



BREAK TIME!
Spring vacation begins today for area teens ... 19A

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Novi News

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Wixom Road interchange construction underway

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Novi and Wixom residents have a more capable interchange at Interstate-96 and Beck Road as a result of renovations in 2005. Starting this week, the Wixom Road interchange will receive an identical overhaul.

Wixom city officials and the Michigan Department of Transportation held a four-hour informational session March 13 at Wixom City Hall to enlighten residents and local businesses about the project, the phases of change and how it will benefit everyone in the end by accommodating projected growth for 2020.

"It should improve the flow. People will be able to get in and out quicker," said Bryan Turczynski, an MDOT assistant engineer. "The biggest thing is the project is going, but the impact to

96 will be minimal." The \$20-million project will close all ramps connecting Wixom

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

Road and I-96 from March 17 until late November, Turczynski said. He said the result will be a mirror image of the Beck Road interchange.

"As of now, looking at it on paper, it looks like it'll be a little bit of work, but not as bad as it could be," said Tony Mosconi of Total Sports Complex, located on Wixom Road about one mile north of the interchange. "Using

Beck Road as a model, I think it'll be big. It'll be a learning curve, like roundabouts."

While browsing the site plans, Mosconi said the summer construction time will help keep the affects on the business at a minimum, as most soccer leagues play outdoors from mid-April through October. He worries the project could linger later into the winter when indoor soccer leagues at Total Soccer are at their busiest.

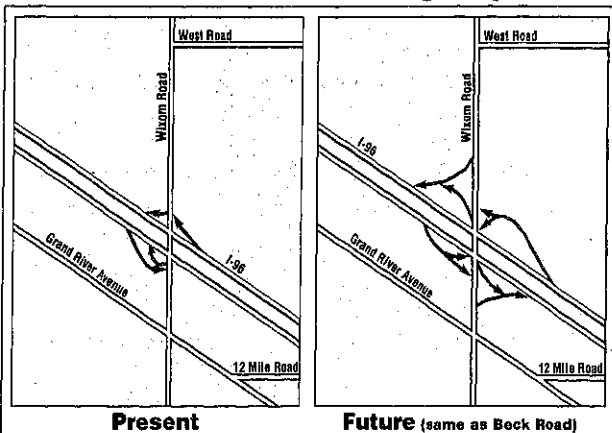
Overdue

Greg Grubbs of Total Sports Complex, also in attendance at the public session, said an update is needed.

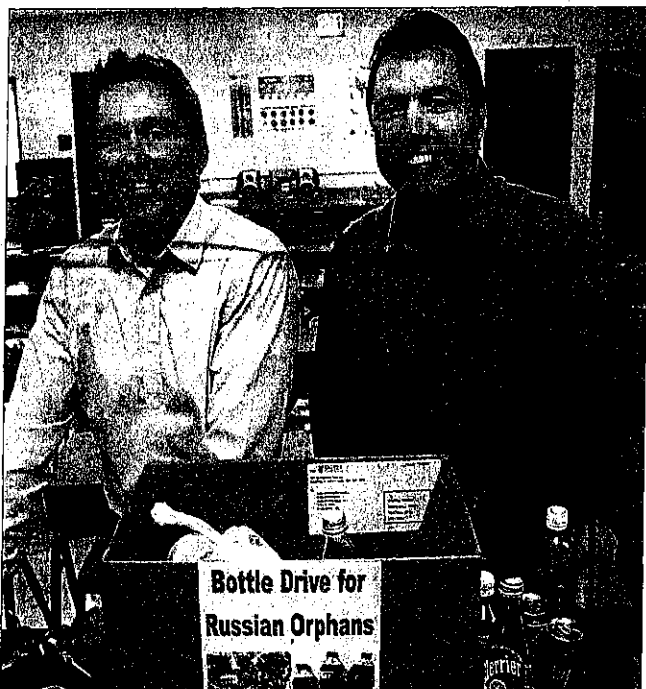
"When Ford was there, certainly, it's overdue. The bridge is somewhat obsolete," he said, referencing the automotive assembly

Please see **INTERCHANGE, 2A**

Wixom Road/Interstate-96 Interchange Project



To Russia from Novi with love



Bottle Drive for Russian Orphans

Novi Meadows sixth-grade teachers Tom Michalski, left, and Jody Payne work together to raise funds for Russian orphans. The pair let their students donate returnables to raise money for the Kostroma Kids orphanage program.

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Four years ago, Jody Payne didn't know much about Russia, the language or the people, but, now, the Novi teacher runs a summer program for Russian orphans.

"I was doing some work for school. I was writing on World War II and started clicking around on links on a Web site and came across a site a Peace Corps worker wrote," he said. "It's one of those sites you wish you hadn't gone to because then you feel like you have to do something."

So he did. The sixth-grade teacher from Novi Meadows volunteered at an orphanage in Svirstroy, Russia, for six weeks in 2004.

"I don't speak a word of Russian. I'd never been to Russia, don't know anyone in Russia and I'm not Russian," Payne said.

After his first experience, Payne began thinking of what more he could do to help, which eventually led to his involvement with Kostroma Kids.

"I thought I would like to get donations to help kids," he said. "I ran across this woman (Jackie Higgins-Rosebrook) who started it in 2000. Originally, both of us had gone to an orphanage in Svirstroy."

Please see **ORPHANS, 10A**

Holistic healing



James Tester, program coordinator for St. John Heath's Assarian Cancer Center, stands near its most recent art exhibition: paintings by Mayumi Oura Teevens.

This is the third installment in a series featuring the St. John Health Providence Park campus in Novi.

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

When the Assarian Cancer Center opened its doors almost nine years ago, it was with the intention of treating people, not cancer.

"It's not just about getting rid of the cancer, it's about (making sure) in the process you don't get

rid of the person," said Elena Weissman, manager at the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. "Cancer treatment is brutal. This is a growing movement to look at how can we provide more holistic care for our patients."

According to Weissman, it was the driving force of Dr. Patrick McLaughlin, chair of radiation and oncology, for patients to receive state-of-the-art medical care, while addressing the needs of their whole self at the same time.

Please see **HEALING, 2A**

3-20-08

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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



FRIDAY

Lucky's of Novi just opened Double Six Lounge, 44325 12 Mile Road, on the west side of the building's first floor last weekend. The lounge offers an upscale martini lounge as patrons enjoy live music such as The Square Pegz and Spirit of 76, a 1970s rock tribute band, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Although the completely remodeled lounge now has its own entrance on the west side of the

building, it is also accessible from Lucky's arcade area. The lounge is for ages 21 and older and a dress code is strictly enforced. Call (248) 374-3420 or visit www.DoubleSixNovi.com for more information.

SATURDAY

Missed out seeing some of the Oscar-nominated films while they were in theaters? Some are still available at the Novi Town Center 8, 26085 Town Center Drive, located on the east side of Novi Town Center. Catch "No Country for Old Men," "Atonement" and "There Will Be Blood" while you still can. Call (248) 465-7469 for show times, (248) 344-0014 for the office and visit www.novitowncenter8.com for more information. And before the show, don't forget to dine at Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro next door.

SUNDAY

It's Easter! Even if you're not Catholic, there's no reason not to spend time with your family and eat a ton of food, primarily chocolate. For some added fun, head to Rock Financial Showplace's Diamond Center, 26100 Grand River Ave., for a 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Easter Brunch filled with fruit, breakfast entrees, ham, turkey, sirloin and more. The breakfast requires reservations by 5 p.m. today. Tickets cost \$27 for adults; \$13 for ages 4-12 and free for 3 and younger. Call (248) 348-5600 x200 for more information.



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AMY PUBLIC SAFETY

Cigarette and oxygen cited as cause of fatal fire

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

The fatal fire that broke out in Novi last Saturday afternoon is considered accidental and was caused by careless smoking in an oxygen-enriched atmosphere, said Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith.

"The victim was on oxygen and lit a cigarette," Smith said.

The third occupant, and owner of the home, was not at the residence when the fire broke out. Bartsch's girlfriend was able to escape the home and ran to get help for Bartsch, who is partially disabled.

The fire department received the call at 11:58 a.m., but the fire was already blowing two minutes later when a nearby police unit arrived on scene, Smith said.

Firefighters arrived at the scene within four minutes of receiving the call, but were unable to gain entry to the home, which was engulfed in flames.

"The fire did have a head start," Smith said. "The older they (mobile homes) are, the worse they are with fire standards."

A Novi firefighter suffered minor injuries to the cheek in the blaze, but has since been treated and released.

The fire department said the fire was under control at about 12:57 p.m.

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

Car part thefts increase

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

As the price of metal rises, catalytic converters are becoming more in demand.

Located on the underside of a vehicle, the catalytic converter is an anti-pollution device in an automotive exhaust system.

According to Novi Police Chief David Molloy, theft of catalytic converters is on the rise in metro-Detroit due to the precious metals they're cutting them off and taking them to scrap yards where they are removing these precious metals and selling (them), he said.

Catalytic converters contain platinum, palladium and rhodium.

Molloy said the value of platinum is currently about \$1,200 per ounce, palladium is about \$320 per ounce and rhodium is about \$6,400 per ounce.

According to Novi police reports, there were two incidents of attempted theft of catalytic converters earlier this month.

One case occurred in the parking lot of Twelve Oaks Mall and the other in the parking lot of the Novi Sheraton.

Molloy said to be on the lookout for anyone suspicious that might be sliding underneath a vehicle.

"We've only had two cases and, both times, they failed," said Molloy, noting thieves are targeting higher end vehicles, such as sport utility vehicles and trucks.

"They're using a sawzall (hand-held electrical saw) and can get them off in less than five minutes."

According to Gannett News Service, about 60 catalytic converters have been stolen in Troy since mid-July, Macomb County's auto-theft squad responded to dozens of thefts in Warren about two months ago and, more recently, more than a dozen converters were removed from vehicles at two apartment complexes in Harrison Township.

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

Two girls arrested for retail fraud; cash missing from wallet

According to recent police reports, two girls were arrested for retail fraud at Lord & Taylor just before 5 p.m. March 4.

One of the girls stole a Free People yellow shirt, \$78; a Chelsea & Theodore shirt, \$88; and a Buffalo shirt, \$58.

The other girl stole a Lucky Brand polka dot shirt, \$55, and a Free People yellow shirt, \$78.

A loss prevention officer observed the two girls via surveillance cameras enter the same fitting room with selected merchandise.

The officer followed the girls into the fitting rooms and said she could hear them removing sensors and placing the merchandise into bags they took into the room, reports said.

The loss prevention officer searched the fitting room once the girls left, and found only hangers remaining. The girls discarded the sensors in the women's department, reports said.

The loss prevention officers approached the girls as they exited the store via the upper level mall entrance, reports said.

In total, the girls attempted to steal \$360 worth of merchandise.

When the Novi Police Department arrived on scene, the girls began to cry.

They were arrested for retail fraud, reports said.

They were charged with possession of marijuana.

The officers confiscated the scale, \$136 and four grams of marijuana.

Two individually wrapped amounts of marijuana that were in the lock pocket of his pants.

He was arrested for possession of marijuana.

The officers confiscated the scale, \$136 and four grams of marijuana.

A call was placed to the Novi Police Department regarding suspicious activity of several occupants near Buckminster Drive and Wright Way at about 6:25 p.m. March 12, reports said.

An officer made contact with the three occupants of the red Dodge Caravan and the driver gave his consent to search the vehicle, reports said.

According to the officer, he could detect an odor of marijuana from inside the vehicle and found money and a scale. The K-9 Yokea was brought in to further search the vehicle.

The officers asked the occupants if they had any narcotics on them and one subject handed over

Arrest made for theft from vehicles at Lifetime Fitness

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Novi Police Department officials announced a 26-year-old Dearborn Heights man was arrested in connection with 22 cases of theft from vehicles in the Novi Lifetime Fitness parking lot since last November.

"We believe he is responsible for many, if not all, larceny from auto incidents at Lifetime Fitness," said Novi Police Chief David Molloy.

The suspect was caught using a stolen credit card from one of the vehicles at the Meijer store in Northville Township.

Police officials are still investigating whether the suspect is responsible for similar incidents in surrounding communities such as Canton and Troy.

"You live in a safe community, but we're not immune from property crime," Molloy said.

The suspect is currently lodged at the Oakland County Jail for unrelated drug charges in West Bloomfield Township.

Molloy hopes to charge the suspect later this week.

The suspect is facing charges of illegal use of a financial transaction device, which is a four-year felony, and breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, which is a five-year felony. He could also be responsible for paying a \$10,000 fine or three times the value of the property stolen, whichever is greater.

Other items stolen from vehicles while parked in the lot at 40000 High Point Boulevard include Global Positioning Systems, computers and pagers.

"Any items of value have to be locked inside a person's trunk. It doesn't matter where you park," Molloy said. "Prevention is a major component of any type of crime like this."

Dispatcher promoted

On March 13, dispatcher Janet Kaplan was promoted to Dispatch Shift Leader with the Novi Police Department.

A five-year veteran of the Novi Police Department, shift leader Kaplan earned two Meritorious Service awards and was recognized as the Novi Police Department's Employee of the Month in July 2007.

Kaplan began her dispatching career with the Billings, Mont., Police Department, where she worked for nine years before relocating to the Novi area.

She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Madonna University in criminal justice.

"I am both honored and pleased to have the opportunity to promote Ms. Kaplan to a key leadership position within our organization," said Novi Police Chief David Molloy.

"We are very fortunate to have her as a member of our team. Ms. Kaplan continually demonstrates a strong commitment to teamwork and is dedicated to the mission, vision and values of the Novi Police Department."

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MY CITY COUNCIL

Novi City Council tables Best Buy preliminary site plan

The architects of the proposed Best Buy building on Novi Road approached council requesting approval of the preliminary site plan at Monday's meeting.

MEETING NOTEBOOK

Best Buy representatives are proposing to build a 30,000-square-foot store on the northeast corner of Novi Road and the Twelve Oaks Mall entrance.

The 3.3-acre property is continuing the sites of the former Comerica Bank and Newton Furniture store.

Prior to submitting a preliminary site plan, Best Buy has been working with the City of Novi to comply with its ordinances.

Although council appreciated changes made by the applicant to adhere with city administration's requests, some members still had concerns regarding the proposed signage and traffic volume.

The issue was brought before the planning commission Feb. 27 for a public hearing and they made a positive recommendation.

the ITC Community Sports Park. Novi resident Charlie Staub commented that he supports the grant process, but thinks the funding should be earmarked for the existing Tim Pope play structure at Ella Mae Power Park, which administration said is in a state of disrepair.

The grant requires a local match of at least 25 percent the total project cost, which would be funded in the 2008-09 budget.

The projected total cost is \$200,000, meaning the local match is \$50,000.

Council unanimously approved the request to submit a grant application for a handicap accessible playground.

Walkable Novi Committee
In December, the sidewalk prioritization work group requested council's approval to expand its membership and responsibilities, and to include the review and pri-

orization of trails and greenways. The group is proposing the creation of the Walkable Novi Committee, whose primary purpose would be to continue prioritizing the needs of the city's sidewalks and bike paths, with the addition of trails and greenways.

The committee would also create a unified plan to assist and harmonize with the long-range planning efforts of the city's various departments and boards.

The recommended membership would include two council members, Andrew Mutch and David Staadt; three members of the Planning Commission, Brian Burke, Mark Peterson and Mike Meyer; two members of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, Karen Zaczynski and another member to be decided; Mark Spencer from the Community Development Department; and Randy Auler from the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Bar Louie Liquor license

Council unanimously approved the transfer of a Class C liquor license to Zam, LLC, doing business as Bar Louie.

Owners Zubin Antia and Anthony Marugi previously approached council requesting one of the city's liquor licenses in November, but were denied.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation to the owners for keeping their business in Novi.

The owners are hoping to open in July, at the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk location.

might be viewed as a council meeting because four members of council will be there.

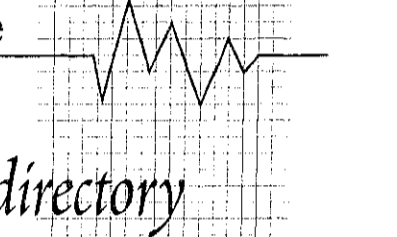
Councilman Bob Gatt and councilwoman Terry Margolis and Kathy Crawford already sit on the committee.

Council meeting notes were taken from the March 17 regular meeting of the Novi City Council. All Council members were present. Next meeting: 7 p.m. April 7 at the Novi Civic Center, 45125 W. 10 Mile Road.

OBITUARIES

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Ed Slawinski decked his dog, Sadie, out in an appropriate costume for last Saturday's Easter Mutt Strut at Lakeshore Park. As Sadie is hunting dog, it's appropriate that she has bunnies and ducks riding on her back.

There's always something going on in Novi

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS



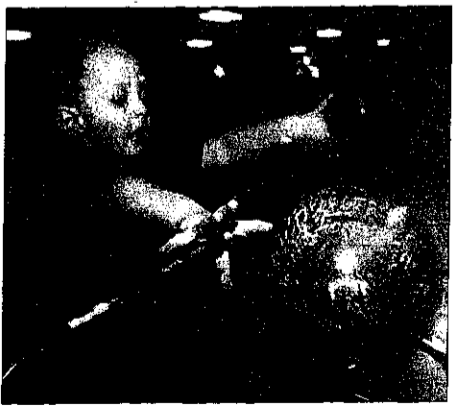
Novi police officer Kevin Rhea prepares to roll a strike during last Saturday's Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon at Novi Bowl. Teams were formed from schools, churches, police, fire and city employees who all teamed together to raise thousands of dollars for the mentoring program.



Nancy Ely's dog, Sunny, zeroes in on a dog biscuit during last Saturday's Mutt Strut at Lakeshore Park. Dogs and owners participated in a biscuit hunt (think Easter egg hunt, but for dogs), fashion parade and contests for door prizes.



The Renaissance Chorus, a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society of Wayne, performs some Irish tunes at last Friday's St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Novi Senior Center.



Colin Whitney, 3, rolls a bowling ball towards the pins during last Saturday's Novi Youth Assistance bowl-a-thon. Teams raised money for the Novi youth mentoring program.



A senior, with appropriate Irish getup, applauds a barbershop chorus at last week's St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Novi Senior Center.

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

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

Thursday, March 20, 2008 www.hometownlife.com

MY OPINION

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell, Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

In our opinion:

Kudos for democracy in Novi

A decision was made Monday by members of Novi City Council to approve the first reading of the resolution to amend the city's message ordinance...

But the beauty in the decision is it came after area therapists banded together and stated their case to members of Council...

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...

Six DeRoche recall attempts waste time and money

Legislator recalls are a way for residents to keep elected officials in check, but, sometimes, it's just an empty threat and a waste of taxpayer's money.

LETTERS

Let your voice be heard

While I do not intend to try to appear on the opinion page every week, I could not wait to respond to George and Kathy Bilowus letter on the Forest Farm...

What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification.

Is International Baccalaureate good for Novi students?

I am following with great interest the Novi Board of Education's discussion of an International Baccalaureate program.

The sad fact that so many Michigan families still think that way shows the continuing power of our "assembly-line culture."

JOIN IN: Discuss our stories online via Story Chat at hometownlife.com

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

Thursday, March 20, 2008 www.hometownlife.com

COMMENTARY

PHIL POWER: State's future fueled by education

One of Michigan's major handicaps has been the profound ignorance most families have about the vital importance of higher education to their children's future.



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.

But now, as for decades, the prevailing culture scandalously disrespects learning.

That means nearly three-quarters of adults in this state feel getting a high school diploma sets their kids up for life!

That might have been true 40 years ago, when they could hope to catch on with, as the workers put it, "Ford's or, 'Generous Motors.'"

But that world is as gone as the tail fin. So what's going to change this deeply rooted, deeply dangerous habit of thought?

It will take something that affects directly thousands and thousands of Michigan families. Fortunately, there's something on the horizon

less-expensive new labor. The Detroit car companies are expected to hire around 19,000 hourly workers in Michigan next year.

The crucial question is this: What kind of education level and work experience will the auto companies require?

Over the next eight years, Detroit automakers plan to hire 77,000 new workers in the U.S., 46,000 of those in Michigan.

A small precedent already has been established: Chrysler's successful engine plant in Durand, which is a joint venture with Mitsubishi and Hyundai.

However, if the automakers do collectively hire some 90,000 people in this state next year, that is a number big enough to achieve critical mass in changing public attitudes.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the leaders in the Legislature should reach out to the media and advertising industries to promote the necessity of lifelong learning.

We've got a terrific opportunity staring us in the face, right now, to start changing the generations-long, harmful attitudes that have helped to cripple our state.

What Michigan needs to realize is that the status quo, leaving people enslaved and kicking the tough issue down the road for future generations to solve.

It has taken many years, a Civil War, countless struggles, sacrifices, lost lives, political machinations and the Constitution being amended 17 times, besides the 10 included in the Bill of Rights, to get to this point today.

Today, Sen. Obama is the exclamation point on a great experiment of self-government: the United States of America.

TOM WATKINS: History in the making - yes we can

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."



About Tom Watkins

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005 and state mental health director from 1988-1990.

15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

What a difference 138 years make. On March 30, 1870, 83 years after the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted.

While there was some idealism and sense of justice from Democrats and Republicans for equal rights that prompted this amendment, it was equally, if not more so, done as a counterweight against a Democratic Party that was making electoral gains across the South.

Business as Usual

It has taken many years, a Civil War, countless struggles, sacrifices, lost lives, political machinations and the Constitution being amended 17 times, besides the 10 included in the Bill of Rights, to get to this point today.

Business as Usual

It has taken many years, a Civil War, countless struggles, sacrifices, lost lives, political machinations and the Constitution being amended 17 times, besides the 10 included in the Bill of Rights, to get to this point today.

Lansing Connection: Cassis promotes economic stimulus package

Small businesses are the heart and backbone of Michigan's economy. Last year, a great deal of focus was on providing tax relief to larger businesses.



Nancy Cassis

for the 1.8 percent alternative tax rate. To qualify under this legislation, the owner could not exceed \$250,000 and Adjusted Business Income would have to be less than \$1.5 million.

Michigan Strategic Fund. Providing relief to small businesses will stimulate the economy more rapidly because they are able to react quickly.

Dog Centers of America HELP WANTED DOG HANDLERS KENNEL STAFF

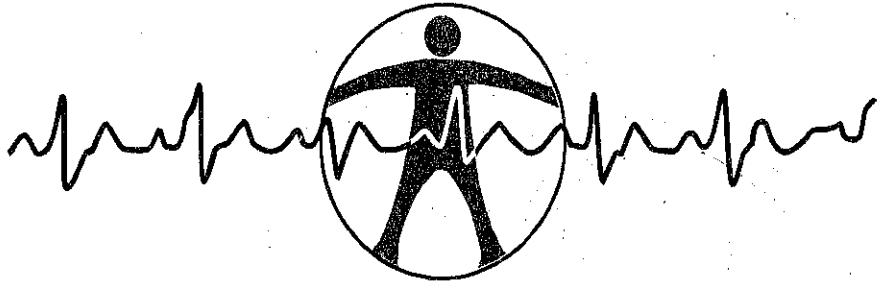
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LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST THE NOBLEST OF PRECIOUS METALS

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Novi's medley relay team lands on the All-Area First Team, Page 2B

My Novi Sports

More Winter All-Area Teams next week

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 • WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

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

VERSATILE WILDCAT

Novi's sophomore can play all five positions

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Novi's Caroline Johnson is the girls basketball player of the year after wearing many hats for the KVC co-champion Wildcats.

"I think the thing that makes her special is she's versatile," Novi head coach Bill Kelp said. "She can play all five positions."

"Sometimes she even played the two extreme positions — point guard and center — on the same possession."

Versatility was huge for the Wildcats as they had to deal with injuries and illnesses that kept Novi from practicing with a full team all year.

"What's amazing is she showed up and was consistent every night, especially when all the teams we played know her and gameplan to slow her down," Kelp said. "When she doesn't have all her teammates around her because of the injuries and illnesses, they can focus on her even more."

"I guess that's what made it even more special for her."

Johnson led 17-4 Wildcats in several categories: 10.6 points, 5.5 rebounds, 21 blocks and 26 three-pointers. She also snared 37 steals.

"She was our go-to player," Kelp said. "I think the one asset about her that all great players have is that she makes everyone around her better, too."

The coaches of the KVC awarded Johnson with the league's Player of the Year honor.

"I think they saw what we see every day," Kelp said. "They recognized how versatile she is."

With Johnson just a sophomore, Kelp is excited to see how much her game could grow in her junior and senior seasons.

"What's going to be fun is the future and watching her hopefully become more of a tear, leader," Kelp said.

First Team

The All-Area First Team is made up of Novi's Katie Chaklos, Northville's Sarah Stern, Lakeland's Maghan Kunze and

All-Area Girls Basketball

Player of the Year — Caroline Johnson, Novi sophomore

First Team

Katie Chaklos, Novi senior; Sarah Stern, Northville senior; Maghan Kunze, Lakeland senior; Danielle Goutham, South Lyon senior; Caroline Johnson, Novi sophomore

Respectful Mention

Caroline Johnson, Novi senior; Sarah Stern, Northville senior; Maghan Kunze, Lakeland senior; Danielle Goutham, South Lyon senior; Caroline Johnson, Novi sophomore

South Lyon's Danielle Goutham.

Chaklos was the glue that kept the Wildcats going. She wasn't afraid to take a big shot, but her biggest asset was guarding the opposing team's best player night in and out. She was voted to the First-Team All-KVC.

"She was the heart and soul of the team," Kelp said. "The other coaches saw that they would love to have Katie Chaklos on their team."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

See JOHNSON, 2A Novi's Caroline Johnson is the All-Area Player of the Year after leading Novi to first place in the KVC.

Novi's Dean, Bellamy on 1st Team

■ Lakeland's Fugate leads All-Area Team

By Patrick Pinter and Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITERS

Bob Brugger has seen plenty of good players come through Lakeland High School during his time as head boys basketball coach, but none that work as hard as junior Mike Fugate.

"No one works harder than Mike. He has the drive and work

ethic. He has been a joy to coach," said Brugger. "There are not many like him that have come through Lakeland High School."

Fugate is being recognized as the All-Area Player of the Year. He led his team to an 18-4 record this year and averaged a team-high 18.5 points per game this season. Fugate was also named the Kensington Valley Conference Player of the Year.

The Lakeland Eagle also led his team in rebounds, assists and steals this year. He averaged 6.1 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 2.3 steals per game this season.

Fugate scored 409 points, which was good for third all-time in a single season at Lakeland. He moved up to sixth all-time on the career scoring list with 719 points.

"In the past there have been a few weaknesses to his game, but this year you really couldn't say anything bad about his game," said Brugger. "He improved in a lot of areas and did a lot of the little things like diving for looseballs and taking charges."

"He is a complete player and he brings a lot of the intangibles to the game."

First Team

Novi's Caleb Dean and Chris Bellamy make the All-Area First Team after helping to lead the Wildcats to the final KVC title.

Dean, a 6-9 inside imposing force, took his game almost exclusively inside this year and averaged a double-double with 15.2 points and 12.1 rebounds. The senior also swatted a team-high four blocks a game.

"Caleb had truly an outstanding season," Novi head coach Cory Heitsch said. "He has really

See BOYS HOOPS, 2A



Lakeland's Mike Fugate is the All-Area Player of the Year.

Photo by Hal Gould/Gannett News Services

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

Northville's Blickle blazes past field

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The Northville swim and dive team has had its share of stars in recent years. Brody Blickle left his mark on the program, taking up six spots on the Mustangs' record book, three individual and three on relays.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Northville Record

Brody Blickle dives into Northville High's pool a week after finishing his career as a Mustang swimmer.

All-Area Swim, Dive
Blickle capped off his career as part of the state-champion 200 freestyle relay team to go with his All-American swim with the 400 freestyle relay team and a second- and third-place finish in individual events. He leaves as an All-American, which is pretty cool for him, Bennett said. While naturally gifted, that wasn't all that Blickle relied on. Hard work in practice helped, but Bennett saw a more than a bit of him. "He's got that ability to just race," Bennett said. "When he steps up on the block, he just refuses to be beat." Bennett said he and Blickle didn't always see things eye to eye, but this past year was the best as far as understanding and working together. "There's no doubt in my mind I have had our battles throughout the years," Bennett said. "He was a tough nut to crack so to speak.

Player of the Year — Brody Blickle, Northville sr.

First Team
Dan Meister, Novi senior
Joan Chung, Novi freshman
Dan Keller, Novi senior
Tyler Vincent, Novi junior
Jon Barsley, Northville sr.
Kyle Adams, Northville senior
Joe Karjala, Northville senior
Greg Sheppard, Northville sr.
Jake Campbell, Lakeland jr.
Justin Amara-Parent, Lakeland junior
Adam Oxner, South Lyon sr.
Chet Jankowski, S. Lyon jr.
Jon Denys, South Lyon senior
Nathan Bohn, South Lyon sr.
Ryan Kenney, South Lyon jr.

BOYS HOOPS: Dean, Bellamy on First Team

continued from front

worked to turn himself into a complete basketball player, who controlled the glass and anchored our defense. Bellamy, a junior, turned into a sharp-shooting threat in his second year as a starting guard. He averaged 14.5 points a game with six rebounds, four assists and four steals. "Chris is a complete basketball player who has no holes in his game," Heisch said. "After the turn of the year, Chris was extremely dominant from the guard spot. He came into this year as a spot-up shooter but really expanded his game offensively." Catholic Central's Tim Dzelzski came up big for the Shamrocks all year, but no bigger than during their run to the district title.

All-Area Boys Basketball

- Player of the Year —** Mike Pogue, Lakeland junior
- First Team**
Dan Kirpatrick, Northville sr.
Tim Dzelzski, CC junior
Bret Smith, Novi junior
Justin Hartman, S. Lyon senior
Mike Rogers, Northville senior
Jordan Short, South Lyon sr.
Kris Dukić, Lakeland senior
Stephan Fiebigler, Milford sr.
Nate Kesto, Milford junior
Steve Anderson, Northville sr.
David Burke, Northville senior
Mika Rogers, Northville senior
Martins Trautmanis, Northville sr.
Kyle Asher, Northville senior
Colt Crandell, Novi senior
Noel Proctor, Novi senior
Shawn Rydzewski, Novi senior
Steve Harting, CC junior
Ryan Houska, CC senior
Jamie Morris, CC junior



Wildcat head coach Cory Heitsch sits down with Caleb Dean during a timeout to talk about strategy during a playoff game against CC.

Brandon Bradford, Novi junior
Jordan Koff, Milford senior
Drew Burmeister, Lakeland jr.

Second Team
Andy Stone, South Lyon sr.
Ben Newcomb, S. Lyon senior
Kyle Melthaff, S. Lyon senior
Aaron Parzuchowski, South Lyon senior
Josh Matusky, Lakeland junior
Kevin Bain, Northville jr.
John Labisco, Northville sr.
Nate Lunn, Northville sr.
Josh Radke, Catholic Central jr.

Honorable Mention
Clay Malloure, Northville jr.
John Blickle, Northville jr.
Brian Houck, Lakeland junior
Tory Cipponeri, Lakeland jr.
Brandon Hartley, Lakeland sr.
Joey Sherman, South Lyon sr.
Evan Bischoff, South Lyon jr.
Mike Koski, South Lyon sr.

Novi's Chris Bellamy soars to block a shot by CC's Brett Smith during the district final.



Novi's Chris Bellamy soars to block a shot by CC's Brett Smith during the district final. Photo by Jeff Theisen and Patrick Pinter.

"Dan and Dan were the two best captains we've had in our 12 years," Novi head coach Bill McComb said. "Tyler is a terrific leader and a relentless worker. Jon's freshman season was also a 12-year best at Novi."

Blickle will continue his swimming career for Army at West Point. Also making the First Team are Northville's Jon Barsley, Kyle Adams and Joe Karjala, Lakeland's Jake Campbell and Jon Amara-Parent and South Lyon's Chet Jankowski, Adam Oxner, Jon Denys, Nathan Bohn, Ryan Kenney and Brent Showerman.

Brown races to the front

By Patrick Pinter and Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITERS

It was business as usual for the Milford girls ski team this year as they captured their fourth straight regional title. One of the main components of the four-year run has been senior Emily Brown.

All-Area Girls Ski

- Player of the Year —** Emily Brown, Milford senior
- First Team**
Christina Bailo, S. Lyon senior
Lauren Moser, Milford
Jess Zasawa, Milford
Rachel Hogarth, Lakeland
Kelly Dearing, Lakeland
Cheryl Craig, Lakeland
Daniella Faboome, Novi
Sara Sheeran, Novi
- Honorable Mention**
Vernicea Weir, S. Lyon senior
Stefanie Thorpe, Milford
Kari Boyd, Milford
Megan Burns, Novi



Novi's Chris Bellamy soars to block a shot by CC's Brett Smith during the district final. Photo submitted.

First place
The Novi Cats Green sixth grade basketball team is the champion for the Maximum Potential Basketball League in Pinckney. Bottom row: (from left) Nicky Cox, Nick Zugaro, Tomo Hotta, Mark Ghannam and Austin Beyer. Top row: Coach Todd Beyer, Coach Jim Ryan, Charlie Ryan, Kyle Garcia, Durrell Jackson, Jonathan Bain, Grant Cox, coach Jim Cox and coach Dave Ghannam

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JOHNSON: Player of the Year

continued from front

"She makes everybody accountable and makes herself accountable first. The girls, they followed her."

Novi offense going. **Honorable Mention**
The All-Area Honorable Mention team includes Paige Janor, Melissa Gasirek and Kelsey Masseraat from Novi, Kelsey Baskins and Allison Holmes from Northville, Lisa Maxwell and Katie O'Leary from Lakeland, Camille Dittmar and Megan Groce from Milford and Kristin Short, Courtney Harrison and Kelsey Karimsky from South Lyon.

Hill had to fight through injuries for much of the year, but was still one of the fastest girls on the floor. When at her best, she could drive into the paint and kick it out to open teammates to get the

The All-Area teams are nominated by coaches and submitted from Novi, Northville, Lakeland, South Lyon and Milford. Jeff Theisen and Patrick Pinter comprised the teams.

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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT



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

Thursday, March 20, 2008 www.hometownlife.com fac: (248) 349-9832

Tips for Tasty Ham

- Select a lean ham with no visible marbling, and well trimmed of fat around the edges.
- If frozen, allow ham to thaw slowly in refrigerator for best quality.
- Avoid cross-contamination by pouring marinade into separate container before injecting into meat.
- Turn ham without sharp tools that may pierce the ham, allowing delicious juices to escape.

TRADITION MEETS Innovation THIS EASTER

Sweet Potato Casserole



Sweet Potato Casserole

Springtime heralds "new" — the weather, style of clothing, what's on the menu. True culinary innovation doesn't happen often. But when it does it's cause for celebration. Delight family and friends with a springtime holiday menu full of traditional favorites prepared with a distinctly modern flavor. It took good old American ingenuity to figure out a way to get a tasty marinade inside the meat where it immediately adds succulence and enhances flavors. This innovation of delivering big flavors quickly takes no shortcuts on quality: These full flavored marinades are injected directly into the meat, instead of sitting on the surface. Injectable marinades make it easy to prepare a winning main course in minutes — no overnight soaking, no added fat and no waste — with flavors that really permeate the meat. A centerpiece entrée: ham with a honey praline injected marinade makes a bold statement on your dinner table. And when you round out the menu with other classic family favorites — a sweet potato and pecan casserole that's a "must-serve" with ham, and crowd-pleasing bread pudding with rum sauce — your culinary reputation will be secure.

Going Green: Smart Moves

What's good for the environment is good for your wallet and good for the bottom line as well. Cutting-edge production practices are used by Bruce Foods in their sweet potato canning lines to recapture gas by-products, recycling their energy for manufacturing. This procedure is one among many that not only conserves our precious natural resources for future generations, but also reduces processing costs — resulting in lower consumer prices.

Honey Praline Ham

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 1 to 3 hours
Servings: 25 to 30 (3-ounce) slices
1 (8- to 12-pound) bone-in ham or spiral cut ham
1 (16-ounce) jar Cajun Injector Honey Praline Marinade with Injector
1 (325-ounce) castler Cajun Injector Praline Topping

Preheat oven as instructed on ham packaging. Pour marinade in measuring cup; warm approximately 40 seconds in microwave. Inject marinade evenly throughout ham using approximately 1 1/2 ounces per pound of meat. After injecting with marinade, cover ham; bake according to package directions. Remove ham from oven; top topping evenly over ham. Return ham to oven; bake 30 more minutes basting with pan drippings. Remove ham from oven; allow to rest covered before carving.

Southern-Style Bread Pudding With Rum Sauce

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 50 minutes
Servings: 8 servings
1 egg, beaten
1 3/4 cups milk
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
1 box Bruce's Southern Style Bread Pudding Mix
6 cups loosely packed French bread, torn into 1-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine egg, milk, and butter in large mixing bowl. Add bread pudding mix, Blend well. Stir in bread pieces. Pour into greased 8-by-8-by-2-inch baking dish. Bake 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cut into individual portions and cover with rum sauce.

Rum Sauce
1 tablespoon butter
1/3 cup granulated sugar
2 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
3/4 cup milk
2 tablespoons white or dark rum
Melt butter in small saucepan over medium heat. Mix together sugar and cornstarch; stir into butter. Pour milk in pan; cook stirring frequently until mixture begins to boil. Continue cooking until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in rum. Serve warm over bread pudding.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, March 20, 2008

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Photo by AARON CROOK

The entire staff of Dr. Stephen Hershey is dedicated to creating an upbeat, positive atmosphere for children at Highland Station Orthodontics in Milford.

Beyond face value

Popular practice opens second office locally

By Sally Rummel
SPECIAL WRITER

While most people look at a child's smile and see teeth, Dr. Stephen Hershey's vision for that child is far deeper.

As an orthodontist and specialist in facial growth and development for 30 years, Stephen Hershey, DDS, MS, LLC, can literally look into the future and see the positive possibilities.

That's why he and his staff are so excited when they meet a child for the first time. They can look down the road of treatment and envision a huge change in that child's life.

It's also the reason that they devote their entire practice exclusively to the treatment of children and adolescents and dento-facial orthopedics.

NOW IN HIGHLAND

Dr. Hershey now brings his specialized orthodontic practice to the Highland/Milford area, adding a second location to the Waterford office he has maintained for three decades.

Serving as associate orthodontist is Dr. Mark A. Bieszki, who is trained in the most recent advances in orthodontics. "His skills add to our practice's ability to deliver leading-edge treatment," says Dr. Hershey.

Highland Station Orthodontics opened in October, 2007 and recently held a Grand Opening to introduce the practice to the community.

Their new office is located at 161 N. Milford Road, just 1/2 mile south of M-59.

"We have chosen to practice in the Highland area because we know that there is very much a need locally for these services," says Dr. Hershey. "Many residents have gone out of town for orthodontic work because it wasn't available in Highland — until now."

He and his wife Patti, who serves as clinical director for the practice, are very excited about the future of Highland — especially the revitalization of the downtown district, where their new office is located.

"We want to give a special thanks to our architect and builder, Larry Shew and his wife, Debbie, for helping us become a part of this great community development project," Dr. Hershey said.

The Hersheys are also very appreciative to the Highland Business Association, which has welcomed them so warmly. "They have done everything for us," he added.

The support of the Highland community has been overwhelmingly positive, according to Dr. Hershey. His ability to impact the

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Meet the Orthodontists . . .

STEPHEN E. HERSHEY, DDS, MS, LLC
Orthodontics and Dento-facial Orthopedics

EDUCATION: Michigan State University undergrad and a graduate and the University of Detroit School of Dentistry in 1974. Resident in the Department of Pediatrics at Wylers' Children's Hospital in Chicago, earning a master's degree in Facial Growth and Development from the University of Chicago in 1976. Orthopedic training at University of Michigan with a Master of Science degree.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS: Specialty practice since 1978 with offices in Waterford and Highland. Teaching appointments at the University of Chicago, University of Detroit, University of Michigan. Numerous professional articles published in both orthodontics and anthropology. Lectured throughout the U.S. and Europe.

AFFILIATIONS: Editorial consultant to the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dento-facial Orthopedics; board of directors of the American Association of Orthodontics Foundation; member of American Dental Association, Michigan Dental Association, American Association of Orthodontists, Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists, American Association of Physical Anthropologists, American Association of Forensic Odontology.

Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontics. Director of Triago Orthodontic Educational Resources, which has presented and sponsored accredited continuing education programs in orthodontics for dentists and their staff since 1984.

PERSONAL: Dr. Hershey and his wife, Patti, have six children, all of whom are lifelong residents.

HOBBIES: Playing jazz trumpet, motorcycle riding and restoration since the age of 16.

MARK A. BIESZKI, DDS, MS

EDUCATION: B.S. in Biology (with distinction) in 1998 and Doctor of Dental Surgery in 2002 from University of Michigan. M.S. degree in Orthodontics from University of Detroit Mercy.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS: Board certified orthodontist in state of Michigan. Active member of the American Association of Orthodontists, American Dental Association, Michigan Dental Association.

PERSONAL: Married to wife, Nolka.

HOBBIES: Formerly recruited by college and professional teams in baseball and hockey. Also enjoys fishing, working out and traveling.

"We have kids who come back and visit our office all the time, because they have such positive memories of their time with us," Dr. Hershey said.

"Sometimes kids are disappointed when they come in with their parents for an initial consultation, and find out that they DON'T need braces!" he added with a laugh.

That's a real testament to the fun and friendly atmosphere Dr. Hershey's offices provide, thanks to a talented and kid-loving staff of 15 health professionals.

"Most of our staff have been with us for

many years," Dr. Hershey said. "They work hard to create a very upbeat, positive environment for children."

Their longevity average is 12 years, with Patti serving as clinical director for 28 years and Julie Barker as financial coordinator for 19 years.

To make an appointment at Highland Station Orthodontics, call the office at (248) 684-9300. "No referral is necessary," Dr. Hershey said. "Just call us to schedule your child's complimentary orthodontic examination."

Highland Station Orthodontics



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