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Novi News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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VOLUME 52 #37 50 CENTS

Mandarin program expands



Novi High School freshman Makena Bauss works with Chinese Language and Culture instructor Haiyan Tan on writing some Chinese characters after a recent Tuesday morning class. Chinese is now offered at both Novi Middle and Novi High schools.

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

With a global job market growing increasingly diverse, it's no wonder Novi Community Schools took the initiative to add Mandarin Chinese courses to the curriculum.

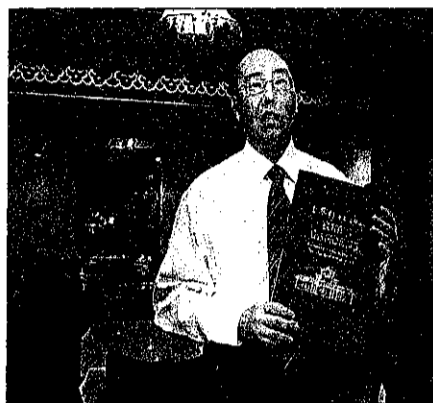
The program began in fall 2006 and has had steady interest from students at both the high school and middle school levels during its first two years.

"In 2006-07, we offered Chinese Language and Culture I and 37 students signed up in two classes. In 2007-08, Chinese I and II are offered. Seventy students signed up in three classes. For Chinese II this semester, we have 30 students in one class," said Haiyan Tang, who teaches all the courses for the district. "In 2007-08, there's a 12-week exploratory Chinese Culture Class for seventh graders in middle school and 33 signed up for two sessions."

Tang grew up in China speaking Mandarin Chinese and learning English as she got older. She graduated from both high school and college overseas before coming to the United States to teach.

"I am a certified English teacher in China. I taught (English as a Second Language) both in public middle school and at college. I also taught Chinese to foreign visitors from time to time," she

continued on 3A



File photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Roger Tam, owner of Novis Kim's Garden Chinese restaurant, will have many dining specials beginning this Saturday — as they celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year

■ Kim's Garden celebrates Saturday and Sunday

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Today is the first day of the Chinese New Year celebration.

Traditionally, the Chinese embark on a 15-day celebration, beginning the first day of the New Moon and ending on the full moon.

As many American holidays, the Chinese New Year is filled with food, family and traditions.

According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2008 is the year of the rat, which begins Feb. 7, 2008 and ends Jan. 25, 2009.

Novi celebrations

In honor of the Chinese New Year, Kim's Garden, on Novi Road, north of Grand River Avenue, will host celebrations Saturday and Sunday.

Roger Tam, owner of Kim's Garden, said the Chinese New Year is an important time to celebrate with family.

With Novi having a large Chinese population, Tam said reservations are required for both events, which begin at 6:30 p.m.,

continued on 3A

City welcomes input for future of Fuerst Farm property

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Even though the future of Fuerst Farm ultimately lies in the hands of the city, community members are being asked to share their input regarding potential uses for the property.

"I've always valued community input," said Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Randy Auler. "We really want to find out what the community thinks."

In an effort to gain community feedback regarding the city-owned property, located on the southeast corner of 10 Mile and Taft roads, five Focus Groups are

scheduled between Feb. 12-16.

"I hope that people who have participated in the past will not assume that their previous input is being considered and therefore it is not important to attend," said Kathy Match, chair of the Historical Commission. "It's in the Focus Groups where everyone who participates will see the diversity of interests and see that many people view this (property) as a community identity."

Currently, upon the 6.5 acres sits a home, three barns, a well house, gardens and an orchard. The farmstead is listed on the State Register of Historic Sites and the National Register of

Historic Places.

"We want people to go into those Focus Groups well-informed," Match said. "People may be totally unaware of previous commitment by the city to preserve the property."

"The value of the property is partly because of its location, partly because it's an intact farmstead and it's valuable because it's representative of what Novi used to be. It's more valuable overall than any one part of it is."

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

"With the library construction

project, it will require the old town hall to be relocated and we only want to do that one time," Auler said. "We'll take the community input and all the research that's being conducted to come up with options and recommendations for the property that will best serve the community."

At the Jan. 22 meeting, council unanimously approved to contract McKenna Associates, Inc. to prepare a Master Plan for the Fuerst Farmstead property.

In developing a Master Plan, they will be responsible for preparing a report with recom-

continued on 9A

Community Input

Focus Groups

- Noon and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13
- Noon Friday, Feb. 15
- 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16
- Each Focus Group meeting is limited to 25 participants and registration is required. Anyone interested in participating in a Focus Group can contact the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department at (248) 347-0400.

Drop Box

Visit the Novi Civic Center and complete a comment/suggestion input form at the parks counter and place it in the drop box

Online Survey

Visit the City of Novi Web site and www.cityofnovi.org to complete an online survey.

E-mail

Any questions, comments or suggestions can be sent via e-mail to Randy Auler at rauler@cityofnovi.org.

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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

• **FRIDAY**
Join the Novi Chorales at the Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, from 7-9 p.m. for their Valentine Concert. Enjoy the Chorales' melodies and a hot fudge sundae at intermission. This event is geared toward those ages 55 and older. Tickets cost \$6 and must be purchased in advance. Call the Senior Center at (248) 347-0414 or visit www.novichorales.org for more information.

• **SATURDAY**
Get your groove on from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Novi

Parks' Daddy Daughter Dance. Taking place at the Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, the dance will feature a Rock Around the Clock Sock Hop theme. Poodle skirts and Elvis attire is welcome as hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. The dance will take place during the same time frame on Friday, but admission to both events is subject to availability. Cost is \$20 for Novi residents and \$22 for non-residents. A photo and gift bag are included in the ticket price and corsages will be available upon registration for \$8. Call Derek Smith at (248) 347-0474 for more information.

• **SUNDAY**
Those interested in old guns and weaponry should stop by the Antique Arms Show at Rock Financial Showplace's Hall A, 46100 Grand River Ave., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The event will give patrons the opportunity to buy, sell and trade antique arms. Admission is \$6 for ages 13 and older and parking costs \$5. The event also runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. Call (248) 676-2750 for more information.

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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
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MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Thursday, February 7, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Kim's Garden celebrates Saturday and Sunday

continued from front

and include dinner and traditional lion dancing.

Another tradition Tam's family celebrates is the giving of money to the children. Sometimes referred to as Lai-See, the parents give their kids red Lai-See envelopes filled with money to bring them good luck in the new year.

Fifteen-day celebration

According to the University of Victoria Web site, each day of the 15-day New Year celebration represents a tradition in Chinese culture.

Day 1 - The welcoming of the gods of Heaven and Earth. Many people believe that abstaining from eating meat will ensure long and happy lives.

Day 2 - The Chinese pray to their ancestors, as well as to all the gods. They are extra kind to dogs and feed them well because it is believed to be the birthday of all dogs.

Day 3 and 4 - These days are for son-in-laws to pay respect to their parents-in-law.

Day 5 - Called Po Woo, people stay home to welcome the God of Wealth. No one visits family or friends because it is believed to bring bad luck to both parties.

Day 6-10 - The Chinese visit

Chinese New Year

Of all the traditional Chinese festivals, the New Year is perhaps the most elaborate, colorful and important.

It is celebrated on the first day of the First Moon of the lunar calendar, which, according to the solar calendar, varies from Jan. 21-Feb. 19. The celebration ends on the 15th day of the First Moon.

This holiday, more than any other Chinese holiday, stresses the importance of family ties.

It is a time for the Chinese to congratulate each other and themselves on having passed through another year - a time to finish out the old and to welcome in the new.

Common expressions heard at this time are "guonian" - to have made it through the old year, and "heilian" - to congratulate the new year.

Source: Chinese Culture Center

Day 10-12 - Friends and relatives are invited for dinner.

Day 13 - From all the rich food eaten during days prior, they eat simple rice congee and mustard greens to cleanse the system.

Day 14 - The Chinese prepare for the Lantern Festival.

Day 15 - The end of the New Year celebration is the Lantern Festival. People carry lanterns and take part in a parade where young men participate in the dragon dance.



Mandarin Chinese program expands

continued from front

While integrating both language and culture into her lesson plans, Tang also makes things fun.

On Monday, the students played a variation of musical chairs.

They sat in a circle of chairs and had to dictate flash cards with the Mandarin word for a classroom item, such as a pen or backpack. The seated students then had to stand and attempt to find a new seat if the flash card they had on top of their pile was the same word read aloud in a sentence.

Whoever was left standing was next up to read.

The teaching method helps to add some fun in the classroom, but it also bridges the age gap between students, as there are five different grades, including nine middle school students, represented in the high school class.

"I did it last year and I really liked learning the language," said eighth-grader Alex Davis, 14.

"We have to go over here by our own means. We take a bus back to the middle school."

Davis said it was worth it though, as he likes the class and feels like he's gaining something from it.

"It might open some career options. The international market is growing, so it'd be good to know a second language," he said.

The language portion of the program is taught at the middle school for the first time this year. Some students, like Berman, enjoyed the cultural portion

enough to sign up for the language segment as they entered high school this year. With the inclusion of the language at Novi Middle School, it is slowly making its way throughout the older tier of students.

Lessons learned

"My students are very surprised to learn their counterparts in China started to learn English as a mandatory subject from seventh to 12th grade. Some of Chinese students start even earlier to learn English," Tang said. "One-fifth of the world population is speaking Chinese. Chinese class helps to prepare our kids with many more opportunities in their future."

"It helps them with an open mind towards the change around them. Foreign language abilities have been regarded as good access in the job market. Students have cultivated a strong confidence of themselves throughout their learning of this difficult language in the world."

Oakland County schools have embraced Mandarin Chinese, as 14 districts teach the language and all 28 teach some form of history. The support from the administrators is amazing," Tang said. "Peter Dion, our superintendent, and John Lawrence, the high school principal, initiated the Chinese program in Novi HS two years ago."

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

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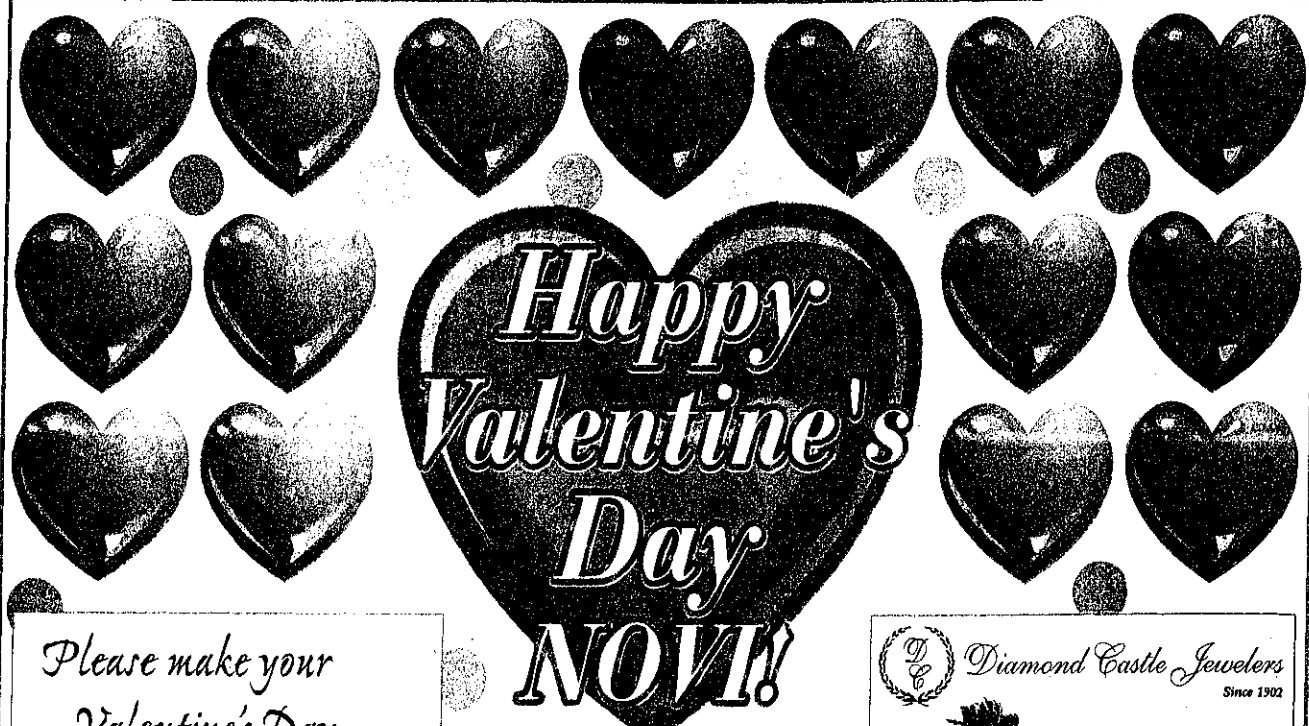
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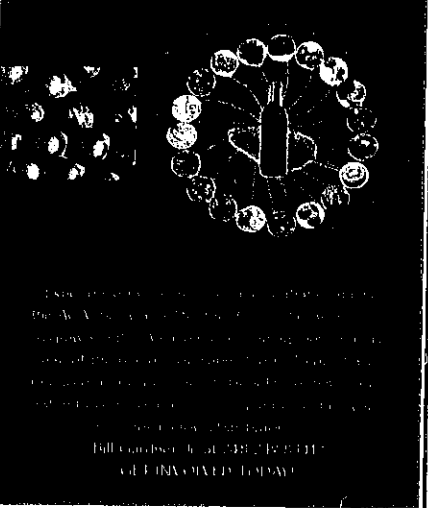
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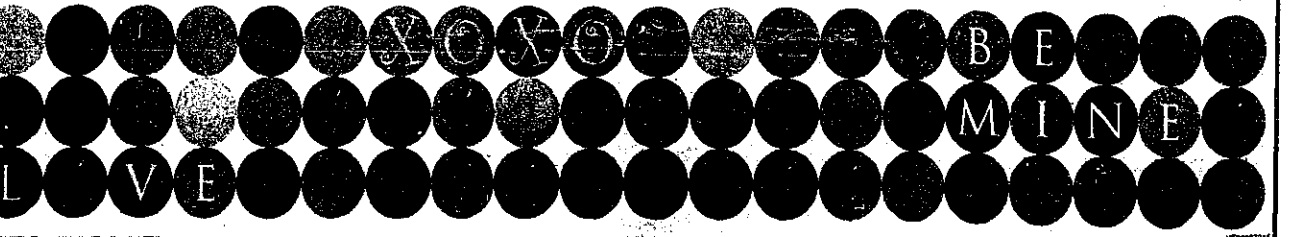
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Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
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ARMY PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, February 7, 2008
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Pittao jury deliberations continue into second week

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

It began Jan. 4 and the end-date is yet to be determined. The trial of Daniel Pittao for the alleged murder of Tamara Pittao on Thanksgiving Day 1997 remains in Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren's chambers as the 14-member jury continues deliberations, moving into their second week since attorneys rested their cases on Jan. 28.

The court does not meet on Wednesdays or on Thursday afternoons, lengthening the trial. The jury did not meet last Tuesday either, for personal reasons.

The jury is hung, or deadlocked at a standstill without a unanimous decision, according to a note passed to the judge Monday. Judge Warren encouraged the jury to continue deliberations until a decision is agreed upon, at which point the jury returned 90 minutes

later with the same response and received the same reply from Warren.

If the jury cannot reach a decision and becomes a hung jury, it could result in a mistrial and a retrial would potentially occur.

Pittao, 49, plead not guilty to beating, suffocating and slaying his wife's friend.

The case now stands at comparing the prosecution's history of Pittao's violence, threats and surpassing lawful restraints with the defense's lack of physical evidence placing Pittao at the scene of the homicide.

The prosecution built its case around Pittao's abusive history of beating his then-12-year-old son for not taking out the garbage, pushing his first wife down a flight of basement stairs while they were engaged and the told him she was pregnant, and threatening to kill Tamara, then-30, if she ever left him. The two were separated and going through

divorce proceedings at the time of Tamara's death.

Testimony also revealed Pittao was not at work Nov. 24, 1997, the estimated afternoon of Tamara's death, and witnesses claim to have seen the then-Davidsburg resident at her Novi apartment complex that afternoon.

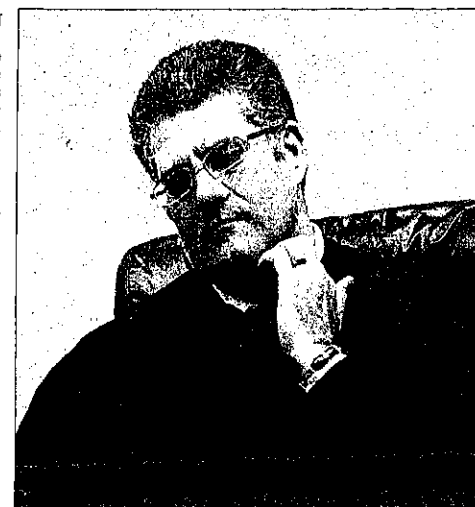
The defense claims Pittao was not in the area, as indicated by the lack of evidence at the murder scene.

Testimony revealed not a single Pittao hair or finger print was found in Tamara's apartment by Michigan State Police.

If he is found guilty of first-degree murder, Pittao faces life in prison without parole.

Check the Web for breaking news updates.

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



Judge Michael Warren listens to witness' testimonies in his Pontiac courtroom during the murder trial of Daniel Pittao. Pittao is facing first-degree murder charges in the 1997 homicide of his wife, Tamara Pittao. Warren has instructed jurors to try and reach a verdict after notes of a deadlock were reported.

Photo by JOHN HEDDER/Novi News



Photo by JOHN HEDDER/Novi News

Novi Accident

A fire and police personnel and Michigan State Police troopers responded to a late afternoon multi-car accident late last week on Interstate-96 near Interstate-275. One victim was hit by another car as he exited his vehicle, which was stopped along the median. They were transported to Novi's Providence Hospital.

Armed robber steals engagement ring from Twelve Oaks Mall

Novi police search for suspect

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Novi police are still searching for the suspect in an armed robbery incident Monday, at Elias Jewelry and Repairs inside Twelve Oaks Mall.

The suspect is described as a white male with brown hair, weighing about 235 pounds and 5-foot-9-inches tall.

According to reports, he entered the store, located on the lower level near Sears, requesting to look at engagement rings.

The suspect was wearing blue jeans, a dark blue T-shirt and an unofficial law enforcement identification badge around his neck.

Along with the badge, he was carrying a semiautomatic handgun in a holster on his right hip and a set of silver handcuffs attached to his belt.

After looking at several rings, the suspect selected a nearly one-carat diamond ring, valued at more than \$16,500, and threatened to shoot the sales clerk if she followed him out of the store.

At the time of the incident, there were no customers in the store and no one was injured.

While fleeing the scene, the suspect passed the owner of the store and warned him not to follow as he exited the mall through the west side doors.

Detective Kevin Gilmore of the Novi Police Department was unable to recall the last time an armed robbery occurred at Twelve Oaks Mall.

After the investigation, it was determined the suspect also visited the Zales jewelry store, located on the upper level between JCPenney and Nordstrom, and talked with people there as well.

The situation is still under investigation by the Novi Police Department. Anyone who has information regarding the armed robbery can contact detective Kevin Gilmore at (248) 347-0551.

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

Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy begins

Recruiting has begun for the 27th Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy.

This 11-week program begins March 6, and concludes with a graduation dinner on May 15.

The academy meets once a week from 6:30 p.m. to about 9 p.m.

Applications can be picked up at the Novi Police Department or by visiting the city Web site at www.cityofnovi.org.

Anyone interested can also contact Matt Conquest at (248) 347-0530.

What is it?

The Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, Wolverine, Lake and South Lyon police departments have created the Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy.

The academy is designed to give the public a working knowledge of the police department's personnel and policies. It is a series of classes held once a week for three hours. The instruction covers a different area of the police department every week for 10 weeks and also includes a graduation.

The Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy has one session in the spring and one in the fall.

Who may attend?

The class is made up of a cross-section of the five communities. Anyone 18 years and older may enroll.

The Purpose?

The Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy was created to provide information to the citizens so they are able to make informed judgments about the police department and police activity.

The instructors hope to increase public awareness about the police department and to increase police/community rapport through this educational process.

The department, in turn, becomes more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community from the students' interaction and input. It is a two-way learning process.

Topics

The Lakes Area Citizen's Police Academy covers topics such as training, communications, criminal investigation, drunk driving procedures, crime prevention, family violence, juvenile law and use of tactical teams.

Emphasis is placed on the patrol division, since that is the segment of the police department the public most often comes in contact with. Instruction consists of lectures, tours, demonstrations and hands-on experiences.

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Race for Oakland County commissioner heats up



Former mayor Lou Csordas states candidacy

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

It's been two years and former mayor Lou Csordas is already itching to get back into politics. "Once you're in it and can positively contribute to the community... Man, that's a rush," Csordas said. "It's in your blood."

A Novi resident of 30 years, Csordas, 60, announced his candidacy in the 2008 election for Oakland County commissioner, representing the Republican Party. Current Oakland County Commissioner Hugh Crawford (R-Nowi), whose fourth term expires in 2008, will be running for state representative in 2008. Craig DeRoche's (R-Nowi) term expires in 2009.

"He's a good friend of mine and he's doing a good job," said Csordas of Crawford. "I was always interested in the county level. It's very important to have open and good communication between the county and Novi."

If elected, Csordas would represent the 9th District, which includes Novi and the Oakland County portion of Northville.

"I really look forward to serving on the Oakland County Commission and the near thing is, I'm still serving

the same community."

Politics

Csordas received his first taste of Novi politics when former police chief Doug Shaeffer convinced him to run for the planning commission. Csordas served one term before making the move to city council, and after one term or council he was elected mayor.

As vice president of corporate communications at US Health and Life Insurance Company, Csordas believes his professional experience will be an asset to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"I happen to be very fiscally conservative," he said. "My budget experience, I think, is pretty valuable."

As Oakland County commissioner, Csordas anticipates dealing with budget issues, setting policy for county employees, setting millage rates and being the communication liaison between the county and the 9th District.

Csordas works with cities such as Warren, Birmingham and Sterling Heights in focusing on employee health care costs and benefits.

"I think I'll be an asset for the county for that reason," he said. "There's no question that that's tax payer's money."

"In a private sector guy, trying to give back to the community,"

An asset to the county

Novi High School is welcoming girl's varsity and junior varsity field hockey to its athletic department.

The new participant-funded sport will take the field this fall to represent Novi among the other 19 high schools in Michigan that offer the sport.

"I think there's a feeling of community in field hockey. I love it because it's very simple, but you can also master it to the finer points, (which) could take a lifetime," said Amy Kilgore, a high school guidance counselor. "You can get out on the field with friends and let some steam out."

Kilgore was the driving force behind forming a team. A former University of Michigan field hockey player, she started the discussion of forming a team when she began working in Novi.

"I started at Novi in fall 2005 and wanted to start it since then," she said, noting it took this long to get the team going because she had to take a maternity leave.

She hopes to be named the team's first coach in the months leading to the August kickoff.

"I coached at Ann Arbor Pioneer for seven years," she said. Novi will play against most of the other schools in the state, since the majority of them are within 30 miles of Novi. There are two in Grand Rapids, four in Ann Arbor, three in Grosse Pointe and the other 10 are in metro-Detroit, as close as Farmington.

The 20 teams will be split into two divisions this fall. The top 10 teams from last season will be in the upper division while the other six and the four new teams,

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. tonight inside the Educational Services Building on Taft Road

MY EDUCATION A+

Field hockey catches on, approved at high school

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

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"I started at Novi in fall 2005 and wanted to start it since then," she said, noting it took this long to get the team going because she had to take a maternity leave.

She hopes to be named the team's first coach in the months leading to the August kickoff.

"I coached at Ann Arbor Pioneer for seven years," she said. Novi will play against most of the other schools in the state, since the majority of them are within 30 miles of Novi. There are two in Grand Rapids, four in Ann Arbor, three in Grosse Pointe and the other 10 are in metro-Detroit, as close as Farmington.

The 20 teams will be split into two divisions this fall. The top 10 teams from last season will be in the upper division while the other six and the four new teams,



Novi High School Guidance Counselor Amy Kilgore, center, has been an advocate for introducing field hockey to Novi students. Sara Johnston, left, Katie Safford, Trinity Louis and Allison Pew intend to try out for the fall sport.

including Novi, will form the second division.

"I have some really good expectations," said 16-year-old sophomore Trinity Louis. "I think it could be a good season. It could be hard to get started though."

Potential players are happy their effort passing out flyers and attending school board meetings worked. The board of education approved adding the sport at its last school board meeting.

"Just being able to win a couple games because I don't think anyone has played before," was the goal of 15-year-old sophomore Katie Safford set for herself.

Opportunity

Safford plays softball and Louis played volleyball this year, although she is a life-long ice hockey player and expects field hockey to take volleyball's place in her life this fall.

"The new field hockey team is also opening up chances to students who weren't interested in other sports before."

"I hadn't really heard of it as a sport and I haven't played a sport before. I thought it would be a good opportunity," said 14-year-old freshman Marianne Caddy. "It's a mix between soccer and hockey, but on turf. It was really interesting. I think a lot of people will get involved."

Kilgore said about 45 girls signed up at the informational meetings she held in the fall and 15 were able to take time out of their winter break to come to a clinic she ran through Community Education.

"We hope to have another Feb. 18 or 19, through Community

Education, during mid-winter break," Kilgore said.

Although there are a lot of girls interested, Kilgore, if named coach, plans on fitting no more than 22 players onto the varsity squad and putting the rest onto the junior varsity team, although seniors are not allowed to play junior varsity, according to Michigan High School Athletic Association guidelines.

"I really desire to have no cuts, but there's a MHSAA rule that seniors can't play JV," Kilgore said. "Typically, we'll have two weeks of practice before the first game. (Tryouts could last) the whole first week and maybe into the second week. We'll use the first couple days for instruction and not start assessment maybe until the fourth or fifth day."

Preparation

Many of the potential team members are already getting ready, although practice doesn't begin until Aug. 11.

"My friend and I are going to start running and working out in the weight room this week. Everybody's really into it," Safford said.

Louis is also preparing for the upcoming season, and said the winter break clinic was very helpful. She already went out and bought her first field hockey stick. "It's a good way for us to start. We learned to pass, handle the ball, the basic positions and the different kinds of sticks," she said. "Hopefully (I'll be) forward so I can run a lot. I work out every day at Lifetime (Fitness)."

Louis hopes her 11 years of ice hockey experience will help her with field hockey. She's also been instrumental in getting the word out about the new team.

"We just started out by handing out flyers. We had the camp and got more girls to talk about it. I handed out a lot of flyers and delivered a lot of notifications," she said. "It's a new sport and it sounds like a lot of fun and a chance to meet some new people. I can't wait to get it off the ground. More people are getting involved. It's going to be fun."

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

Providence Park fundraiser 'The Event'; frog listeners needed

St. John Providence Park Hospital is hosting its first annual fundraiser, "The Event" Saturday, Feb. 9 at Rock Financial Showplace.

The reception will begin at 6 p.m. in the Otiswood Center, with a dinner and awards program to follow. The fundraising event will provide the music and entertainment for the evening.

The audience of the black tie event will echo that of a Hollywood Premiere or Academy Awards gala.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the Neurosciences Skill Base and Spine Institute, located on the Providence Park campus, to benefit its Surgical and Pre-surgical Skills Education Center.

The upcoming Neurosciences Institute will include teams of highly accomplished neurosurgeons, neurologists, spine specialists, craniofacial and reconstructive surgeons, specialists in pain management, rehabilitation, and pediatric neurologists.

To help support neurosciences on the Providence Park campus and for more information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities for "The Event," contact Lorraine Oczarek at the St. John Health Foundation at (586) 582-7500.

ArtServe Michigan announces relocation and consolidation

ArtServe Michigan, the statewide arts advocacy organization, today announced that it has relocated and consolidated its offices from Southfield and Lansing to Wixom, effective immediately. With the new facility, the organization has all of its operations and staff under one roof.

ArtServe Michigan's new corporate address is 1 Clover Court, Wixom, MI 48393. The main telephone number for ArtServe Michigan's office is (248) 912-0763. Its toll-free number remains (800) 533-9633. The main fax number for the Organization is (248) 912-0768.

My Novi, briefly

Frog listeners needed to survey local wetlands

Friends of the Rouge are looking for thousands of volunteers to listen for frogs and toads in local wetlands.

No experience is necessary to participate in the survey, just the ability to hear night frog and toad calls and the willingness to go to a wetland at night or in the dark a few damp evenings a month. Volunteers must attend one two-hour training session where they are provided all the information and materials needed, including a compact disc with call recordings.

Interested volunteers need to choose one of the below workshops and register by calling (313) 792-9621 or e-mailing monitoring@therouge.org. Survey blocks are one-quarter square mile areas with wetlands that drain to the Rouge River, which includes the Rouge River and its west and northern suburbs.

- Tuesday Feb. 12, 7-9 p.m., Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 7th Mile Road, Novi
- Tuesday Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m., Bloomfield Township Hall, 4200 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills
- Saturday March 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia
- Wednesday March 5, 7-9 p.m., Canton Summit on the Park, Walnut Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

For more information, contact (800) 328-6550 or visit www.CottageAndLakefrontLiving.com.

Amateur photographers needed

Call for photo entries from amateur photographers that best depicts cottage and lakefront living for the Water & Woods Photo Display at the new Cottage and Lakefront Living Show Feb. 28-March 2 at Rock Financial Showplace.

Novi will play against most of the other schools in the state, since the majority of them are within 30 miles of Novi. There are two in Grand Rapids, four in Ann Arbor, three in Grosse Pointe and the other 10 are in metro-Detroit, as close as Farmington.

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Erickson Retirement Communities recognized

FORTUNE announced Erickson Retirement Communities, the manager/developer of Fox Run in Novi and Henry Ford Village in Dearborn, was ranked 93rd on the 11th annual "100 Best Companies to Work For" list. The full list and related stories appear in the Feb. 4 issue of FORTUNE, available on newsstands and at www.fortune.com. Erickson is the only retirement developer/provider in the United States on this year's prestigious list.

The selection of Erickson to the FORTUNE's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list comes as the company prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary of Charlesville in Carnesville, Maryland, its first community. Erickson has grown from a tiny team of employees working in a small house on a seminary campus, to over 12,000 employees and 20,000 residents in 18 communities across 11 states.

Economic Forecast for Oakland County

Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic outlook of Oakland County at the 23rd Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon on April 17 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. The 2008-10 Employment Forecast for Oakland County, a joint venture of the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services and the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan, will be presented at the luncheon, scheduled from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Hosts for the luncheon are Chase, Oakland Community College and Oakland County. The cost is \$40 per person. Online registration begins March 1. Call (248) 858-8706 for information.

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Before AFTER

School surveys due tomorrow

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Novi Community Schools is looking for input from a random assortment of residents about high school seniors to help guide the district's level of success.

"It's always nice to know what your clientele are thinking. We have testing data, but not a lot of perception data," said Dr. Tim Falls, educational consultant for the district.

Falls is in charge of the survey that is being presented to about 2,100 people and asks questions about the public's awareness of district events, how well the public feels the district operates as a good chance even more will be turned in by the estimated deadline.

"We're getting a very good response from staff. We have easier access for reminders through e-mail," he said.

About 500 high school seniors and more than 600 staff members, from teachers to custodians and bus drivers, are being surveyed in addition to the "community members." The students were expected to be surveyed electronically in computer labs at the high school within the past week.

Falls said the goal of the survey is to see what Novi residents and district members think about Novi Community Schools, and improve upon any problems the surveys may reveal.

"This is a survey we'd like to do every third year. This is the first year doing it," Falls said. "Overall, they're more positive than negative."

The surveys are part of the district's Long Range Plan and should be returned to Falls at the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, upon completion.

Niagara University

Rachele Marie Polino of Novi was named to the Niagara University academic Dean's List for the Spring 2007 semester. "I really enjoyed my time at Niagara University. I was able to meet some great people and I'm excited to continue my education at the University of Michigan."

ON CAMPUS

State University. She is majoring in Hospitality and Hotel Management. Moisan is starting a dual internship at Disney World in January.

Hillsdale College

Alexander J. Wojcik, son of Victor and Marlene Wojcik of Northville and a 2004 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, was named to the Dean's List for the 2007 fall semester. Alex is majoring in financial management.

Grand Valley State University

Nicole Moisan, 2006 Novi High School graduate, was on the Dean's List at Grand Valley

Mercy College of Northwest Ohio

Janna "Elizabeth" Ramsey, daughter of Laura and Phil Ramsey of Novi and a 2005 graduate of Novi High School, was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Mercy College of Northwest Ohio in Toledo. She is pursuing a degree in Nursing.

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CALLING ALL SENIORS: Check out your section of our community calendar on page 16A

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

MY SENIOR LIFE



Thursday, February 7, 2008
www.novineews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Realty program moves local retirees to Fox Run - OBITUARIES -

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Interested in Fox Run's Realty and Moving Services?

Contact Mary Wollie of the Sales and Marketing Office at (248) 962-9200. Fox Run is located at 41000 13 Mile Road, east of Meadowbrook Road.

There comes a time in life when moving to a new living community comes to mind and the issue of what to do with your home becomes a problem.

Fox Run of Novi and Maryland-based Erickson Retirement Communities are here to help.

Starting with Fox Run in 2005 and spreading to Dearborn's Henry Ford Village and the 18 other nationwide retirement campuses, Erickson has implemented the Erickson Realty and Moving Services program, which helps retirees ages 62 and older sell their homes, pack and move to a nearby Erickson community while planning every detail along the way.

"We're responding to the ongoing challenge of people who just don't know when to begin. When someone's trying to get from their door to our door, what are the issues," said Tom Neubauer, senior vice president of sales for Erickson.

"The personal move consultant's job is to address any challenges the residents are experiencing and help them through."

Neubauer said the program was utilized by about 126 people last year.

Clark Reid, 82, and his wife, Barbara, 80, moved to Fox Run last June from their condominium in West Bloomfield. They had lived at Lockton Pines for 12 years before they moved.

"We decided to move to Fox Run because we were getting older and there will come a time when one of us goes. Rather than want to adapt our lifestyles, we decided to move," Reid said.

"We sold the condo within 30 days to the third person who looked at the house. The condo on one side was on sale for over two years and on the other side was on sale for more than one year."

Reid, who retired from industrial show business in 1991, said the move went smoothly less than a month after they contacted Fox Run.

"The physical move was about 36 hours. The packing service

packed 77 boxes and, the next morning, the movers came and took them, and the packers were at Fox Run to help unpack," he said. "We've moved seven times over the 37 years we've been married. This was the quickest, simplest, easiest move we've ever done. They knew what they were doing and they did it, and they did it with affection."

Seven months after making their move, Reid said they are enjoying their new lifestyle which saves them much of the maintenance burdens they had at their old home.

"Moving from 3,000 square feet to 1,000 square feet was intimidating, but we're settling in like a robin in springtime," he said. "It's kind of a small world feeling. Lots of common interests. You must be 62 to come here, so we don't get any hippies or baby boomers because they're not old enough to move in."

Joy Dunn, 70, of Northville and her husband, Bill, 84, are in the process of selling their Country Club Village home and moving to Fox Run. They have lived there for 10-and-a-half years and are impressed with the effort their Realtor is putting into selling their home since it hit the market in early October.

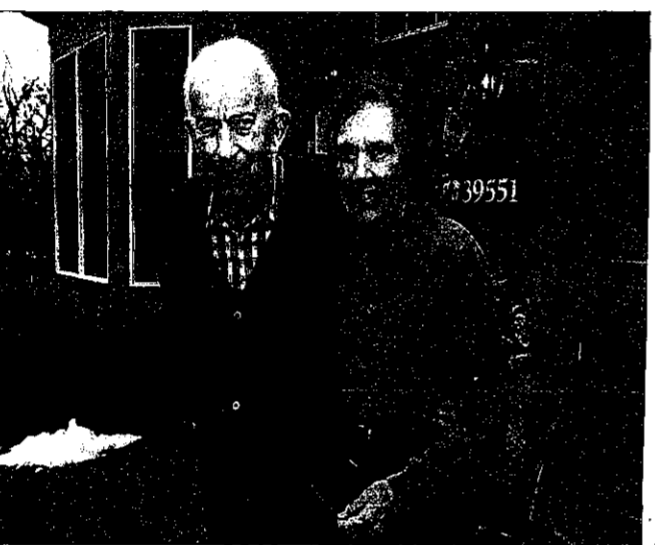
"We're getting close to selling. I hope," Dunn said. "She has been very receptive with the things she's come up with. She's been wonderful as far as getting us exposure."

According to a release from Erickson Retirement Communities, the program continues to be successful, already moving more than 100 people since the turn of the new year.

"We're getting great feedback from the residents. I get letters from people every month saying how successful their move was," Neubauer said. "The goal is to provide resources that help them move now. This is really, we think, a natural program consistent with the values of the company."



Clark and Barbara Reid sit in their Fox Run Village apartment. They moved to Fox Run after utilizing Erickson Realty and Moving Services to sell their West Bloomfield home.



Bill and Joy Dunn stand outside their Northville Township townhouse. They've put it on the market, with the assistance of the ERMS program, in hopes of moving to Novi's Fox Run.

MARY GRIMES

Passed away January 29, 2008, at the age of 92. She was born on October 12, 1915, in Cherrybox, Missouri, to the late John and Stella (Cox) Cookrum. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Novi, and Summerfield Baptist Church in Petersburg. Beloved wife of the late Vern Grimes and cherished mother of Janice (Báron) Sladef. Mary is also survived by 2 loving granddaughters, Michelle (Michelle) Schafar and Holly Waite. She was also blessed with 4 great-grandchildren to whom she was very close and very much loved by: Avery (11), Zachary (8), Alexander (7), and Shelby Marie (6). Mary led a full and active life. She owned and operated GRIMES MARKET on Grand River in Novi with her husband Vern for 20 years until they retired in 1973 and moved to South Lyon. She never slowed down in her retirement. She continued to hunt deer until late in her 70's. She was an incredible seamstress and could make, fix or build just about anything from porcelain dolls and quilts to lawn decorations and dresses. She brought much joy to the lives that she touched. She will be greatly missed, but our loss is Heavens gain and her suffering has to be over. Our family looks forward to seeing her again in heaven. A Funeral Service was held on Friday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to Summerfield Baptist Church, Petersburg, MI or Hospice of Northwest Ohio, 30000 E. River Rd., Perrysburg, OH.

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 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday for publication in the next morning's newspaper. Obituaries received Friday or Saturday by 1 p.m. will be published in Sunday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home. *Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



Happy New Year! Shirley Tong, left, an English Language instructor with Novi's Asian-Pacific Organization, enjoys an Asian-Pacific New Year's luncheon with Sherman Chen, executive director of the Association of Chinese Americans - Detroit Chapter. The group got together Tuesday at the Novi Senior Center for lunch and dancing to celebrate the Chinese New Year. According to the Chinese zodiac, 2008 is the year of the rat.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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MY CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 7, 2008
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Council welcomes Basilian priests

CITY COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

The Basilian Fathers of Milford, who operate Detroit Catholic Central High School, are seeking to relocate to Novi.

On behalf of the Basilian priests, John Argenta, of CDPA Architects, approached Council Monday night with a proposal to rezone the property north of 11 Mile Road and west of Tait Road with consideration of a planned rezoning overlay.

The 4.15-acre property is currently zoned R-1, one-family residential and the applicant is requesting to rezone it to RM-1, low density, low-rise multiple family residential.

The Basilian priests are proposing an 18,000-square-foot residence, which would include 14 living units, kitchen, parlor, dining area, chapel, offices and a community room.

"I think it's a wonderful use of the property," said Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello. "I can't think of any neighbor who would complain about this kind of neighbor." The 14 priests are currently living in Livonia, near the former Redford location of Detroit Catholic Central High School, and would like to live closer to work. The priests residing in the two-story structure will be mostly

active, teaching priests, but the residence may also house some retired priests.

Council unanimously approved planning, commission's recommendation from the Jan. 23 meeting to rezone the property to RM-1 with consideration of a planned rezoning overlay.

This group-type home facility is not specifically allowed under the proposed zoning, so a planned rezoning overlay is required.

"I live on 11 Mile Road and I have no problem with it," said councilwoman Kathy Crawford. "I think this project will be a nice fit."

Message license requirements will be reviewed

As part of mayor and council issues Monday night, Mayor David Landry requested to consider a renewal rate tier for massage licenses in 2009.

Since December, numerous massage therapists have been speaking out against license and permit fee increases approved by council that went into effect in March 2007.

The message business renewal fee increased 900 percent; the massage therapist renewal fee and business registration fee increased by 100 percent; and a fee for an applicant background check was added.

The city said the increased fees were adopted to cover the costs incurred by city staff during the license renewal process.

Several council members voiced concern regarding the renewal fees costing the same as the initial application fees.

"I don't have as much of a problem with the initial application fee, but to have a renewal fee be as much for an existing business as for those two amounts to be equal, I can't support that," said councilman Andrew Mutch.

Council members also understood the city's need to recover its cost, but contemplated the necessity of all the inspections required each year.

"I do believe that we should not subsidize inspections, they are a cost to the city," said councilwoman Kathy Crawford. "But the question is, are all the inspections

necessary?" Council unanimously supported Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello's recommendation to send the issue to the Ordinance Review Committee, in hopes of coming up with a solution.

Lawn maintenance contract extension

Council unanimously voted to approve the one-year contract extension of Brian's Services, Inc. to perform the city's 2008 lawn maintenance services.

Overall, city officials were pleased with the lawn care provided by council members during 2007.

Brian's Services, Inc. did not increase their prices for the 2008 season, so council approved the contract for an estimated annual amount of \$223,000.

The city budgeted \$225,000.

Budget amendments approved

Budget amendments made to the general fund; parks, recreation and forestry department; tree fund; and judgment trust fund were approved by council.

Items found on the resolution were the laptops for city council, election equipment for three new precincts, police vehicles purchased through state forfeiture funds, among others.

The resolution was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Council interviews moved

Mayor David Landry suggested moving the interviews scheduled for City Council, Feb. 11 to the following council meeting Feb. 25.

According to Maryanne Cornelius, city clerk, there are currently six interviews scheduled for council members.

The interviews will now be added to the agenda for the Feb. 25 Novi City Council meeting.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

Council meeting notes were taken from the Monday, Feb. 4 regular meeting of the Novi City Council. Councilman Bob Gatt and Councilwoman Terry Margolis were absent. Next meeting: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd.

City welcomes input for future of Fuerst Farm property

continued from front

mendations 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.

The consultants are expected to submit a plan with recommendations to the city by Feb. 28.

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.

Community members who are not able to attend the Focus Groups are encouraged to submit input via the drop box at the Novi Civic Center, the online survey or e-mail.

Novi News staff writer Kelly Merrill can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or kmerrill@gannett.com.

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

MY OPINION

Thursday, February 7, 2008 www.novinews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell EDITOR Richard Perlberg EXECUTIVE EDITOR Graco Perez Perry GENERAL MANAGER

In our opinion: Granholm, lawmakers set collaborative tone

Gov. Jennifer Granholm turned on her charisma for her sixth State of the State address, working the crowd for a notable amount of bipartisan applause. Her calls for "unprecedented bipartisan cooperation" drew ovations.

As Michigan looks ahead to 2008, Granholm and the largely supportive Legislature offered optimism. At numerous points, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop of Rochester and his Republican caucus stood in support. Both sides made hopeful and purposeful gestures to show that the rancorous and embarrassing bickering of 2007 is done.

Now, Granholm and every lawmaker in Lansing must work to deliver by making 2008 a year that focuses on serving the people, not the politicians' ambitions in the next election. To be blunt, the Legislature must succeed at setting aside various partisan squabbling. This is vital to regaining the respect of the citizenry and putting the state on track.

Granholm's promise of no new taxes or fees certainly has an olive branch for the Republican Party, whose members were forced last fall to swallow the bitter cocktail of an income tax increase and a surcharge on the new Michigan Business Tax to end the protracted budget battle.

Likewise, the jobs message plays on both sides of the aisle. Somewhat less certain is the comfort level with funding the many proposed stimulus efforts.

Granholm's plan draws heavily on feats of financing. Her calculations show the state can raise millions of dollars by refinancing portions of state debt at lower interest rates. Also, she wants to securitize money the state no longer needs to earmark for a lawsuit.

She hopes to launch several programs, including:
• Tax breaks for job growth at existing Michigan firms or job creation at new firms in 50 fast-growing industries such as high-tech areas and alternative energy. There also would be tax credits for new businesses locating in Michigan.
• Credits for filmmakers who come to Michigan.
• Money to promote

Hev, Novi: What's Your Story? We're looking for you! The Novi News is currently looking to interview local residents regarding the following topics:
• Are you a working woman who has recently returned to work?
• Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?
• Do you spend more than \$100 per week on gasoline?
• Are you a single parent?
• Are you a high school student who receives an allowance from your parents?
• Do you have an unusual or interesting hobby?
• Are you addicted to the Internet and blogging?
• Are you a family that has pulled together during difficult times?
E-mail: Novi News editor Victoria Mitchell at vmitchell@gannett.com

LETTERS

Driver's Licenses for Illegal Aliens

In a debate last November, Sen. Hillary Clinton was chastised when she said she supported the idea of New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's three-tiered plan for dealing with illegal aliens. One part would give a special card for driving vehicles. She said the plan made a lot of sense but it wasn't the best thing. She was sympathetic with governors trying to deal with the problem of undocumented people in the United States. After widespread criticism throughout the country, the governor withdrew his plan.

In the debate on Jan. 31, Sen. Clinton gave a reasoned, detailed step-by-step plan for helping illegal aliens achieve legal standing. She listed the dangers of issuing drivers' licenses to those who are not U.S. citizens. Now, on Feb. 2, Barack Obama favors granting driver's licenses to people who are living in the United States without legal documents. By so doing, he has gained support from the largest Latino newspaper in the country, which is based in California. Obama is praised for his honesty, straightforward opinions and being above playing politics. Clinton is accused of waffling and triangulation.

Hannah Provence Donigan Commerce

Recall Efforts In general, I am opposed to recall campaigns. Of significance, I am strongly in opposition to the recall efforts that have been targeted towards the 10 members of the Michigan Legislature that took the brave

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.
• Mail: Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167
• Fax: (248) 349-9832
• E-mail: vmitchell@gannett.com
• Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

allowed our Novi Adult Education ESL Community Conversation class to visit their locations. Our visits and speakers throughout Novi allowed the students to expand their knowledge of the community, learn American customs and build on their vocabulary and conversation skills. The class would not work without the partnering we had from the following community members:
• Novi Fire Station No. 4 fireman
• Novi Neighbors and Newcomers - Diane Schulhoff
• SWOCC - Melissa Cohn and Katherine George
• Assasin Cancer Center - Elena Weisman
• The Recycling Authority - Rachel Pitt
• Bobokono
• Bosforus Center for Health Improvement - Denise Holmes
• Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest - Michael McCullough
• Fox Run of Novi - Kelly Western

Mark T. Robinson Northville

Hot Political News

I hope the Novi News fully reports the Rep. DeRoche recall initiative. This is the hottest neighborhood political news in a long time.

James Gualdoni Walked Lake

With Thanks Thank you to the many businesses and organizations that

Jennifer Kerbrat Novi Adult Education ESL Teacher

Tom Watkins: Sen. Barack Obama - 21st Century Change

Listening to Sen. Barack Obama after his decisive primary victory in South Carolina, I closed my eyes and could imagine the voices of President John F. Kennedy, Sen. Robert Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. morphed into one.

Passion, hope, and optimism; speaking from the heart with integrity; calling on Americans to reach deep into their souls and understand that our better days lie ahead and that, by coming together, we can triumph in the message I hear from Sen. Obama. He has inspired me and a new generation.

When Sen. John F. Kennedy was running for president in 1960, major issues of the day were how to get the economy moving again and how to compete with the Russians, whose space and missile programs had begun to surpass America's. We have similar challenges today. Obama does not quiver that we can and will prevail on the challenges ahead.

Kennedy inspired and challenged when he said, "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." Sen. Obama does not tell us that ending the war in Iraq or fixing Social Security,

inspiration. President Kennedy's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, captured it best in her recent endorsement of Sen. Obama when she said, "Sometimes it takes a while to recognize that someone has a special ability to get us to believe in ourselves, to tie that belief to our highest ideals and imagine that together we can do great things. In those rare moments, when such a person comes along, we need to put aside our plans and reach for what we know is possible. We have that kind of opportunity with Senator Obama."

It is difficult to conjure up the values, integrity, leadership optimism and the call for change embodied in the likes of the Kennedy brothers and the Rev. King, but as I listened to Sen. Obama, he does just that.

We need hope, optimism, realism and change in this country. Time will tell if the message of Sen. Obama resonates with enough Americans to make him the Democratic nominee and eventually the next president of this great land. Yet, it is clear that his message is one that more and more people are willing to bet is the ticket to a better future for us all.

Sen. Obama is offering leadership and change with progress. That is inspirational.

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

COMMENTARY

Thursday, February 7, 2008 www.novinews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

PHIL POWER:

United Way gives the 2-1-1 on providing help

The other day I got a call from some folks at the Michigan Association of United Ways saying they wanted to come and talk.

My reaction was, well, OK. But I wasn't all that excited. As I saw it, United Way has been an amiable standard-bearer and fundraiser for human services all over Michigan.

True, they've been high atop the list of do-gooder agencies. But they haven't exactly been blazing a new path in philanthropy. They've been kinda slow and a little old-fashioned. They've had a bewildering number of local chapters, especially in metropolitan Detroit.

So when Scott Zurka, the head of the Michigan Association of United Ways, and Nancy Lindman, their communications director, walked in the door - well, frankly, I didn't expect much.

But guess what: An hour and a half later, my head was spinning with admiration. United Way really is getting its act together. In metro-Detroit, under the leadership of CEO Michael Brennan, they've consolidated a whole bunch of local chapters into one unified service agency, United Way of Southeastern Michigan.

They've shrunk a patchwork of unwieldy local boards into a powerhouse regional board of directors headed by respected Detroit attorney Reginald Turner.

Most importantly, they're taking an important place as the collaborative human service provider in the unified "One D" regional alignment. Statewide, they've got something even more significant coming down the track. It's called "2-1-1," the health and human services equivalent of the 9-1-1 telephone emergency service.

Dialing 2-1-1 connects people with important services, including job training, substance abuse, heating, food, housing, utilities, mental health, counseling and more. Within a mere six years, the program has grown from nothing to serving more than 70 percent of Michigan's population. It principally serves the southeast section and the counties around Lansing, but United Way is working on a national 2-1-1 system to provide access statewide.

Calls are free and answered any time, day or night, by professional information and referral specialists. Translation is available for non-English speakers. Calls are linked to a comprehensive database with details about more than 20,000 public, non-profit and faith-based health and human service programs.

Because I'm a grumpy and skeptical old reporter, I interrupted my talk with Zurka and Lindman to dial "2-1-1" right then and there.



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 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@chcnnet.com.

They looked a little anxious as the phone rang. But it was quickly answered. "I needed help in paying my gas bill," I said - it was around 10 degrees that day. "OK, just a moment," came back the answer. And in just a moment the operator gave me three agencies and telephone numbers that could help. Very impressive.

Turns out a comprehensive referral service both speeds help to people in need who are regularly baffled by the impenetrable range of agencies out there, and saves a pile of money by cutting confusion.

One national cost-benefit analysis by the University of Texas estimates the net value of a national 2-1-1 system at close to \$130 million in the first year alone and more than \$1 billion over a decade.

A University of Nebraska study estimated cost savings for their state at as much as \$16.5 million annually, as a result of reduced overlapping costs and improved community planning.

One big advantage of a 2-1-1 system comes from increasing efficiency by helping callers clearly define exactly what they need and pointing them to the best places for help. That reduces misdi-

rected calls to agencies. Moreover, the system reduces dependency amongst those in need by providing them with information and tools they can use and make decisions about the support they need.

Additionally, careful study of calling and response patterns will enable service providers to see where there are holes in local safety nets that need plugging.

When I was growing up, both my parents were deeply involved with an agency that preceded the United Way. I remember they went to endless meetings and came home frustrated at the problem of finding a way through all the separate channels, each created by a particular local service agency. They spent a fair amount of time and effort trying to figure out how to create a system of what amounts of reference librarians who could help local callers sort their way through what was then a murky system.

Their idea never happened. But more than half a century later, it looks as though the 2-1-1 program is providing exactly what's needed to help more people, more quickly, more effectively and at less cost.

There's a word for this: Marvelous!

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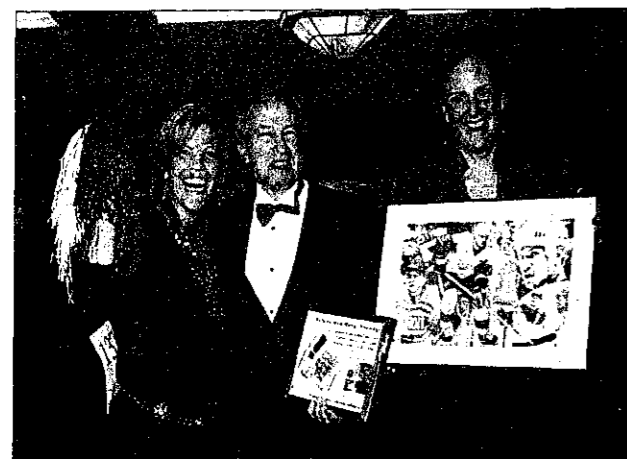
Karl Wizinsky (left) WNIC's Lisa Barry, who emceed the event, Julie Landry and Alex Mimikos celebrate at Mardi Gras Cabaret.



Donna (left) and Larry Kallie with Caroline and George Geise enjoy themselves at the Friends of the Novi Theatres Mardi Gras Cabaret event.



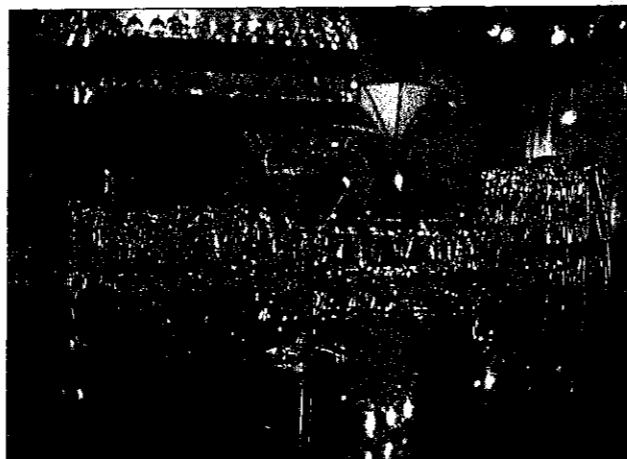
The board for ArtsNovi including (first row left) Linda Barsamian, Dana Lutzo, Kristi Herr, (back row) John O'Brien, Kathy McLallen, Fred Moschetti, Karen Cain, Elizabeth Isler, Whitney McClellan-Stone and Brian Sleeth.



Friends of the Novi Theatres members Tricia Dooley (left) and Gwen Markham congratulate Northville resident Bruce Schmitt on winning the deluxe Red Wing's ticket package at the group's fund-raising event.



Fun was had by all at ArtsNovi's first event, Artini, at the Dirty Martini. Nearly 100 people came to see six local artists.



The special Artini was the drink of the night at the ArtsNovi first event showcasing local artists at the Dirty Martini lounge in Novi.



Performers of the Detroit Opera Theatre wow the crowd with Broadway show tunes.

HOT TICKET: For a complete list of area churches and faith activities, visit www.novinews.com

MY BULLETIN BOARD

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

EVENTS

Family Volleyball Night
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Friday
LOCATION: Novi Meadows School, 5th grade gym
DETAILS: Volleyball for the whole family; some of the Novi Varsity High School Volleyball players will be there to help form teams and share techniques; ice cream sundaes after the game.
CONTACT: Noreen Serra at (248) 349-3449 or noreen_serra@hotmail.com

Michigan Humane Society Raffle
DETAILS: Purchase a raffle ticket and you may win a Nintendo Wii video game system; proceeds benefit the organization's 12th Annual Telethon, airing Feb. 14 on WXYZ-TV Channel 7. The winner will be drawn and announced during the six o'clock hour of the telethon; tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25; all tickets must be purchased by Feb. 12; tickets may be purchased over the phone by calling (248) 283-1000, ext. 128, at all three MHS Centers for Animal Care or by printing out an order form at www.michiganhumane.org.

Mad Hatter Tea Party Art Show
TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday until Feb. 28
LOCATION: Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery, Assarian Cancer Center, Providence Park Hospital, Novi
DETAILS: Art show of original artwork featuring playful and imaginative teapots created by a variety of local artists and Novi high school students; part of the partnership between Providence Park Hospital and the Novi Community School District.

Provence Park Hospital "The Event"
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Saturday
LOCATION: The Diamond Center, Rock Financial Showplace
DETAILS: This first annual fundraiser is a black-tie event and will also be a Hollywood Premiere or the Academy Awards gala; reception followed by dinner and awards program; music provided by the Bombsquad band; proceeds benefit the Neurosciences Skull Base and Spine Institute; for more information and tickets contact Lorraine at (586) 582-7500.

Art Van Furniture Store Events
LOCATION: 27775 Novi Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 348-8922
Kids Castle Craft
DATE: Saturday
DETAILS: Children visiting the store can participate in a special Valentine's project while parents shop; Kids Castles are supervised play areas for children.
Celebrate Italian Style with Andiamo's
TIME/DATE: Noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16
DETAILS: Leather furniture collections are featured as guests enjoy samples of specialty dishes prepared by chefs from Andiamo Restaurants; chefs will share recipes and tips on Italian cuisine.

Cottage and Lakefront Living Shows
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 28-Sunday, March 2
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Copper Harbor and Grand Shores Collections from their Michigan H.O.M.E.S. series are featured during the 2008 Home Shows; stop by the Art Van booths.

Daddy/Daughter Dances
TIME/DATE: 6:30-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The theme is Rock Around the Clock Hop featuring 1950s and 60s hits; classic dresses or poodle skirts and James Dean type attire are welcome; hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served and a photo and gift are included; tickets are \$20 each for residents and \$22 for non-residents; registration is available online until Feb. 1 and includes a \$5 discount; corsages are available for pre-order for \$8 and will be available at the dance.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0474

Real Estate One of Novi Blood Drive
TIME/DATE: Noon-6 p.m. Tuesday
LOCATION: Real Estate One, 43155 Main St., 2nd Floor Atrium, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 348-6430

Frog and Toad Survey Training Workshops
TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, Novi
DETAILS: Help monitor the health of the Rouge River by listening for frogs and toads in your neighborhood. Attend one training workshop where you will get everything that you need to survey. Pre-registration is required for this free workshop.
CONTACT: Call (313) 792-9621 or e-mail plcoordinator@therouge.org.

Novi Meadows Fun Fest
TIME/DATE: 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 7
LOCATION: Novi Meadows School, 6th Grade House
DETAILS: The annual Fun Fest includes games, food, raffle and prizes. Adult volunteers needed for the Fun Fest; many different committees need your help, especially dads. For more information, contact Lynne at (248) 305-3256 or Linda at (248) 344-2287.

Novi Chamber of Commerce
Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township; Union Lake; Walled Lake; Waterford; Wixom; Wolverine Lake and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a unified voice on behalf of the business community; provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest; serve as a source of information and development programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.
LOCATION: 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste. B; Walled Lake
CONTACT: For more information visit www.lakesareachamber.com or (248) 624-2826.

Novi Educational Foundation Green Gala
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 8
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace
DETAILS: The Novi Educational Foundation's 2008 Green Gala "Help our Children Shine Like Stars" event is a fun-filled evening of dancing and casino style gambling benefiting students of the Novi Community Schools. Tickets include clips from the Stardust Casino, tantalizing hors d'oeuvres and desserts, a live and silent auction, music, dancing and chances to win raffle prizes donated by local merchants. The cost is \$75 per person and tickets are available by calling (248) 449-1206 or visit www.NoviEducationalFoundation.org.

Novi Rotary Club
TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting; visitors welcome; check website for speaker information; www.noviroty.org.

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

Novi City Council Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month (Feb. 25)
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 4
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.

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Chambers of Commerce
Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce
We're about business. We're about networking. We're about creating excitement in business and networking! Everyone is welcome to attend any of our events. For more information call Whitney; executive director at (248) 347-4622 or whitney@greaternovichamber.com. Also visit www.greaternovichamber.com.
Marketing Committee
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. Tuesday
LOCATION: Boerma Chabon and Co., 23865 Novi Road, south of 10 Mile
DETAILS: Help us develop our marketing plan.
B2B Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 7:45-9 a.m. Wednesday
LOCATION: SWCCC, 33300 Nine Mile Road
DETAILS: Come check out your local Cable Access TV Studio and get a behind the scenes look; \$5 for members, \$10 non-members.
Experience West Oakland
TIME/DATE: 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14
LOCATION: Crown Plaza, 27800 Stratton Dr.
DETAILS: Join this group in its quest to bring more conventions and visitors to the area, no cost.
Blood Drive
TIME/DATE: 1-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14
LOCATION: 25100 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: New member Suburban Honda is hosting this event and anyone who attempts to donate will receive a free baseball bat.
Sales Leads Group
TIME/DATE: 8:30-9:30 a.m. second and fourth Thursday of each month (Feb. 14 and 28)
LOCATION: Hecker's of Novi
DETAILS: Serious networking, no costs.
Financial Round Table
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 15
LOCATION: Panera, Novi Road and Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: Come and join in talks about the financial business, no cost.
Events Committee
TIME/DATE: Noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20
LOCATION: Famous Dave's
DETAILS: Committee meeting, RSVP.
After Hours at The Grapevine
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21
LOCATION: The Grapevine, 43165 Main St., Novi
DETAILS: Come join us for some wonderful food and wine; cash bar; \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.
Ambassador Committee
TIME/DATE: Noon-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26
LOCATION: Moe's on Ten
DETAILS: Committee meeting; RSVP.
Month Long Health Fair
LOCATION: Meadowbrook and 11 Mile roads
DETAILS: During the month of February, member Meadowbrook Urgent Care is offering, on a walk-in basis, free cholesterol checks, blood glucose checks, blood pressures with complete vital signs, oxygen saturation rates and vision testing.

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CONTACT: (248) 624-3772 or e-mail to admin@wixomlibrary.org

Classical Music Series
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
Friends of the Library Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of each month
Book Discussion Group
TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal discussion; bring a bag lunch; check library for current book selection.

Preschool Story Time
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. every Tuesday
DETAILS: For ages 2-4; registration required.

Story & Snacks Family Time
TIME/DATE: 6:30 every Thursday
DETAILS: Drop-in program designed for the independent listener ages 2-6.

Gender Babble
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Tuesday
DETAILS: Motivational speaker Sylvia Rubach presents a humorous and informative look at miscommunication between the sexes; free but registration recommended by contacting the library.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Friday of every month
Storytellers Connection
DETAILS: This is an intergenerational program designed to connect adult storytelling volunteers with children. If you would like to be a storyteller or learn more about this program, contact the library.

Something Neat to Do
DATE: Saturday - Valentine "Love Bug"
DATE: Saturday, March 8 - Spring Windssock
TIME: 1-2 p.m.
DETAILS: For ages 6-8; Kelly Childress reads stories and leads crafts; registration required.

Get Caught Reading
TIME/DATE: 4:30-8 p.m. Monday and Monday, March 10
DETAILS: Reading Catchers will be looking for children in grades 1-5 who are caught reading for fun; they will receive a Big Boy gift certificate.

Clueless About E-mail
DATE: Tuesday, March 18; Monday, March 24; Tuesday, March 25
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Participants create and begin using their own free e-mail accounts; please register.

Wixom Public Library
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 624-2512
ESL Cafe
TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. every Thursday
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation-improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries trying to improve their English; no tests; instructor help; free.

CONTACT: Karin at the Information Desk.

Afternoon Book Group
TIME/DATE: 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27
DETAILS: "Arrangements" by Mark Mills
Read Something Different
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14
DETAILS: "The Book of Splendor" by Frances Sherwood
Fantastic Fridays "Spice Up Your Life"
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Friday
DETAILS: For children ages 2-6 with a parent; registration required.

Mommy and Me
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Thursday through Feb. 28
DETAILS: Stories, songs and crafts for two year olds and parent.

Preschool Story-Time
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday or 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, through Feb. 27
DETAILS: Story-times for the independent listener; parent must remain in building.

Moonlight Story-Time "Numbers"
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25
DETAILS: Stories, songs and crafts for children ages 2-6 with an adult.

The Heidelberg Project: A Street of Dreams
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Saturday
DETAILS: For grades K-5 with a parent; registration required.

Cool Cooking
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday
DETAILS: For ages 2-10; registration required.

Valentine's Day Romance Sale
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14
DETAILS: Harlequin romances are 10 cents each or 10 for a dollar; other paperback romances are 50 cents each.

Chocolate-Fest
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14

DETAILS: For middle and high school students who love chocolate.

Countdown to Oscar
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19
DETAILS: Film expert Lawrence Jeziak presents an entertaining look at the Academy Awards; space limited; registration required.

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
Thursday
 9 a.m.: Line Dance-Int. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: AARP Income Tax by appt. 11:15 a.m.: Line Dance-Beg. Noon: Lunch 12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge 1:30-3:30 p.m.: LifeStory Writing Workshop 2:30 p.m.: Line Dance
Friday
 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall Noon: Lunch 12:30 p.m.: Dupe. Bridge 1 p.m.: Bingo 7-9 p.m.: Valentine Concert with the Novi Chorales (ticket req.)
Monday
 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall Noon: Lunch 12:30 p.m.: Pinochle 1 p.m.: "Scarlet Ladies" Red Hat Group
 2-3:30 p.m.: Afternoon Tea \$1 at door
 6:30 p.m.: Pilates Mat Work
Tuesday
 8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread 9 a.m.: Line Dance-Int. 10 a.m.: Asian Pacific 11 a.m.: Computer Lab Noon: Lunch 12:30-3 p.m.: Focus Hope Distribution
 1 p.m.: Bingo 1-3 p.m.: Ask The Lawyer" by appt.
Wednesday
 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall 11 a.m.: TOPS; Blood Pressure Noon: Lunch 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. Book Discussion
 "Haunted Michigan; Gerald R. Hunter"
6:30 p.m. Clogging-Beg/Int
7:30 p.m. Clogging-Club

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
 Independent Living Residence; Licensed Assisted Living; Licensed Memory Care
LOCATION: 27475 Huron Circle (adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)
CONTACT: (248) 735-1500
Open House
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily or by appointment.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Child care is available; registration required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Bereavement Support Group
DATE: Third Tuesday of each month
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: The meeting provides the opportunity for those in grief to share their story and to learn about the phases and tasks of grief. All are welcome; no fee.
CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

Angela Hospice Groups
DETAILS: Grief support groups include general grief; loss of a spouse; women's grief; parents who have lost a child and a grief support quilters group. All groups are led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers.
LOCATION: Angela Hospice Care Center, 14100 Newburgh Road; Livonia
CONTACT: (248) 937-5163

CONTACT: Joan Lee (734) 953-6012
General Grief Support Groups
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
DETAILS: Open to all losses.
Loss of Spouse/Significant Other Support Group
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. first Tuesday of month
Men in Grief
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. fourth Monday of month
Suicide Loss Support Services
DETAILS: Individual and family services offered free for those who have lost a loved one through suicide; call (734) 464-7810 for more information.
Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. first Thursday of month
Grief Support Quilter's Group
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. first and third Wednesday of month
DETAILS: Register by calling (734) 953-6012

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Support Groups
LOCATION: 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce
Al-Anon Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
DETAILS: Al-Anon is similar to Alcoholics Anonymous; intended for the family and friends of someone with an alcohol problem; helping them to recover from the effects of living with a problem drinker.
CONTACT: (248) 705-1020
Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
DETAILS: Support group to attain and maintain sobriety.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314
Journeys Cancer Support Group
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m.; the first and third Monday of each month
LOCATION: Lobby of the Charach Cancer Treatment Center, off the hospital's South Garden Entrance
DETAILS: The Charach Cancer Treatment Center hosts a support group for anyone dealing with a cancer experience or who know someone living with cancer.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5163

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
TIME/DATE: 2-3:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month
LOCATION: Krieger Center (South Garden Entrance)
DETAILS: Designed to allow caregivers to share tips and offer support to each other; for questions or directions call (248) 937-3314.

New Parents Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Hospital Conference Center
DETAILS: A supportive environment for families to share their struggles; learn how to resolve issues after the birth of a child; discuss concerns such as sleep deprivation and coping with the emotions of parenting.
CONTACT: (248) 658-7766
Support for Smokers Group
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Provides education and support to quit smoking; no fee and no pre-registration required.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314
Beater's Club Support Group
TIME/DATE: Noon the third Wednesday of the month
DETAILS: Free year-round program for persons afflicted with lung disease; provides support and information; pre-registration no required; for information call (248) 937-3314.

Psychotherapy & Counseling Services
Northville Counseling Center
Location: 11000 Northville Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 420-8175 for more information.

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op
DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracz (248) 360-0998.

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 *see store for details



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Mary Voices...One Song
Sunday, February 10, 7pm
 Come join the Mary Voices...One Song Gospel Choir and West Church's Children's Choir, as a community of professional musicians from Oakland University, as together we celebrate music from the African-American tradition, including beloved spirituals and gospel music. This family-friendly concert opens with a lively procession of singers and dancers! Admission is free; donations will be accepted. Child care is provided through age 4.

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Stephanie Jaghab, D.D.S.

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Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital

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continued from 16A

Friendship Circle
 TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck
 DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
 CONTACT: Norbert Monson (248) 851-6730; Florence Voligt (248) 477-9032; Joy Iovaldi (248) 348-9138 or joylovaldi@earthlink.net

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

Breast Cancer Support Group
 DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (Classroom C) Conference
 TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
 DETAILS: No registration needed.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. first and third Wednesday of each month
 LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
 DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A; immediately to the left.
 CONTACT: Al Biggs (313) 805-7605 or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Novi Toastmasters
 TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills; voice your opinion; polish your presentations and practice leadership.
 CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-2800

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital
 LOCATION: 1 William Carls Dr.; Commerce
 CONTACT: (248) 937-3314

Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
 DETAILS: No pre-registration required. For information; call (248) 937-3314.

Al-Anon Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
 DETAILS: For family and friends of someone with an alcohol problem. No pre-registration required. For information; call (248) 706-1020.

Alateen Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
 DETAILS: Intended for teens dealing with someone with an alcohol problem. No pre-registration required. For information; call (248) 706-1020.

Breast Cancer Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. second and fourth Thursday of every month
 LOCATION: Sinai Center for Women; next to the hospital's South Garden entrance.
 DETAILS: This support group is for any woman diagnosed with breast cancer.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5163

Journeys Cancer Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. first and third Monday of every month
 LOCATION: Lobby of the Charach Cancer Treatment Center
 DETAILS: Support group for those with cancer or who are related to or know someone living with cancer.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5163

Dinner with a Doctor
 DATE: Last Thursday of month
 TIME: 8:30-8:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: St. John Providence Park Hospital, Grand River and Beck roads (use Beck Road entrance); Conference Rooms A, B and C.
 CONTACT: Free registration for lecture and dinner by calling

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You "Heart" What You Eat
 DETAILS: Feb. 28; presentation by cardiologist; Dr. Zarghami followed by strolling dinner featuring heart healthy food; recipes and cookbooks distributed.

ONGOING

Gardeners of Northville and Novi
 TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of month through May
 LOCATION: Rotates between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library.
 DETAILS: Visitors welcome.
 CONTACT: (248) 231-2334 or visit www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

SWOC Studio Tours
 LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road; Farmington.
 DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios local community television studio.
 CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE
 46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5600 or visit www.rockfinancialshowplace.com for more information.
Antique Arms Show
 TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
 DETAILS: Buy, sell and trade antique arms; \$6 admission; 12 and younger are free; \$5 parking.
42nd Annual Detroit Camper and RV Show
 TIME/DATE: 2-9 p.m. week-

The Year Of The Rat
 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008

People born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey and Ox.

SOURCE: Chinese Culture Center

Kensington Metro Park
 LOCATION: 2240 West Buno Road; Milford; (248) 685-1661 or (800) 477-3178
Nature Center Programs
 (Please pre-register.)
 SCHEDULE: 1 p.m. Saturday - Ice Fishing for Beginners; 2 p.m. Sunday - Bugs in Winter; 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday; Feb. 16 - Jr. Girl Scouts Frosty Fun; 1-4 p.m. Sunday; Feb. 17 - Great Backyard Bird Count; 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday; Feb. 23 - Webelos Naturalist; 2 p.m. Sunday; Feb. 24 - Snake Care.
Ice Harvesting
 DATE: Saturday and Sunday
 LOCATION: Farm Learning Center
 DETAILS: See ice harvesting demonstrations and learn about importance of ice in times past.
Sleigh Rides or Hayrides
 TIME/DATE: Noon-4 p.m. every weekend at the Learning Center; weather permitting.

Send your calendar items to Novi News; 104 W. Main Street; Suite 101; Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 348-9832; or e-mail to vernichell@gannett.com.

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All entries must be received by Feb. 22, 2008.

Include a SASE if you would like your photo returned.

Child's Name (First, Middle & Last) _____
 Date of Birth _____ 2007 Hospital _____
 Parents' Name (First & Last) _____

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Jumbo Crisp and Sweet Flame Seedless Grapes \$1.99 lb. Save \$2.00 a Pound

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Billy Bee Organic Honey 2/\$6.00

Dole Golden Ripe Whole Pineapples \$3.99 each

Florida Sun Ripe Grape Tomatoes 2/\$3.00

Driscoll's Crisp and Sweet Blueberries 2/\$4.00

Delallo Artichoke Hearts 2/\$3.00 6oz. jar

Manchego Aged 6 months cheese \$14.99 lb. Tiger Cheese \$4.99 lb.

Boarshead Black Forest Ham \$5.99 lb. Honey Maple Turkey \$6.99 lb. Co Jack Cheese \$5.99 lb.

Joe's Sweetheart Fruit Kabobs w/drizzled pink chocolate \$1.29 each

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Joe's Tuna Salad \$5.99 lb.

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Peachy Canyon "Incredible Red" Zinfandel Paso Robles 05 \$13.99 Quiet pepper notes which dark berries. The Perfect Foodie Wine

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Joe's Crab Cakes \$3.99 each

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SPORTS, 4B

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: BOYS BASKETBALL

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

BELLAMY BRINGS VERSATILE GAME



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat Chris Bellamy makes a pass through a forest of outstretched South Lyon defenders' arms.

Junior guard steps up after Wildcat changes

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The new year has brought a new basketball team for Novi. Out is the two-post player style of offense.

In is push the pace as fast as it can go with lots of outside shooting and pressure defense.

Junior guard Chris Bellamy is reaping the rewards of the changes.

"Ironically, he had one of the toughest times adjusting to it," head coach Cory Heitsch said.

"He had an image of what a point guard should be. He was right and I was right, but I was asking him to go north and south more and not be as much of a facilitator.

"I would put him up as if not the best shooters in the area. We need him to score and look to score for us to be successful."

The changes have also resulted in an undefeated run through 2008, launching the Wildcats into a two-game lead atop the KVC standings.

"The streak has been catapulted by our work ethic in practice,

and we actually started making shots in the games," Bellamy said. "It's been fun. A nine-game winning streak or something like that."

Bellamy started with fellow guard Brandon Bradford when they were sophomores. With a full year under their belt, they are playing with much more confidence on both ends of the court.

"My backcourt mate Brandon Bradford gets me open all the time, and other people are too," Bellamy said. "I just feel confident when I'm wide open that I

can hit the shot."

The confidence has really carried over to Bellamy's shooting. He's launching, and hitting threes like no other time in his career. But get too close to him, and he blows by with a penetrating move for a hoop or an assist to an open teammate.

"Having 20 games under his belt plus three state tournament games has made a huge difference for him," Heitsch said. "We

See BELLAMY, 3B



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

A Wildcat swimmer gets a hug from a parent during Novi's last home meet of the year. It was "Senior Night" where all the team's seniors were recognized for their hard work.

A swim team to dye for

Team unity shown with major hairstyle changes

By Jeff Theisen
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

STORY CHAT

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

All coaches search for a way to unite their teams.

Novi head swim and dive coach Bill McCord found it in a hair-raising way.

The Wildcats chose unity through dyeing their hair. The idea came from a bad defeat to rival Northville.

"They came in and whopped on us," McCord said. "I wanted our team to learn some lessons from that and recognize the difference between their team and ours.

"It was recognized that they were impressive when they walked in the pool. They all looked the same. They were all wearing shirts and ties and they all had their hair dyed."

Athletes take note

But that was far from all the Wildcats noticed. The camaraderie of a team the Mustangs showed during their win also stuck out.

"They were all really involved in the meet and watching one another," McCord said. "That's

where I left it."

But that's not where the Wildcat tankers left it.

"The next thing I knew, one of the athletes decided it would be a good idea to dye the hair for at least one step to showing team unity," McCord said.

The idea really took off when it was learned one of the families of a Novi swimmer owned a salon. Most of the team went in and came out with a whole-new look.

Not to be outdone, McCord is also sporting a new look.

"My wife dyed my hair," he said. "It looks really hideous."

Despite the newly-colored locks, McCord is thankful for any way to bring together a large team.

"It's always fun when you do those things, and it does always bring you closer. We have a very big team and a very diverse pop-

See SWIM, 2B

NOVI ROUNDUP: Wildcat hockey wins, loses big

Girls hoops in running for last KVC title

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi hockey team had little trouble with Lakeland, knocking off the Eagles 5-0 Jan. 30.

Kevin Michalczuk stopped all 29 shots he faced for the shutout.

Paul Favorite started the scoring for the Wildcats, with an assist going to Kyle Masiarczyk. Bryan Winkel scored the next goal, with another assist going to Masiarczyk.

Matt Fegert put the Wildcats up 3-0, with an assist going to Ryan Pocsy. Tyler Perpich made his way onto the score-sheet with the fourth goal, and Andrew Haggerty capped the scoring with assists going to

Nolan Valleau and Mark Bernier. Harland turned the tables on Novi with a 6-1 victory Saturday night in Harland. Novi outshot the Eagles 22-21, but fell behind 4-0 after two periods of play and couldn't recover.

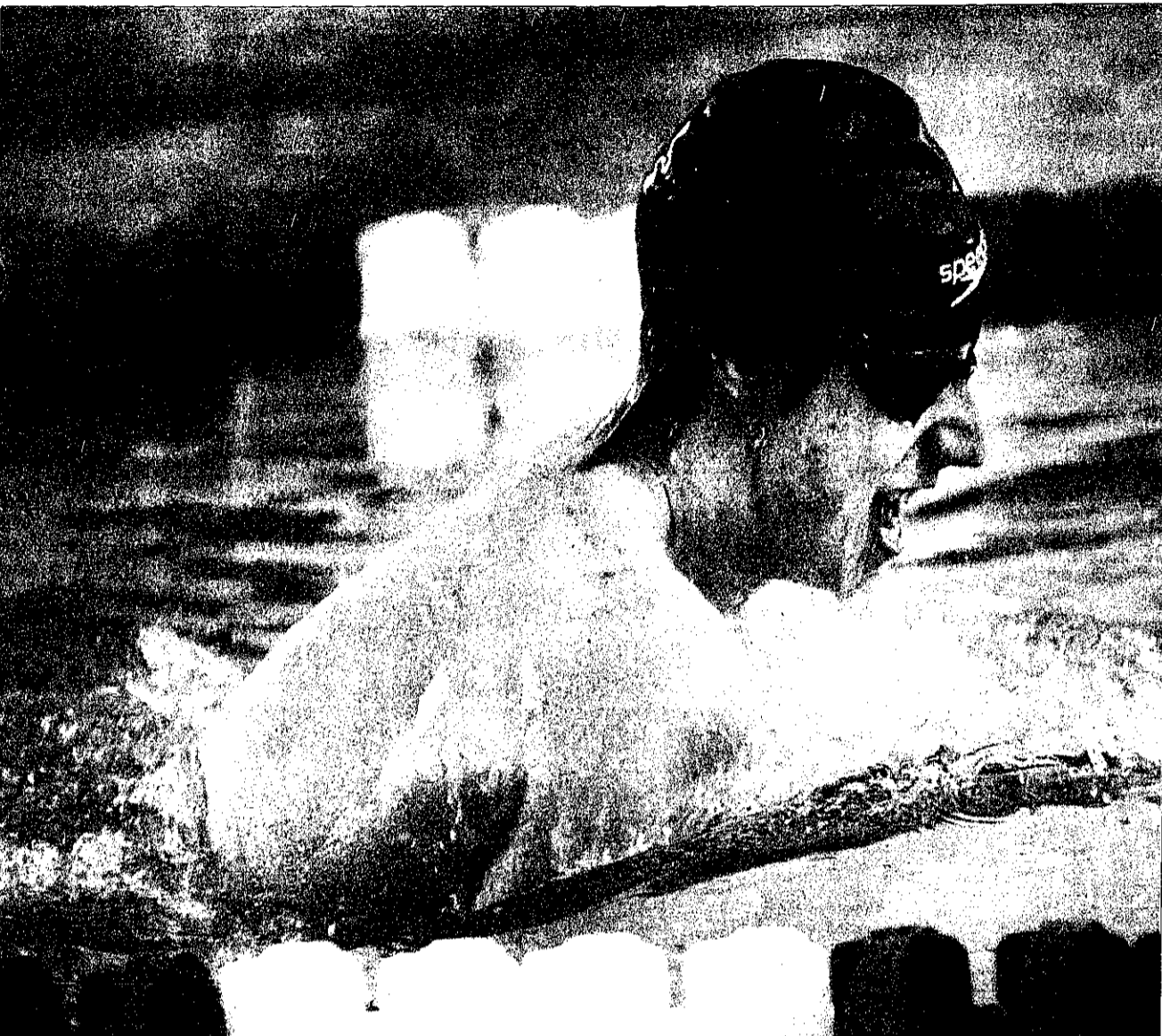
Girls Basketball

The Novi girls basketball were

See ROUNDUP, 3B

WEB EXTRA! GAME UPDATES AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM
PHOTOS • SCORES • STANDINGS • SPORTS SCHEDULES • STORY CHAT

JET-PROPELLED WILDCATS



Wildcat Dan Meister swims the breast stroke part of the 200 individual medley during Novi's Senior Night.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
See more photos at www.novinews.com



Novi diver Tiger Borque hits the water feet-first during a meet against South Lyon.

SWIMMING: Wildcats use dye job for team unity

continued from front

big team and a very diverse population on our team. Whatever we can do to bring us closer together is a good thing. It's a step in the right direction.

McCord said the message behind the dye jobs is simple — hair is nothing compared to the hours of work and dedication it takes to become a good swimmer.

"When you pay the price of commitment that these guys pay ... then to look sort of odd for however long the hair stays that color, it's just nothing compared to the idea of being part of a team and part of a group and having this clear, outward identification

that says 'I'm proud to be a part of this,'" McCord said.

Who are you?

The only drawback for McCord — everybody looks very similar now. After learning all the names and faces throughout the year, things have drastically changed.

"I started talking to one kid today, got two sentences into what I wanted to say and realized he wasn't who I thought he was," said McCord with a laugh.

McCord said he didn't know who was directly responsible for starting the trend, but he appreciates the leadership of his captains — Dan Meister and Dan Keifer.

"I've got great captains. It prob-

ably came from them and that wouldn't surprise me at all. They're always ready to step up and guide their team. We know that coming in that these guys would be great leaders, and they are."

Meister has helped to keep the streak of at least one swimmer going to the state meet. He qualified at the county meet Saturday.

"It really made the day for all of us," McCord said. "I have not had a season at Novi where we did not send somebody to the state meet. I didn't want this to be the first one."

"Our medley relay was also very close. We feel very confident that we're going to get that."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jtheisen@gannett.com.



Tyler Vincent swims the backstroke during Novi's last home meet of the season.



Joon Chung swims in the 200 meter medley relay.

Health

Don't let the slopes hit you

Aspen or Alpine Valley, Beaver Creek or Stoney Creek, it's all the same when it comes to keeping it safe on the slopes though the risk factors may differ just a little bit. Emergency room visits from skiing approached 150,000 last year and the estimated cost of these injuries was over 4 billion dollars. The most common skiing injuries are injured knee ligaments and leg or ankle fractures. Snowboarding, on the other hand, tends to be rough on wrists, elbows and shoulders. Life-threatening injuries are usually the result of head trauma or falls. "Is the season for faulty bindings and face plants.



SEAN BAK

Conditions

Conditions are obviously much more of an issue on crunchy Michigan snow than the larger hills out west. The lack of consistent powder in Michigan leads to more patches (and sometimes even chunks) of ice. Anecdotally, this is the most common injury I see. A skier loses an edge on an ice patch, knee twists in several ligaments and the traffic on a run and the amount of fresh snow that's fallen. Chances are if it's a Sunday afternoon, several days after the last significant snow, there will be great patches of ice on our local slopes. The best prevention is to ski in control and keep your eyes peeled on the terrain in front of you.

On the other hand, deep powder (or at least fresh powder) is more of an issue for us. Obviously recommended only for seasoned skiers, the first order of business is skis appropriate for deep powder. An avalanche beacon is a must as is at least one or two partners. Steering rather than carving is the key. If you will keep your feet on the powder. If you do fall, use your legs as a trip-

to get up with your arms is usually futile and can get your upper body and face deeper and deeper into the snow. Steep, back-country areas with deep powder and sparse vegetation are particularly dangerous from an avalanche standpoint.

Equipment

Bindings tend to be the major culprits in skiing injuries. Bindings that fail in the middle of the most common cause of lower extremity fractures. As the rest of the body twists, if a binding doesn't release, the ski anchors the leg resulting in the typical skiers' spiral fracture produced from the twisting moment on the upper leg.

The most common injury that occurs in the tibia or shin bone but may also occur in the femur or thigh bone. These are major injuries that usually require surgical repair. Loose or faulty bindings are usually to blame when you lose a ski which can send you out of control resulting in any pattern of injury, the most worrisome being a head injury. Make sure your bindings are properly adjusted especially in kids who often grow significantly from season to season. Helmets are becoming more common on the slopes and, while recommended for all, are particularly important for high-speed skiers on heavily wooded runs. Head protection is also highly recommended for snowboarders as they have a much higher rate of head injury than skiers. With both legs being tethered to the board, it's often the arms that break the fall of snowboarders which makes wrist guards a must.

With the exception of only the most experienced skiers, stick to marked paths and always have a partner or two. Warm up with several "slow" runs before hitting it hard. Be aware of weather conditions, dress in layers and stay hydrated. Skiing is great exercise and just because it's cold doesn't mean you can ignore your body's water requirements.

Whether the icy hills of Michigan or the powdered snow mountains out west, common sense and preparation can keep you on the slopes and off crutches.

Dr. Sean Bak is a Novi resident and an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in shoulder reconstruction and sports medicine. Dr. Bak takes care of the athletes of several area universities and high schools. His practice, Fieretto Center for Orthopedic Surgery, is based out of Providence Hospital.

BELLAMY: Guard stepping up his game despite changes for 'Cats in style of play

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do put a lot on him ... in terms of defensive pressure and offensive pressure."

In Thursday's game against Howell, the Highlanders cut a 20-point deficit to nine in the third. Heisch called for a play using a double screen to open up Bellamy for a three-pointer. He sank the shot and Howell never recovered as the Wildcats went on to regain the 20-point lead.

"He's on a nice little roll right now," Heisch said. "He's got a quiet confidence about him. Nothing overwhelms him, nothing flusters him. He's done some fantastic things for us."

But don't think that shooting is all that Bellamy can do. He's got no problem fighting for a missed shot.

"He's been our second leading rebounder most of the year," Heisch said. "Recently ... he's got a couple of double-doubles. He's got extremely long arms, and he's got an extremely good sense of where the ball is going to come off."

Atop the KVC

The Wildcats know what they have to do to win the final KVC title: A two-game lead with four games left is about the best position possible, but Heisch doesn't want the team getting ahead of itself.

"We've enjoyed 2008 quite a bit, but we've got four games left, three on the road," he said. "We haven't really earned anything yet. "We've earned the right to control our own destiny."



Novi's Chris Bellamy, right, chats with teammate Brandon Bradford.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Bellamy knows finishing out the KVC in style would be something to remember.

"That would mean a lot to win the last one and the first one in a while," said Bellamy with a smile.

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

Novi boys basketball on top of KVC

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The roll continues for Novi. Two more wins against KVC opponents puts the Wildcats two games ahead of second place in the KVC and still undefeated in 2008.

Novi dismantled Howell 76-47 last Thursday and Pinckney 69-53 Jan. 29.

Against Howell, the Wildcats chipped away, winning all four quarters.

The three-ball was again a big part of the win, with the Wildcats hitting eight in the first half and five more in the second half.

The Wildcats were 8-for-15 from three-point in the first half. The Wildcats struggled to a 1-for-9 third quarter from deep, but hit 4-of-6 in the fourth to close things out.

Nick Brockman and Brandon Bryant each came off the bench to lead the way with 17 points each.

"I feel pretty good," Brockman said. "We've been working pretty hard in practice and stuff just finally came together tonight."

The Wildcats were able to get everyone in the game, with 11 of the 12 players scoring. Chris Bellamy hit double-digits with 11 points, despite not playing in the fourth quarter.

Howell scored the opening basket of the game, also its last lead. Novi scored the final five points of the first for a 15-9 lead. Howell cut the lead to two in the opening moments of the second quarter, but the Wildcats outscored the Highlanders 20-6 the rest of the half for a 35-19 lead at the break.

The lead grew to 52-34 entering the fourth.

Tyler Hughes led the Highlanders with 17 points.

Novi 69, Pinckney 53

Pinckney scored the opening basket of the fourth quarter, and it was all Wildcats after that. Novi went on a 24-6 run to close the game, securing the victory.

Chris Bellamy scored 26 points on 11-for-14 shooting. He also snagged 11 rebounds.

Brandon Bradford went a perfect 10-for-10 at the line and scored 14 points.

Caleb Dean scored 14 and scored four blocks.

The win knocked Pinckney two games back of Novi.

ROUNDUP: Wrestling goes for KVC title Sat.

continued from front

postponed Friday, but played Saturday and knocked off Howell 49-34.

Caroline Johnson scored 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the way. Alyssa Armiak stepped into the starting lineup and responded with 10 points.

Novi (14-2) also hammered Pinckney 55-36 earlier in the week. Paige Janer and Johnson led the way with 10 points each.

Cheer

The Novi cheer team handily beat Lakeland 664.635-584.7 Jan. 30. The Wildcats led 192.75-169.5 after the first round. Novi went on to score 198.835 in the second round and 273 in the final round.

Novi also took home second place at the Ladywood Invite on Saturday. Utica won the meet with 667.59 points. Novi was next with 653.83, well ahead of third-place Bedford with 617.85. The Wildcats trailed Bedford heading into the final round.

The Wildcat JV team also beat Lakeland, 513.882-491.505. The JV team also finished third at the Ladywood Competitive Cheer invite on Saturday.

The Novi freshmen team won the invite with 433.78 points.

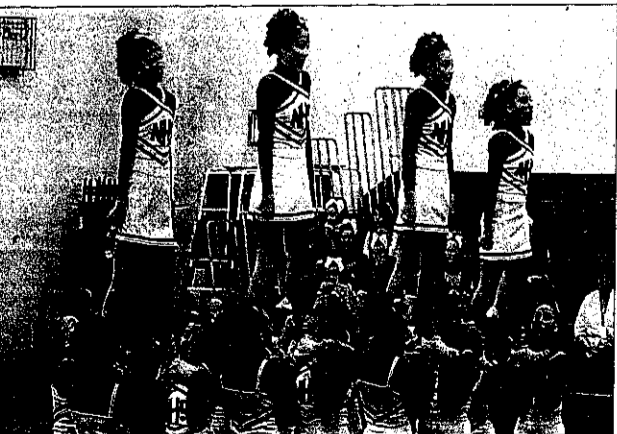
Their next match is 9 a.m. Saturday at the Howell Parker campus for the KVC meet.

Friday's school cancellation also cancelled Saturday's wrestling meet for the Wildcats.



Novi's Kelsey Masseran works inside against a South Lyon defender.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



Cheerful 'Cats
The Novi cheer team goes through its routine Saturday at the Ladywood Invite.

KVC Standings

Boys Basketball				Hockey							
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L				
Novi	9	1	11	4	Brighton	8	1	2	12	5	2
Hartland	7	3	10	5	Hartland	7	3	1	12	4	2
Lakeland	7	3	11	4	Howell	5	4	2	11	5	2
Pinckney	6	4	10	4	Lakeland	5	5	1	10	6	2
South Lyon	5	5	9	6	South Lyon	4	4	3	8	7	4
Brighton	3	7	6	10	Novi	5	7	0	8	11	1
Milford	3	7	5	9	Milford	4	5	2	7	9	2
Howell	0	10	0	15	Pinckney	0	9	1	5	11	1

Novi, CC Schedule

- pus, 9 a.m.
- Pom Pon**
2/8 at State Finals at EMU, TBA
- Figure Skating**
3/15 State finals, 8 a.m.

Novi

Boys Basketball
2/8 at Brighton, 7 p.m.
2/12 vs. South Lyon, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball
2/8 vs. Brighton, 7 p.m.
2/12 at South Lyon, 7 p.m.

Hockey
2/8 at Trenton Showcase, TBA
2/9 at Trenton Showcase, TBA
2/12 at South Lyon, TBA

Boys Swim and Dive
2/7 at Hartland, 6 p.m.
2/12 at Pinckney, 6 p.m.

Bowling
2/8 vs. Brighton at S. Lyon, 4 p.m.
2/11 vs. Howell at Milford, 5 p.m.
2/13 vs. Hartland at S. Lyon, 4 p.m.

Cheer
2/13 vs. South Lyon, 7 p.m.

Skating
2/7 at Divisional Champ., 9 a.m.

Wrestling
2/9 KVC at Howell Parker cam-

Catholic Central

Basketball
2/9 CHSL Playoffs, TBA
2/12 CHSL Playoffs, TBA

Hockey
2/8 at MHL Tourney (Kennedy), TBA
2/9 at MHL Tourney (Kennedy), TBA

Wrestling
2/9 CHSL Champ at Gab. Richard, 9 a.m.

Bowling
2/9 Jaeger Tourn at Super Bowl, TBA
2/11 Brother Rice at Woodland, 3:30 p.m.

Sport Shorts

- Novi Youth Baseball Registration**
The 2008 Novi Youth Baseball season is almost here. League registration began Feb. 1 and will run through March 15. The NYBL is open to all children 7-18.
See www.noviyouthbaseball.org for more information and registration.
- Youth Lacrosse**
Travel team lacrosse will be offered for boys at all skill levels in fifth-eighth grades. Northville Lacrosse is a well respected youth program around the state. We play play the top teams and participate in the Cranbrook Jamboree.
The season runs March 17-June 1, practice is M-W-F. The cost is \$195 for Northville residents.
Girls Lacrosse will learn the fundamentals and play four-six games. Season runs April 14-May 30. Cost is \$120 for Northville residents.
New teams are forming now for the spring. Sign up now to guarantee your spot.
For more information, please contact Kathy at (248) 305-9776.
- Charity hoop game**
The Novi seniors will take on the staff in a charity basketball game March 18.

Shamrock roundup



Shamrock Steve Harding goes for a layup.

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The Catholic Central wrestling team won the Clash of the Counties, beating all five teams it faced Saturday in Clarkston. The Shamrocks posted wins against Richmond (41-28), Henry Ford II (66-7), Anchor Bay (52-20), Romeo (46-32) and Chippewa Valley (44-29). Shamrocks with a perfect 5-0 day were Justin Melick at 112 pounds and Stefan Gatt at 160. Going 4-0 were Matt Aubrey at 189 and Mike Martin at heavy-weight.

Basketball

Against U-D, Tim Dezelski poured in 18 points to lead the Shamrocks to a 48-15 victory Jan. 29. Steve Harding also scored in



(40-39) but could not pull out the win. Brett Smith led all scorers with 20 points. Dezelski scored 14.

Hockey

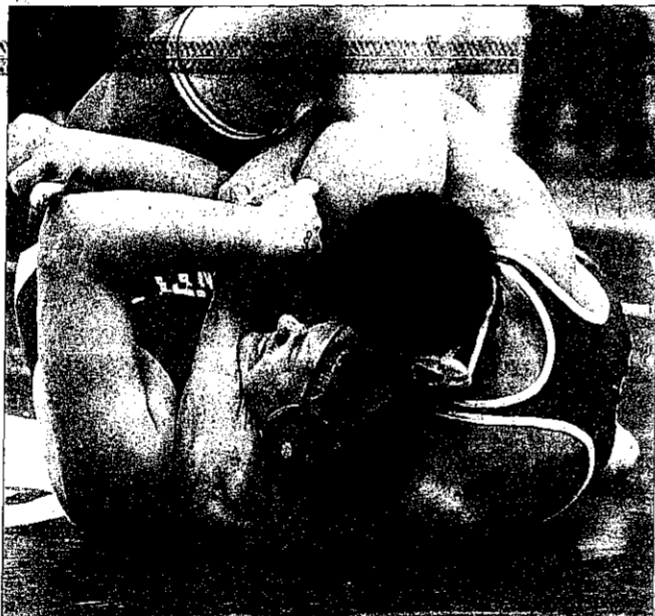
Catholic Central hockey knocked off Trenton 5-4 Jan. 30. The Shamrocks led 2-0 on goals from Brad Higgins and Louis Lemak, but Trenton came back to tie the game in the first period.

Greg Merrill put the Shamrocks (10-8) ahead in the second period and Jimmy Botti tacked on another for a 4-2 lead. Trenton made it 4-3 before Lemak pushed the cushion back to two. A late Trenton (15-1-2) goal finished the scoring.

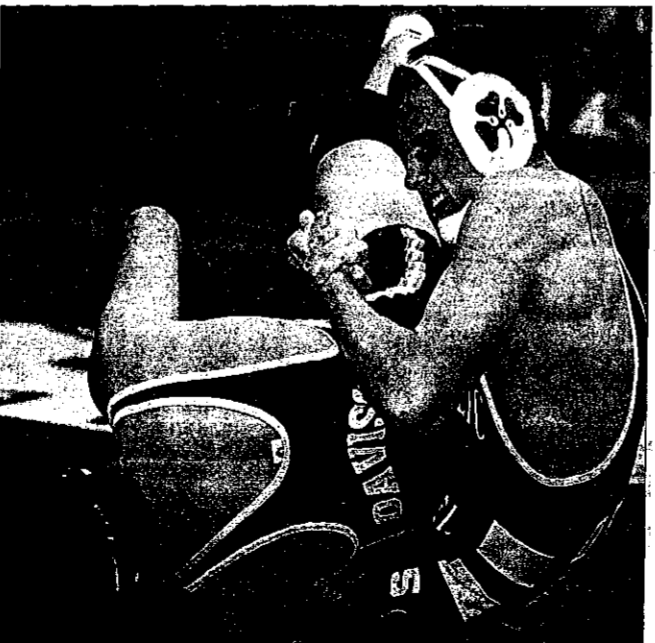
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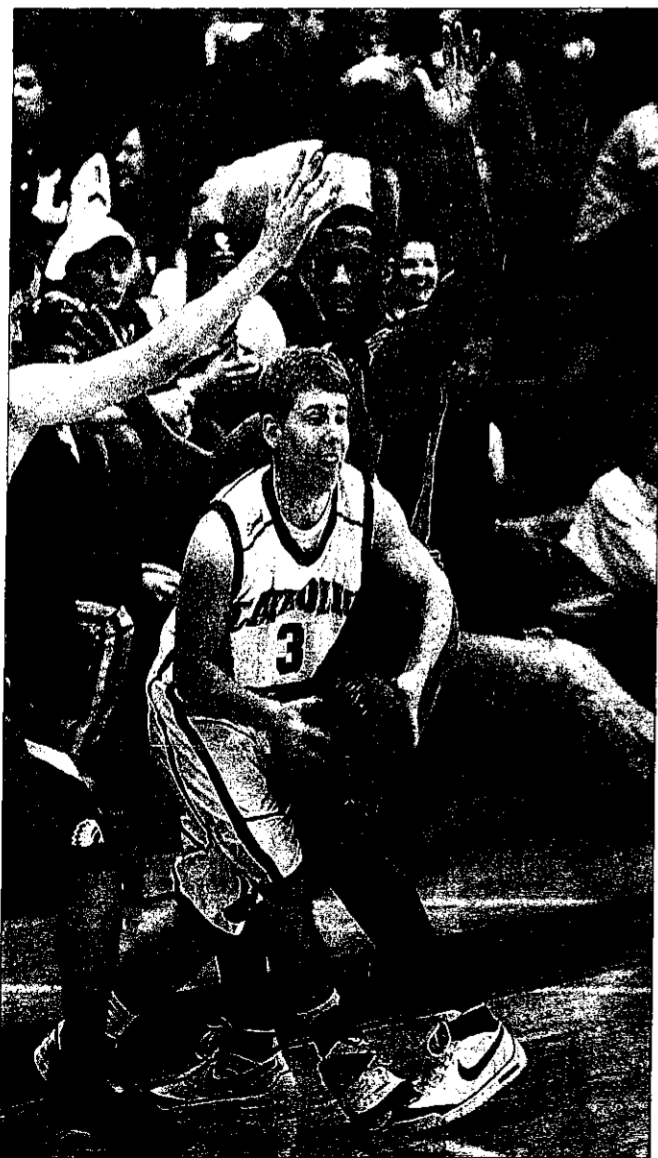
Catholic Central players lurk in front of the Trenton net.



Mike Martin puts the finishing touches on an opponent with a cradle hold.



Jake Christenson controls his opponent in an earlier-season match against Davison.



Catholic Central's Mike McCann looks out for a pass.

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via Story Chat at novinews.com

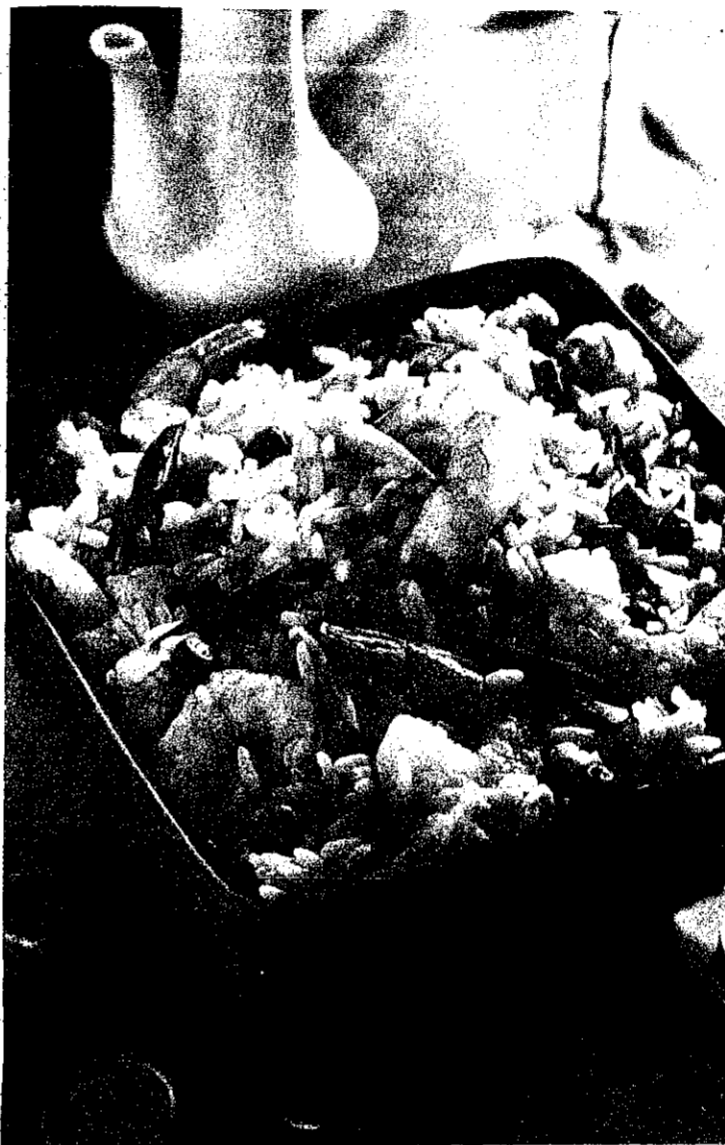
Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, February 7, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

It's Chinese New Year!

Host a colorful and classic homemade feast



FAMILY FEATURES

The holidays may be over, but the feasting is just beginning! February 7 marks the start of the 15-day Chinese New Year festival and the first day of lunar year 4706. Why not get together for an authentic-style banquet at home? It's easier than you think. Just follow these simple tips from the kitchens at Kikkoman, the world's leading manufacturer of Asian sauces and seasonings.

Set the date

Choose an evening between February 7 and 22 and invite friends for a traditional New Year's banquet. Pick a weekend night, so you'll have plenty of time to prepare. You can assign a few items for guests to bring, such as fortune cookies, dessert, sparkling wine, beer or sparkling cider.

Set the mood

Symbols and colors are an important part of Chinese New Year celebrations. A round table signifies wholeness. Red and gold represent good fortune and prosperity. Decorate the room and the table with red and gold accents, from paper lanterns to table linens, candles, gold confetti, gold-coin candies and red lacquered chopsticks, as well as traditional oranges or tangerines. Buy special red envelopes (*fat see*) at a Chinese stationery store and include a message, chocolate coins or a ticket for a fun door prize inside.

Bring on the food

Choose a menu that can be mostly made in advance, like the classic-style favorites included here. You can serve individual courses, or set everything out as a beautiful buffet. Either way, you'll find that these recipes are authentic-tasting, thanks to Kikkoman sauces — expertly blended and balanced for perfect flavor.

Celebrate!

Chinese New Year is all about wrapping up the old year and welcoming a bright future, filled with good things, good times and good food. Keep it light, fun and festive and you can't go wrong. *Gung Hay Fat Choy!* Here's to a year of good fortune.

For more Chinese New Year entertaining tips and recipes, download Kikkoman's official Chinese New Year Celebration Guide at www.kikkomanusa.com.



Celebration Shrimp Fried Rice

Makes 4 to 5 servings

- 6 green onions and tops, cut diagonally into 1/2-inch lengths, separating whites from tops
- 1/2 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4 cups cold cooked long-grain rice
- 1/2 pound medium-size cooked shrimp
- 3 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper

Stir-fry whites of green onions, peas and carrots in hot oil in wok or large skillet over medium-high heat 1 minute. Add green onion tops and egg; scramble. Stir in rice and shrimp, cook until heated, gently separating grains. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over rice. Cook and stir until well mixed.

Mongolian Beef

Makes 4 servings

- 1 pound boneless beef top sirloin
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1-1/2 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 1 tablespoon dry sherry
- 2 teaspoons Kikkoman Hoisin Sauce
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 2 bunches green onions, cut into 1-1/2-inch lengths, separating whites from tops, divided
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- Mongolian Sauce*
- 1 teaspoon sesame seed, toasted

Cut beef across grain into thin strips. Combine next 4 ingredients; stir in beef. Let stand 15 minutes. Stir-fry half of beef in 1 tablespoon hot oil in wok or large skillet over high heat 1 minute; remove. Repeat cooking procedure with remaining beef and 1 tablespoon oil; remove. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same pan. Add whites of green onions, garlic, ginger and red pepper; stir-fry 1 minute. Stir in green onion tops. Add beef and Mongolian Sauce. Cook, stirring, until sauce boils and thickens. Sprinkle with sesame seed before serving.

*Mongolian Sauce: Combine 1/3 cup water, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1/2 tablespoon cornstarch, 2-1/2 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce, 1 tablespoon dry sherry and 1 teaspoon Kikkoman Hoisin Sauce.

Lucky Sweet & Sour Pork

Makes 4 to 6 servings

- 1 pound boneless pork sirloin, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade & Sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 3/4 cup Kikkoman Sweet & Sour Sauce
- 3 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons syrup from jar of maraschino cherries
- 1 tablespoon Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch squares
- 1/2 onion, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 can (8 ounces) pineapple chunks, drained
- 1/2 cup maraschino cherries, stemmed

Combine pork, teriyaki sauce and ginger; let stand 15 minutes. Meanwhile, blend together next 4 ingredients; set aside. Coat pork with cornstarch. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork in single layer. Cook 4 minutes, or until golden brown, stirring to separate pieces. Remove pork. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same pan. Add bell pepper and onion; stir-fry 2 minutes. Add pork, pineapple, cherries and sweet & sour sauce mixture; cook, stirring, until sauce boils.

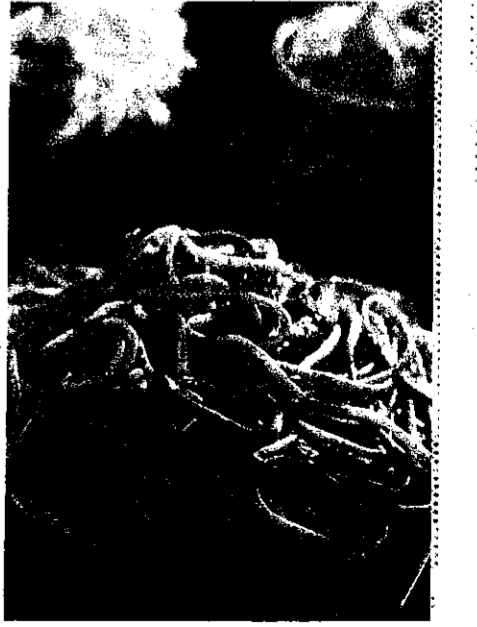


Chicken & Vegetable Chow Mein

Makes 4 servings

- 1/4 pound spaghetti
- 3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into thin strips
- 1 tablespoon plus 1/3 cup Kikkoman Stir-Fry Sauce, divided
- 4 teaspoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce, divided
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 small carrot, julienned
- 2 stalks celery, cut diagonally into thin slices
- 1/2 onion, thinly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 pound bean sprouts
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Asian sesame oil

Cook pasta according to package directions; drain, rinse and drain thoroughly. Meanwhile, coat chicken with 1 tablespoon stir-fry sauce and 2 teaspoons soy sauce; let stand 15 minutes. Stir-fry chicken in 1 tablespoon hot oil in wok or large skillet over high heat 3 minutes, or until done; remove. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in same pan. Add carrot; stir-fry 1 minute. Add celery, onion and garlic; stir-fry 3 minutes longer. Stir in bean sprouts, chicken, pasta, remaining 1/3 cup stir-fry sauce, 2 teaspoons soy sauce and pepper. Cook, stirring, until all ingredients are coated with sauce and pasta is heated through. Remove from heat; stir in sesame oil.



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Home Owners You Can Brighten Your Home In Winter!!!



Randall Patterson

The daylight is still short, the temperatures are cold, and spring seems a long way away. However winter doesn't mean your home needs to feel drab for months on end.

Here are some easy ideas to bring some springtime into your home and life right now.

• **INSTALL FULL SPECTRUM LIGHTS.** Available at most hardware stores, full spectrum lights provide a clear, brilliant, white light, simulating the exact color of sunlight at noon. These brilliant bulbs will not only lift your spirits, they'll also lighten your wallet by consuming 1/3-1/4 the energy of standard incandescent bulbs.

• **LET THE SUN SHINE IN.** Smog, soot, smoke and grime can build up on windows in the colder months, preventing sunlight from entering. Washing your windows mid-way through winter will not only brighten your home, it will also make cleaning them in spring a more manageable task.

• **BRING SOME COLOR INTO YOUR WORLD.** Give your Bath room or laundry area a lift with a fresh coat of paint in a fun new color. Painting a small space can be a great winter project that won't mean a big investment of time or money.

• **CULTIVATE AN INDOOR GARDEN.** Many of us compromise our indoor air-quality by spending more time cooped up inside during the winter. Instantly improve your view and the quality of the air you breathe and by investing in a few common house plants. Fresh flowers are also a quick pick-me-up that will instantly help your mood and brighten your home in the kitchen, family room, or wherever you spend a lot of time.

• **AIRING OUT YOUR HOME IN WINTER.** Winter keeps many people indoors much more than during the rest of the year. With less time spent outdoors and homes closed up against the cold, a home can become a haven for dust, allergens, and more. Here are a few steps homeowners can take right now:

• Keep furnace filters clean and replace regularly. Not only does this help air quality, but your furnace will work more efficiently.

• Vacuum mattresses and drapes to reduce dust and allergens. This is especially important in sleeping areas. This will help improve the way you feel.

• Bring smaller area rugs, pet bedding, and quilts/covers outdoors and shake them out on a sunny day.

Call us to have schedule a Home Check Up to help ensure your home's air quality and family health.
(248) 755-3422

Randall Patterson
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Diamonds and pearls Traditional gems reign at Orin Jewelers

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Holiday gift giving has given way to traditional gift giving again and Orin Jewelers of Northville continues a tradition of offering the finest jewelry backed by an experienced and friendly staff.

In other words, gift giving takes no holiday at Orin Jewelers, especially if the gift giving includes selections from two of the store's most popular product lines: Mikimoto and Alwand Vahan.

Gina Mazzoni, a member of the Mazzoni family which founded the company back in 1933, has been selling these product lines for several years out of the store, located in its familiar spot on the corner of Main and Center Streets in downtown Northville.

Gina and her brother, Orin Mazzoni III, along with the other staff members, invite customers to come in and view the many different looks of pearl jewelry in the Mikimoto line and the unique textured look of diamonds, gold, and sterling silver in the Alwand Vahan line.

MIKIMOTO PEARLS

"The Mikimoto line features the highest grade pearls," Gina said. "There are several different colors including white, cream, silver, and rose. But only the top five percent of all pearls are Mikimoto grade and each is magnificently matched for color and grade."

The pearls in this line come in different sizes and have been harvested from the waters in the South Seas, Japan, and Tahiti. Mikimoto is the originator of the cultured pearl and was originally founded

by Kokichi Mikimoto in 1893.

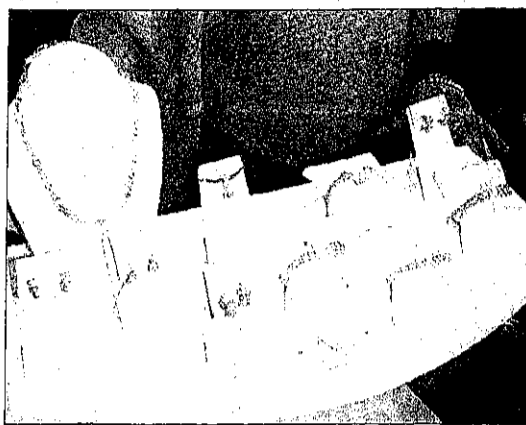
Gina explained that pearls can be worn any time, such as to weddings where a soft, subtle look is important; or to special events when a fresh and elegant look is desired. Matching together pearl necklaces, bracelets, earrings, or rings makes the look even more special. One necklace by Mikimoto, called "pearls in motion" features pearls that can be moved in any direction to give a different look every time — and utilize a patented method to keep them in place.

Price ranges for necklaces run from \$500 to \$3,000 and earrings from \$300 to \$2,000.

ALWAND VAHAN

"What makes the Alwand Vahan line we sell unique is that each bracelet and necklace is hand made in a special weave pattern," Gina said. "All of the diamonds are set by hand, too."

The bracelets, necklaces, and earrings are made from sterling silver and 14K or 18K yellow gold. All are made in the U.S. with the trademark stamped on each



Photos by JOHN R. HALL

A favorite of Gina Mazzoni, the Alwand Vahan line of unique jewelry features handmade bracelets and necklaces in a special weave pattern. Made in the United States, the jewelry also features hand-set diamonds.

piece. Each piece is "versatile and collectible" according to Gina. She pointed out a feature of the earrings: each is made with a rounded clip instead of a traditional post, making it more comfortable.

"You can do a lot of mixing and matching with the Alwand Vahan pieces," Gina added. "They look very good when you wear multiple bracelets on one wrist."

Within the Alwand Vahan line are a number of different signature collections

which are distinguishable by such things as "tiny bubble" illusions and beaded detailing. Pave diamonds, known for their cluster of beauty, are also part of the signature collections.

"These are some of our most popular pieces because of their elegant yet versatile look," said Gina. "They can be worn with jeans, or to a formal black tie affair."

75 YEARS OF FAMILY TRUST

Orin Jewelers has stores in Northville and Garden City, and is proud to be celebrating their 75th year in business. Orin Jewelers was founded in 1933 by Orin Mazzoni, Sr., a watchmaker by trade, and a pioneer in customer service, integrity in the jewelry business, and quality of both product and repairs.

The founders' grandson, Orin Mazzoni, III is the Northville store manager and his staff includes his sister Gina Mazzoni, Carole Urban, Joanne Sorby, Joshua Summers, and Sheryl Vickers. The staff is experienced and well trained with gemologist and registered jeweler degrees from both the Gemological Institute of America and the American Gem Society. But most importantly, they are known for their excellent customer service and friendly and inviting atmosphere.

A NEW LOOK

Orin Jewelry owners Orin and Tina Mazzoni are bringing back the look of their building to the days when it was built in 1887.

Architects, masons, and renovators continue to combine forces to finish the remainder of their cornerstone building at Main and Center.

Using the original brick, adding a new crown, refinishing windows and trim, and giving a new facade to the lower half which keeps in the trend of the nostalgic look of downtown Northville, the building is almost complete and will have some nice finishing touches come the warmer spring weather laying ahead.

The retail space directly behind Orin Jewelers has been given a complete renovation and will provide the opportunity for another retail store to join the lineup of new and established Northville businesses.

For more information call (248) 349-6940 or visit www.orinjewelers.com.

Gina Mazzoni is proud to show off the Mikimoto line of pearl jewelry.



VALENTINE'S DAY

PANDORA

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