

**SENIORS REV UP
ON DRIVING
SKILLS — 8A**

**DANCING QUEEN:
SEE HOW NOVI RESIDENT
NICOLE BLASZCZYK DANCED HER
WAY TO THE TOP — PAGE 16A**

**2008
Primary**

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THURSDAY
August 7, 2008

Novi News

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Crawford, Capello declare victories

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

In a close race for Oakland County Commissioner Nov. 3, resident Kim Capello captured 48 percent of the votes, securing the seat as Republican candidate of the 9th District.

According to unofficial election results of the City of Novi, the current city councilman beat former Mayor Lou Scordas by 295 votes, and Novi resident Fred Schlemmer by 1,189 votes.

"The big battle is over," Capello said. "Not that it's going to be easy (in November), but it's not going to be as hard as yesterday."

In a not-so-close race for 38th District State Representative, current county commissioner Hugh Crawford won by a landslide.

Crawford, who took 69 percent of the votes, beat opponents Doug Curry (R-New Hudson), Christopher P. Maloney (R-Northville) and Steven Valentini (R-Novi).

In other races, Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin won the Democratic nomination in the 11th Congressional District against former Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall, and Commerce Township resident David Law beat opponents Larry Leib and Randy Secontine as the Republican candidate for Oakland County Prosecutor.

With about 18 percent of Novi's registered voters appearing at the polls Tuesday, turnout was low for the Primary Election.

"We're averaging a little over 11 an hour," said election official Ron Boron on Tuesday. "It's been fairly slow."

As of 1 p.m., Boron said only about 70 residents of Precinct 18, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads, east of Beck Road, had voted.

"We're hoping, between 4-6 p.m., it will really pick up," said election official Patricia Johnson.

Those working the polls at Precinct 17, one of the three locations inside the Novi Civic Center, spent the day testing a

new electronic device as part of a pilot program.

The Electronic Precinct List scanned voters' driver's licenses and pulled their information up on a computer, so the election official didn't have to manually look the person up on a paper precinct list.

"We're the only precinct in Novi to have one," said election official Elizabeth Nick. "They want to see if this works well, if it could help us in November."

Despite the low turnout, officials said adjusting to the redistricting changes went smoothly.

"We've only had to send three or four voters away to different locations," Boron said.

According to Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius, some of the precincts were redistricted according to school district boundaries.

Novi resident Lori Krystoff said she was well-informed of the changes with her precinct and polling location, from the Novi Civic Center to Deerfield Elementary.

When Krystoff voted at about 5:30 p.m., she was only one of about 250 residents from precincts 20 and 21 who had voted.

Both precincts, which are composed of residents on the west side of the city, from south of 10 Mile Road to 12 Mile Road, were at Deerfield Elementary.

Although numerous voters said showing up at the polls was part of their civic duty, they did have some complaints. "One of the worst things in there was I didn't know anything about the judges, so I didn't vote," said a local voter of Precinct 21. "If I don't know what I'm voting for, I don't vote."

Election official Wendy Duval-Angelucci of Precinct 21 said a lot of people were upset about not being able to split the ballot, which meant they either had to vote for Democratic candidates or Republican candidates.

Please see WIN, 3A

Unofficial Primary Election Results

Winners are indicated with a check mark /

	Novi Votes	Total Votes
Novi Township Supervisor		
✓ John Juntunen	24	24
Treasurer		
✓ Ginger Juncker	24	24
Trustee		
✓ Tony Gaidikas	12	12
✓ Raymond Schovers	26	26
38th District State Representative		
✓ Hugh Crawford	2,395	3,724
Douglas Curry	316	1,308
Christopher P. Maloney	422	853
Steven Valentini	335	597
9th District Oakland County Commissioner		
✓ Kim Capello	1,606	1,723
Lou Scordas	1,305	1,393
Fred Schlemmer	407	456
11th District Congress		
Democrat		
✓ Edward Kriewall	742	2,230
Joseph Larkin	989	3,999
Oakland County Prosecutor		
✓ David Law	1,774	38,388
Larry Leib	443	13,403
Randy Secontine	940	31,152
Oakland County Sheriff		
Democrat		
✓ Jane Boudreau	724	27,601
Mark Mitchell	459	18,910
Warren Nunlee-Bey	52	2,953
Harvey Schwartz	301	11,538
Republican		
✓ Michael Bouchard	3,200	85,082
Jim Stevens	347	8,917
Proposals		
Oakland County Zoological Authority		
✓ Yes	4,679	140,786
No	1,440	47,137
Total Novi Votes combines city and township		

Source: City of Novi

Visit hometownlife.com for more campaign coverage

City candidates begin preparing for November



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Hugh Crawford, left, points to election results projected on a screen at the Rock Financial Showplace on Tuesday night as Kim Capello looks on. Both will move on to the November election.

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

With the August primaries behind them, Novi residents Hugh Crawford and Kim Capello look forward to the November election.

Crawford's victory Tuesday as the Republican candidate in the 38th District for state representative only has the current Oakland County Commissioner preparing for what's ahead.

"I'm not going to slow down. I'm going to refresh for a week or so then we'll get the signs down, and during the first part of October, at least a month ahead of time, we'll put the signs back up," he said. "I intend to have some more local fundraisers here in the district. I would like to have a fundraiser in each community. Not so much for raising money, but more to just meet people and let them know who I am."

The 38th District includes Novi, the Oakland County-portion of Northville, South Lyon, Lyon Township, Wixom and Walled Lake, but November's election will be strictly a Novi race.

With current State Rep. Craig

DeRoche's (R-Novi) term expiring, Crawford will face off against Chuck Tindall (D-Novi), who was unopposed in the August primary.

"It (Novi's presence) shows there are some good people in Novi willing to run for office," Crawford said. "There's nothing like being a candidate. Every little thing that goes right and every little thing that goes wrong has an effect on you."

Capello is the Republican candidate vying for Crawford's seat as Oakland County Commissioner in the 9th District, which includes most of Novi and the Oakland County-portion of Northville, in the November race.

"This is the first partisan race I've been in, so I learned something, you have to treat it differently than a non-partisan city race," Capello said. "Politics is like a hockey game. It's a contact sport, you've got to be ready to get hit and give it back."

After a combined 15 years of serving on planning commission and city council, Capello feels it's

Please see PREPARE, 4A

My Novi News
It's all about you!



Novi's Ramesh Verma is seen at left with India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, in 1956.

Indian families plant Novi roots

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

It was the 1970s and the City of Novi was still young. Ramesh Verma moved into a home in the Village Oaks subdivision to give his two children a chance for a good education.

"In 1971, I came to America to get a different opportunity for my future. One of the construction companies sponsored me," said Verma, an engineer. "I moved from Dearborn Heights to Novi because Novi city was just coming up and the school system was

good."

Verma, who had been a United States resident for less than a decade, lived in that house for the next 20 years before building a new home less than three miles away in the Westmont Village subdivision almost 10 years ago.

Now, a 70-year-old Novi Library Board trustee and India's commissioner OSA for the State of Michigan, Verma has seen a lot more of his countrymen move into Novi.

"When I moved here, there were about 30-35 families. Now there's 70-80 families (with

Indian heritage)," he said. "It's a very diverse city, and I enjoy that."

Novi's population census has shown similar growth. The 2000 census lists 9 percent, or 4,113, of Novi residents as Asian, a grouping that extends beyond, but includes, those of Indian ethnicity. In 1990, that number was 872 residents, or 3 percent.

"Novi and Farmington and neighboring communities have a lot of Indian presence here. This

Please see ROOTS, 5A

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VOLUME 53 #11



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PREPARE

continued from front
time for something new.

"We're very strong 61 percent Republican and 39 percent Democrat, for the District, now I've got to start thinking about the general election in November," he said.

Capello said, over the next three months, he would be raising money, addressing voters in the precincts he didn't do as well in and focusing on why there was such a low turnout of absentee

voters in the county commission race. Even though the current Novi city councilman's term doesn't expire until 2009, if Capello is elected, council members will

have to interview and appoint, by a majority vote, a candidate to complete the remainder of his term. In November, Capello will go up against unopposed Democratic

candidate Karen Zyczynski of Novi.
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NEWSMAKERS

Robert Murphy joins CCHA staff



Robert Murphy

The Central Collegiate Hockey Association announced that Robert L. Murphy joined the league's staff in the capacity of director of sales and marketing. Murphy will assume many of the duties held by Tom Jacobs, the league's former associate commissioner of business affairs, who recently left the conference to accept a position with the U.S. Tennis Association. Murphy, a Novi resident, spent four-and-a-half seasons with the Plymouth Whalers and Compuware Arena, serving as their vice president of sales and marketing. He joined Compuware Arena as the director of corporate sales and marketing in 2003, where he helped expand the organization's corporate partnership program, marketing communications and in-game entertainment model.

Prior to joining Compuware Arena, Murphy served in a number of key sales, marketing and leadership roles with leading professional service, advertising and publishing organizations, including Spring Arbor Distributors, a \$200 million full-service Christian publishing, distribution and retail service solutions company. Murphy holds a BA in Interpersonal and Public Communication from Bowling Green State University and a Masters of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. Murphy and his wife, Bobbie, have four children—daughters, Katie, Megan and Shannon, along with a son, Sean.

Farbman Group's Andrew Gutman named winner in CFO of the Year awards

"Farbman Group, a full-service real estate firm based in Southfield announced Crain's Detroit Business has named Chief Financial Officer Andrew Gutman CFO of the Year. The announcement was made by Farbman Group CEO and President Andrew V. Farbman.

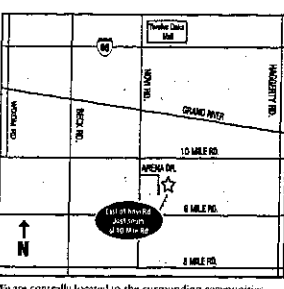
Winners were selected from more than 50 nominees and based on financial and corporate management problem-solving savvy as well as community involvement. Gutman joined the firm in 1995. He has generated more than \$10 million in savings for clients through use of debt markets and financial vehicles and helped reduce internal insurance costs by more than 50 percent. He was also responsible for the conceptualization and implementation of the company's Michigan Now! program. The program offered low-cost office space to both in-state and out-of-state entrepreneurs.

Gutman sits on the City of Novi Planning Commission and is active with B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Farbman Group/NAI Farbman, based in Southfield is a leader in the commercial brokerage, management, development and investment sales, construction and multi-family residential service sectors.

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ROOTS

continued from front

area is growing," said Ramesh Gudgani, who moved to Novi nine years ago. "In 1999, I used to see very little community people and now I see a lot more."

Gudgani, 43, is president of the India League of American Michigan and chairs the India Day celebration. He said the region has several reasons for growth, including a strong desire for the best education possible.

Reeta Raina, 41, said her family moved to Novi 11 years ago because of the educational system, as well as the family-friendly and safe atmosphere she felt the city offered.

"I've seen tremendous change in the last five years. When we moved here, we didn't know hardly anyone. There were maybe one or two (Indian families) we knew of, now there's 30-40 families," Raina said. "You can even tell by all the stores and shops. There's even a (Bollywood) theater in Novi Town Center that I think is doing well."

Although some Indian residents were born in India and others were born in the United States, staying close to their cultural heritage is important for all.

"My parents moved here about 46 years ago from India. My dad came here about 50 years ago for his Ph.D.," Raina said. "I think keeping your heritage, to know your language, the religion, (it's important)."

Raina was born in Illinois and has lived in the United States her entire life. To make sure her two sons, Jay and Raj, have a cultural bond, they attend Bala Vihar classes through Chinmaya Mission at the ITC Center in Novi every Saturday along with nearly 200 other Indian students. In addition, Raina makes sure her family gets a good dose of Indian culture at home.

"We listen to the Indian rock



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi resident Ramesh Verma, seen here with a statue of the Indian God Krishna, was raised in the Indian state of Punjab.

and pop, at least the top 40, and they know the movie stars. They can read and write it. They do go to Hindi classes and cultural classes," she said. "To Asian people, education is very, very important."

As Novi's Asian population grows with a strong flow of Indian, Japanese, Chinese and other ethnicities, it shows in the school district demographics, strengthening the notion that families choose Novi so their children can receive a strong education. About 25 percent of Novi Community Schools' 6,200 students are of Asian descent.

The diversity of the Novi school district has contributed to its success, allowing students to become more familiar with different cultures and backgrounds.

"I've really had no problems with anything. It's a huge melting pot," Raina said. "When I was growing up, I think there were a lot of misconceptions. Today, with all the globalization and the Internet, everyone knows so much about other cultures. The world is becoming much smaller now. Everyone has differences, but that's what makes us so similar."

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Novi store scoops for wishes

The Novi Baskin Robbins will be scooping up its delectable ice cream for the Make a Wish foundation 6-10 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 39415 W. 10 Mile Road. Twenty percent of all sales during the event will be donated to Make-a-Wish. Attendees may also register for a chance to win an ice cream prize. This is the second fund-raising event held by the Novi store. Earlier in the year, the Novi Baskin Robbins hosted an ice cream party with proceeds benefiting the Novi Fire Department. Fire fighters received the honor of scooping up 31 cones, and attendees enjoyed the ice cream, balloons and music.

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Bakery	Florist	Picture Frames
Book Store	Gas Station	Resale Stores
Bridal Shop	Gifts & Cards	Restaurants
Children's Shoes	Hair Salon	Shoe Repair
Clock Shop	Home Décor	UPS Store
Coffee Shops	Home & Garden	Wine Stores
Dance Studio	Jewelry	Women's Clothing & Shoes
	Kitchen & Bath	

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MY NOVI COMMUNITY

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Novi Theatres offers red, hot season discounts

■ **Pied Piper**
Aug. 14-16

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

After hearing about General Motors' most recent round of job cuts, Novi Theatres' Performing Arts Coordinator Debbie Lannen felt the need to help members of the community facing difficult economic times.

Red Hot Discount is a limited-time offer for people to purchase Novi Theatres' season ticket packages at a discounted rate.

"We're basically cutting our prices in half," Lannen said. "I'm really taking a risk, but I couldn't just sit back. We've got to do something to give back to the community."

Red Hot Discount expires Aug. 17 and offers theatergoers three different packages, including the full season, which is six productions, and the young actor series or the adult actor series, which each have three shows.

"The first thing people will start doing is say 'we're not going to the show because dad's getting laid off,'" Lannen said. "We want everyone to have a chance to see theatre."

Depending on the package, prices range from about \$19-47 for adults, and \$15-40 for children and seniors.

The season kicks off Aug. 14-16 with the production "The Pied Piper of Hamelin."

According to Lannen, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" is a classic fairy tale about a town that is infested with rats, and a piper who offers to rid the town of the



"The Pied Piper of Hamelin"

10 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Aug. 14
10 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Aug. 15
2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Aug. 16
Tickets are \$8 and available online at www.city-of-novi.org. To purchase Red Hot Discount season tickets by Aug. 17, apply the discount code "Red Hot" at checkout.

The theatre is located inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. For more information, contact Debbie Lannen at (248) 735-5615 or dlannen@city-of-novi.org.

rodents in exchange for payment. The conflict arises when the town's mayor doesn't keep his promise to pay the piper.

"The moral of the story is, if you tell someone you are going to do something, you better do it," Lannen said. "Stand behind your word."

The cast of about 30 kids, ages 7-18, is a mixture of residents from Novi, Northville, South Lyon, Farmington Hills and Commerce Township.

"We have some core kids who have been here a while and we

have some brand new ones," Lannen said. "It's been challenging, instead of doing it the easy way, I'm having them play parts they normally wouldn't do."

"That's what acting is. You've got to learn to do other things, they have to work at it."

Lannen said the majority of the characters are double cast, with the exception of two of the lead roles and the kids who play the rats and the children.

For the first time, Novi Theatres is offering a sneak peak of its summer production, as part of the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department's Sizzling Summer Art Series.

"It's going to be kind of cool, we're not doing the whole show, we're just going to give them a little taste of it," Lannen said.

Pied Piper Preview in the Park will be 7 p.m. Aug. 10 at Lakeshore Park. Following the kids performance, magician John Kohl will take the stage for a magic show.

In case there is inclement weather, Lannen said the preview will be moved to the theatre at the Novi Civic Center, which is where the actual performances take place.

"We're doing it in our smaller portion of the theatre, so it's a much more intimate show," Lannen said. "It's nicer for a children's show. It's almost like a studio production, so everyone is going to have a great seat."

The other five productions throughout the season include "Remember When... The Game Show of the Century," "Damn Yankees," "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," "Seussical Jr." and "Grease."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Captive Audience

Kids and their parents enjoy a Wednesday morning educational show at the Novi Public Library by animal collector Mark Rosenthal. Rosenthal brought along with him dozens of tarantulas to go along with the library's summer reading program theme, catch the reading bug.

City makes million-dollar property purchase offer

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

The City of Novi made an offer last week to purchase the 20-acre Kaluzny property, located on the south side of 11 Mile Road, west of Beck Road, adjacent to the ITC Corridor, which houses ITC Holdings Corp's electrical wires.

"It's an offer for purchase of just under 20 acres, for \$1.45 million, contingent upon the city reaching an agreement with Novi Community Schools," said Novi City Manager Clay Pearson.

"Financing is another contingency if they accept."

In July, Pearson approached Novi's Board of Education, on behalf of the city, proposing a property trade of the school district's 74-acre Bosco Property, southwest of 11 Mile and Beck roads, for the city-owned 52.2-acre Wildlife Woods Park northeast of 11 Mile and Wilson roads.

The city is seeking to acquire the Bosco Property and build a 50-100-acre signature park to address the community's recreational needs.

In addition to acquiring the district-owned property, the city made mention of three properties connected to the Bosco Property, one of which is the Kaluzny property.

"We may come back to those (other two proposed properties), but as of right now, we only made an offer on the one," Pearson said.

The city is currently waiting for

responses from the attorneys of the Kaluzny Trust and the school board. The Novi Board of Education's Facilities Committee was scheduled to meet Aug. 5 to discuss the proposal and options.

City officials said more details will be known following formal discussions of the entire school board, at the next regular meeting, Aug. 21.

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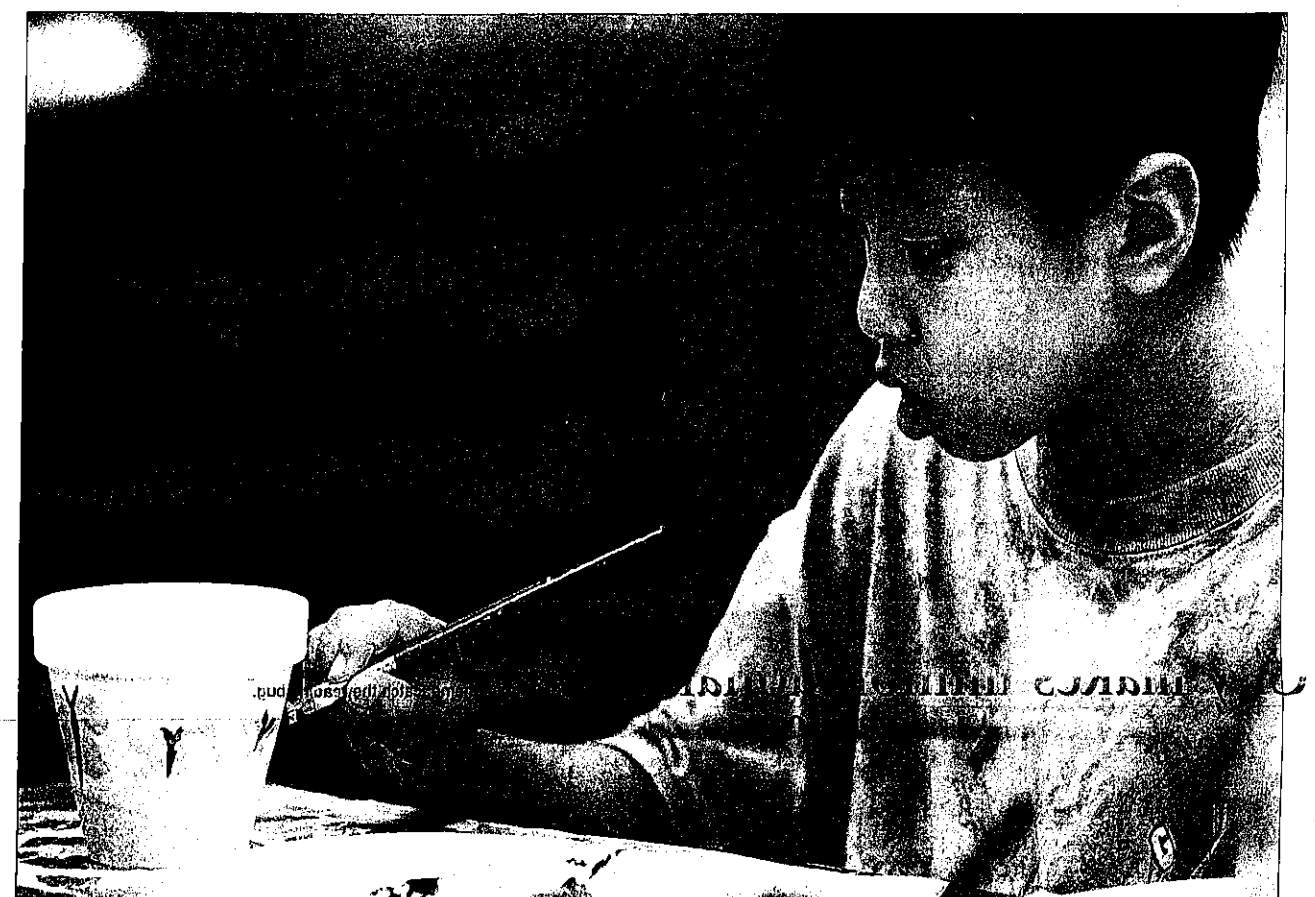
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Comedian and magician Jason Abbott entertains a gathering of the Novi Public Library's teen summer reading program on July 28 with his interesting roll-up tie and other tricks.



Kids smile and laugh at the antics of magician Jason Abbott during his recent visit to the Novi Public Library for its summer reading program.



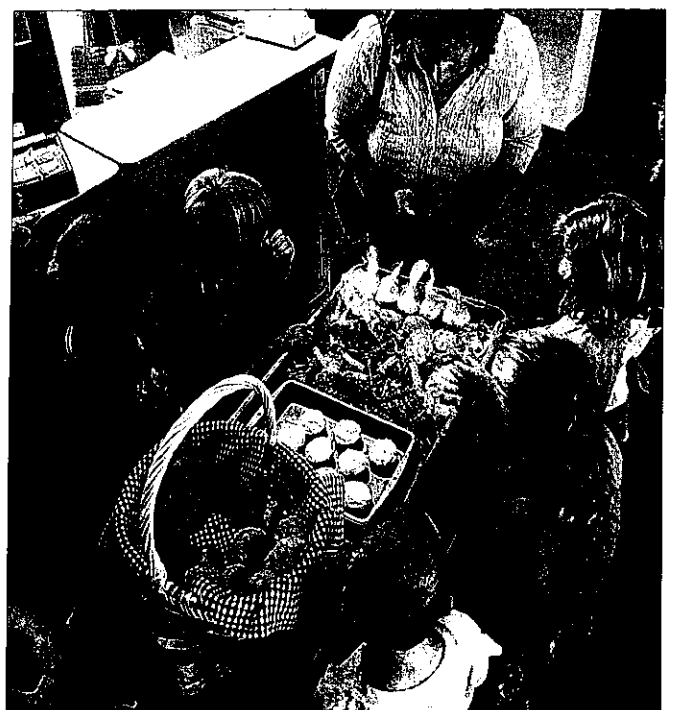
Jungahn Seck, 8, paints a flower pot during a recent summer painting class at Novi Meadows Elementary School.

Kid's play

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS



Donna Rosskamp instructs Arushi Arora, 7, during a one-week One-stroke painting camp held at Novi Meadows Elementary School. The kids painted T-shirts, ceramic flower pots with butterflies, frogs and flowers.

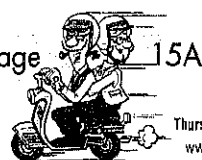


Workers at Novi Schools' Educational Services Building crowd around a trolley of baked goods made by children in Novi's first-grade summer school program for their rain forest, fund-raising project. By 10 a.m., they had already doubled their goal and raised more than \$200.

CALLING ALL SENIORS: Check out your section of our community calendar on page 15A

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MY SENIOR LIFE



Thursday, August 7, 2008
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Novi Police Department hosts senior driving workshop



With his wife, Betty, in the passenger seat, Gil Shultz backs out of a parking spot at Novi's Holy Family Catholic Church.

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

At 65, Gil Shultz knows his reaction time might not be as quick as it used to be.

"I figure if I admit it, others might admit it as well," Shultz said. "I'm definitely being proactive."

Shultz is one of 25 mature adults currently participating in the city's first session of the Mature Driver Workshop hosted by the Novi Police Department.

The three-day workshop, which ends tomorrow, is from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church.

In partnership with the Traffic Improvement Association, the workshop is for residents of Novi and its surrounding communities, ages 55 and older, who are interested in improving their driving ability.

"The TIA gave a presentation to one of our (district) judges and he thought it would be a great program for us to implement,"

said detective Kristie Gruenwald, of the Novi Police Department. "We did it off location because people might worry that the police are going to take their license away."

Gruenwald said the workshop is completely confidential and has no bearing on a participant's driving status.

"Certified instructors will assess things such as break reaction time and depth perception," she said. "They'll be evaluating their driving strengths and deficiencies and learning strategies on how to compensate for those deficiencies."

Gruenwald said even people without a valid driver's license can register for the workshop, just can't participate in the driving portion of the program, which occurs on the last day.

"The greatest benefit will be the skills and knowledge they will gain from the assessments," Gruenwald said. "If they walk out as more astute drivers, that's the best part."

The program is free for Novi residents and \$20 for non-residents, which includes lunch and refreshments.

"I'm a person who enjoys learning and I think this program has a lot to offer," Shultz said. "I just turned 65 and I know I need it because I'm slowing down."

Shultz said he used to spend a lot of time driving, but now only drives about 50-100 miles a week.

"My wife (Betty) generally does the driving. I just got tired of it," he said. "There's no guarantee, but (the workshop) can maybe save my life later or save me from injuries."

"Cars are replaceable, people are not. We're going to live longer and safer."

The city will be hosting its second session Oct. 8-10 and its third session Nov. 5-7, at the Novi Civic Center.

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Fox Run announces promotions

Michael McCormick, executive director at Fox Run in Novi, announced Leonard Gringlas was named director of general services at the full-service retirement community. Gringlas will now oversee the maintenance, grounds, security, transportation, communications and housekeeping functions at Fox Run, which is home to more than 800 active seniors.

Gringlas brings a strong background in facilities operation to the position. He was most recently a district manager with NES Rentals in Detroit. McCormick also announced Peter D. Crane will be joining the full-service retirement community as associate executive director. Crane is participating in Erickson Retirement Communities' executive development program in preparation for an executive director position at a future retirement community. Crane was previously the executive director at Dayton Senior Care LLC in Ohio. Prior to this position, he was also with Evangelical Retirement Villages, Inc., Crane Home Improvements, Inc., ABX Air, Inc. and The Hertz Corporation.

McCormick also announced Peter D. Crane will be joining the full-service retirement community as associate executive director. Crane is participating in Erickson Retirement Communities' executive development program in preparation for an executive director position at a future retirement community. Crane was previously the executive director at Dayton Senior Care LLC in Ohio. Prior to this position, he was also with Evangelical Retirement Villages, Inc., Crane Home Improvements, Inc., ABX Air, Inc. and The Hertz Corporation.

OBITUARIES

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MY BUSINESS

Thursday, August 7, 2008
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SEC action halts tire-recycling investment scam

Novi man implicated

The Securities and Exchange Commission has obtained emergency relief to stop an allegedly fraudulent scheme that raised more than \$7.2 million from investors who were told the money would be used in a business shredding and recycling used tires. However, as alleged in the SEC's complaint, the tire shredding equipment did not work, there was no reasonable basis for the suspect's income and return figures, and the investors never received a dime from their investment.

The order of preliminary injunction and asset freeze was issued on July 31 by Judge Gerald

E. Rosen of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan against Paul G. Merklinger of Novi, and Encore Associated Leasing, LLC, a Livonia company formed, owned and controlled by Merklinger.

An asset freeze was also issued against Merklinger's son, Brian Merklinger, a relief defendant.

On July 24, Rosen issued an order temporarily prohibiting Merklinger and Encore Leasing from attempting to offer securities or other investments and from transferring any assets. The order was issued under seal by the court and the seal has now been lifted.

"Paul Merklinger preyed on the good will of investors by telling them that they were making an investment that would be good for

the environment. Unfortunately, as alleged in our complaint, the only environment Mr. Merklinger was improving was his own when he used investor funds to buy luxury automobiles, purchase posh offices and decorate his home," said Tim Warren, associate regional director of the SEC's Chicago Regional Office, in a press release.

According to the SEC's complaint, from September 2006 to July 2007, Merklinger raised at least \$7.2 million from five investors through the sale of investments in his purported tire recycling business. The investments consisted of an interest in a tire-shredding truck that Encore Leasing would lease from the investor and personally use in its business operations, and a

\$10,000 warrant for a 1 percent interest in Encore Leasing. Merklinger allegedly told investors that a working prototype of the shredding truck existed and that their trucks would be in operation shortly. He promised that Encore Leasing would pay the investors \$15,000 in monthly leasing fees and investment interest and that, after five years, the investors could expect returns of up to 372 percent and the warrant would be worth at least \$1.2 million.

According to a press release from June 2007, Merklinger was to hold a press conference June 21, 2007 at the corporate headquarters in Livonia to introduce the Encore Team, to demonstrate the "T2" vehicle and to launch a nationwide program to clean up the problems associated with

scrap tires. The release said the mobile-shredding vehicle resembles a compact garbage truck but has the capacity to shred tires at a rate of 300 tires per hour. The revolutionary system was said to turn scrap tires into environmentally friendly end products.

However, as alleged in the SEC's complaint, there was no working prototype. Instead, Merklinger used more than \$950,000 of investor funds for his own personal benefit, including payments for rent, back taxes and the purchase of luxury automobiles and waterfront and extravagant landscaping and furnishings for his home.

He also, as alleged in the SEC's complaint, spent or transferred more than \$172,000 for the bene-

fit of his son, Brian, and used more than \$134,000 to make payments to investors in one of his other companies. Further, Merklinger failed to disclose to investors that he had been barred from participating in Ontario's securities markets for 10 years in connection with a prior investment scheme.

The SEC's complaint charges Merklinger and Encore Leasing with violating the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws and seeks permanent injunctive relief, disgorgement and civil penalties. The SEC further seeks disgorgement of all investor funds or assets acquired with investor funds from relief defendant Brian Merklinger.

For more information, visit www.sec.gov.

PrimeCare of Novi announces nationally-published physician joins practice

PrimeCare of Novi announces Robert R. Zaid, D.O. joined its professional staff this month. Zaid's paper on osteoporosis in Family Medicine was recently named the second-place winner of the 2008 Name/Barnett Writing Award. It was published in the April 2008 edition of Osteopathic Family Physician journal.



Robert R. Zaid, D.O.

This award is implemented by the American Osteopathic Association's Osteopathic Medicine and Medical Preparedness Committee to honor the best preventive medicine papers submitted by osteopathic residents and interns.

The article, "Interventive Osteopathic Family Physicians: Approach to Osteoporosis," explores new ground by focusing preventive efforts and targeting habits that promote bone growth, not in the elderly, but in childhood. Dr. Zaid is a graduate of the

University of Michigan and the Michigan State University Medical School. He grew up in Walpole, Lake.

Dr. Zaid is a very enthusiastic to give back to his community. I believe that the key to a healthy lifestyle involves great communication between physician and patient, coupled with good preventative medicine," Zaid said.

For additional information about Dr. Zaid, contact Jamie Ferrier, director of marketing, at (248) 426-7200 x 102 or visit www.primecareofnovi.com.

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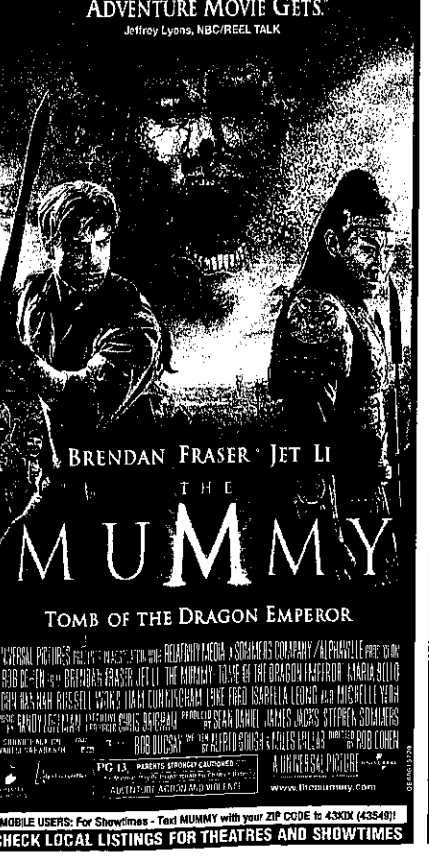
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OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fuel prices take a toll on services throughout Novi



Novi's Marty Feldman Chevrolet sales associate Eric Gerls takes a look under the hood of a 2009 Chevy Malibu, which can get 33 miles per gallon.

By Chris Jaccetti
STAFF WRITER

The pinch at the pump has individuals watching their miles like a cat watches a mouse, but they're not alone. Local services have also made adjustments since fuel prices have topped \$4 per gallon this summer.

"It's hurting our budgets. It's hurting everyone's budget," said Chris Quick, lead mechanic for the City of Novi's departments of Public Works, Water and Parks, Recreation and Forestry. "We try to do more with less. We still have to do our job no matter what. We can't cut back on public service."

City employees operate more than 200 vehicles, about 30-35 that run on diesel fuel. Fuel is purchased in bulk through a local consortium of cities and vehicles refuel at private pumps at the city's DPW garage.

"We probably save 10-15 cents a gallon. It's not a lot, but it adds up with how much we order," Quick said of the benefits of the consortium. "On average, we go through about 8,000 (gallons) a month or month and a half. Diesel fuel fluctuates in winter because the big trucks are clearing roads."

Private transportation services are seeing an increase in ridership, especially at Fox Run retirement community, which is home to more than 800 elder residents.

Roughly, about half to 60 percent of residents use the service, said Jeff Jacobs, transportation and facilities manager at Fox Run. "Just based on their senior population, they don't travel that much."

As part of the complex's benefits, Fox Run provides six vehicles for resident transportation. Destinations include weekly trips to Hillier's, Target, Meijer, Kroger, Twelve Oaks Mall and Laurel Park Place, and monthly trips to the Secretary of State and Novi Public Library. All locations are within a 10-mile radius of the 13 Mile and Meadowbrook roads community.

"We have seen an increase in ridership, but the mileage hasn't increased," Jacobs said. "Our taxi runs have increased a negligible amount, nothing significant."

Fox Run's fleet includes two 24-seat buses, one 35-seat bus, one on-site 24-seat bus and two minivans for taxi service. The vehicles traveled nearly 6,000 miles in May. Jacobs said ridership on the buses used to be six to 12 residents per trip and now it's 20-25.

"We're in the process and there may be stops added due to the increase," he said. "We do everything we can to try to keep costs low without reducing services to the residents. We have not raised our rates in two years. To keep our



residents from feeling the pinch. "We will have to access our rates. Our facility is absorbing the fuel increases at this time."

To preserve services for residents, the Fox Run staff has had to adjust.

"What we have done different, we have reduced some employee (on-site) shuttling last week," Jacobs said. "We reduced services to staff so we wouldn't have to reduce them for residents."

Not everyone drives buses, shuttles or diesel-fueled trucks. Personal-sized trucks have seen a noticeable change from the high fuel prices as well.

"People are generally going to smaller vehicles. No one's going to trucks. We sell one or two a week. It's usually 50/50," said Sean Misko, new car manager at Marty Feldman Chevrolet in Novi. "People trade in trucks for cars. On the used car side, they're selling OK. The used truck market is the same."

Misko said Marty Feldman Chevrolet sells about 100-110 vehicles per month. Lately, most have been more fuel-efficient vehicles like the Impala, Malibu, Cobalt and Aveo models.

Although a more fuel-efficient vehicle may cut down on trips to the gas pump, there are other costs, regardless of the vehicle being driven.

"Don't jam down on the gas. All the Chevy products have a fuel management system where it'll operate on four cylinders instead of eight if you don't jam down," Misko said. "If people just slow down a little bit, they can save a couple miles per gallon."

chaccetti@gannett.com | (248) 349-1700, ext. 122

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

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

Severe vehicle accident investigation continues



Photo by Hans Nyberg

Novi firefighters use the "jaws of life" to remove one of the seriously injured victims from one of the sport utility vehicles involved in a serious car accident last Thursday night.

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

A three-vehicle accident at the intersection of 13 Mile Road and Michigan 5 at about 10 p.m. July 31 is still under investigation by the Novi Police Department.

The accident appears to be the result of a silver 2002 Ford Explorer, which was traveling southbound on M-5, running a red light, said Novi Deputy Police Chief Thomas Lindberg.

According to a press release, the silver Explorer, driven by an 18-year-old Waterford woman, collided with a white 2002 Ford Explorer, driven by a 28-year-old Novi woman, which was heading westbound on 13 Mile Road.

The white Explorer, left the roadway and struck a light pole, and the silver Explorer then made contact with a 2006 Acura, driven by a 36-year-old Commerce Township resident.

In total, six individuals were involved in the accident. Lindberg said one of the three passengers of the silver Explorer, an 18-year-old Clarkson woman, was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the rear passenger seat and thrown from the vehicle. She is being treated at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital.

Five other individuals injured in the accident have been treated and released from area hospitals. Lindberg believes the five other individuals were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident. The driver of the Acura was uninjured.

Alcohol is not believed to be a factor. If anyone has any information regarding the accident, they are asked to contact the Novi Police Department at (248) 348-7100.



Photo by JOHN HEDER/Novi News

Novi Police Sgt. Terry Whitfield takes on Mitchell Smith, 12, in a game of billiards during last week's Jeanne Clarke Summer Teen Center community appreciation lunch.

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Novi Ice Arena anniversary celebration

Area residents are invited to Novi Ice Arena's 10 Year Anniversary Celebration from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 at 42400 Arena Dr. The Novi Ice Arena has been the center of

hockey, figure skating and recreational skating for the Novi Community for 10 years. The anniversary ceremony will include cake, ice cream and free open skating from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Other event highlights include free hot dogs from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and a figure skating exhibition. For more information, call (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novoicearena.com.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.227

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF NOVI COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.227 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 87-18 AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 18, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL, SECTION 1805, "REQUIRED CONDITIONS" TO AMEND AND ADD PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE STORAGE OF CERTAIN RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR SUCH STORAGE.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 28, 2008 and the provisions of the Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

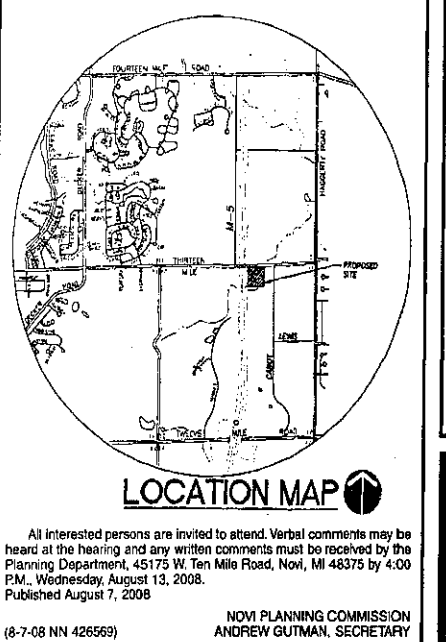
(8-7-08 NN 426585) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider HILTON HOMESWOOD SUITES HOTEL, SITE PLAN NUMBER 08-11A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND WETLAND PERMIT APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 12, AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THIRTEEN MILE AND THE M-5 CONNECTOR, IN THE OST PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. The subject property is currently 3.56 acres, proposed to be approximately 4.61 acres, and the applicant is proposing to construct a 98-unit Hilton Homewood Suites on Unit 1 within the Haggerty Corridor Corporate Park I (HCCP I) condominium.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 13, 2008. Published August 7, 2008

(8-7-08 NN 426585) NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION ANDREW GUTMAN, SECRETARY



LOCATION MAP

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 13, 2008. Published August 7, 2008

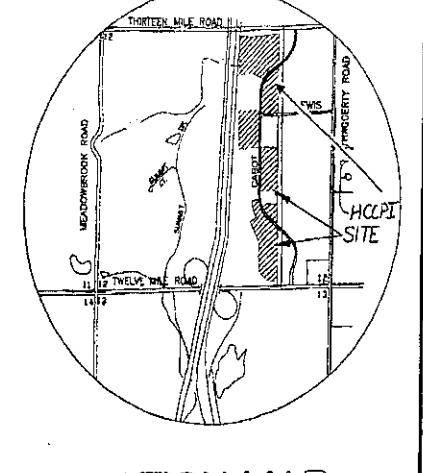
(8-7-08 NN 426575) NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION ANDREW GUTMAN, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL, FOR ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.229, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 92-16, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 12, OSC. OFFICE SERVICE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, SUBSECTIONS 1202 AND 1203, AND ARTICLE 24 SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS, SUBSECTION 2406, IN ORDER TO EXPAND USES PERMITTED SUBJECT TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN A PLANNED SHOPPING CENTER IN THE OSC DISTRICT AND TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE DESIGN OF PLANNED SHOPPING CENTERS IN THE OSC DISTRICT.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 27, 2008. Published August 7, 2008

(8-7-08 NN 426583) NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION ANDY GUTMAN, SECRETARY



LOCATION MAP

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(8-7-08 NN 426583) NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION ANDY GUTMAN, SECRETARY

(8-7-08 NN 426583) NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION ANDY GUTMAN, SECRETARY

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(8-7-08 NN 426583) NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION ANDY GUTMAN, SECRETARY

Four-year-old wanders away from Fairlane Motel

At 8:40 p.m., July 27, a Novi police officer responded to a call regarding a small child, walking by herself along the sidewalk near Grand River Avenue and Tadi Road.

The police report stated, when the officer asked the girl where she lived, she pointed east down Grand River. The officer drove about 100 yards and the four-year-old girl pointed to the Fairlane Motel.

As the officer pulled into the parking lot, there was a man walking around looking for the girl. He said he forgot to lock the dead bolt to the outside door, and the girl walked outside while he was running her bath water.

The man said she was missing for about five minutes, reports said. According to the officer, no signs of intoxication were observed.

Unknown suspect nab area vehicles

Police Briefs

Chrom valve stem caps stolen from local vehicles

Suspect attempts to steal vehicle

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Before After

Police Briefs

Faulkner Drive, located south of 13 Mile Road, just west of Novi Road. According to the complainant, a pair of sunglasses, and a Bob Seger and Stevie Wonder compact disc were missing from inside the vehicle. The woman also noticed her fiancé's company identification badge was moved.

The owner of a Ford Five Hundred reported items were stolen from the vehicle while parked in the driveway of his residence at 13 Mile Road. The victim said his wife and daughter's vehicles were also parked in the driveway and he is sure the Ford was locked because he heard it beep after leaving the keyless remote.

According to the report, the following morning, the man noticed the passenger door was slightly open and found items from the glove box and armrest strewn around the vehicle. A cellular phone ear piece, worth \$100, and

the vehicle registration were reported missing. There were no signs of forced entry, reports said.

According to recent police reports, eight chrome valve stem caps were stolen from two vehicles between 6 p.m. July 25 and 7 a.m. July 26.

The valve stem caps, worth about \$24, were reported missing from a white Dodge and a purple Ford, reports said.

An unknown suspect attempted to steal a Buick from Kingswood Boulevard, off 14 Mile Road, near Michigan 5, between midnight-6 a.m. July 29, reports said.

According to the police report, the suspect(s) entered the unlocked vehicle and damaged the steering column and ignition, in an attempt to steal the vehicle. Even though the suspect(s) was unsuccessful in stealing the vehicle, there was about \$750 worth of damage to the steering column.

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

Thursday, August 7, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

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GENERAL MANAGER

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our communities.

Our opinion: Primary represents Novi's strengths

Another Michigan Primary election is in the history books. And this year, Novi comes out as a winner.

Two of our own, current County Commissioner Hugh Crawford and City of Novi Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello, took the Republican nomination for the November election.

We congratulate both.

Crawford will face democratic candidate Chuck Tindall (D-Now) in the race for state representative of the 38th district, a seat vacated by fellow Novi resident Craig DeLoe due to term limits.

As current county commissioner, Crawford has repeatedly showed he has the experience to make things happen. His vote will be a positive one for Novi residents and he will be a formidable candidate to face Chuck Tindall.

But regardless of the outcome, Novi will be represented once again in Lansing.

Capello is also a respectable candidate for Oakland County Commissioner. Promising to champion for local issues including keeping the 52-1 District Court house in Novi and building the relationships needed to keep parks a county priority, Capello will represent Novi Republicans well.

Capello has also stated he plans to do what's necessary at the county level to usher in a new Signature Park in Novi.

He will be a strong candidate to face Karen B. Zyczynski in November, a race that will yield another Novi resident regardless of the outcome.

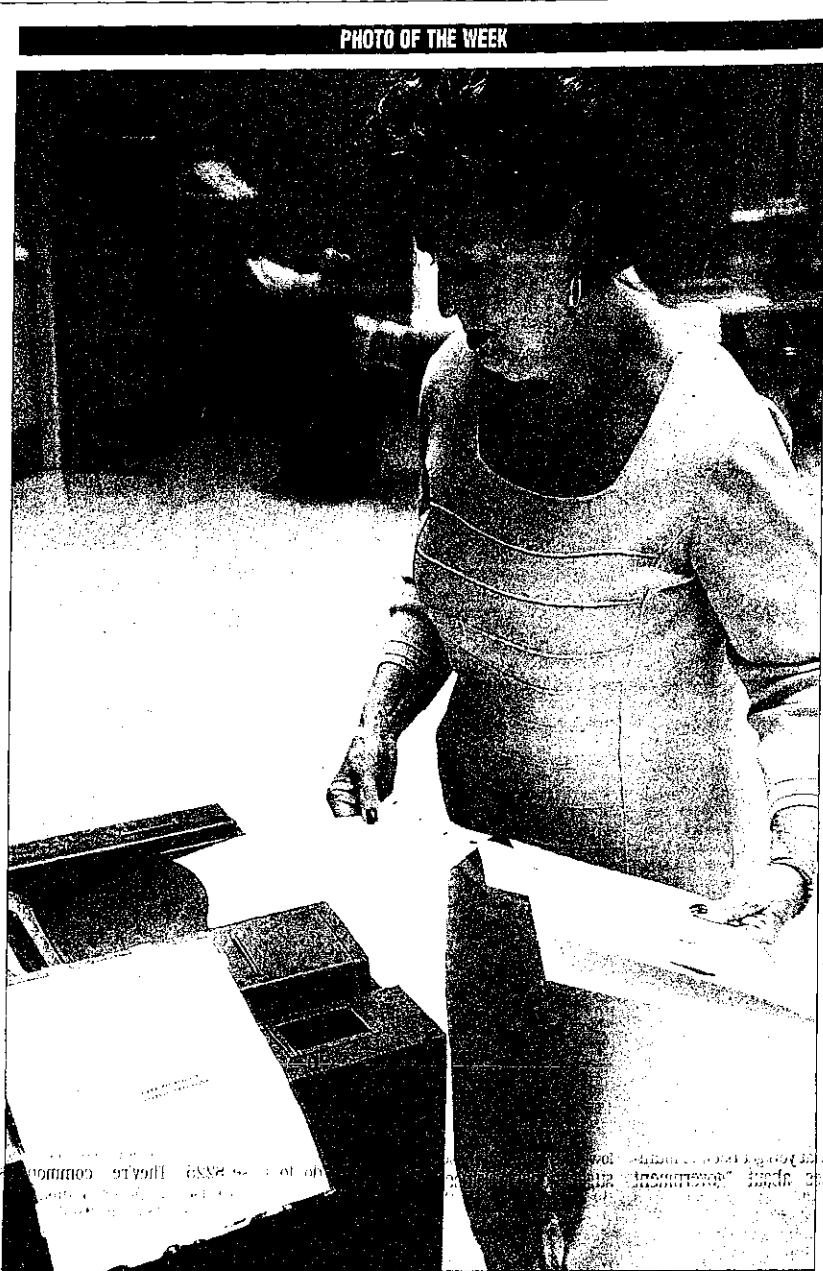
"The amount of Novi candidates shows there are some good people in Novi willing to run for office," Crawford said.

And we agree.

The primary election is another example of Novi residents willing to step up, take charge and make a difference for our community.

Correction

On Page 5A of the July 24 issue, the article "Auto company receives state tax credits, bring jobs to Novi" read that Brembo North America was listed as not receiving tax credits from the state when it had actually received tax credits prior, on June 17.



Primary Votes

Jane Spence votes Tuesday morning at Novi's Precinct 18 inside the Novi Civic Center. By 11 a.m., 38 voters had cast their ballots.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Sen. Nancy Cassis Lansing Connection: Bills to assist homeowners, domestic violence victims

Over the last few months I have introduced several pieces of legislation designed to provide relief to struggling homeowners and stimulate our slumping housing market.

The first bill, SB 1065, would provide relief to homeowners struggling in the current housing market by increasing the Homestead Property Tax Credit from \$1,200 to \$1,300. This bill passed the Senate on March 27 and is currently awaiting a hearing before the House Tax Policy committee.

The Homestead Property Tax Credit is designed to help qualified homeowners and renters pay some of their property taxes by providing them with a tax credit. For most people, the credit is based on a comparison between household income and property taxes paid.

I have also introduced SB 1390 that would allow a county register of deeds to determine and release the dollar amount needed for a homeowner to redeem their home once it is in foreclosure. Unfortunately, current law does not allow the register of deeds to provide this information to a home-



Sen. Nancy Cassis

standable page. Some of the information included on this form would be the type of mortgage, the interest rate, the estimated monthly mortgage payment including taxes, and an estimate of your future payments if you have an adjustable rate mortgage.

I believe all of these measures will provide real and immediate relief to homeowners struggling to keep their homes out of foreclosure or attempting to sell their homes.

Landmark water compact signed into law

A historic conservation agreement to prevent other regions of the coun-

ty and world from diverting water from the Great Lakes basin with limited exceptions for public water supply purposes. It also implements consistent standards for the states and Canadian provinces to review proposed uses of Great Lakes water, develops regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency that will be reviewed and updated every five years, and develops and implements state water conservation and efficiency programs.

The 12-bill package is backed by many organizations, including the Michigan Farm Bureau, United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Environmental Council, and The Water Works Coalition made up of 15 groups, including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Michigan Manufacturers Association.

In order for this to become federal law, Congress must approve the Compact. The United States Senate unanimously approved it on Friday, Aug. 1. The House of Representatives is expected to adopt the Compact in September and it is believed that President Bush will give his approval shortly thereafter.

This agreement is a significant step toward protecting our state's greatest natural resource for generations to come.

Mary's law signed into law

Domestic violence victims in Michigan can now be alerted by satellite technology if their abuser gets nearby under Public Act 192 of 2008.

The new state law, known as Mary's Law, allows Michigan courts to order a defendant charged with a domestic violence crime who is released on

parole to wear a GBS device that will automatically send an alarm to the victim if the abuser is nearby.

The 2007 death of Mary Babb in Mount Pleasant and the arrest of her estranged husband on murder charges prompted the legislation. Mr. Babb had been charged with several felony assault charges against his wife and was awaiting trial on those charges when he killed his wife.

This new law provides better protection to domestic violence victims. Your feedback is always welcome. You can contact me by e-mail at sennacassis@senate.michigan.gov, or toll free at (888) 38-NANCY.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Now) represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake, as well as the villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake and the cities of Novi, Northville (the Oakland County portion), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
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COMMENTARY

Thursday, August 7, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Tom Watkins: Tomorrow, it is the beginning of 'One world, one dream'



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 1986-1990. He can be reached at twatkins@aol.com.

After another week of watching the same endless shenanigans going on in Lansing, I can only repeat the start of my column last week: "Michigan's political, policy and finance systems are broken. Ten million Michigan citizens have been held hostage to the partisan agendas of both political parties and their members who now hold office, not to mention the interest groups that fund their campaigns."

Sigh. We are in trouble. We're facing the greatest crisis since the Great Depression and desperately need leaders with a vision for Michigan that will get us through our present turmoil and lay the foundation for a radical transformation of our state.

We're not going to get that by habitual partisan finger pointing or by absurd, face-saving compromises that claim to "solve" the \$1.8 billion state budget deficit. Without a new vision, no matter what they do, a similar deficit will be staring us in the face next year.

Even if we buy into that vision, it won't become reality unless we have state government that is effective, efficient and accountable.

Republican lawmakers say the way to do that is by cutting something like \$1 billion from state spending. But when you ask exactly what they'd cut, mostly what you get back is mumbles about "government waste, inefficiency and bloat." That's not a responsible recipe for crafting a budget. Especially when they've known the dimensions of the problem we're facing for a year.

But if they are serious about cutting spending, here are two big, obvious, long-overdue ways to cut nearly \$800 million, as suggested in The Center for Michigan's most recent newsletter:

- First, enact \$500 million worth of prison reform. Michigan's incarceration rate is 40 percent higher than our neighboring states, while our crime rate is just about the same.

One third of our enormous state prison population is there for drug-related or non-violent crimes. Nearly another third are being held beyond their earliest possible release date. And our prisons cost Michigan taxpayers around \$5,000 more per inmate each year more than neighboring states pay to keep their locked up.

Ending expensive jail time for non-violent offenders and releasing inmates unlikely to save hundreds of millions. Gradually bringing pay for Michigan prison guards in line with neighboring states would help. Privatizing some operations like food service could save even more.

People from all over the political spectrum — business conservatives, social liberals, academics and the state's financial advisors — have for years urged cost-conscious prison reform.

Any concrete results? Nah. In part, Republicans fear being accused of being "soft on crime."

Second: Bring Michigan state worker benefit costs in line with the national average. How high? Around \$275 million. Both the Small Business Association and The Center for Michigan reached that conclusion in separate studies earlier this year.

Republicans are going to have a harder time swallowing the first of these two suggestions. Democrats, the second — but both are vitally necessary. For awhile earlier this summer, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Democratic lawmakers talked a good game about reforming pay and benefits for state employees earlier. But not recently. The story in Lansing is that public employee labor leaders are holding court in the capital, holding the line against reforms among the troops who want labor campaign contributions later on.

Detroit News columnist Daniel Howes, in a stinging column last Saturday, asked of labor leaders: "Tell us how you explain to

recently retired auto workers fearing for their pension and health benefits that they have to pay higher taxes so their pals in the public sector won't be asked to do the same?" Answer: You can't, and, sooner or later, they'll wake up to the rank hypocrisy and fight back."

And although much of the debate on the revenue side of the budget argument has had to do with the income tax, here's a quick, simple and fair way to bring in an added \$300 million each year: Tax beverages.

States like Texas and California raise more than \$100 million each year by taxing unhealthy, sugar-saturated soft drinks; they're classified as "food" in Michigan and therefore not taxed.

Our tax on beer was last adjusted 41 years ago ... when it was cut to just under two cents per beer. Two cents in 1966, adjusted for inflation, would be about 14 cents a bottle today.

All lawmakers would have to do to raise \$225 million would be to raise beer taxes to keep up with inflation. But they haven't. Why not? Because the beer and wine lobby is among the most powerful in Lansing. And lots of legislators are scared they'd anger blue collar beer drinkers. So, instead, they're arguing about an income tax increase that would cost a \$50,000-a-year blue collar worker another \$275. That would buy an awful lot of beer.

There you have it: three simple ideas to make our government more efficient and less costly. There are lots of others: Benchmarking public

employee pension and health care benefits against public employees elsewhere (gasp!) private sector workers. Find ways vastly to increase collaboration and service sharing among Michigan's thousands of local government units and school districts.

And, if government is indeed to be more accountable and effective, we need more experienced, strategic, competent and decisive leaders — leaders who are willing to set aside traditional party politics to find common ground strategies to move Michigan forward.

Why has this been so hard? Mainly for two reasons: First, the law we passed setting strict and short term limits makes sure that we will be ruled by lawmakers who are relatively inexperienced. Second, the way we redraw legislative district boundaries assures that candidates at each political extreme are mostly the ones elected.

The ideas I'm proposing here are neither new nor particularly complicated. They're common-sense ways of finding common ground that most of Michigan's 10 million citizens can agree on.

So how do we get people talking about making common sense the centerpiece of our political discussions? That will be the subject of community conversations taking place throughout Michigan next month as part of the Michigan's Defining Moment campaign.

If you like the way things are going, don't bother to come. Otherwise, to learn more or reserve a seat at a conversation near you, go to www.thecenterformichigan.net.

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MY NEIGHBORS

Thursday, August 7, 2008
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Novi resident dances her way to national recognition

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER



Lots of people like to dance, but few have dedicated their lives to it the way Novi resident Nicole Blaszczyk has.

The 21-year-old has been taking dance lessons from Julie Sulik Hughes at Sheryl's School of Dance in Novi for 18 years. "I started dancing when I was 3," Blaszczyk said. "When I first started, there was an activity to fill the day that my mom enrolled me in (for each day of the week). It just stuck. My mom couldn't stop me from dancing down the grocery aisles. It became a passion over 18 years. I love performing, teaching other kids and traveling."

The 2005 Novi High School graduate has been dancing and teaching others to dance for years. Last month, she became one of four runners-up at the national Dance Masters of America Miss Dance of America competition in Orlando.

"I was just going down there for the great experience and to represent my state," Blaszczyk said. "There's girls that've been at nationals since a very young age." Although she was crowned Miss Dance of Michigan in February, Blaszczyk said she didn't know what to expect at the national competition that ran July 8-20. She was a new, fresh face — something she hoped would counterbalance the other 25 dancers, many of which had been to the competition previously.

"I was going to be something refreshing," she said. The 12-day judging process had several aspects ranging from essays to interviews, to actual dance performances.

"The advanced dancers have to write essays, we get interviewed. The judges observe us in classes they bring choreographers in for. They look for a well-rounded dancer," Blaszczyk said. "It was

unbelievable to know that this panel of judges put me in the top five in the country."

"Not only were (the others) great dancers, but great people. We're all trying to dance and just do what we love."

Blaszczyk's competition performance played to the tune of "Waiting in Vain" by Annie Lennox. She said the lyrical style of dance is her favorite because it's a mix of slow jazz and fast ballet, which some also call interpretive and expressive.

"You really become a character in the song you dance," she said. When Blaszczyk isn't busy

teaching dance, performing at competitions or for the Major Indoor Soccer League's Detroit Ignition as a dancer, she works full time as a junior financial advisor at Hantz Group in Southfield while working on a bachelor's degree in marketing from Wayne State University. As a sports fanatic, she also works with the Detroit Tigers' marketing team and Detroit Lions' promotional team.

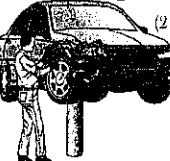
"A couple opportunities opened up for me," Blaszczyk said of the connections she made through the Miss Dance of America competition. "I auditioned for Disney and

had a few opportunities in Las Vegas. But it's important for me to finish my degree because I only have one year left."

After earning her degree next spring, Blaszczyk hasn't decided whether to continue working at Hantz Group, a financial services company that owns the Ignition, while pursuing her master's degree in business administration or to postpone her MBA goal so she can dance professionally beyond the southeastern Michigan circuit.

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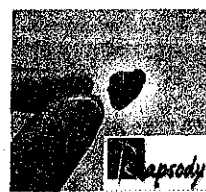


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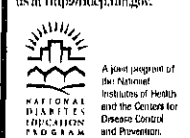
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My Novi, briefly

Bonefish Grill's "NOTES FROM THE ROAD" debuts tonight

Bonefish Grill announces the premier of a new television series, Bonefish Grill's "NOTES FROM THE ROAD," debuting tonight on Ovation TV. Bonefish Grill's "NOTES FROM THE ROAD" features intimate performances by

artists who are on tour and appearing at much larger venues throughout the country. The series gives viewers a rare glimpse of life on the road for the musicians, with behind-the-scenes footage and candid conversations. Each hour-long episode is shot on location at a Bonefish Grill and is imprinted with the guest artist's personality, viewpoint, experi-

ences and music.

Upcoming episodes include: restaurant performances and exclusive interviews with some of the hottest hands and artists on U.S. summer tours, including 3 Doors Down, Josh Kelley, Gavin DeGraw, Vanessa Carlton, The Bravery, Ben Folds, Jason Mraz and Malibu Dub. Beginning in September, XM Radio will broadcast each episode of Bonefish Grill's "NOTES FROM THE ROAD" on a variety of its music channels, including Flight 26 (XM 26), Babel (XM 47) and Starbucks XM Cafe (XM 45).

Separately, Bonefish Grill will also contribute \$1 for each Ocean Trust Martini sold at its restaurants and is expecting to raise awareness and \$250,000 for this worthy organization. Bonefish Grill's "NOTES FROM THE ROAD" is presented by Absolut Vodka and produced by Elevation Group.

Play It Again Sports raises funds for Southeast Michigan charities
Play It Again Sports recently

announced that every Tuesday, beginning this week, will be "Play It Again Tuesdays." Each Tuesday, the 10 Metro Detroit Play It Again Sports locations, including Novi, will be donating 10 percent of its sales for that day to a different area non-profit organization. Each store will also be accepting donations of gently used sports equipment and will, in turn, donate the amount they would have paid for the equipment to the beneficiary organization.

Nonprofit organizations interested in becoming part of the Play It Again Tuesdays fundraising program can contact Tom Gould at (248) 366-0388 or tgould@shazaam.com. Play It Again Sports buys and sells quality new and used sports and fitness equipment as part of a trade in, trade up program. For more information on Play It Again Sports or for individual store locations and hours, visit www.playitagainsports.com.

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National Speakers Association names new president

Marilyn Suttle of Novi, was inaugurated as the president of the National Speakers Association's award-winning Michigan chapter.

Suttle said she is honored to be working with a talented board to serve Michigan's experts who speak professionally.

The NSA Michigan Chapter is providing a series of 2008-09 edu-



Marilyn Suttle

cational programs specifically geared to experts, trainers and consultants who professionally speak.

Suttle, president of Suttle Enterprises, helps people develop their emotional management skills for a happier more productive life

at home and at work. Her soon to be released customer service book is being published by AMACOM books March 2009.

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My Novi Sports

Next Week: How KLAA spring sports will change

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2008 • WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

KLAA = A WINTER MIX

Rivalry with Northville expected to enhance many sports, title chases

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The winter sports season will come, there is no doubt in that fact.

What will happen with all the changes involved with the new Kensington Lakes Activities Association, that is a different story altogether.

The KLAA consists of all the teams from the KVC and WLAA with a new school from South Lyon and a pair of schools from Waterford involved.

The mega-conference will have 24 teams once Parker (in Howell) is open and joins.

As it stands, the 23-team league is broken into four divisions.

Novi is paired with schools very close in proximity, including arch-rival Northville, to make up the Central Division. The other teams include South Lyon, new school South Lyon East (which has every class but seniors this year), Livonia Stevenson and Salem.

The South Division fills out the other half of what is known as the Kensington Conference. The South consists of Canton, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Plymouth, Wayne and John Glenn.

The 12-team Lakes Conference consists of the North and West Divisions.

In the North are Lakeland, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western, Waterford Kettering and Waterford Mott.

The West includes Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Milford, Pinckney and Parker (when or if it opens).

The following is a look at how the Novi winter sports will be affected.

Boys Basketball

Novi finished last basketball season on top of the KVC standings, but question marks abound for the new Central Division.

One thing is for sure, Novi's games with Northville got a big boost in the importance category. "It will add to it being it will impact the divisional standings," head coach Cory Heitsch said. "Each team will have a chance to play at home. Each game will have a very magnified feeling to it."

But along with Northville comes South Lyon, Salem, Stevenson and upstart South Lyon East. Heitsch is ready to get started against some new and travel-friendly competition.

"I'm excited about it," he said. "It will expose us to some new teams. I really love the proximity of it."

"I think athletically, top to bot-

tom, it will be a big challenge. The KVC was pretty talented, especially in the past couple of years. I don't know talent-wise, what the difference will be."

Winning the division is everything for a team if it wants to win the conference. Teams will be placed in order, first through sixth, to play the same seed in the South Division to determine the conference winner. First in Central plays first in South and so on.

The winners from each conference will face off for an association championship game.

Girls Basketball

The Wildcats fought through a tough KVC schedule and finished tied at the top with Brighton last year. Sharing the final league title was special, but now things are headed in a new direction, but with similar pitfalls.

The division will have teams playing home and away with the other five teams to determine the champion, something Kelp said will be just as hard as winning the KVC.

"It will be just as tough with Salem and Northville," he said. "I'm going to miss the KVC but not the long drives."

"Basically, two very good girls basketball leagues are joining together. Not much will change in quality of competition, but in distance."

Hockey

Some of the biggest changes in all sports will come from hockey. Novi will part ways with the old KVC schedule almost entirely.

The Wildcats will be part of the Central Division with rival Northville, Stevenson, Walled Lake Western and South Lyon. Only South Lyon will look familiar from the old league.

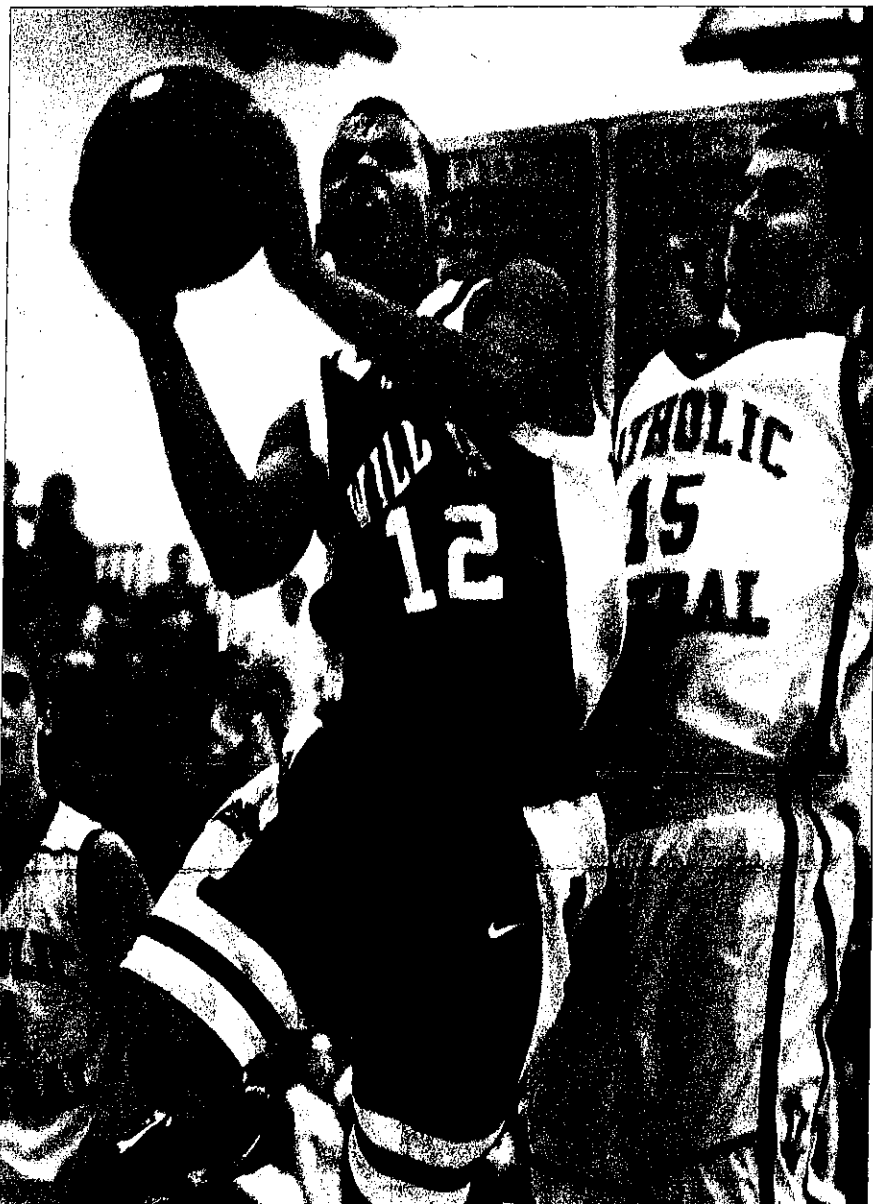
"Now is an opportunity where you clean the slate and go out there and work hard," head coach Todd Krygier said. "Sometimes you get into a mental lull."

The Central will play all teams in the division home and away. The teams will also play one game each with the teams in the South Division (Canton, Churchill, Franklin, Plymouth and Salem) to come up with a divisional winner. Standard hockey scoring applies with two points for a win, one for a tie and none for a loss.

The conference championship will be determined by a one-game playoff, with the winners of the conferences facing off for an association championship.

"I'm really excited about it."

See KLAA, 2B



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

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

KENSINGTON CONFERENCE

SOUTH DIVISION			CENTRAL DIVISION		
Canton	L. Churchill	L. Franklin	L. Stevenson	Northville	Novi
Plymouth	Wayne Memorial	W. John Glenn	Salem	South Lyon	South Lyon East

LAKES CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION			WEST DIVISION		
Lakeland	WL Central	WL Northern	Brighton	Hartland	Howell
WL Western	W. Kettering	W. Mott	Milford	Parker	Pinckney

SOURCE: www.howellsschools.com/maasports/index.htm

Fall sports tryouts begin Monday

■ Golf tryouts begin today

Submitted by the MHSAA

The sounds of summer will soon change to the sounds of autumn when preparations for the 2008-09 fall sports season begins next week for over 110,000 students in eight sports at member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Fall practice begins today with golf, followed by all other sports on Aug. 11. Competition is allowed on the first day of practice in cross country and tennis, and golf may also begin competition that day.

Dates to remember		
Girls Golf	Boys Golf	Swimming/Diving Trials
Tryouts: Aug. 22-23	Tryouts: Oct. 28-29	Nov. 21-22
Regionals: Oct. 24-25	Regionals: Oct. 30-31	
Finals: Nov. 1-2	Finals: Nov. 1-2	
Girls Soccer	Boys Soccer	Boys Tennis
Tryouts: Aug. 22-23	Tryouts: Oct. 28-29	Regionals: Oct. 30-31
Regionals: Oct. 24-25	Regionals: Oct. 30-31	Finals: Nov. 1-2
Finals: Nov. 1-2	Finals: Nov. 1-2	
Girls Volleyball	Boys Volleyball	Girls Tennis
Tryouts: Aug. 22-23	Tryouts: Oct. 28-29	Regionals: Nov. 4-5
Regionals: Oct. 24-25	Regionals: Oct. 30-31	Finals: Nov. 1-2
Finals: Nov. 1-2	Finals: Nov. 1-2	

The earliest game date for soccer is Aug. 18, girls volleyball may begin competition on Aug. 22, and girls swimming and diving in the Lower Peninsula may open activity Aug. 23. Practice in football must begin

on Aug. 11 for all schools wishing to begin regular season games the weekend of Aug. 28-31.

Schools must have 14 days of preseason practice at all levels before their first game. All football schools must conduct at least

three conditioning days of practice before beginning contact, and the conditioning sessions may not include pads.

See FALL, 2B



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School Wildcats work on a drill during football camp.

KLAA

continued from front

We'll have a division, conference and association champion," Kryger said. "I think it's going to be one of the most exciting leagues in the state to play in."

Teams on the other side of the conference include Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Waterford Kettering, Waterford Mott and Lakeland to make the North Division and Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Milford and Pinckney make up the West Division.

Kryger said the travel will be cut way down in the new league, but playing games against Northville and the others in the division will have much more meaning as only the winner of the divisions can win a conference or association title.

"It's exciting," he said. "We're in with a lot of Division I top teams. I think our strength of schedule last year was harder compared to any years of the program. I think it's even harder this season."

Wrestling

The competitive meets with Northville will take on much more importance than bringing rights this year.

The KLAA will mean the two rivals will be competing for a shot at the divisional and conference titles.

With divisional, conference and association titles on the line this year, expect the rivalry to get pushed to an even higher level.

Fellow KVC rival South Lyon will be the only KVC foe to join Novi in the new division. Stevenson, Salem and South Lyon East are the remaining Central foes.

Boys Swimming

Nothing will come easy for the Wildcats this year in boys swimming.

South Lyon was one of the top teams in the KVC last year. Combine the Lions with the WLAA — Stevenson and Northville — and the Central Division is one of the most loaded in the state.

Northville placed sixth at state, followed by Stevenson (11th) and South Lyon (14th) and Salem (25th). Novi was 31st.

The KLAA will have two champions — divisional and conference.

Cheer

Novi, one of the top teams in the KVC, will see a very different schedule in the new division.

Rival Northville will push the Wildcats for one of the top spots. So will fellow KVC opponent South Lyon.

Divisional champions will be the team with the best record after playing the rest of the division in the same division one time.

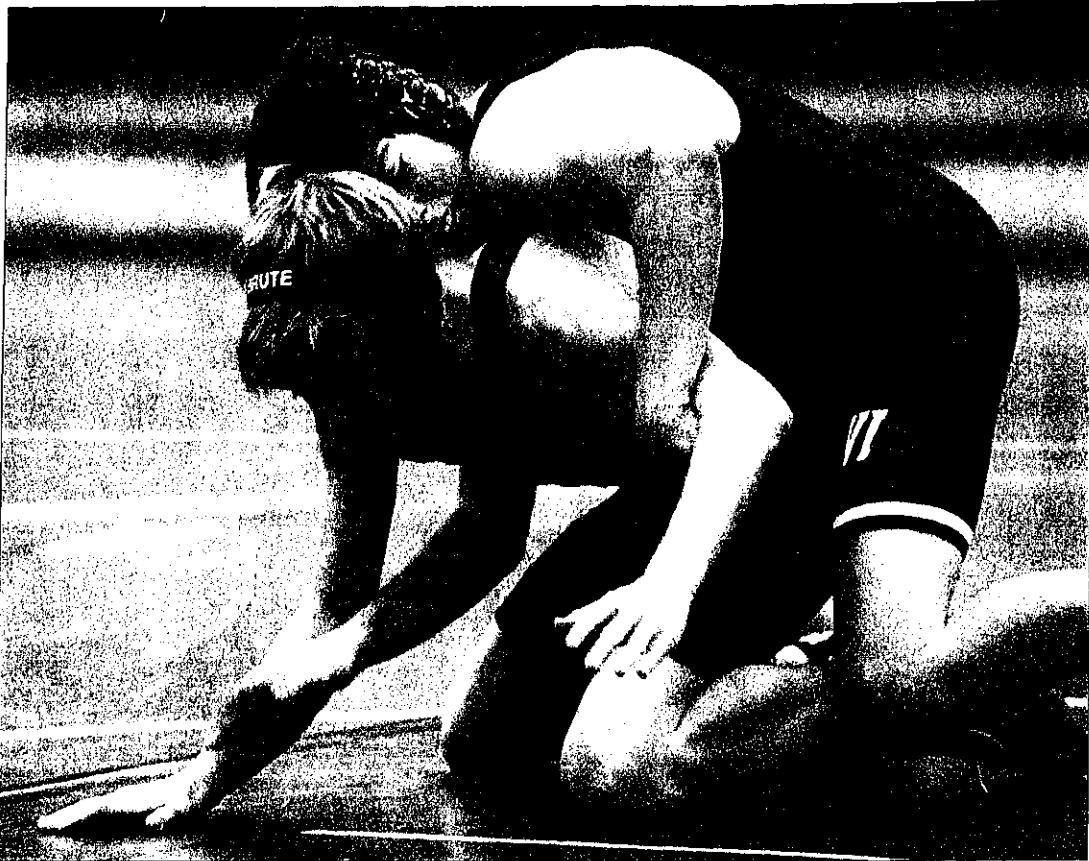
Two conference champions will also be crowned, one for each side (Kensington and Lakes).

Skiing

Despite being in just its third year of existence, the Novi skiing program will see massive changes to the schedule.

The Wildcats will be part of the Mt. Brighton Division with Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Pinckney and South Lyon United. The Alpine Valley Division will include Lakeland, Milford, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western and Waterford United.

With only 12 teams competing from the league, the top three teams from each division will



Novi's Connor Caldwell wrestles a Livonia Franklin opponent.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



Novi's Danny Kiefer swims butterfly in practice.

compete for the conference championship.

Bowling

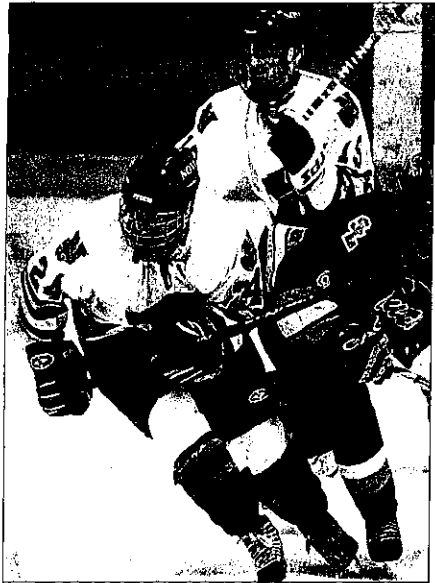
The biggest changes to bowling will be on the schedule.

The Wildcats will play in the Central Division, but it's a little different than the other sports. In the Division are Novi, Northville, South Lyon, South Lyon East, John Glenn and Wayne. Because not every school has bowling, there are only three divisions (North, West and Central).

Each team will play home and away with divisional opponents and six crossover games with the other two divisions.

Each match will consist of two Baker games and two regular games. The divisional championship will be determined by the best record against divisional opponents. The Association Championship will be determined by a seeded tournament involving the top eight teams.

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



Anthony Gasparatto looks for a pass as Novi takes on South Lyon.



Wildcat Melissa Gasiorok puts up a shot.

FALL

continued from front

This year, one football date precedes Labor Day, and Thursday varsity games will take place both weeks. In Week 1, 220 games will be played on Thursday, 64 games will be played on Friday, and five games will be played on Saturday. The following weekend, four games will be played on Thursday, 272 games will be played on Friday, and 11 games will be played on Saturday.

Among football rules changes made by the National Federation of State High School for 2008 are several addressing penalty options for teams that are fouled on scoring plays. If the scoring team is fouled on a touchdown play, and again on the point after try, both penalties may be assessed on the subsequent kickoff. On a scoring play at the end of the first half, a foul against the defensive team may be penalized on the point after attempt at the kickoff to begin the second half. On a scoring play at the end of the second half, a foul against the defensive team may only be penalized on the point after try — the penalty cannot be assessed if the game goes to overtime as a result of the

scoring play.

The option of carrying unused second half timeouts into overtime has been eliminated this season. A rule has also been instituted by the NFHS that required pieces of equipment — hip pads, knee pads and thigh guards — may not be altered from the manufacturer's original design or production.

A point of emphasis in Michigan and nationally is sideline management and control. Only three coaches are allowed in the two-yard belt next to the field in the team bench area between the 25-yard lines. Outside the team bench area, the two-yard belt may not be occupied by coaches, statisticians, trainers, ball people, media or any other non-team personnel. Where possible, line to gain crew personnel should also observe these lines. Such markings, and their restrictions, are common at professional and collegiate venues. Game management shall continue to have the primary responsibility for enforcement of this rule.

The 2008 fall campaign culminates with post-season tournaments beginning with the Upper Peninsula Girls Tennis Finals on Oct. 3, and wraps up with the Football Playoff Finals on Nov. 28-29.

Sports Shorts

Dean helps team to All-Star win

Novi's Caleb Dean helped the Class A White team to a 108-107 victory, scoring 21 points, snagging 11 rebounds and providing a late block to help seal the win.

Girls softball clinic

The Motor City Madness girls' softball coaches are hosting a clinic for girls 7-14 at Power Park. On Aug. 16, throwing, catching and fielding skills will be taught. Hitting, bunting and base running will be taught Aug. 17.

Clinic time is 9-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is \$30 per day or \$50 for both. There is an additional \$5 fee to register on clinic day.

Registration information is available at www.elearn.com/MotorCity or contact Jacqui Schulte at (248) 374-9343.

Northville Athletic Boosters Club family pass

For \$75, a family can attend all regular season Northville games. All proceeds will go to NHS sports teams.

Make check payable to Northville Athletic Boosters Club/NHS Pass, 22583 Fuller Drive, Novi, MI, 48374. List names of all family members requiring a pass (immediate family only) along with ages to the above address with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Any questions, please call Maureen Owen at (248) 348-0075.

Send Sports Shorts to sports writer Jeff Theisen at jtheisen@gannett.com.

Flag football

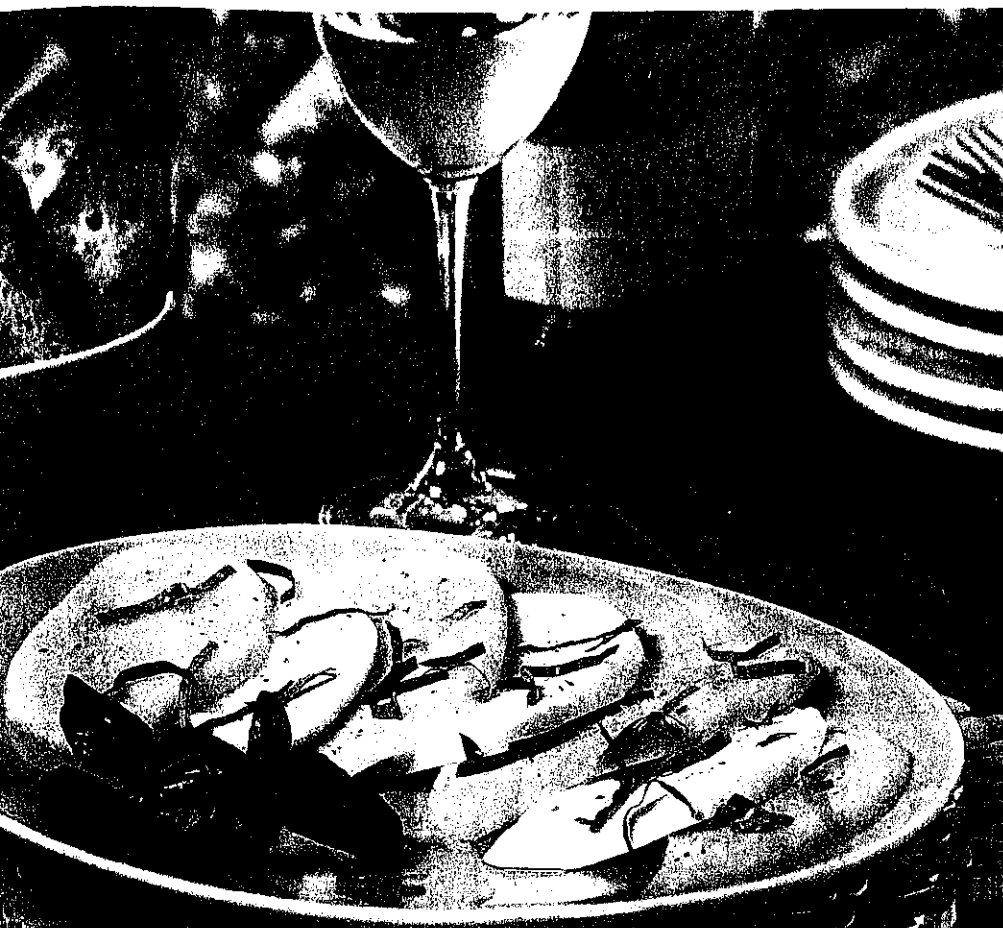
An Adult flag-touch football

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832



Mango

Caprese Salad
Makes 8 to 10 appetizers
Prep time: 15 minutes

- 3 large, ripe mangos, peeled, pitted and sliced*
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced
- 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- Snipped fresh basil
- Crusty toasted baguette slices

Place mango slices on platter, alternating with mozzarella slices. Drizzle with lemon juice and oil and season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with basil and serve with baguette slices.
Pair with Mirassou Monterey County Chardonnay

Baja Fish Tacos

With Mango Salsa
Makes 4 to 6 servings
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 15 to 20 minutes

Mango Salsa

- 2 large ripe mangos, peeled, pitted and chopped*
- 1/4 cup minced red bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 green onions, sliced (green tops only)
- 1 small jalapeño pepper (stem, seeds and membranes removed)

Tacos

- 1 pound cod fillets, rinsed and patted dry
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon each: ground cumin, Mexican oregano and garlic salt
- 8 corn tortillas, warmed
- 2 cups shredded green or red cabbage
- 1/2 cup crumbled Cotija cheese (may substitute shredded Monterey Jack)

Preheat oven to 425°F. Stir together all salsa ingredients in medium bowl; set aside. Place cod on 2 large sheets of parchment paper. Stir together dry seasonings in small bowl and sprinkle over cod. Bring edges of parchment paper together and fold twice. Fold ends under to enclose fish. Place packets on baking sheet and bake 15 to 18 minutes. Open packets carefully to let steam escape. Place equal amounts cod in each tortilla and top with cabbage, cheese and mango salsa.
Pair with Mirassou Monterey County Riesling

Mango Chicken

Lettuce Wraps
Makes 4 servings
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Chill time: 30 minutes

- 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, chopped into small pieces
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 1/2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 1/2 tablespoon minced fresh lemon grass
- 1 large ripe mango, peeled, pitted and chopped, divided*
- 8 to 12 small butter lettuce leaves
- 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 2 tablespoons sliced green onion tops
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves, chopped

Heat sesame oil in medium skillet over medium heat. Add chicken and cook, stirring frequently, until lightly browned. Stir in soy sauce, vinegar, honey, ginger and lemon grass. Finely chop half mango and add to skillet. Cook 5 minutes or until sauce is very thick; let cool. Spoon chicken into lettuce leaves and top each with remaining mango, bell pepper, green onion and cilantro.
Pair with Mirassou Monterey County Riesling

*Watch the video on how to cut a mango on www.mango.org.

FAMILY FEATURES

Enjoy the longer days and warm weather with your friends and family. Nothing gives you the taste of sunshine quite like outdoor entertaining. Giving your gathering a tropical feel doesn't have to mean expensive plane tickets, fancy hotels and crowded beaches. All it takes is a little atmosphere and delicious food and wine that puts you in an island frame of mind.

The warmer temperatures call for a menu that's light and healthy, but with a uniquely tropical flavor. Mangos, the world's most popular fruit, are a perfect ingredient to enjoy any time of year. Delicious to eat, mangos also have an exotic, luscious taste that enhances appetizers, salads, entrees, desserts and beverages. The abundance of mango varieties offers versatile flavors ranging from sweet to slightly spicy.

Start the party with a tropical twist on the classic caprese salad by layering juicy mango slices and fresh mozzarella and topping with oil, seasonings and basil. For an easy, casual entrée with a beachy feel, Baja Fish Tacos and Mango Salsa are sure to please. Perfect for easy entertaining, the Asian inspired mango and chicken lettuce wraps add a riot of delicious colors and flavor to your plate. They're easy to make and fun to eat — you don't even need a fork!

With any great dinner, you need a great wine to complement your food. Wines with bright, fruit-forward flavors pair well with a variety of food styles. To enhance your mango-inspired dishes, serve the crisp and food-friendly style of Riesling or Chardonnay selections from Mirassou Winery*. Grown in Monterey County, the cooler temperature on the coast yields a longer growing season, which allows the grapes to develop deep flavors and results in intensely flavorful wines with lovely tropical fruit overtones. Mirassou Monterey County Chardonnay has crisp fruit flavors of peach and nectarine with lovely hints of tropical fruit and vanilla, while Mirassou Monterey County Riesling is delightfully crisp and refreshing, with aromas and flavors of peaches, apricots and apples. Inspired by tropical food and crisp, fruit-forward wine — you'll agree, warm weather never tasted so good! To find out more about mango varieties, visit www.mango.org. To learn more about food and wine pairings, visit www.mirassou.com.



Mango 101

- Mangos are a year-round source of the naturally sweet, refreshing taste of the tropics.
- Mangos contain more than 20 different vitamins and minerals, are a good source of dietary fiber, and are an excellent source of vitamins C and A, both important antioxidant nutrients.
- To determine ripeness, squeeze the mango gently. A ripe mango should give slightly, but not be too soft.
- To ripen firm mangos, store at room temperature. They will continue to ripen and become sweeter and softer over several days.
- Once ripe, store mangos in the refrigerator for up to five days.
- Learn more about this tantalizing tropical treat at www.mango.org.



Repeat champions

Novi residents (from left) Katie Walker (Western Kentucky University), Stephanie Crawford (University of Michigan) and Kellie Walker (Western Kentucky University) returned from a week in Little rock, Ark., competing in the United States Youth Soccer Association National championships. The girls competed on the Bloomfield Force Football Club (Champions in 2007 also), defeating the Slammers from Southern California in the finals 2-1.

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Dance and Dream

Dance students pursue dreams at Gayle's

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

For the past 26 years, it has been all about tradition and dreams at Gayle's DancePhase dance studio in Wixom. In fact, the theme of the last recital — the 26th annual recital — was "Where Dreams Begin."

For the many dancers who have trained at Gayle's DancePhase, whether they were serious, having fun, or getting great exercise (or all three), it has truly been a time for dreams.

A BEGINNING FOR DREAMS

Under the guidance of co-owners and instructors Gayle Winnie and Tina Bishop, the studio has become a center of cultural enrichment for young girls and boys, who have learned the importance of discipline and training through dance instruction.

Gayle's sister, Tina Bishop, wrote in the "Where Dreams Begin" program introduction "We see our students as the next generation of this family. We cherish them while they dance, we miss them when they leave, and we embrace them when they return to visit. The DancePhase students make our dreams come true every day, and we hope to see them all reaching for stars!"

Speaking of reaching for the stars, Gayle and her staff recently came back from Hollywood where they trained and danced with many well-known national instructors. While there, the dancers had a chance to see a taping of the television show "So You Think You Can Dance" and interacted with the cast.

This is just one of the many activities that students participate in as part of their ongoing learning experience at Gayle's DancePhase.



Submitted Photos

Gayle's DancePhase in Wixom offers classes in Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Ballet Technique, Hip Hop, Jazz Technique, Tumbling, and combination classes.

Gayle's DancePhase
51770 Grand River Ave.
Wixom
Phone
248-305-5600
Web site
gaylesdancephase.com

TEAM DANCE

The competitive dance teams were national award winners in Las Vegas in 2007 and will represent the studio in 2008 at a similar competition in Ohio, where they anticipate winning many awards. But winning awards is not the ultimate goal of Gayle and her trained staff of professional instructors.

"We don't only teach kids to win competitions, we teach them to dance," Gayle said. "What they get out of their experience here benefits them in their life skills. But there are probably at least 50 dancers who have been with us over the 25 years who are now making a living in dance."

HAVING FUN

Besides the national and regional competitions, the students at Gayle's DancePhase participate in a number of different events.

Dancers perform regularly at Detroit Pistons and Detroit Shock basketball games, the South Lyon Pumpkin Fest Parade, at Cobo Hall, local malls, homes for the elderly, and much more.

Gayle's DancePhase brings in guest teachers several times throughout the dance year. These

professional teachers are from all over the country. "They provide personal attention, which is great for a determined dancer," said Gayle.

The studio is also home to the Majestic Dance Ensemble of Michigan. This local ballet company performs in Ann Arbor each season. The ballet company is open to ballet students ages 6 and up from all over Michigan.

DADS AND BOYS

Young boys also have opportunities to "burn off energy" as Gayle said during a special all-boys hip-hop class. Some of them do it for fun while others are very serious about dance.

"We also have an active group of dads who are here to support their children," said Gayle. "They build props and even dance in a fun number."

Gayle's DancePhase is located at 51770 Grand River Ave. in Wixom, and offers classes in Tap, Jazz,



Boys, girls and adults not only learn to dance at Gayle's DancePhase in Wixom, but also enjoy great physical conditioning, life-long poise and personal confidence.

Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Ballet Technique, Hip Hop, Jazz Technique, Tumbling, and Combination Classes. A complete schedule is available at the Web site, www.gaylesdancephase.com, or by calling the office at 248-305-5600.

Gayle is very big on communication between her staff and the

families and dancers. "We are very organized and believe in a communications system," she said. Each student is given a physical mailbox where information including newsletters, notes, and dance shows are regularly put in a folder in each mailbox. Lost and found items can often be found in the mailboxes, too!

At the end of the day, as Tina stated in the recital program, the studio appreciates the trust that parents put in them to share their "most valuable possessions with us."

It is all about trust, caring, and a whole lot of fun. As Gayle said, "Once our kids start with us, they stay with us."



Gayle's DancePhase

Celebrating 26 Years of Excellence in Dance Education

Registration
Now Open



Congratulations to our 2008 National Champion Dancers
Our Studio won the "Backstage Performance Award"

Gayle's DancePhase is the place where dreams begin.

Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Pointe, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Technique, Combination Classes, Tumbling, and All Boys classes

★ CALL TODAY ★
(248) 305-5600

www.gaylesdancephase.com

Team Level

Boys Dance Free
(when sister is enrolled)

Recreational Level

Our studio is located on Grand River slightly west of Meijer. We are perfect for Northville, South Lyon, Novi, Milford and Wixom residents.