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Novi News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008

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VOLUME 52 #32 50 CENTS

Best foot forward



Sticking to your new year resolutions

W HAPPY NEW YEAR... [The text of the article is mostly illegible due to heavy noise and low resolution.]

Wacky warning grabs top prize

By Chris Jackett STAFF WRITER

Ever see the clothing label "Do not iron shirt while wearing" or hear about someone who sued a coffee company after they spilled hot coffee all over themselves?

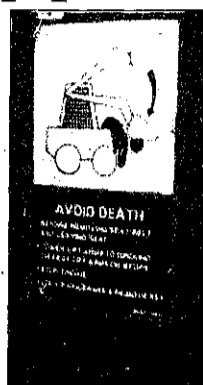
Bob Dorigo Jones has, and he doesn't like it. Dorigo Jones, a Northville resident, is president of Novi-based Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, better known as M-LAW, a group dedicated to pointing out and preventing frivolous lawsuits since 1997.

"We heard that the Girl Scouts of America have to sell 36,000 boxes of cookies just to pay for liability if they're sued," he said. "We're a lawsuit-happy society."

Other countries don't face such lawsuits and companies save money because they are not faced with large liability payments, Dorigo Jones said.

"There was once a time when we'd spill coffee on ourselves and call ourselves clumsy. Now you call yourself an attorney," he said. "Warning labels can be on anything. We're bombarded with warning labels and we kind of become immune to warning labels."

"The bottom line is why do we need warning labels when our parents and grandparents didn't?"



M-LAW recently announced the winners of its 11th Annual Wacky Warning Label Contest, a contest showcasing product labels created by companies to prevent frivolous lawsuits from coming their way.

Ken Soave of Farmington Hills won this year's \$500 grand prize for submitting a label found on a small construction tractor lift warning "Danger! Avoid Death." The label also displays a stick figure of a person leaning out the front of the tractor before allowing the lift to

continued on 5A

City land deal arbitration ends

■ Settlement reached with former Expo Center owner

By Kelly Murad STAFF WRITER

After months of arbitration, the land deal between the City of Novi and Kevin Adell, owner of the former Novi Expo Center, is complete.

The city made its final payment of \$151,128 to the Adell Brothers Children's Trust Dec. 13.

According to city officials, the less than one acre of property will be used to construct a roadway as part of the ring road project.

"(The city's) been in the process for seven to eight years, to acquire the land to extend Fonda Drive from Novi Road to Grand River to improve traffic flow and traffic safety," said City Manager Clay Pearson in June.

The City was granted the right to purchase the property in a 2005 Michigan Supreme Court decision.

Adell said if the city doesn't

build the road within three years, he would purchase it back.

A city commissioned independent appraisal was conducted, and in June, the city paid Adell \$308,847.

Adell believed the city's appraisal was below fair market value of the property, which he estimated was worth between \$800,000-\$1 million, so he took the city to court.

Both parties agreed to a final just compensation of \$400,000.

In the end, the city spent more than \$600,000, including interest, expert and legal fees, for the property located on the south-side of the former expo center.

Adell previously claimed he was going to give the city the property for the road in exchange for permits to develop a trade center.

Adell is no longer seeking to open the former Novi Expo Center as a trade center-like business.

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.

NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

FRIDAY

Roll up to Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., from 4-9 p.m. for the 27th Annual Cycle World International Motorcycle Show.

The show will feature a BOSS Stunt Show, Suzuki Giveaway, Interactive Game Experience, Vintage Displays and a Kids Cycle Center. Admission is \$13 for adults, \$6 ages 6-11, and free for ages 5 and younger. The event also runs from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Parking costs \$5. Call (800) 331-5706 or visit www.motorcycleshows.com for more information.

SATURDAY

From 10:30-11 a.m., the Novi Public Library's Whole Meeting Room, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, will give toddlers and preschoolers ages 18 months to 4 years the chance to create a work of art using their imaginations and supplies provided by the library. Registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult. Those interested in attending should register at www.novilibrary.org or call (248) 349-0720 for more information.

SUNDAY

Due to inclement weather on the originally scheduled date, the Novi Concert Band will continue the spirit of the season with a holiday concert at 7 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.

Each selection at this special concert is sure to please audiences of all ages.

Admission is free and complimentary refreshments will be served at intermission.

For additional information, call the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry office at (248) 347-0400 or visit city-ofnovi.org.



My Novi Home... 45245 W 10 MILE RD NOVI MI 48245-2914

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**GO T 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  
vmitchell@annett.com

# MY COMMUNITY

Thursday, January 3, 2008  
www.novinews.com  
fax: (248) 349-9832

## Ready, set, cut

Resident donates hair before joining the Navy

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

As Novi resident Julian Meconi walked into Margo's of Northville Salon and Spa last Friday, his hair was 12-inches longer than when he left.

"It's gone," said Julian's sister, Clare Meconi, 17.

As Margo's stylist, Tony Zimba, snipped away the foot-long ponytail, Julian Meconi was surrounded by a support system of family members, including his mother, sister, aunt and uncle.

"If you were standing, your knees would be getting weak right now," said Brian Greenwell, Julian Meconi's uncle.

When Julian Meconi, 18, made the decision to join the U.S. Navy, he knew it meant sacrificing one of his most unique characteristics.

"I've been growing it since the

ninth grade," he said. "It feels weird."

Instead of waiting until March, when the eight-week boot camp begins at Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois, Julian Meconi decided to contribute his hair to Locks of Love.

"When I was a kid, a young girl donated her hair and I thought it was pretty cool," he said. "I had to cut it off anyway."

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

According to Julian's mother, Susan Meconi, Margo's was the only local salon she found that advertised participating in Locks of Love.

"It's becoming more and more popular, we just did another one yesterday," said salon manager Lisa Daigneau. "I would say the majority of the donations are children. I don't think we've ever had a guy before. He's our first one."

Not only does Margo's send the hair to Locks of Love themselves, the salon also provides the haircut free of charge.

"Margo (Kramer) likes to give

back, she's really involved with the community," Daigneau said of the owner. "So we don't charge for the haircut, we just ask they tip the stylist."

Now that his hair is cut, Julian Meconi is preparing for the training to begin.

"I've got to get in shape for boot camp," he said.

After undergoing extensive tests, Julian Meconi qualified for a Master at Arms position, which he described as the military police for the Navy.

"His uncle Tom (Greenwell), who is in the Navy, told him it was a good job," Susan Meconi said. "I think it's just right for him. He's never been an office job type of person. He's very observant and attention-detailled."

Aside from his uncle being in the Navy, Julian Meconi had other reasons for wanting to join the U.S. Navy.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Julian Meconi possesses dual citizenship in the United States and Canada and wants to travel the world.

"I like to travel, everywhere, anywhere. I like the water," he said. "I want to see the stars from the middle of the ocean."



Julian Meconi is shown the large hunk of hair he's just donated to Locks of Love by Margo's Salon hair cutter Tony Zimba. A recent high school graduate, Meconi has had long hair since ninth grade.

## Relay for Life; 'Good Builders' bills signed

Novi is ready to celebrate, remember and fight back against cancer. Teams are forming for this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Novi. This year's event will be held on June 7-8 from 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

### My Novi, briefly

The measures clarify the state's authority to prosecute unlicensed builders. The legislation also creates the Builder Enforcement Fund, supported by \$30 from each builder license in the first three-year cycle and \$15 per license from each subsequent cycle.

The money in the fund can be used for enforcing the law and reimbursing the attorney general and attorneys who prosecute unlicensed builders and contractors.

The fund is capped; when it reaches \$3 million, deposits from the license fees will stop. When

the balance dips below \$750,000, the deposits will begin again.

Builders convicted of a misdemeanor under the new law could face up to a year in jail, and second offenses are punishable by up to two years in jail. Should any offense cause death or serious injury, it is punishable as a felony.

home radon testing urged

You can't see, smell or taste it, but it may be a problem in your

home and is a leading cause of lung cancer deaths. What is this invisible substance? Radon.

The Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) will provide free home radon test kits (one kit per customer) during January and prevention information about radon in observance of National Radon Action Month (NRAM).

Radon test kits for homes are available at Health Division offices in Pontiac (1200 N. Telegraph Road), Southfield (27725 Greenfield Road) and Walled Lake (1010 E. West Maple Road).

The kits will be free during NRAM and are available for \$10 at Health Division offices during the remainder of the year. These radon test kits meet EPA guidelines.

For more information about radon or radon testing, call Oakland County Health Division at (248) 424-7190 (Southfield), (248) 858-1312 (Pontiac), (248) 926-3305 (Walled Lake) or visit [www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health) and [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon).

**"Good Builders" bills signed into law**

Legislation was signed into law protecting and advancing the professionalism, ethics and integrity of the residential building industry. While giving consumers greater confidence and security in those they hire, said one of the sponsors

of the four-bill package, Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi).

Senate Bills 450-453, known as the "Good Builders" legislation, will provide several mechanisms to strengthen the industry.

"With this legislation, Michigan becomes a leader in protecting the reputation of licensed builders, safeguarding consumers and strongly deterring those who fail to get their licenses," Cassis said. "Builders who scam the public could face fines, penalties and even jail time."

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continued from 11A

DETAILS: Stories, crafts and music for the independent listener, ages 3-5, drop-in, registration not required.

Story & Snacks Family Time TIME/DATE: 6:30 every Thursday. Library Board of Trustees Meeting TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Friday of every month.

Wixom Public Library LOCATION: 48015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom. HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

instructor help; free. CONTACT: Karin at the Information Desk. Book Discussion Groups TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10.

MEETING: "Killing Floor" by Lee Child eBay Explained TIME/DATE: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12.

Salvage Sale TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19. DETAILS: R.E.P.T.I.L.S., for ages 2-99.

NOVI SENIORS Novi Senior Activities Center LOCATION: Located in the

Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. CONTACT: (248) 347-0414. Massage by appointment: 12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday.

Friday 9 a.m.: Line Dance-Int. 11:15 a.m.: Line Dance-Beg. Noon: Lunch 12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge 2:30 p.m.: Line Dance canceled.

Wednesday 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall 10:30 a.m.: Quilting 11 a.m.: TOPS: Blood Pressure 11 a.m.: "Alcoholism and the Older Adult" by Kathryn Bartz.

12:30 p.m.: Clogging-Club 1:30-3 p.m.: Sing-A-Long 2-4 p.m.: Estate Planning by appt. 6:30-8 p.m.: Evening Book Discussion Group "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini.

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks Independent Living Residence, Licensed Assisted Living, Licensed Memory Care.

CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595. Bereavement Support Group DATE: Third Tuesday of each month.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting DATE: Last Wednesday of each month. TIME: 10-11 a.m.

Angela Hospice Groups DETAILS: Grief support groups include general grief.

CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595. Bereavement Support Group DATE: Third Tuesday of each month.

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Loss of a spouse, women's grief, parents who have lost a child and a grief support quilters group.

MSOMS Club of Novi TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. first Thursday of each month. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. weigh-in and 11:30 a.m. meeting every Wednesday.

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road. CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com

First United Methodist of Northville LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville. CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.umcnorthville.org

First Baptist Church of Novi LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road. CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road. CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com



Taking Flight Andreea Kalchik, 6, nails a backwards jump as the practices figure skating at the Novi Ice Arena under the tutelage of instructor Dayna Liptak.

GracePointe Presbyterian Church CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 497-3178 or gracepointe@mac.com; www.gracepointepca.org

St. Paul Lutheran Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-3140. Sunday Worship TIME: 8:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

The Baha'i Faith TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month. LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville LOCATION: 200 E. Main St. CONTACT: (248) 349-0911. Sunday Worship TIME: 9:30 and 11 a.m.

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Support Groups LOCATION: 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. CONTACT: (248) 337-3314.

Breast Cancer Support Group DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month. LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (Classroom C) Commerce.

Heartland Hospice Volunteers Needed TIME/DATE: Day and evening classes. LOCATION: 2858 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 475, Southfield.

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second Thursday of each month. LOCATION: Whitch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.

Church of the Holy Family LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road. CONTACT: (248) 449-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

St. James Catholic LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road. CONTACT: (248) 347-7778. Mass Schedule TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday, 5 p.m. Saturday.

Orchard Hills Baptist Church LOCATION: 23455 Novi Road. CONTACT: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665.

Al-Anon Support Group TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday. DETAILS: No pre-registration required. For information, call (248) 337-3314.

St. John Lutheran LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills. CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohnlutheran.com

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, January 3, 2008

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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

Using an exercise ball is part of the overall fitness training schedule at Jazzercise Fitness Center of South Lyon.

## Feel better, look better now

### Jazzercise Fitness Center offers personal touch

By John R. Hall  
SPECIAL WRITER

**Now** that the holiday season is over and the leftovers have been eaten or tossed out, many people think about losing some of the weight they gained, getting into better shape, or just feeling better about themselves.

If you fall into any of these categories, then the solution might be a visit to the Jazzercise Fitness Center of South Lyon.

Why Jazzercise Fitness Center? Because everyone is welcome to come see how much fun getting into shape can be. It doesn't matter what the circumstances. Owner/certified instructor Jamie Martin is eager to welcome you to a whole new world of fun.

"It doesn't matter how people look or feel about themselves — they are always welcome here," she said.

#### EVERYONE WELCOME

Jamie and her staff of 14 certified instructors have been working with many new and regular customers since Jazzercise Fitness Center moved to its new location on Pontiac Trail south of Nine Mile about one year ago. The best part about the Jazzercise Fitness Center experience is that everyone is welcome.

"We offer a one-hour total body workout which includes fat burning aerobics done to popular music, strength training with weights, stretching, kick boxing, yoga, and Pilates," she said.

"Everyone picks their own pace and that includes people who don't exercise regularly to fitness buffs. And we change the routines so they are never boring or too repetitive."

Jamie said that her instructors are always available to help clients modify their own routines — and just for any help that may be needed.

"There is always an instructor here to make sure the workout is safe and super-

#### JAZZERCISE FITNESS CENTER OF SOUTH LYON

22177 Pontiac Trail  
South Lyon

Phone  
(248) 486-3674

Web site  
www.jazzercise.com

vised," Jamie added.

#### PERSONAL TOUCH

The schedule of workouts includes over 30 different classes and special seminars called the "personal touch" for people who want an added boost to their workouts throughout the weeks. Information on all classes and personal touch sessions is available by visiting the Web site at [www.jazzercise.com](http://www.jazzercise.com).

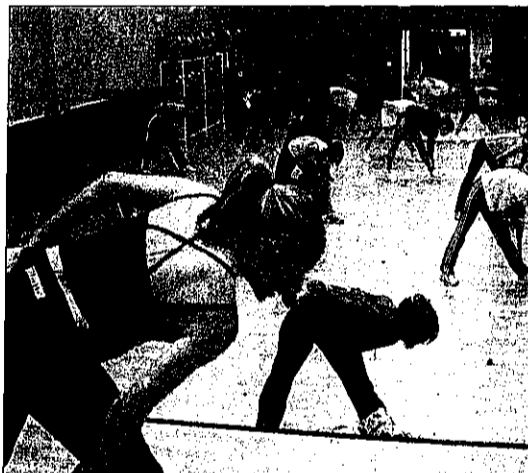
Clients do not have to sign any contracts and may pay for each class as they go or pay \$39 each month for unlimited classes. There is free daycare available during certain times for people while they attend classes.

#### FROM KIDS TO SENIORS

"We have people here from high schoolers to people in their 70s," Jamie said. "The workouts are easy to follow for everyone."

Jamie also talked about the special Junior Jazzercise program for elementary school-age children called Kids Get Fit.

"The program is designed to help fight the growing obesity problem with school-age children," she said. "Kids can exercise, play games, work with arts and crafts, and test their motor skills. These programs are offered certain times of day and parents are encouraged to call for spe-



Aerobics are a fun way to exercise, stay fit, and feel good — key ingredients of the classes available at Jazzercise Fitness Center of South Lyon.

cific times."

Parents interested in this program are encouraged to call Jazzercise Fitness Center at (248) 486-3674.

Jamie, a lifelong South Lyon resident, wants as many of the community to become involved and understand the importance of staying fit and feeling good about themselves.

"Everything is here," she said. "It is up to our clients to take advantage of the opportunities available to them."

"It is amazing to see moms who decided to take time for themselves to attend classes. Now they have so much more energy."

Being physically fit also goes along with being financially fit, too.

Jamie's husband, Matt, shares the same building and offers financial consulting. His business, Family Financial Services Group, LLC, can be reached at (248) 486-0094.

People who are looking for a fresh start in 2008 should look no further than Jazzercise Fitness Center of South Lyon, where everyone is welcome and everyone has fun.

"Come by for a visit to see what we are all about," said Jamie. "It is free to watch. And we will discount your first class to \$10 just for visiting us."

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