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Novi News

1B

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

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VOLUME 52 #41 50 CENTS

Developing into a medical destination

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Novi has long been noticed for its economic corridor surrounding the Interstate-96 and Novi Road interchange.

Now, the city is becoming a hub for health care as major medical facilities are popping up throughout the city alongside others that have been entrenched in the community for years.

Rob Casalou, president of St. John Providence Park, said the region between Interstate-275 and

the Brighton area has become a prime location for new medical providers because of population growth and need.

"Health care is still a growing part of the economy. It's still employing a lot of people. In the southeastern Michigan economy, Novi has thrived at a time when a lot of communities have declined," he said.

"The area is still growing. They're coming out because of an opportunity. They're trying to compete with us and take part in all the growth. They're respond-

ing to the fact that we have a big, gigantic presence."

St. John Providence Park is set to open its \$224 million, 500,000-square-foot hospital in early August alongside its current medical center, located on the southwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road.

Beaumont Hospitals, Henry Ford Health System and Detroit Medical Center have also been making their presence felt among a handful of urgent care facilities.

"It has been an under-served area for a while and (patients) had

to travel. Henry Ford Health System patients come from all over the state and it's convenient to M-5, I-96 and I-275. It's the crossroads between Detroit and Lansing. Being at the crossroads, it'll be easier," said Bob Riney, chief operating officer and executive vice president for Henry Ford Medical Center-Columbus.

"Consumers will be the winner. We'll have to compete in a healthy way. We feel that we have to earn the right to provide care to



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Henry Ford Medical Center occupational therapists Cheryl Harrison, left, and Nancy Woods work on fitting a wrist splint at the 12 Mile Road Columbus campus.

continued on 6A

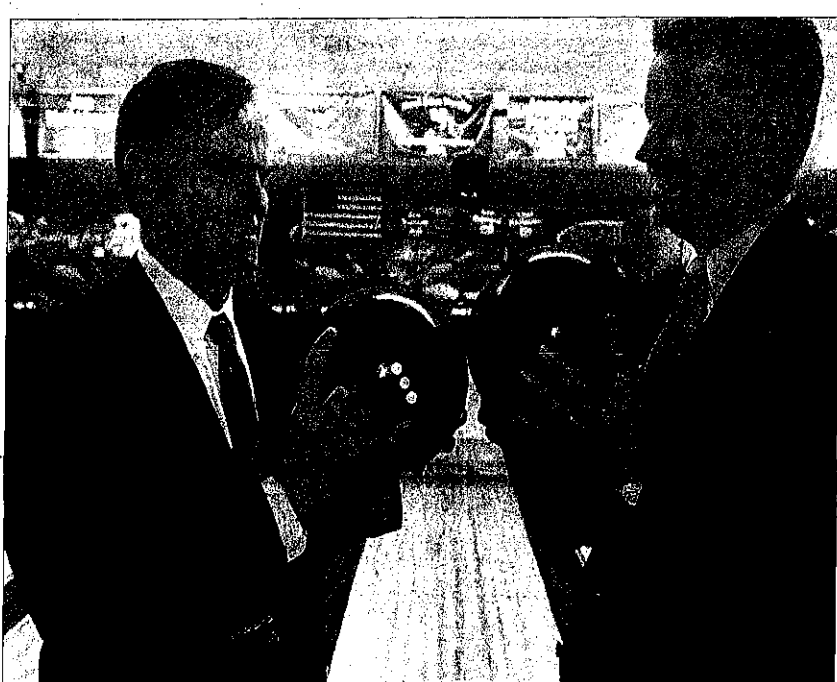


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Schools Superintendent Peter Dion, left, has his game face on as he prepares to face off against City Manager Clay Pearson in next Saturday's Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon.

School district looking to retaliate

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

After losing to the city last year, the school district will be looking for redemption on the lanes of Novi Bowl next Saturday.

The 26th annual Novi Youth

Assistance Bowl-A-Thon, is from 1-4 p.m. March 15.

"There's a little competition that goes on between the school board and the city," said Novi Youth Assistance chair John P. O'Brien. "The city won last year over the schools." After last year's defeat,

Superintendent Pete Dion is confident his five-member team will prevail in this year's competition.

O'Brien said there is also a friendly rivalry between the police and fire departments.

Currently, there are about 20 teams signed up, and the facility

has enough lanes for 30.

"It's one team per lane and five or six bowlers per team," O'Brien said. "We're always looking for more teams."

All ages are welcome to attend and bumpers are avail-

continued on 3A

Property tax reviews slated for next week

■ Appointment deadline for hearings tomorrow

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

All property owners interested in appealing their taxes have until 5 p.m. tomorrow to make an appointment to appear in front of the Board of Review next week.

The three-member board reviews property assessments set by the city assessor. Once the board convenes, city assessor Glenn Lemmon turns over the assessment roll to the board, to hear appeals from property own-

ers and determine whether to reduce, add or deny the appeal. If a property owner is still not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Review, they may take the appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

"The Board of Review is part of the state law," Lemmon said. "I have to determine an assessment value of any taxable property (within the City of Novi). Once I turn over that roll, I can't make any changes to that roll!"

Hearings will be held in council chambers, inside the Novi Civic Center, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, 1-9 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday.

Property owners may also submit a written appeal to the assessing department by the end

continued on 3A

Board of Review

Hearings

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, March 10

1-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 11

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 12

Hearings will be held by appointment only in council chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

The deadline to make an appointment is 5 p.m. Friday.

Letters

Property owners may submit a letter of appeal by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 11.

For more information regarding the Board of Review contact the assessing department at (248) 347-0485.

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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

<p>• FRIDAY</p> <p>Join the Novi Theatres for the premiere of "Father Bingo" at 7:30 p.m. The musical will hit the stage at Novi Middle School, 49000 11 Mile Road, for the first of seven performances at the same location. The show is a comedy with a priest, mayor and single woman looking to find approval in their own ways. Tickets cost \$18. Other show times are 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call (248) 347-0400 for more information.</p>	<p>• SATURDAY</p> <p>Support Novi's youth 7 p.m. at the Novi Educational Foundation annual Green Gala at Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. The gala, titled "Help our Children Shine Like Stars," will feature hors d'oeuvres, desserts, music, dancing, live and silent auctions, raffle prizes and chips for gambling at the Stardust Casino, which will include craps, roulette, blackjack and Texas hold'em. The event will help raise money for Novi student scholarships and teacher grants. Tickets cost \$75 and are available by phone and at the door. For more information, call (248) 449-1206 or visit www.novieducationalfoundation.org.</p>	<p>• SUNDAY</p> <p>Lace up the blades and get a final winter thrill in before the weather starts warming up with open ice skating from 3-4:50 p.m. at the Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive. The weekly, all ages event costs \$4 for Novi residents and \$5 for non-residents. A \$30 Weekend Skate Pass is worth 10 admissions. Skate rental costs \$3. Call (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novicearena.com for more information.</p>
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MY INDEX

Be Scene in Novi7A	Food for Thought5B
Bulletin Board14A	Health5A
City Council10A	Public Safety11A
Commentary13A	Real Estate1C
Community2A	Regional Marketplace6B
Education6A	Sports1B

6 53174 22222 0

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

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

MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Help district children shine like stars

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Educational Foundation has been working to provide grants for Novi teachers and scholarships for Novi students for decades, but the Green Gala fund-raising event this weekend will help the district shine even more.

The gala is the foundation's second, an event that was successful last year and brought in more funds than any other fundraiser, despite sharing the date with St. Patrick's Day.

"People said 'we came out of obligation to support the foundation and we had a great time and hope you do it again next year,'" said Bob Schram, Novi Educational Foundation executive director and Novi Schools assistant superintendent of human resources. "We'll continue to put it on as long as we can put on a quality event because we want the foundation's name only associated with quality."

"It went well last year and we raised almost \$40,000. We hope to do better this year," she said. "Last year we had about 300 people. We hope to do more people this year. We'd love to raise \$60,000. That's our dream number."

The Green Gala carries the theme, "Help our Children Shine Like Stars," and will feature live auctions, desserts, music, dancing and several chances to win raffles, live and silent auctions.

"Each school is putting together a basket for the silent auction," Brunner said.

Gift donors include the Library Sports Pub & Grill, Larson Jewelry Design and Tanglewood Golf Club in South Lyon. A film created by a Novi student will loop in the background of the event showing what three of the foundation's grants have brought to Novi schools.

The Stardust Casino will light up the night with several tables and gambling chips the winners can use toward raffle prizes. Craps, roulette, blackjack and Texas hold'em will be the featured games at the mini casino.

The foundation's other two large fundraisers, a June golf outing and September's first Family Fun Run, raised a combined amount totaling nearly \$15,000.

"It was more of a community event," Brunner said of the Fun Run, which collected \$6,000. "St. John Providence Park was the sponsor and Rob Casadio said it had to be free to Novi students. So they all got the shirt and got to run for free."

Schram said, in 2001, the foundation hosted a Battle of the Glee Clubs event at the high school's Forest Auditorium where Michigan State University and University of Michigan's glee clubs both performed and donations were collected to tally votes.

"We're always trying to improve the foundation. It's a pretty active group," Brunner said. "Last year, we saw more grant applications. We want to award more of them. We want to make the biggest impact on the most number of students."

The NEF awarded more than \$23,000 through 18 grants in 2007. Grant applications are being collected now and will be awarded in May, Brunner said, noting that grants need to be innovative, creative and potentially lead to new programs before the committee considers awarding funds.

Green Gala

Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Saturday, March 8
Place: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave.
Tickets: \$75 per person
Host: Novi Educational Foundation
For more information call (248) 449-1206 or visit www.NoviEducationalFoundation.com.

The Parent Teacher Organizations at the different schools are competing for a grant used as an incentive award for whichever school sells the most tickets to the Green Gala.

"I think we've seen a good response from the community. It's always difficult to raise money," said Schram, who helped start the foundation in 1986 as a board of education member. "The need is greater. We had a seven-member board then and a 17-member board now. I think the commitment is greater than it was then. You build on success and there is some success to build on."

"Two or three years ago, we were giving out \$9,000-10,000 a year. We gave out over \$22,000 last year."

The foundation also is in charge of awarding the Forest Memorial Foundation scholarships, which total \$30,000 in funds to be distributed between several recipients.

As many as 25 different family scholarships are also available in smaller amounts, but the families funding the scholarships often choose the recipient. Brunner said the scholarship applications are due at the end of March.

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

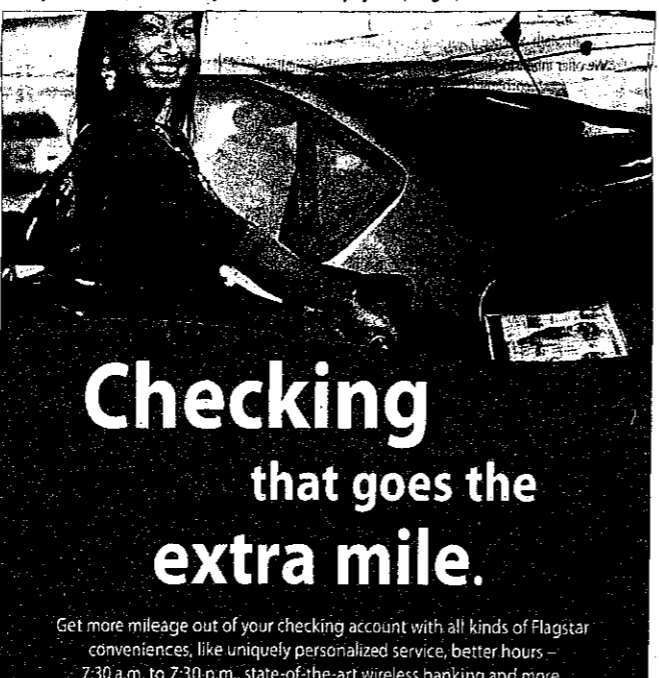


Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Middle School student Rick Nicklaus works with teacher Andi Jacobs to create party favor bags for the upcoming Novi Educational Foundation Green Gala.



Novi Middle School students work on creating party favor bags for the upcoming Novi Educational Foundation Green Gala. From left: (teacher) Diane Flavin, Devaney Richards, Becky Halverson, Glorielle Byers and Matt Murphy. At far right, Rick Nicklaus.



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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Ready to Read!

Orchard Hills students including Sarah Dwyer, far left, hold up copies of the book "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" that they'll read together for March is Reading Month.

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HINT: Aquamarine's name is derived from the Latin "aqua" (water) and "mare" (sea)

Appointment deadline for hearings tomorrow

continued from front
of the day Tuesday, March 11. "This is the only time a year people can make an appeal on their assessment," Lemmon said. "We encourage them to do their homework because the burden of proof falls on them. People can't come in saying 'My taxes are too high.' That's not going to win them an appeal. They have to prove their assessment is incorrect." Property owners may prove their assessment is incorrect by a bank or independent appraisal, or through an assessor's correction. For an assessor's correction to be valid, substantial evidence must be provided to prove the assessment includes inaccurate information, such as the square footage of the property. In such a case, the assessor will go to the board on the person's behalf. As of last week, the number of appeal applications the assessing department received was lower than normal, but Lemmon did not want to speculate an expected outcome. "We're hoping for the best, and expecting the worst," he said. The number of residential

Hearings

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, March 10
1-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 11
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 12
Hearings will be held by appointment only in council chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

appeals was up last year, in comparison to past years, and 95 percent were reduced or stayed the same, Lemmon said.

Many Oakland County communities are expecting an increase in appeals this year because of the depressed economy and resulting spiral in home market values.

Anyone with a fixed or limited income may also be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty.

"We will take appeals based on poverty, so if someone feels, by virtue of poverty, they can't pay their taxes, the board and I will look at it and see what we can do," said Lemmon, estimating 20 people will appeal based on poverty. "Taxes are hardships on everyone."

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

School district looking to retaliate

continued from front

able upon request. "We rent out the whole facility. The Novi Bowl is very good at working with us," O'Brien said. "We get really great support from a combination of the schools and families. We get a wide variety of people that come in."

For a number of participants, this is the only time of year they bowl, so teams play three games of 9-Pin No Tap - meaning nine pins knocked down counts as a strike.

"I've been doing this for a number of years and I have yet to bowl," O'Brien said. "But what I like about this event is 100 percent of the funds we raise go back into the programming Novi Youth Assistance does."

The Novi Youth Assistance is a volunteer-driven organization serving several hundred Novi children and families a year.

Teams are asked to collect pledges prior to the event and sponsorship opportunities are available for lanes and individual bowlers.

There is no required pledge amount, but O'Brien suggested \$30-40 per person. "Really, anything is helpful," he

Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon

1-4 p.m. Saturday March 15
21700 Novi Road
Anyone interested in participating should contact the Novi Youth Assistance at (248) 347-0410 for more information.

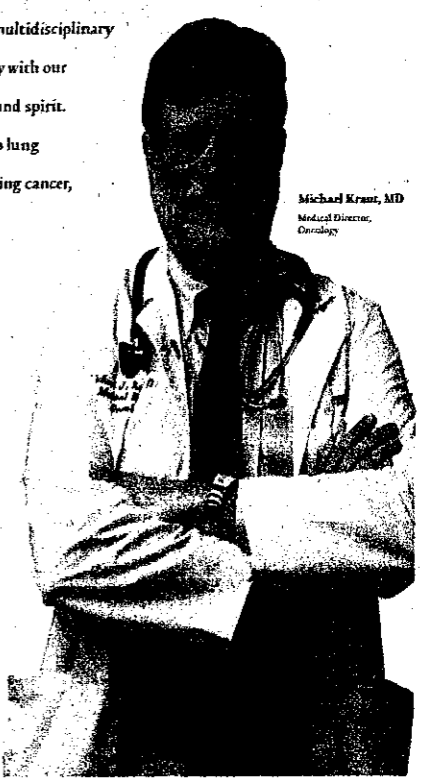
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MY NEIGHBORS

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Novi women recognized for business savvy

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Shawne Duperon always had bigger dreams ahead of her.

After growing up in Detroit and attending Eastern Michigan University, she knew there was more to achieve and the 43-year-old Novi resident was right.

Duperon was recently recognized by the National Association of Women Business Owners' Greater Detroit Chapter for work through her self-run company, Shawne TV.

Shawne TV started eight years ago with a mission to help businesses understand the media and utilize their capabilities through keynote speeches and workshops featuring Duperon, who has nearly two decades of experience as a media figure.

"I was a producer at WDIV-TV (Channel 4). I wanted to do more national and international work," she said. "All of my programming is about changing the community."

After graduating from EMU in 1990, Duperon spent 11 years in Toledo with NBC and ABC affiliate stations before moving to Detroit. She worked at NBC's WDIV-TV for seven years before starting Shawne TV, based out of her Novi home.

Since starting her own business, Duperon has earned a master's degree in mass media from Wayne State University. She's currently working on a mass media dissertation at Wayne State for a Ph.D. in gossip.

"I'm looking at how we talk. Most of it is gossip. Until we change how we talk, our news will never change," she said. "News isn't really bad. Most of what comes out of our news, culturally, is bad."

Duperon is now making a living improving people's views on the media and how the two parties can work together with her "Transformational Media" concept. Her work earned the NAWBO's Innovator of the Year award a few years ago.

"If we have a cultural conversation about not liking media, it's like going to a party where you don't like the host, but need \$5,000," Duperon said. "I take people through the day in a life of a news reporter. When they see the day-to-day life and what they deal with, they start to have some compassion."

However, she has expanded her work beyond using her 18 years in the industry to change views on the media.

Duperon has workshops geared at improving interviewing skills and

credibility and a keynote on how to benefit and improve upon traditional networking events. All are subjects that can be generally applied to any business or profession.

Bonus points

Duperon also has many side projects outside of Shawne TV, such as a forthcoming documentary on forgiveness and a book about the subjects she lectures on. "I love to travel. I was just in Cancun finishing a book on media beliefs called 'Changing Your Channels,'" she said. "I'm a pretty ferocious reader. I play sports - volleyball and baseball. I'm a workout person."

Duperon is also one of six members of a Mastermind group of women, who have met twice a month over the past seven years to share ideas, support each other, do activities and take courses together.

A self-proclaimed empty-nester, her three children, ages 20-22, are all off on their own in college or the work force, allowing her and husband, Terry, 44, to get more involved with the community.

Duperon spends a lot of her time volunteering with the American Cancer Society and the Stanford House, a Dearborn Heights shelter for women, as

well as serving as the voice for OnStar, an in-vehicle security, communication and diagnostics system provider for General Motors.

For her various efforts in helping and improving those around her, Duperon will be presented with the Giving Spirit Award at the NAWBO's 14th Annual Awards Luncheon March 13 at the Detroit Yacht Club alongside fellow Novi resident Nipa Shah, of Jenesys Group, who is receiving the Global Business Award. The pair are two of 10 women nominated as the Top 10 Michigan Business Women by the association.

"Getting the award for giving, it's the act of reciprocity. When I give, it just comes back to me a hundred-fold. It's chi," Duperon said. "I really believe in the law of attraction. If you think reporters are sucky, you're going to attract sucky reporters."

Those interested in attending the luncheon to recognize Duperon and Shah can register at www.nawbogde.org or call (313) 961-4748. Tickets are \$50 for members and \$60 for nonmembers.

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



Shawne Duperon works out of her Novi home office on a recent Friday morning. She was recognized with the National Association of Women Business Owners' Giving Spirit Award.

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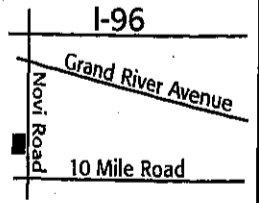
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MY HEALTHY LIVING

Developing into a medical destination

continued from front

patients at every encounter. We worry a lot more about that than our competitors."

Henry Ford Health opened its 130,000-square-foot Columbus medical center at 12 Mile and Haggerty roads last month. The Columbus campus is Henry Ford's second medical center in Novi, four miles north of its other location at Eight Mile Road, west of Haggerty Road.

Columbus will make services and providers previously located at the West Bloomfield campus available in Novi as West Bloomfield adds a \$300 million hospital to the current medical center. The new hospital will open in early 2009.

"It's in wonderful proximity to the hospital campus in West Bloomfield," Rimey said, noting the interaction between the two locations will be seamless.

Beaumont Hospitals is the other big Novi move, recently announcing a new \$19 million, 88,000-square-foot medical center will open at Main Street and Novi Road in May 2009.

"We're very excited to be closer to the patients we already serve. Our hopes are it will become a vibrant center to serve the Novi and Northville area," said Eric Hunt, vice president of operations for the Beaumont Ambulatory Services division. "It's an attractive area. It has a nice retail base and population base. It connects you to population areas further west in South Lyon and Brighton. There's been a lot of population growth the last 15-20 years."

The center will complement the \$70 million, 140,000-square-foot Beaumont Medical Center being

built on the northwest corner of Maple Road and Michigan-5 in Commerce Township, slated to open in late 2009. The Commerce facility will have the capacity to expand into a full hospital if there is future need.

"The main thing is a certificate of need by the state of Michigan. It's required, although Providence and Henry Ford's West Bloomfield Hospital got special legislation. If the rule changes or the need is there, we'll be positioned," Hunt said. "We're comfortable with the market share we have."

The new medical centers and hospitals will offer varying levels of emergency and urgent care, but many Novi facilities already offer services for non-life-threatening concerns such as burns and broken bones.

Located in the two miles between the new Beaumont and Henry Ford medical centers are three urgent care providers: Meadowbrook Urgent Care, Novi Urgent Care and DMC Urgent Care Center for children.

DMC also operates the nearby 400,000-square-foot Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce, which offers full-scale emergency and inpatient care.

Milford-based G3 Development is looking to contribute to the burst in local health care activity with plans to build 100,000 square feet of offices and condos, with planned use by physicians, when the complex opens on Grand River Avenue, about a half-mile east of Beck Road, in late 2009 or early 2010.

The project, scheduled to break ground this spring, will include four free-standing buildings covering about 30,000 square feet each, according to Novi Economic Development Manager Ara Topouzian.

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700.

Novi medical providers

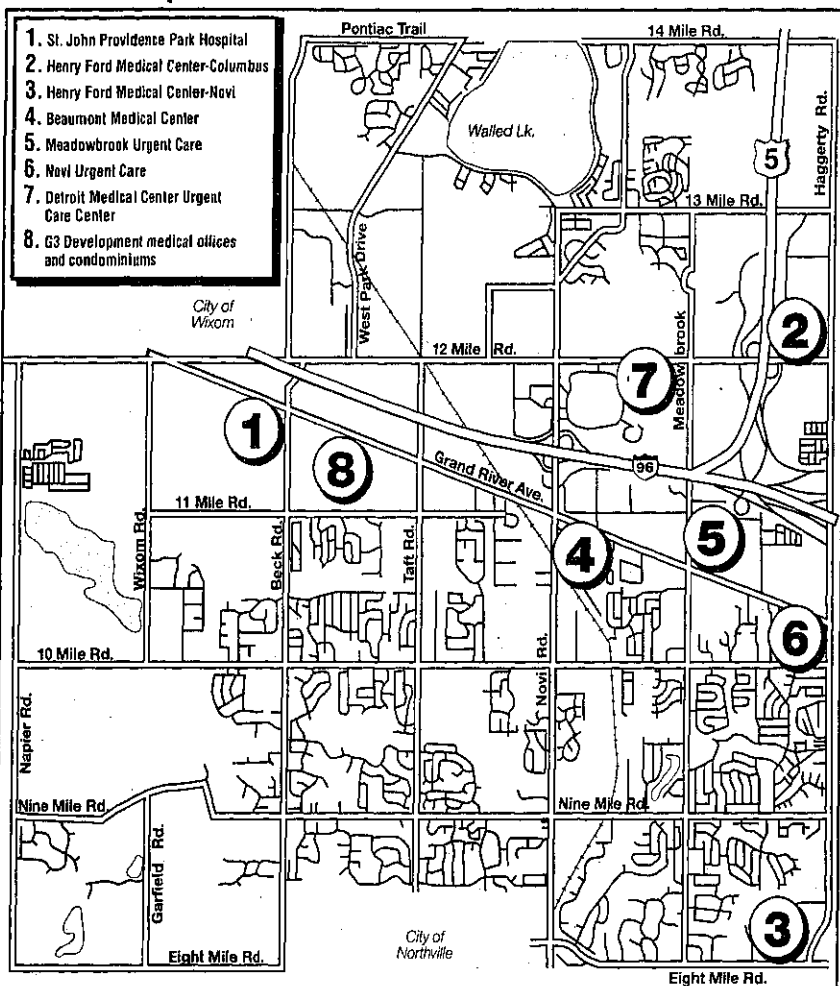


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Henry Ford Medical Center plastic surgeon Vigen Darian sets up new lighting for Mary Gibson in his procedure room at the new Novi campus on 12 Mile Road.

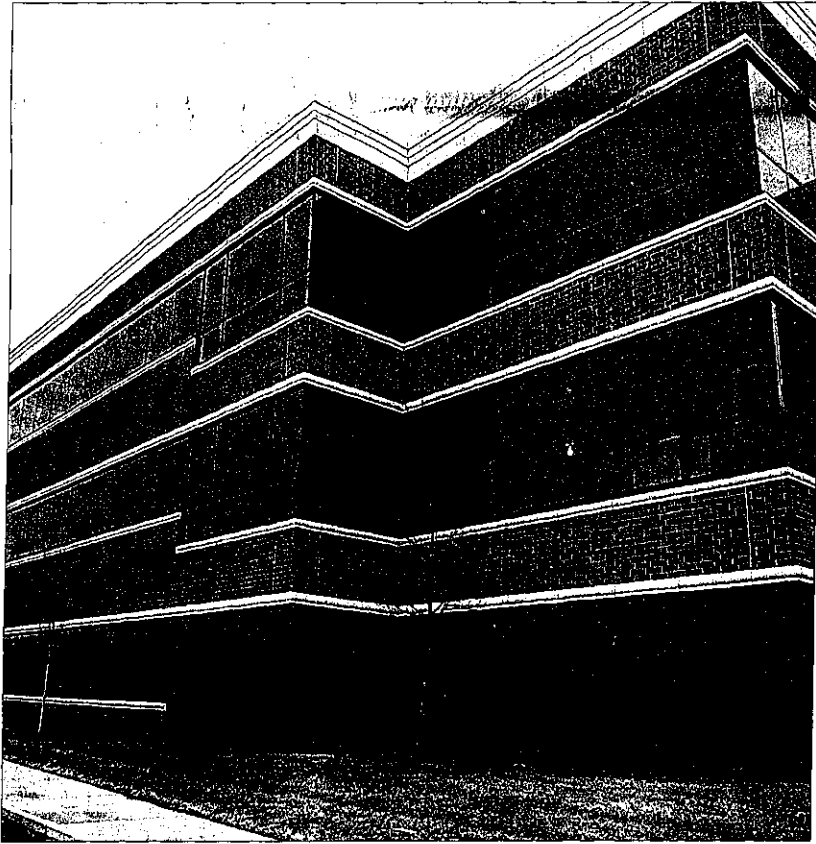


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The newly opened Henry Ford Medical Center in Novi at 12 Mile and Haggerty roads.

Learning how to be a 'Love and Logic' parent

By Tracy Estes-Mishler
SPECIAL WRITER

Ron and Kathie Collins have what they call "problem children."

Their answer to why their kids are like this?

"I wish we knew," Ron Collins said, of West Bloomfield. "They are problem children to the point where they don't listen and sometimes it feels like they are ruling us."

Collins said he loves his children unconditionally. Eric, 5, and Jennifer, 7, but feels sometimes he tries to find quick fixes rather than solving the problem to make them happy.

"I feel like we need the Super

Nanny or something sometimes," he said. "My wife and I try to stand strong, but in today's society it's hard to know what is politically correct and what's not."

"When we were young, we listened. Today's kids act up all the time and parents like us let it happen. We need to do something."

Like Collins, there are many families seeking help in their skills of handling difficulties in their children.

Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services is currently offering Love and Logic classes, with locations in Novi, Dearborn, Troy and Sterling Heights, for moms and dads looking to improve their parenting skills.

Greg Oliver, psychologist for Henry Ford and one of several

class facilitators, said the Love and Logic class is about how to become an effective parent and improve a child's behavior while saving the relationship between kids and parents at the same time.

"It's about building up a kid's self-esteem so they can fix and solve mistakes to feel good about themselves and prepare for the next," Oliver said. "So they don't feel overwhelmed and act out."

According to the National Institute of Health, an estimated 2.7 million children are reported by their parents to suffer from definite or severe emotional or behavioral difficulties leading to problems that may interfere with their family life, their ability to learn, and their formation of friendships.

Oliver said the class teaches parents to have their children take accountability through their consequences and taking responsibility for the mistakes they might get themselves into.

"What we're trying to do is help the kids own their own problems and learn that their own problems make their own lives harder," he said. "We talk about how to give the problem back to the kids so the parents don't feel walked all over."

"The strategies we teach work for kids as young as 2, 3 or 4 years old. Kids can learn."

Oliver said the biggest problem parents have with difficult children is an unhappy relationship.

He said the biggest benefit the Love and Logic classes teach is

how to save that relationship while preventing resentment and blame.

"I hope when people take these classes they take away a new sense of hope and eagerness to get back to parenting," he said. "They usually come in burnt out and frustrated. It's time to try some new strategies."

The Love and Logic classes are new to Novi, replacing a former class held in West Bloomfield.

The program has graduated more than 20 groups of parents hoping to go back into their parenting with new hope.

"There are many different approaches to parenting," Oliver said. "We teach the respectful and discipline approach. Finding the right approach in your parenting is what makes the difference."

Love and Logic Parenting Education

Where: Henry Ford Behavioral Health Services Columbus Center, 33450 12 Mile Road, Suite 2B, Novi

Price: \$75 registration fee per person (includes materials and parent workbook)

Facilitator: Wiley Rasbury, Ph.D.

Class time: Thursdays 6-8 p.m. starting April 4

For more information on signing up for this class, contact (248) 661-7393 or for other locations contact (800) HENRYFORD.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. March 13 inside the Educational Services Building on 14th Road

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

MY EDUCATION

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novi.com
fax: (248) 349-9632

Novi Schools cutting back, save big on energy costs

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

It may be a cold winter full of snow, but Novi Community Schools are keeping their energy bills low thanks to more conservative practices.

The district teamed up with Energy Education, Inc. in October 2006 to look at ways to cut back on energy costs and recently announced savings of \$424,820 in the first year of the program.

The district's combined electric and gas bill for the 2006-07

school year was nearly \$1.82 million.

"We are looking at these kinds of things always in the budget," said Gail Credit, assistant superintendent of business and operations.

Credit said Energy Education has helped the district realize how to cut many energy drains.

Some of the largest savings have resulted from turning off appliances running overnight or during weekends and keeping the temperature comfortable when the buildings are empty.

"We turn it to 55 degrees in the evening," said Bill Main, energy manager and assistant maintenance director for the district.

Main estimates about 70 percent of the savings could likely be contributed to late-night setbacks.

Energy Education has helped about 700 schools save on their energy bills and Credit sees more improvements for Novi each month.

"November 2006 to October 2007 are like steps. We've gotten better at what we're doing. Kids are getting excited about it.

They've marked (light) switches for what ones need to stay on all the time and what ones need to stay on some of the time," she said. "We have a 48-month contract and they guaranteed \$3 million in savings over seven years. That's money we can use in the classroom and go toward the kids."

Aside from unplugging unused appliances, keeping unneeded lights turned off and turning the temperature down overnight, the schools have worked to keep the atmospheres of the classrooms

comfortable by emphasizing the need for doors to stay closed.

"It's the way the buildings were designed," Credit said. "When you leave the doors open, it makes the hallway a wind-tunnel. It was designed for the doors to stay closed. It keeps the warm air in the classroom and go toward the kids."

The district is also attempting to consolidate use in summer so each building does not require the cooling systems to be running constantly. Hosting multiple pro-

grams at a single school is one method the district tried last summer and found to be a success.

Credit said a lot of the ideas Energy Education suggested are ones people could also use at home.

"We're dialing (the temperature) back at night and doing it during the day," she said of her own household.

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

Students get spirited; sample of district survey results revealed

Student board member Katherine Ferriss, an eighth-grade student council president at Novi Middle School, began the meeting by telling the board about the middle school's successful spirit week Feb. 11-14, which included a variety of color-oriented days and a day where students dressed as a prince, princess, superhero or odd creature. Ferriss reported three students were sent to the county's youth summit Feb. 25 and the wrestling and girls' basketball seasons have just ended.

She also announced at March 4 meetings for parents registering their students at the high school for next fall and that 249 students are currently signed up for next year's Washington D.C. trip, which will require a fifth bus to be added.

Ferriss announced the school paper, The Paw Print, will have a new issue out near spring break, but the current issue can be seen online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/Schools/novi/Middle/default.aspx, a method that saves paper and allows more students to write. She also noted the March 8 Green Gala, March 12 career day and March 13-14 vocal music choir district festival, along with her excitement for the March 21 spring break.

correspondence to the board from www.novi.org editor Scott Olson, voting concern about the lack of Novi sports coverage in the Detroit Free Press, Detroit News and The Oakland Press.

Reports to the board

• Joani Clements, director of Nutrition and Food Services, reported to the board the district's status in regard to the recent United States Department of Agriculture beef recall. She said all beef products, which totaled 14 cases, were pulled from district shelves, when the recall was reported to the district Feb. 18. She did note that she was told earlier in the day that more recalls were to be announced by the USDA. Since the district pulled all beef products temporarily, the additional recalls should not affect the district. The district has been working with primary supplier Gordon Food Services to ensure students' lunch menus are safe. Clements also said the district is looking at including more fruits and vegetables on the lunch menu in an effort to create healthier options for students. She also said the milk container packaging change at the middle school earlier this year has resulted in a 25 percent increase in milk drinking.

• Dr. Tim Falls, a consultant for the district, presented to-date results from the needs assessment

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING NOTEBOOK

Public Library schematics have been presented to him by the City of Novi and are available at the Educational Services Building for anyone interested.

• Credit reported bond projects are on schedule and under budget. The projects include the three elementary schools construction and adding security measures to all district buildings by installing surveillance cameras and door access and monitoring systems.

• Dion said winter sports are all wrapping up successful seasons and Novi's mens basketball team was scheduled to host a district matchup against Detroit Catholic Central, located in Novi.

• Dion said he met with Sen. Nancy Cassia (R-Nowi) to discuss educational concerns they may have. They agreed to meet for discussions on a more regular basis.

• Dion reported that Racoon, Trustee Bobbie Murphy and President Jeff Nielson had successfully completed their board certifications and Racoon and Nielson earned the award of merit.

• Treasurer Ann Glabzinski reported that the Fiscal Committee is reviewing and will present the amended 2007-08 budget at the March 13 board meeting. She also reminded everyone of the March 8 Novi Educational Foundation Green Gala.

• Superintendent's report
• Peter Dion reported that Novi

Surveys sent out to parents, the community and district staff

four sets of February board meeting minutes and the approval of \$5.75 million in January bills from the consent agenda.

• The board accepted the gift of a 36-inch Toshiba television from Troy Isaacson and his wife for curriculum-related use at Deerfield Elementary School. The board also approved salary adjustments for teachers Lydia Caudena, Rod Franchi, Steven McDonald, Jr. and Nancy Montales, who all completed further education. The board approved the previously discussed second group of athletic trip to Chicago and the March 12-16 Michigan State University Model United Nations trip to Lansing. Both items were unanimously moved for action and approved 7-0 because of the short time span.

• Assistant Superintendent of Academics Monique Beels presented information about the Feb. 28-March 1 FIRST Robotics Midwest Regional Competition trip to Chicago and the March 12-16 Michigan State University Model United Nations trip to Lansing. Both items were unanimously

Consent agenda and action items
• The board approved several items by a 7-0 vote, including

Correspondence
Secretary Katie Racoon reported

ENTRY BLANK

Hey...Novi

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

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

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

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

All Entries Must Be Received By March 7th

Students experience a day of disabilities

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Most people never have to experience speaking with an electric larynx or seeing words backward, but students at Novi Woods Elementary School experienced these things and more at last Wednesday's Disability Awareness Day.

"It helps to give an understanding of how a classmate with a disability would (perform tasks)," said Kim Richmond, event coordinator and parent of Novi Woods fourth-grader Emily. "Most of the elementary schools use it each year."

Richmond said the Oakland County Schools Disability Awareness Workshop has been held at many Novi elementary schools for nearly a decade and was originally created by Orchard Hills Elementary School parent Cindy House, an Oakland County Parent Advisory Committee member.

The school kids allowed students to experience writing with poor sensory skills and trying to sit with poor balance skills via a T-shaped seat that tilted to both sides. Prosthetic limbs and an information board on muscle diseases were also posted. The activities with the greatest impact, however, were a wheelchair obstacle course and paraplegic crutches and walkers, all of which students were able to take for a test run.

"The wheelchairs were really fun and we got to see how people are disabled," said 9-year-old Audrey Waechter.

Richmond pointed out a key lesson for students is that, although a test drive in a wheelchair may be fun for them during a short program, it can be difficult for those forced to use it full-time.

"You get to feel how it is to be disabled," said 9-year-old Andy Mizrowski. "How to push yourself in a wheelchair and read Braille."

A second room was filled with less space-consuming activities with its largest feature being the blindness activity where students had to wear a blindfold and maneuver through obstacles into the classroom just with a white walking cane.

"It's kind of scary because you don't know where you're going," said 9-year-old Aubrey Diephuis. "They can do just the same stuff as us, just in different ways."

Blind people are just like us because they do the same things, they just have a disability," said 9-year-old Mitchell McSweeney. "They're the same as us."

Other stations in the second room expanded on different levels of blindness, with blurred glasses for students to wear and a Braille typewriter. Braille books and a candy activity where students had to spell their names in Braille.

Two dyslexia stations had students doing math and connecting dots on a picture where all the numbers were backward. They also had to write their names so the writing would appear at a regular orientation in the mirror.

"That's so hard. I only got one right," Waechter said of the dyslexic math problems. "Being disabled is hard because it's complicated."

The room also focused on deafness, showing students how the disability required more of a focus on vision.

A Servox electric larynx was also a popular item among students, simulating speech limitations with an injured larynx.

Information on learning disabilities, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and attention deficit disorder were also on display at the dyslexia station.



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

A wheel-chaired Novi Woods student sees what it's like to try to drink from a fountain during the recent Disability Awareness Day.



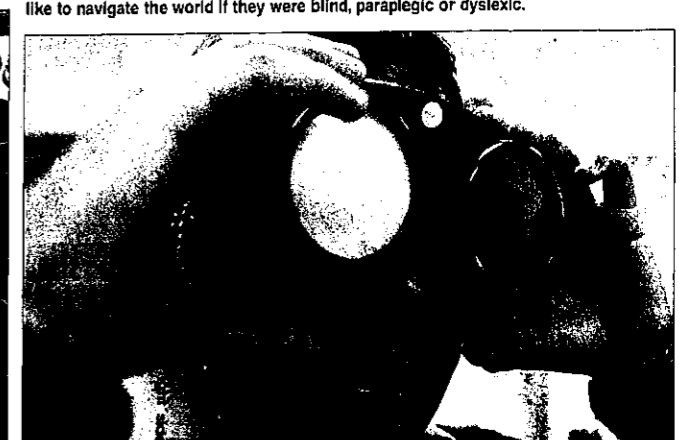
Noah McMahan tries to get around a crowded room using a walker during Novi Woods' Disability Awareness Day. Students got to see what it would be like to function using wheelchairs, crutches and walkers.



Using an extended claw device, Bailee Kiel picks up a piece of paper while seated in a wheelchair during a recent disability awareness workshop at Novi Woods Elementary School. Students passed through many stations that gave them an idea of what it's like to navigate the world if they were blind, paraplegic or dyslexic.



Seeing how difficult it would be to complete a puzzle if he were dyslexic, Novi Woods student Mitchell McSweeney looks into a mirror as he works during last week's disability awareness workshop.



Kaushik Ravi tries on a pair of goggles that approximate how a person with a right-sided stroke would see during Novi Woods' recent disability awareness workshop.

Community center promotes family-safe environment

At the corner of Taft and 11 Mile roads

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Todd Beyer stumbled upon the Novi Christian Community Center by chance. "I just went and knocked on their door because it looked like there was a gym hidden back there and we needed a gym," said Beyer, who coaches the Novi Cats Basketball and Novi Heat Baseball teams. "That's how it came about, just by luck."

The Novi Christian Community Center is located at the corner of Taft and 11 Mile roads. "We have a building here, that used to be the Novi Christian School, that we converted into a community center," said Building and Events Coordinator Gary Elfer Jr. "People don't even know it's here."

The facility includes a full-size gym, which is used for sports events such as basketball, baseball, volleyball and cricket; various size rooms, which are rented out for tutoring, seminars, ban-

quets and classes; and a large outdoor field that is used for soccer. "We have a very useful building, we just need to increase awareness," Elfer said. "There's been a lot of word of mouth, but we'd like to go beyond that."

Beyer takes advantage of the facility for his basketball and baseball teams. "We use the gym (for baseball) during the winter time to practice," he said. "This is more convenient because the kids are from Novi."

Prior to utilizing the Novi Christian Community Center, Beyer's teams practiced in other communities. "We decided to branch out because there is a lot of community around us and we'd like to serve them as best as possible," Elfer said. "We are the geographical center of Novi, so it's very accessible for Novi residents."

The building has flexible hours and is open to all area residents. "If I could get someone in here from eight in the morning to 10 in the evening every day, I would," Elfer said. "Our main goal is to promote family in a safe atmosphere."

Although the center doesn't currently offer its own programs,

The Novi Christian Community Center
For more information regarding the facility or registration for the 3-on-3 basketball competition, contact Building and Events Coordinator Gary Elfer Jr. at (248) 349-9441, ext. 3.

Elfer said they are looking into providing some yoga and pilates classes in the future. "It's mainly people bringing their groups to us," Elfer said. www.mbcc.org or gmccc@arounddetroit.biz

Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.
Pilgrim Fellowship 6 p.m. every Sunday for grades 6-12
Bible Study Group
TIME/DATE: 10:30-11:45 a.m. every Tuesday
DETAILS: Reverend Art Ritter will lead this group; please call the church office if you are interested in attending.

Lenten Bible Study
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday during Lent
Lenten Dinner and Lesson
TIME/DATE: 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent.



Area residents utilize the Novi Christian Community Center for a special event. The facility is also used for sporting and outside events.

Novi Rotary presents Walsh business professor

My Novi, briefly

The Novi Rotary Club presents Dr. Lee Meadows, a professor at Walsh College in the Business Department, on Thursday, March 13 for a business luncheon seminar. Rotary meetings are held at the Methodist Church located at 4167 1/2 W. 10 Mile Road, just west of Meadowbrook Road. The subject of Dr. Meadows' talk will be the art of communications. Lunch will be served prior to his presentation. The cost is \$10. Please RSVP your reservation via e-mailable@rotarynet or by calling Ginger Barrons at (248) 348-0551. Seating is limited.

Open House for the I-96/Wixom Road Interchange
The City of Wixom will host an informational Open House regarding the I-96/Wixom Road Interchange Improvements Project. Representatives of the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Wixom will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. The Open House is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, between the hours of 10 a.m.

and 2 p.m. in the City Council chambers at Wixom City Hall, 490-45 Pontiac Trail in Wixom. For additional information, contact Deanna Murphy at (248) 624-4664.

Remodeling for Secretary of State
The Secretary of State Farmington Hills office at 35572 Grand River Ave. will be closed for remodeling Monday, March 10 through Friday, March 14. Customers and staff will benefit from the renovations that include new counters that have a more customer-friendly layout. The redesigned counters allow for more customer space in the lobby. Other improved features are new carpet and telecommunication connections. The branch will reopen at 9

a.m. Monday, March 17. Office hours will remain unchanged - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Senate approves Cassis' SAVE the Children program
The state Senate on Thursday unanimously passed a bill to help prevent early learning problems and give students the skills they need to succeed in school and life, said Sen. Nancy Cassis, sponsor of the SAVE the Children legislation.

"This program has transformed students and teachers through its holistic approach to overcoming learning obstacles," said Cassis, (R-Novi). "By intervening early, we help ensure long-term academic and life success for our young people."

Senate Bill 1039 would empower school districts to iden-

tify problems early, intervene before children begin to struggle and give students the skills to succeed. The measure would allow intermediate school districts to develop model early intervening programs for children in kindergarten through third grade. The ISDs would make the programs available to their constituent districts and public school academies.

Under Cassis' proposal, each district's SAVE program would instruct classroom teachers and support staff on how to monitor individual student learning and how to provide specific support or learning strategies to students as early as possible to reduce inappropriate referrals to special education.

"This constitutes a team approach," said Cassis. "Teachers, parents, educational staff and other school faculty members all work together to diagnose problems and imple-

ment solutions." The SAVE program is modeled after the Early Learning Success Initiative, a pilot project in the six Northville elementary schools. Data has shown the initiative to be very effective. The program has documented results that show children can become competent learners and the need for costly special education services is significantly reduced.

Dr. Robert Sonson is the president and founder of the Early Learning Foundation in Brighton, Satron, who helped start the Early Learning Success Initiative when he was the director of Special Services for Northville Public Schools, testified in support of SB 1039 at a recent hearing of the Senate Committee on Education.

SB 1039 now heads to the Michigan House of Representatives for consideration.

Tax help for seniors

AARP is providing free tax aid, by appointment, to senior citizens age 55 years and older at the Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. The avail-

Going to Prom? Getting Married? Planning an anniversary or family reunion? Hosting a birthday party?

Read the Ultimate Event Planner first!

View the Ultimate Event Planner online at www.novinews.com or visit one of these businesses to pick up a copy of your own.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conroy's by Marriot Country Fresh Dry Cleaner Main Manum Bar & Grill Blue Babe & Book House Brace Studios Balkan Plaza South Lyon Thai Station Fordville Library Fordville Ford Woodlawn Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex's Flowers Tax Savings Solutions Hatfield Coin Laundry Miray's Dry Cleaning & Laundry Michigan Wedding Chapel Wally's Bridal Studio Chemung Hills Golf and Banquet Women's Resource Center Hunters Ridge Golf Course Novi News
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Easter Eggstravaganza

The Retailers of Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk present an Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 15, 2008
2-4 pm • Store #H-178
(located on the North side of the Lucky's building near the NEW Gjetto's Salon)

Featuring...

- The Easter Bunny have your photo taken with him
- Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt visit the retailers to collect prize eggs (register in H-178)
- Face Painting
- Make a take home craft
- Children's Music
- All Activities are FREE.

First 100 kids receive a FREE POPCORN voucher for use at the Emagine Theatre.

For more information, please contact 248-348-8762

BREAKING NEWS: Go to novinews.com for updated news and information

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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vmitchell@gannett.com

MY FAITH & RELIGION



Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9532

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational
LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757 or visit www.mbcc.org or gmccc@arounddetroit.biz

Church of the Holy Family
LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

St. James Catholic
LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

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

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovinoi.org

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21946 Pontiac Trail (South of Nine Mile)

ROCHESTER HILLS 248-650-5199
1015 John R. (Corner of John R. & Avond)

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-6pm • Tues, Thurs 9am-6pm • Saturday 9am-5pm

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140

St. James Catholic
LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovinoi.org

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

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovinoi.org

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 28200 Meadowbrook Road (south of 13 Mile Road)
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140

St. James Catholic
LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

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

Novi United Methodist
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CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovinoi.org

recreation; dinner; bible study and music; grades 4-12.

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"Am I Crazy?"

Local Contractor is "Giving Away" \$4,780 Lennox Furnaces for \$984 with Off-Season Central Air...

(This is great financial news if your furnace is over 8 years old)

David Schmidt Frustrated Contractor

My Problem is Your Opportunity

I've decided to give up trying to make a profit during the "killer" months. I'll only minimize my losses during February and March. I will come out ahead of the other ten months. Here's how this (legitimately) offering came about. Every year, the big manufacturers of air conditioners have to guess how many to build to meet the demand. Of course, they're never exactly right. So, they always have some inventory they must hold over until the next summer season. I went to Lennox and contracted for the purchase of 48 premium air conditioners and furnaces in the four most popular sizes used in this area. And, because of the quantity and time of year, I was able to buy them at a drastically reduced, dirt cheap, out-of-season price. They are brand new 2008 models. And they are NOT the second or "blem" or standard "outdoor" models. They are factory-fresh, premium Lennox air conditioners and furnaces and have a full factory warranty.

Why This Offer Can't Last

You must act before March 31st. Here are two reasons why:

- I can only have 12 of each of the four sizes. When all of the air conditioners are sold and all the furnaces are "given away" in a particular size, that's it. There are no more at this price.
- I'll have any of the 48 systems left on March 31st (although I doubt I will). This offer ends.

Here's why. The only reason I'm making this virtually no-profit (for me) offer is because of the "killer" months. My business always starts to improve in April and because the furnaces cost me so little, I can sell them at 2007 prices next November and December and still come out ahead. Give me a call now at 517-548-2114 and I will set an appointment for your no-obligation survey.

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Dave Lennox PREMIER DEALER
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GOT A STORY IDEA? Contact the Novi News to spread the word about what's going on in Novi

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

MY CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9822

Approval granted for performance guarantee ordinance

Council approved, by a 7-0 vote, the first reading of the proposed amendments to the existing performance guarantee ordinance. The ordinance would make it possible for council to issue a performance guarantee to keep a project on schedule. The ordinance would require the contractor to provide a performance guarantee of limited physical improvements have been done to the site and no lot, unit or parcel has been transferred to a third party. The ordinance would require the contractor to provide a performance guarantee of limited physical improvements have been done to the site and no lot, unit or parcel has been transferred to a third party. The ordinance would require the contractor to provide a performance guarantee of limited physical improvements have been done to the site and no lot, unit or parcel has been transferred to a third party.

MEETING NOTEBOOK

Clarifies exceptions where council has the ability to grant a waiver on a case-by-case basis. Authorized personnel now have the ability to access the server at all times, in case of an emergency. Chief David Malloy of the Novi Police Department said being on the cutting edge of technology will also be useful if they have to mitigate a situation when an officer's accountability is in question.

First reading of Fire Prevention Code approved Council members unanimously approved the first reading of the city's Fire Prevention Code. Currently, the City of Novi uses the 2000 International Fire Code and is seeking to adopt the 2006 International Fire Code. Minor changes would be required if the 2006 code is adopted, but it would allow Novi to remain at the cutting edge of fire inspection and enforcement. Some changes to the new code include requiring annual fire drills in high-rise buildings, including hydrogen fuel to motor fuel dispensing facilities, and clarifies the language prohibiting overcrowding in any establishment. Councilwoman Terry Margolis asked if it would affect recreation

at fires, such as store-bought fire pits, but fire officials said the new code is no different for outdoor burning. Council elected Ron Boros to Housing and Community Development; Lee Mamola to the Construction Board of Appeals; and Ceia Todd and Lyne Paul to the Beautification Commission. Landry also appointed neighborhood and small business manager Cindy Uglow to the Economic Development Corporation.

Board and commission members appointed

At the Feb. 28 Novi City Council meeting, eight residents interviewed for positions on various boards and commissions and Monday night the appointments were announced. Mayor David Landry appointed Laura Casey and Willy Meent to the Library Board; and Rickie Ito to the Zoning Board of Appeals, with David Giannini as the alternate.

Council meeting notes were taken from the Monday, March 3 regular meeting of the Novi City Council. All Council members were present. Next meeting: 7 p.m. Monday, March 17 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd.

City of Novi to host live video streaming

Members of the community may now log on to cityofnovi.org and view live streaming of city council meetings. Additionally, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission and Library Board meetings will be video streamed live. For more than a year, Novi has been hosting on-demand city

council video streams. Only city council meetings will continue to be stored on the Web site for 90 days. Additionally, meetings are broadcast live via the City 7 p.m. Sunday. The addition of live video streaming is an enhancement to the city, which also hosts all Channel 13 programming, including Update Novi, The Inland Room, Fire House No. VI,

Corporate Review and Faces & Places. With more than 1,000 visits each day, cityofnovi.org is a key component in building Novi infrastructure. Visitors can find a wealth of information about the Novi community, doing business in Novi, events, public safety and more information, contact Municipal Web Services. For more information, contact Community Relations at (248) 755-5628.

For example, the Doing Business pages were recently redesigned, making economic development information more accessible through easier navigation. An "available properties" and "share your story" sections were also added. The Web site is hosted by Municipal Web Services. For more information, contact Community Relations at (248) 755-5628.

Terry Margolis promoted at Wayne State University

Novi resident and city councilwoman Terry Margolis was appointed director for executive and professional development and educational outreach at Wayne State University. She was formerly director of the Professional Development Division in the WSU School of Business Administration. A Novi resident who serves on the city council, Margolis earned a Master's in Business Administration degree with high distinction from the University of Michigan and has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wayne State. In her new position, she manages development, design, marketing, implementation and evaluation of customized leadership development, executive education and certificate programs for corporate clients.

REPORT CRIME: Call (248) 348-7100 for non-emergencies in Novi

Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
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Call (248) 348-7100 for non-emergencies in Novi

Shared dispatch scrutinized by public safety officials

Cost analysis presented to council

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Shared services among local municipalities is a hot topic with Michigan's current economic climate, but it is really financially beneficial?

Novi's shared dispatch services, presented a cost analysis to council at Monday's meeting. The full shared services report will be released later this month. "I wanted to look at the full cost of providing dispatch services," Kaczor said. Currently, Novi provides police and fire dispatch services to South Lyon and fire dispatch services to Novi Township. South Lyon accounts for 9 percent of Novi's dispatch calls, with Novi Township responsible for only 1 percent of the call volume. Although that overall percentage

seems low, the total cost for Novi is about \$152,000 and the city is recovering just under \$70,000. "South Lyon is currently paying 50-60 percent of what their costs are to provide dispatch services," Kaczor said. Surprisingly, neither municipality charges full cost for allocation, but it seems the city does have a strong foundation to go to these communities to negotiate higher fees. Councilmembers agreed negotiating higher fees with South Lyon and Novi Township is necessary, but expressed concern that too high of an increase could pro-

hibit the communities from contracting with Novi. "We should at least try to negotiate an increase for what we are getting from South Lyon and Novi Township," said Mayor David Landry. Another part of Kaczor's task was to look at the possibility of expanding dispatch services to Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake. "We had received a request from their (Walled Lake) then-city manager to look at costs to provide dispatch services," said Chief David Malloy of the Novi Police Department. "I don't see

any real advantage to us simply because I don't think we could recover our costs." Acquiring Walled Lake dispatch services would increase Novi's costs by \$364,000 and require the hiring of four additional dispatchers, Kaczor said. "If Walled Lake were to join, their calls are similar to Novi Township for fire, but the police calls in Walled Lake are about two, two-and-a-half times as many as South Lyon," he said. "If the city wanted to expand to Walled Lake, you're looking at a significant cost increase."

Sharing services with Novi also doesn't make sense for Walled Lake, who could contract dispatch services through Oakland County for \$130,000. "Realistically, I don't think we're going to fully recover our costs," said councilman Andrew March. "If we look at these opportunities, but it may not make sense in the short term for us."

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 or kmurad@gannett.com.

Second Pittao trial to begin May 30

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Judge Michael Warren denied the defense's motion to reduce bond last week and set Daniel Pittao's second trial date for May 30. Pittao, 49, is on trial for the alleged murder of his estranged wife, Tamara Pittao, who was murdered Nov. 27, 1997 at age 30 in her Novi apartment. After a five-week trial in January, a mistrial was ruled Feb. 7 at Oakland County Circuit Court. The mistrial was declared when the jury spent two weeks in deliberations, only to reach a split vote with seven jurors suggesting Pittao as guilty and five labeling him innocent. The case heard more than two dozen witnesses ranging from friends, co-workers, law enforcement and relatives. Pittao has a history of domestic violence with his son and ex-wife. No hairs or fingerprints of his were found at the scene of Tamara's death. Pittao has been in the county's custody since January 2007 and faces charges of first-degree murder, which, if convicted, would carry a sentence of life in prison.

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

Thief returns to the scene of the crime

Police Briefs

An 18-year-old girl was arrested for retail fraud after stealing a bathing suit from Everything But Water in Twelve Oaks Mall, reports said. At about 5:30 p.m. Feb. 25, an employee of the store observed the female enter the fitting room with a two-piece, red and white bathing suit, reports said. As she exited the fitting room, the bathing suit, valued at \$185, was missing, reports said. The suspect had left the store before the employee noticed the missing merchandise. According to the report, the suspect returned to the store shortly after because she lost her keys. When confronted about the stolen bathing suit, the suspect confessed to the crime and returned the merchandise. The bathing suit was returned to stock, but Twelve Oaks security contacted the Novi Police Department because the store requested prosecution, reports said. According to the suspect's statement, she placed the mer-

Empty kegs and bottles reported stolen

About 360 empty bottles and 10 empty kegs were reported stolen from T.G.I. Friday's on Crescent Boulevard between 9:30-11:45 a.m. Feb. 25, reports said. According to the manager, someone cut the lock to the storage area on the east side of the building and stole the empty bottles and kegs. The officer confirmed one of the broken locks was cut, but there was no evidence found at the scene, reports said. Extra patrol was requested surrounding the restaurant.

iPod stolen from vehicle

An Apple iPod was stolen from a vehicle parked in the driveway of a residence on Byronne Court Feb. 21, reports said. The black 80GB iPod, valued at \$250, and the iPod FM transmitter, valued at \$90, were stolen between 7-8 p.m., reports said. According to the victim, she left the car doors unlocked and when she returned to the vehicle, the front passenger-side door

Laptop stolen

A white Sony Vaio laptop was stolen from a vehicle parked at Bally Total Fitness between 4-5:30 p.m. Feb. 18, reports said. The victim parked his vehicle in the south lot and went inside to exercise. When he returned, the drive-side rear window was smashed. There are no suspects at this time.

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

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY OPINION

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Richard Peilberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

In our opinion: Take advantage of property tax appeal appointments

In healthier economic times, home state equalized values have been dramatically increasing, while taxable values inch forward at about the rate of inflation.

A reality making many homeowners smile — thinking their battling in a great deal.

But with the sagging economy and spiraling residential real estate market, a new reality is hitting many homeowners.

When Novi residents opened up their tax bills recently they may have experienced the opposite.

For the first time, their SEV may have plummeted looking more like their home's taxable value.

For many residents, immediate outrage occurs. Why aren't their taxes down too?

According to Proposal A, passed in 1994, one facet of the law states your taxes generally increase by the rate of inflation.

So your taxes will grow — or creep — as some see it

— a great deal in past healthier economies.

If you're feeling frustrated there is a course of action to take.

Beginning next week, the City of Novi will hold property tax reviews by appointment in council chambers.

Hearings will be held inside the Novi Civic Center, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday; 1-9 p.m. Tuesday; and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday.

Property owners may also submit a written appeal to the assessing department by the end of the day Tuesday, March 11.

"This is the only time a year people can make an appeal on their assessment," said city assessor Glenn Lemmon.

We encourage residents to make an appointment and state their case, if they feel an inequity exists.

The city is presenting you with the opportunity, so take it.

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So your taxes will grow — or creep — as some see it

LETTERS

Bringing About Change

When we think about how long the current administration in Washington D.C. has been in power, we realize that those who will vote for the first time this November were just 11 years old when George Bush became our President. They have not experienced a President who is competent and able to communicate effectively. They have not experienced a President who has the best interest of all at heart when decisions are made. These new voters do not realize how respected our country was in the eyes of other nations, before our current administration took us to war on bogus information.

Those of us who have experience as voters, need to educate ourselves on all the issues so that we can help inform these new voters. Our country needs both the enthusiasm of these new voters and the experience of those of us who remember how it was when our nation garnered affection and respect the world over.

Doreen Lawton
Novi

Memories of Fuerst Farm

I have recently moved to Pensacola, Florida, from Michigan as part of a relocation related to downsizing of the com-

What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name 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
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Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday.

much slower pace. I would like to think if Novi fits room for a Hooper, it would certainly be able to preserve such an important historical feature with great potential for the children and adults of the community.

Mika Everetti
Pensacola, Florida

Fuerst Farm Important to School Children

I am a special education teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary School, located on Novi Road between 13 and 14 Mile in Novi. For more years than I can count, "The Farm Lady" has been making farm life come alive for my students. Our city children so greatly need to have hands on opportunities to experience the science, language, music and social studies lessons that are interwoven in the farm-life experience. They deserve to know and interact with a lifestyle that was integral to our Michigan history.

Lisa Ellis
Hickory Woods School

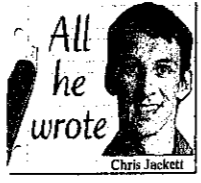
Recall DeRoche

Subject: DeRoche Recall. I say recall him. We're serious about wanting positive leadership in Lansing, and we're serious about ending mean-spirited arguing.

James Gualdoni
Walked Lake

Detroit, U.S. continue to be recognized as overweight locations to live

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER



Men's Fitness magazine released their annual list of the 25 fattest cities in America, spurring my annually increased concern with why my fellow Americans don't step up and change their lifestyles.

Once again, Detroit was prominently featured on the list, placing 13th overall.

Hoooty! That's an improvement on the ninth-place ranking last year and the first-place finish in 2004. Thank you Las Vegas for taking the title the last two years in a row.

Forbes magazine's list wasn't as generous, placing Detroit fifth, with Memphis taking the top nod. Such lists are complex, through a combination of information regarding each city's health issues, residents' rate of exercise, residents' weight and the availability of fitness centers and eateries, among other things.

"Fat lists" like these don't just spell out problems for major

Weight, I mean, wait! Seventy-four percent?

The U.S. is also, by far, the most highly populated country in the top 20, half of which are countries so small I can't find them on a map, like Niara.

Ladies, there are 194 countries on the list and another 0.15 percent increase would knock the U.S. up to eighth place above Kuwait. This may be one list Americans don't want to be the top finishers on, as was the case in 2004.

This next part is where I would normally make a clever transition into how we all need to keep a closer eye on what we eat and make more of an effort to get some real exercise into our daily routines.

That just won't cut it. Studies show a lot of people don't exercise properly at the gym. They either spend a lot of time wandering around between machines, just walking on treadmills or they don't fully extend themselves and hold their repetitions on weights.

With the chilly Michigan win-

ters, outdoor activities aren't a helpful option, seeing as they're even more grueling and less beneficial, causing novice athletes to put muscles almost regularly.

Joining or forming an indoor soccer or basketball team are great remedies for this. They are all-season sports leagues that are held indoors to avoid temperature problems, a big issue in our state when looking for exercise.

There are tons of sports complexes and community centers out there that already organize leagues in various sports, and a group of friends can get in on the action together by forming a team in a group sport. There's always the route of pickup games too, which many gymnasiums offer.

If there's one thing I'd like to see in 2009, it's for Detroit to be off the top 25 for Men's Fitness and Forbes for the first time in, pretty much, forever.

Getting the United States out of the World Health Organization's top 20 would be nice too.

Hey, Novi: What's Your Story?

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

- Are you a working woman who has recently returned to work?
- Are you a Novi resident interested in starting 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 vemitchell@gannett.com.

OK Novi, let your opinion be heard

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TOM WATKINS:

Michigan - Pretend and spend or reform and transform?

Happy days are here again in Lansing. There seems to be a "can't we all just get along?" refrain coming from both sides of the political aisle.

Clearly, this attitude adjustment is an improvement after the fiasco of 2007, where partisan bickering made Michigan look like a circus on steroids.

The governor's recent State of the State speech and the Republican reaction seemed like the makings of election year stew with a dash of kumbaya to make everyone feel better.

The governor received numerous standing ovations as she called for investment in more state police, kindergarten-12 education, community colleges and our state universities. All with no new taxes or increased fees. While solid proposals, the question remains — are they realistic?

Déjà vu — all over again? What if all this happy talk

is election year rhetoric that once again pulls the wool over unsuspecting taxpayers? It happened in the 2006 gubernatorial election. There were calls for these same investments and, lo and behold, after the election we discovered that several state departments of government grossly overspent their budgets. The state had a billion dollar deficit.

We have an economic melt down in this state and the nation is racing to catch up with us. Both sides of the political aisle at the state and national levels seem content to play election year economic make believe. Who gets rewarded for predicting doom and gloom in an election year?

Michigan's manufacturing base continues to shed jobs, devastating Michigan's communities and families. There is a national housing crisis and heightened consumer pessimism. The housing and

mortgage mess continues its meltdown, causing massive home foreclosures. It has yet to hit bottom, producing a credit crunch that strangles anyone bold enough to want to expand their business.

Foreclosures account for 9.3 percent of Michigan's home sales — up from 4.9 percent in the third quarter of 2007. Prices of homes are plummeting as a result of the high foreclosure rate, causing local taxes collected by municipalities to plunge as well.

The collapse of housing values is devastating families and communities. People are trapped in their homes because they would take financial baths if they sold their homes — and most can't even find buyers at bargain basement sale prices.

There is also a collapse of people able to repay their car loans. Estimates are that 7.1 percent of auto loans nationally are in trouble and that

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

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

PHIL POWER: Focus budget on real priorities



About Phil Power

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

The good news is that it doesn't look like we are going to have a knock-down, dragged-out, controversial fight over this year's state budget. But in a way, that's bad news too.

I'll explain in a minute. But first of all — have you noticed a monotonous "hum" coming from Lansing? That sound is the legislature chewing on the budget Gov. Jennifer Granholm sent them a few weeks ago. It covers the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

That's a way off, but it would be nice for once not to have to put off finishing the budget until the last possible moment.

Unlike the previous budgets the governor has sent to our divided legislature, this one was greeted by mild approval. Most experts praised it for avoiding partisan conflict by being "rational," and "structurally sound."

What the legislature's priorities are was best expressed by State Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee: "We like no new fees and no new taxes."

Her fiscal 2009 budget proposes a \$50 million reduction in spending on state prisons, to be achieved by "reforms and efficiencies," though it isn't clear what those might be.

Corrections spending has gobbled up ever-increasing slices of state spending. This budget ought to focus our attention on one of our tragic disconnects in priorities: We are spending more these days on putting felons in the slammer than on educating young

arise from an overall vision of the future. And true enough, there are some things to like about Granholm's budget. But as a shaped and disciplined expression of a vision for Michigan's future, it falls sadly short.

Michiganers are increasingly realizing that much of our future depends on our willingness to invest in human capital, whether in our schools or our colleges and universities. The budget calls for increased spending on education, including a 3 percent increase in spending for higher education.

That's fine, as far as it goes.

But Michigan has been leading the nation in the dismal and counterproductive exercise of cutting support for higher education.

Even after the governor's proposed increases this year for our 15 public colleges and universities, we still are spending \$120 million less than we did in 2001, the year before she was elected.

Her fiscal 2009 budget proposes a \$50 million reduction in spending on state prisons, to be achieved by "reforms and efficiencies," though it isn't clear what those might be.

Corrections spending has gobbled up ever-increasing slices of state spending. This budget ought to focus our attention on one of our tragic disconnects in priorities: We are spending more these days on putting felons in the slammer than on educating young

ing state and local government. It called for reforms in the tax system, but concluded that we should not just tax our way to responsible state spending. It urged structural reforms in the ways government is organized. That included changes in the fringe benefits of public employees, and suggested benchmarking what we spend — and what the state raises — against what happens in other states.

This report was disgracefully ignored while the governor and legislature faced a budget crisis last fall. Serious reforms usually require a crisis to concentrate political will. We didn't have that will last year, in ducking the crisis then, our political leaders in Lansing missed a once-in-a-generation opportunity for big-time reform.

The Emergency Advisory panel's conclusions are still a valid recipe for financial survival: We need serious reforms in the ways we manage our state. Without these, we'll face a steady stream of enormous, long-term structural deficits.

Yet financial survival, important as it might be, is not enough. We still need a compelling common vision for Michigan's future that can shape and discipline the workings of our state. This year's budget may offer a few baby steps in the right direction. But we need to see a big picture.

And this budget doesn't even pretend to offer that.

THE NOVI NEWS
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At Northville, Michigan

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Publication Number USPS 396230

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PREMIERE ENGAGEMENTS START FRIDAY, MARCH 7th
8:00 PM
8:00 PM
8:00 PM
8:00 PM

For breaking news in Novi, click
www.novinews.com

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THE COMEDY EVENT OF THE SPRING!

MARTIN LAWRENCE RAVEN SYMONÉ

WALT DISNEY
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP

STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 7
For Theatres and Showtimes: Check Local Listings or Text COLLEGE with your ZIP CODE to 5181X (435-49) or visit dca.com/CollegeRoadTrip

Make a Difference
RECYCLE

continued from 15A

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: jensungflaming@yahoo.com

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

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

DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.

CONTACT: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

Breast Cancer Support Group

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

Heartland Hospice Volunteers Needed

TIME/DATE: Day and evening classes
LOCATION: 28588 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 475, Southfield

DETAILS: Caring and compassionate individuals needed to register for Heartland Hospice Volunteer Training. We serve individuals and their families during their end of life journey in the Tri-County area. Office support is also needed.

CONTACT: Mary (800) 770-9859

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 opinions; polish your presentations and practice leadership.

CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-2860

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Chapter

TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. weigh-in and 11:30 a.m. meeting every Wednesday
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership; includes handbook, \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8646

HEALTH

Expectant Parent Class

TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. every Monday, March 10-April 7
LOCATION: 1010 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake

DETAILS: The Oakland County Health Division presents five weekly sessions to help parents-to-be prepare for the birth of their baby. Classes are taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of newborn, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, child safety and caring for them when they are ill. Cost for class is \$25. Enroll early in pregnancy.

CONTACT: For information or to enroll, call (248) 658-4003 or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003.

Oakland Physical Therapy

LOCATION: Providence Park Medical Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Suite B124

DETAILS: Classes are held at 7 p.m. and are free of charge, however, registration is required as space is limited. Participants should wear loose, comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear. For more information or to register, call the number below.

CONTACT: 248-380-3650

Pilates and Your Golf Game

DATE: Wednesday, March 12
DETAILS: A lecture and overview of how Pilates may actually help your golf game. Class is for both male and female golfers; given by Kristie Kava, PT, DScPT, MS and Linda Erickson, MS, PT.

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) 705-1020.

Alzheim 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) 937-4847 for more information.

call (248) 705-1020.

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.

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 Church 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

Support for Smokers

DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Assarian Cancer Center
DETAILS: The Cancer Project, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing cancer prevention through education and research, is offering a free, eight-session cooking course designed to help Novi residents prevent and survive cancer through proper diet and nutrition. No cost.

CONTACT: James Tester at (248) 465-5455 to register.

more information.

St. John Providence Hospital

LOCATION: Grand River and Beck Roads, use Beck Road entrance
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

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

BORDERS BOOKS AND MUSIC

43075 Crescent Blvd. CONTACT: (248) 347-0780

ONGOING

SWOCC 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

Book Signing

TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. Saturday
DETAILS: Dr. James D Cowd, author of "The Vitamin D Cure" will discuss and sign copies of his book.

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5600 or visit www.rockfinancialshowplace.com for more information.

The Michigan Golf Show
TIME/DATE: 2-9 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: Nation's largest golf show. Admission is \$10 for adults, ages 12 and under are free. \$5 to park.

Spring Boating Expo

TIME/DATE: 2-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 13-14; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, March 15; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 16
DETAILS: Display of current 2008 boats and trailers. Admission is \$10 for adults, 11 and younger are free. \$5 to park.

Back Yard Pool and Spa Show

TIME/DATE: 3-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 28; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 30
DETAILS: Show focuses on swimming pools, spas and outdoor entertaining. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for ages 6-14 and 5 and under are free. Parking \$5.

CLASS REUNIONS

Northville High School Class of 1968

DETAILS: Anyone interested in a 40th reunion for the Class of 1968, please contact Ron Barnum at (248) 349-5992.

Dearborn and Edsel Ford High School Class of 1958

DETAILS: The 1958 January and June Classes of Dearborn and Edsel Ford High Schools are having a combined 50-Year Reunion to be held on Saturday August 2, 2008 at the Dearborn Country Club, Judy Richards Gerke 313-862-9031, judygerke@yahoo.com or Shirley Chido Peters 248-348-9443, shirley.peters@willageford.net may be contacted for further information.

Plymouth High School Class of 1968

DETAILS: The Class of 1968 is looking for classmates for their 40th Class Reunion to be held July 19, 2008 in Livonia. For more information, contact Janet (Sheedy) Johnston at (734) 437-3534 or e-mail to phs40threunion@charter.net.

South Lyon High School Class of 1963

DETAILS: The Class of 1963 is hosting a 45 year reunion on August 10, 2008 at Baker's of Milford. For more information, call Barb Cook at (248) 349-5992.

Dearborn and Edsel Ford High School Class of 1958

DETAILS: The 1958 January and June Classes of Dearborn and Edsel Ford High Schools are having a combined 50-Year Reunion to be held on Saturday August 2, 2008 at the Dearborn Country Club, Judy Richards Gerke 313-862-9031, judygerke@yahoo.com or Shirley Chido Peters 248-348-9443, shirley.peters@willageford.net may be contacted for further information.

REGIONAL

Alumni of MSU Child Development Laboratories

TIME/DATE: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 15
LOCATION: 325 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
DETAILS: Former and current families, staff and students of the Michigan State University Child Development Laboratories (CDL) are invited to an 80th Birthday Party for the CDL. Entertainment, children's activities and birthday cake will be offered. Bring photos from your time at CDL. Please RSVP to (517) 355-1900.

Pot Of Gold Fundraiser for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

TIME/DATE: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 16
LOCATION: The Gallery Cafe, 101 S. Lafayette, South Lyon (corner of 10 Mile Road and Pontiac Trail)
DETAILS: This is a unique fundraiser. You bring the gold

and you'll be paid cash. No strings attached. The gold can be broken, twisted, bad memories, etc. At the end of the day, a percentage of total sales will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Nothing comes out of your sale. Irish Coffee, scones and Celtic music provided. No appointment necessary, just drop in.

CONTACT: Sue at (248) 437-3304

City of Wixom

CONTACT: Community Services Programs, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, (248) 624-2850

Senior Ongoing Programs

Some of these activities have a fee

- Monday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
- Tuesday: 10 a.m.-noon Knit/Crochet and Sew Group; noon-2:30 p.m. Line Dancing
- Wednesday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
- Second Monday: 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch
- Second Tuesday: 10 a.m. Senior Commission

continued on 18A

Great Things Come in Small Packages!

A New Church for Your Spiritual Journey



GRAND OPENING!!!

Palm Sunday - March 16 at 10 am
Easter Sunday - March 23 at 10 am

Novi Civic Center - Council Chambers

South Side of 10 Mile Between Taft and Novi Road
 See Website to Get Directions Using Google Maps

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www.nannypoppinz.com

Dr. Brian Sleeth - 248-497-3178
gracepointe@mac.com - www.gracepointepca.org

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CITY OF NOVI

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 4th, 2008 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 10, 11 & 12, 2008. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only. If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 7, 2008. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.cityofnovi.org. NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT. Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 11, 2008. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information. All agents providing values on property, other than their own, MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

Monday, March 10, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 11, 2008 - 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 12, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

(2-14/21/26 & 3-5/8-08 NN 395658) MARYANNE CORNELIUS CITY CLERK

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

ARE YOU PRONE TO ANKLE SPRAINS?

If you are a runner or jogger who supinates tends to strike the ground with the outside edges of your feet, you are likely to be more prone to spraining your ankles. While a natural amount of supination occurs during the push-off phase of the gait cycle, excessive supination strains the muscles and tendons that stabilize the ankles. As a result, a partial or complete tear of the ankle ligaments on the outside of the foot can occur. Thus, if you roll your ankles repeatedly, the ankle will become progressively more unstable. To reduce your risk of ankle sprains over time, ask the physical therapist about strengthening exercises for the tendons and muscles in the feet and ankles.

www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

Lyon Oaks Golf Club

Easter Brunch

Sunday, March 23rd, 2008

Adults \$24.95, Children under 8 (1/2 price)

tax and service charge included

Reservations Please!

248-437-9200

52251 Pontiac Trail, Wixom

Public Welcome

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Bid proposals will be received by the Novi Community School District, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan, 48374, by mail or hand delivered by 10:00 a.m. local time on Monday, March 17, 2008, when the bids will be opened and read publicly. Bids received after the specified date and time will not be considered or accepted. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be accepted. All submissions should include One original, Two Printed Copies, and Three Electronic Copies on a CD and shall be delivered in a sealed package, addressed as follows:

NCS - Access Control System
RFP #NCS0801 Response
 Novi Community School District
 25345 Taft Road
 Novi, MI 48374

Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution beginning February 18, 2008. For a copy of the Request for Proposal, visit: <http://ftp.planton.com> and click on "Novi Community School District." If you have not previously registered with this site, you will need to do so to access the files.

Your bid proposal form shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Superintendent of the school district.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept bid alternatives. The Owner also reserves the right to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Owner, in the Owner's sole discretion, to be in the Owner's best interests.

(3-6-08 NN 403298)

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Elaine Philipson, RN is part of an elite group of nurses at U-M. She's a flight nurse on the Survival Flight team. And it's anything but easy. You have to make life and death decisions at 160 mph. You have to be able to provide cutting edge treatments available only at U-M, all in a space that's about the size of your car's backseat. And in Elaine's case, you have to be able to overcome your fear of height. This is why nurses choose U-M - to be the nurse they've always dreamed of being: Nursing at Michigan. That's From Michigan Different.

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Our center based preschool develops the whole child.

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Registration for Fall 2008 begins March 12th

Novi Community Education - Child Care Services Office
 25345 Taft Road - (248) 449-1713

Visit our website at www.novi.k12.mi
 Community Education - Preschool

Child care is also available before and after classes from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Prices and times are for Preschool and C.A.R.E. are listed on our website

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To schedule a tour of the Merle and Shirley Harris Birthing Center at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, call (248) 937-5120. To schedule an appointment with one of our physicians, call (888) DMC-2500.

DMC
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital

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 248-937-3300 • www.hvsi.org
 At Commerce & Commerce in Commerce

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 IN NATIONAL SURVEY

continued from 17A
 Second Thursday: 11:30 a.m. Bingo
 Fourth Thursday: 10-11:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
 Easter Egg Hunt
 TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16
 LOCATION: Gilbert Willis Park
 DETAILS: Hunt starts promptly at 1 p.m. for ages 2-10. Fee is \$3 per child, no pre-registration required. No personal baskets.
 Red Cross Blood Drive
 TIME/DATE: 2-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 26
 DETAILS: For ages 17 and older weighing 110 pounds or more. For appointments, call Jodi at (248) 624-2850 or walk-in.

Kensington Metro Park
 LOCATION: 2240 West Buno Road, Millard, (248) 665-1561 or (800) 477-3178

Steigh Rules or Hayrides
 TIME/DATE: Noon-4 p.m. every weekend at the Learning Center, weather permitting.
 Nature Center Programs
 DETAILS: Please pre-register for all programs. There is a cost for most programs. Call (248) 685-0603.

SCHEDULE: 1 p.m. Saturday - Off the Beaten Path; 2 p.m. Sunday - Bluebirds, Their Homes and You; 1 p.m. Saturday, March 15 - Birds of Prey; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16 - Ducks on the Move; 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 21 - Sugar Full Moon Walk; 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22 - Decorating Eggs Nature's Way; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 23 - Signs of Spring Walk.

Farm Learning Center Programs
 DETAILS: Please pre-register. There is a cost for most programs.

NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that on 3/22/08 at 10:00 a.m. the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Storage 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI
 (Space No. 220) Jessica Handles, Household Items
 (Space No. 195) Martin Mizera Household Items, Misc. Goods, Recreational Items

grams. Call (248) 684-8632.
 SCHEDULE: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22 - The Great Egg Hunt and Farmer John Show; 10 a.m. Thursday, March 27 - Fun on the Farm.

Winter Master Gardener Class
 TIME/DATE: 6-10 p.m. Thursday evenings through April 10
 LOCATION: Executive Office Building Conference Center, Oakland County Service Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road.
 DETAILS: Each session focuses on a different horticultural topic that will prepare you to fulfill a 40-hour community service commitment to earn Master Gardener Certification. First-come, first-served; \$25 application fee; class fee \$300.
 CONTACT: (248) 858-0887 or visit www.msus.msu.edu/oakland.

Schoolcraft College Women's Resource Center
 LOCATION: Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road

CONTACT: For more information and to register call (734) 462-4443

Divorce Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
 LOCATION: Women's Resource Center, Room 225 - McDowell Center

DETAILS: Open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce; first meeting group discussion with facilitator Cynthia Kippin, MA, LPD, LLP; second meeting features a speaker, no fee or registration required.
Ask An Attorney
 DATE: 5-7 p.m. second and third Monday of each month
 DETAILS: Ask an attorney about divorce and family law; first-come, first-served; sign-in begins at 4:30 p.m.; Sept.-May, no fee
 CONTACT: (734) 462-4443

Send your calendar items to Novi News: 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to venetichell@gannett.com.



Building Bingo enhances community

By Elaine Maylen
 SPECIAL WRITER

While most folks were snug in their beds Sunday morning, more than 30 Novi Theatre actors and recruits were loading trucks and trailers with 3,000 pounds of "Father Bingo" set pieces.

Only the love of theater could get 16-year-old Steven Allen of Commerce up at dawn on a cold Sunday morning.

"I love being in 'Father Bingo,'" he said. "This is my first community theater experience and I'm learning from a cast and crew, age 14 to 86, who love what they do."

For most of the cast, assembling a professional stage set was a new experience.

"It weighs as much as the pyramids," said actor Joe Lamm, whose character is based on former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

"Father Bingo" has only been performed once before, in 2006, to four sold out shows at the Music Hall in Detroit.

The show's original producer donated the original set to the

Novi Theatres.

"It's by far the biggest and most exciting set I've ever worked with," said Julie Landry, who has acted with the Novi Theatre for 10 years. "This huge set will make the show come alive for the audience."

Tamara Lebew Whitty, a professional singer with the Michigan Opera Theatre, is the show's music director.

She and several other production staff, who debuted "Father Bingo" in 2006, jumped at the chance to help with its community theater debut.

"The singing abilities of the principle actors are very good," Lebew Whitty said. "The sound quality of the chorus, which is mainly inexperienced actors, is quite wonderful. This group of people has an eagerness to learn, which reflects in their performances."

Lebew Whitty gives kudos to the Novi Theatres for taking the risk to offer a new production.

On any given weekend, "Oktoberfest" or "South Pacific" will be playing in some local theater, but "Father Bingo" is a rare

opportunity to see something new in community theater," she said.

And acting in something so new has advantages.

Landry likes that her character Mary Jane is an unknown quantity. "When I've had other roles, such as Maria in the 'Sound of Music,' the audience has a preconceived notion of how Maria should be. If I don't portray her according to expectation, the audience is disappointed. With Mary Jane, I have freedom to develop the character. That helps me grow as an actor," she said.

David Margolis credits "Father Bingo" for improving his acting skills.

"This is my first lead role," he said. "I feel an obligation to make sure this production succeeds and the audience gets a high quality performance."

Margolis believes his character, Father O'Neal, is his most challenging to-date because O'Neal is an ordinary guy, and Margolis feels he needs to make sure he comes off likable and sincere.

Margolis adds that "Father Bingo" is a terrific bang for your entertainment buck.

"It is a community theater production supported by the highly skilled professionals who brought 'Father Bingo' to life at the Music Hall," he said.

"Father Bingo" has seven performances scheduled at the Novi Middle School Auditorium, located at the corner of Wixom and 11 Mile roads.

For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

Meet and Greet

The Friends of the Novi Theatre is sponsoring a meet and greet reception immediately following the performance of "Father Bingo" on opening night. Guests will be able to meet Rosalind Holmes and Annette Helton, (the original Vandellas) who were the first Bingo Mamas. Father Bingo playwright and Detroit native William G. Nilsson and several of the original cast members will also attend the opening-night event.

CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Novi City Council will hold a public hearing at their regular meeting on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan for the purpose of obtaining public input for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Park Development Grant Application. This grant is requesting funding for the development of a barrier-free play structure in the Novi parks system.

If you have any comments regarding this proposal, they may be presented in writing or during the Public Hearing section of the Agenda.

RANDY AULLER, CPPP
 PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY DIRECTOR

(3-6-08 NN 403404)

CITY OF NOVI PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission will hold a public hearing at their regular meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan for the purpose of obtaining public input for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Park Development Grant Application. This grant is requesting funding for the development of a barrier-free play structure in the Novi parks system.

If you have any comments regarding this proposal, they may be presented in writing or during the Public Hearing section of the Agenda.

RANDY AULLER, CPPP
 PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY DIRECTOR

(3-6-08 NN 403415)

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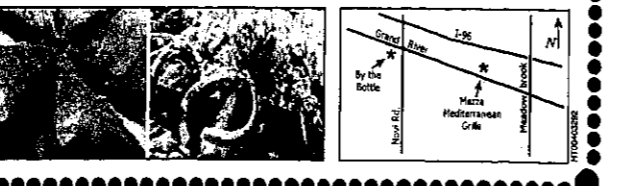
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Read - Then Recycle

Novi Chamber donates business attire to those in need

■ **Threads of Power, March 13**

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Chamber of Commerce invites community members to start spring-cleaning their closets by next Thursday for the group's spring fund-raising event.

"Threads of Power is an annual event to help empower individuals who are struggling to maintain a business appropriate wardrobe or for those who are newly entering the workforce."

"Everyone's struggling these days," said Anita Dell'iccoli, Novi Chamber of Commerce board member and event chair. "Attendees bring a donation of clean, gently used business attire, gently used business attire, to supply men and women with nice looking clothes so they can be on their way to success."

Tickets for the ninth annual event are \$20 and include a breakfast buffet at the DoubleTree Hotel and a presentation by Macy's Ribbits, Personal Shopper at Lord & Taylor.

event, I'm going to be bringing in some new spring looks to show the Novi Chamber of Commerce," Ribbits said. "Some of the trends for spring are the anorak jacket, the sheath dress, platform and round toe pumps."

"The colors that are really big are yellow, pink, green and metallics."

Although the clothes from Ribbits' demonstration will not be donated, Lord & Taylor associates are making individual contributions.

The donated clothes will be distributed among three separate organizations: Dress for Success, of Ypsilanti; Open Door Outreach Center, of Waterford; and Holy Family Clothes Closet, of Novi.

The Clothes Closet is located in Church of the Holy Family on Meadowbrook Road between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

"The Clothes Closet is opened up to anybody in need," said Carol Ann Donnelly, director of Christian Services and Social Ministries at Church of the Holy Family. "We have infant, all the way up to the extra, extra large sizes. There is no charge for anything, not even a penny."

can provide identification such as a (Michigan) bridge card, Medicaid card or W-2 to prove they are low income.

"Threads of Power is great because everything is already on hangers, most of them come straight from the cleaners," Donnelly said. "We get some really nice suits, some nice things. We're grateful for anything that is donated."

According to Ribbits, the average price for a woman's designer suit is \$180 and about \$250 for a man's suit.

"The men's suits are always a little more expensive because men's suits have to be altered," she said. "But that's another big trend for women, a real tailored look, a classic suit."

Ribbits said the majority of her clients are Novi residents.

"Very often I have women who are working mothers that have busy schedules, that would like me to shop for business attire," she said. "Other trends Ribbits said to expect for spring are wide-leg, high-waisted pants; shirt dresses; bold and colorful patterns; and patent leather."

Threads of Power

Novi Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 9th annual Threads of Power event.

Registration at 7:45 a.m.; breakfast at 8 a.m.; Thursday, March 13

Located at the DoubleTree Hotel, 42100 Crescent Boulevard.

Attendees are requested to bring a donation of clean, gently used business attire for men and women.

Source: Novi Chamber of Commerce



Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News
Lord & Taylor Personal Shopper Marcy Ribbits — here checking out some of the store's formal attire — will be giving a presentation on fashion trends at this month's Threads of Power meeting.

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: WRESTLING

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

FINAL-LY



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcats Ryan Ridenour, left, and Ryan Thomas spar during a recent practice as they prepare for state finals.

Wrestlers excited to get going after long wait

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

One Novi wrestler is returning to the most glamorous wrestling meet of the year, the other is a first-timer but isn't letting that hamper his high hopes.

Ryan Thomas went to last year's meet at 145 pounds, but didn't finish near where he wanted. Now he wants a spot on the podium.

"I didn't place last year so I still have goals that need to be accomplished," he said. "I'm not content with where I'm at."

"I want to place top three at the state meet. It's not going to be easy at all, but that's what I'm going for."

Thomas won the regional title at 152

State Finals

Who: All high schools
 Where: Palace of Auburn Hills
 When: Thursday through Saturday
 Novi wrestlers: Ryan Thomas, Ryan Ridenour

pounds and brings a 40-6 record to the state meet.

Ryan Ridenour will be a newbie, but is coming in as a regional runner-up and is 35-11 at 189 pounds.

"It's amazing. I didn't even make it out of districts last year," Ridenour said. "To make

it to regionals and then to make it on to the state meet is wonderful.

"I just want to go out there and do my best and whatever happens, happens."

Ridenour said he's looking forward to wrestling in front of such a large crowd the most.

"But he might want to learn from Thomas' first go-around at the Palace."

"Last year I kind of froze up," Thomas said. "I took it all in this year and was like, I need to calm down and focus."

"It's a lot of fun but it's a lot to handle if you haven't been there."

See **WRESTLING, 2B**



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Detroit Catholic Central's Ryan Houska feels the heat of the Novi fans while inbounding the ball.

CC wins battle of Novi, district

Shamrocks knock off host Wildcats 38-34 for title

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central changed from a three-win team last year to a district champion.

The Shamrocks (12-9) overcame a double-digit halftime deficit to win 38-34 Friday at Novi in a raucous environment.

"I'm on cloud nine right now," Catholic Central head coach Bill Dyer said. "We have great camaraderie, and I think it showed out there tonight."

"Nobody got down on anybody else, and we just kept on battling right to the finish."

The Wildcat offense suffered through a Jekyll and Hyde night. Novi put up 19 points in the second quarter to lead 24-14 at the half, but scored just 15 points in the other three quarters combined.

"I don't know what happened different," Novi head coach Cory Heitsch said. "Shots that were going for us in the first half were on the rim and coming out. That takes a lot of steam on you, especially in a tight ballgame."

Steve Harding scored a game-high 18 points and converted a lob pass off an inbound play with 12.5 left to play.

"They set up a bookscreen, and I just put it in I guess," Harding said. "I was wide open."

I just felt all the adrenaline. I just knew we had it after that."

Following a Novi turnover, Ryan Houska was fouled and converted both free throws with 2.2 left, essentially ending the game.

Catholic Central led 6-5 after the first, but fell behind 24-14 by the half. The Shamrocks kept chipping away at the lead, and trailed 28-25 heading into the fourth quarter.

"(Chris) Bellamy made a few threes in the second quarter that kind of broke our spirit, but not our heart," Dyer said. "We just

See **BASKETBALL, 2B**

CC thinking titles

Shamrocks taking seven to state finals, five returnees

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central wrestling coach Mitch Hancock hopes his first year at the helm will bring multiple titles at this year's individual state championship.

The Shamrocks have seven wrestlers heading to the state finals, and five of those are returning.

"I don't think there isn't any reason why we can't come home with some state championships or some all-staters," Hancock said. "I just hope we go out and do the

State Finals

CC wrestlers: Doug Eldridge (119), Trevor O'Conner (135), Shea Hasenzaur (140), Stefan Gatt (160), Matt Aubrey (189), Ryan Ridenour (189), Mike Martin (190)

right things and have a great weekend. I just think we're ready to rock and roll."

Heading to the state finals are returning state champion Mike Martin at heavyweight, regional champs Stefan Gatt at 160 and Joe Kinville at 215, Shea Hasenzaur finished regional runner-up at 140, Matt Aubrey at 189, Trevor O'Conner at 135 and Doug Eldridge at 119.

Martin suffered his only loss of

the season in the regional finals. He was leading by double digits when he was rolled onto his back and pinned with nine seconds left.

Hancock thinks the loss will only motivate Martin going into states.

"It really got him back to work," he said. "Not too many kids can say they won two state titles and only wrestled for two years."

Hancock is also excited about having four of the qualifiers coming in as a regional one or two seed, allowing them to wrestle a lower-placing finisher from another regional.

"Being a 1-2, sets you up for an easier round," Hancock said. "Going in 1-2 seed gives you some confidence."

See **SHAMROCKS, 3B**

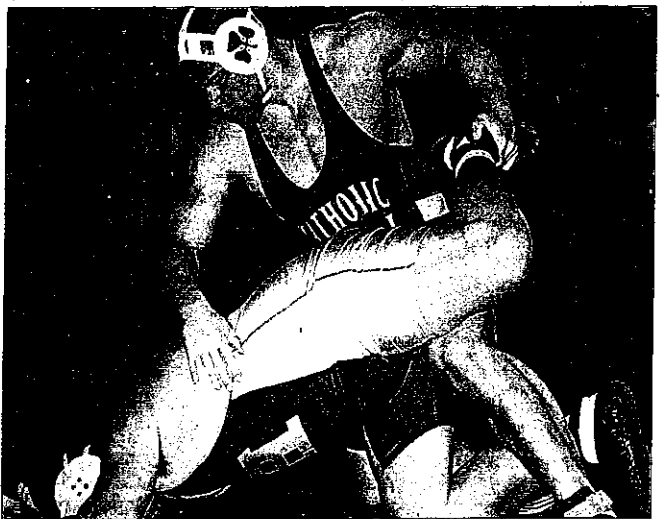


Photo submitted by Jeff Gatt

Mike Martin works over an opponent during regionals.

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Novi teams battle in district finals



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat Nick Prokop drives along the baseline during last Friday night's game.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Brandon Bradford bursts past Catholic Central's Steve Harding to get off a shot.

continued from front

kind of regrouped in the locker room. "We're not pretty and everybody knows that about us, but we got 12 wins now and a district championship." Novi hit the opening basket of the fourth, but the Shamrocks would score the next six points to claim a 31-30 lead. The Wildcats were stuck in a scoring drought that lasted almost six minutes before Caleb Dean hit a couple of free throws with 1:04 left to play. Harding answered with a hoop and a foul for an and-one conversion for a 34-32 lead with 53.7 left. Brandon Bradford hit a long

two-pointer with 19 seconds left, but the Shamrocks had one play left in the bag of tricks. Both teams struggled mightily from the floor. Novi hit just 14 of 44 shots and missed all nine three-point attempts in the second half. The Wildcats were also a dismal 3-for-8 at the free throw line. Catholic Central hit just 12 of 40 shots, but did make 13 of 20 free throws to stay in it. Chris Bellamy led the Wildcats with 11 points. Dean was next with 10. The loss ends the Wildcat careers of four seniors: Dean, Nick Prokop, Shaun Rydzewski and Collin Crandell. "I absolutely love them," Heisch said. "The things that these guys have done, not just on

the court, but changing the mentality and changing the culture, I'm forever indebted to them." Novi never trailed in a 53-36 victory against Northville in the district semifinals. The Wildcats hit 20 of 43 shots and went 6-for-18 from three, but hit just seven of 15 free throws. Caleb Dean led the Novi attack with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Chris Bellamy hit four three-pointers on his way to 16 points. The Mustangs struggled from the floor in every fashion, hitting just seven of 22 free throws, 14-for-41 from the floor and just one of eight three-pointers.



Submitted photo

The Shamrocks gather for a photo with their newly won district title trophy.

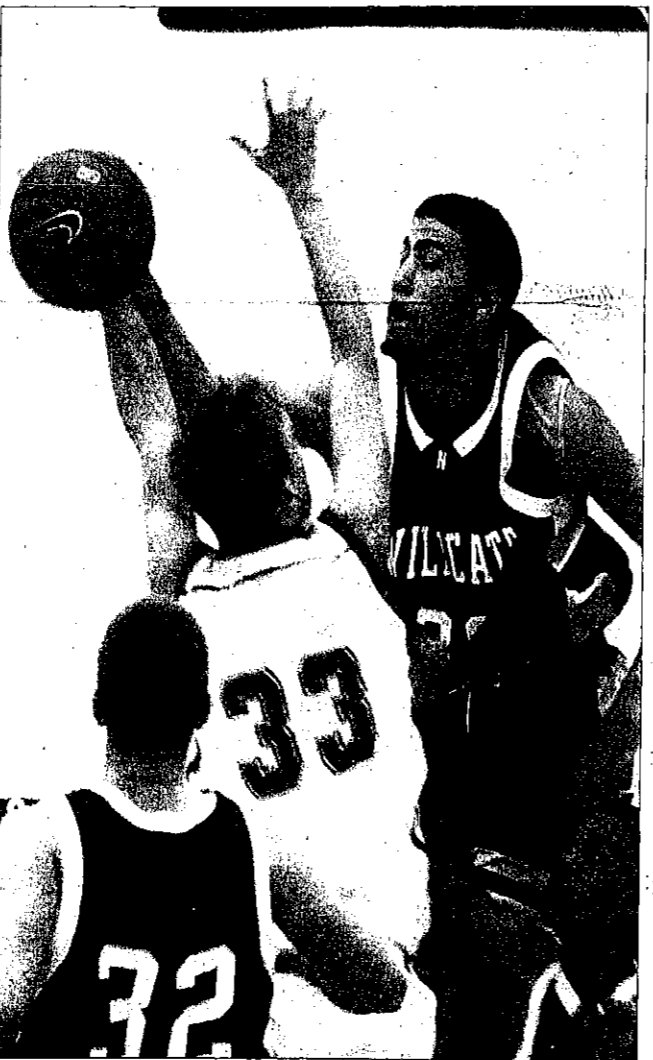


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat Caleb Dean rejects a shot by Catholic Central's Jamie Morris.

WRESTLING: State bound

continued from front

The two bring different styles of wrestling to the mat. Thomas is very aggressive and almost hyper. "Thomas is on the attack the whole time," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "He's great on his feet. He doesn't have a weakness. The sky is the limit with this guy if he gets on a roll. "Ridenour is much more controlled and methodical. He's a strong kid and gained a lot of confidence. Last year he was right around 500. This year he is going to the state meet." To keep the wrestlers focused despite a two-week gap between the individual regional and state finals, the Wildcats wrestled with teammates and other qualifiers from other schools. Novi went over to wrestle with teams such as Hartland and Northville to stay fresh.

"It's the best workouts the kids have probably had all year," Huss said. "The level is high, they're all regional and state qualifier type kids. The practices don't have to be super long because you are only dealing with a handful of kids." But Huss knows you can't really do much teaching at this point. The work has been put in. Now, it's staying fresh and mentally sharp. The fun begins tonight and runs through Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills. "As soon as the grand march is done, there is no down time," Huss said. "It's hard, five minutes later for the National Anthem, and five minutes after that, the wrestling starts. From there it pretty much doesn't stop until the weekend is over."

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi wrestlers Ryan Thomas, left, and Ryan Ridenour are headed off to the state tournament at the Palace of Auburn Hills this weekend.

Wildcat cheer fourth at regional

By Jeff Theisen

The Novi cheer team finished its season with a fourth-place finish at Saturday's regional meet. The Wildcats scored a season-high 744.016 points. Southgate Anderson won the regional with 791.212 points. Wyandotte Roosevelt also advanced with 768.150. Novi scored the second highest round one with 228-016. Only Southgate Anderson was higher with 230.5. Novi also scored the second-highest round two with 228.016. Again, only Southgate Anderson was better with 244.212. Novi's round three was worth 295 points. Wyandotte rocketed past with 320 points. Churchill slid into the third spot with 316.5 points in the final round, to total 758.656.

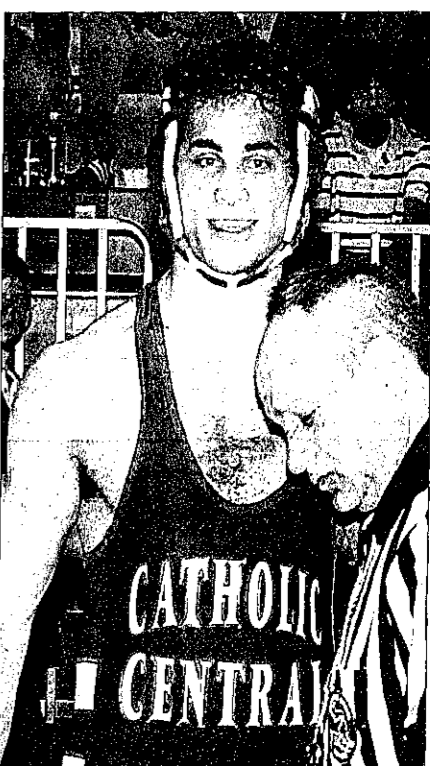


Photos submitted by Jeff Gatt

The Catholic Central state qualifiers assemble together.



Shea Hasenauer works his opponent's shoulder during regionals.



Matt Aubrey smiles after a win during regionals.

Sports Shorts

Novi Motion

The Novi Motion girls AAU Basketball Club will be holding tryouts March 14 at Novi Meadows at 23549 Taft Road. Players 13-14U will tryout from 6:30-8 p.m.; 15-16U from 8-9:30 p.m. July 1 is the cutoff date for birthdays. Tryout fee is \$20, and players are asked to arrive early for registration. A parent or guardian must be present for sign-in. For more information, contact Ron Valente at (248) 349-5464.

Novi Baseball Camp

Novi baseball head coach Rick Green and his assistants are hosting a camp for kids 8-14. The cost is \$60 and is available for the first 100 registered. The camp runs 9 a.m.-1 p.m. March 15 at the Novi High School field house. Checks payable to Novi HS Baseball can be mailed to Rick Green, C/O Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, Novi, MI, 48374.

Shamrock lacrosse fundraiser

There will be a CC lacrosse fundraiser at BD's Mongolian BBQ on March 6. Seatings are at 7 and 8 p.m. for walk-ins. Questions or donations can go to coachdwilson@yahoo.com.

Novi Youth Baseball Registration

The 2008 Novi Youth Baseball season is almost here. League registration will run through March 15. The NYBL is open to all children 7-18. See www.noviouthbaseball.org for more information and registration.

Novi's Coleman helping Albion track team

The Albion College men's track & field team scored 53 points to finish fourth in an eight-team field assembled for the Fred Will Invitational at Anderson University on March 1. Dan Coleman (Novi/Novi) scored in three events, taking third in the triple jump (39' 2 1/2"), tying for third in the pole vault (12' 6"), and racing to fourth place in the 55-meter hurdles (8.41 seconds).

Minor-league football tryouts

The Detroit Diesels minor-league football team will be holding tryouts on March 8 and 15 at High Velocity Sports in Canton from 2-5 p.m. All are welcome to try. Football experience is preferred, but not required. There will be a \$35 tryout fee, which includes a Diesels T-Shirt. The team will take all positions, but offensive personnel are a priority at this point. The Diesels will kick off GLFL action on June 7 against the Michigan Vipers at Livonia Franklin High School. For more information, contact Al Soder at (313) 299-1277 or alsoder@hotmail.com.



Photo submitted

Going to the Joe

The Novi Bobcats have had a 2008 season for the Michigan record books. This 9- and 10-year-old squirt team, coached by Jim Zabinski has now played 46 games with only a single loss, and will proudly represent the Northville/Novi community at Joe Lewis Arena on March 14 for the Little Caesars Youth Hockey Title. This past weekend the team battled in the semi-final match at the Trenton IceBox to advance to this prestigious championship game. The team's season accomplishments included Holland, Michigan Tournament Champions (5-0-0), Novi Turkey Tournament Champions (4-0-0), Little Caesars League Champions (15-0-1) and a Joe Lewis Arena showcase victory against the undefeated Flint Predators. Photo: Alex Putman, Paul Steffes, Brandyn Belevender, Fishi Barad, Brandon Makowski, Justin Woolhiser, Lee Moore, Luke Skillman, Brendan Murnan, Robert Kennedy, Jake Skillman, Brandon Kour, Alex Cal, Evan Thomas, Daniel Sussek, Justin Zabinski, head coach Jim Zabinski, assistant coach Chris Steffes, assistant coach Lee Kour, assistant coach Scott Makowski and manager Jeannine Makowski.

Michigan high school state finals weekend

- Wrestling** March 6-8 at Palace of Auburn Hills
- Gymnastics** March 7-8 at Canton-Plymouth
- Swim and Dive** March 7-8 at Oakland University
- Hockey** March 8 at Compuware Arena

SHAMROCKS: Title searching

continued from front

The Shamrocks brutal schedule helps the wrestlers gain knowledge of wrestlers from all over the state. The team record might struggle because of it, but it cuts down on the surprises come time for states. "Rodriguez did it for so many years — split state in quarters so you see everyone," he said. "We were below 500 record before Catholic League because of strength of schedule. "They've seen everybody. They're not scared of anyone." Martin, Hasenauer, Gatt, Aubrey and Kinville are all heading back to the state meet as placers last year. Hancock said the experience allows the wrestlers to focus on the matches instead of everything else that is going on. "Anytime you get the state exp. it helps a lot," he said. "They know how to prepare. They're not overwhelmed by the crowd. They can just relax and wrestle. "A lot of kids' seasons are just getting there. Their expectations are to win a state title."

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



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MY RECREATION

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novineews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

All in a day's fun!



Sarah Less, left, and Hannah Rolfe, both 15, skate at the Novi Ice Arena on a recent Wednesday afternoon. Both are Novi residents and Rolfe skates with the Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club. The Novi Ice Arena has open skate Monday-Friday from 12-1:50 p.m.



Nina Nicolau, 4, and Alyssa Dickieson, also 4, walk across the balance beam during a Friday morning gymnastics class at the Sports Club of Novi. The class, for pre-schoolers, is taught by Jamie Kenyon.

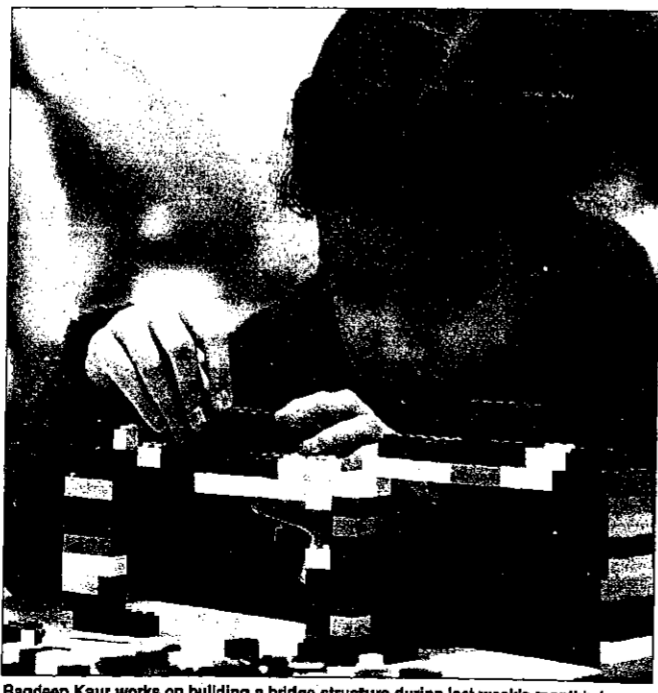


A couple of Novi Woods students enjoy some square dancing.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS



With the help of his dad Mark - Hunter Forkowski, 6, sees what it's like to battle a big fish at the Metro Steelheader's booth at last weekend's Outdoorama. The rod was connected to a machine that simulated the pull of a big fish in a large body of water.



Ragdeep Kaur works on building a bridge structure during last week's monthly Lego club meeting at the Charles and Myrtle Walker Public Library of Novi. The club meets on the last Monday of every month and Legos are provided for the engineers in all kids.

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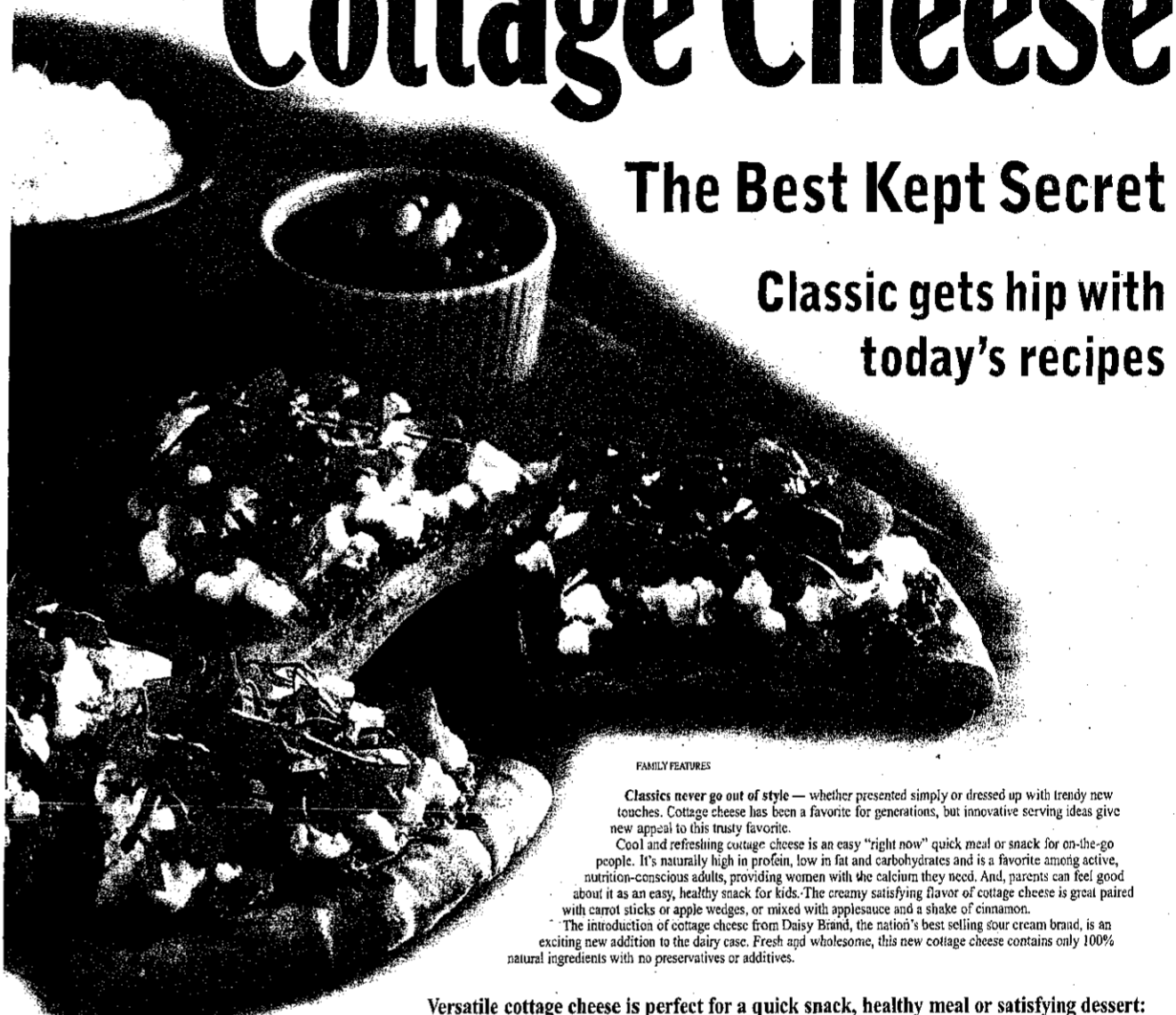
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, March 6, 2008
www.novineews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Cottage Cheese

The Best Kept Secret

Classic gets hip with today's recipes



FAMILY FEATURES

Classes never go out of style — whether presented simply or dressed up with trendy new touches. Cottage cheese has been a favorite for generations, but innovative serving ideas give new appeal to this trusty favorite.

Cool and refreshing cottage cheese is an easy "right now" quick meal or snack for on-the-go people. It's naturally high in protein, low in fat and carbohydrates and is a favorite among active, nutrition-conscious adults, providing women with the calcium they need. And, parents can feel good about it as an easy, healthy snack for kids. The creamy satisfying flavor of cottage cheese is great paired with carrot sticks or apple wedges, or mixed with applesauce and a shake of cinnamon.

The introduction of cottage cheese from Daisy Brand, the nation's best selling sour cream brand, is an exciting new addition to the dairy case. Fresh and wholesome, this new cottage cheese contains only 100% natural ingredients with no preservatives or additives.

Versatile cottage cheese is perfect for a quick snack, healthy meal or satisfying dessert:

- Break into breakfast: Serve cottage cheese alongside fresh fruit, mixed with yogurt or topped with cereal. Its creamy consistency is perfect stirred into eggs, pancakes, omelets or quiche.
- Satisfy snack attacks: Enjoy cottage cheese with fresh fruit, raw veggies or crackers.
- Mute the munchies with a thin spread of peanut butter on crackers topped with creamy cottage cheese.
- Saver smart lunch choices: Combine cottage cheese with fresh vegetables or fruit for a healthy, satisfying lunch.
- Make mid-day hearty and delicious by mixing cottage cheese into flaked tuna.
- Feature family-pleasing dinners: Count on cottage cheese to round out a salad or as a side dish, or use as a central ingredient in quiches or pasta dishes such as lasagna and ravioli.
- Dig into sweet endings: Scene-stealing desserts with cottage cheese include cheesecake, blintzes, turnovers and more.

Delight your palate with a cool, satisfying classic. Discover surprising, innovative ways to enjoy fresh and delicious cottage cheese by visiting www.daisybrand.com. Recipe ideas for quick snacks, simple meals and flavorful entertaining will help you put this all-natural, low-carb source of protein and calcium on your table for healthy family meals.

Cinnamon-Peach Cottage Cheese Swirl

Serves 2

- 1 cup Daisy Brand Cottage Cheese
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1 large fresh peach, unpeeled, sliced into wedges or cubed
 - Ground cinnamon to sprinkle
 - 2 sprigs fresh mint
1. Gently stir together cottage cheese, cinnamon and vanilla.
 2. Place one quarter of peach pieces into each of two dessert glasses.
 3. Top peach layer with half of cottage cheese mixture.
 4. Garnish with remaining peach pieces, a sprinkle of cinnamon and a sprig of fresh mint.



Pita Pesto Pizza Snackers

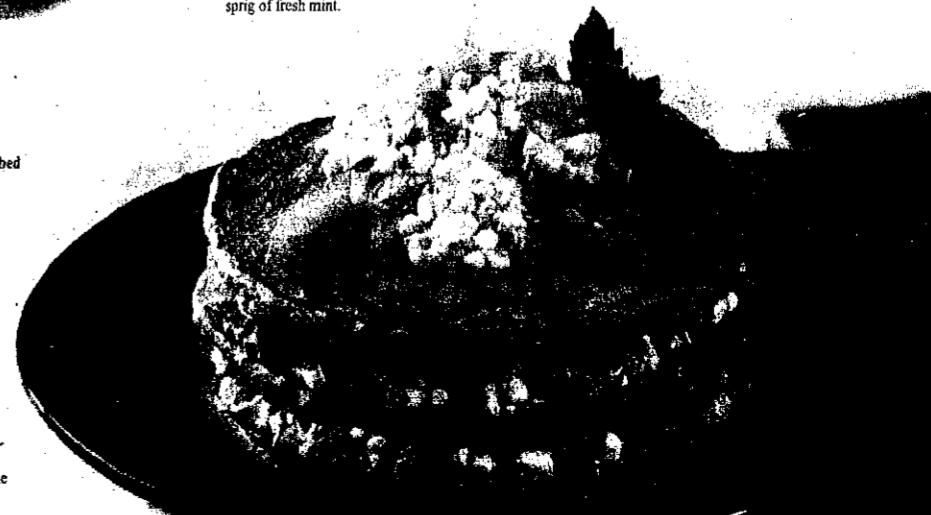
Serves 2

- 2 pieces pita bread
 - 2 tablespoons basil pesto
 - 1 cup Daisy Brand Cottage Cheese
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons garlic bread seasoning (or garlic powder)
 - 2 tablespoons chopped Roma tomatoes
 - Chopped fresh basil, to taste
 - 2 teaspoons grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
1. Toast pita bread until crispy and firm, about 1 minute in a toaster oven.
 2. Spread pesto on each pita bread, lightly covering entire surface.
 3. Combine cottage cheese with garlic bread seasoning and spread evenly over each pita.
 4. Top with chopped tomato and fresh basil.
 5. If desired, sprinkle each pita with Parmesan.
 6. Slice each pita into 4 wedges and serve immediately.

Apple-Cinnamon Pancake Stackers

Serves 2

- 1 medium apple, Fuji or Gala, peeled, cored and cubed
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 2 teaspoons Splenda® or other low calorie sweetener
 - 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
 - 2 teaspoons lite maple syrup
 - 1 cup Daisy Brand Cottage Cheese
 - 6 3 1/2-inch whole wheat pancakes, frozen
 - 2 fresh mint sprigs
1. Combine apple, cinnamon and sweetener. In small pan, heat oil and sauté apple mixture over medium heat 2 minutes. Add maple syrup and cook additional minute.
 2. Fold mixture into cottage cheese, being careful not to over mix.
 3. Heat pancakes per package instructions.
 4. To serve, place 1 hot pancake on plate and layer cottage cheese mixture between pancakes evenly, 3 pancakes per serving. Top with cottage cheese mixture, a drizzle of maple syrup and a fresh mint sprig.



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 5B

Thursday, March 6, 2008

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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

Sam (left) and Alexander Hamka spend a great deal of their time working on custom tailoring – ensuring that every customer's garment fits and feels just right.

Quality is customary

CEOs look to Northville for custom business attire

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

If you look up the word quality in the dictionary you might see a picture of Alexander Hamka, the owner of Alexander's Custom Clothing in historic downtown Northville. That's because Alex has made quality part of the vocabulary whenever the topic of Alexander's Custom Clothing is discussed.

INVESTMENT CLOTHING

In today's uncertain economy where many people are watching what they spend and why, Alex is offering the best quality garments with built-in investment power. His custom tailored suits, slacks,

and shirts give the look of professionalism and feel of comfort — values that are very important to today's discretionary professionals.

Although the general economy may have slowed down the walk-in traffic a bit, Alex continues to grow his business through his corporate client list, people who expect the best and who want to deal directly with Alex.

"I'm now working with CEOs and CFOs, people who call me and ask to set up appointments for their custom tailoring needs," Alex said. "I go the extra mile to make sure all of their custom shirts and suits are perfect."

His attention to detail includes the records he keeps of his customer's purchases. Alex attaches a swatch of the fabric he uses to each invoice he keeps on

ALEXANDER'S CUSTOM CLOTHING

124 W. Main St.
Northville

Phone
(248) 349-6080



The first thing many customers see when they enter Alexander's Clothing in historic downtown Northville, are the friendly faces of Sam, left, and Alexander Hamka.

LIKE NOWHERE ELSE

Customers who visit Alex know that the clothing they buy is unlike any they can find the metro Detroit area or even in the entire Midwest. That's because of the custom work that is part of the business model at Alexander's Custom Clothing.

"We offer custom because we are dealing with people who want to take their personal and professional life to the next level," Alex added. "Customers know they will look good every time they put on a custom tailored suit or shirt — and the clothing will fit just right, too."

He knows that people have many choices when it comes to shopping for clothes and that many choose to buy items like shirts in large quantities for lower prices. But Alex noted that many of these shirts will just sit in a drawer or closet because the buyers don't have a good feeling about them.

"Instead of buying several shirts, take the money you would spend and buy one or two custom tailored shirts," he said. "You will feel and look so much better. And as time goes on, you can add more custom tailored shirts to your collection. I'll be very happy to help your collection grow because I want you to feel good about what you wear."

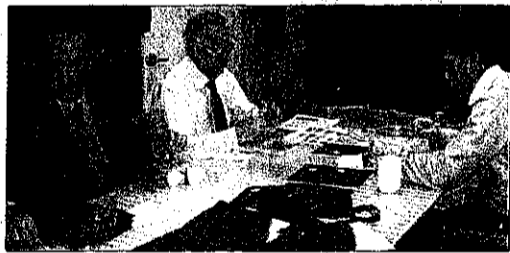
SPRING INVENTORY

As the community of Northville thaws out from its winter season, Alexander's Custom Clothing is preparing to unveil its new spring inventory. Alex is inviting everyone to stop by and see what people will be wearing in 2008. His complete collection will be available April 1.

And speaking of Northville, Alex is very humble when it comes to how he feels about his customers and the community.

"My success has come from the word-of-mouth advertising that people have given me," he said. "There is no way I would have enjoyed my success without my customer's support for me and for the many merchants in downtown Northville. I want to thank all of them."

Alexander's Custom Clothing is located at 124 W. Main Street, just a block west of Center Street. For more information call Alex at (248) 349-6080.



When Alex talks, manufacturers listen

Alexander Hamka does much more than run a successful custom tailored clothing store. He also spends a lot of time giving his expert opinions on what his customer want to Jhane Barnes, the manufacturer whose clothing is sold through Alexander's Clothing.

Alex is a consultant who frequently meets with members of the Jhane Barnes' production department at their offices in New York to discuss fabrics for the upcoming season and clothing construction issues.

"My input is very important to them because they know that as a retailer, I

have direct contact with the buyers and I know what their needs are," said Alex. "They take care of my concerns and make appropriate changes right away. They respect my opinion and know that young people like me are the future of custom tailoring. A lot of the older craftspeople like my dad, Sam, are retiring and taking their expertise with them."

Alex is responsible for the look and feel of many of the custom garments that people find in Alexander's Clothing. That's something that very few retailers can say.

ALEXANDER'S CUSTOM CLOTHIERS

of Northville

Custom Shirts
and Suits FREE

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