purchasing a book, detailing the care the new pet will need. The book could be read and discussed by the whole family on Christmas Day. Gift-wrapping toys, grooming aids and food for the new pet are recommended, too, along with Petland gift certificates that allow the new pet owner some purchasing choices.

### Holiday openings

Twelve Oaks is happy to announce the opening of seven new stores, just in time for the holidays. The stores offer a variety of products, ranging from chocolate and gourmet popcorn to board games and leather coats.

Whether customers are shopping for a family member, teacher, friend, or co-worker this holiday season, they'll find plenty of gift ideas at the following stores:

- Dale & Thomas: Popcorn located on the lower level near Center Court.
- Day by Day Calendar located near JCPenney and the lower level location is near Sears.
- Donna Sacs located on the

### Plan ahead for holiday pets

Giving a pet as a Christmas gift is an innovative and wonderful idea, but pet counselors at Petland say you must plan ahead of you intend to give someone a puppy, kitten, bird, fish or small animal over the holidays.

Generally, Christmas Day involves numerous visitors and activities at home and little time to spend caring for a new pet or setting up a new aquarium. Therefore, Petland recommends introducing a new pet into the household a little before or after Christmas. And surprising gift recipients is not always best. Anyone wanting to surprise someone with a pet over the hol-

### Lands' End Sears Shop

The legendary Lands' End brand comes to life just in time for fall at Novi Sears. Area residents can experience Lands' End fashions for the entire family at this new store-within-a-store.

The company is legendary for its unparalleled combination of quality, value, service and style. Lands' End is bringing all aspects to life with products for the entire family, including women, men and kids, at its store-within-a-store at Sears in Twelve Oaks Mall.

The about 10,000-square-foot shop features an expanded assortment of quality and stylish Lands' End products, personalized service, enhanced visuals and even a

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**Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is delighted to offer two beautiful concerts this Sunday afternoon and evening, December 23rd!**

**At 3:00 PM**, the Motor City Brass Band collaborates with The Ward Chancel Choir to bring you "Sounds of the Season". Admission is free. Donations will be taken during the performance. The doors open at 2:30.

**At 7:00 PM**, the gorgeous sounds of beloved Christmas carols from the Birmingham-First Chamber Choir will fill the Sanctuary for "Sing We Now Of Christmas". Admission is free. Donations will be taken during the performance. The doors open at 6:30.

We present these concerts as a Christmas gift to the community. Families of all ages will find the programming for both concerts friendly and fun. A reception follows each concert. Childcare (through age 4) is provided. Please call 248-374-5948 to enroll your child.

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Carole.Halmekangas@wardchurch.org

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:** 7 p.m. Jan. 10 inside the Educational Services Building on Tall Road

Victoria Mitchell, editor  
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vmitchell@gannett.com

# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
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## Novi High School quiz bowl results; Techno Tadpoles win

Novi Varsity Quiz Bowl shocked and amazed the Quiz Bowl world at a tournament hosted at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The team finished round robin play in the morning with a perfect 7-0 record. The Varsity team then won two more playoff matches against Farmington and Country Day before dropping a very close semifinal match to the eventual tournament champion, East Lansing. The Varsity A team took third place out of 32 teams.

### Class NOTES

**Parenting fair**

The 16th annual Walled Lake Schools Parenting Education Fair will be 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at Walled Lake Northern High School. Parents and community members from throughout the Detroit area are invited to attend. This year's keynote speaker will be the renowned parenting expert and best-selling author, Jim Fay. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.walledlake.k12.mi.us/pr/parentingfair](http://www.walledlake.k12.mi.us/pr/parentingfair).

**Novi Educational Foundation**

Community Financial recently presented a check to the Novi Educational Foundation, which will use the funds to support the "Reality Store" project at Novi Middle School.

This program enables students to participate in a simulation game helping them learn how educational choices they make today impact their ability to enter different occupations and support various standards of living.

The donation was made possible by Community Financial's positive financial performance during 2007. The Novi Educational Foundation is among seven recipients to receive a total of \$5,300 from the credit union's eighth annual Community Shares program.

Headquartered in Plymouth, membership in Community Financial is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville,

Novi, Alpega, Osego and Montmorency. For more information, visit the credit union Web site at [www.cfu.org](http://www.cfu.org) or call (734) 453-1200 or (877) 937-2328, toll free.

The team finished round robin play in the morning with a perfect 7-0 record. The Varsity team then won two more playoff matches against Farmington and Country Day before dropping a very close semifinal match to the eventual tournament champion, East Lansing. The Varsity A team took third place out of 32 teams.

The Novi Rapid Robots team finished eighth overall of 49 teams at the Dec. 8 State Competition held at Rock Financial Showplace. The team also tied for seventh in the robot performance category.

The other three Novi teams also placed well. The Techno Tadpoles placed 11th, Armored Armadillos 14th and Poweraid 16th among all



Photo Caption: Community Financial Education Partnership Coordinator Beth Troost presents a check to Mary Alice Brunner, at right, chairperson of the Novi Educational Foundation along with Novi Community School District Superintendent Peter J. Dion. The donation was made on behalf of Community Financial's annual Community Shares program.

**Novi Robotics place well at State Competition**

The Novi Rapid Robots team finished eighth overall of 49 teams at the Dec. 8 State Competition held at Rock Financial Showplace. The team also tied for seventh in the robot performance category.

The other three Novi teams also placed well. The Techno Tadpoles placed 11th, Armored Armadillos 14th and Poweraid 16th among all

**Foundation donates to Excellence-Walled Lake Schools**

Sandy Richards, executive director of Foundation for Excellence-Walled Lake Schools, recognized special donations made to the foundation during the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools' board meeting this month. Platinum Plus Donor, Dearborn Federal Credit Union (DFCU) donated \$10,000 for a K-12 Financial Literacy Initiative to be used in conjunction with the district's social studies curriculum. Representing the DFCU was Eric Schornhorst, chief financial officer.

Gold Donor: Shuman Chrysler Jeep donated \$3,000 to the Foundation for Excellence

Walled Lake Schools Performing Arts Holiday Events

Walled Lake Central High School 7 p.m. tonight Performing Arts Concert featuring all Central choirs, bands and orchestras, tickets are \$5; concert

Charale will sing at Citizen's Bank near Michigan Route 5 and 12 Mile Road at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21.

**Howe Military School**

Cadet Alex Eitelman, son of Brenda and Greg Eitelman, of Novi was placed on the Howe Military School Headmaster's List for the second six-week grading period of the 2007-08 school year. Cadet Eitelman has been attending Howe Military School since January 2006. He is currently in the 12th grade.



Franklin Road Christian School juniors Benjamin Martin and Micah Hack, and senior Hannah Cregg celebrate their participation in the National Vocabulary City-Wide Championship.

**Students ring the bell, entertain crowd**

Novi High School students will be ringing the bell at the second floor Sears and Lord & Taylor doors closest to each other this Friday and Saturday.

"It was a good experience. Cold, but worth it. It was still fun. I think I spent my weekend well," Maynard said. "My favorite part is helping out people and it's a good time with friends if you don't mind the cold."

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.

## Franklin advances

Franklin Road Christian School was recently involved in a national vocabulary contest, with three students making it to the city-wide championship out of 10,000 participants.

GSN, a U.S. television network, in partnership with The Princeton Review, presented the National Vocabulary City-Wide Championship Dec. 3 at Renaissance High School in Detroit.

In its inaugural year, the NVC is an initiative aiming to inspire students to expand their vocabularies and narrow the achievement gap.

The program offers free educational resources, creates spirited competition through testing and game play and awards more than \$100,000 annually in scholarship money and school grants.

Thousands of students took the NVC qualifying test at their local schools, but only 100 top-scoring students in each city advanced to the City-Wide Championships. One student champion then represents Michigan in the national finals.

Franklin Road Christian set a standard for future competitors as the Warriors earned the distinction and narrow the achievement gap.

Three of the school's students were chosen out of 10,000 southern Michigan exam takers. Juniors Micah Hack and Benjamin Martin, and senior Hannah Cregg competed against 74 other students from 31 area schools.

Micah advanced to round two of a three-round competition. He placed in the top 10 of 77 competitors (the top 10 of 10,000 actually).

In addition, the NVC awarded Franklin Road Christian School a software package for improving vocabulary skills.

- Submitted to the Novi News.

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With the holiday season upon us, it's time to think about both your gift list and your wish list. We can't think of a better way to spread holiday cheer than to give or receive beautiful fine jewelry for everyone at home.

Black diamonds have only been found in two specific locations and never in a traditional diamond field, some speculate that they came from an asteroid that fell to earth billions of years ago when South America and Africa were joined in one land mass.

PS. Black opals is another traditional choice of black gemstone.

**HOLIDAY HOURS:**  
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December 23rd 12pm-6pm  
December 24th 10am-7pm  
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# MY OPINION

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
www.novinews.com  
fax: (248) 349-9832

## Novi News

Victoria Mitchell  
EDITOR  
Richard Parberg  
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Grace Perez Perry  
GENERAL MANAGER

### In Our Opinion: Upcoming primary reflects badly on state

There is rich irony in the effort by state Rep. Chris Ward (Brighton) to kill the taxpayer-funded and mostly useless Michigan presidential primary Jan. 15.

Ward, after all, was the architect of legislation that requires all Michigan elections to be held on four specific dates (in February, May, August and November) that many of them voted to set in stone for place and sneaky school districts wouldn't be allowed to pull a fast one by setting up unpublicized elections for tax increases.

That line of reasoning was specious, at best. Nonetheless, the law forced school districts in Michigan to move their annual elections to comply with the established election dates.

Now comes the presidential primary, which the Legislature scheduled in January, independent of the four dates (in February, May, August and November) that many of them voted to set in stone for elections. Once again, our heroes in Lansing make laws that apply to others — but not ourselves.

The hypocrisy is troubling, but small potatoes compared to the greater travesty of the primary. Taxpayers in this cash-strapped state are being soaked so that the Republican and Democratic parties can compile marketing lists from which to barrage citizens with direct mail and telemarketing blitzes.

The law establishing this primary demands that voters ask for either a Republican or Democratic ballot. The voter's choice will be duly noted in a book of records. Even though the primary is funded by taxpayers, the identity of the party selected by each voter will not be a public record.

But it will not be private, either. That is because the law requires the list of voters and their party choices to be turned over to the chairman of the state Republican and Democratic parties. They will be free to use that information for favored candidates, a great advantage come election time.

Unfortunately, it is no great surprise that our legislators act like partisan hacks. But for awhile, it appeared that checks and balances would work as two lower courts took a look at this debacle and quickly declared it unconstitutional.

Then the state Supreme Court overturned those rulings, paving the way for the January primary. Amazingly, the majority opinion was swayed by three Republican-backed justices — Cliff Taylor, Stephen Markman and Robert Young Jr. — who say they strictly interpret the Michigan Constitution.

In their late-night reading, they apparently discovered a little-known clause that guarantees political parties the right to dip into the state coffers in order to fund their marketing plans. It is probably just a coincidence that the parties who benefit from this decision also determine which judges get on the ballot.

There is one final irony. The state has sold its soul for a primary that won't mean anything and that the candidates and the national parties don't want. Rather than getting the state more prestige, the primary is basically ignored nationally.

Peeved because of the early date, the national Democratic Party has stripped the state of its national convention delegates. Four Democratic presidential candidates — including Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) — will ignore it, despite an embarrassing and thanklessly failed effort in Lansing to pass a law to force their names to be on the ballot.

Since the Democratic primary is a joke, Republicans now fear that Democratic voters will cross over to create mischief in their primary. It would serve them right.

This is sad and it reflects poorly on the voters of Michigan. After all, we elected these folks.

### It's a Labor of Love

It's that time of year again when we all are hustling around trying to find the perfect gift for that special someone. But what happens when you don't have the means to put gifts under the Christmas tree for the kids? That's where the Novi Goodfellowss step in to help.

The Novi Goodfellowss is a nonprofit organization that carries out a very special mission each year — to make sure those children in the area have something to look forward to on Christmas morning. And for more than 25 years have done just that.

This year, with the help of many volunteers, local businesses, the Novi News, the Novi Fire Department and other charitable organizations, the Novi Goodfellowss will provide toys, warm clothing and gifts for more than 75 children, holiday meals for more than 30 families, poinsettias for seniors and, in partnership with a charitable trust organization, will put back into a home a local family that was forced out of their residence by a fire that destroyed their home about one month ago.

Why do they do it? Not for fame. You don't hear much about the organization.

In fact, it is through the generosity of thousands of people placing money in a fire boot during money collection drives by the paid-off members of the Novi Fire Department that the bulk of the funds allow the organization to operate each year as received.

They do it because it is tradition. It is the ability to reach out and help those less fortunate. It comes from the heart, with the knowledge that, on Christmas Day, another child with a bright smile will be thankful for the gifts that he or she receives — to grow up knowing that someone cared enough about them.

It is this gift of giving, this act of kindness that the Novi Goodfellowss embodies, that makes them hopeful that children who were once recipients of Goodfellowss' kindness will grow up and remember that time and will also want to help those less fortunate.

Thank you to all, and have a happy holiday.

— Submitted by Mark A. Pehrson — Novi Firefighter / Member of the Novi Goodfellowss.

**What do you think?** We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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E-mail: vmitchell@gannett.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in this Thursday edition.



#### Watch out Below!

Ryan Micele, front, and Matt Jannett were two of many to take advantage of Sunday's snowfall by going sledding at Novi's North Lakeshore Park. The pair were heading down the hill on Monday afternoon.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

## LETTERS

### Romney, faith, politics

Mitt Romney's recent statement in a speech about faith and politics in Houston "The founders proscribed the establishment of a state religion, but they did not countenance the elimination of religion from the public square" is false. In a document defending the Constitution in 1787-1788, John Adams wrote "Thirteen governments thus founded on the natural authority of the people alone, without a pretense of miracle or mystery... are a great picture in favor of the rights of mankind."

Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Question with boldness even the existence of a god." From James Madison, "Religious bondage

shackles and debilitates the mind." Thomas Paine said, "My own mind is my church." In the same speech, Romney said, "We are a nation 'Under God'... This is false also. The words 'under God' were added to the Pledge of Allegiance in the 1950's during the Eisenhower administration to distinguish Americans from the 'godless Communists'."

I agree with Brian Dickerson's opinion. "If Romney cherishes an America where believers of all creeds are free, he'll find it useful not to leave the nonbelievers behind" ("A House of worship in -party garage", Detroit Free Press, Dec. 7, 2007). I think his words apply to all presidential candidates.

Hannah Provence Donigan  
Commerce

### A Letter of Thanks

Last week, Dec. 13, the Novi Beautification Commission hosted the winter quarterly meeting of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan. Ninety-seven people of 21 communities from Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties were in attendance. Many of them commented that they were impressed with the City of Novi and our beautifully decorated Civic Center building.

Thank you to the following business for your generous donations: From Twelve Oaks Mall, Dale & Thomas Popcorn, Sephora, Perland, Lush Fresh Made Cosmetics, Master Cuts, Aveda, Trade Secrets, The Body Shop, Starbucks West Oaks, Glenda's Nursery, Panoramic

Landscaping, Inc., and English Gardens.

Many thanks go out to all who helped make the event a success: Citizen volunteers Maggie VonBruchhausen, Lyane Paul, Sue Flanagan; Parks & Recreation staff, Evie Watt, Julie Nichols, Robin, Tracie Ringle, Ron Valente and Matt Wiktorowski; Father Elmer of Catholic Central; Speakers Barbara McBeth, Steve Prutz and Roy Prentice; commissioners Greenberg, Garbacki, Todd, Heaton, Weirmeir and Kammanadimmi; and student commissioner Jinyang Fan.

Maira Robinson  
Chairperson, Novi Beautification Commission

### Tom Watkins:

#### Where is our Christmas present to America?

Christmas is coming. Where is the present we should give to our country? Where is the shared sacrifice for the common good in America today?

We send young men and women off to war. What does it cost us? No, I do not mean the young men and women who are coming home in body bags, without a limb, a closed head injury or post traumatic stress. They are paying a huge price, as are their families.

What is the cost that you and I, the average citizen, are being asked to pay? Where is the shared sacrifice? I am not referring to the costs to our freedom here at home or "prestige around the world," as important as those items are to all of us as Americans. Where are the shared values, shared duties and responsibilities that ALL Americans are asked to commit?

Yeah, I know, it is costing us plenty in taxes and deficit spending that will be a burden on our children, hell, our great grandchildren. I am asking, "what is the daily sacrifice that we as Americans are making to support this war on terror? Have we been asked to buy 'war bonds'?" Conserve energy? Pay increased taxes to actually pay for our war rather than borrowing it from the Chinese and Japanese? Do without a Big Mac or a latte in order to support the troops?

Have we been asked to volunteer to serve in the military or otherwise commit to adding value to ending terrorism? To delay our son's or daughter's college education for a year or two so they can serve our country in some fashion? Have our lives even been a little disrupted? Have we forgotten the feeling we had on Sept. 11 when we wanted a call to action?

Are our common values as Americans being buried by a rising tide of selfishness? I believe, as American, we want to be called to do more to contribute to our collective future. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Clearly, the veteran's groups, family members and some patriotic citizens are helping in large and small ways. But why haven't our national leaders engaged us for the common good of all? Where is the rallying cry to come together as Americans as we did in WW II to be part of something bigger than ourselves? Why haven't we been asked to plant a shade tree even if we will never enjoy its shade?

What a sacrifice

What really made me think of this was being at Meijer's recently and reading a bumper sticker on a car that read, "Proud to know an American Soldier." Proud to know an American



**About Tom Watkins**  
Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. Read his internationally recognized report, "The New Education Revolution" at [www.nacol.org](http://www.nacol.org). He can be reached at [tr Watkins@aol.com](mailto:tr Watkins@aol.com).

Soldier? Say what?

What are we doing to support the soldiers? Will we know him or her and support them when they come home with life-long physical and emotional scars? Will we have a job for them? Will we raise hell with the President and Congress to make sure they have the support, medical and mental health attention to readjust to civilian life? Does "bumper sticker" action inspire you?

For far too many, it seems as long as we can put a flag decal or yellow magnetic ribbon on our car, wave an American flag on the Fourth of July, and buy cheap TVs at Wal Mart, we are OK. Just don't inconvenience anyone. Someone's son or daughter is in harms way — but let's not miss college football on Saturday, pro ball on Sunday and the sale down at the local Wal Mart.

Perhaps if more of us had "more skin in the game" our energies would be focused on what ALL of us could be doing to preserve our freedom and make the world a safer place. A call to action would certainly get our attention and perhaps inspire a nation.

It is never too late to act. And what a Christmas present it would be to those serving our country.

What if this President or the next were to address the nation and say: "I am instituting a national service program for all young people after

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## COMMENTARY

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### PHIL POWER: 2008 may be a new beginning

When the allies finally stopped the Germans in North Africa in November 1942, it was welcome news after three years of almost unbroken defeats. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill put it in perspective, saying "Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."



#### About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president 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 [power@cnnet.com](mailto:power@cnnet.com).

tions made possible by the new contracts with the United Auto Workers union.

Joan Cray, the economics whiz who heads the economic forecaster at the University of Michigan, estimates that the state lost 76,000 jobs during 2007, with another drop of 51,000 projected next year. But she adds, "The rate of job loss becomes progressively smaller as we make our way through 2008, and by the spring of 2009, job growth pokes above zero."

She predicts a net job gain of 14,000 jobs in 2009, mostly in service industries such as health care and education.

These "projections, of course, assume no national recession brought on by the subprime mortgage crunch, which has put southeastern Michigan near the top of the nation for home foreclosures in recent months.

"If we get a recession, we're very vulnerable because we don't have any resources to take up the shock," says Tom Clay, the respected and now-retired research director for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan.

Even without a recession, Clay says the state budget for the fiscal year that will end on Sept. 30, 2008, will face (once again, thanks to the legislature) a \$500 million deficit, split roughly equal-

ly between the general fund and the school aid fund.

Clay expects deteriorating home values to end consumers' recent habit of converting gains in home equity to TV sets and new gizmos. As a result, he thinks "sales tax income to the state might suffer, say a \$200 million drop."

His two biggest worries at the state level: Cash flow and political deadlock.

"We had some trouble paying our bills on time last year," said Clay, who helped oversee state budgets for three decades. "And there's nothing about the new Michigan Business Tax and the new surcharge to that tax that make me believe there will be any material increase in cash flow."

Michigan cannot under its constitution borrow any more than it has, so a cash shortage means delayed bill payments, which in turn means the state will put off paying school districts and universities and local governments what they are expecting.

What this means to us is that the chronic structural budget deficits that we've seen for the last several years are certainly not going to go away because of what the legislature did with taxes this fall. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, perhaps reflecting both fatigue and realism, said the other day that she

wasn't about to go for any more tax increases. And you don't find many lawmakers in disagreement.

So that leaves structural changes in the organization and workings of state and local government, together with legacy costs of state employee pensions and health care. There are very large cost savings involved here, but they are very unpopular, especially with state employee unions.

The governor and legislature had a great chance to bundle them into a tax plan while they were working in crisis mode to save the state from going into default.

But they blew that opportunity. On the political front, however, what gives me some sense of hope is that legislators I talk with are beginning to get fed up with looking like a bunch of ineffective nincompoops. Most of them are good people who wanted to go to Lansing to do the right thing. But they found themselves being chivied by their respective party leaders to do a bunch of things that looked a lot more like scoring political points than governing a state.

"It doesn't have to be like this!" said one legislator in exasperation. And if this feeling ever begins to spread through the ranks during the coming year, we just might have some real political change, and change for the better, in Lansing.

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# BOYS HOOPS HIGHLIGHTS

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## MY NOVI SPORTS

### NEXT WEEK: The best stories of 2007

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#### SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: NOVI HOCKEY

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

# Wildcats dress, prepare in style

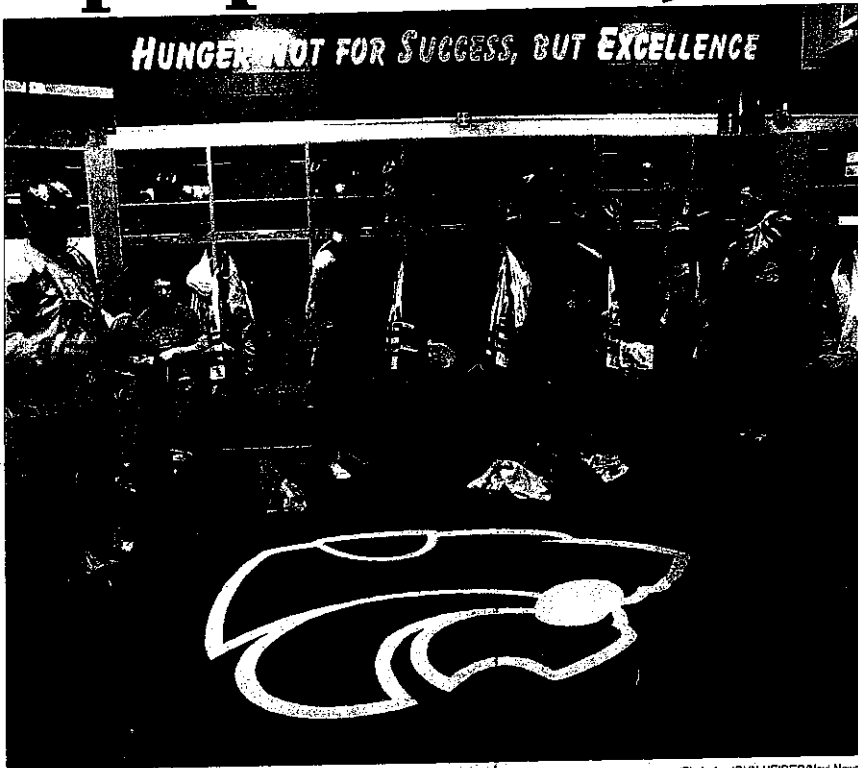


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi High School varsity hockey program's locker room inside Novi Ice Arena is as equipped as professional programs, complete with individual name-plated lockers, a stereo system and a flat-panel TV.

## Krygier: We have one of the best lockerrooms

By Jeff Thelsen  
SPORTS WRITER

Novi hockey coach Todd Krygier knows what it's like to walk into a professional hockey locker room.

He played in the NHL from 1989-98, including his final game for Washington in the Stanley Cup finals against the Detroit Red Wings.

He's no longer a pro, but you couldn't tell that after walking into the Wildcats locker room at the Novi Ice Arena.

"I think we have one of the top high school locker rooms in the state, if not the country," he said. "We've got the same lockers as the Islanders, we have the same lockers as lot of NHL teams."

"I think we're really privileged to have the opportunity to have that locker room."

Krygier said the ball starting rolling for the new locker room with former coach Dan Phelps. He started the process by helping to get the room, which was the former figure skating room.

Northville took over the former Novi locker room, but the new room wasn't ready for a

See HOCKEY, 3B



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Caroline Johnson brings the ball upcourt against Northville.

## Handling adversity

### Novi 5-1 despite injuries, tragedies and illnesses

By Jeff Thelsen  
SPORTS WRITER

Despite illnesses, injuries and family tragedies, the Novi Wildcats have still found a way to win.

Two players lost family members during tryouts, one player is out with an injury and one is out with an illness, yet the Wildcats stand at 5-1 through last weekend.

Wildcat head coach Bill Kelp knows his girls have already overcome a lot to get where they are. Novi has been forced to become a team both on and off the court.

"We talk a lot about the value of a team and how they can help and support each other through these difficult times," Kelp said.

"Life sometimes smacks you in the face. They can depend on each other to help each other through these things that happen off the court."

"We try to create that environment where the kids know that coaches care about them and that they care about each other."

Kelp admits he wasn't sure how the girls were going to handle the different adversities as they continued to come, but the girls have buckled down and turned in an impressive start to the year.

"I think that the basketball gives them a chance to focus on something else for two hours a day," he said. "The winning is

See GIRLS, 3B

Northville's Martins Trautmanis bothers Novi's Nick Brockman during last Friday night's game hosted by Novi.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



## Novi turns it on late to beat Mustangs

### ■ 20-point fourth quarter earns Wildcats 41-34 victory

By Jeff Thelsen  
SPORTS WRITER

Novi almost doubled its points from the first three quarters with a 20-point fourth quarter in a 41-34 victory against Baseline rival Northville.

The Wildcats (2-2) had almost no solution for Northville's 2-3 zone and scored just six points in the first and four in the second quarter, but still only trailed 15-10 at the half.

"The last probably 12 minutes of the game, I think we got things turned in our favor," said Cory Heitsch, Novi first-year head coach. "We picked up the defensive intensity a little bit, we got some turnovers and good things started to happen."

The size of the Mustangs (0-2) at the top of the zone kept the ball

on the outside, where Novi was having no luck at all hitting shots.

"We struggled with the zone," Heitsch said. "I've been waiting to get zoned this year with the size that we bring."

"They came out in a 2-3 — and with their length, they eat up the whole 54 feet on that side of the court — and we didn't handle it well."

The Mustangs got a few inside buckets but struggled to hit from the outside.

Dan Kirkpatrick's four points at the intermission led all scorers.

Northville scored the first five points of the third and eventually took a 22-12 lead in the opening moments of the third.

Novi was forced into a smaller lineup because of foul trouble with 6-9 center Caleb Dean, and the Wildcats responded with a 9-0 run. But even more importantly, Shaun Rydzewski hit the first three-pointer to cap the run.

Northville took a 24-21 lead into the fourth, but it didn't last for long.

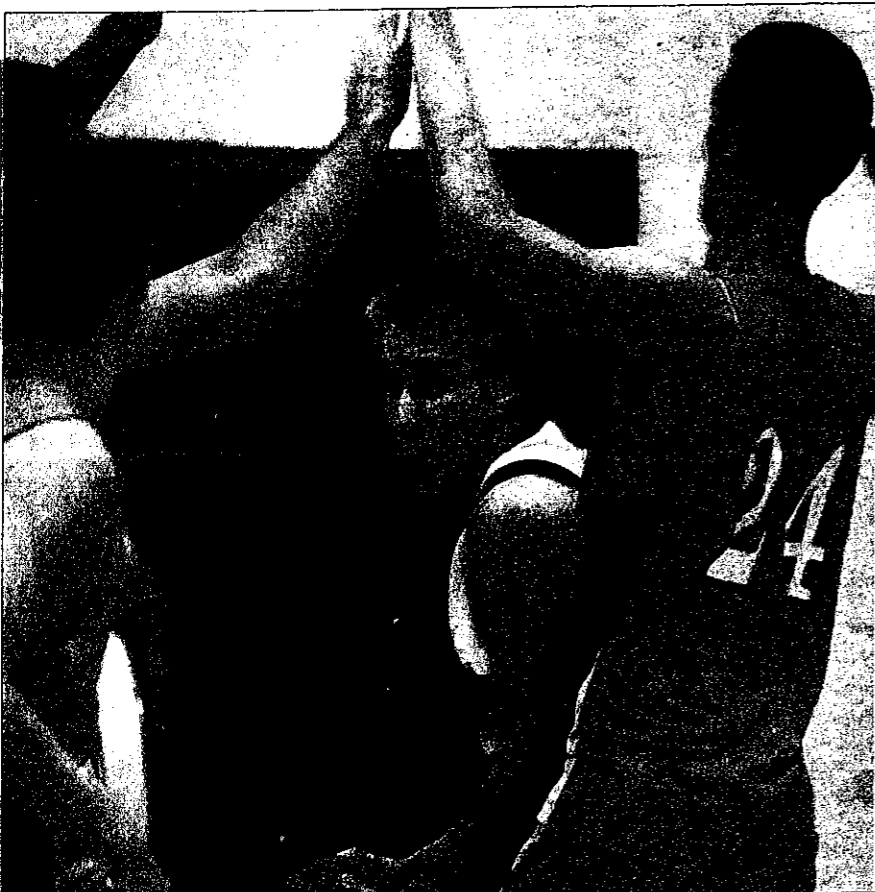
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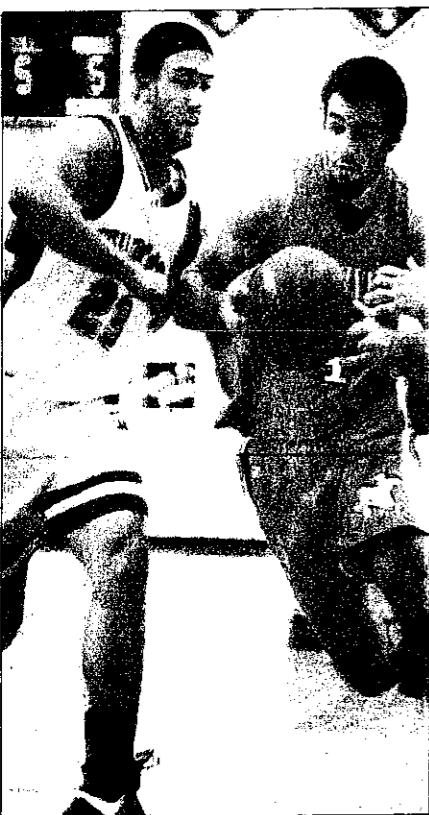
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A Novi Wildcat is pinned by a couple of Mustangs including David Burke, right.



Caleb Dean tries to keep his hand on a rebound.



A little more than two months from facing off on the football field, Wildcat Tyler Hoover, left, and Mustang Greg Hasse square off on Novi's basketball court.



Mustang Nick Diegel feels some pressure from Wildcat Brandon Bradford.

**Schedules**

- Pom Pon**  
1/19 Regionals at Churchill, TBA
- Figure Skating**  
1/19 Ind. Dist. at D.I.S.C., 8 a.m.
- Novi**
- Boys Basketball**  
12/20 at Pinckney  
12/27 at Tri-Unity Christian
- Girls Basketball**  
12/20 vs. Pinckney
- Hockey**  
1/4 at Calumet, 7 p.m.
- Boys Swim and Dive**  
12/20 vs. Milford, 6 p.m.
- Bowling**  
1/11 vs. Howell at Brighton, 4:30 p.m.
- Cheer**  
1/7 at Hartland, 7 p.m.
- Skating**  
1/7 at St. Mary Prep, 4 p.m.
- Wrestling**  
12/21 Oak. Cty. at Milford, TBA  
12/22 Oak. Cty. at Lake Orion, TBA

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**BASKETBALL: Novi beats 'Stangs**

**continued from front**

**Leading scorers**  
Kirkpatrick led the Mustangs with 13 points. Hasse was next with nine.

**Novi charges ahead**  
Chris Bellamy hit a three-pointer to pull within 26-24, and Tyler Hoover followed with an inside bucket to tie the game. Bellamy put the Wildcats ahead to stay with a couple of free throws and a three-pointer for a 31-26 lead with just less than three minutes to play.

Novi went to the free throw line down the stretch and hit 10 of 17 to stay in front.

The Mustangs did pull within four with 26 seconds left on a bucket by Greg Hasse, but the comeback fell short.

Novi went long stretches in the first half without scoring, the Mustangs did the same in the second half.

"Somebody put a cover over the basket," Northville head coach Darrel Schumacher said. "We weren't screening the way we were supposed to, we got a little undisciplined and we didn't take care of the ball."

"We didn't get the clean looks that we got in the first half."

**Chris Klebba** usually arrives when we least expect it, some cold, snowy morning in January when we are just getting dressed for the day, it comes. It's the winter phenomenon known as... dreaded holiday weight gain.

Experts argue over the exact amount of weight we gain during the holidays, but the fact is weight gain is as much a part of eggnog and turkey. Also, with this phenomenon comes the flood of TV and radio advertising with all the latest and greatest weight loss fads. So, I am committing this column to urge you to consider one and only one, simple Five Step New Year's Resolution in 2008 in the area of physical fitness. Forget the magic pills and machines, forget the latest super programs, forget counting carbs. Let's start with one simple resolution and stick with it.

This resolution will require a nominal investment of about \$5. No memberships, no special locations or special times required. No special training, everyone can do it and you can do it with anyone. Guaranteed improved health and weight loss.

**Step One:** Purchase a simple pedometer from any sports store, (or steal it from your kids' cereal boxes.)

**Step Two:** Put it on and count your steps and log them at the end of each day.

**Step Three:** Add 10 steps from what you walked the day before until you reach a minimum of 10,000 steps a day.

**Step Four:** Repeat daily - no exceptions and no make up days.

**Step Five:** (Optional, but recommended) Drag your child along with you; this may require extreme force to remove them from the new gaming system they received for the holidays, proceed with caution.

The rules for steps three and four need to be clear. At night when you are going to bed if you are at the same 5,000 steps from the day before you must walk around the bedroom to get the ten extra steps before you go to bed. On days you fall short and think, "Well I will walk double tomorrow," that is not allowed, and for you shortcut types, if you exceed 10,000 steps you can't bank them for the following day, but nice try.

At the 21-day point of seeking to reach and maintain your daily step goal, positive and dramatic affects will begin to occur, the primary and lasting one being your thinking. The way you perceive steps will evolve from a negative nuisance (as most the population perceives steps) to a positive activity. No more stalking a shopper feet parking spot and you won't believe how much less crowded the stairs are next to the escalators. Best of all, for most people this small resolution will result in weight loss and a healthier 2008.

*This column was written by fitness expert Chris Klebba. Chris owns and operates Planet Fitness in Northville and Waterford, and is a regular columnist and public speaker. For fitness questions, e-mail [planet.fitness@sigglobal.net](mailto:planet.fitness@sigglobal.net) and for more information call 248-449-7634 or go to [www.planetfitness.com](http://www.planetfitness.com).*

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**Health**  
**Avoiding holiday weight gain**

Another new year is upon us, and with it comes a phenomena known to most of us middle aged adults. This phenomenon comes each and every year.

It sneaks up on us after the tree is down and ornaments are tucked away, after the New Year's party is over and football games and our precious time off and relaxing with the family has ended. It arrives when we least expect it, some cold, snowy morning in January when we are just getting dressed for the day, it comes. It's the winter phenomenon known as... dreaded holiday weight gain.

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**Health**  
**Novi Roundup: Novi girls, CC post victories**

**BY Jeff Theisen**  
SPORTS WRITER

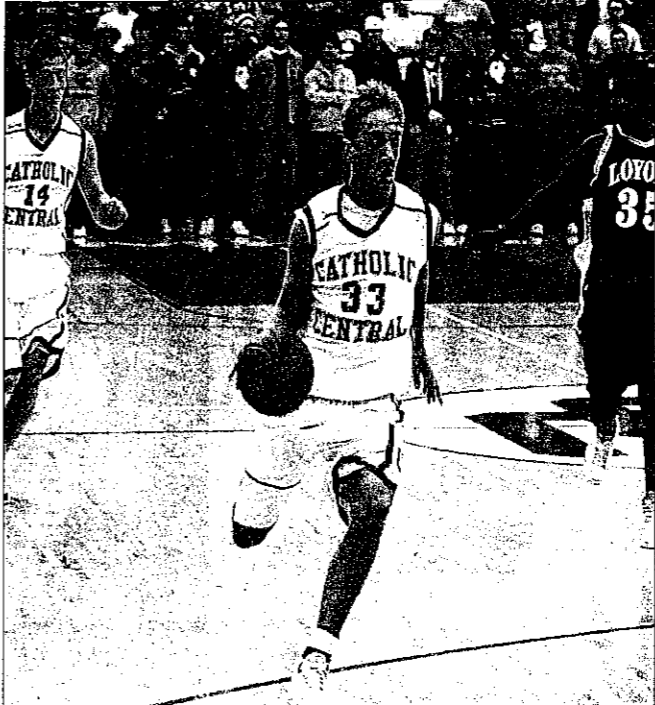
The Novi girls basketball team improved to 5-1 with a 49-47 overtime victory Dec. 12 against West Bloomfield.

West Bloomfield tied the game up with a desperation three-pointer as regulation time ended.

Caroline Johnson scored 11 points for Novi. Katie Chaikos provided some clutch free-throw shooting and sealed the game with a steal in overtime.

**CC Hockey**  
Catholic Central hockey beat Brighton 4-3 Monday night. Lou Lemak scored a pair of goals to lead the Shamrocks (6-3).

**CC Basketball**  
The Catholic Central basketball team improved to 4-0 with a 50-43 victory against Farmington. Tim Dezeliski led the way with 19 points for the Shamrocks.



Catholic Central forward Jamie Morris brings the ball upcourt against Loyola Dec. 7.

**BY Jeff Theisen**  
SPORTS WRITER

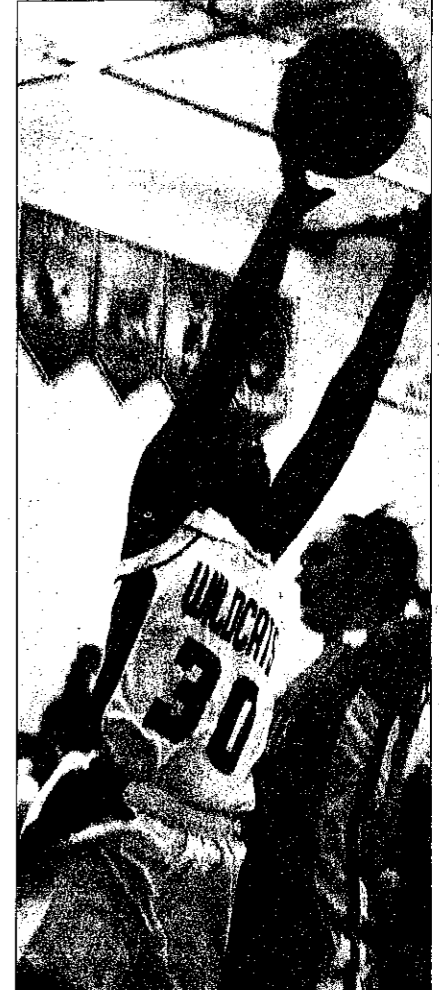
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Wildcat Chantel Hill puts up a running jumpshot during last week's game against the Mustangs of Northville.

**GIRLS: Overcoming adversity**

**continued from front**

just like icing on the cake."

The 2007-08 Wildcats are a mirror image of last year's team that went on to win the district title.

"I think it's team basketball," Kelp said. "It's kind of a continuation from last year. It really doesn't matter who is doing what — who is leading in rebounds or scoring."

The evidence doesn't just show on the floor.

"If you watch our games, the girls on the bench are cheering as loud as anyone in the stands," Kelp said. "When the starters are on the bench they're cheering for their teammates. They just feed off of each other with that."

Winning always makes things easier, but this year, it probably means more than ever for the Wildcats. Kelp

through, it's very gratifying," he said. "It's more than the wins and losses. When we play good, we feel good. We're always trying to get better every game."

"With all the other stuff, it's a testament to these girls how they've hung together and focused on basketball."

Every team deals with adversity on and off the court, but the Wildcats have already dealt with more than most. Kelp is proud of how the girls have dealt with things, and he thinks that getting on the court has helped several of the girls get away from things that happen off the court.

"It makes you appreciate things other than basketball, but with that said, it makes you appreciate that we're lucky enough to be able to play the game and coach the game," he said.

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



The Novi Wildcats practice Monday afternoon at the Novi Ice Arena. Novi High hosted South Lyon on Wednesday night in a KVC matchup.

**HOCKEY**

**continued from front**

hockey team.

"I pretty much got hired and walked into an empty room," he said. "I didn't know all of what I had coming when I got hired."

After being on three teams during a decade of NHL hockey, Krygier knows a lot of things happen off ice that can bring a team together or tear it apart. He invites the kids to come by and hang out before and after practice to listen to music or watch a movie on the TV with the other guys.

Last year's team started to take their coaching up on the idea just as the season started to come together for Novi. After a rough start, the team put together an unbelievable playoff run, finishing in the final four.

"I love coaching. I love the guys," Krygier said. "It's like any family. You have your moments of frustration, but that brings a team together versus pulling it a part, and the locker room is a big part of it."

**Clean-up duties**

Having something nice means the players have to take the time to keep it looking nice. Krygier passes around the responsibility of general cleaning (including the bathrooms), vacuuming and taking out the garbage.

"They've been doing an excellent job and taking a lot of pride," Krygier said. "I hear they do it at the rink and they don't do it at home."

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

**5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS**  
**5 BEST PICTURE**

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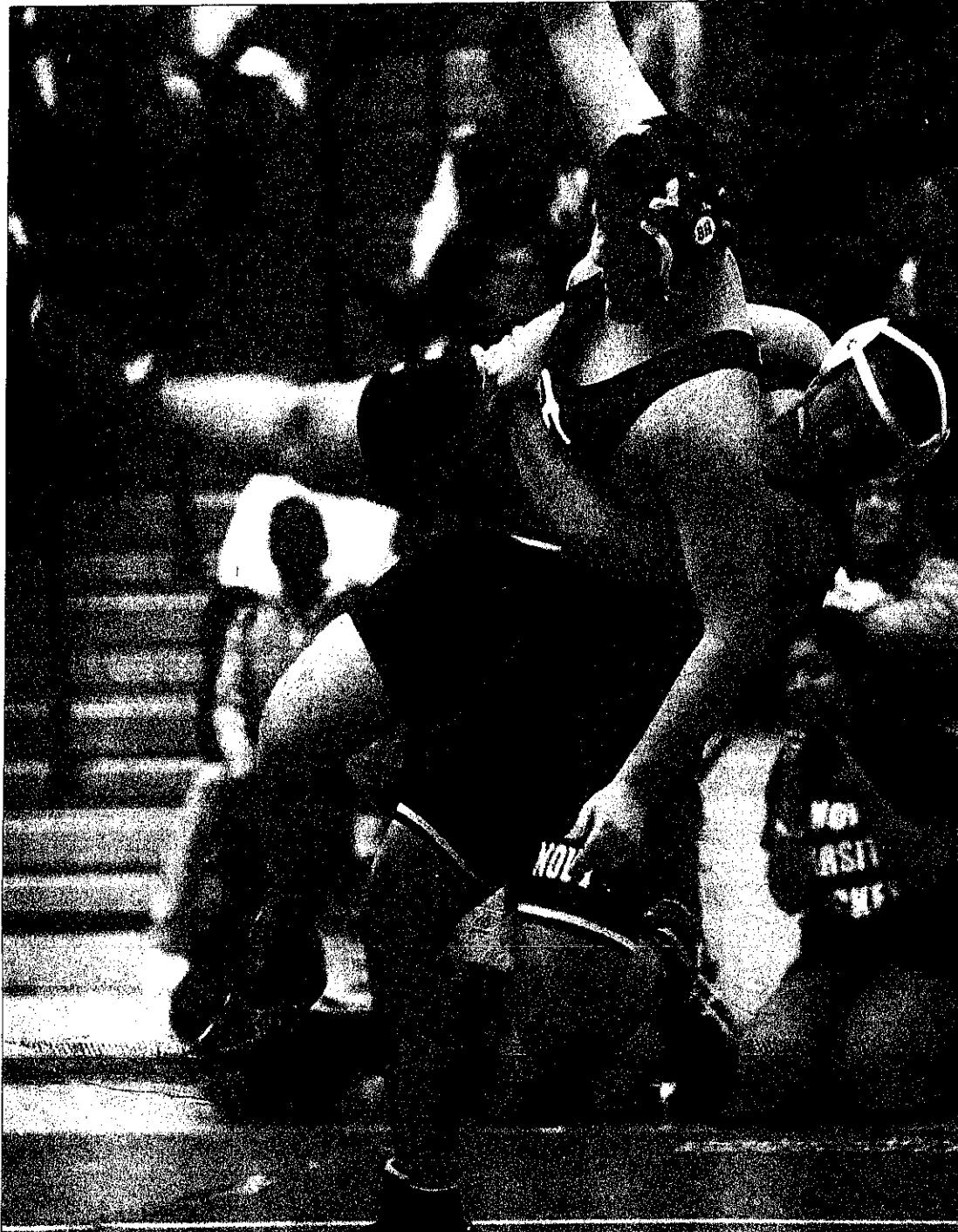
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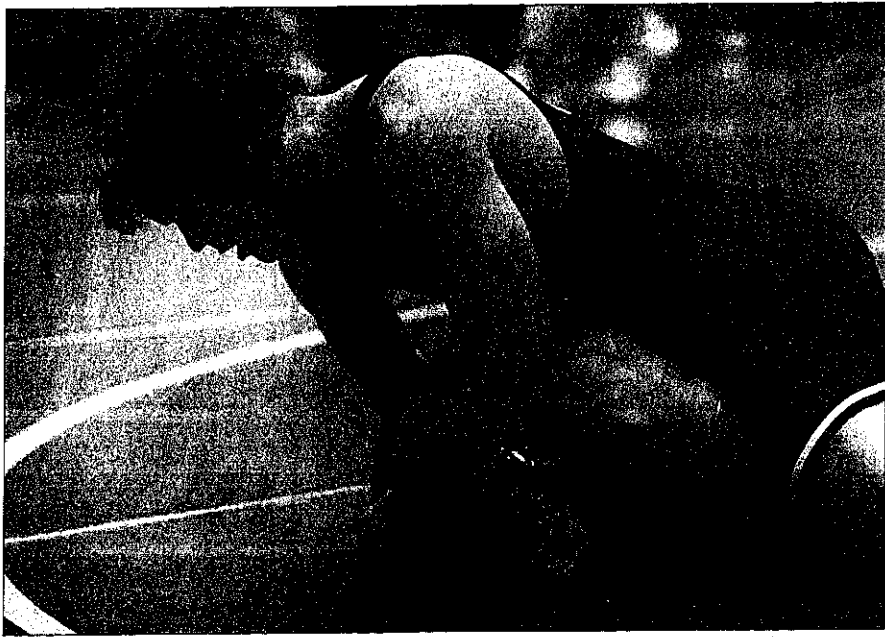
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**RESPECT THE EARTH RECYCLE!**

# Wildcats throw down



Novi's Joe Shada lifts and prepares to slam his Livonia Franklin opponent to the mat during a special end of the school day match at Novi High.



Novi's Ryan Ridenour in action against a Livonia Franklin wrestler.

## Thomas 2nd at Howell

The Novi varsity wrestlers competed at the Herm Wilkinson Classic in Howell on Dec. 8, while the JV competed at a tournament in Holt the same day.

At Howell, Ryan Thomas led the Wildcats with a second-place finish at 152 pounds. Joe Pritchard placed fourth at 171, and Aditya Sathi was fifth at 112. Ryan Ridenour took sixth at 189, and Connor Caldwell (103) and Clayton Caldwell (130) each placed seventh.

In JV action, freshman Beau Bielski claimed the title with a 5-0 record. Second place finishes went to Dan Burris, David Sparlin, Adam Paul and Alex Engelbreton.

Photos by John Heider  
See more photos at [www.novnews.com](http://www.novnews.com)



Novi's Charles Satterwhite in heavyweight action.



Novi's Connor Caldwell wrestles a Livonia Franklin opponent.

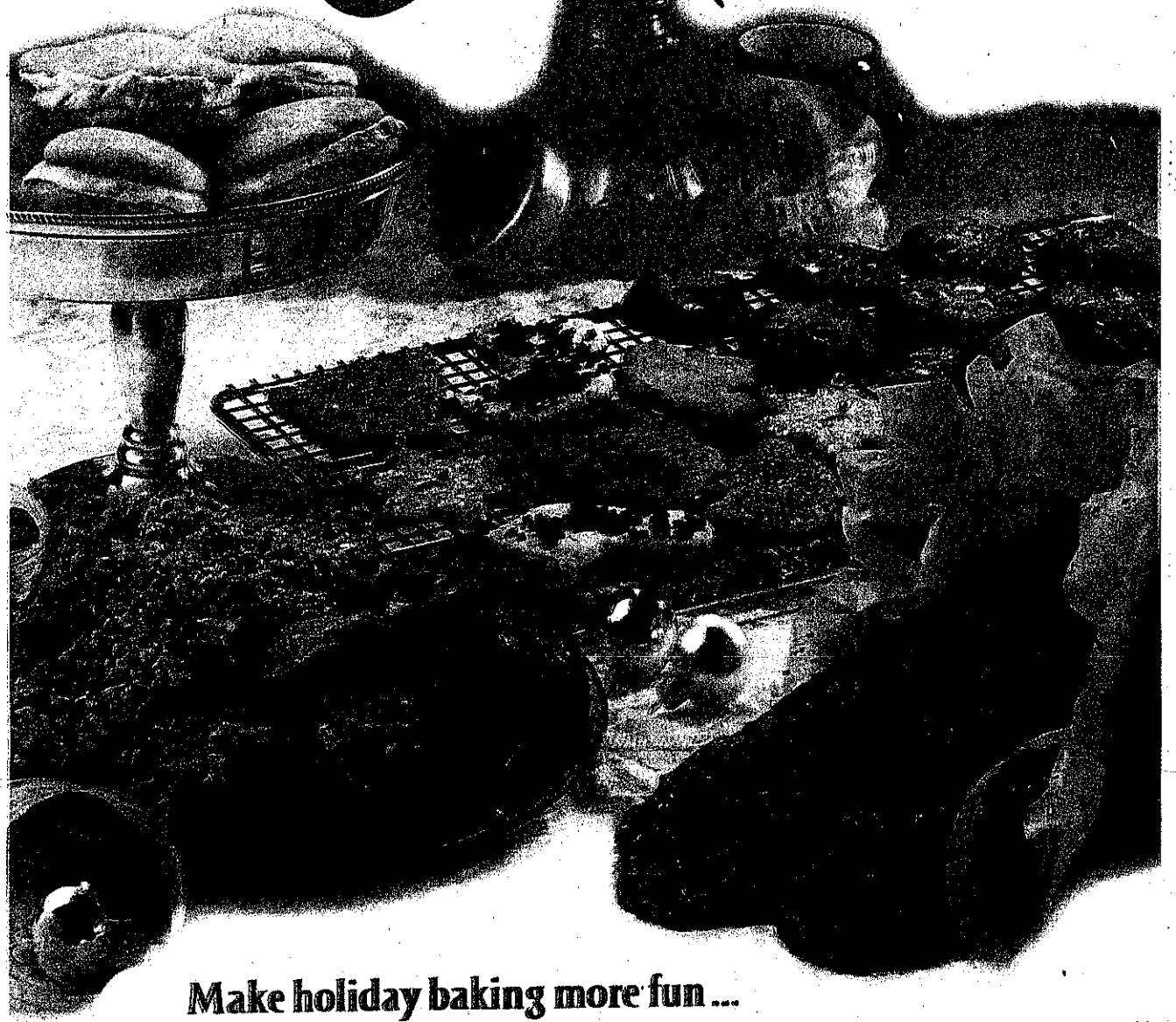
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## MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, December 20, 2007  
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# Holiday Cookie Exchange



Make holiday baking more fun...  
host a cookie exchange!

Clockwise from bottom right:  
Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Chocolate  
Gingerbread Cookies, Maple  
Almond Bars, Maple Cream  
Sandwich Cookies, Ginger  
Maple Cutout Cookies

### Maple Cream Sandwich Cookies

- 3/4 cup sugar (Maple Grove Maple Sugar is preferable)
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup Maple Grove Pure Maple Syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine sugar, butter and egg. Mix in milk, syrup and vanilla. Add flour, baking powder and salt. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto lightly greased baking sheet or ungreased parchment paper. Bake about 12 minutes. "Paste" 2 cookies together with filling or make "Sandwiches" using ice cream slices between cookies and freeze.

FILLING: Mix together 3/4 cup pure maple syrup, 3/4 cup marshmallow fluff, 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar and 2 tablespoons butter.

Yield: 16+ sandwich cookies, depending upon size

### Chocolate Gingerbread Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 8 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger or 1 teaspoon ground
- 1/2 cup Grandma's Original or Robust Molasses
- 4 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 6 ounces chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1/4 cup crushed peppermint candy canes

Sift flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda and cocoa together. Set aside. Cream butter and ginger until light. Stir in molasses and 2 tablespoons sugar. Gradually add flour mixture into butter mixture. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Wrap dough in plastic and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Heat oven to 325°F. Roll 1 tablespoon dough into ball with palms and flatten into disk. Dip in crushed candy canes and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Bake 15 minutes. Cool.

Yield: 2 dozen

### FAMILY FEATURES

Invite some friends to bring one dozen of their favorite holiday cookie for each invite, plus more to nibble on at the party. Have containers ready so your guests can take an assortment of bar, drop, sandwich and cutout cookies home.

Make your own cookies stand out when you use the secret ingredients favored by both home bakers and chefs — molasses and pure maple syrup, both 100 percent all-natural, pure sweeteners. Molasses complements chocolate, nuts and spices, and gives cookies that irresistible "I-can't-eat-just-one" homemade taste. Use pure maple syrup in place of refined sugar. For each 1 cup sugar, substitute 3/4 to 1 1/2 cups maple syrup, then remove 2 to 4 tablespoons milk, water or other liquid in the recipe.

For more recipes and information, visit [www.grandmasmolasses.com](http://www.grandmasmolasses.com) and [www.maplegrove.com](http://www.maplegrove.com).

### Maple Almond Bars

- Crust
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
  - 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
  - 1 egg, at room temperature
  - 3 cups unbleached or all-purpose flour

- Topping
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
  - 3/4 cup Maple Grove Pure Maple Syrup
  - 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
  - 1/4 cup honey
  - 1/4 cup heavy cream
  - 2 cups chopped almonds
  - 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

CRUST: Lightly grease 10- by 15-inch jellyroll pan and set aside. Preheat oven to 375°F.

Cream butter and sugar in large bowl. When light, beat in egg. Add flour, about 1/2 cup at a time, working it in with wooden spoon. Divide dough into four pieces and put one piece in each quadrant of jellyroll pan. Push dough into pan with floured hands, forming a seamless crust. Keep it as even as possible and work it up sides to top of rim. Cover with plastic and chill 15 minutes. Poke dough 3 or 4 times with fork, then bake 15 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Mix a tiny amount of flour and water together to make thick paste and rub a little into fork holes to close them up.

TOPPING: After crust has cooled about 20 minutes, melt butter in large saucepan. Add maple syrup, brown sugar and honey, bring to a boil. When it boils, add cream and bring back to a boil. Boil 2 minutes. Quickly remove from heat and stir in almonds and vanilla. Pour evenly over crust and bake 20 minutes. It will bubble and darken somewhat. Cool thoroughly on wire rack, cut into bars.

Yield: 2 to 3 dozen bars

### Oatmeal Lace Cookies

- 8 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup Grandma's Original Molasses
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup quick or old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat, stir in milk, molasses and vanilla. Sift together sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Blend into milk mixture. Stir in oats and nuts. Drop by level teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake 6 to 8 minutes. Cool.

Yield: 6 dozen cookies

### Ginger Maple Cutout Cookies

- 2/3 cup vegetable shortening
- 1/3 cup (5 1/3 tablespoons) butter, softened
- 1 cup Maple Grove Pure Maple Syrup, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon Grandma's Original Molasses
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 4 cups unbleached or whole-wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Cream together shortening and butter in large bowl. Gradually beat in maple syrup, molasses and vanilla. Mix flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cloves and nutmeg and work them into creamed mixture about 1 cup at a time. Using floured hands, divide dough in half and wrap each half in plastic; flatten each into a disk. Chill at least 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 350°F and lightly grease baking sheet or line with ungreased parchment paper. Roll dough out, one half at a time, onto sheet of waxed paper, to a little less than 1/4 inch thick. Cut into desired shapes, transfer to baking sheet, and bake 8 to 10 minutes, until bottoms are golden. Cool briefly on sheet, transfer to wire rack to finish cooling. Decorate as desired.

Yield: Varies

\*It is important to chill dough at least 2 hours before rolling, otherwise it will be difficult to handle.

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Thursday, December 20, 2007

Page 6B

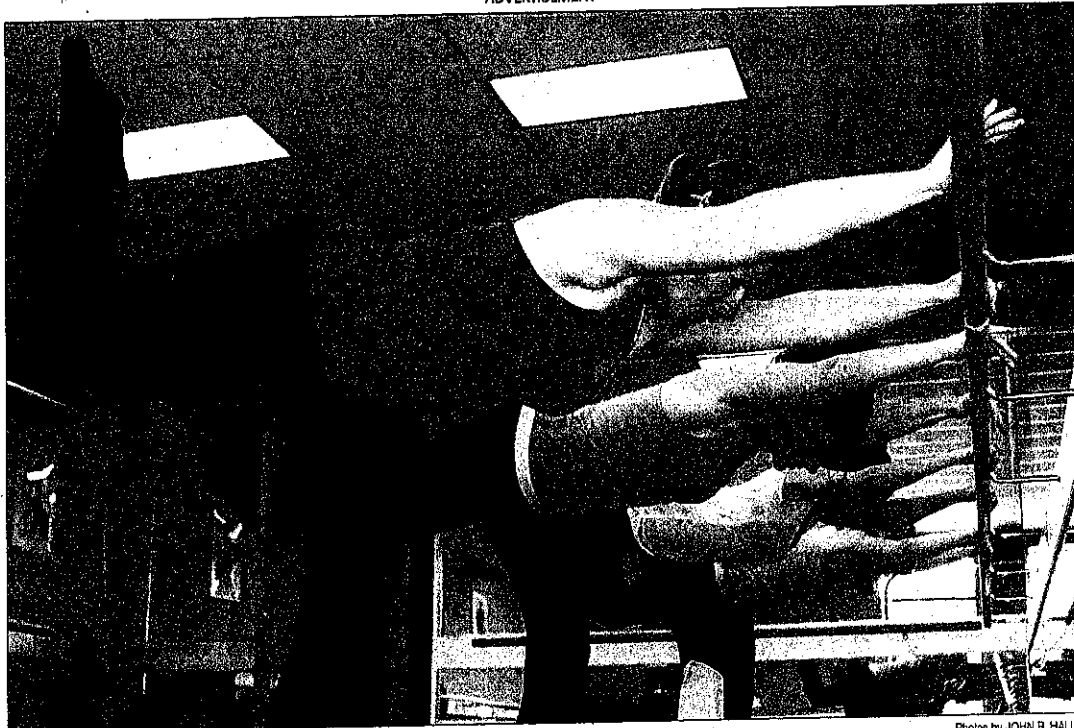
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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

Some of the students of the Pure Barre Studio practice during one of the several classes taught at the studio on Main Street in Northville.

## Northville studio raises fitness bar

By John R. Hall  
SPECIAL WRITER

At first glance, visitors to Pure Barre Studio in the Northville Square on Main Street notice that the business has a boutique look to it because of its retail store.

But the business is much more than selling exercise apparel — it is all about one of the most effective and challenging workouts that a person can experience — the Pure Barre technique, which fuses Lotte Berk exercises, dance and Pilates to create an intense and effective 55 minute workout.

"This signature class, taught by several certified instructors, including co-owners Tracey Carlton and Lizz Hill, is designed to transform your body and your mind," Lizz said.

The Pure Barre technique is one of several classes offered by the studio throughout the year. Other classes include Power Hour, Sculpt, Pilates, Kickboxing, Hip Hop, cardio, and Boot Camp. The signature class is, however, what Tracey and Lizz brag about the most.

"Not only is Pure Barre a form of exercise, it is a stress reliever," said Tracey. "It

**PURE BARRE STUDIO**

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Web site  
www.purebarrestudio.com

### Pure Barre Class Format

- The class begins with a warm-up and light weight work in the center of the floor
- Then it moves to the ballet barre to focus on creating long, strong thighs
- The class continues at the barre shaping and lifting the seat to create high round assets
- The class finishes with abdominal work under the barre in the center of the floor
- Each strengthening section of the class is followed by a stretching section in order to create strong, long, lean muscle without the bulk, while increasing range of motion

is an hour of mental relief for each participant."

### A UNIQUE TECHNIQUE

Pure Barre Studio, which opened in February 2007, is one of only seven studios in the United States that teaches Pure Barre.

Visitors to the studio will notice very little equipment. That's because Pure Barre uses body weight as a form of resistance

and much of the workout is performed using the studio ballet barres and exercise balls/mats.

"Pure Barre is choreographed to popular music and is fast-paced," Lizz said. "The choreography separates us from other classes."

The upbeat music is part of the total package that works muscles that "people didn't know they had," she added. "It is a workout — you will definitely feel it after the first class."

One class participant, Patty from Northville, said, "Pure Barre is very intense — it's hard but you really see results. I belonged to a gym for years, but got better results in a few months at Pure Barre. I've especially seen results in my thighs and waist."

Lizz said she has been using the Pure Barre technique for three years and it never gets easy. "It is always a challenge."

### PERSONAL ATTENTION

What makes each class special is the attention given to every participant. The class sizes are small, with a maximum of 15 people. Tracey said the reason for this is to give personal attention to everyone.

Each class can be paid for on an individual basis or as part of a special package. There are no yearly fees or contracts. A complete listing of the classes and prices — offered six days a week during mornings and afternoons — are available online at [www.purebarrestudio.com](http://www.purebarrestudio.com).

"There is a discount if you want to package up classes," Tracey added.

Pure Barre Studio is also offering monthly pricing specials for people interested in getting one of the best workouts ever. If you are interested in learning what

Pure Barre is all about, Tracey and Lizz are offering the first Pure Barre class for free.

Tracey, who grew up in the area, said she is very happy with owning a business in Northville because the people are "real easy going and easy to talk to. I really want to bring something special to the people."

### LULULEMON CLOTHING

Part of this special appeal — beyond the Pure Barre instruction — is the retail shop itself. The store carries the popular lululemon athletic clothing and people come from great distances to buy these products.

"Having a clothing line compliments our fitness training because people like to look good and feel good about themselves," Tracey said. She can special order products for customers, too.

But the main allure of the business is what it can do to make people feel good. And that is what motivates Lizz to keep doing what she is doing.

### POSITIVE RESULTS

"I enjoy seeing people who experience positive results and who feel better about themselves," she said. "These classes are for people who really want to see results."

Another participant, Amy from Northville, summed up what other people have been saying. "I've noticed changes in my physical appearance since attending Pure Barre — more tone, muscle and less flab," she said. "What I like most about the Pure Barre studio are the classes and the great gals who teach."

If you want to feel better about yourself and see positive results, stop by or call Pure Barre Studio in the Northville Square — and begin 2008 with a good feeling.



The co-owners of Pure Barre Studio, from left, Lizz Hill and Tracey Carlton, show off some of the exercise routines using the Pure Barre technique.



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