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**BAND CAMP:
INSIDE LOOK AT WHAT IT TAKES TO
MAKE IT THROUGH THE GRUELLING
WEEK - PAGE 10A**



THURSDAY August 14, 2008 **Novi News**

50 CENTS YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER CELEBRATING ITS 53RD YEAR SERVING NOVI AND THE LAKES AREA www.hometownlife.com

Water rates swell

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By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Effective Sept. 1, residents and businesses throughout the City of Novi will see a 24.6 percent increase in water rates.

The majority of the increase is set by the Detroit Water and Sewer Department, where Novi purchases its treated water services.

"The rate increase from Detroit Water and Sewer Department is 23.8 percent," said Novi City Manager Clay Pearson. "The (additional) increase is capital costs. We are responsible for maintenance, so an increase in cost of materials and power."

The increase translates to an additional \$104 annually for an average household. According to Pearson, three main factors causing Novi to experience such an extreme increase are distance from the water source, Novi's elevation and topography, and the amount of usage during the peak hours of 5-6 a.m.

"We happen to be geographically located further from the water source (than other communities), which is Port Huron, and the highest elevation," he said. "We're also looking into opportunities for water storage towers that would have the largest impact on decreasing usage during our peak hours."

In an effort to raise awareness, Pearson said city officials are meeting with the 10 largest water consumers, which he did not name, to discuss if there is an opportunity to moderate or even cut their usage.

Other communities expected to suffer substantial increases include Northville, 29.9 percent; Bloomfield Hills, 31.4 percent; Bloomfield Township, 27 percent; and Utica 23.5 percent. The City of Wixom is expected to have a 12.9 percent decrease.

With the combined increase of water and sewer rates for 2008-09, Novi residents will see an 18 percent increase, which is annually about \$127 for an average household.

"It is the kind of environment where kids learn how to thrive," Leslie Capek, parent.



Carrie Cadicamo, left, and Kelly Capek, 4, laugh about something silly. Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**Cooperative Care
Parents join preschoolers in classroom**

First in a series of stories focusing on childcare options and costs.

By Victoria Mitchell
STAFF WRITER

When Leslie Capek took her child for the first day of preschool, lingering was just fine. And, to this day, Capek still maintains a steady presence in the classroom. She achieves an active role in her child's education through the Novi Co-op Preschool on 10 Mile Road, west of Meadowbrook Road. "It is the kind of environment where kids learn how to thrive," Capek said.

Parents at the school say they value being an active part of the educational process and value knowing first-hand all their children's playmates, along with their parents.

Cooperative roots
Novi Co-op Preschool has been in Novi since 1971, although the

concept of cooperative education predates the neighborhood school.

According to documents issued by the Greater Detroit Co-op Nursery Council, a cooperative preschool is a non-profit organization owned and operated by the parents of the children enrolled. Together, the members shape the direction and policies of their school with the guidance of a qualified teacher.

"The number one thing is the parents' involvement - the combination of parents in the classroom," Capek said.

Other benefits parents laud outside of classroom walls include the chance to network with other moms and opportunities to set play dates outside of instructional hours.

At Novi Co-op Preschool the board of elected parents hires professional teachers to develop the curriculum, teach all classes and guide each child through the school day.

The parents assist the teachers in the classroom on a rotating basis and participate in the class-



Moms and kids enjoy a morning session at the Novi Co-op Preschool.

room activities. Parents must fulfill a one-to-two times per month minimum classroom requirement, which generally equals about three hours. Grandparents or other family members are allowed to serve the in-class time requirement, if on a consistent basis, in the case of dual-working families.

Parental duties include, greeting and free play, circle time, projects and discovery time, clean up, snack time, outside play and dismissal.

Please see Co-op, 5A

Success

Percentage of MME students passing state standards

	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing	ELA
Novi	72.1	81.6	76.3	93.0	63.5	74.2
State	66.4	62.3	57.3	80.0	41.7	52.7
Northville	80.4	90.2	86.6	94.7	78.3	85.8
South Lyon	68.8	76.1	78.9	92.9	53.7	67.4
Walled Lake	62.0	76.4	73.9	91.0	64.4	71.5

Source: Michigan Department of Education

Novi students score well on state exam, improve in all subjects

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Department of Education released test results from the spring Michigan Merit Exam last week and Novi High School students improved across the board in every category.

"I'm pleased that we're going up and hope we'll continue to do that," said Monique Beels, assistant superintendent of academics for Novi Community Schools.

At least 454 students tested in each category, compared to at least 480 last year, but the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards increased in all six categories.

High school juniors across the state were scored in math, reading, science, social studies, writing and English Language Arts. In each category, students were graded levels 1 through 4, which translates into advanced, proficient, partially proficient and not proficient.

"The MME, with the inclusion of the ACT, is a rigorous test and all students have to be prepared with the knowledge to excel," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. "As the requirements of the new high school curriculum continue to be implemented, we expect to see students' scores improve."

The area Novi students performed most proficiently in was social studies, with 423 of 455 students, or 93 percent, meeting or exceeding state standards with advanced or proficient scores. The score was the second highest in Oakland County.

Students across the state performed the best in the social studies category, but dropped from 83

to 80 percent.

The narrowest margin of improvement for Novi Schools came in writing, where 289 of 455 students, or 63.5 percent, met or exceeded standards. Although fewer students tested this year than the 481 last year, the overall group improved from 62.6 percent in 2007.

The state-wide writing score improved from 40 to 41 percent passing.

"They're really hard working. I'm looking at the writing scores doing nothing but increasing as they write," Beels said of the recently implemented writing specialists the district hired to teach kindergarten through sixth graders.

Earning the second highest score in Oakland County, Novi's reading scores showed the highest increase, with 6.1 percent more students meeting or exceeding state standards - which brings the total to 81.6 percent.

Although fewer students tested because of the smaller junior class size, more Novi students received an advanced score than last year in math, reading, science and ELA.

Neighboring school districts that include portions of the City of Novi also performed well, with between 78.3-94.7 percent of Northville High School test-takers meeting or exceeding state standards in all six categories.

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools had more than 62 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards in every category, with reading, science and ELA in the 70th percentile. Students scored highest in social studies, with 91 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards.

South Lyon High School had the largest variance, with 53.7 percent passing writing and 92.9 percent passing social studies standards. South Lyon students also scored 58.8 percent in mathematics, 76.1 in reading, 78.9 in science and 67.4 in ELA.

Novi's mean ACT score was also one of the highest in metro Detroit at 22.2. Northville earned 23.9, South Lyon 20.5 and Walled Lake 21.2.

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Novi MainStreet developers will be building on this vacant land just west of MIXX Lounge, beginning this fall.

MainStreet Novi scales back

Plans to start construction this year

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Since Triangle Development took over creating the MainStreet Novi complex in May 2004, residents and nearby businesses have eagerly awaited the continuation of building a downtown area. And, although the economy and

rigorous building requirements have slowed the complex's development, Triangle Development Vice President Pierre Nona hopes to get things moving by the end of the year.

"The first step is starting showing progress. This project has obviously had a lot of history before we even got involved," Nona said, referring to the complex's first few years of ownership under Jim Chen. "We have commitments on it. We just have to get to the end line. We have to get to closing."

The upcoming phase of development will begin with Building 806, located on the northeast corner of Novi Road and Main Street, which is to become an 80,000-square-foot, four-story medical center for primarily Beaumont doctors. Nona projects the structure will take 12-14 months to build, following closing, which he expects to finalize early this fall.

The other portions of the phase include Building 400, an extension to the current Atrium of Novi

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Interest items from Novi's council meeting

Novi City Engineer Rob Hayes presented council with the staff's plan in conducting an Interstate 96 area transportation study, which is being called the Victory Plan. According to Hayes, the study area would include the Grand River Avenue corridor, 12 Mile Road corridor, Interstate 275 and Michigan 5 corridor and the west city limits of Novi and Wixom. Hayes said seven of Novi's top 10 high crash intersections are included in the study area. In order to move forward, Hayes said the city would need to hire a consultant and solicit stakeholder and public involvement. Councilman David Staudt said he would rather economic development move to the forefront of this study, as opposed to transportation. Mayor David Landry said he supports the study, but asked to city administration to consider studying some areas of economic development at the same time.

COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

It would accept the streets once Vista Hills Homeowners Association repaired them to meet city standards. Along with requesting the city make the repairs, the association is making a \$190,000 payment to cover the cost of the original scope of repairs and the recently discovered deteriorated storm structures. Mayor Landry said it's not often council sees a subdivision come forward with \$190,000 and they deserve to be commended.

Council approved, by a 5-1 vote, to allow the Maybury Park, LLC residential development to be a gated community and change its public roads to private. Maybury Park Estates is located on the north side of Eight Mile Road, between Beck and Garfield roads.

According to the developer, gated access to the development will allow Maybury Park Estates to remain competitive with nearby developments such as Tuscan Reserve and Bellagio, providing

more safety and security for the residents and improve property value. The developer assured council all future residents will be aware of their responsibility to cover costs of maintenance. Councilman Andrew Mutch dissented.

Council unanimously approved to appoint planning commission member Brian Burke to the Zoning Board of Appeals. During the last year, planning commission member Wayne Wrobel volunteered to serve in dual capacity, and Burke chose to serve this position for the

next year. Councilman Mutch added an item to mayor and council issues for designating a piece of city-owned property as park land. The city recently acquired a 2.3-acre piece of property, south of Nine Mile Road, adjacent to Rotary Park. Mutch requested council's support in directing city administration to draft a resolution stating the property was acquired by the city for park purposes.

Council meeting notes were taken from the Aug. 11 regular meeting of the Novi City Council. Councilman Bob Gatt was excused absent. Next meeting: 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Novi Civic Center, 4375 W. 10 Mile Road.

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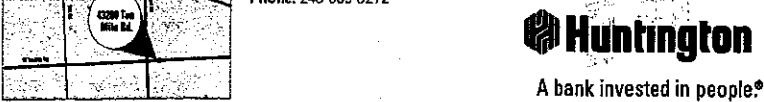
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Kohl's celebrates grand reopening

Northville Township store gets wider aisles, new carpeting

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Brian Fort knows that easier shopping leads to better bottom lines.

As such, the store manager of the Northville Township Kohl's at 20155 Haggerty Rd. was excited to direct a ribbon-cutting ceremony early Wednesday morning for the department store's grand reopening.

Richard Henningsen, township treasurer, was on hand to help celebrate the store's remodel.

"We're glad you're part of the township, and we encourage residents to come take a look at the store's transformation," Henningsen said.

The Northville Township store opened in 1998, according to Fort. "New features include automatic entrance doors, updated checkout stations, new fitting rooms with



Jeff Bowles, remodel coordinator for Kohl's at 20155 Haggerty Rd., cuts the ribbon at the Northville Township store's grand reopening ceremony Wednesday morning. Pictured with Kohl's associates are Brian Ford, store manager, far left, and next to him, Richard Henningsen, township treasurer.

lounge areas, wider aisles, new merchandise displays to highlight the biggest trends in fashion and home, and new rest rooms," Fort said.

The store also has expanded junior intimacies and shoe departments and new carpeting throughout.

The store's transformation is part of a proactive approach to create an inviting and inspiring shopping environment that meets the evolu-

ting needs of the department store's customers.

"These transformations are part of Kohl's new store design, launched in the fall of 2006, integrating comfort and convenience for today's shopper," Fort said.

The first Kohl's department store opened in 1962 at Minomontec Falls, Wis., the chain's corporate headquarters.

The store offers men's, women's

and children's apparel, shoes, home goods, cosmetics, fragrances, lingerie and jewelry that appeal to the value-conscious consumer.

Exclusive brands at Kohl's include Simply Vera Vera Wang, ELLE, Claps and Food Network, as well as national brands such as Levi, Carter's and Cuisinart.

For more information about the City of Novi, visit cityofnovi.org. If you are interested in doing business within the City of Novi, please visit invest-novi.org.

Submitted to the Novi News.

City of Novi streamlines building process

City Council approves amendment to Zoning Ordinance

On Monday, Aug. 11, the Novi City Council approved an ordinance amendment that will make getting bigger easier for developers and builders doing business in Novi.

One significant change allows an increase in the size of additional to existing buildings that could be reviewed and approved administratively to no more than 10 percent of an existing building, up to a maximum of 10,000 square feet, for non-residential buildings located more than 500 feet from residential districts. This amendment was to Section 2516.6(j)(9).

Minor changes to approved site plans rarely contain substantial issues," said Steve Ruple, City of Novi community development manager. "We anticipate that reducing the processing

time for improvements such as these will encourage more investment in commercial properties."

The second change increased the length of time a site plan approval would remain valid, doubling the time a site plan approval remains active from one year to two years.

The amendment to Section 2516.6 will reduce the need for site plan extensions actions by City Council or the Novi Planning Commission. Site plan extensions remain the same, allowing for three, one-year extensions of preliminary or final site plan approval.

The changes made to the Zoning Ordinance will allow developers to get through the site plan approval process in a quicker fashion," Ruple said.

"We are excited to provide a streamlined process to those looking to build within Novi."

For more information about the City of Novi, visit cityofnovi.org. If you are interested in doing business within the City of Novi, please visit invest-novi.org.

Submitted to the Novi News.

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
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Kids benefit from practicing yoga

Providence's summer classes continue to fall

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Monday afternoon, Meghan, 7, and Ryan, 5, Rotole spent 45 minutes taking bunny breaths, standing in down dog and practicing rainbows in the reflection space at the Assarian Cancer Center.

and the earlier you get started with yoga, the better you are," said Gigi Geraghty, adult yoga instructor and physician assistant of radiation and oncology at the Cancer Center. "It can help children to focus better, to concentrate better and they learn good habits such as posture."

Lutz, who is new to the Providence Center for the Healing Arts, has been practicing yoga for more than six years, teaching adults and children for about a year and is certified in Yoga Ed.

"Yoga Ed was established in 1999 by Tara Guber. She was in the education field in southern L.A. and she is the one person who implemented and developed the program," Lutz said. "Since

then, it has snowballed all over the country. The purpose is to bring yoga into the classroom, to allow children to be more focused and improve their behavior."

Utili local schools have the means to implement this program, Lutz continues teaching and practicing yoga.

"The format is different (for children) than the adult classes. I have a lot of my teaching on my training from Yoga Ed," she said. "We use different names for postures for the children, like rock, star, rainbow, lying dragon, and"

Geraghty said Lutz's use of games and stories makes yoga more enjoyable for the kids.

"There's a variety of ways to teach the kids the different postures as well as breathing techniques," she said. "The kids actually love to do yoga, they think it's kind of cool. It gives them confidence."

Geraghty, who has been practicing yoga for 10 years and teaching it about nine, said all five of her kids, 5-25, practice yoga.

"They learn respect, and kindness, not only to others but to themselves," Lutz said.

Although located inside the Assarian Cancer Center, classes are open to anyone in the community, as with all of the programs offered through the Providence Center for the Healing Arts.

For more information about the next Yoga for Kids session, which will be 4:45-5:30 p.m. Mondays, beginning Sept. 8, contact Gigi Geraghty at (248) 465-5478 or call Providence Southfield at (248) 849-8538.

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Yoga instructor Karen Lutz teaches the children in the beautiful atrium at the center, which has an abundance of natural light.

LET'S TALK
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HINT: It is currently fashionable to create custom pieces consisting of an heirloom gemstone in an antique style that features a number of past diamonds.

MAIN

continued from front

On The Mixx Lounge's west wall. Nona said the addition would take seven or eight months to build.

"At the same time, we'll do all the improvements to the road and park," Nona said.

The roads will be configured according to the complex's site plan and the current pond at the southwest corner of Main and Market streets will be filled and turned into a park to be used by the community for events such as art in the park or a farmer's market, among others.

"We have permits to fill that in and make it a viable piece of land we can use," Nona said.

The biggest change to the development is the modification of buildings 500, 600 and 700 all located on the north side of Main Street between the existing building and

the future medical center site.

Building 700 was planned to be a four-level parking deck with more than 400 spots.

Building 600, located between the parking deck and Main Street, was to become a three-story retail and office building.

"Both of those are gone under the new site plans and becomes a surface lot," Nona said. "Building 500 was reconfigured to be a three-story building."

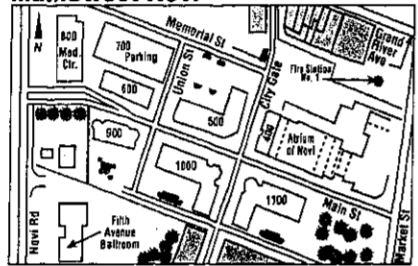
Building 500, located just west of the atrium of Novi, was to become a five-story retail space on Main Street that also offers office and residential loft space.

Triangle Development spoke at the July 28 Novi City Council meeting and council approved the modifications by a 4-3 vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Kim Cappello's condition of making a portion of the parking lot temporary so it can be built up when the economy improves. The council felt the removal of Building 600 would take away from the downtown atmosphere.

residential lofts along the south side of Main Street. Nona said he wasn't sure when construction on those buildings or Building 500 would begin.

"Market conditions and the economic conditions will dictate this plan. There has to be a market for this type of lifestyle," he said.

MainStreet Novi



SOURCE: Triangle Development

"We've restructured the site plans by removing the parking deck because it wasn't economically feasible. The major change is scaling back 30,000 square feet of office retail and taking out the parking deck," Nona said.

If the first phase of buildout can be completed by the end of 2009, Nona said phase two of the development will include buildings 900, 1000 and 1100, which are all five-story retail structures with

residential lofts along the south side of Main Street. Nona said he wasn't sure when construction on those buildings or Building 500 would begin.

"Market conditions and the economic conditions will dictate this plan. There has to be a market for this type of lifestyle," he said.

Submitted to the Novi News.

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Mike McCormick, Fox Run executive director (left); Mary Garwood, Fox Run Shining Star Manager of the Year 2008; and Judi Donovan, Fox Run regional director of general services celebrate Garwood's honor.

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MY NEIGHBORS

Thursday, August 14, 2008
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Novi resident thrives following career shift

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

After four years of working at an Ann Arbor-based architecture firm, Novi resident Carrie Crawford, 31, was feeling creatively unsatisfied with her career choice.

"I wasn't feeling happy with architecture. I was ready for a change," Crawford said. "It's hard making a career change. You have to make sacrifices for a little while, but it all comes around in the end."

"It's been way better than I anticipated."



Submitted photo
Feeling creatively unsatisfied with her career choice, Novi resident Carrie Crawford, makes swiftness to pastry chef.

After completing an 18-month program at the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute and earning a degree in patisserie and baking through the Le Cordon Bleu program in Pittsburgh, Crawford was recently hired as the pastry chef at Bacco Ristorante in Southfield.

"I just think we found each other at the right time," Crawford said of the position that brought her back to Michigan. "I've been really welcomed to Bacco. They've made me feel like I'm part of the family."

The award-winning, family-operated restaurant offers modern Italian cuisine, Crawford said.

Prior to Bacco, Crawford was working in the pastry department

she said. "We're doing it all in-house. We use the freshest ingredients available and we can make excellent products from that."

Along with making deserts in-house, the addition of Crawford is expanding Bacco's patisserie department.

"We're starting to do cakes and offering them to-go," she said. "Eventually, we'll start doing the gelato-to-go as well."

Although not directly related, Crawford is still able to use some of the skills attained through her architecture degree from University of Michigan.

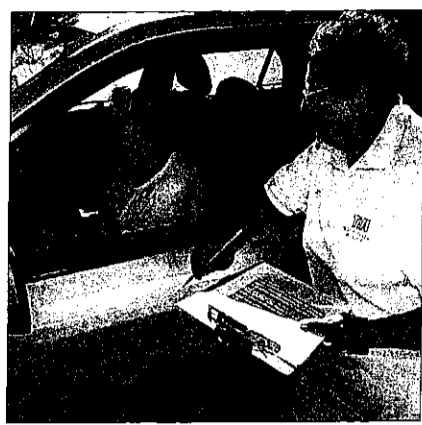
"There's a design aspect to plating deserts. Visually, coordinating colors, it has to be pleasing to the eye," she said. "But I love that what I do now is so temporary. It's instantly consumed and enjoyed, and I can move onto something else."

"There's no doubt in my mind I made the right decision."

With friends and family scattered throughout southeast Michigan, the Kalamazoo-native is happy to be home again.

"Pittsburgh was the most feasible city (for school), but Michigan is home," she said. "And Novi is a perfect central location."

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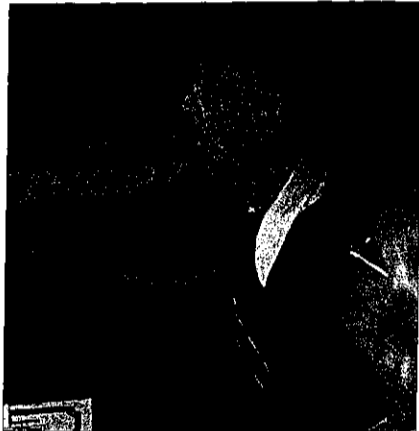


Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Patricia Violante goes over some safe driving tips with B.J. Arnold, making sure all of the basics are covered like proper positioning of side and rear mirrors during a Mature Driver Workshop held at Novi's Holy Family Church. Arnold is with the Traffic Information Association of Oakland County. The senior driving class was sponsored by the Novi Police Department.

Senior Drivers

In a darkened room inside Novi's Holy Family Church, John Wrobel taps a touchscreen during a test monitored by Diana Baker to test his reflexes and memory recall during a Mature Driver Workshop.



Novi resident gets first hair cut, 3 feet gone

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Anna Lausch walked into Utopia Salon & Spa in downtown Northville and took her hair out of a bun. It dropped down 62 inches to her calves. She was about to get the first hair cut of her life.

The 14-year-old will be a freshman at Novi High School this fall and wanted a change.

"I'm going into high school and decided to cut it," she said.

She originally started growing her hair long when she was 3 in order to compete in a Michigan State Fair contest for the longest ponytail. She competed three times, winning when she was 5 and 11 and taking second place when she was 9.

The competition ponytail measurement is taken from the hair tie

to the end of the ponytail, which measured 44 inches in 2005 when she last won. It was 53 inches last Monday.

"We just decided to cut it yesterday," said her mother, Mona Lausch, of the Aug. 10 decision. "It's become her identity, the girl with the long hair."

It also became a burden when it came to sports, since Anna keeps active as a 5-foot, 11-inch teenager.

"It'll make classical ballet and basketball easier," her mother said. "The braid in the down position, was down to her knees."

Anna hopes the 36 inches that were cut off will help her maneuver faster and easier during tryouts as a center or forward for the girl's basketball team at the high school. Her hair now lands just above her waist when hanging freely.

"It's a lot lighter," Anna said,

examining the new length of her hair a few minutes after the cut.

She said she doesn't plan to grow it back out, but she may cut her hair even shorter in the future. Anna said it could take some time to get used to having her hair only 36 inches long, and said it hasn't been that long since she was 7 or 8.

The hair cut took all of three minutes because it didn't require much styling or straightening.

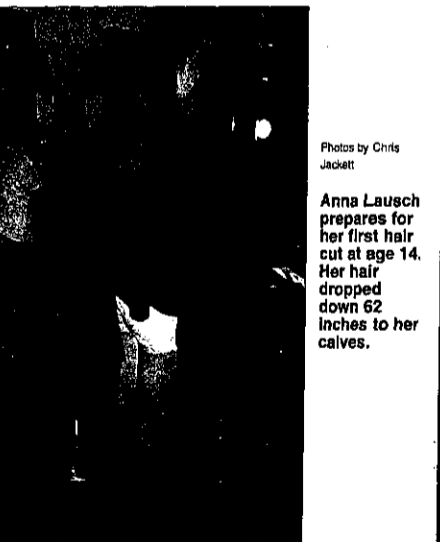
"It was a free cut because it's being donated," said Utopia editorial artist Timothy Jack, who cut Anna's hair.

Anna and her mother said they haven't decided where to donate the locks of light brown hair, but the 36 inches is enough for three children's wigs that run 10-12 inches each.

They want to donate the hair to children in need. Mona said St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Wigs for Kids, Locks of Love or an individual child with alopecia, a condition which causes hair loss, are all options they've considered.

-OBITUARIES-

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Photos by Chris Jackett

Anna Lausch prepares for her first hair cut at age 14. Her hair dropped down 62 inches to her calves.



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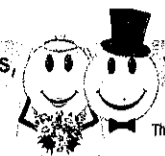
alpena cancer center central michigan community hospital foote hospital university of michigan health system
ingham regional medical center michigan state university providence cancer institute-novi & southfield

Anna Lausch holds the 36-inch ponytail. Editorial artist Timothy Jack cut the locks at Utopia Salon in downtown Northville.

CELEBRATE: Let us tell everyone your big news: engagements, anniversaries, births, weddings.

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY NOVI PEOPLE



Thursday, August 14, 2008
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WEDDING



Mr. and Mrs. Viktor Taushanov
Lesley Ann Lane and Viktor Taushanov were married March 8, 2008 in Las Vegas.

The bride is the daughter of James and Sonja Lane of Northville. She has a bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University and is currently employed at Chrysler Corporation.

The groom is the son of Hristo Taushanov and Miliza Popova of Sofia, Bulgaria. He has a masters degree in physical education and coaching from the National Sports Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria. He is currently employed at Coldwell Banker.

The Matron of Honor was Natalie White of Arizona. Diane O'Halloran of California was the maid of honor and the best couple was Asen Kolarov and Julia Collins of Coppell, Texas.

The couple honeymooned in Niagara Falls and make their home in Dallas.

ON CAMPUS

Grand Valley State University

Suzanne Wall of Novi was named a recipient of a Faculty Scholarship.

Wall, a recent graduate of Novi High School, is the daughter of Catherine and Alan Wall.

The following students were named to the Dean's List for the Winter 2008 semester: For Novi: Deanna G. Albanelli, Kathleen M. Ales, Alexandra M. Barcelona, Amanda M. Brandemuhl, Jennifer

Gold-Dosch

Tanya and Gary Gold of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Natalie Ann to Jordan

ENGAGEMENTS



Marathon Oil Co.
An August 2008 wedding is planned.

Anthony Dosch, son of Laura and George Dosch of Holland, Ohio.

The bride-elect is a 2002 graduate of Novi High School and a 2007 graduate of Eastern University with a degree in criminal justice.

The groom-elect is a 2006 graduate of University of Toledo and is employed by

ANNIVERSARY



Peggy 60th anniversary
Bob and Jean Peggy of Novi will celebrate 60 years of marriage on Aug. 14. They were married in Detroit in 1948 and have lived, worked and raised their family in the metro-Detroit area ever since.

Bob Peggy had an extensive career with Ford Motor Company, with a brief stint at Chrysler and Ford Tractor, where he retired in 1984. Jean Peggy has taken care of and supported her husband, children and grandchildren while enjoying hobbies of golf, gardening and knitting.

They have five children, Michael Peggy of Birmingham, Kathy Fritz of Wixom, Beth Hinman of Novi, Timothy Peggy of Birmingham, Ala. and Scott Peggy of Novi. There are 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

An anniversary celebration and dinner will be held at Rocky's of Northville on Aug. 16.

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A day at band camp with Regina Barbosa



By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Working 60 hours in five days may not sound like fun, but it is for 15-year-old Regina Barbosa. A junior at Novi High School, Barbosa is the mellophone section leader for the school marching band, which held band camp 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Aug. 4-8.

"It's a lot harder than it looks. It's really tough work," said Barbosa, who also runs track and played soccer, until it conflicted with track. "There's no real band conditioning. We don't all go running together. Band camp would be the conditioning, if you want to call it that."

After stretching and doing curd-downs for 30 minutes at 9 a.m., the French horn player and the rest of her bandmates start off every morning with their instruments sitting in the grass along a fence next to the school as they learn the steps for their performance.

"Every day we get new sets. We learn what it looks like and we learn it in chunks and then put the music in," Barbosa said. "The whole morning we're learning drill."

Until noon, the band members march in a specific and planned method, often with their shoulders turned 90 degrees from the direction their feet are facing. They have their bodies turned this way so they can face the crowd while moving from side to side.

The Color Guard performs alongside the band, in unison. Surprisingly, collisions aren't too common, more so at the start of the week, Barbosa said.

She said things have been going much smoother this year than the past two, making her job as a section leader that much easier.

"It's definitely better," she said. "The freshmen are great. They all know what they're doing."

Barbosa said the highlight of band camp was Tuesday, when excitement was brewing among the band members.

"Everyone was hyped up for the drill," she said, noting excitement usually doesn't boil up until the Saturday night performance for parents.

Barbosa said band members have gotten along well, making the performance development easier and the mood and 4 p.m. food breaks more sociable.

This year, the band will perform three sun-themed songs from the Final Fantasy video game series, Barbosa said. The band marches in sun-shaped patterns that tie in with the music.

Last year, Beethoven was the music of choice.

Barbosa thinks the band will get through learning the ballad, the second of three stanzas of the performance, in time for the parents performance.

Following their first break of the day, the band spends three hours in different rooms doing sectional practices.

"We work on music and sometimes work on drill," Barbosa said.

After a 90-minute dinner break, the band returns to the field - this time, with instruments. The band practices marching with instruments in hand and playing for three more hours before heading inside around 8:30 p.m., with most students not making it to their vehicles until about 9 p.m., Barbosa said.

And, just like that, about 200 Novi High School students have spent 60 hours in five days working toward a performance that will still be unfinished, but will come to fruition during the next few weeks.

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And, just like that, about 200 Novi High School students have spent 60 hours in five days working toward a performance that will still be unfinished, but will come to fruition during the next few weeks.

Incoming Novi High School junior Regina Barbosa works with the mellophone section during a day-long run of the marching band camp.



Vibraphonist Caroline Kohls works with other percussionists during band camp.



Framed by her fellow marching band campers - Regina Barbosa goes through marching drills.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOV NEWS



Not content to walk back to her mellophone area, section leader Regina Barbosa runs back on field after a quick water break.



Novi High School students learn marching steps during band camp.



Shadows of marching band members fall on the turf of Novi High School's athletic field.



Part of the Novi High marching band drumline practice.



Members of the mellophone section of Novi High's marching band work on their drills on a sunny Thursday afternoon.

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

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MY PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, August 14, 2008
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Tires slashed; crime in under five minutes

POLICE BRIEFS

According to a recent police report all of the tires of a white Chevy were slashed between 10 p.m. Aug. 3 and 4 a.m. Aug. 4. The vehicle was parked in a vacant parking space across from a residence on Charlemagne Drive, near 13 Mile and Novi roads, reports said.

The police officer observed a one-and-a-half-inch-wide hole, in each of the four tires, consistent with knife punctures, reports said.

The victim said he doesn't have any problems with anyone in the area.

Crime in fewer than five minutes

A vehicle was broken into and a briefcase was stolen while the victim was inside Best Buy for five minutes, reports said.

The man said at 8:10 p.m. Aug. 4, he parked the vehicle on the north side of the Best Buy, at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads, while he ran inside to pick up a previously ordered item.

When he returned to the vehicle, the right rear window was smashed out and a black leather briefcase was missing, reports said.

According to the police report, there were no other vehicles on either side of the victim when he parked, and the vehicle was

locked.

There are no witnesses at this time.

The victim said there was nothing of value inside the briefcase, which is worth \$250, just paperwork for his job. The window will cost about \$200 to fix, reports said.

Resident reports vehicle damage

The front, passenger-side blinker cover of a Jeep Compass was smashed between July 31-Aug. 5, reports said.

According to the vehicle owner, the Compass was not damaged when she left the Commerce Township dealership July 31, but she noticed it while at work in Southfield Aug. 5.

The victim is unsure of when and where the damage took place, but believes someone smashed it, as opposed to it being hit by another vehicle.

The woman said there has been a lot of foot traffic in her apartment complex lately and every night she hears people in the parking lot.

Damage to mailbox frame

Between 11 p.m. Aug. 4 and 8 a.m. Aug. 5, the wooden frame of a mailbox was struck on Mayo Drive, near Nine Mile and Tait roads.

According to the report, the

actual mailbox was still intact, but the wood of the frame was split and suffered damage.

The officer advised the victim that a similar complaint was made from a resident on nearby Galway Drive, so it is thought to be a random incident.

Items missing from convalescent home

An officer was called to Whitehall Healthcare Center of Novi, on 10 Mile Road, west of Novi Road, regarding a larceny complaint, reports said.

Upon arrival, the officer was notified by an administrator of three separate incidents between June 15-July 28 where residents complained about items missing.

According to the report, the items missing were things such as clothing and compact discs.

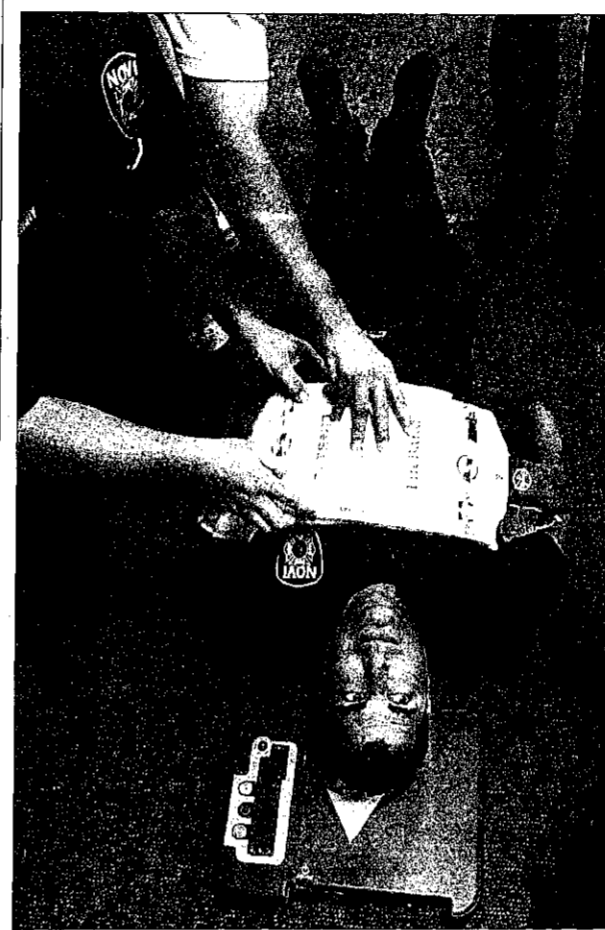
After further investigation, the officer discovered two of the three residents had already been reimbursed by management for the cost of the missing item(s) and the third resident, whose clothing was missing, didn't want the police involved, reports said.

Stolen license plate

The license plate was stolen from a vehicle between 12:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 3, reports said.

According to the victim, her Honda was parked in the driveway of her residence at the time of the incident.

Police found no evidence at the scene. There is no further information at this time.



Novi firefighter Remo Oliverio tries his hand at being a patient as his colleagues from firestation No. 1 try out an "AutoPulse" machine during a recent demonstration. The AutoPulse allows firefighters or paramedics to strap patients to the fully portable AutoPulse machine, which will then give automatic chest compressions in the event of cardiac arrest. The Novi Fire Department will begin to carry the AutoPulse in its response vehicles.

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- ARCHITECT
- DOCTOR

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Fri-Sat 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sun 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

WANT TO BE FEATURED? Let us know about your event or send us photos to be published

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

BE SCENE IN NOVI



Thursday, August 14, 2008 www.hometownlife.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Cirque Amongus!



Attendees of the recent Cirque Amongus Circus camp form a human pyramid as they practice their acrobatic skills. The campers were to give a demonstration to their friends on families at Ella Mae Power Park on Aug. 8.

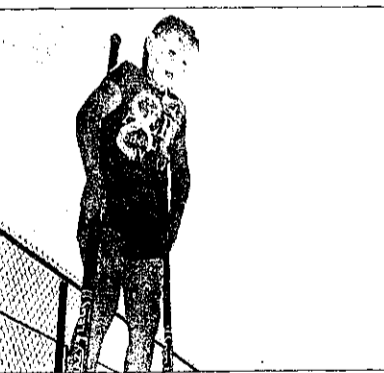


Justin Finkel juggles three pins in the air during last week's Cirque Amongus circus camp held at Novi's Ella Mae Power Park.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER



Tanaz Naterwala, 10, left, and Mallory Maxton, 10, practice their back-and-forth juggling skills during last week's Cirque Amongus circus camp held at Novi's Ella Mae Power Park.



Cirque Amongus camper Christina Hudgens, 10, tripping her hand at walking on stilts.

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED VACATION OF PORTION OF A PLATTED ROAD IN THE SUMMIT HILLS SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF NOVI. CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION...

BREAKING NEWS: Go to the Web at hometownlife.com for updated news and info

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

MY FAITH & RELIGION

Thursday, August 14, 2008 www.hometownlife.com fax: (248) 349-9832

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational Church LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757...

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-3647...

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

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

Church of the Holy Family LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road CONTACT: (248) 349-8847...

Brightmore Christian Church LOCATION: 40800 W. 13 Mile Road, corner of Michigan-5 CONTACT: (248) 668-7000...

First United Methodist of Northville A Stephen Ministry church LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-1144...

Dan's Custom Brickwork 882 York St. • Plymouth, MI 48170 Chimneys & Porches Repaired and Rebuilt...

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Oak Pointe Church LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 912-0043...

The Baha' Faith TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month LOCATION: 23803 Riverview Creek St. CONTACT: (248) 473-0355...

Faith Community Presbyterian LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-2345...

GracePointe Presbyterian Church CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleigh, Pastor (248) 497-3178...

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

Ward Evangelical Church LOCATION: 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville CONTACT: (248) 374-5978...

First United Methodist of Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-1144...

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Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update by Barbara Hayes, P.T. AFTER YOUR WRIST IS REPLACED Injured muscle, followed by a progressive strengthening program, promotes recovery...

Knox Hall Every Monday: 7 p.m. Learner's Bible Study, Room E501...

First Presbyterian Church of Northville LOCATION: 200 E. Main St., Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-0911...

Healing Service TIME/DATE: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month Men's Bible Study...

St. Paul Lutheran LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-0911...

St. John Lutheran LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills CONTACT: (248) 474-0584...

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

St. John Lutheran, ELCA Farmington Hills - 23225 Gill Rd. CONTACT: (248) 474-0584...

St. James Roman Catholic Church CONTACT: (248) 347-7778...

St. John Lutheran, ELCA CONTACT: (248) 474-0584...

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St. James Roman Catholic Church CONTACT: (248) 347-7778...

St. John Lutheran, ELCA CONTACT: (248) 474-0584...

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Voices & Views** at hometownlife.com

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

MY OPINION

Thursday, August 14, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Richard Perlberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Grace Perez Perry
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 customers.

Our opinion: Novi schools excel, top last year

When you are near the top, it is always harder to improve. But Novi Schools did just that.

According to Michigan Merit Exam results issued last week by the Michigan Department of Education, the Novi school district improved upon its scores from spring 2007.

The MME includes the ACT, is taken by high school juniors and includes six categories: math, reading, science, social studies, writing and English Language Arts.

At least 454 students tested in each category, compared to at least 480 last year, but the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards increased in all six categories.

"I'm pleased that we're going up and hope we'll continue to do that," said Monique Beels, assistant superintendent of academics for Novi Community Schools.

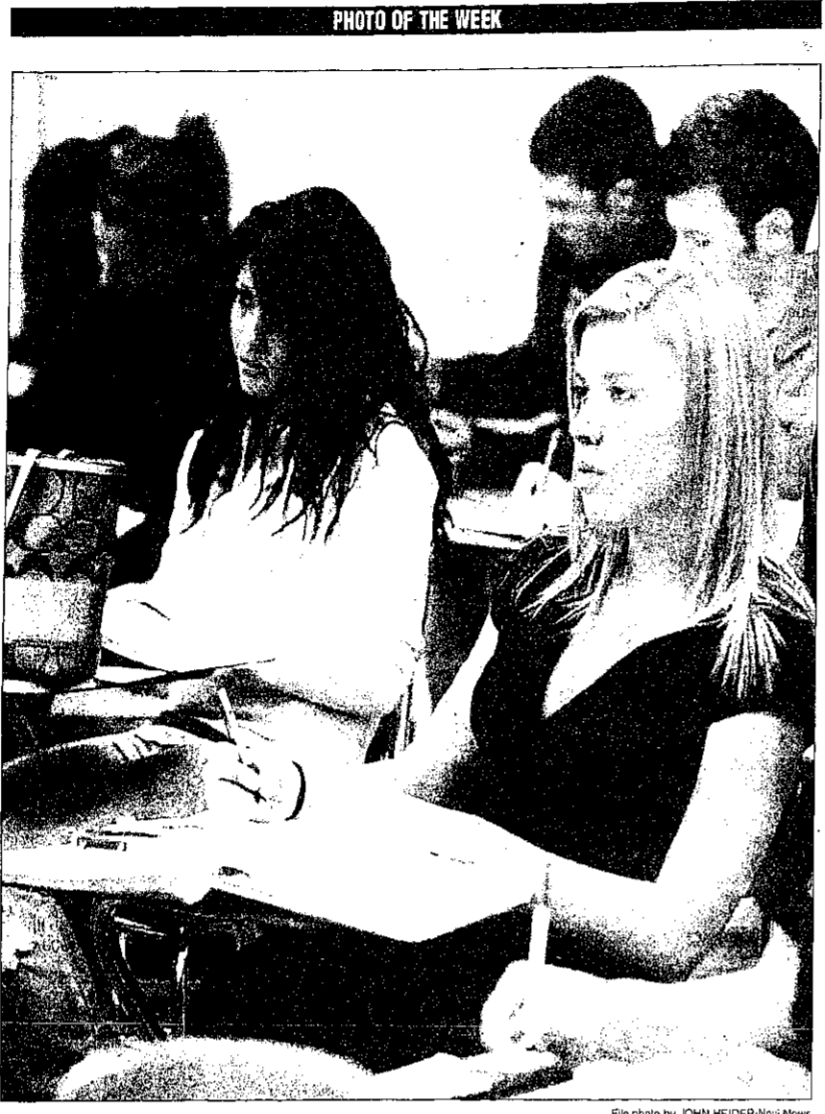
The area Novi students performed most proficiently in was social studies, with 423 of 455 students, or 93 percent, meeting or exceeding state standards with advanced or proficient scores. The score was the second highest in Oakland County.

And although fewer students tested because of the smaller junior class size, more Novi students received an advanced score than last year in math, reading, science and ELA.

Novi's mean ACT score was also one of the highest in metro Detroit at 22.2.

We applaud district administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students for continuing to strive for excellence.

The state test results are a great way to begin the 2008-09 school year, which begins Sept. 2.



Top of the Class
Novi High School students in the statistics class of teacher Maggie Lahne on last year's Student Count Day. Novi High Schools students excelled in recently released Michigan Merit Exam test results.

LETTERS

"Concomitantly"

I'm a reasonably intelligent guy with a fairly good command of the English language, but I have to say this word had me stumped. In fact, I don't recall ever seeing this word until I read Rep. Thad McCotter's e-mail from July 29. Is McCotter trying to impress his constituents with his swollen vocabulary, or is he trying to hide the truth behind big words?

McCotter states in his July 29 e-mail: "If the government would just get off of the way, remove its regulations, litigation, taxation and other obstacles to the production of American energy by entrepreneurs, and allow free markets to increase the supply of oil will increase (and) gas prices will precipitously fall. If you want energy security, you must concomitantly reduce the bureaucracy."

McCotter seems to believe if

we let Big Oil continue down the path to autonomous self-regulation without oversight, all of America's energy problems would somehow vanish like your car when you gas up your car to get to work.

Shortly after McCotter sent his e-mail, Big Oil admitted yet another quarter of record-breaking profits. It makes one wonder, when they're already making record profits, what possible incentive would compel Big Oil to increase supply and decrease prices? What would happen to the "entrepreneurs" McCotter is relying upon to provide competition and drive prices down? With history as our example, we can predict

What do you think?
We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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

dict these entrepreneurial upstarts would be brought up, quashed, assimilated and eradicated with the help of Big Oil's lobbyists in Washington. The result: The elimination of competition and a new age of energy monopolies. McCotter advocates a plan of economic regression that will ultimately spell disaster for our nation.

In the same e-mail, McCotter touts the newly-introduced "American Energy Act." A collection of election-year GOP talking

and renewable energy measures that Republicans in Congress like McCotter have consistently voted against.

Matt Macchiarolo
South Lyon

Voting Problems
In response to "officials said adjusting to the redistricting went smoothly," I have to disagree. At my new polling place for the 13th precinct, my husband, son and I observed only one person voting, there was one person in front of us

in line who was told she had to go to City Hall to vote and after we were checked through the next three people in line were also turned away.

My husband was #33 for the day; an election worker told me that they had turned away about the same number so far that day. Maybe that had something to do with the low turnout for the day.

Also, one poll worker said that, come the General Election in the fall, maybe signs should be posted outside the polling place asking people to check their voter card to see if they are in the right place before waiting in a long line.

The Novi News and our City clerk should do more to inform the voters of these changes and help to increase voter turnout before the November election.

Cateen Tindall
Novi

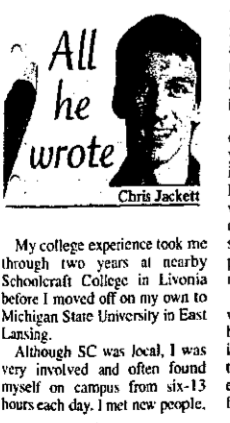
Veteran insight on the college lifestyle

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again where many of Novi High School's most recent graduates set forth on to the next step: College.

A mixture of emotions is common, ranging from excitement to being nervous or confused. For parents, if your child is moving away from home, concern could also be a prime emotion in your head right now.

As a fairly recent college graduate (May 2007), I can tell you that all the stereotypes and images people see in films and television shows about college are exaggerated. There is some truth to them, sure, but such depictions don't do the college lifestyle justice.



Organization is what got me through MSU. I budgeted myself to keep my head above water financially and still needed to max out my student loans to attend. Rent, food and the smallest unexpected items add up when you're living away from home. You can't just tell your parents to pick something up from the store for you.

You'll often change your behaviors, too. You'll learn the things that aren't healthy for you often cost less (pop vs. milk, for example) and that it may be better to wear an outfit twice before paying for laundry services.

As far as classes go, there is a lot more homework and, although entry level classes may seem like a high school review session, even if you know them as friends from back home.

Senior year and it was hardly as crazy as I've heard it described.

My best advice to those heading off to college this fall is to get involved. There are many campus groups focused on a common career, interest or goal. You'll meet people with similarities to yourself and begin great friendships. Many groups also have their own little perks, like previews of new movies and music, and backstage access to major concerts where you can meet the artists.

College is a good time, and could be the best years of your life, as they say. You just need to know how to navigate through it.

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

JOIN IN: Discuss our stories online via **Voices & Views** at hometownlife.com

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

COMMENTARY

Thursday, August 14, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Tom Watkins: Helping women is the First Step

Smack, punch, humiliate, terrorize, threaten, rape, shoot, stab, brutalize and emotionally traumatize. No, this is not the latest advertisement for the Soprano's - it is what happens to far too many women in our neighborhoods each day. Domestic violence is an equal opportunity crime; it impacts rich and poor, black and white, educated and non-educated. This past year, women of all socioeconomic status and racial and ethnic backgrounds have died; some disappeared and are still missing; and children traumatized as they have witnessed their dad or some other man brutalize their mom.

Last year, the domestic violence homicide rate rose a startling 74 percent in Michigan. A woman dies at the hands of a present or former partner every five days in this state. How pathetic and sad.

These are more than horrifying statistics. These women are our friends, neighbors, sisters, aunts, grandmas, moms and daughters. Chances are that it has happened or will happen to a woman in your life who you love.

Now - right now - I want you to get out your checkbook and write a check to



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.

First Step, a Wayne County agency serving women and children who are victims of domestic violence. If you have the means, write a big check or consider leaving a portion of your estate to First Step so they will be there after a woman has been attacked and needs a safe place to turn.

First Step, an agency serving women and children seeking help from domestic violence, has been that place for 30 years.

Please don't look the other way and believe that someone else will write the check. I want you to imagine a woman you love, battered and bruised physically and emotionally, and not having a safe place to turn for help. You can help, and, if so inclined, can mobilize others to do so as well.

First Step is working for violence-free homes and communities. It's current shelter is 65 years old, in deplorable condition and too small to meet the ever-growing demand.

First Step has embarked on a capital campaign to replace this antiquated facility. It's goal is to build a future without domestic and sexual violence. But until that day arrives we owe it to these women to give them a place to escape, one that provides them

with a sense of dignity and safety.

Survivors of domestic violence must have a "safe harbor" to escape the cycle of physical, psychological and sexual violence so they can begin their lives, often with children, anew. First Step has been stepping up for women for 30 years and needs the community to step up for women and help raise the \$5.5 million needed to make this dream a reality.

Last year, First Step provided around-the-clock crisis intervention, shelter, supportive counseling and legal support to nearly 10,000 survivors of domestic and sexual violence. That equates to more than 10,473 shelter nights for 322 women and 417 children.

The work of First Step is based on the belief that domestic and sexual violence is damaging to those individuals directly involved and to society as a whole. Domestic violence is not just "men being men." It is criminal conduct which cannot be tolerated. The victims need our help to recover.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, First Step is there to help you. If you know someone being abused, provide them with the encouragement, support and guidance to seek help. And if you are in a position to financially help First Step help women in need, please do - someone's mom or daughter thanks you.

To send donations or offer assistance, please contact First Step at:

First Step
Administrative Office
44567 Pinetree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 416-1111
24-hour help line
888-453-5900
www.firststep-mi.org

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This guest column was submitted by Joseph L. Welch, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, ITC Holdings Corp.

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Voice your opinions with a blog at www.hometownlife.com

HOT TICKET: 6:30 p.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Sunday "Old Time Radio" Dinner Theatre at Mama Mia Ristorante

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

MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, August 14, 2008 www.hometownlife.com fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

Pied Piper of Hamelin TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday... LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45715 10 Mile Road...

"Old Time Radio" Dinner Theatre TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Sunday... LOCATION: Mama Mia Ristorante, 1403 South Commerce Road, Walled Lake, MI 48116...

Inaugural Wing Shooting and Sporting Clays Seminar DATE: Thursday and Friday... LOCATION: Detroit Gun Club, 2275 East Oakley Park Road, Walled Lake, MI 48116...

Hollywood Nights Movie Marathon TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22 until 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23... LOCATION: Emagine Theatre, 12561 Mile Crossing...

Muscular Dystrophy Association Fundraiser TIME/DATE: Noon-2 p.m. Friday... LOCATION: All Outback Steakhouse Restaurants in Michigan, including the one at 48020 Grand River Ave...

Party on the Docs Grand Opening TIME/DATE: Noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24... LOCATION: Meadowbrook Medical Building, 25500 Meadowbrook Road...

Democrats of West Oakland County TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Tuesday... LOCATION: Ram's Horn Restaurant, Novi Rd. and 14 Mile Rd...

Lawrence, mayor of Southfield and candidate for Oakland County Executive. Bring a can of food for the Oakland County Foodbank... CONTACT: jim at (248) 624-7228

EMU GOLD Alumni Party TIME/DATE: 8:30-10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21... LOCATION: 5th Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road... DETAILS: Join the EMU Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) and friends for a night of live music, networking and fun...

Free Lecture on Healthy Eating for Children TIME/DATE: Noon-1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21... LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, 90000 W. Eight Mile Road, one block west of Haggerty Road...

Life Story Writing Workshop TIME/DATE: Oct. 2 and 9, Nov. 5 and 12, and Dec. 9 and 16... LOCATION: Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road... DETAILS: This six-session workshop is for those who wish to reminisce and reflect on their life...

Wixom Village Center Summer Concert Series TIME: 7-9 p.m. every Thursday... LOCATION: Village Center, Sibley Square Park, across from City Hall... DATE: Tonight - Randy Brook group, blues... DATE: Aug. 21 - Mass Transit Band (Blues, Stevie Ray and Clapton style)...

Farmers Market - Walled Lake TIME/DATE: 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. every Wednesday... LOCATION: Walled Lake City Event Field on E. West Maple Road between Decker Road and Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake... DETAILS: The Farmers Market begins in May and runs through the end of October...

Novi Chamber of Commerce LOCATION: 41875 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 201... The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site and involvement with local charities...

NHL sports figures, Novi police and fire vehicles, classic and performance cars, mini health fair, give-aways, drawings and more. Everything is free... CONTACT: Call for membership information, (248) 349-3743. Register for all events online at www.novichamber.com. Email to info@novichamber.com.

Second City Comedy Club LOCATION: 42705 Grand River Ave... CONTACT: Box Office (248) 349-4448... JEWELL! The Musical DATE: Through Sept. 7... TIME: 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 9 p.m. Fridays; 7 and 9 p.m. Saturdays; and 4 and 8 p.m. Sundays...

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Since 1953, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Wolverine Lake and White Lake... Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area...

American Business Women's Association Meetings TIME/DATE: 6:15 p.m. second Wednesday of every month... LOCATION: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 27000 Sheraton Dr. (west of Novi Road, north of I-96) ... DETAILS: Local chapter provides many advantages to today's working women and offers a strong community service program which includes raising money for scholarships...

Senior Variety Series "Remember When... The Game Show of the Century!" DATE: Sept. 11-21... LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road... DETAILS: The Novi Theatres invite those ages 50 or older to join in the Senior Variety Series. Meet new friends and hone your performance skills. Rehearsals begin on June 3 and continue every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer...

Novi City Council Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21... LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Tenth Road... CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Walsh College, Business Leadership Institute LOCATION: 41500 Gardenbrook Road, near 11 Mile and Meadowbrook roads... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

Novi Rotary Club TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday... LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road... DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information; noviroary.org.

Washed Lake City Library LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake... HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Closed on Sunday until Sept. 7... CONTACT: (248) 624-3772 or e-mail to admin@walledlakelibrary.org

Novi Public Library LOCATION: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Closed on Sunday until Sept. 7... CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or novilibrary.org

Novi City Council Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21... LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Tenth Road... CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi Public Library LOCATION: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Closed on Sunday until Sept. 7... CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or novilibrary.org

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List your event in our calendar!

To be included in My Bulletin Board, please send event name, date, time, location, details and contact... Mail: Novi News, My Bulletin Board, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167... Fax: (248) 349-9832... E-mail: vmitchell@gannett.com

to show off your superior skills; vie for gold in fun and lunk games, races and contests... Transitions to Kindergarten TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday... DETAILS: Great ideas for parents and care providers to help children smoothly go from preschool to kindergarten. Minimum of 10 participants; registration required.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21... LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Tenth Road... CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library LOCATION: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Closed on Sunday until Sept. 7... CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or novilibrary.org

BUSINESS

Walsh College, Business Leadership Institute LOCATION: 41500 Gardenbrook Road, near 11 Mile and Meadowbrook roads... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

Novi Public Library LOCATION: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Closed on Sunday until Sept. 7... CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or novilibrary.org



Deadline: Must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition... Call (248) 349-1700 for additional information.



Perfect Putt Lori Burke, of Novi's The Grapevine wine bar, lines up a putt at The Links of Novi during the recent Novi Parks Foundation golf outing. Teams from all over Novi (businesses, church and civic groups) got together to golf on Aug. 7 to raise money for the foundation.

See detroitadventurepass.org for more information. ESI Cafe TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. every Thursday... Details: Coffee and conversation. Improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries trying to improve their English. No tests; instructor help; free.

NOVI SENIORS

Novi Senior Activities Center LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road... CONTACT: (248) 347-0414... Message by appointment: 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday... Details: For ages 50 and older. For this short performance, you will be given a part, a script and will rehearse and perform for your parents and others on the same afternoon.

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Waldenwood at Twelve Oaks Retirement Community... CONTACT: (248) 735-1500

Fox Run LOCATION: 41000 W. 13 Mile Road... CONTACT: Please call (248) 926-5200 for additional information on the community's apartment homes. For general information, call (248) 668-8610.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adaptive Parent Networking Meeting DATE: Last Wednesday of each month... TIME: 10-11 a.m. LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road... Details: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Child care is available; registration required.

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continued from 18A

ciates, volunteers and the whole community are welcome. Cost is \$28 for four weeks and additional siblings are \$25. Please call (248) 466-5455 to register.

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: Call (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com/> for more information.
Novi Rubber Stamp and Paper Arts Festival
TIME/DATE: 10-5 p.m. Saturday, 11-4 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: \$6 online advance tickets, includes early entry at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and free Sunday pass. \$8 at the door Saturday, includes free Sunday pass. Sunday only \$6, children under 12 are free.

CLASS REUNIONS

Walled Lake Western High School Multi-Class of 1970-1979

Pre-reunion Gathering
DATE: Friday
LOCATION: Walled Lake Western High School, 600 Beck Road, Walnut Lake
DETAILS: 7 p.m. - walk-through of the school (tentative), 4 p.m. - Meet at Big Boy Restaurant in Walled Lake for dinner. 8 p.m. - A's Copper Mug in Walled Lake.
Reunion
TIME/DATE: 4:30 p.m. arrival, 5:30 p.m. dinner Saturday
LOCATION: VFW Post 2269, 2652 Loon Lake Road, Wixom
DETAILS: Tickets are \$55 per person or \$65 per couple. Cash bar. Dressy attire. Personal checks, money orders or cashiers checks may be made payable to: W.L. Western Multi Class Reunion, 1054 Pleasure Street, Milford, MI 48381. RSVP by July 31, 2008. For more information visit groups.yahoo.com/group/wlwalu mn7076 or walledlakealumni.com. Questions or comments may be directed to whw70_79reunion2008@yahoo.com.

Northville High School Class of 1998

TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Country Club
DETAILS: Cost is \$50 and includes dinner, cash bar.
CONTACT: Ed Wittenberg by e-mail at edwittenberg@hotmail.com by Sept. 1.

South Lyon High School Class of 1993

TIME/DATE: 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 4
LOCATION: Banquet Center in Whitmore Lake
DETAILS: Tickets are \$55 per person (\$60 if purchased after Sept. 1) and includes dinner and cash bar. To purchase tickets and for more information, please visit www.southlyon93.com, or send a check payable to "South Lyon High School Class of 1993" to Brian Abela, 207 Fox Grove Place, Hummelstown, PA 17036.

REGIONAL

Michigan Humane Society

LOCATION: 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms

CONTACT: michiganhumane.org
Project 12 Baskets
DETAILS: Turn unwanted items into lifesaving care for animals. The Project 12 Baskets program takes donated items of value and turns them into dollars for non-

profit organizations like MHS. Free up space, receive a tax deduction and help MHS.
Compware Drive-In Movies
TIME: 7:30 p.m. gates open; 9 p.m. (dusk) movies begin

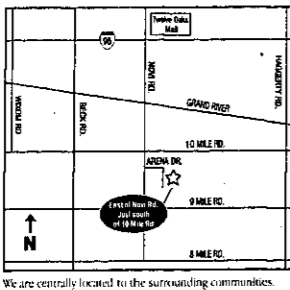
DATES: Through Sept. 7
LOCATION: Compware Arena, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth
DETAILS: Prices for the drive-in movies are \$9 for ages 13 and older, \$7 for children 4-12, and free for children 3 and under. For movie

listings, call (734) 927-3284.
Send your calendar items to [venitchev@gannett.com](mailto:NoviNews;104 W. Main Street, Suite 101; Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832 or e-mail to <a href=).

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Public receives first look at Novi's Providence Park Hospital

Grand opening event Aug. 23

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Providence Park Hospital is offering the public a behind the scenes look at the new \$224 million facility, two weeks prior to its official opening.

"It's a pre-opening event because we wanted people to see the inside of the hospital prior to us providing patient care," said Lew Martin, account executive of marketing and public relations for Providence Park Hospital. "It will be the first time we will let anyone inside the hospital."

The grand opening celebration is from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 23. "Everyone is invited to come, all they need is a willingness to have fun," Martin said.

The event will kick off with a community walk around a limited portion of the campus, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"We have a one-mile campus walk," Martin said. "The walk is only a portion of the campus because we wanted to showcase the beautiful wooded areas and walking paths, but we didn't want people walking in an area where there might be traffic."

The 200-acre health care campus is surrounded by a 1.6 mile scenic path for walking or biking through the natural woods and wetlands of the property.

Event-goers will also have an opportunity to tour the campus

via free trolley rides.

"The trolleys will be encircling the campus and we will have a guided tour of the whole Providence Park campus," Martin said. "One of the important reasons we are giving the trolley tours is because several of the buildings are new and have opened within the last six months."

There will be three open-air trolleys, which hold 35 people each, providing tours and popcorn from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Behind-the-scenes tours of the hospital will run from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and include a free T-shirt and chair massage.

Martin said the event, which is focused around health, will include a Bread Company and Caribou Coffee will be there and a wide variety of vendors so that people can sample things and buy things to really enrich the whole experience.

Healthy food and refreshments will also be available for purchase in other parts of the campus, including the Healthy Inspirations Cafe, inside the hospital.

"We are having our cafe be all about health," Martin said. "No item has more than 30 percent fat. We're following low sodium and low sugar guidelines, but you will be amazed how tasty the food is."

"We want to show people how great healthy food can be. It's our responsibility."

Five dollar boxed lunches will

also be available for purchase.

The family-friendly event will keep children entertained with the 40-by-40-foot inflatable Adrenaline Rush obstacle course and an interactive Operation game Martin said.

Attendees of all ages will be able to participate in a community art activity sponsored by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts and Assarian Cancer Center.

"The general public will have the opportunity to assist in the creation of a large mosaic art piece that will eventually hang in the hospital," Martin said. "It will be nice for people to walk in the hospital and say 'I had a hand in making that.'"

is the size of a pool table.

"The Operation game, we all knew as kids, will be here on site, a large adult-size Operation game," he said.

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creation of a large mosaic art piece that will eventually hang in the hospital," Martin said. "It will be nice for people to walk in the hospital and say 'I had a hand in making that.'"

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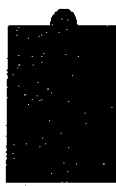
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Coming up: Novi Wildcat fall previews

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008 • HOMETOWNLIFE.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

SPRINGING FORWARD

Rivalry with Northville goes up, travel way down in new KLAA

By Jeff Theisen
 SPORTS WRITER

The final phase of the high school sports season comes with the spring weather and finishes with the summer heat.

By then, two seasons of sports in the brand new Kensington Lakes Activities Association will be in the books.

But the biggest sports season of all will be waiting to crown inaugural division, conference and association champions.

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 (the other half of the KLAA) 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 it opens).

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

Girls soccer

Here lies the monster division. Novi, Northville and Stevenson will battle in what has to be considered one of the hardest to win trophies besides the state title.

Before last season, Novi and Northville had combined to win the last four state titles. Stevenson was no slouch in the playoffs either.

Novi head coach Brian O'Leary is fully aware of what lies ahead,

but he wants his team to take the challenge head on.

"I think with the girls, we appreciate the change a little more," he said. "It's bigger for the girls because of what's at stake."

The schedule will be brutal, with each team playing divisional teams home and away. O'Leary knows it could be very tough on the girls, but it will help get them prepared for the postseason.

"There were games that weren't competitive (in the KVC)," he said. "Now, I think it will be ideal in we won't have games where we kill the other team. We'll play some top-notch quality."

Baseball

Chalk up another sport in which the rivalry with Northville should intensify.

After Novi knocked Northville out of the playoffs, this sport doesn't need anything else to make the rivalry bigger, but it gets it anyway.

In the past, games with Northville were mostly for bragging rights, unless they were in the playoffs.

This year, the two could be two of the top teams in the division and the Kensington Conference.

Novi won six of the last nine KVC titles, and Northville has blown through the WLAA in recent years. Brighton was an annual KVC contender, but they are now part of the Lakes Conference.

"With Northville in our league, I believe our rivalry is going to be bigger than in the past," Novi head coach Rick Green said. "It's going to be crazy."

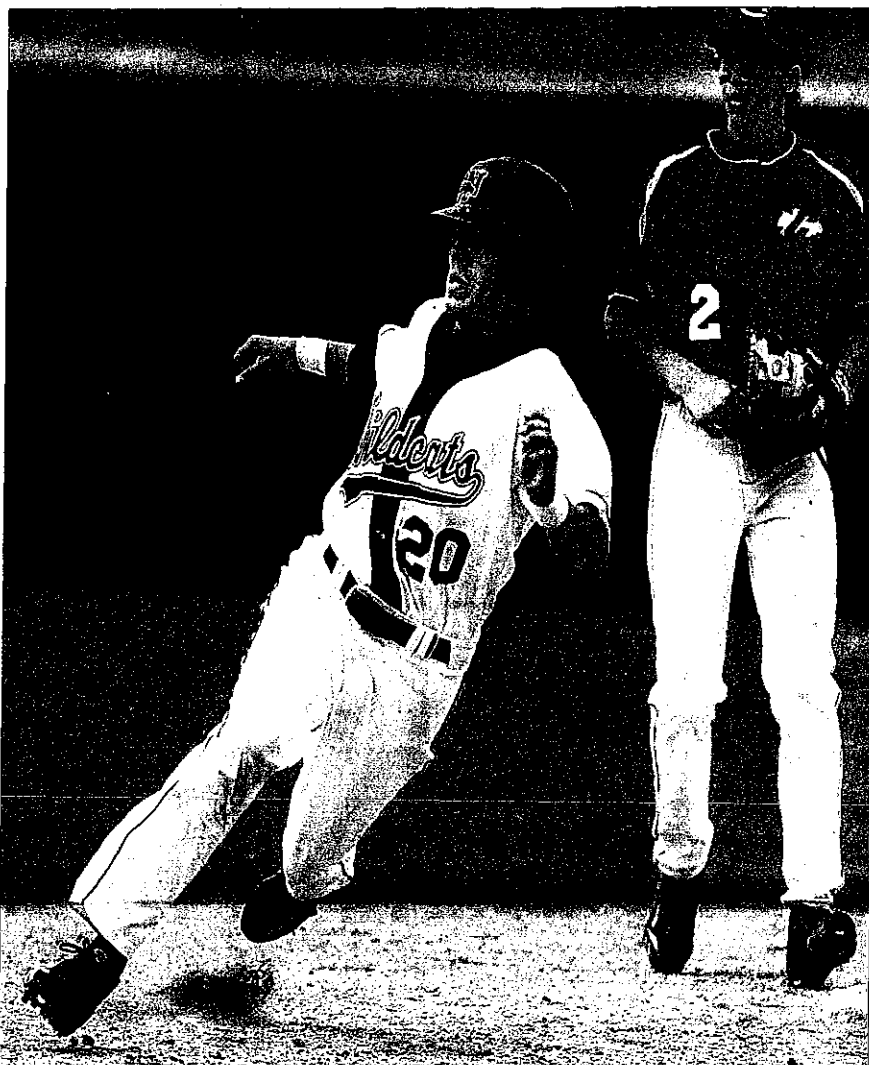
Green also added his name to the list of coaches who have said they are looking forward to less travel in the new league.

Softball

Head coach Bob Lulek went through a transformation year with his team last year, adding a lot of underclassmen to varsity in hopes of gaining experience that will pay off down the road.

But things won't get any easier for the Wildcats. If they are going to become a championship program, it's going to have to deal with the best the WLAA had to offer on a regular basis.

The Wildcats will now be part of a division that includes last



Wildcat Danny Kilger rounds second base during Novi's playoff game against Canton.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION							
KENSINGTON CONFERENCE				LAKES CONFERENCE			
SOUTH DIVISION		CENTRAL DIVISION		NORTH DIVISION		WEST DIVISION	

SOURCE: www.howellschools.com/leasports/index.htm



Wildcat Meredith Tarrant clears the barrier as she high jumps during an April 8 home meet.



Novi's Ellen Brinza competes for the ball.

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KLAA

continued from front

year's two best teams from the WLAAs in Northville and Salem. The only familiar face from the KVC will be South Lyon.

Boys Track

Things didn't go the way Novi head coach Chris Payton hoped in his first year with the team. The Wildcats came up just short in several meets, but he is looking forward to the new league and the new challenges it will present. "I'm excited about it. I had one year in the KVC and it didn't go so well," Payton said. "I was from the WLAAs. I graduated from Walled Lake Western. I'm excited to see some of the schools that I played against."

Novi had been one of the premier teams in the KVC in the past, picking up several league titles.

But the landscape will change. Gone to the other conference are powerhouses Milford and Pinckney.

But replacing them are Stevenson and Northville, among others.

"Stevenson has dominated the WLAAs," Payton said. "The KVC is primarily a distance league. The WLAAs is predominantly agility. Teams will have huge advantages in certain areas. Field events could be the decider."

Payton said some things will be different as the KVC and WLAAs run their meets a little differently, but that things will get ironed out eventually and new rivalries will be created.

Girls Track

The Wildcat girls track team has usually been in the middle of the KVC pack. The KVC had an abundance of talent, but this year, the only familiar team from the KVC will be South Lyon.

Expect Stevenson and Northville to be considered near the top of the new conference.

"We just switch from one powerhouse team to another," Novi head coach Marsha Reid said. "We ran with such high-quality teams in the KVC."

But Reid said she is looking forward to facing the new teams, giving her team something different to compete against. The girls won't have an opinion of what to expect and will just go out and compete.

The biggest problem with the league will be building new relationships with coaches that Novi hasn't connected with in the past, but much like the KVC, things will continue to get better with each passing year.

"I'm kind of looking forward to it," Reid said.

Lacrosse

Novi had a huge season last year in lacrosse, and will look to continue its success in the Kensington Conference.

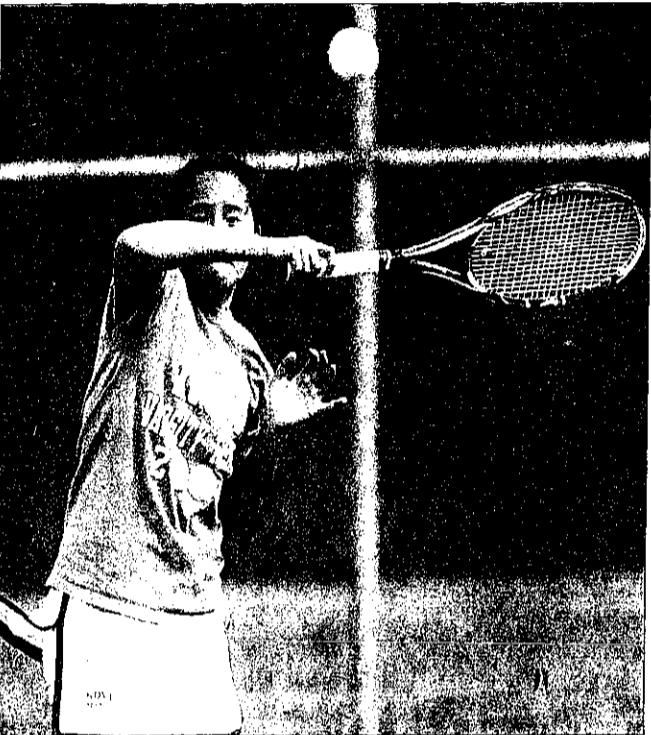
The KLAA has 13 teams with boys lacrosse.

The Wildcats are part of the Kensington Conference with Canton, Northville, Plymouth, Salem and South Lyon, including South Lyon East.

The Lakes Conference includes former KVC foes Brighton, Hartland, Howell and Huron Valley. Filling out the rest of the Lakes are Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern and Waterford (Mout in odd years) and Kettering in even years.



Senior Wildcat second baseman Lauren Shelar makes a toss to first base for an out.



Novi's Jackie Wang competes in Division playoffs.

Wildcat head coach Tom Stepenhoff said he is happy to see the sport growing, but he wasn't sure how things would play out for the season.

Novi will definitely be a front-runner, but he's worried about getting to play some competition other than the KLAA scheduled games.

Boys Golf

The past drama in the KVC was which team would step up and take the title. Brighton, Milford, Novi and Hartland could be expected to be in the fight, but any of the teams could win it.

These three are now in the other conference.

Novi can expect the biggest fight from rival Northville. "Northville is loaded," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "I

don't know much about the other new schools."

Huss expects the league to have fewer teams competing for the title, but that's because there could be a bigger separation between the elite and the middle-of-the-pack teams.

"In terms of depth it will be easier," Huss said. "The KVC has been solid for the last seven years."

Huss isn't a big fan of the new league, but much of that comes from so many years of being involved in the KVC.

"The KVC has been around since 1979. I've either played in the league or coached in the league ever since," he said. "I imagine by the time I retire I'll start getting used to it."

"I understand why we're doing it. I understand with the transportation and the geographics." But Huss knows no matter

what his feelings of the old league, the new league was going to happen.

Girls Tennis

Novi and Northville have been two of the top teams in the area, finishing 1-2 at the regional last year and qualifying for state.

Now they will be in the same division, playing each other at least twice a year. With all divisional teams playing each other home and away, this rivalry should only increase.

The Wildcats finished tied for fourth at state, while the Mustangs tied for eighth. The only other KLAA school to place at state was Brighton in 17th.

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



A Novi Wildcat track team member competes in a relay race during a meet hosted at home in early April.



Novi lacrosse will be part of the KLAA Central Division.

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Michigan Players winners at camp
17 soccer players (born July-December 1994) from across Michigan represented the state at the Regional Olympic Development Program (ODP) camp in Rockford, Ill. during the week of July 12-16. The boys played against teams from other states throughout the Midwest Region and performed extremely well. They won their first three games - against Kansas, Illinois and Wisconsin - with a combined 13 goals scored against only 2 goals allowed. They went on to win their semi-final game 3-1 against Ohio-South. The championship game was against Ohio-North with Michigan going on to the victory with an exciting 5-4 shootout after the game ended in a 0-0 tie during regulation.
Back row (from left) are: Coach Jason Collinsworth, Rickie Carter (Commerce Twp.), Jake Genrich (Plymouth), Vittorio Brocca (Shelby Twp.), Dylan Knott (Oakland), Evan Kozlowski (Sterling Hgts.), Phillip Soong (Novi), Troy Dolmetsch (Northville Twp.), Jarrett Gorman (Orion), Tommy Beasley (Saline), Coach Bob Bukari and Coach Todd Derby. Front Row: Drew Shepherd (Ann Arbor), Adam Clauss (Spring Lake), Joshua Whitaker (Vicksburg), Joshua Wissner (Grand Ledge), Cory Odell (Novi), Kevin Pachuta (Farmington Hills), Brock Reolais (Portage) and Alex Brusher (Novi).



Sister act
Inspired by Coach Karen Cooper, the Novi Madness fast pitch softball coaches took a team of sisters to play in the Hudson Michigan tournament on July 26 and 27. The team was made up of five pairs of sisters and one pair of cousins. The players are from Novi and South Lyon. They went undefeated for the weekend taking home the first place trophy for the 13 and under division.
Front row (from left): Coach Kathleen Narducci, Laura Oakley, Lindsay Brandon, Sydney Jones, Molly Murphy, Jenna Lowmyer and Mallory Daschke.
Back row: Coach Karen Cooper, Christina Oakley, Jessica Brandon, Taylor Jones, Jacki Murphy, Kasey Lowmyer, Emily Blesiaki and coach Dan Daschke.
Coach Cooper wanted to give an opportunity for the sisters in the Madness program to play in a tournament together.
The team played against Fremont, Ind., Grass Lake, Hudson and defeated Irish Hills 4-1 in the final game. Coach Cooper lost her sisters due to illness and wanted to give the young girls a memory to treasure and be grateful for.

Sports Shorts

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, baserunning and fielding will be taught Aug. 17.
Clinic time is 9-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is \$30 per day or \$50 for both. Additional \$5 fee to register on clinic day.
Registration information is available at www.etaamz.com/MotorCity or contact Jacquie Schulte at (248) 374-9343.

Novi Heat tryouts
The Novi Heat Travel Baseball Club will hold tryouts for the 2009 season on Saturday, Aug. 16 and Saturday, Aug. 23 from 9-11 a.m. Rain dates are Sunday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, Aug. 24 from 9-11 a.m. The tryouts will be held at ITC-Novi Community Sports Park on Eight Mile and Napier roads.

Flag football
An adult flag-touch football league will begin in Royal Oak. Games will be Monday-Wednesday in September and October. Cost is \$400 a team. The last day to sign up is Aug. 21.
For more information, call Todd at (248) 246-3180.

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.

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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.

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



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



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.

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,

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

Gayle's DancePhase is the place where dreams begin.

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

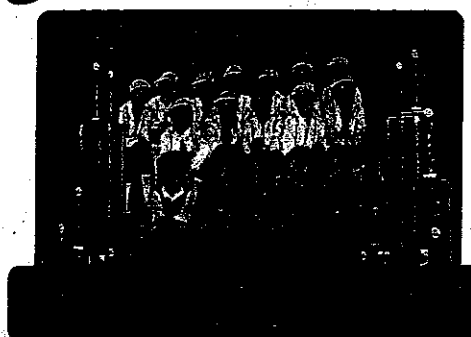
★ CALL TODAY ★
(248) 305-5600

★ www.gaylesdancephase.com ★

Team Level

Boys Dance Free
(when sizes is enrolled)

Recreational Level



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