



State champ leads All-Area swim team

— Sports, B1

Novi nets gold for active living

— Community, B2

Q&A with owners of Novi McDonald's

— Strictly Business, B6



Novi News

THURSDAY December 18, 2008

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Local businesses offer quality products and customer service

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Ken Lapides, owner of Jack's Wholesale Meats, has watched nearby businesses, big and small, come and go since he opened the Novi meat market on the southwest corner of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, 37 years ago.

"Vic's gone, Farmer Jack is gone and we're still here," he said. "It's not really how big you are, it's what you do. We sell 3,000 pounds of ground beef a week."

Novi businesses such as Jack's Wholesale Meats are depending on the help of area residents to keep them afloat during the current recession.

"Small business owners are suffering just as much as big businesses," said Michael Rogers, vice president of communications of the Small Business Association of Michigan. "More than half of the state's employees work for small businesses."

Jack's Wholesale Meats

Lapides said he and his father began Jack's Wholesale Meats as a retail market in 1972 and expanded into wholesale four years later.

"Our business is 60 percent wholesale and 40 percent retail," he said. "I think we're the only federal processing store in Oakland County. We sell to about 28 (country) clubs and restaurants."

Among the local restaurants that use meat from



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Ken and Rochelle Lapides display fine cuts of steak inside Jack's Meat Market on 10 Mile Road in Novi. Ken opened Jack's with his father 37 years ago and supplies many local restaurants with their meat.

Jack's are The Library Sports Pub & Grill, Don's of Traverse City, Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall, Honey Tree and Athenian Coney Island.

Novi resident and Orchard Hills Elementary School special education teacher Lori Burkhardt said her parents started going to Jack's in 1978 and she continues the tradition today.

"I believe in trying to do

things locally, and they've been in business so long in Novi," said Burkhardt, who does the remainder of her grocery shopping at Meijer on Grand River Avenue, west of Wixom Road. "You might possibly get a better deal somewhere else, but he actually cares about his customers."

Please see LOCAL, A8

A SAMPLE OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

Jack's Wholesale Meats (248) 349-0490
Market Village (248) 348-0401
Novi Carpet's (248) 477-0640
Sef Pointe tennis shop (248) 735-0600
Sincerely Yours (248) 449-9020

Retirement community sends holiday greetings to wounded soldiers

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Wounded soldiers at the Veterans hospitals in Detroit, Ann Arbor and one in Florida will receive cards this holiday season thanks to Fox Run's own Secret Santa.

"They don't have to know who I am, they just have to know someone was thinking of them," the secret Santa said. "It's always nice to get something that's a surprise."

During the holiday season, Novi's Fox Run has placed collection boxes around the retirement community for residents and staff interested in sending holiday cards to injured soldiers.

"I know one employee who put like 28 cards in there," said Community Resources Coordinator Michelle Cassabon. "Anything that has to do with the troops, we get a good response here at Fox Run."

Cassabon said there is also a group of residents who sort playing cards to send to

soldiers and a Yarn Crafters group with residents who are knitting helmet liners for troops.

Cassabon, who was in the National Guard, said she and her son filled out cards thanking the troops for all they do.

"I was in the Air Force and when I was overseas I got a huge care package from a bunch of Girl Scouts," she said. "I know how much it means to get stuff like that and know people care about what you're doing."

The packages containing hundreds of holiday cards are expected to reach the soldiers in time for Christmas.

This is the first time Fox Run held an organized collection, but Cassabon said she always tries to do this, to make sure the troops are getting something during the holidays.

"We've done it before through my old unit at the base in Selfridge," she said.

kmurad@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, Ext. 263



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Dr. Jean Pike adds a few cards to a collection at Fox Run's Belmont Manor that will be sent to wounded soldiers.

District's new program cares about children

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

Saying goodbye to a crying toddler as you scurry off to work is a heart-wrenching way to start the day. But one reassuring phone call saying everything is fine can make the heartache disappear.

Nestled inside Novi High School is a warm, cozy environment where children lovingly play, paint and laugh. And if your child is sad during the day, no worry, the teachers will call or e-mail parents to let them know everything is fine.

Teachers Katy Shpakoff and Megan Gilmore said they understand that a quick call

INFANT-TODDLER C.A.R.E. PROGRAM

Hours of operation are from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
The program is offered year-round.
For more information, call (248) 449-1713

or e-mail can do wonders for a parent feeling bad about a teary-eyed drop off.

"We don't want the parents to think they're bothering us, so we call them," Gilmore said.

This place is the Novi Community Schools Continuing Education new

Infant-Toddler C.A.R.E. program.

C.A.R.E. stands for Children's Activities in a Responsible Environment.

The state-licensed facility opened Sept. 2 and is welcoming infants and toddlers ages 3-32 months into the program. The child-care program was created primarily for Novi residents and district and Providence Park Hospital employees.

The facility is licensed to hold 28 enrollees, but its goal is to increase enrollment from nine to 20, with eight infants.

Part-time and full-time enrollment, along with half-day and full-day care

is offered, and children may attend anywhere from two-five days. Rates differ depending on enrollment.

"It's a safe, secure educational environment," said Bob Steeh, Novi Community Schools community education director.

About the program

The infant-toddler C.A.R.E. program is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for children, while promoting creativity and self-confidence. It is a play-based program, encouraging children to discover and

Please see CARE, A8



Katy Shpakoff plays with Montse Coronel at the Novi Schools' Infant-Toddler C.A.R.E. program located inside Novi High School. The new program is open to all district employees, Novi residents and employees of Providence Park Hospital.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

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INDEX

APARTMENTS C1
AUTOMOTIVE C3
CROSSWORD PUZZLE C3
JOBS C2
OBITUARIES A6
REAL ESTATE C1
SERVICE GUIDE C3

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More Inside

Student heading to nation's capital

Local news, A7

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Volume 53 Number 30

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NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Council unanimously approved a schedule for policy meetings, with the addition of two special meetings in January and February. At the upcoming meeting, Jan. 5, staff will present council with an economic development review of 2008 and make recommendations for 2009 goals, objectives and implementation strategies. A special meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 12 for consideration of a Walked Lake Lake Board. At the Jan. 26 meeting, staff will present council with results of the National Citizen Survey and a 2009-10 annual property tax base and revenue primer to share estimates on property tax valuations and the resulting revenue. A

special meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 9 to discuss Signature Park planning and a Saturday morning goal-setting session is scheduled for Feb. 14. Councilman Andrew Mutch added an item to mayor and council issues addressing the need for public input on Signature Park concepts and plans. With a presentation date tentatively scheduled for February, Mutch asked staff and council members involved in the project to make sure the consultants provide opportunities for public input. Council approved, by a 7-0 vote, to renew the school liaison officer contract with the Novi Community School District through the 2010-11 school

year. A Novi police officer is assigned to the high school and is responsible for a variety of activities that take place in the school district. In addition to investigating criminal activity, the officer serves as a liaison between the police department, school and other city entities. The projected salary, including benefits and excluding overtime is \$110,000. Based upon a previous agreement, the school district will fund 10 percent of the total cost of the school liaison officer's salary. Novi City Council interviewed five candidates for Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capella's vacant seat. The candidates included, planning commissioners Brian Burke and Michael Meyer; zoning board of appeals member Justin Fieber; board of review member Marjorie Nautian; and library board member Ramesh Verma. A

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Novi recognized as active community

BY KELLY MURAD STAFF WRITER

The City of Novi was recently recognized by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports, gold-medal winner for incorporating active, living into the community. "What really has impressed me about what Novi is doing to create active living environments is the policies and plans in place that support designing for physical activity," said Sarah Panken, active community coordinator for the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports. "In particular, the sidewalk and pathway prioritization plan

lays out what is necessary to make the community more pedestrian-friendly." For the third year, the City of Novi participated in the Promoting Active Communities Program by completing an online assessment of the communities' programs, policies and built environment, in relation to active living. "They look at the overall opportunity for community members to be involved in healthy, physical activities," said Novi Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh. "It is very comprehensive. It's neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, community planning... a total combination of what goes into a healthy, active community."

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Public transportation is one area Novi consistently scores lower in. "We are not on a fixed route transportation system. We strive to make improvements but public transportation in an area that we have not historically scored as well in," Walsh said.

There is no city funding involved with participating in the Promoting Active Communities program. "It's something that attracts not only residents to live here, but businesses as well," Walsh said of the recognition. "We will definitely participate if the program is available next year."

Panken said there have been 98 Michigan communities in 49 counties who have participated in the program since its creation in 2000.

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Giving Thanks-Giving Back

Town & Country Eyecare in Novi, the practice of Dr. Tim Kirk and Dr. Amy Crissman, presented a check for \$255 to Northville Civic Center. The funds were raised during "Giving Thanks-Giving Back" in which \$2 from every eye exam during the month of November was donated to Northville Civic Center and The Clothes Closet of Holy Family Church in Novi. Pictured are Dr. Tim Kirk and Marlene Kunz of Northville Civic Center.



SMITH/FCU PHOTO

SAVVY SENIOR

MONEY MATTERS: FINANCIAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

Dear Savvy Senior
What financial education resources can you recommend to help an unsavvy woman prepare for retirement? I am divorced, living on a tight budget, approaching retirement age and need some help.

Nervous Nelly
Dear Nelly,
While most Americans could stand to brush up on their financial knowledge, it's vital for unmarried women. Here's what you should know.

RETIREMENT STRUGGLES

It's an unfortunate reality that unmarried women - whether

they're divorced, widowed or never married - face far greater financial challenges than men in retirement. Why? Because women tend to make less money (77 cents for every dollar a man makes) and have shorter working careers (due to raising children and/or caring for aging parents) than men. And less money earned usually translates into less money saved and a lower Social Security benefit when you retire.

On top of that, women live an average of five years longer than men which requires their retirement income to stretch farther. And, according to studies, women also tend to be less knowledgeable and more intimidated about financial issues than men, which means they don't always handle their money as well as they should.

RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

A good place to start is with the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement. A savvy resource that offers easy-to-understand information on topics like money management, retirement planning, saving and investing, as well as Social Security, health care and more.

It also provides a retirement calculator and checklists of things you need to do before you become divorced, widowed or a caregiver. You can find this information at www.wisewomen.org or call 202-393-5452 and order their publications for a few dollars. Two other Web sites worth a look are www.womenmoney.com and www.wife.org.

MORE HELP

Go to MyMoney.gov, the U.S. government's Web site dedicated to financial education where you can get their free "My Money" tool kit that includes a variety of publications on saving, investing, protecting and getting the most for your money. You can order the kit online or call 888-596-6939.

The Employee Benefits Security Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Labor is another smart resource that offers a variety of free publications including the 62-page booklet "Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning," and "Women and Retirement Savings" brochure. You can see them online at www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications or call 866-444-3272 and have them mailed to you.

Also visit ChooseToSave.org, a handy Web site that offers the Ballpark Estimate retirement planning worksheet, more than 100 online calculators, brochures, savings tips and links to resources to help you manage your finances.

SOCIAL SECURITY

While Social Security serves both genders, it can be a financial lifeline for unmarried women. To help you get a better grip on your options, the Social Security Administration offers an online resource specifically designed for women that covers how marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government jobs and other life or career events can affect your Social Security. It also offers information on SSI, Medicare benefits and provides calculators to help you figure out your future earnings at different retirement ages. You can access this information at www.socialsecurity.gov/women or call 800-772-1213 and order their free booklet entitled "What Every Woman Should Know."

Friday Night Frenzy

Kids grades five through eight are invited to attend the Friday Night Frenzy tomorrow at the Novi Civic Center. Registration is \$5 online or \$10 at the event, which will include music, games and pizza. Kids can challenge their friends in Guitar Hero, play Nintendo Wii games like Rock Band and try the inflatable jousting pit. There will also be a scavenger hunt and a variety of snacks. For more information visit www.cityofnovi.org.

Give the gift of life

To make it easier to donate blood this holiday season, the American Red Cross has organized many local blood drives open to the public:
• 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at ARC Donor Center, Farmington Hills and Livonia;
• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Providence Park Hospital, Medical Office Building; and
• 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at the City of Wixom Community Center.
Call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit www.givelife.org to make an appointment to give blood. "Those who donate between Dec. 21-Jan. 4 will receive an American Red Cross T-shirt and be entered to win a \$500 hotel voucher with round trip tickets for two to anywhere in the continental United States."

State of the City

The City of Novi, in partnership with the Novi Chamber of Commerce, will host the annual State of the City Address and Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22 at Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue. Tickets are \$25 per person. Mayor David Landry will provide Novi citizens and business partners an opportunity to reflect on 2008 accomplishments and goals to strive toward in 2009. Landry will also give a State of the City Address in conjunction with the Novi Homeowner Association Leader's Breakfast, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Novi Civic Center. The event is free, but registration is required.

Parks foundation survey

The Novi Parks Foundation is conducting a survey to

NOVI BRIEFLY

determine residents' perceptions of the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

The survey results will be used to improve services, programs and facilities to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle, enhance economic development, increase creative opportunities and instill a sense of community. Randomly selected residents will receive surveys via mail and a report of the results will be available at cityofnovi.org. For more information regarding the survey contact the parks department at (248) 347-0400.

CERT meeting

There will be a Community Emergency Response Team public information meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Novi Police Department Training Center, 46125 W. 10 Mile Road. For more information or to register for the informational meeting, contact Novi Police Sergeant Kevin Rhea at (248) 348-7100 or khrhea@cityofnovi.org. CERT members complete a 24-hour training program that provides the critical skills necessary for emergency preparedness and response. The next eight-week training session will begin Wednesday, Jan. 28. Novi residents 18 and older, with a valid driver's license, may apply.

Seussical Jr. auditions

Auditions for children 7-15 will be 4:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, and Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Those who audition will be expected to sing a selection and perform a reading from Seussical Jr., as well as a dance audition. A dance workshop is offered from 6-7 p.m. Jan. 5 and 7, at the Civic Center. The workshops are free and attendance is strongly encouraged, but not required. Audition packets are available online at www.cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Parks office. Rehearsals will be 4:30-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Jan. 13 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Performances are March 6-15. For more information about auditions or the show, contact the Novi Theatre at (248) 735-5615.

Patterson honored by Native American community

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson was honored by the Native American equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his support of the local Native American community. Patterson was given the Pendleton blanket of "Freedom" by representatives of the South Eastern Michigan Indians, Inc. (SEMII) and the Native American Veterans Association of Oakland County Michigan, Inc. at a recent ceremony at the county complex.

"Receiving a Pendleton

blanket from the Native Community is the equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honor," SEMII Director Sue Franklin said in presenting the blanket.

Franklin provided a presentation on the history of the "Wewewe Mawjeshnok" or "They Are Gathering in a Good Way" Powwow, an annual event which occurs at the end of Oakland County Indian Week, as proclaimed by Patterson. The powwow is a group effort put on by SEMII, NAVA SEMII, Oakland County

Skate with Santa

The Novi Ice Arena, located at 42400 Arena Drive, is hosting its annual Skate with Santa event from 3-4:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. The price is \$4 for Novi residents and \$5 for non-residents. Skate rental is an additional \$3. For more information, contact the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010.

City survey online

In the fall, 1,200 Novi households were asked to rate several community characteristics and city services through a survey conducted by the National Research Center. Survey results will be available in January, but the City of Novi would also like to hear from all community members. The same survey sent to randomly selected households is now available online at www.cityofnovi.org. Findings will help Novi gauge budget and service priorities. The survey takes about 20 minutes and only fully completed surveys will be tallied in the final report. Residents with questions about the survey can contact the community relations office at (248) 735-5628.

Child's first library card

Give children a special holiday gift this season, their first library card. Parents who apply for their child's first library card, with the child present, during the month of December, will receive a gift bag for the child to carry the card home in. Parents, who would like the gift to be a surprise, may stop by the library's check out desk anytime in December to request a gift bag with a special certificate inside. The certificate can be redeemed by the child, with a parent or legal guardian present.

Parks offer free entry

Oakland County Parks is celebrating guest appreciation by offering free entry to six locations on Friday, Dec. 26. Participating locations include Addison Oaks in Leonard; Highland Oaks in Highland; Independence Oaks in Clarkston; Lyon Oaks in Wixom; Orion Oaks in Orion Township; and Rose Oaks in Rose Township. For park maps and event listings, visit www.oakgov.com/parks.



PHOTO BY JOHN NEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Christmas in the Community

George and Caroline Giese lead a group in Christmas carols last week at the Novi Senior Center on Meadowbrook Road. The couple helps with a sing-a-long on the second Wednesday of each month.



PHOTO BY JOHN NEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Christmas carol lovers join in at a sing-a-long at the Novi Senior Center on a recent Wednesday afternoon. George and Caroline Giese were leading the singers with George playing piano and Caroline singing.

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Nov 18-20: 10pm-1am
Nov 21-23: 10pm-1am

MONEY MANAGEMENT

There are also a variety of new Web-based services that can help you better manage your money at no cost. Sites like Gizee.com, Mint.com and Wesabe.com provide secure online tools that can help you automatically keep track of spending, set up budgets and goals, and swap tips with other users on how to save money.

SAVVY TIPS

If you need some hands-on help, consider getting a financial assessment or tune-up with a fee-only certified financial planner. Costs will vary from \$100 to several hundred dollars but it can be very beneficial and can help you make a plan. See www.mapfi.org or www.naap.org for more information. You can also visit www.benefitscheckup.org to see if you're eligible for any government and/or private benefits like lower energy bills, tax relief, discounts on prescription drugs and more. Send your savvy questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Please see SAVVY, 15

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Financial percentage yields (APYs) are accurate as of 12/18/2008. These offers and rates are available only at the new Flagstar banking center in Northville through 1/12/2009. Are subject to change without notice and may not be combined with other coupons or offers. To qualify for Loyalty rates, customer must maintain an open and active Flagstar checking account and establish a total of \$250 in net deposits to transactions monthly or 15 transactions monthly (excluding interest deposits). Rates valid only on accounts opened with funds not already deposited with Flagstar Bank. Offers not available for borrowers, public utility or existing money market customers. Other restrictions may apply. **Based on Customer Grand Opening rate of 3.85% APY on the 11-month CD. Minimum opening deposit is \$200 and maximum deposit is \$500,000. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. ***4.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12/18/2008 and is guaranteed for 12 months after account opening. Minimum opening deposit requirement is \$50. Account fees could reduce earnings. A fee of \$25 will be imposed every statement cycle in which the balance in the account falls below \$1,000 on any day of the cycle. Customer must establish direct deposit of at least \$250 of income in a Flagstar checking account within 60 days of money market account opening. If direct deposit is not established within 60 days, the rate will adjust to the standard Flagstar money market rate. ****Tickets available at no charge with any Flagstar service and while supplies last. Limit one pair of tickets per customer. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

OBITUARIES

MARY CONNELLY

Of Milford, December 10, 2008. Age 95. Beloved wife of the late Edward J. Connelly...



BERNARD JOHN GULOWSKI

Age 74, of the Tellico Village Community, Loudon, TN, passed away peacefully...

GRACE E. HUNT

Of South Lyon, MI, Age 82, passed away Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at home...

JACK L. OWENS

Age 87, of South Lyon, passed away December 13, 2008. He was born January 30, 1941 in Portsmouth...



BEVERLY ANN SIEVER

Beverly Ann Siever passed on Tuesday, December 9th. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother...

ERNEST S. WILSON

Age 87, of Beverly Hills FL, formerly of Detroit and an employee of United Automotive Supply for 31 years...

WILLIAM E. "BILLY" COOK

Age 42, passed away December 9, 2008. He was born on March 30, 1966 to Danny and Barbara (Havelka) Cook...

RALPH S. HERRON

A long time resident of Milford, passed away on December 9, 2008. He was 88 years old...



CHARLES L. HUTTON

A resident of West Bloomfield since 1963, died on December 13, 2008 at Providence Hospital in Southfield...

ELEANOR "ELLIE" PATAK

Age 85, of Northville, passed away peacefully on December 14, 2008. She was born August 22, 1925 in Detroit...

JULIA R. WOODWARD

Age 90, of Northville, died Dec. 15, 2008 with a heart attack. She was a devoted wife and mother...

OBITUARY POLICY

Small text regarding obituary policies and contact information for Jeniffer Muszkus.

RUSSELL TATH

Age 23, passed away December 11, 2008. He was born on June 6, 1985, in Ann Arbor...

HELEN ELIZABETH "ELI" PODLACK

Age 90, passed away December 14, 2008, at home with her family at her side...

JESSIE MARIE HESS

Age 91, December 10, 2008. Resident of Addison Place Senior Residence...

THERESA K. "TERRY" FREISEN

Age 44, of Northville, died Dec. 8, 2008. Memorial Mass was held Tuesday...

ARLA MARIE LARSON

Age 86, passed away December 7, 2008. A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday...

RICHARD W. HEDGLEN

Age 38, of South Lyon, died Dec. 14, 2008. Funeral Mass today, Dec. 18, 2008...

JOHN J. FRANKFURTH

A 45 year resident of Milford, passed away on December 12, 2008 at the age of 80...

Northville student heading to nation's capital

He looks forward to attending presidential inaugural

Northville High School student Aris Zervos is especially looking forward to January 2009. That's because the junior class president has been invited to attend the 56th Presidential Inaugural Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C.

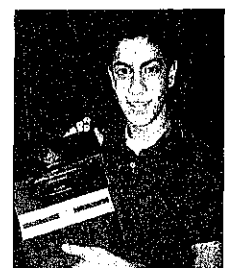


PHOTO BY PAUL LEUNG/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Aris Zervos, 16, of Novi, a junior at Northville High School, shows off his very formal-looking invitation to next month's 56th Presidential Inaugural in Washington, D.C.

Large advertisement for 'Your Invitation to Worship' featuring various church listings across different areas like Brighton, Milford, Novi, Farmington Hills, Highland, and Northville.

Advertisement for 'Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One' with a decorative border and text about funeral services.

Advertisement for 'OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH' listing services and contact information.

CARE
FROM PAGE A1

explore at their own pace. Goals of the program include ensuring a healthy, safe environment, promoting consistency of care between home and the center and promoting individual progress through developmentally appropriate activities.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEDEBROSCH FOR THE NEWS

Infant-toddler C.A.R.E. program employee, Nancy Helton goes walking with student Layla Nowicki. The Novi Community Education Program is based at Novi High School.

"It's great all-around," Slipakoff said. Down the high-school hall, the district offers its preschool program, which infant and toddlers may transition into, eventually linking to the district's elementary education.

"We can make sure the transitions are smooth and if there is a bump in the road we can identify it and smooth it out," Stech said.

In the classroom

The classroom's family tree project covers one wall, providing a daily reminder of mommy, daddy and other loved ones the children will later see. Blankets, stuffed toys and other home mementos are encouraged for the infants.

"We try to make it feel as home-like as possible," Gilmore said. A typical day includes group activities, stories, lunch and outside play. Sensory activities, motor skill development and living care are all part of the day. Art is self-directed, and creative play is encouraged so it is not a problem if a reindeer project turns into abstract art.

"The kids are really excited to do things," Gilmore said. The staff

"We've been blessed with a great staff," Stech said. Slipakoff has been with the district for four years, previously teaching preschool. She has a teaching certificate with an early education endorsement.

Gilmore has a bachelor's degree in child development from Madonna University. She previously worked as an in-home nanny for two-and-a-half years.

Both teachers put their heart and soul into beginning the program this year, watching it and the children flourish.

"We like it when they don't want to go home," Slipakoff said. "That means we did a good job."

LOCAL
FROM PAGE A1

Although people often assume shopping local means more expensive, Lapides said his prices average 30-60 cents less per pound and he always runs specials.

"A small business owner has more flexibility to provide better pricing and better customer service than you're going to get from a big box store or a corporation," Rogers said.

Burkhardt said she goes to Jack's for a good laugh and a quality product. "The reason I go there is because I don't know much about meat and I trust him," she said. "He knows where the cows are coming from."

Golf Tech

As a Novi resident, business owner and father of six, Jim Kitchen is riding the economic wave, capitalizing on the services he provides customers, as opposed to the products.

"(Business) has been slow, but we're still here," said Kitchen, owner of Golf Tech, located on the northeast corner of Meadowbrook and 10 Mile roads. "The new club sales and products are down in this economic downturn. The custom clubs and repairs is our niche."

Kitchen uses a product known as the Vector Launch System to incorporate a video swing analysis for each individual, providing his clients a true custom fit for clubs.

"We can do so many other services that any of the other places can't handle," he said. "You're spending an hour in the initial fitting, and then another half hour when they come back."

The golf store has been in its current location for three years, and previously was located on the southwest corner of the same intersection, in Peach Tree plaza for 11 years.

Along with the customer service, Kitchen believes some advantages he has over corporate competitors is less labor, overhead and inventory.

"We do have competitive prices and usually my prices



PHOTO BY JOHN HEDEBROSCH FOR THE NEWS

Visitors of Golf Tech on 10 Mile Road can test their putting skills with new clubs.



The side of Jack's Wholesale Meats delivery van shows a smiling cow.

kmurad@gannett.com (248) 349-1700 Ext. 263

on some of the accessories are lower because I don't have the overhead," he said.

According to Rogers, another advantage for a business owner like Kitchen is he is a resident of Novi and consumers are cycling money through their own community.

Sincerely Yours

Contrary to most small business owners, Tiffany Zendejas of Sincerely Yours isn't competing with big box stores, it's the Internet that is hurting her specialty shop.

"With the growth of the Internet, it's harder for stores like us to stay open," she said. "We try to stay up with the trends and be Web accessible."

Zendejas opened her invitation, stationary and gift shop on Main Street in downtown Novi nine years ago. "What people don't get with the Internet is personal experience," she said. "I still think there's a huge percentage of people that still like to touch and feel the products they're purchasing."

Zendejas offers a number of personalized items and services and tries to keep her prices competitive.

She hopes area residents will shop local and support her business.

"The niche for a small business owner is providing service and adapting to the needs of customers much better than a big company," said Rogers, visiting local businesses need to be more nimble, creative and innovative to stay alive in the current economy. They can't possibly compete all the time on pricing with the gigantic retailers.

Although its current location between two vacant buildings doesn't draw much foot traffic, Zendejas said Sincerely Yours is a destination store, catering to those planning weddings and other special events.

"Clients are still coming in, they're just not spending what they used to spend," she said.

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ROUND BONE ENGLISH POT ROAST CHOICE \$2.99/LB	CORN FED CENTER CUT SIRLOINS \$6.99/LB	WHOLE PORK LOINS (INCLUDES CHOPS, ROASTS AND COUNTRY RIBS) \$2.89/LB	CORN FED CHOICE T-BONE STEAKS \$8.09/LB OR PORTER HOUSE STEAKS \$8.69/LB

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Village Oaks Elementary School hosts annual holiday performance and sing-along

The first graders at Village Oaks Elementary School treated family and friends to a wonderful, holiday inspired performance last week. There was dancing, singing, poetry and musical instruments played by the students. The evening was complete with the Village Oaks traditional holiday sing-along, including favorites such as "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."

Novi students participate in Player Escort Program at U.S. versus China soccer match

Twenty-two local soccer players, ages 6-10, had the opportunity to meet their role models as player escorts yesterday at the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team versus China soccer match at Ford Field in Detroit. Player escorts from Novi included: Deerfield Elementary School students Jonathan Bean, Heather Blair, Nicole Blair, Michael Jecman, Madison Scott, Clay Simmons, Katie Valade, Karena Roest and Evan Yoki; Novi Woods Elementary School students Anna Dixon, Avery Fenchel and Laine Fenchel; and Novi Meadows student Colin Roest. The Women's National Team includes 2008 Olympic gold medalists and Michigan natives Kate Markgraf and Lindsay Tarpley. The 11 starting players from both teams were escorted onto the field by the local students, who are all avid soccer players. The Player Escort Program is part of McDonald's partnership with U.S. Soccer.

Ski equipment wanted

The Novi Meadows Outdoor Education program needs your help. If you have new or gently used cross-country ski equipment, consider donating it to Novi Meadows Outdoor Education. The program is looking to supply enough equipment so it is able to take groups of 14-18 students cross-country skiing. Boots, skis and poles of all sizes will be accepted. All donations may be dropped off at Novi Meadows Fifth Grade office. Questions should be directed to principals David Auster or Lisa Fenchel, or Gary Herch, coordinator of Novi Meadows Outdoor Education program needs



The first-graders at Village Oaks Elementary perform "Jingle Bell Rock" during the school's annual holiday program.

PHOTO BY JANE TILGNER

Novi High School Athletics Web site

The Novi Athletic Boosters' new Web site is www.noviathtleticboosters.com. The site is the source for upcoming Novi Athletic Boosters events, fundraising events and Wildcat game schedules. The Novi Athletic Boosters raise money to support Novi Wildcat student athletes at Novi high and middle schools. Proceeds are used to purchase uniforms, equipment, training and so more students can participate at a higher level.

WL Central offers 'Ye Olde Boar's Head Feast'

Walled Lake Central High School's vocal music program announces its "Ye Olde Boar's Head Feast" 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9-10 at the Bay Pointe Golf Club, 4001 Haggerty in West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$32

Raising Resilient Kids

Novi School District is pleased to present: Raising Resilient Kids. The free workshop with parent coach Nancy Pristly will take place 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 inside the

Community Education (ITC) - Forum

Has your child ever felt left out? Had challenges getting along with other kids? Been faced with other difficult situations? Conflict and emotional pain are a part of life and kids can actually become stronger from these experiences and better able to deal with them in the future. This resilience - the ability to draw strength when bad things happen. Participation in this workshop will provide strategies to help children become more resilient.

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Novi Meadows hosts geography bee



Ten finalists were selected recently during Novi Meadows school-wide geography competition involving all fifth- and sixth-grade students.

The annual competition is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and takes place in schools across America.

The finalists competed for the honor of School Champion on Dec. 9, with the winner being Joshua Blossfeld.

The school champion takes a written exam to qualify for the state competition.

The competition begins with a brief interview to help them to relax.

A sample of the questions they were asked included:

- What means you would you like to climb?
- What ocean would you like to sail?
- What language would you like to learn?

After the students were introduced to the competition, the categories of questions covered city comparisons, add items out, map reading, and cultural geography.



Novi Meadows student geography bee winner Joshua Blossfeld.

Big Winner!

Novi sixth-grade student Shanelle Johnson, center, poses for a photo with Detroit Lions noseguard Langston Moore along with some of her classmates. Johnson won the Fake-a-Lion School contest last month sponsored by National Cony Island. Moore spoke to the students about the importance of doing well in school, being physically active and exhibiting good behavior. The Detroit Lions also shared his life story of triumphs and tribulations before answering questions asked by the students.



Wise Waiting

Parkview Elementary School students Noah Greer, left, and Steven Zhang crack a book as they wait to partake in the school's Holiday Shop on Dec. 12.



Pistons Kids' Day

Orchard Hills Elementary School fourth-grade student Matthew Bednarski interviews Piston Rodney Sturkey as part of the Detroit Pistons Kids' Day event.



Matthew Bednarski with Ed Zaret during the Fox Sports Detroit Pregame Show broadcast live from the Pistons' basketball court. The 9-year-old Orchard Hills student was a guest broadcaster as part of the Detroit Pistons Kids' Day event.

Missing catalytic converter

According to recent police reports, a catalytic converter was cut from a Chevy Venture while parked at Twelve Oaks Mall Dec. 8.

The victim said the vehicle was parked in the west Macy's lot between 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Drinking, driving and under age

A man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at about 11:30 p.m. Dec. 9, in the area of Chase Drive and Nine Mile Road, reports said.

An officer heading northbound on Novi Road observed a vehicle move into the right lane at Nine Mile Road without signaling. As the officer followed the blue Chevrolet heading eastbound on Nine Mile, the vehicle turned into the lot of a closed business, reports said.

The officer then turned around and witnessed the

vehicle pull out of the business parking lot and back onto Nine Mile Road. As the subject turned onto Chase Drive he again did not use a signal and hit the curb, reports said. The officer initiated a traffic stop.

The driver said he was going to a friend's house in the area of Nine Mile and Meadowbrook roads, and was coming from 10 Mile and Beck Roads.

The officer then asked him why he was coming from the area of Eight Mile Road, and the driver was unable to tell him, reports said.

According to the report, the officer smelled an odor of intoxicants coming from the driver and asked him how much he had to drink. The driver told him nothing, as he was only 20.

While conducting field sobriety tests, the officer again asked him how much he had to drink and the driver said three or four beers while at home.

A preliminary breath test registered the man's blood alcohol concentration at 14 percent.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Car keyed

An employee of Fox Run retirement community noticed several scratches on the passenger-side of his vehicle between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 4, reports said.

According to the report, it appeared as though an unknown suspect used a key to scratch the vehicle.

The victim said he has no problems with employees at work and does not know who may have damaged his vehicle.

Vehicle mirror damaged

The side mirror of a vehicle was damaged between 8:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 5, while parked at Fountain Walk, reports said.

The victim flagged down an officer on routine patrol in the area of Imagination Novi.

According to police, it appeared as though the mir-

ror of the Ford Fusion was struck by an unknown object, but not a vehicle. The casing around the mirror was cracked, reports said.

Brick wall damaged

Between 5 p.m. Nov. 27 and 8 a.m. Nov. 28 an unknown suspect used an excavator to damage a newly constructed brick wall of a business on Grand River Avenue, reports said.

According to the owner of the construction company responsible for building an outside wall at Carrigan Moving and Storage, a Bobcat excavator was left on site overnight.

When the crew returned to the job site the following morning, they discovered an unknown suspect started and moved the equipment, reports said. There was no damage to the Bobcat or evidence that the suspect tried to steal it.

According to the report, the integrity of the wall was compromised by having the foundation damaged.

Novi projects included in those expected to receive tax incentives

More than 2,150 jobs could be created in southeast Michigan and \$1.1 billion invested in existing and new businesses with the expected approval earlier this week of tax incentives from the Michigan Economic Growth Authority.

The authority board was expected to approve a batch of incentives that would spur \$2 billion in investment in 20 projects statewide, said Bridget Beckmann, public information officer for the Michigan Economic Development Corp. Statewide, more than 7,000 jobs would be created or retained, Beckmann said.

The authority provides tax credits for companies expanding or locating operations in Michigan or the redevelopment of brownfield sites - areas that have environmental contamination.

The projects expected to receive tax incentives are:

- Global Wind Systems Inc. in Novi: A \$7.3-million state tax credit over nine years is expected to be approved to help the company that plans to invest \$2.3 million to build its first facility in Novi. The wind turbine generation system manufacturer plans to create 366 jobs.

- Novix LLC in Novi: The company will invest approximately \$3.4 in its Novi center and create 192 jobs. The expected state tax credit is valued at \$3.1 million over seven years.
- Northern United Brewing LLC in Ann Arbor: The start-up microbrewery plans to manufacture and bottle beer, distilled spirits and wine in Ann Arbor, Dexter and Peninsula Township. The company will invest approximately \$5.8 million in the project, which is expected to create 158 jobs. The expected state tax credit is valued at \$5.1 million over eight years and was used to help convince the company to expand in Michigan instead of in Ohio and Indiana.

- Washenaw County/601 Forest LLC in Ann Arbor: Expected state brownfield tax credits totaling \$10 million will be applied to a 14-story mixed-use building with up to 180 apartments. The project will generate \$82.8 million in new capital investment and up to 80 new jobs.
- Washenaw County for Ann Arbor: State and local tax credits valued at \$389,269 will support a proposed redevelopment project in Ann Arbor. The development will include an Aldi food center and additional retail shops with parking, rain gardens and extended sidewalks. The project is to generate \$8 million in new capital investment and up to 30 jobs.

- FKA Distributing d/b/a HubMedics in Commerce Township: The company plans to invest \$11 million to develop wireless charging-device technology. The project will create 62 jobs. The expected state tax credit is valued at \$1.1 million.
- Faurecia in Fraser: The automotive components supplier will invest \$8.8 million to expand its technical center and create 281 jobs. The expected tax credit is valued at \$794,000 over eight years and was used to help convince the company to expand in Michigan instead of in Ontario. The city anticipates supporting this project through a tax credit.

- Fisher Coachworks LLC in Livonia: The company was expected to approve an \$11.3-million state tax credit and the city expects to add a 12-year tax credit to support a new facility producing mass-transit buses. The company plans to invest \$7 million and create 539 jobs.
- Henlock Semiconductor Corp. in Saginaw: According to a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis, the company has proposed a \$1.4-million investment that would spur 270 jobs.

This article was provided by Gannett News Service.

NOVI POLICE OFFER HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

Shopping safety:

- Have a shopping plan.
- Shop before dark.
- Coordinate shopping trips with friends.
- Park in a well-lit area and try not to walk to your car alone.
- Lock your car and remember where it is parked.
- Secure packages in the trunk of the vehicle.
- If you place packages in the vehicle mid-trip, you may want to move your car.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and don't carry it all in one place.
- Be careful with wallets and purses.

Safe parking:

- Keep any valuables in the car out of sight.
- Do not unlock your vehicle until you are close enough

Protect your identity:

- Look inside your vehicle before entering and enter as quickly as possible.
- Be alert when putting packages into your vehicle. Do not carry so many packages at one time that you cannot react quickly.
- Return to your vehicle periodically to check on it.
- Only carry credit and debit cards you will be using.
- Remember to sign your credit and debit cards.
- Cover your account and personal information as you hand it to the cashier and speak softly when providing personal information.
- Guard any keypads as you enter a pin number.
- When using an ATM machine look around to ensure nobody is watching as you enter the pin number.
- Use ATM machines that are located in well-lit and populated areas.

Online shopping:

- Use reputable companies and Web sites that have proper security features. Secure sites have an address that begins with HTTPS://.
- Beware of pop-up ads that lead you to another Web site or ask you personal information or account numbers.
- Do not give out your Social Security number, e-mail address, telephone number or address unless you know who is collecting the information, why they are collecting it and how they will use it.
- Save all transaction information.
- For more information on the Novi Police Department, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

NOVI FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Holiday decorating

- Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords.
- Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 75 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Don't mount lights in a way that can damage the cord's wire insulation.
- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Holiday entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. When cooking, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- If you smoke, go outside.
- Wherever you smoke, provide plenty of large, deep

- sturdy ashtrays and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire, so completely dispose cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- After a party, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions, and inside trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children.
- Test your smoke alarms, and let guests know what your fire escape plan is.

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Sunday Worship
TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Traditional

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A piece of history
Jim Marsh displays his 130-pound punt gun at a recent Michigan Antique Arms show at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace.



Big Decisions
Brenda Berglund helps Parkview Elementary School student Nao Uchida during last week's PTO Holiday Show.

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OPINION

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Page 14 (NN)
Thursday, December 18, 2008 Community Weeklies

OUR VIEWS Hometowns offer unique shopping opportunities

Communication is important in any relationship, but when that dialogue box that says "system is not responding" appears on your computer screen, words can't express your feelings as that great deal you snagged online disappears.

There are better ways to shop for the holidays, and have fun while you do so.

Wandering through local downtowns, like in Northville, Farmington, Rochester, Birmingham and Plymouth, leads opportunities for unique gifts from specialty shops that just aren't carried online. Those shops also offer a chance to chat with the owner and learn why she thinks her products are special.

Hence, you carry a tale along with a gift to grandma's house.

Area shopping malls, such as Twelve Oaks, Northland, the Oakland Mall and Laurel Park Place, also offer a wide selection of gifts that you can see, feel and measure to make sure they're just right for that special someone.

Besides the merchandise, there are other benefits to shopping locally. You might meet a friend for a coffee break and drop a coin or greenback in the Salvation Army's kettles.

There are decorations galore to ngle that, for many of us, just can't be duplicated at home. And occasionally, local choir groups perform holiday music — and a chance for you to catch your breath.

Spending of breath, local merchants are building theirs in hope of a decent shopping season. By shopping locally, you'll breathe life into the economy, as well as the vitality of your hometown.

So talk it up, and ask a neighbor to join you for a day on the town — your hometown.

The view from where I sit

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
EDITOR

From my old chair in my new South Lyon location, I have a particularly interesting view.

Right outside of the window where I sit is a festively decorated drop box for letters to Santa Claus. And all day, every day, I see small children slip their lists into the wish receptacle. Often times, with the help of their parents.

Every single letter I've seen deposited brings tremendous excitement. Children are skipping, laughing and so full of joy, I can see it from up high where I sit.

It is a daily reminder of the magic the holiday season brings and the innocence of belief.

But this holiday season it is somewhat of an ironic reminder. Usually, I am the first in line to the receptacle of belief. I'm not really feeling that way this year.

Automotive bailout hearings have me ever-consumed. I hang on every newscast fearing my father will lose his pension from one of the big three. A devastating blow that would be.

I also wait with the same anticipation for another announcement, what will happen with journalism in Detroit? Another once great force in our society faces print elimination.

Office closings, layoffs, hours cut — this has been the environment all Detroit journalists have been enduring. For most, it has been fine because we love the news. We love telling it, writing it and reading it. I think it may be an illness.

But realizing the paper product is passe, does take a little of the joy out of Christmas for me.

I know the Internet is here and now, and I can still read the daily new paper online, but I still love to grab the paper off my doorstep and read the entire thing, page by page, section by section.

So this season, the pep is out of my step, and I'm not really feeling like a believer.

So thankfully, I have all the children of South Lyon to remind me hope still exists.

vmitchell@gannett.com

EARLY DEADLINES

With the upcoming holidays, the Novi News will have early deadlines for both the editorial and advertising departments.

For the Dec. 25 edition, display advertising and editorial deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. The deadline for classified advertising is 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

For the Jan. 1 edition, display advertising and editorial deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26. The deadline for classified advertising is 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29.

News submissions can be sent to vmitchell@gannett.com or by calling (248) 685-1507 Ext. 262. Display advertising inquiries should be directed to (248) 685-1507 Ext. 241. The classified advertising department can be reached at (888) 999-1288.

Novi News

GANNETT
Published each Thursday

Victoria Mitchell
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Jeanne Parent
Senior Director of Sales & Marketing

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



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NOVI LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Holiday thanks

Our family has lived in Novi since 1985, there have been a lot of changes since then. The once little obscure farm community with dirt roads, has grown to be a bustling business metropolis. One place that has had some improvements itself, but still maintains its integrity as a beautiful farm, sits on the corner of Beek and 11 Mile roads. Every year after Thanksgiving on the side of his big red barn Mr. Bosco delights our family and many others by hanging the largest lit up wreath. We just want to tell you, "Thank you." We look forward to it, and know it is a lot of work to get that hung. God Bless your family.

Sue Cooke
Novi

Fond memories

Although I have not been back to Novi since I graduated in 1973, I try to keep up by reading the Novi News

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.
Submit via Web: www.hometownlife.com
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online. I must say that although Novi has grown and prospered tremendously since 1973, I find it sad that my old Novi is gone. The days of walking down Novi Road with my friends or riding our bikes to Dave's Hamburgers is gone. By the looks of the map, there is a mall where my house once was. As I grew up in Novi, you could shop

at the party store or Rexall Drug Store. Our big shopping was done in Farmington. It was so much fun to go to the Federals Department Store in Farmington. I wonder if those stores are still there, or if they have been torn down for "progress." None of the names I read about in the Novi News are names of anyone I recognize. Where have the hometown people gone? Where have the small schools gone? When I was in school, we had two elementary schools and one school for junior high and high school. Yes, we went to the same school and it was great. I still remember how I thought the high school kids were so much older than me, even though there was just a few years difference in our ages. And everyone in school wore green and white on Fridays! It was a great time. It seems that the Novi I know and love lives only in my memories.

Rita Sparks Dornak
Novi High School Class of '73

In the spirit!



Visitors to Novi's Main Street development stroll near the Christmas tree before the community parade held Dec. 5.



Santa sits with Main Street visitor Sara Tamm, 7, during the Ringing in the Holidays city event held earlier this month.



Novi's Brownie Troop #6270 marches in the City of Novi holiday parade.

Looking to better days this holiday season

COMMENTARY

Maybe it's because I'm getting... well, let's be kind and say older. But increasingly I find comfort and serenity in the established and familiar traditions and rituals, especially at this time of the year and in the face of such financial misery and economic change. Let's start with the most important: Family and friends.

Our son, Scott, his wife, Molly, and our two little granddaughters, Lucy and Sadie, live in Denver, where Scott is a physician. For years now, we've traveled to see them and to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah and the coming of Christmas with our religiously blended family. My wife, Kathy, will make Christmas cookies with her granddaughters. And Scott's chocolate lab Woodson (named for the great University of Michigan cornerback of the 90s, Charles Woodson) will lick a mixture of icing and sprinkles off their faces. One night, I'll make Molly's favorite dish, lobster macaroni and cheese, and the next we'll have our traditional roast beef, complete with Yorkshire pudding — using a recipe that goes back to my grandmother. Our younger son, Nathan, will once again apply his chef skills in making the gravy.

As to friends, Kathy and I have reinstated my parents' old tradition of inviting their friends in to sing Christmas carols — and take just a dram of Christmas cheer after the singing is over. People our age — regardless of religious tradition — learned the Christmas carols in school. Of course, most kids today have no idea.

But all of us — Jews, Buddhists, Christians, unbelievers — gather around the fire and sing all the verses, in four parts of course. It's the most politically incorrect party of the season, and I love the way it kicks off a festive time by bringing our friends together in celebration and affection.

Like many others, I write our annual Christmas letter over the Thanksgiving weekend. Kathy prints and folds and addresses and stamps the news of the past year for our friends and relatives. This year, I wrote of the early coming of winter — the pond in front of our house froze over sooner than any time in my memory — and of how damaged we are to see the collapse of two industries that have been mainstays of our lives for years and years. The auto industry and, in my case, newspapers.

Their abrupt slide into financial distress is being accompanied by profound and wrenching change — change that makes all of us who have grown up in the business very uneasy. The older I get, the more I appreciate the evidence of the seasons as marked in the liturgical calendar of our church, an old (1865) downtown Episcopal building, built at the end of the Civil War and now undergoing its first renovation in years.

The words of the prophets — especially Isaiah foretelling great tidings of comfort and joy — ring with unceasing regularity and hope as the days grow short, the dark night comes earlier and earlier, and we all yearn for just a little more light at the turn of the year.

And, while I'm at it, here's a (muted) cheer for the regular turn of the seasons, even here in Michigan as the winter deepens. I could not imagine living where there is no seasonal variation that stimulates the imagination and hones our coping skills.

The great historian, Arnold Toynbee, argued that most civilizations that grew in locations where there is little variation between the seasons are marked by an inability to adapt to change. As I head out to shovel the walk, I grumble but agree.

Everybody has their own treasured family traditions and rituals. They bring regularity and a certain ceremony to the passage of the days. And they demonstrate yet again how endlessly inventive we all are in expressing the divinity of ordinary daily life here in Michigan.

I write mine only to trigger similar responses in readers' own minds. And I do so to provoke us all to wish each other, in whatever language and in any and all of the many religious and cultural traditions, the very best of this season — and better days to come.

Former newspaper publisher and University of Michigan Regent Phil Power is a longtime observer of Michigan politics and economics, and a former chairman of the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He is also the founder and president of the Center for Michigan, a center that thinks and do tank which publishes the Michigan Scorecard. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent the official views of the Center. He welcomes your comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

SAVVY

FROM PAGE A4

Seniors Need Vaccinations, Too!

Dear Savvy Senior:
I recently read that there are a variety of vaccinations that can help protect seniors. Can you tell me what they are and what Medicare pays for?
Booster Bob

Dear Bob:
Most people think that vaccinations are just for kids, but adults, especially seniors, need their shots too. Here's what you should know.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE

Outside of eating a healthy diet, regular exercise, not smoking and routine health screenings, the best way to prevent illness and stay healthy as you age is to keep up with your vaccinations. But far too few seniors are taking advantage of these important vaccines — usually because they aren't aware of them, they are afraid to get them or they don't have the funds to pay for them. Here is a list of the different vaccines seniors need, and how they work with Medicare.

Flu (influenza) vaccine: This is the one vaccination seniors are pretty good about getting — 69 percent get an annual shot. While it's recommended that almost everyone should get a flu shot every fall, it's especially important for seniors age 65 and older because they are at high risk for complications. Medicare Part B pays for flu shots but if you're not covered, there are plenty of places that offer them for free. To locate a vaccination site call your county health department or the CDC information line at 800-232-4636, or visit www.flucliniclocator.org starting in September. (Note: people who are allergic to eggs, latex, who have a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, or who've had a severe reaction to a flu shot in the past should not get a flu shot without consulting their doctor first. And people who are ill with a fever should wait to get vaccinated until their symptoms pass.)

Pneumococcal (pneumonia) vaccine:
Other vaccinations may be recommended depending on where you live, your health, lifestyle and if you plan to travel internationally. To learn more about vaccines for adults and identify which ones you need visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines - click on "For Specific Groups of People," and take their adult quiz. The Mayo Clinic also offers a list of vaccines on their Web site (www.mayoclinic.com/health/vaccines/ID00016) that explains what you should get and when you should get it.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5454, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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FROM PAGE A12

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LOCATION 41555 Six Mile Road
CONTACT (248) 348-9030

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH
LOCATION 29020 Meadowbrook Road, South of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT (248) 649-9400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org

Sunday Worship 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Bible study classes 10 a.m. for all ages
DETAILS Nursery and other children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

"Santa Bowed at Christmas"
DETAILS Crosspointe Meadows Church is extending an invitation to the Novi and Detroit Metro area to its activities to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season. For those who remember fondly the Christmas programs of your youth, our CMC will present "Santa Bowed at Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 21 at the 11:15 a.m. Worship Hour.

Carols and Candlelight Services
DETAILS Crosspointe Meadows Church also wishes to invite you to use of our two Christmas Eve "Carols and Candlelight" Services. There will be a service held at 5 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. All ages are welcome.

PRISCILLA CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
LOCATION 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT (248) 427-1075 or churchoftheholycross.com

Sunday Worship 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery Care Time 10 a.m. Worship Service

Alzheimer's Support Group
TIME/DATE 10 a.m., second Saturday of each month

OAKDALE HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
LOCATION 23455 Novi Road
CONTACT Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665

Preschool/Kids Choir
TIME/DATE 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOCATION 4415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
CONTACT (248) 349-0565

Sunday Schedule
TIME 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
LOCATION 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT (248) 474-0584 or visit stjohnlutheran.com

Saturday Worship
TIME 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship
TIME 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME 10:15 a.m.

Send calendar submissions via e-mail to news@northville.org or by fax to (248) 349-9832, or by mail to Church Events/ Northville-Nov, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

Second City Theatricals presents 'Dysfunctional Holiday Revue'

Get ready for some side-splitting holiday fun. The Second City Theatricals newest production, "The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue," begins Nov. 26 at The Second City located at 42705 Grand River Ave. The show will run through Dec. 28. Nothing is too sacred for "The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue," which delivers a healthy dose of seasonal satire with holiday film classics, family gatherings, improvised Christmas Carols, even Joseph and Mary - it's described as the perfect alternative to the same old holiday shows.

Directed by Andy Mirra, the cast of "The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue" includes Tim Baltz, Dana Quercio, Mark Raterman, Tim Robinson, Mary Sohn and Megan Wilkins. Bryan Dunn is the musical director and Kyle Anderson is the stage manager.



The cast of "The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue" includes Tim Baltz, Dana Quercio, Mark Raterman, Tim Robinson, Mary Sohn and Megan Wilkins. Bryan Dunn is the musical director and Kyle Anderson is the stage manager.

Tickets are available at the theatre's box office, 42705 Grand River Ave., by phone at (248) 346-4448 and online at www.secondcity.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

Show times and ticket prices are as follows:
• Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 8 p.m.; tickets \$15
• Fridays, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; tickets \$20
• Saturdays, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; tickets \$20

"THE SECOND CITY'S DYSFUNCTIONAL HOLIDAY REVUE"
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WHAT: "The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue"
WHERE: 42705 Grand River Ave.
WHEN: Now through Dec. 28
CONTACT: www.secondcity.com

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Some years later, after many managers and owners maintained the theatre for the benefit of the South Lyon community, it closed in March of 2008. Now, a new era is set to begin with new projection, new sound, and a new look.

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BOARD

FROM PAGE A14

Cardinals of Northville and Novi Monthly Meeting
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of month, Sept-May
LOCATION: Rotaries between Novi Civic Center and the Northville City Hall
DETAILS: Visitors welcome
CONTACT: (248) 231-2334 or visit gardeners.northville-novi.org

Novi Toastmasters
TIME/DATE: 7:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45115 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, raise your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-2800

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The Artists' Retreat
 More than a dozen women artists gather in Northern Michigan every year for a week-long retreat, and the end result is The Artists' Retreat, a showing of original artwork. This year the collection will be on display at the Assarian Cancer Center through Dec. 31. The gallery is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and is located inside the center at 47601 Grand River Ave.

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 Sunday, 12/21 @ 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

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 Wednesday, 12/24 @ 5:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
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NOVI WEDDINGS

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wreschnig
 Jenn Najjar and Dan Wreschnig were married July 12, 2008 at Mystic Creek Golf Club in Milford. Pastor Bruce Weber officiated. A reception followed at the golf club.
 The bride is the daughter of Irob and Mary Najjar of Novi. She is a 2002 graduate of Novi High School, a 2006 graduate of Albion College with a degree in psychology and a 2007 graduate of Northeastern University in Boston with a master's degree in accounting and an MBA. She is employed as an accountant at Grant Thornton, LLC, in Boston.
 The groom is the son of Nick and Mary Ann Wreschnig of Manistee. He is a 2002 graduate of Manistee High School and earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Albion College. He is currently teaching and working toward a Ph.D. in biology at Northeastern University in Boston.
 The maid of honor was Bianca Mielch and bridesmaids were Jo Jo Hollweg and Ashley E. Akbar. The best man was Nik Smart and groomsmen were Dan Harris and David Wreschnig.
 The couple honeymooned in Carmel and Monterey, California. They make their home in Boston.

NOVI ENGAGEMENT



Gold-Mellem

Tanya and Gary Gold of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Ann to Adam Joseph Mellem, son of Joe Mellem of Howell and Rosemarie King of Novi.
 Tanya is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School and a 2005 graduate of Michigan State University. She is an elementary teacher in the Plymouth-Canton School District.
 Gary is a 1997 graduate of Novi High School and the University of Michigan. He is presently teaching in the Bloomfield Hills school district.
 The couple plan a December 2008 wedding.



Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wreschnig

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 11:00 PM Worship, Communion, Carols & Candlelight

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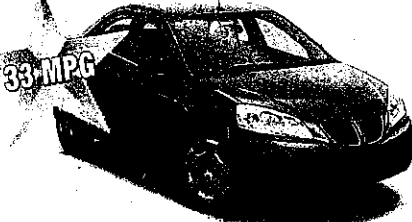
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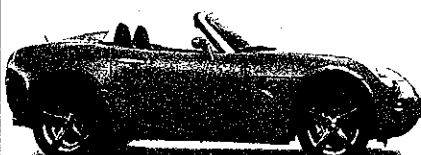
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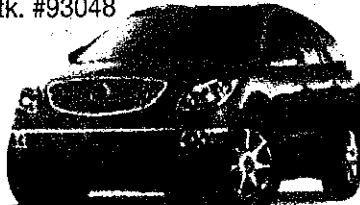
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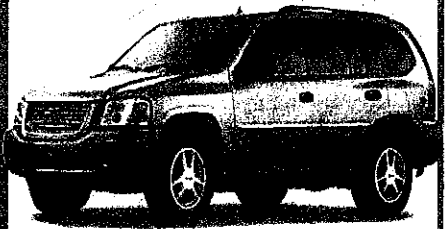
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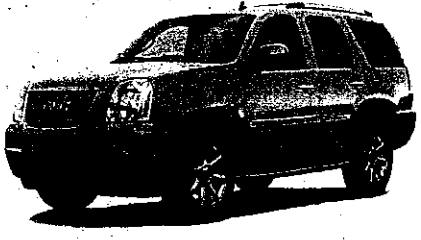
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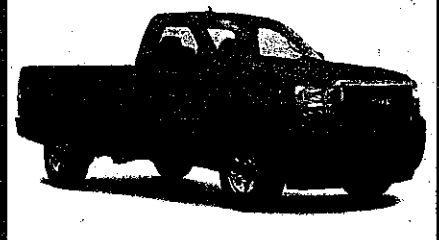
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SPORTS

B (NN)

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Community Weeklies

www.hometownlife.com

Novi basketball sweeps Walled Lake teams

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcats are feasting off of Walled Lake basketball teams.

Novi made it a 3-0 start with a 71-56 win Tuesday at home against Walled Lake Northern. For the first three quarters, the game was as ugly as the wintery blast of snow looked on the roads. But the finish was everything head coach Cory Heitsch was expecting from his team.

Chris Bellamy scored 17 points through three quarters, but it came on 6-for-19 shooting. In the fourth, he scored 18 points on just seven shots, finishing with a game-high 35.

"I've never done anything like that," said Bellamy, referring to the big fourth quarter. "When you're struggling, nothing else goes right in your game. But, when you're feeling it, everything goes right with the team and with your game." The Wildcats trailed 51-

47 heading into the fourth. Bellamy scored 15 points of an 18-2 run that launched Novi into the lead for good.

But things didn't go so sweet early.

The Wildcats hit their first three buckets and drew a Northern time out, but went on to miss their next nine shots. They still managed to end the quarter tied at 16.

The Knights pulled ahead in the second, getting inside and taking shots in close for a 35-30

lead at the half.

Novi cut into the lead for most of the third quarter, but a late steal and bucket by Knights leading scorer Brandon Alexander (21 points) left the Wildcats down four after three quarters of play.

Bellamy helped save the day, but Heitsch knows his team can't take quarters off on a regular basis and get away with it.

"We finally got our heads straight, and it started with the coaching staff," he said. "Our

composure was not there in the first half. We were letting things that were out of our control bother us.

"We started keeping people out of the paint, and we started recovering on shooters, and things started to turn around."

Heitsch was hit with a technical foul during a timeout in the first half.

Brandon Rydzewski had a strong night shooting for Novi, connecting on 5-of-7 shots for 15 points, including a trio of

three-pointers.

Northern's Leroy Jackson was the only other player in double digits with 10.

The Wildcats finish off the 2008 portion of the schedule tonight at Waterford Kettering.

NOVI 54, WL WESTERN 37

Novi boys basketball got off to a winning start with a 54-37 victory Dec. 9 at Walled Lake Western.

Please see **HOOPS, B5**

State champ Johnson leads All-Area swim team

BY MIKE ROSENBAUM
STAFF WRITER

Novi was the area's dominant girls swim team this year, placing third in the state in Division 1, and, not surprisingly,

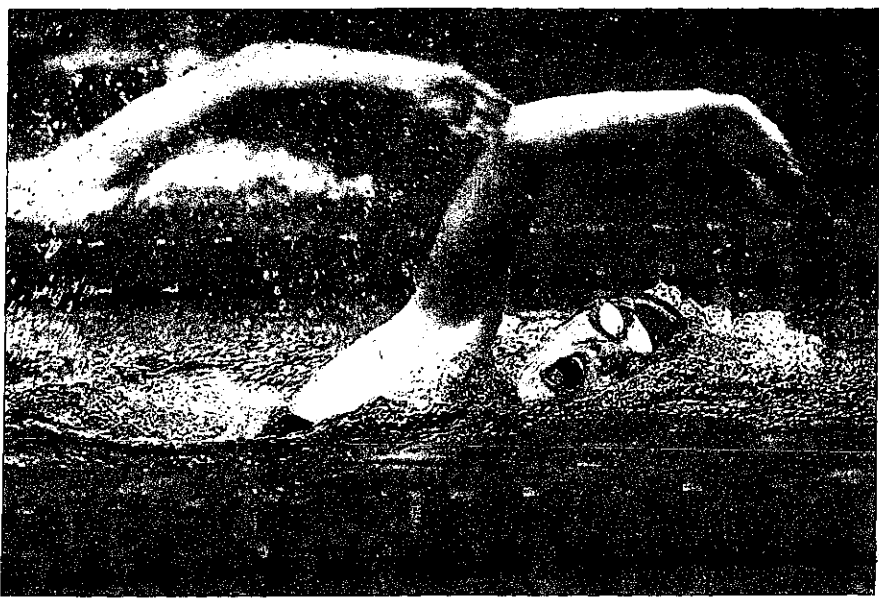
the Wildcats also led the All-Area swim team with four individual and two relay selections. The Swimmer of the Year, however, was Milford's Rachel Johnson, who gained an individual state championship for the second consecutive season. Johnson was an underdog in 2007 but entered the 2008 meet as the top D-1 seed in the 500 freestyle.

"She handled that really well, which was really nice to see," said Milford coach Heather Lutz.

Just a junior, Johnson will have another season to add to her championship haul. For now, however, she leads the 2008 All-Area swim team. The squad was selected in consultation with all the area's head coaches. Swimmers were limited to one individual selection apiece, and weren't necessarily selected in their top event (in order to put as many of the top individuals as possible on the first team). Relay selections did not have limits.

NOVI, Ashley Bush, Lauren Kalinosky, Kerry Abel, Rebecca Berman (200 medley relay): The Wildcats had strong success with a variety of lineups in the medley relay this season. They finished fifth in the Oakland County meet and second in the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet. Novi won the KLAAs Central Division championship and placed third at the state meet despite being seeded tenth. The state finals team of seniors Bush, Kalinosky and Abel, plus sophomore Berman, achieved an All-American and school record time of 1:49.4.

"Every single kid on that relay had their best 50 split at the state meet," said Novi coach Scott Teeters. "Ashley Bush got out there with the leaders. Lauren Kalinosky had, I believe, one of the top two times in the 50 backstroke. And the same thing for Kerry Abel (on the third leg). And Rebecca Berman



Milford's Rachel Johnson won her second consecutive state championship in the 500-yard freestyle this season to earn All-Area Swimmer of the Year honors.

was able to hang on."

Berman is a distance freestyle swimmer, so Teeters termed her 24.4-second time in the closing 50 freestyle split "phenomenal."

RACHEL JOHNSON, Milford (200 freestyle): The junior, two-time state champion won the Division 1 state title in the 500 freestyle this year, with a time of 5:02.06, after capturing the D-2 championship in the same event last year. Johnson was almost a double-winner this season as she placed second in the 200 free (1:53.91).

"She's just a solid competitor," Lutz said. "She's very serious about it and wants to excel."

Johnson's other highlights this year included a victory at the Oakland County meet in the 500 free, plus an outstanding performance at the KLAAs Lakes Conference meet, where Johnson gained four victories and was selected the Swimmer of the Meet. She won the 200 and 500 freestyle races and swam on two winning relay teams.

"Her technique is very solid," summed up Lutz. "She has a very long stroke - it helps that she's on the tall side. And she has an uncanny ability to pace herself ... when she competes in the distance events."

MEREDITH COTE, Novi (200 IM): The junior earned All-State recognition in two events this year, placing sixth in the 200 IM (2:09.21) and seventh in the 500 freestyle (5:05.93), which set a Novi school record. She was also fifth in the county meet in the 200 IM and third in the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet in both the 100 and 200 free.

"Meredith is an extremely versatile swimmer whose best events are not offered in the high school format," Teeters said, "but they will be in the NCAA format. Her future in this sport is bright. She broke through this year by putting it all together at the state finals."

PAIGE DRAZGA, South Lyon (50 freestyle): Another two-time All-Stater this season, Drazga, a sophomore, was actually stron-

gest in the butterfly, where she placed third in the state (58.91). She took fifth in the 50 freestyle (24.14).

Earlier this year she tied for sixth at the county meet in the 50 free and took third in the 100 free. She was second in the 50 free and tied for second in the 100 butterfly in the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet and won the 50 free at the Central Division meet.

"Paige came into this season really wanting to improve upon last season," said South Lyon coach John Burch. "We spent a lot of time working on some technical things, like her kicking off the wall, and just some overall stroke technique, and that allowed her to improve a lot. ... Paige is just a competitor. She's going to want to win no matter what she steps up and does."

MONICA GIRONZA, South Lyon (diving): No area divers placed at the state meet but Gironza likely would have, had she been healthy. An knee injury prevented her from participating in

KLAAs or state competition this year. Gironza was 13th in the state in 2007 and won the KVC championship. This season's highlight was her runner-up position at the county meet, with 383.45 points. Had she not been injured, Gironza would have battled for the KLAAs championship, Burch said.

"She's a very talented diver," Burch added. "She's put a lot of work in. ... And she's very focused. She always wants to improve her dives and when she's not doing them right she gets frustrated and figures out how to do them right."

"She set our varsity record earlier this year in both the six-dive list and the 11-dive list, beating her scores from last year."

KERRY ABEL, Novi (100 fly): A senior, Abel gained All-State honors in the 100 butterfly when she placed seventh at the state meet (59.15). She was also second at the county meet (58.62), and won the KLAAs Central Division and Kensington Conference meets.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Novi's 200 medley relay team of Becca Berman, Ashley Bush, Lauren Kalinosky and Kerry Abel are all smiles after qualifying for All-American status at the state meet.

She was also second in the conference in the 100 freestyle.

Abel set the Novi school record in six different events during her high school career including one in the 50 free while leading off the 200 free relay at the state meet (24.59).

"Kerry has left her legacy by leading the Wildcats into the state's elite teams," Teeters said. "In her sophomore year the team placed 26th. By always setting the standard high and leading by example - she gave up one of her individual events to swim on three relays - she helped the team place third this year."

AMY WALLACE, Milford (100 freestyle): A senior, Wallace was seventh in the state in the 100 free (53.96) and eighth in the 500 free (24.73) this season to earn All-State notice in both events. At the county meet Wallace was eighth in the 50 free and sixth in the 100 backstroke. At the KLAAs Lakes Conference meet she placed second in the 50 free and fourth in the backstroke.

"She's also a runner," pointed out Lutz. "The strength in her legs is unbelievable. That helps her in all of her strokes ... and has since she's been a freshman." Lutz appreciated Wallace's versatility as well, as Wallace swam IM and butterfly races along with the backstroke and sprint freestyle events.

"Her strength was just about anything that we had her in," Lutz said.

Please see **ALL-AREA, B3**



Novi faced Northville for the first Baseline Battle of the winter season.

Wildcat hockey rebounds after loss to Northville

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

The first winter baseline battle of any kind goes to the Northville hockey team.

Northville pulled away from a 2-all tie late in the second period to score the final six goals, turning a close game into a rout.

"This happens to just about every team at every level at some point in time," Novi head coach Todd Krygier said. "We lost, but we did not lose the lessons."

"Northville deserves credit. They played an excellent game. They were very aggressive and unselfish."

Novi (4-2) pulled even with a goal from Zach Mohr with 6:15

remaining in the second.

The Wildcats went on the power play with 29.5 remaining, but Northville's Alex Brewin scored a shorthanded goal just nine seconds later off a feed from Alec Arthur, and the wind came out of Novi's sails.

"The two shorthanded goals against in the second period along with the power play goal against really hurt us," Krygier said. "But we stayed in the game until we began standing around and watching instead of remaining focused on our coverages and execution of our systems."

The Mustangs scored on five of 13 shots in the final 15 minutes to turn the game into a blowout. Third period goals came by

Matt Kreager (12:30), Matt Rosiar (10:36), Troy McMullin (8:14), Jake Atkinson (6:04) and Rosiar again (-38).

Northville was first on the board when Brewin scored on the power play from Atkinson and Arthur just 45 seconds into the second.

Novi answered back with 10:01 remaining on a goal by Andrew Cmoluch from Evan Dixon.

Northville pulled back ahead with a goal by Arthur midway through the period.

Novi would tie, but it was all Northville after that.

The Mustangs poured 36

Please see **HOCKEY, B5**

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ALL-AREA

FROM PAGE B1

REBECCA BERMAN, Novi (500 free): In between swimming on three relay teams at the state meet this year, the sophomore found time to place fourth in the 500 freestyle (9:06.68) to gain All-State recognition. She was also fourth at the county meet and second at the Kensington Conference meet in the 500, and placed third in the conference in the 200 IM.

"Becca has shown a rapid and steady improvement in her sophomore year," Teeters said. "She has a tremendous amount of ability and her work ethic has matured greatly, which has resulted in her becoming one of Michigan's rising swim stars. She is a great racer and team player. She gave up one of her individual events to swim on three relays. This in turn helped our team place higher."

SOUTH LYON, Jenna Faletti, Julie Kapler, Corinne Caldwell, Paige Drazga (200 free relay): The South Lyon quartet featured one swimmer from each class: Caldwell is a freshman, Drazga a sophomore, Kapler a junior, and Faletti a senior. The team placed fourth at the state meet (1:39.36) to gain All-State notice. South Lyon was second in the event at the Kensington Conference meet.

HONORABLE MENTION: LANSING: Kim Ivack, Milford: Ashley Little, Katie Pothman, Northville: Faith Miller, 500 freestyle relay (Becca Berman, Leah Lindstrom, Rachel Brown, Faith Miller); 200 medley relay (Rachel Brown, Kelly Burford, Shannon LeVine, Jessica Weber); Novi: Mary Annolik, Ashley Bush, Ann Arbor: Morgan Nichols, Geriwa, 400 freestyle relay (Ashley Bush, Rebecca Berman, Meredith Cole, South Lyon: Corinne Caldwell.

"Corinne came in as a freshman and she really swam well this year," Birch said. "I think she swam a lot faster than she expected to. She dropped about two seconds from where she was in eighth grade, which is a huge drop in a two-length race. Julie actually struggled this year, she was injured... and she didn't go so far as she did last year, but at the state meet she was able to put together some very good performances. ... And then Jenna and Paige, they're two of the best sprinters in the state. And having two of the best sprinters in the state

really helps you."

LAUREN KALINOSKY, Novi (100 backstroke): Kalinosky earned All-American recognition by finishing third in the backstroke (57.60) at the state meet, to go with her All-State time in the 200 IM (2:09.03), where she placed fifth. The senior won both the backstroke and breaststroke events at the Kensington Conference meet and won the backstroke at the Central Division meet. She was third in the backstroke and sixth in the IM at the county meet.

"She loves Novi holding school records in five events," Teeters said. "She came in from day one prepared to improve her team and her own swimming."

JENNA FALETTI, South Lyon (100 breaststroke): The senior gained All-State notice in the breaststroke by finishing sixth in 1:07.85 at the state meet, while also finishing tenth in the 50 freestyle (24.68). Her season included a victory in the 100 breaststroke at the Central Division meet and in the 50 free at the Kensington Conference meet. At the county meet Faletti finished second in the 50 free and fourth in the breaststroke. She was also sec-

ond in the breaststroke at the conference meet.

"Jenna was a key part of the team this year," Birch said. "She really was able to step up in the breaststroke. We had a state runner-up on our team last year in the 100 breaststroke (Shannon Mocer). But this year Shannon's gone and Jenna stepped into that role very well. We always knew she was a good breaststroker, but she never had to swim it before this year. And then this year we swam her in it, in the dual meets, expecting her to do well. And she ended up doing even better than we expected."

"Lauren is a serious swimmer whose strength is the ability stay focused on what needs to get done on a daily basis to achieve her long term goals," Teeters said. "She came in from day one prepared to improve her team and her own swimming."

Teeters noted that both Cole and Berman are distance swimmers who nevertheless

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Wildcat girls fall to WL Central

BY JEFF TREISEN
 SPORTS WRITER

In a close game throughout, Novi (7-1) came up on the short end of a 48-40 decision Friday to Walled Lake Central.

The Wildcats held a two-point lead heading into the fourth, but Novi scored just four points in the final frame as Central pulled away.

Jessica Cingel led the Wildcats with 16 points and nine rebounds. Kestey Masseran was next with seven points and eight rebounds.

NOVI JV GIRLS BASKETBALL
 The Wildcats improved to 2-0 with a 60-30 blowout against Walled Lake Central.

Ally D'Annibile led the way with 13 points. Rachel Standt and Katie Seelenbinder each pitched in 11 points.

NOVI FRESHMEN TOP CENTRAL
 Novi had little trouble improving to 2-0 with a 46-20 win against Walled Lake Central. Maddie Haustin and Dominique Felice each led with nine points. Abby Robinson was next with eight points. Haustin highlighted the defense with seven steals.

WRESTLING
 The Wildcats are off to a 1-4 dual record as several young wrestlers become adjusted to varsity-style wrestling.

The lone win came 62-10 against Flat Rock.

Picking up wins for Novi were Sinbagu Sidihi at 112 pounds (7-0), Beau Bielski at 125 (pin), Clayton Caldwell at 135 (1-1), Aswin Reddy at 140 (pin), Martin Bunney at 152 (1-1), Alex Engbretonson at 160 (pin), David Sparling at 171 (pin) and Joe Betto at heavyweight (pin).

The losses were 40-24 against Monroe Jefferson, 65-6 to Adrian, 65-9 to Linden and 46-25 to Jackson Northwest.

The Novi teams got off to opposite starts Dec. 8 against Southgate (670-674), Troy Athens (655-824) and Novi with 642-1356.

The Wildcats scored 186.1 in the first round, 200.5336 in the second and 255.5 in the final round.

BOWLING
 The Novi teams got off to opposite starts Dec. 8 against Waterford Mott. The Wildcat girls beat Mott 19-11. The boys weren't as fortunate, losing 22-8.

For the girls, Leslie Brown shot a 222 and finished with a 404 two-game series.

FIGURE SKATING
 The Wildcats competed in their first competition of the year, placing seventh at a 10-team meet Sunday in Harland.

The Wildcats finished eighth in jumps, 10th in moves and fifth in spins for a team total of 10 points.

Lakeland/Milford finished first with 28 points.

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HOCKEY
 FROM PAGE B1

shots on Michael Pesendorfer. Northville's Teddy Kennen turned aside 13 of 15 shots.

NOVI 3, SALEM 1
 The Wildcats responded well after a frustrating finish Friday against their rivals.

Pesendorfer was stellar in goal, turning aside 28 of 29 shots Monday at the Novi Ice Arena. Erik Appenbacher started the scoring with a short-hander in the second.

Salem pulled even in the third period, but the Wildcats scored the final two goals for the win.

Dixon put Novi in front for good with four minutes remaining off a feed from Ryan Potocsky and Nolan Valleau.

Mohr scored the insurance goal late.

NOVI 5, FARMINGTON 1
 The Wildcats powered on Farmington and skated away with a 5-1 victory Dec. 10.

Tyler Perpich scored two of the three Novi goals in the first period to lead the offense.

Novi led 3-1 after the first period and added solo goals in the second and third periods.

Also scoring for Novi were Dixon, Potocsky and Alec Latin.

Valleau and Paul Ravarite earned two assists each.

HOOPS
 FROM PAGE B1

Chris Bellamy led the way with 22 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Other highlights included Brandon Bryant with 12 points, Nick Brockman with six points and five assists and Tyler Wenson with 10 rebounds.

The Wildcats won all four quarters, leading 15-13 after one, 28-21 at the half and 39-29 heading into the fourth.

"We came out very tight and made some uncharacteristic mistakes," Heitsch said. "We were lunging defensively and getting beat off the dribble. We missed some open looks that we will make most nights. Our post defense and our ability to attack the rim were the two most pleasant surprises from the first game."

"It is nice to have the first game jitters out of the way."

"We were extremely efficient Friday night by committing only one first half turnover and only three through the first three quarters," Heitsch said. "Also, we had 15 assists on our 20 field goals."

"As a team, we controlled the boards with 49 rebounds and created extra possessions with 11 steals."

JV DOMINATES
 The Novi JV team thumped Western 76-42.

Brady Sheldo led three Novi players in double digits with 12 points. Chris Mion scored 11, while Loren Branch tallied 10.

"The JV improved to 2-0 with a 44-30 victory against Central."

NOVI FRESHMEN
 The Novi freshman team also started the year with a win. The Wildcats beat Western 44-43. Ryan Kandt led the way with 15 points. Chris Diacono added 13 points and seven rebounds.

The Wildcats improved made it two in a row with a 44-30 win against Central.

On Friday, Novi suffered its first loss, 74-42 to Walled Lake Central.

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WEEK #16 GAMES

Thursday, December 18, 2008
 Indianapolis at Jacksonville
 Saturday, December 20, 2008
 Baltimore at Dallas
 Sunday, December 21, 2008
 Arizona at New England
 San Diego at Tampa Bay
 San Francisco at St. Louis
 Pittsburgh at Tennessee
 Cincinnati at Cleveland
 Miami at Kansas City
 New Orleans at Detroit
 Houston at Oakland
 Buffalo at Denver
 New York Jets at Seattle
 Philadelphia at Washington
 Atlanta at Minnesota
 Carolina at New York Giants
 Monday, December 22, 2008
 Green Bay at Chicago

Novi Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hooters

Novi Hooters announces the beginning of Operation Calendar Drop, and encourages local residents to stop by and support the troops. Novi residents can stop into the local Hooters restaurant, purchase a 2009 Hooters calendar and attach a personal note of appreciation to the troops. Hooters will take care of the postage and the calendars overseas. Call (248) 465-9464.

Play It Again Sports

The 10 Play It Again Sports locations of Metro Detroit have declared Tuesdays "Play It Again Tuesdays."

During the month of December, all 10 locally owned and operated Metro Detroit Play It Again Sports locations, including Novi, will donate 10 percent of their store's profits to various Southeast Michigan nonprofit organizations.

The retailer has also teamed up with Jimmy's Kids to help provide toys to more than 30,000 Metro Detroit kids in need this holiday season. Anyone

who brings in a toy or coat to any of the 10 Play It Again Sports for donation to Jimmy's Kids, will get an additional 10 percent off any regularly priced item.

The Gold Exchange

The Gold Exchange, a precious metal company which buys scrap gold, will be at the Hotel Barronette in Novi 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20. Call (248) 305-8831.

Play It Again Sports

Play It Again Sports of Novi announces it is teaming up with Nike Bauer to offer "The Practice of a Lifetime" sweepstakes featuring a grand-prize, one-hour hockey practice, led by NHL pro Phil Kessel of the Boston Bruins. The promotion is being held through Dec. 31 and the store is located at 24287 Novi Road. Visit www.nikebauer.com/practice for further details.

SALES

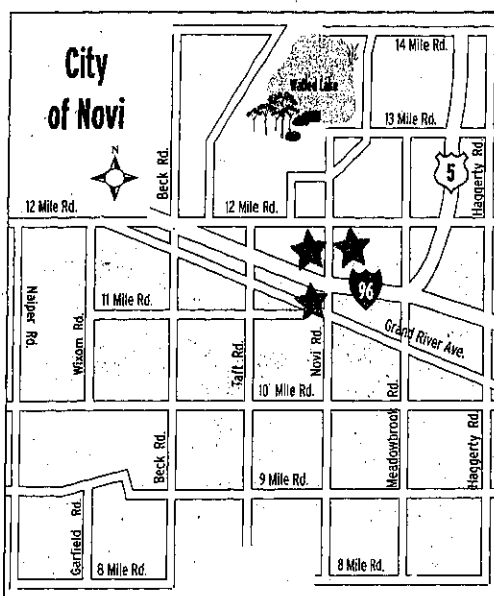
Kohl's
Kohl's in Novi, and throughout the

state, is offering a daily deal now through Christmas. In addition to the daily deal, the store is offering deep discounts on a wide variety of products. The Novi Kohl's is located in West Oaks on 12 Mile Road. For more information, visit www.kohls.com.

Toys R Us
Every day through Christmas Toys R Us, located in West Oaks, is offering daily sales and specials for holiday shoppers. The promotion titled, Countdown to Christmas Deals of the Day, highlights specific toys for children of all ages. Coupons are also available online by visiting www.toysrus.com.

CLASSES

Yarmak & Company
Join us for our SMALL BUSINESS BOOT CAMP: SERIES 2 "CAN'T MISS BUSINESS TAX CLASS." This class will be geared toward the small business owner. The cost of the Class is \$10 in advance (must register by Jan. 9) or \$15 at the door. Call (248) 473-5566.



OPENINGS

Rujo Mexican Bistro
44375 12 Mile Road
Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk
(248) 348-2600

Dale and Thomas Popcorn
Twelve Oaks Mall
Located on the upper level near Lord & Taylor

Everything Alpaca
(clothing)
Twelve Oaks Mall
Located on the upper level of Center Court

Birmingham Jewelry
Twelve Oaks Mall
Located on the upper level of Center Court

REOPENING

McDonald's
42665 12 Mile Road
Outside of Twelve Oaks Mall
(248) 348-0255

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Twelve Mile Road McDonald's offers inviting, family atmosphere

Q. Who is behind McDonald's?

A. Claude and Teresa Murphy

Q. When did this location open?

A. The store was originally built in 1974.

We just went through a complete rebuild and reopened on Nov. 23.

Q. How many employees at this location?

A. 55

Q. What makes your business unique?

A. We still have all the great food of a traditional McDonald's restaurant, including the great values with our dollar menu, but with a beautiful lobby that makes you feel like you're in a fine dining restaurant.

And we have a huge playplace for the kids with air hockey and basketball and a large family seating area that is really isolated from the rest of the dining room.

Q. How did you first decide to open the business?

A. Claude started working for McDonald's way back in high school and knew that someday he wanted to own his own McDonald's. Today we own and operate seven restaurants.

Q. How did you decide to locate in the Novi community?

A. We've lived in Novi for the last 14 years.

It's been a wonderful city for us to raise our family in. We just love Novi and when we had the opportunity to purchase



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS
Teresa Murphy, owner of Twelve Oaks Mall's McDonald's helps out at the drive through window.

this restaurant, we were so thrilled.

We wanted to have a great looking McDonald's we could be proud of in our hometown, Novi.

Q. Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far?

A. It's not a funny story, but an interesting fact.

From the day we started demolition on the building until we reopened was only 84 days.



Patrons enjoy a game of air hockey at the 12 Mile Road McDonald's, outside of Twelve Oaks Mall.

CHAMBER CHAT

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce and Rock Financial Showplace invite community members to join the first Diamond Center Holiday Party. This holiday season brings unprecedented community challenges as well as celebrations and gifts. The Novi Chamber of Commerce and Rock Financial Showplace are teaming up to create a brand new seasonal event aimed at gathering the community together during this difficult economic period. The Diamond Center Holiday Party, Dec. 18 and 19 at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., is being launched as a collective event designed to bring multiple small groups together for one large party.

It's a giant banquet and networking event for all offices, businesses, organizations and clubs. Live entertainment, a lavish holiday buffet by Epoch Catering, door prizes and special gift bags are all included in one low price. Reservations are available for dinner 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, featur-

ing sultry jazz by the Sheila Landis Trio or lunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 with acoustic holiday classics from singer-songwriter Jill Jack. Prices are:

- Parties over 10 guests: Lunch \$20/Dinner \$28
- Parties from five-10 guests: Lunch \$22/Dinner \$30
- Parties of four or smaller: Lunch \$25/Dinner \$33

***plus 19 percent gratuity and Michigan sales tax. For party reservations, call (248) 662-0104.

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce would like to thank The Art Institute of Michigan for hosting a successful Business to Business breakfast last week. More than 80 members were in attendance.

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce office will be closed Dec. 25-Jan. 4.

■ The Economic Forecast Luncheon will take place 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 27355 Cabaret Dr. The event is sponsored by Lotus Bank

and Yarmack & Co. Certified Public Accountants. Register online at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743. The cost is \$20 pre-registration or \$30 at the door.

■ Committees and Round Tables:

- Sales Leads Group 1 - 8:30 a.m. today at Waltonwoods
- Experience West Oakland - 3 p.m. today at the Livonia Marriott located at Six Mile and Newburgh roads
- Healthy Lifestyles - 7:30 a.m. Dec. 15 at Providence Hospital's cafeteria
- The Race in Amazing Novi - a new opportunity to help Rotary of Novi put on a fun community event and raise money for some good causes. Contact gsobotta@finlan.com.

■ 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. For membership information, visit our Web site at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



David Staudt

Novi City Councilman David Staudt was elected to a two-year term as Oakland County Republican Party treasurer. Staudt was nominated for the position by State Sen. Nancy Cassis. He is one of few Novi republicans to serve as an officer of the Party. The term begins Jan. 1.



Doug Deykes

Cooper-Standard Automotive recently promoted Doug Deykes to vice president, internal audit. In this position, he will be responsible for Cooper-Standard's internal audit and internal control-global compliance activities. Deykes will report functionally to the Cooper-Standard Automotive Board of Directors; audit committee and administratively to Allen Campbell, chief financial officer for the company.

Most recently, Deykes served as director, internal audit and internal control-global compliance, responsible for both internal audit and Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance activities and was instrumental in securing SOX compliance for Cooper-Standard in 2007. In his new assignment, Deykes is responsible for directing the company's global auditing operations and will continue to work closely on SOX compliance activities.

Prior to joining Cooper-Standard in 2005, Deykes was audit manager at Delphi Corp. in Troy, as well as director at Deloitte in Detroit.

Deykes earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and holds several professional designations, including certified internal auditor, certified information systems auditor and certified fraud examiner.

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FREE Diamond Pendant
in 14k White Gold
(retail value \$280.00)

With a minimum purchase of \$500.00

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Extended Holiday Hours!