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Happy New Year

Novi News

THURSDAY January 1, 2009

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How to make a difference in 2009 ... at any age

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Every New Year brings challenges, journeys and possibilities.

To most, 2008 will be remembered for its unemployment rate and crumbling economy, but what was learned? Were the resolutions made for

the previous New Year's Eve successful, forgotten or did they even matter?

Maybe this year, instead of vowing to lose 20 pounds, you donate 20 pounds of food. Or instead of signing up for a gym membership, you get active in a local organization.

Here are some ways Novi residents of all ages can get

involved and make a difference in 2009.

Youth

• Novi Youth Assistance

The Novi Youth Assistance is a volunteer-driven organization serving several hundred Novi children and families each year. Through programs and services, the youth assistance

provides support and assistance to at-risk children and their families. The program provides volunteer opportunities for Novi residents of all ages. Along with a regular mentor program similar to Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the youth assistance provides silver lining, which is an intergenerational program bringing

together local kids and senior citizens and a mentor program through the police department where local police officers meet with kids once a week. The non-profit organization also recognizes Novi's youth for making positive contributions to their community. For more information regarding the Novi Youth Assistance, call (248) 347-0410.

347-0410.

• Novi Youth Council

The Novi Youth Council is a 19-member board composed of students who are civically active with the City of Novi. Since 2005, Novi's City Council has been interviewing and appointing students each

Please see 2009, A6



Zumba class members work out at Novi Woods Elementary.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi residents get fit, have fun

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER



Zumba instructor Debbie Lim teaches a Monday evening dance-fitness class at Novi Woods Elementary to the sounds of salsa music.

Novi resident Kate Angeski was looking for a way to get fit while having fun when she heard about Zumba, the latest exercise craze combining dance and fitness moves with Latin-inspired music.

"I was looking to improve my health and lose weight, and I was looking for a fun way to do it," she said. "It's the first time in years that I've enjoyed working out. I think the music is contagious. It just lends itself to movement and higher energy."

Angeski, 55, began taking Zumba classes in April with her daughters Lauren, 25, and Michelle, 20.

"All of us were looking for workout opportunities," Kate said. "I feel so much better about myself. Any age, any body type, any health level, you can adapt what they're teaching to what you're capable of."

The 45-minute Zumba classes offered through Novi Community Education are taught by instructors from Fitness Motivators, a traveling fitness company teaching in Novi and surrounding communities, including Milford, Livonia,

ZUMBA FITNESS

Beginning Jan. 12, Fitness Motivators will be teaching two Zumba classes a week in the gymnasium of Novi Woods Elementary School, 25195 Taft Road.

■ Zumbal, 7-7:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 through March 30.

■ Saturday Zumbal, 10:45-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 through March 7.

To register online, visit www.novi.k12.mi.us. Registration is also available by phone at (248) 449-1206 or in person at Novi Community Education, 25345 Taft Road. For more information regarding Fitness Motivators, visit www.fitnessmotivators.com.

Farmington, Bloomfield, Birmingham and Wixom.

"I've found that most people come to these classes for socialization and to lose weight," instructor Debbie Lim said. "I've been an instructor for 28 years, and I've lost 12-15 pounds just from Zumba."

Lim and her sister Donna created

Please see ZUMBA, A10

Andiamo execs open upscale Mexican bistro in Novi

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

After 15 years with Andiamo Italian restaurants, chef Luis Garza has reverted to his roots, bringing an upscale Mexican restaurant to Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk.

Rojo Mexican Bistro opened about a month ago in the former Bamboo Club location, near Emagine Novi.

Dan Linnen, owner of the Novi Andiamo, Joe Vicari, president and chief executive officer of the Italian restaurant group and Garza chose Novi to launch the first store.

"It happened to be the right place at the right time," said manager Steve Rogers, noting there are at least three other locations in the works.

With only minor adjustments required to the interior of the building, the restaurant was flipped in two

ROJO MEXICAN BISTRO

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Thursday 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m.-midnight
Saturday noon-midnight
Sunday noon-9 p.m.

months.

The menu consists of traditional items such as nachos, tacos and burritos, but also includes upscale signature dishes, not often found at Mexican restaurants.

"We have lobster fajitas, red snapper and mahi mahi," said manager Stephen Simon. "We have salads on the menu. When you see caesar salad you normally think of an Italian restaurant, but actually the first one was made in Mexico. It was ordered by an

Please see BISTRO, A10



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Rojo Mexican Bistro managers Stephen Simon, left, and Steve Rogers sit down at the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk location. Among other things, they are enjoying camarones rellenos, a chunky beef burrito and beef nachos with a margarita and sangria.

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Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 households in Michigan.

*See branch for complete details. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2009 Community Financial



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For every new checking account opened in January 2009, Community Financial will contribute \$10.00 to THAW*



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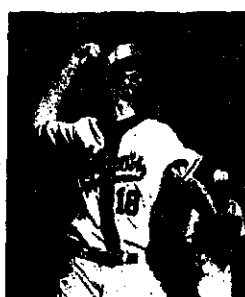
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INSIDE



A look back at local sports in 2008
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Novi students celebrate giving during the holiday season

Last month students and parents from Novi Meadows went to Maybury Elementary School in Detroit to host their annual holiday party for kindergarten.

This year, because of the difficult economy, the school also invited two first grade classes so they wouldn't go without.

The highlight was a visit from Santa where he handed out the gifts brought from Novi Meadows.

Children of families in a difficult position also received special gift and food baskets.



Novi Meadows students stop for a photo before traveling to Maybury Elementary School in Detroit to host their annual holiday party.

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Classrooms made cookie kits, tie dye shirts and no-sew blankets.

They created holiday cards and decorated gift bags. And still more collected toys and wrapped gifts.

Parents worked for weeks to get ready for the party. They cut fleece, knitted scarves, sewed hats, shopped, planned, cut wrapping paper and worked endless hours sorting through the gifts. It was a community effort.

Organizers said they are thankful for all the great donations.

Special thanks go to the following local business and community groups for their extraordinary generosity: Dr. Carron, Olde Orchard Pediatric Dentistry, Busch's,

Meijer's in Wixom and Northville, Gordon Food Service, Kellogg's, Trader Joe's, Faith Presbyterian Church, Me.,Jowbrook Congregational Church, Novi High School Skating Team and The Care Groups at Novi Woods, Deerfield and Meadows.

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Everyone can win with charitable gifts

When you give a gift to a charitable group, you are rewarded by the knowledge that you're helping an organization whose work you support. But you can also get a "bonus" from your gift — in the form of tax benefits.

Specifically, your donations to charities that have received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are usually tax deductible, assuming you itemize your tax returns. And as long as your total contributions for any one year are 50 percent or less of your adjusted gross income, there's no limit on the deductions you can take for your gifts to public charities.

Furthermore, your contributions may entitle you to more than just a tax deduction in the year in which you make your gift. If you decide to donate shares of stock, a piece of real estate or another asset that has increased in value since you purchased it, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that will be due on the asset when it's sold.

Clearly, your charitable giving can provide you with some significant tax benefits. But if you're interested in

going even deeper into the world of charitable gifts, you'll find that they can play a role in some of your long-term financial strategies, as well.

Consider, for instance, how you might use a charitable remainder trust. You'd start by donating an asset — such as appreciated stocks, bonds or real estate — to the trust, which is managed by a trustee. The trustee, in turn, could sell the asset (relieving you of immediate capital gains liabilities), reinvest the proceeds and then make regular payments to you or another beneficiary you named when you established the trust. So you could set up the trust to provide yourself, or one or more family members, with an income stream for life or for a designated number of years. After the lifetime of the last surviving beneficiary, or at the end of the specified term, the trust would end, and any remaining assets would then be distributed to the charity you'd named.

Setting up a charitable remainder trust is not as easy as filling out a few forms; to do it correctly, you'll need

to work with your legal and tax advisors. And once you establish such a trust, you'll find it can have considerable impact on some of the decisions affecting your retirement income. For example, if you could count on an income stream from a charitable remainder trust, you might be able to withdraw less money each year from your investments and retirement accounts, such as your 401(k) and IRA, to meet your income needs in retirement. In fact, if you were to receive this trust-generated income, it might even affect the type of investments you need to make before retirement, possibly changing the balance somewhat between "growth" and "income."

In any case, consider being as generous as you can afford in your support of worthwhile charitable organizations. But if you incorporate your charitable giving into your long-term investment picture, you'll need to make the right moves — so prepare carefully.

This article was provided by Mark Whitfield, financial advisor, 42920 N. Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

NOVI ENGAGEMENTS



Schuitman-Bullen
Pamela Myers of Novi and Donald and Laura Schuitman of Grand Rapids are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Emily Ann Schuitman of Walled Lake to Dane Abraham Bullen of Walled Lake, son of Wayne and Mary Bullen of Novi.

Emily is a 2006 graduate of Novi High School and will graduate from Baker College in April 2009. She is employed as a paralegal at Weiner & Associates law firm in Southfield.

Dane is a 2004 graduate of Novi High School and is currently working to open a restaurant.

The couple plans a May 30, 2009 wedding.

Staab-Hage
Charley and Becky Staab of Novi are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Betsey Anne Staab of Novi to Paul Robert Hage of Birmingham, son of Robert and Christine Hage of Rochester.

Betsey is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School, a 2003 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, a 2006 graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and a 2007 graduate of St. John's University School of Law with an L.L.M. in bankruptcy law. He is currently employed at Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer and Weiss in Southfield as an associate in their bankruptcy group.

A winter wedding is planned.

OBITUARIES

GARY C. CHILDS
A resident of Linden and former resident of Milford, passed away in the care of his family at Genesis Hospice in Goodrich on December 27, 2008. He was 70 years old. He is survived by his children, Carol (Herb) Butterfield of Fenton, Dennis (Laura) Childs of Linden, Diana (Michael) Dasher of Fenton, Doug (Liz) Childs of Fowlerville, grandchildren, Allison (Jason) Eldred, Lisa (Warren) Hunt, Joseph and Jessica Childs, Trisha, Taylor, and Troy Dasher, Megan and Sarah Childs, great-grandchildren, Anna Edred and Aedan Hunt. Also surviving are his sisters, Joyce (James) Wilson, Linda (Ernie) Miller, many nieces, nephews and dear friends. He was preceded in death by a sister, Judy Childs in 2004. Funeral Services were held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Wednesday, December 31st, 2008, with burial in Milford Memorial Cemetery. Memorials are encouraged in his name to Genesis Hospice. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

KAREN CORDE (NEE FABIAN)
Age 64, passed away December 21, 2008. Beloved wife of Cecil Corde, loving mother of Michael (Cathy), Bryan (Debbie), Stephen (Margaret). Also survived by her mother Leatrice Fabian, mother-in-law Mary Corde, her sister Linda Paletta and sons Paul White, five grandchildren, one great-grandson, many aunts, nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by many friends. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

MARY LOU HOLLINGDALE
A former resident of Milford and Highland, passed away on December 27th, at West Hickory Haven in Milford Township. She was 87 years old. She leaves her lifelong companion, Herb Hollingdale, sons, David (Rose Marie Willis) Fox of Illinois, Duane (Linda) Fox of West Bloomfield, a daughter, Patricia Wright of Missouri, and her beloved grandchildren. Mary was a past Head Custodian for Hartland Middle School and a long time member of the Eastern Stars. Funeral Services were held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Tuesday, December 30th, 2008, with Rev. James Braid officiating. For further information please phone 248-684-6645.

STEPHEN J. RENN
Age 65, of Milford, died December 22, 2008 after a valiant battle with idiopathic interstitial pulmonary fibrosis. He is survived by his mother, Barbara Robin; son, Tim Renna; grandson, Cooper Renna; siblings, Doug, Rick, Diane Theodore; fiancé, Kelly Mellish and many loving extended family members and dear friends. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Memorials encouraged to the Steven J. Renn Memorial Tree Fund. For further information please call Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, Milford, at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

GENEVA VALENTINE
Age 79, passed away in the care of her family at home in Highland Township on December 25, 2008. She is survived by her daughter, Joan (David) Graybeal of Highland; sons, Kenneth (Pauline) Valentine of Milford, Kim Douglas Valentine of Florida; eight grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, her step-grandchildren and sister, Geneva Mills. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Lillie Kathryn, a granddaughter, Carrie Lynn Graybeal, and her husband, Dallas in 1989. Funeral Services were held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, on Monday, December 29, 2008, with burial in Highland Cemetery. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

2009 FROM PAGE A1

year to serve on the council on behalf of today's youth. While serving on the council, the students not only work in cooperation with the City of Novi, but are involved with local businesses, organizations and schools, and have initiated programs such as Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs; Senior-to-Senior Prom; and Project Sticker Shock. City Council typically interviews applicants in April and appoints youth members in May. Students interested in getting involved with the Novi Youth Council may contact the Chamber at (248) 381-8762 or Clouse at (734) 494-1300 ext. 443.

Novi Chamber of Commerce
After a tough economic year, business professionals now, more than ever, should be involving themselves in their local communities.

"In this economy, you have to know someone, and that's what the Chamber is good for," said Dietrich said.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce provides its about 600 members with numerous networking opportunities each month. Aside from social events, members have the ability to join various committees best fitting their interests or industry of their business.

For more information regarding the Novi Chamber of Commerce, visit www.novitchamber.com.

Religious organizations
New Emergency Food Program
Faith Community Presbyterian Church, located at 444-000 W. 10 Mile Road, distributes groceries to local families in need every other Monday as part of the Novi Emergency Food Program.

"We service people who literally cannot afford to buy food at the grocery store," said secretary Kelly Williams. "Without this service, many people would be hungry."

According to Williams, the food program is always accepting donations and they are in constant need of canned food, toilet paper, cereal and peanut butter. For more information regarding contributions or volunteer opportunities, contact Williams at (248) 349-2345.

Community Clothes Closet
The Community Clothes Closet is located inside Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. The Clothes Closet is open to shoppers, by appointment, who can provide identification such as a (Michigan) bridge card, Medicaid card or W-2 to prove they are low income. Donations may be dropped off every Monday from 9 a.m. to noon and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"It's not just clothes, we'll take just about anything, we'll even take furniture," said Carol Ann Donnelly, Director of Christian Services and Social Ministries at Church of the Holy Family. To make a

Business professionals
ECHO
The business world can be intimidating, especially for young professionals new to the industry. ECHO, a sub-committee of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, was created with the "echo boomer" generation in mind.

"We're just trying to get more young professionals involved," said Jamie Dietrich, a 24-year-old member of the Novi Chamber who has been actively involved with implementing ECHO. "The whole Chamber is kind of a 40-plus group. There's a small percentage of people in their 20s and it's intimidating."

Dietrich is a systems specialist for Konica Minolta and said ECHO's goal is to provide young, ambitious professionals with opportunities in networking and the knowledge to succeed in business.

"You have to make yourself known," said ECHO member James Clouse, 24. Clouse is a sales manager for Radisson Hotel and

donation, or for information regarding volunteer opportunities contact Donnelly at (248) 349-8553.

Community organizations
CEIT
The City of Novi is always seeking volunteers for its Community Emergency Response Team. The CERT program supports local response capability in the event of a disaster by training volunteers to provide immediate assistance to themselves, their loved ones and neighbors until appropriate help arrives. The training consists of 20 hours of instruction on topics including disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster psychology. Upon completion, participants are encouraged to continue their involvement by participating in various activities and volunteering for projects that support Novi's disaster preparedness efforts.

There will be a CERT public information meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Novi Police Department Training Center, 45125 W. 10 Mile Road. For more information or to register for the meeting, contact Novi Police Sergeant Kevin Rhea at (248) 348-7100 or krhea@cityofnovi.org.

Novi Educational Foundation
The Novi Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides expanded educational opportunities throughout the community. Governed by a Board of Trustees, the volunteers are responsible for reviewing fund proposals and awarding educational grants for classroom projects, equipment, scholarships, programs and student and staff development. For more information regarding the Novi Educational Foundation or to make a contribution, visit www.noviki12.mius.org or e-mail nef@noviki12.mius.org.

Novi Lions Club
The Novi Lions Club is an organization that provides services for the blind and hard of hearing. Among the organizations supported by the Lions Club are the Leader Dogs for the Blind, Perlicker Center for Blind Children, Campaign SightFirst, The Michigan Eye Bank and various local projects. The group provides eye-glasses for those who cannot afford exams and glasses, and will accept donations. Anyone interested in joining or supporting the Novi Lions Club, should contact Jerry Coonce at (248) 348-0531.

SAVVY SENIOR

Cholesterol Lowering Foods
Dear Savvy Senior: Are there certain kinds of foods a person can eat to help lower their cholesterol? Cholesterol Concerned

Dear Concerned: What you eat can actually play a huge role in lowering your cholesterol, and for many, it may even eliminate the need for cholesterol-lowering medication.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS
As you may already know, your cholesterol level is the amount of fat in your blood. If it's too high, you're at a greater risk of having a heart attack or stroke. Ideally, you want your total cholesterol reading (that includes your LDL and HDL cholesterol) to be below 200, and your "bad" LDL cholesterol below 129 — less if you're at risk for heart disease. If your total level hits between 200 and 239, or your LDL reaches 130 — 159 you're considered borderline high. And if your total is above 240, or your LDL is over 160 you have high cholesterol.

On the other hand, a higher number is better when it comes to the "good" HDL cholesterol. Most men range between 40 and 50 HDL, and women range between 50 and 60. Anything below 40 (for men) and 50 (for women) is too low, and anything above 60 (for men) and 70 (for women) is great, because it provides extra protection against heart disease.

CHOLESTEROL-LOWERING FOODS
Let's see what research over the past few years has shown that certain foods can help lower your LDL cholesterol and/or boost your HDL, including:

- Oatmeal and oat bran:** Loaded with soluble fiber, oatmeal or oat bran is a great way to start your day and have five percent off your LDL. Five to 10 grams per day are recommended. Other good sources for soluble fiber are apples, pears, prunes, citrus fruits, kidney and lima beans, barley, psyllium, carrots, broccoli and Brussels sprouts.
- Nuts:** Studies have also shown that a daily dose of walnuts and almonds can lower your LDL by 10 percent, and raise your HDL by as much as 20 percent. Peanuts, hazelnuts, pecans, some pine nuts,

'The Dinner Party' extended

Tipping Point Theatre is extending the run of its current production, Neil Simon's comedy 'The Dinner Party' through Jan. 4. Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$25. The Dinner Party follows five people who have been invited to dine at a first-rate restaurant in Paris. They do not know who the other guests will be or why they have been invited. Tossed together in a private dining room, they have a sinking suspicion that this unorthodox dinner party will forever change their lives. The evening is filled with playful antics, sudden zinnies and masterful comic dialogue as the mystery unfolds. The original production opened on Broadway in 2001 and ran for 364 performances. Shown are Wayne David Parker (Dearborn) and Julia Gländer (Ann Arbor) Other cast members include Aaron L. Moore (St. Clair Shores), Stephanie L. Stephan (Toledo, OH), Dave Davies (Warren) and Karin Pearson (Northville).

Your Invitation to Worship

Brighton
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAL & W.C. - Mo. Synod
620 General Motors Rd., Brighton, MI 48114
810-227-3113
9:30 a.m. Communion Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
Monday Evening 7:00 p.m.
The Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor
www.lordoflifec.com

HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
www.harc.net
at the corner of Wilson Lake & Musch Rd.
910-231-1999
Fr. John Piroca, Pastor
Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Pious and St. Vincent de Paul Society & G.P. Day

Milford
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAL & W.C. - Mo. Synod
620 General Motors Rd., Milford
Church office: (248) 684-0925
Regular Sunday Services: 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Just Ask - Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Monday Evening 7:00 p.m.
The Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor

FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD VISITORS WELCOME!
133 Detroit St., Milford • 684-5665
Pastor Steve Swartz
Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. - Pastor Sermon - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Awards for ages 3 to 5th grades
Middle & Senior High Programs

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48274
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Reverend George Chagnac, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-1779

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44020 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service
Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 Mile
248-348-7757 • www.pbccc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
24595 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48275
Weekend Hours:
Saturday 5 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
Fr. Timothy Hagan, Pastor
Rev. Henry Sasse, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 348-8847 • www.familyofholys.org

WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4025 Highland Rd. between Regis & Center Rd.
(248) 807-4955 • www.whitelakepres.org
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Children Church School 10:00 a.m.
Crick Camp Provisional
"The Family Church" Established 1835

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
24595 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48275
Haggerty, Novi • Phone 427-1175
Sundays 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist - Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Rhy Gabon, Interim Pastor
www.churchoftheholycross.com

OAK POINTE CHURCH
50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
Saturday Worship 8:15 p.m.
Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Casual, contemporary service
Phone (248) 912-0643
www.oakpointe.org

WHITMORE LAKE Living Water
North Campus of Life Lutheran Church Ann Arbor
248-348-7757 • www.whitmorelake.org
Whitmore Lake Rd. 7438 Whitmore Lake Rd. • Whitmore Lake, MI 48186
Dan Flynn, Minister
734-428-4006 • www.whitmorelake.org

South Lyon
CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod - Pastor Terry Nelson
437-8818 • 485-3235 • Grand River at 13 Mile
Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
640 S. Lafayette • South Lyon 48176
248-437-0760
Nursery Provided
Reverend Sondra Willabee
sondra@umcsl.com

FAMILY LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH A/G
8245 W. 8 Mile Road 437-1472 • www.familylifec.net
Pastor Joseph R. Tabby
Sunday Christian Education 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Christian Education and Family Night 7:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON
6920 Maple Ave. South Lyon 48178
248-437-2803
Worship 9:15 a.m. • Nursery Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Rev. Pastor: Andy Weiler
www.fbcsl.com

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
28800 Pontiac Trail (between Grand and Orchard)
Saturday Services 9 a.m.
Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Contemporary Worship - Relevant
Bible Based Messages
(248) 485-0402 • www.crossroads.net

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Wisconsin Synod - Rhonda Sweet Ph.D.
at Liberty 7th
Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.
All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-2269

CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Serving the East & West Communities
30181 Kent Lake Rd. - S. Lyon
Sunday Services Times:
9:00 a.m. - Meet & Greet
10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
Rev. Kenneth Warren-596-537-2021

New Hudson
NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
56730 Grand River
Rev. Cory Harlow
Worship 10:30 a.m.
248-437-6212
www.usmcnewhudson.org

NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation
5355 Westland Ave., Farmington Hills 48305
Phone 248-474-9188
Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister
www.newhopeuu.org

Highland
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
2350 Harvey Lake Rd. (248) 887-4556
Contemporary Service
9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sundays
Men's Bible Study & Breakfast:
2nd & 4th Saturdays at 8:15 a.m.
3rd-4th Grade Youth Tuesdays 7-8 p.m.
Pastor Nick Miller

HIGHLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1211 W. Livingston Rd., Highland 48142-4824
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service - Children's Church
8:00 p.m. - Sunday Evening Fellowship
Worship - 7:00 p.m. - Adult Bible Study
www.nazarene.org
Fr. John Harris, Pastor
A heritage of our high school since 1838.

Northville
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN
Experience Life Each Week
Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School & Children's Programs
www.northville.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
3419-1144
8 Mile & Tenth Roads
Sunday Worship Services:
8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Steve Buck & Rev. Lisa Cook
www.fucnorthville.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
100 E. Main St. at Horton - (248) 349-0911
Worship & Church School: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
ON-CAMPUS Adult & Child Services
The Lions Club: Wed. 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the
Singer Place Ministry - Thurs. 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Rev. Celia Swain Pastor
Rev. James F. Roszel, Associate Pastor

WARF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
248-349-2900 • www.warfvpc.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.
Traditions: 11 a.m. Contemporary 9:30 a.m.
Nursery & Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. services
Beverly Brookwood Sunday 11 a.m.
www.warfvpc.org • 248-2909

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
770 Thayer, Northville
WESLEYAN LUTHERAN: Services 9:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
Church 349-2621, School 349-5810
Religious Education 349-2909
Debra Thayer, Pastor

Livonia
FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Services held at:
Madonna University's Kresge Hall
3660 Schoolcraft Road - Livonia
Parking NW Corner of Franklin Schoolcraft
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m.
Dr. James N. McGuire • Nursery Provided

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22183 Pontiac Trail (between Jackson and Dale)
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Pontiac Trail and 9 Mile (near the Zoo) Corner
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Office 248-458-4400
www.solidrockbible.org

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpresby.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30, 11 a.m.

Walking in the Park
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. every Saturday

LOCATION: Meet at the Visitor's Center of Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads)

DETAILS: Group meets for lunch afterwards.

CONTACT: Sue (248) 459-0016

Single Place Ministries
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. social time: 7:45 p.m., opening 8-9 p.m. program, every Thursday.

DETAILS: Informative and entertaining programs of interest to singles; 55+ per person. Check Web site for details: single-place.org.

OUR POINTS CHURCH
LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit ourpointsof.org

Worship Services
TIME: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday

ReNew Life Ministries
TIME/DATE: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday

DETAILS: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning and change from a Christian perspective.

CONTACT: For more information or to register call (248) 912-0043 or visit ourpointsof.org

Charmed Influence
TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday

DETAILS: Studying the book "Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage."

CONTACT: Joy Ruby at joy@ourpointsof.org or call the church.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST OF NORTHVILLE

A Stephen Ministry church
LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or fumnorthville.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.

Coffee hour at 11 a.m.

Healing Service
TIME/DATE: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month

Radical Joy

TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. first and third Thursday of every month

DETAILS: All women seeking to strengthen their faith and connect with other women are invited to attend, irrespective of church affiliation. Cost is \$25 per four-week session. Sign up for the entire year for only \$50. Dinner is served and child care is available on request.

Logos Youth Club
TIME/DATE: 5:15-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday

Through May

DETAILS: For children in grades 4-12. Every week, this four part program includes: Bible study, dinner, choir/worship and activities.

NOVI UNITED METHODIST

LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit unmcovi.com

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.

Healing Service and Holy Communion
TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month

Peace Vigil
TIME/DATE: Noon, first Sunday of every month

LOCATION: In front of the church

DETAILS: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace

Advent Service
TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

WIND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOCATION: 40200 Six Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 374-7400 or (248) 374-5978

Sunday Worship
TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:0 a.m. Traditional; 9:30 a.m. Contemporary, Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

Service Broadcast
DETAILS: 11 a.m. every Sunday on WRDZ-AM 560, The WMI2 Word Station.

Single Point Ministries
DETAILS: For single adults 35 years and older.

Active ministry offering various Bible study classes, volleyball, bicycling group, tennis, group, support groups, support group for widowed over age 50, fellowship, friendships and more. Contact the number below for more information.

CONTACT: (248) 374-5920

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamily-novi.org

Mass Schedule
TIME/DATE: 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7 p.m. Tuesday; 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday

Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reconciliation beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month

DETAILS: Free, informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.

DEBOUT FIRST CHURCH OF THE WAZAWEK

LOCATION: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 348-7600 or visit dfcazarene.org

Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service

Tuesday Schedule: 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study

Wednesday Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast

Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tee Kwon Do

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Blended; 11 a.m. Contemporary; 11:30 a.m. Traditional

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL

LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Adult Christian Education Classes
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. every Tuesday

Yoga/Fit Classes
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. every Monday

DETAILS: Eight weeks, 558 continuous. Merry Widows Luncheon

TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month

Spiritual Journey's
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. every Sunday

DETAILED: Providing fellowship, support and opportunities to grow faith. Childcare available. Suggested donation \$20. Don't have to be a parishioner to join.

CONTACT: Becky at (248) 305-5624 or Jeanne at (248) 380-6361

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

LOCATION: 217 N. Wing
CONTACT: (248) 348-1020

Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays

Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN

LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunity-novi.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

LOGOS
TIME/DATE: 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday

DETAILS: For children in kindergarten to 6th grade. Enjoy recreation, Bible study, music and dinner.

OUR SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOCATION: 140 N. Center, above Tuttle's in Old Church Square, Northville
CONTACT: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891

Sunday Worship: 11:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH

LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptist-church@novi.org

Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.

Bible Study: 6 p.m.

Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

LOCATION: 41355 Six Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 348-9030

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH

LOCATION: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages

DETAILS: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

LOCATION: 770 Thayer, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-2621 or ohvnorthville.org

Saturday Worship
TIME: 5 p.m.

Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

GRACEPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 497-3178 or gracepointe@mac.com, and gracepointe.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.

LOCATION: The Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers

DETAILS: Nursery staffed by Nanny Poppuz.

GOOD THINGS FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

As another year comes to a close, it is time to review our important achievements. When I was first elected to the Legislature I made a commitment to the citizens of 14th Senate District in Oakland County that I would focus on reducing the tax burden, supporting education and improving transportation. With a lot of hard work, this year we were able to realize significant accomplishments in all three areas.

Most significant among this year's accomplishments was the final legislative approval of my measures to reduce business taxes and improve education during the last day of session. Both bills have now been presented to the governor to be signed into law.

After hearing from numerous businesses, I introduced

Senate Bill 1038 to provide tax relief to an estimated 50,000 Michigan jobs providers by fixing a structural problem in the Michigan Business Tax (MBT). My legislation redefines the gross receipts section of the MBT, essentially eliminating the bizarre "tax on a tax" that punishes newly all Michigan businesses.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, supporting more than two-thirds of all jobs. That is why I worked for almost a full year to provide relief to Michigan's small businesses.

Another key achievement this year was final approval of my SAVE the Children legislation. Senate Bill 1039 will help prevent learning problems by

allowing intermediate school districts to develop early intervention programs for children in kindergarten through third grade. This will reduce costly referrals to special education by helping teachers and support staff build upon their knowledge of children as they monitor individual student learning.

As a former school psychologist, I understand that a team approach is the most effective way to overcome learning obstacles, and this legislation encourages teachers, parents and educational staff to work together to bolster academic success.

This is one of the most important achievements in my career as an educator and legislator. I have been working on this vital education reform for years. I know the governor shares my passion for helping all children become competent learners, and I am confident

and in 2009 I was finally able to announce an agreement to allow reconstruction to start. The new interchange will improve safety and economic viability in the area, and that makes it well worth all the time and effort.

In December, the new I-96 and Wixom Road interchange opened. Years in the making, this transportation improvement will help open the doors to economic development along the Wixom Road corridor and bring much-needed jobs to the region. I first introduced legislation in support of the project in 1997, and in 2006 I was finally able to announce an agreement to allow reconstruction to start. The new interchange will improve safety and economic viability in the area, and that makes it well worth all the time and effort.

In addition to the success reached in tax relief, education and transportation, another noteworthy achievement accomplished this year was

the September opening of the Providence Park Hospital in Novi. In 2002, I offered a legislative amendment that paved the way for this new facility which will give Novi residents access to inpatient hospital facilities right in their own community and create many good-paying jobs for the region. Bringing quality healthcare services to these historically underserved areas is truly a Godsend. I am also looking forward to the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital opening in the first half of 2009.

I want to extend my best wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For more information, visit my Web site at www.Senate/NancyCassiss.com. Or contact me toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - STATE SEN. NANCY CASSIS



Cassis

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For more information, visit my Web site at www.Senate/NancyCassiss.com. Or contact me toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

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1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.
All shows \$4.00

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The Curious Case of
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- CONVENIENCE? With campuses in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield, and Waterford, there's an OCC site near where you work or live.

Enroll NOW for WINTER Classes
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For information call: 248.341.2350
Visit our website: www.oaklandcc.edu

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rock and Roll and Fishing? Find out at the Ultimate Fishing Show in Novi

Brian Schram has two passions - fishing and music. The former Uncle Kracker guitarist, whose three-member band SCHRAM just released its new compact disc of a dozen original fishing songs, will make daily appearances at the Ultimate Fishing Show, Jan. 8-11 at Rock Financial Showplace, 46700 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

What Lynn and Skyline did for NASCAR and Ted Nugent did for hunting, the 26-year-old Schram, aka the "Fishing Rocker," wants to do for fishing. Detroit radio stations are giving the Mancelona native solid airtime for his "catchy" collection of punchy tunes - wholesome, blue-collar and rock with vocal hooks.

Two cuts from the new disc have already been picked up as theme songs for The Next Bite and Waters & Woods fishing shows on cable network Versus. Schram, who caught a 40-pound, 21-inch muskie last year, has been a guest on those shows and will appear in a January episode of ESPN's "The World's Greatest Fishing Show."

With Uncle Kracker, Schram played on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and "Regis & Kelly" and has appeared on MTV. Accompanied by bass and drummer Jason Hartless of Warren, SCHRAM recently completed a tour of East Coast cities with Warrior Soul. After the release of their first LP, "Disturbing the Peace," SCHRAM joined the Los Angeles rockers The Dreaming. At the Ultimate Fishing Show, he will meet fans and sign posters for free. Copies of "Rockin' Fish Tales" are available for \$9.99 each, which includes a gift bag of free fishing stuff and download cards.



Winter weather can make road conditions unpredictable, and often times extremely dangerous. Driving hazards such as limited visibility, black ice and snow removal equipment are just some of the challenges motorists may encounter on winter roads.

It is even more important to stay alert, slow down and remain in control when taking to the roadways. The Novi police and engineering departments have partnered with the Novi Department of Public Works and the Road Commission for Oakland County to study and make enhancements where warranted.

Additional signage at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road, and lane safety and signal enhancements to the intersection at 10 Mile and Rock roads are two improvements recently made. The leading cause of death during winter storms is motor vehicle accidents. The best advice for driving in inclement weather is to not drive at all.

If you can avoid it, stay put. If you have to drive, drive slower and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. Allowing more distance to stop is another essential practice to adhere to. Motorists need to remember that even if you have a four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicle, that doesn't translate to quicker stopping. In fact, because of their weight, large trucks and SUVs may require longer distance to stop than a car on ice or snow.

bridges and overpasses as these areas will typically freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways, such as bridges. Don't pass snow plows and salt trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel, all-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

• Prepare your vehicle for winter - check your tires, anti-freeze, defroster, brakes, windshield wipers and windshield washer fluid. • Store emergency items in vehicle to include small tools, battery cables, matches, extra blankets, non-perishable food and water, extra gloves, socks and a first aid kit in case of an accident. If you have any questions or require further information, contact the Novi Police Department at (248) 348-7100.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

IN THE MILITARY

U.S. Army

Army Reserve Maj. Larry J. Luedeman was deployed to Iraq to support the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is the son of Larry L. and Irene E. Luedeman of Novi.

tary operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq. Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations. Luedeman, a entomologist officer, is normally assigned to the 1863rd Medical Detachment, Columbia, Mo.

The major graduated in 1985 from Southfield High School, and received a bachelor's degree in 1989 from Northern Michigan University. He earned a master's degree in 1993 from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Marine Corps

Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Keith E. Trojaniak, son of Karen M. and Mark E. Trojaniak of Walled Lake, recently received his commission as an officer in the Marine Corps after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Va.

During the 10-week training program, Trojaniak received extensive instruction on a variety of specialized subjects including Marine Corps history, tactics, operations and organization, land navigation and other military subjects. Trojaniak also completed a demanding daily physical fitness program that involved running, pullups, obstacle and endurance courses and calisthenics.

Trojaniak is a 2004 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi and joined the Marine Corps in July 2008. He is a 2008 graduate of Hope College.

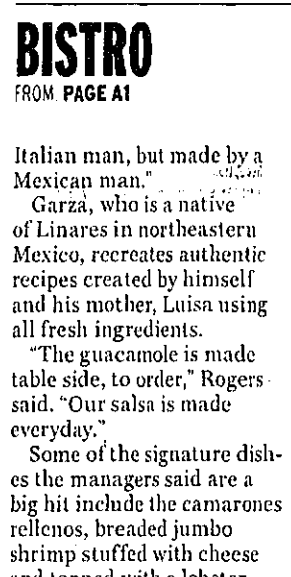


ZUMBA

Fitness Motivators about 20 years ago and began offering Zumba about one year ago. The dance-inspired class uses a variety of styles in its routines, including cumbia, merengue, salsa, reggaeton, mambo, rumba, flamenco and hip hop to build cardiovascular strength and tone muscles.

"People love international and Latin music, especially nowadays because of all the dance shows," Lim said, adding rhythm is not required. "We encourage two left feet people to join our class. There's no wrong or right way." Lim said people could burn between 500-1,000 calories in a one-hour Zumba session, depending on how hard they exert themselves. "It's the greatest workout without feeling like you're working out," Michelle Angeli said.

Classes are held at Novi Woods Elementary School; the next session begins Jan. 12. "We're going to be offering it two days in the winter since we've been averaging 50 people per session signing up," said Jessica Ekola, of Novi Community Education. "Normally we don't get more than 30 people in a class, so it was kind of a surprise to see how popular it was." For the first time, Fitness Motivators will also be teaching a Z-box class, which is a combination of kickboxing and Zumba.



BISTROT

Italian man, but made by a Mexican man. Garza, who is a native of Linares in northeastern Mexico, recreates authentic recipes created by himself and his mother, Luis using all fresh ingredients. The guacamole is made table side, to order," Rogers said. "Our salsa is made everyday."

Some of the signature dishes the managers said are a big hit include the camarones rellenos, breaded jumbo shrimp stuffed with cheese and topped with a lobster cream sauce and poblano pepper; the chunky beef burrito, a flour tortilla stuffed with chunks of tender beef, covered with a special gravy and melted three-cheese blend; and quesadillas de huitlacoche, a flour tortilla stuffed with a three-cheese blend, shiitake, portabella and huitlacoche mushrooms. Huitlacoche is native to Mexico. Entrees range in price from less than \$10 to more than \$35. The restaurant carries a wide array of tequilas, ranging from \$6 a shot to \$100 for the Gran Patron Buerdos. "Where else can you find 110 different tequilas?" Rogers said. "Instead of a wine cellar, we have a tequila cellar." The drink menu also includes signature margaritas, sangria, cocktails, wine and beer. The restaurant is open seven days a week and offers a lunch buffet and happy hour specials Monday through Friday. Capitalizing on the movie theater traffic, Simon said Saturdays have been the busiest night, with a wait as long as an hour-and-a-half, and recommends calling ahead for reservations.

50th Anniversary Announcement

Joe and Janet Clark celebrated 50 years of marriage with friends and family at a luncheon at the Barons Inn in Frankfort, Michigan. They were married on December 27, 1958 at the Nazarene Church in Howell, Michigan. They met at and graduated from Hartwood High School and now reside in Northville, Michigan. The celebration was hosted by their 3 daughters and their families: Kim, Norm, Jessica and Chris Lloyd of Northville, Michigan; Jon, Zach and Jack Bucklin of Williamston, Michigan; and Joan, Christa, Samantha and Kevin Mallonee of Livonia, Michigan.

LET'S TALK

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN, GEMOLOGIST

VIEWED IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

When evaluating a colored gemstone, such as ruby, look straight down at the stone over a non-reflective white background. The light under which a colored gemstone can best be examined is one that most closely approximates the light of the midday sun. In his particular case, a ruby will appear more red, orange, or yellow earlier and later in the day (think of sunsets and sunrises). The resultant difference in tone (degree of lightness or darkness) and color purity (presence of brown) will serve to make the ruby look richer. With this in mind, be sure to ask the jeweler how closely the light which you are using to evaluate a colored gemstone approximates pure sunlight. Allow the experienced jeweler at WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI to show you how light can affect the color of any gemstone you're contemplating adding to your collection of fine jewelry. Our goals are the same as yours - beautiful jewelry of quality craftsmanship, the finest stones, and creative designs. That's why you'll find here at 41990 Grand River Ave., P.O. 248-3470. We are licensed by the city of Novi to offer loans on jewelry. Our regular business hours are: Tues. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wed. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun & Mon we are closed.

P.S. White colored gemstones are graded under daylight exposure light. Many colored gemstones (such as rubies and emeralds) look their best under incandescent light.

Novi 41555 Main St. Ste. 312 Passageways.com 248.449.7300

Cheer for the hometeam read today's SPORTS section

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Airfare not included

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LOCAL EVENTS

Provisional Bentley Hair-raiser
TIME: Regular Business Hours
LOCATION: Provisional Donations of Novi
DETAILS: Accepting donations of new hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to help warm the hands and hearts of those in need during these challenging economic times. Drop off contributions during regular business hours. For hours and directions, contact us at www.provisionaldonations.org or (248) 473-4745.

Strom and Teleproceed Screening Coming to Novi
TIME: Appointments will begin at 9 a.m. on Jan. 15
LOCATION: Grand Court Novi at 45182 W. Park Rd.
DETAILS: Residents living in and around the Novi community can screen and reduce their risk of having a stroke. The complete screening package now includes a new Heart Rhythm screening which checks for irregular heartbeats, a major risk factor for stroke. CONTACT: For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment call 800-697-9727 or the Website at www.heartscreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

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NOVI

Novi Senior Activities Center
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48240
CONTACT: (248) 340-0414
DETAILS: Monthly concert series featuring live acoustic music. Casual, comfortable, smoke-free family friendly event. Bring a dish to share and join the potluck before the show. CONTACT: comj@comconcepts.com

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BUSINESS

Novi Rotary Club
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 4671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information: novirota.org

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LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or novilib.org
DETAILS: Noted below are all programs take place at the library.

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LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
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DETAILS: Noted below are all programs take place at the library.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting
TIME: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi City Council Meeting
TIME: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 340-0470

Novi Youth Activities General Citizens Meeting
TIME: 6 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 340-0470

Novi Community Education
CONTACT: To register, call (248) 449-4205 or visit novilib.org

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OPINION

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Thursday, January 1, 2009 Community Weeklies

www.hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS 10 changes that the Obama administration could achieve

President-elect Barack Obama's term in office will be historic and likely inspirational. But what can the new president offer Americans? Reporter Brian Tumulty of the Gannett News Services offered 10 changes that the Obama Administration can likely achieve. Here's our take on them:

1. Health insurance for more children. It's a worthy goal to expand health care to children living in families near the poverty level. But the focus has to be on providing access to health care for children who might otherwise go without. Those are the outcomes that should be measured, rather than merely providing more tax-supported premium payments to insurance companies.
2. Cheaper prescription drugs. Treating illness with drugs will dramatically increase health care costs for an aging population. But government needs to be careful of playing to populist ideals of low-cost Canadian drugs. Yes, some drugs cost less in Canada. But that's because Canadians can rely on American research. It is difficult to find the last time a Canadian firm produced a pharmaceutical breakthrough.
3. Broader jobless benefits. It's costly, but Congress must provide a safety net as the unemployment rate continues to climb. People who worked long and hard are now jobless because of factors ranging from the loss of manufacturing jobs to the financial sector implosion. If we can bail out financial executives with million-dollar bonuses, then we can provide for the working man and woman.
4. More college student loans. As the nation and world economy rapidly evolves, the value of education only grows. It is critical that students have the opportunity to go to college. Our only caveat: Universities have to tighten their belts and not merely accept more government spending.
5. Easier small business loans. Obama has a promising proposal to use existing Small Business Administration programs to provide low-interest, fixed-rate loans for people who want to start or expand small businesses. In a time of tight credit, this would be a critical lifeline.
6. Simpler tax filing. The more complex the tax code, the more likely that someone unfairly benefits. Make it simple, which will make it more likely that more people will pay their fair share. Obama plans to use a system modeled after a California project where taxpayers can choose to pay a pre-calculated bill rather than hire a tax preparer.
7. Less time filling out medical forms. There is room for great savings and simplification in hospital technology. Patient care should improve as well. But there is also the danger of great expenditures without substantive improvement. This is a worthy project, but it requires great oversight to prevent fraud or incompetence.
8. More access to government data. In this digital age, the bias should be in favor of making government as transparent as possible. The more information available on-line, the better.
9. Time off work. Of all industrialized nations, the United States reportedly offers the least amount of time off work. The Family and Medical Leave Act has provided necessary flexibility for employees to take care of family issues. But the government may be going too far to mandate seven days of paid sick days annually. Many companies already provide such benefits, but they are often wrapped into other parts of the benefits package.
10. Role model. Obama's election provides the highest-possible visibility for the potential that can be reached for all American children, particularly those from low-income or minority families. A Harvard-educated expert on constitutional law, Obama promises to be the symbol of a generation that casts aside the prejudices that have for too long plagued a great nation.

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
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48178.
Fax: (248) 437-3386.
E-mail: venitchev@gannett.com
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.
Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Novi News

GANNETT
Published each Thursday

Victoria Mitchell
Community Editor
Jennie Parent
Senior Director of Sales & Marketing
Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

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.



State Board of Education member Liz Bauer makes a world of difference

The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, wrote me asking for help in supporting her work for Mental Disabilities Rights International (MDRI). Oh my! OK, she wrote perhaps thousands of others with the same appeal. So, I am not special, but if you decided to help - you will be.

MDRI is the leading international organization established to protect and defend the rights of children and adults with disabilities. It also works to help put an end to egregious abuses, which are far too prevalent around the world, against people with disabilities. As the Duchess rightly pleads, "Today, due to the work of MDRI, we stand on the edge of a monumental shift where it will no longer be accepted or tolerated to lock children away in institutions for a lifetime; where tying children to cribs or leaving children who are immobile, lying in beds for years, is torture; where locking children with disabilities in cages or performing painful medical procedures on them is no less outrageous or egregious than if done to a political prisoner; where governmental bodies will face the shame and legal consequences they deserve for perpetuating human rights abuses."

MDRI Collaborates With Local International Organizations To:

- expose abuses against people with mental disabilities;
- make recommendations for mental health reform;
- help craft mental health legislation;
- help train and support new organizations run by people with mental disabilities and their families;



Tom Watkins

work with established, mainstream human rights organizations to promote the inclusion of mental disability rights into their core advocacy agendas. Many have witnessed similar abuses here in Michigan and across America - treating people with disabilities in vile and inhumane ways.

CLOSE TO HOME

Locally, we have individuals who are fighting to protect the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. Elizabeth Bauer, of Birmingham, is one of them. She is a member of the Michigan State Board of Education, former executive director of the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, and a board member of MSRI. Bauer is perhaps the strongest advocate for the rights of all people, especially for the rights of people with disabilities, that I know. She has been at it for more than four decades. Liz, as she is better known, has been a tireless and passionate advocate, fighting for the rights of all people to help assure they can take part in all the glory life has to offer.

I first met Liz in the late 1970s when she served as the training director (which is a misnomer as she was much more) at the Plymouth Center for (re)Human(ane) Development. Liz, then as now, was in the middle of fixing problems that others had created because this state mental health institution had gained national notoriety for unfathomable human abuses. Fortunately, our paths have continued to cross over these many years. During every waking hour Liz Bauer spends her time, energy, money and intellect attempting to make the world a better place. Do not attempt to argue with Liz about disabilities rights issues in

Michigan, the U.S., or around the globe. She has either been in the center of the fight or has the issue well-documented in her basement files that rival the National Archives when it comes to disability issues.

She has walked the halls of state institutions in Michigan, America and in developing nations while passionately advocating for those with disabilities. She knows the halls of the capitols of our state and nation just as well. She has championed enlightened public policy and the development of inclusive, consumer-directed, culturally competent, community-based services and supports for people with disabilities in Michigan, nationally and in numerous other countries.

Liz's Rolodex is a virtual who's who of advocates, consumers and powerful political people on whom she will call or upon whom she will sic advocates in her quest to uphold basic human rights. Sadly, the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as treating them with basic human decency, are still being violated daily in Michigan and across the world. In this 21st century, with all that we know, we need to support the individuals and organizations that are standing up for the rights of our fellow man.

Liz Bauer and the Duchesses of York can't do this important work alone. They need your help and support. Please give until it hurts - so children and adults with disabilities will not hurt in the future.

Tom Watkins is a freelance writer and business and education consultant. He served as Michigan's State Superintendent of Schools from 2001-2005 and State Mental Health Director from 1986-1990. Tom can be reached at: tdwatkins@aol.com.



A healthier new year

Greg Loving, manager of Novi's Snap Fitness location at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, tries out the gym's chest press exercise. Many Novi residents will make a New Year resolution to get in shape.

FILE PHOTO BY JOHN HEDER/NOVI NEWS

SAVVY

FROM PAGE A7
and pistachios have also been shown to lower cholesterol. But be careful. Nuts are high in calories, so a handful (no more than 2 ounces) will do. The best way to add nuts to your diet is to substitute them with foods that are high in saturated fats like cheese and meat. That way you're gaining the benefits of nuts without adding more calories.

Sterols and stanols: These are substances found in plants that help prevent cholesterol from being absorbed into your bloodstream. A recommended dose of two grams per day can help knock 10 percent off your bad cholesterol level. The best way to get these substances is to consume store-bought foods that are fortified with sterols or stanols including certain orange juices, yogurts, breads, cereals, granola bars, cooking oils, salad dressings, margarine spreads and more. Check the labels to find products that contain sterols or stanols and watch out for high calories.

Fish: Rich with omega-3 fatty acids, eating fatty fish (mackerel, lake trout, herring, sardines, salmon and albacore tuna) a few times a week can help boost your good HDL cholesterol by as much as 10 percent, not to mention lower your triglycerides and blood pressure, and reduce inflammation. If you don't like fish, other food sources that provide omega-3s are walnuts, soybeans, flaxseed and canola oil, or take a fish oil supplement.

Oil: Contains a potent mix of antioxidants that can lower your LDL without affecting your HDL. A good way to work olive oil into your diet is to substitute it with butter or other cooking oils, or mix it with vinegar as a salad dressing. About two tablespoons a day are recommended.

OTHER TIPS: Additional lifestyle tips that can help lower LDL and raise HDL include: reducing the

saturated fats (fatty meats, butter and whole dairy products) and trans fats (found in store-bought cookies, cakes, crackers and many fried foods like french fries) you eat; lose excess weight (even 5 to 10 pounds can make a difference); exercise regularly (at least 30 minutes, five days per week); quit smoking; and drink alcohol (no more than one drink per day for women and two for men).

Send your senior 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.

Job Resources for Un-Retirees

Dear Savvy Senior,
What resources can you recommend to help retirees find a job? With the economy in the tank and my nest egg dwindling, I've had to cut back my monthly withdrawals to keep from running out of money. Now I need to find a job to help make ends meet. What can you tell me?
Looking for Work

Dear Looking,
Unfortunately, the economic downturn has forced many retirees back into the workforce. To help you job hunt, there are a variety of resources available today that cater specifically to older workers. Here are some to try.

WEB RESOURCES

Whatever your skills or working interest (full time, part time, temporary or seasonal) there's a growing array of online employment networks that can help you connect with companies that are interested in hiring seniors. Some top sites to visit are:

- **RetirementJobs.com:** This is the largest and most comprehensive career site for people over age 50. It offers a job search engine that lists more than 30,000 jobs nationwide from companies that are actively seeking older workers.

- **enrg.us/:** For retired government employees, this site (www.enrg.us/44tp/w/w) matches federal, state and local government workers with private companies seeking to fill contract jobs in all kinds of fields. You post your resume on their site where a large pool of potential employers can review it and contact you if interested.

- **YourEncore.com:** This is an online recruitment firm that connects retired scientists, developers and engineers with companies that offer consulting assignments lasting up to one year.

- **Another government resource:** to tap into is a Career One-Stop center. There are more than 3,000 of these centers located around the country that provide free resources and services to help you

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LOCAL NEWS

Community Weeklies | Thursday, January 1, 2009 (NRNN) A13



Dem partyers

Michigan's Lieutenant Governor John Cherry shared his appreciation of the Democrats of West Oakland County (DWO) and the West Bloomfield Democratic Clubs at the Dec. 16 holiday party held in Novi at the Maples Restaurant. Cherry congratulated the groups for their extensive participation and success in the November elections. He credited the clubs with their demonstration of a massive grassroots effort that significantly helped provide the win of Michigan's Ninth Congressional District Democratic seat in the U.S. Senate for Gary Peters, the Oakland County election of Democratic County Prosecutor-elect Jessica Cooper, and the County Treasurer-elect Andy Weiser. Both clubs came together with Cherry in loud cheers reflecting on the significance of the Democratic win for Oakland County and for the country in the election of Barack Obama as the president of the U.S. The DWO Executive Board are (l to r, sitting) Linda Koch, Hannah Donigan, Mary Jane Duly; (standing) Pat Ryan, James Gualdoni, Cynthia Churches, Karen Zyczynski, Lt. Governor John Cherry, Mary Ann Brownlee and Ethel Schwartz.

Service Employment Program

(SCSEP). Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, SCSEP offers lower-income folks, age 55 and older access to training and part time job placements in a wide variety of community service positions such as day care centers, senior centers, governmental agencies, schools, hospitals, libraries and landscaping centers. To learn more or locate a program near you visit www.doleta.gov/seniors or call 877-872-5627.

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Uncle Sam may also be able to help you get a job through their Senior Community

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explore career options, locate training and find a new job. To find a nearby center, call 877-344-0302 or go to www.servicecenter.org.

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

If you're looking for temporary part time work, a great option to consider is the U.S. Census Bureau who's currently recruiting census takers for the 2010 census. This is ideal for retirees looking to earn some extra income and work flexible hours. Pay ranges from \$10 to \$22 an hour, depending on the region. Thousands of census takers are needed to update address lists and conduct door-to-door interviews. Hiring will begin in February. To apply, call 866-861-2010 to schedule an appointment to take the employment test. And for more information go to www.census.gov/2010censusjobs.

SSA Notes: Retirees are

looking to retiree need to be aware that working can temporarily reduce your Social Security (see www.ssa.gov/pubs/10069.htm) if you are currently collecting retirement benefits and are under full retirement age, and earn more than \$14,160 in 2009. Also note that some of your Social Security benefits may be taxable too if your adjusted gross income, nontaxable interest and half of your Social Security benefits reach more than \$25,000, or \$32,000 for married couples. For more information call the Social Security help line at 800-772-1213.

Send your senior 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.

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Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rock Financial Showplace
 Make New Orleans anyone? "Dine" Day-Minar will show how to prepare the delectable fare through daily demonstrations at the Ultimate Fishing Show, Jan. 6-11 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. Minar, owner/chef since 1987 of the Old Dixie Inn Restaurant in Birch Run is well known as a celebrity gourmand of delicious game and fish. His Ultimate Fishing Show demonstrations are scheduled for Thursday at 4 p.m., Friday at 2 and 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at noon and 3 p.m. Minar will have autographed copies of his best-selling book for sale at the show. Visit www.UltimateFishingShow.com or (800) 328-6550.

throughout the state, is holding a 30 percent off sale through Sunday on all of the store's compact discs and DVDs. The sale includes box sets, TV on DVD and Blu-ray discs. The Novi Borders is located in the Novi Town Center. For more information, visit www.borders.com.

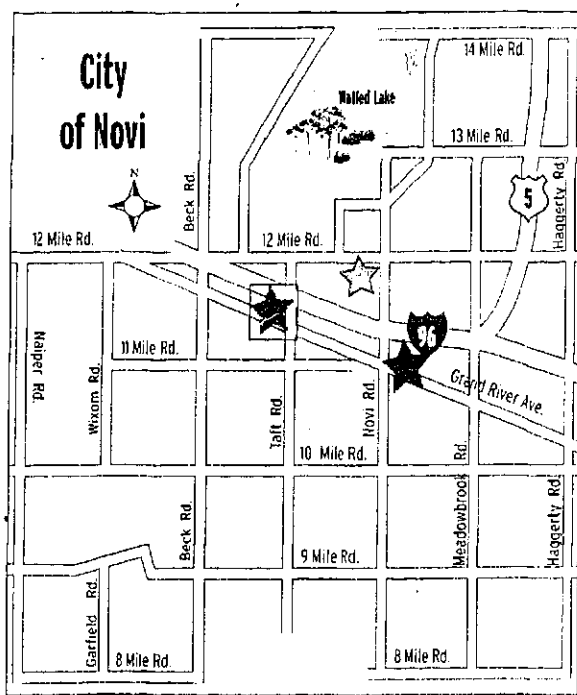
Kohl's
 Kohl's in Novi, and throughout the state, is holding a denim sale through Saturday. The store is also offering deep discounts on a wide variety of products. In the Novi, Kohl's is located in West Oaks on 12 Mile Road. For more information, visit www.kohls.com.

CLASSES

Walsh College
 Walsh College business doctoral students will help to shed

some light with a program titled, "Shri! Happens: Millions of Entrepreneurship" from 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at the San Marino Club, 1685 E. Big Beaver Road in Troy. The event features Dr. Scott Shane, a leading author on entrepreneurship, along with a panel of successful entrepreneurs. The program is designed for individuals who wish to take the non-corporate path, middle managers and those creating their own brand. Tickets are \$40 and include dinner. To register online or receive more information, please visit www.mtscollege.edu/students-events.

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) 473-5565.



NEW BUSINESS INVESTMENTS

New developments - Global Wind Systems, Inc. (Kingsberg Automotive and Novus, LLC) will bring a combined more than 600 jobs to Novi. The State of Michigan MEGA Board recently approved more than \$11 million in tax credits to these three companies as incentives to create and retain business in Michigan.

Global Wind Systems, Inc.
 A start-up wind turbine generation system OEM will invest more than \$30 million and locate its first facility in Novi. Global Wind will be the first OEM supplier to locate in Michigan and will employ a staff of more than 350. The MEGA Board approved a state tax credit valued at about \$7.5 million over nine years to encourage the company's location in Michigan over competing sites in Ohio, Iowa and Nebraska. Oakland County Works! will provide employee training assistance to support the project, and the City of Novi will partner with the Road Commission for Oakland County on lake upgrades and widening of 12 Mile Road to support company operations.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

New beginnings

Q. Who is behind Fusion Health and Fitness Club of Novi?

A. Paul Wright, Founder and CEO.

Q. Your hometown?

A. Brighton.

Q. When did this location open?

A. December 29, 2008.

Q. How many employees do you have?

A. 20 and increasing.

Q. Your business specialty?

A. Health and fitness facility with a focus on your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

A. The 60,000-square-foot two-story facility features a wide variety of amenities and services. Offerings include a three-lane lap pool and hot tub, full-sized basketball court, two racquetball courts, an athletic training area with a 60-yard track, a turf area for speed and agility training and weight-lifting area. Fusion boasts top-of-the-line equipment for strength and weight training, and provides cardio machines equipped with plasma televisions and USB and iPod integration. The health club



provides group fitness classes hosted in one of the gym's three studios. In addition, the Fusion Juice Bar and Cafe has protein shakes and lean cuisine available to our members and the general public. Personal training, childcare, tanning and therapeutic massage services are also available for members.

Q. What makes your business unique?
 A. We are a locally owned health club chain with locations in Ann Arbor and Novi. We specialize in making the health club experience comfortable, entertaining and effective for people of all levels of fitness. From people new to health and fitness to the

experienced athlete.
 Q. How did you first decide to open the business?
 A. I left the industry which I was working in for over 20 years in 2005 to start a new career in the health and fitness industry.

Q. How did you decide to locate in the Novi community?
 A. I researched several cities in Metro Detroit and talked to many landlords. Novi stood out above them all in terms of need for this type of facility, demographics and a landlord that had the same vision.
 Q. Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far?
 A. In this industry, you see unique things on a daily basis.

CHAMBER CHAT

■ 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 Cabars Dr. The event is sponsored by Lotus Bank and Yarmak & 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.

■ The Business to Business Reception and New Member Reception will take place 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road. Networking and refreshments will be offered. Register online at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743. No fee.

■ Committees and Round Tables:
 • Sales Leads Group 1 - 8:30 a.m. Jan. 8 at Waltonwoods of Novi
 • Arts Round Table - 5:30 p.m. Jan. 6 at Flemings Livonia
 • Women's Round Table - 5

p.m. Jan. 8
 • The Race in Amazing Novi - a new opportunity to help Rotary of Novi put on a fun community event and raise money for good causes. Contact: gothata@falan.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

Jeanne M. Jantzen
 Grant, Millman & Johnson, P.C., Certified Public Accountants and Business Advisors, is pleased to announce the addition of Jeanne M.

Jantzen, CPA to its professional staff. Jantzen joins the Novi firm after 20 years of public accounting experience in the Metropolitan Detroit area serving a wide variety of clients.

Established in 1984, Grant, Millman & Johnson, P.C. provides full-service tax, accounting and advisory services for a wide range of national, regional and local clientele.

Novi professional offers top tax tips for new year

We all hope 2009 will be kinder to our wallets than 2008 was. In an economy like the one we're faced with today, every penny counts. Remember that there are important steps you can take as you ring in the New Year to reduce your income taxes and keep more of your hard-earned dollars in your pocket. Keep these tips in mind:

• Check your W-9 form and verify that you are withholding the right amount. Most taxpayers enjoy large refunds every April, but many don't realize that the money refunded could be in their pockets throughout the year. In a recession cash is king. Having more of what you make when you need it is invaluable.

• Refinance your home and consolidate debts. Those who refinance will be taking advantage of the lowest interest rates in more than 40 years. If you don't qualify to refinance be sure to negotiate for lower rates with your credit card companies.

• Buying a home in 2009 can lead to a valuable new credit on next year's income tax return. Under the Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008, a first-time homebuyer will be allowed a credit against regular tax and alternative minimum tax. The credit applies to homes purchased between April 9, 2008 and July 1, 2009. The maximum credit is \$7,500 and is paid back over a fifteen-year period. This provision acts like a 15-year interest-free loan to a first-time home-buyer.

• Convert your traditional IRA into a Roth. Owners of Roth IRAs benefit from tax-free distributions once they reach age 59½, so it makes sense to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth. Due to the recent downturn in the market the values of traditional IRAs are lower. The lower value of the account means the tax related to the Roth conversion will be minimized. There are other advantages to converting from a traditional IRA to a Roth. Roth IRAs do not require minimum distributions when you reach age 70½, and you can avoid income taxes on distributions made to your beneficiaries after death. Always check with your tax professional, financial planner and estate attorney before deciding to convert to a Roth.

• If you have a 401K, make the maximum contributions. The market is down, which means your dollars are buying more shares with tax-free money. The maximum allowable contributions for 2009 are \$16,500 for people under 50 and \$22,000 for those 50 and over. This is especially important if your employer matches a portion of your contribution. Always contribute at least enough to maximize the employer match.

• Donate, donate and donate. Taxpayers benefit from making deductible contributions to qualified charities. Make sure you get a receipt for both cash and non-cash donations and take pictures of the non-cash items to verify the quality of your donation.

• If your employer offers flexible spending accounts use them. These accounts allow employees to set aside tax-free money to pay for childcare and medical expenses not covered by insurance. Remember, money contributed to a flex account is not subject to federal and state income tax or Social Security and Medicare tax. The savings can be as much as 35 percent compared to using after-tax dollars for these expenses. Remember you must "use it or lose it," since these plans require that the money set aside be used before a set deadline or the money is forfeited.

• Have a financial assessment done and make estate planning a priority. The beginning of the year is a great time to evaluate your life insurance and investments to make sure your financial picture is a good one. Many financial planners will provide a free financial assessment. You can find out if you will be able to retire when you want, if your family will be taken care of if you die or how you can help pay for your children's college education.

• Make 2009 the year you pick your A-Team. Surrounding yourself with a CPA, financial planner and estate attorney will help you navigate the times ahead. None of us know what 2009 has in store, but you can make the best of what comes your way with a team of professionals working for you.

Beth Yarmak is a CPA and has been doing business in Novi for over 20 years. Contact her at yarmakcpa.com.

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Make your New Years plans by ordering from Joe's Holiday Menu! Enjoy New Years and give thanks that Joe's Chefs are preparing tasty traditional meals that your family & friends will enjoy. We have appetizers, side dishes, desserts & complete gourmet dinners. Call 248-477-4333 ext 226

<p>Old Tyme Deli Pepperoni \$4.99 lb</p>	<p>Florida Indian River Sweet & Juicy Star Ruby Grapefruit 2/98¢</p>	<p>Jumbo 6 Count Cantaloupes 2/\$5.00</p>	<p>California Sweet & Juicy Seedless Navel Oranges 6/\$2.00</p>
<p>Joe's Redskin Potato Salad \$2.49 lb</p>	<p>Fresh California Romaine Lettuce 99¢ lb</p>	<p>Fresh Mushrooms \$1.99 16oz pkg</p>	<p>Fresh California Broccoli Crowns \$1.49 lb</p>
<p>Winters Fire Glazed Ham \$3.99 lb</p>	<p>Boarshead Tavern Ham & Honey Smoked Turkey \$6.99 lb</p>	<p>Hoffman's Hard Salami \$3.99 lb</p>	<p>Old Tyme Hot Pepper Cheese \$4.99 lb</p>
<p>Cristalino Sparkling Brut & Rose Cava \$8.99</p>	<p>Michigan Brewery Variety Beers \$16.99 12 pks plus tax & deposit (Michigan)</p>	<p>Louis Roederer Brut Champagne Reims NV \$55.99</p>	<p>Alpine Lace Swiss Cheese \$6.99 lb</p>
<p>Mild Cheddar Cheese \$6.99 lb</p>	<p>Roasted Onion Dip \$4.99 lb</p>	<p>Joe's Mini Crab Cakes \$1.99 each</p>	<p>Joe's Salsa Bean Dip \$2.99 lb</p>
<p>Belletoile Triple Cream 70% \$9.99 lb</p>	<p>Joe's 10" Cherry Pie \$10.99 ea Save \$1.00</p>	<p>Spinach Bacon & Blue Dip \$7.99 lb</p>	<p>Joe's Deviled Eggs \$2.99 6 count</p>
<p>Gummi Bears \$1.99 lb</p>	<p>Bareman's Gallon Milk \$2.99 All varieties</p>	<p>Long Danish Coffee Cakes \$3.49 ea All varieties</p>	<p>McManis Vineyard Chardonnay/Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon Pinot Grigio \$12.99</p>
<p>Al Dente Carb-nada Pastas 2/\$6.00</p>	<p>Madhouse Munchies 2/5.00</p>	<p>Jones or Stewarts Sodas \$3.49 plus deposit 4 packs All flavors mix or match</p>	<p>Bulk Granola \$3.29 lb Save \$1.00 a lb Vanilla Almond Blueberry Flaxseed Cherry Vanilla</p>

Byrds Choice Meats

Happy New Years From Byrds! Steak Sale

USDA Choice New York Strips • USDA Choice Delmonico Steaks only \$9.98 lb

USDA Choice Porterhouse & T-bone Steaks

Plus Choice Prime Rib Roast • Beef Tenderloin Steaks • Spiral Hams • Lamb & Veal Fresh Seafood Counter • Party Trays

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Joe's Holiday Hours: Sunday 9-6 Mon-Tues 9-6 New Years Eve 9-6 Closed New Years Day

SPORTS

A16 (NR)

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Community Weeklies
www.hometownlife.com



Southpaw Wildcat freshman Sara Carlson hits a forehand to her Mustang opponent during an away game in late August.



While inbounding the ball, Detroit Central Catholic's Ryan Houska feels the heat of the Novi fans as they cheer.

THE GREATS OF '08

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Another year has come and gone, but with it came many great memories and moments. The 2008 calendar year brought a new league, epic matchups of Novi and Catholic Central, championships and just great games and accomplishments in general.

The following is eight of the biggest stories from 2008.

THE KLAA

Gone is the KVC. Say hello to the KLAA. The new, 24-team conference is made up mostly of the former KVC and WLAA conferences. While only one season is in the books (fall), coaches have been mostly positive on the new conference. Of course some bugs need to be worked out, but the proximity mixed in with the level of competition has been top-notch. And things should only get better over time. South Lyon East will only get better as it becomes a full school. The rivalry with Northville will only increase as teams see more of each other with more on the line.

ALL-NOVI FOOTBALL PLAYOFF GAME

Novi played host to Catholic Central on Halloween night. The timing may have hurt the crowd base some, but it didn't change the incredible hitting that was going on the field throughout the night. The Shamrocks scored on touchdowns from Butch Herzog and Niko Palazeti. Novi scored on a Chris Bellamy to Tyler Wenson pass and a Paul Favorite run, but the difference came on special teams. The Wildcats were unable to get the point-after-kick following the first touchdown and failed on a two-point pass that left Novi up 12-7. CC converted the go-ahead touchdown and a two-point pass attempt for what amounted to the final score. It was anything but tricky on Halloween night, but the game was quite a treat.

NOVI BASEBALL WINS DISTRICTS

The stage was set for the main rivals to meet with the baseball district title on the

line. Novi vs. Northville for the right to stay alive while adding some hardware to the trophy case.

Tyler Scott had a game for the ages. He not only picked up the win on the mound, but crushed a two-run homer in the first inning during the 7-4 victory.

Novi jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Northville answered with three in the second for its only lead of the game. Scott, Dan Kilger and Justin Eid hit consecutive doubles to ignite a four-run fourth and a 6-3 lead. Phil Cieski gave the Cats an insurance run, and it was up to Scott to close the door on his own victory. He moved down the final batter with a strike-out, setting off a wild Novi celebration.

"At the end of the sixth inning, I was thinking, 'Man, if we could get those three more outs ... If we get this, it's huge,'" Scott said. "I think about this forever. Every time I come back to Novi, I'll think about it, Northville and us."

CC LEAVES NOVI WITH BASKETBALL DISTRICT TITLE

Novi entered the home game a huge favorite to the Shamrocks. The KVC champs were 16-5 and had the ability to play inside-outside basketball. The Shamrocks were 11-9 entering the game. The Shamrocks brought a raucous student section that outnumbered the home section of Novi.

CC's Tim Dezeliski owned the paint early, setting the tone with several blocked shots and others that altered the ability of the Novi guards to get inside. Novi changed its game to mostly outside shots, and it cost them dearly. The Wildcats would hit just 14 of 44 shots and missed all nine three-point attempts in the second half. They didn't do themselves any favors at the line either, hitting three-of-eight. The Shamrocks did everything they could to stay in it and give themselves a chance late. CC converted a back-door cut on an inbounds play to take the lead, and senior Ryan Houska put the game away with a pair of last-second free throws for a 38-34 win as the Shamrock student section went crazy.

The Novi girls tennis team finished higher than any previ-

now, Catholic Central head coach Bill Dyer said. Novi walked off the floor stunned in disbelief.

NOVI AND CC TOP FIVE AT STATE TENNIS

The quality of tennis in the area was proved twofold at the state meet. CC finished runner-up and Novi wasn't far behind with a fifth-place finish.

Shamrock Jack Snyder won a state title at No. 2 singles, while No. 1 singles player Joseph Dubé finished runner-up.

The depth in singles extended to semifinal runs for Willy Willson at No. 2 singles and Eric Guindi at No. 4 singles. CC also got semifinal runs by No. 3 doubles partners Nick Petrucci and Robbie Guindi and No. 4 doubles partners Derek Turowski and Kevin Hodges.

Wildcat highlights included a runner-up finish by No. 3 singles Gotham Kondapi, semifinal runs by No. 1 doubles partners Justin Farooq and Ameya Sohani and the No. 4 doubles tandem of Nikhil Devarakonda and Nathan Farooq.

NOVI GIRLS SWIMMERS 3RD

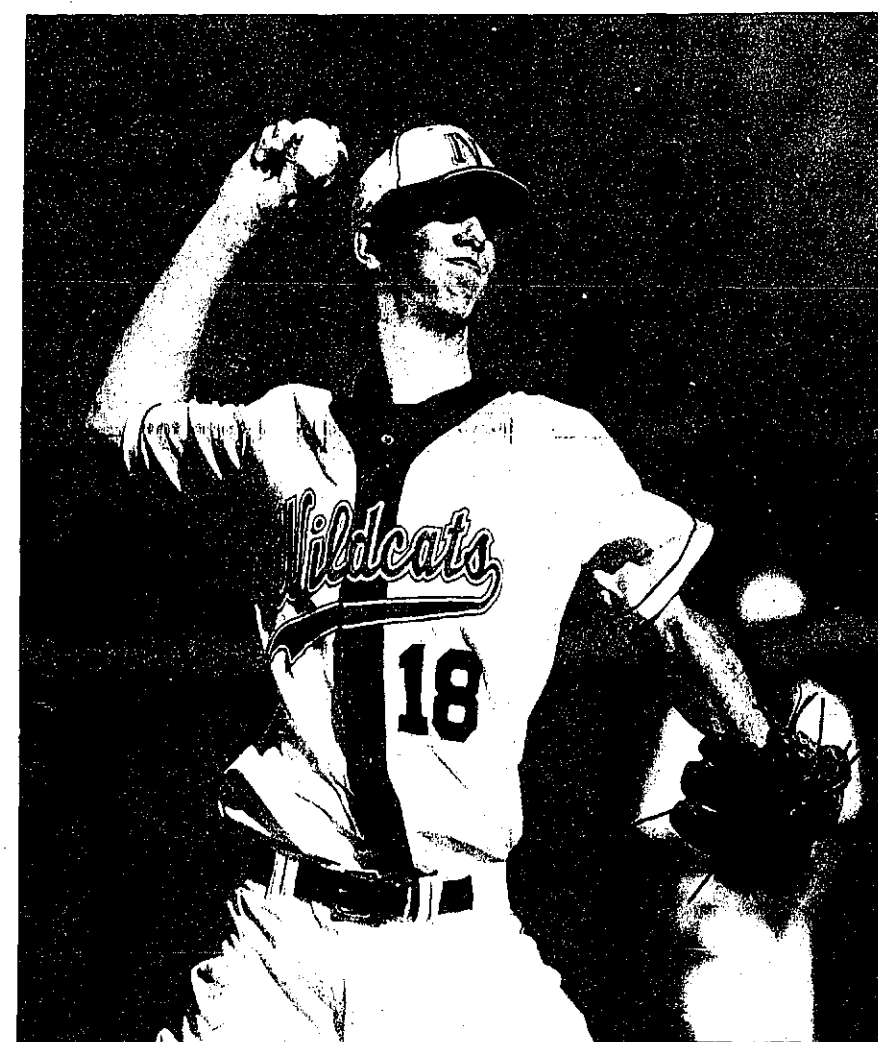
The Wildcat girls swim team saved some of their best performances for last at the state meet this fall, placing third.

The highlights were plenty, including All-State swims from the 200 medley relay team of Ashley Bush, Lauren Kalinosky, Kerry Abel and Becca Berman; from the 200 individual medley swimmers Kalinosky and Meredith Cote; Abel in the 100 butterfly; Berman and Cote in the 500 freestyle; Kalinosky in the 100 backstroke and the 400 free relay team of Kalinosky, Berman, Cote and Abel.

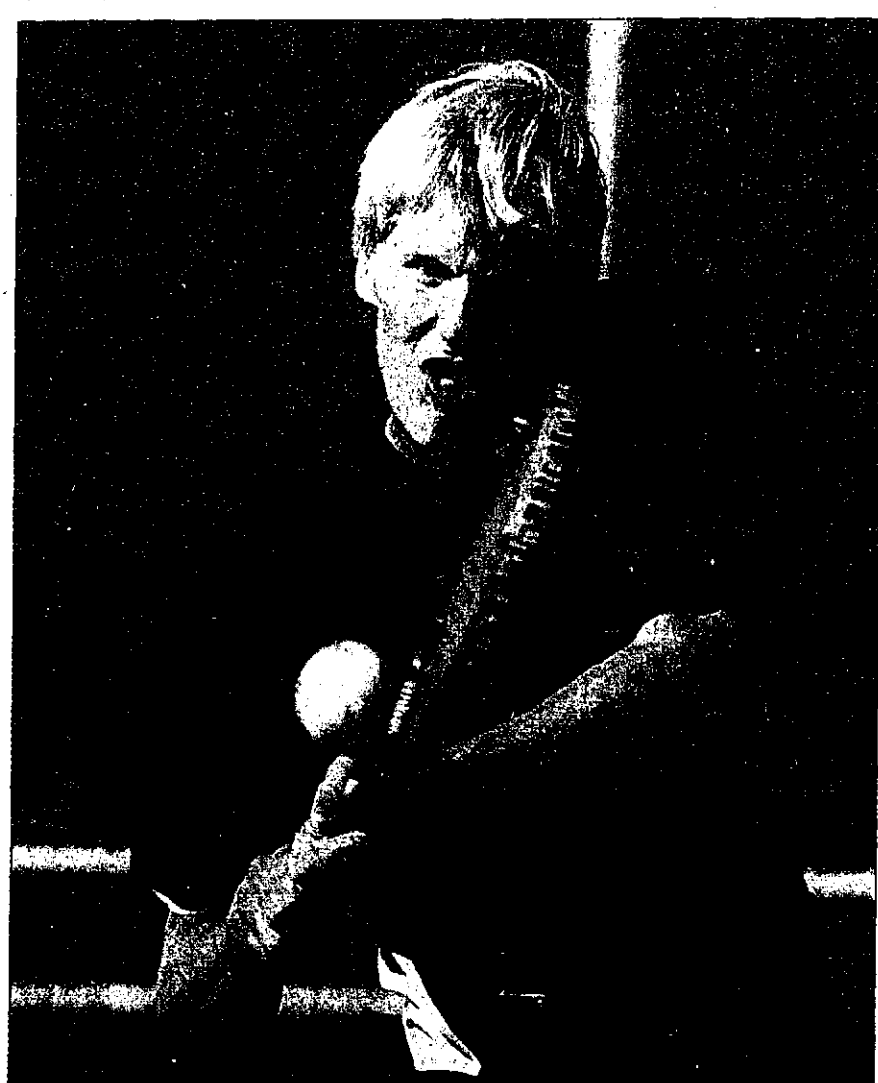
Kalinosky finished with four All-State swims. Cote and Abel earned the honor three times. School records broken at the state meet included 200 IM, 50 free, 100 fly, 500 free, 100 back and 400 relay.

NOVI GIRLS TENNIS FINISHES FOURTH

The Novi girls tennis team finished higher than any previ-



Tyler Scott pitches against Brighton.



Catholic Central's Jack Snyder is the All-Area Tennis Player of the Year after winning the state title at No. 2 singles.

REVIEW

FROM PAGE A16

ous Wildcat girls had finished before, vying for fourth. Sara Carlson and Jennifer Felcher led the charge with semifinal finishes at No. 3 and No. 4 singles. Quarterfinal runs came from Amanda Border at No. 1 singles, Lauren McCloskey and Megan Wenzl at No. 1 doubles, Teodora Gavric and Kellie Wallen at No. 3 doubles and Jenny Snyder and Julia Thomas at No. 4 doubles.

If you would've said that's what we would've done

at the start of the year, I would've taken it in a heartbeat," Novi head coach Jim Hanson said.

MARTIN DOMINATES ONE MORE TIME

To say Mike Martin's high school career will go down as impressive would be a massive understatement. Any athlete winning a state title in any sport would be impressive. He did it twice in two different sports, and one of those he didn't even compete in before high school.

Martin was a massively strong kid, especially by high

school standards. But, he was also extremely athletic. Put those qualities together and you have an extremely talented athlete.

Martin showed what extraordinary abilities he had by winning his first high school state title in wrestling. His launch of 63-9 beat the old state finals record by nearly two feet.

Expectations were high his senior year, and Martin didn't let down.

He backed up his heavy-weight wrestling title despite wrestling around 265 pounds

in the 265-pound class. Martin roared through the brackets before dispatching DJ Charneski of Hartland 7-3 in the finals.

In the spring, Martin capped off his career by rewriting the record books. His launch of 63-9 beat the old state finals record by nearly two feet.

Martin accepted a scholarship offer to Michigan where he played significant time on the defensive line for the Wolverines as a true freshman.

He backed up his heavy-weight wrestling title despite wrestling around 265 pounds

CC basketball worth the wait

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

rebounds. CC was in control throughout. The Shamrocks led 15-6 after the first and 31-18 at the half.

City pulled within 40-30 by the end of the third and continued to chip away throughout the fourth. CC held a 42-38 lead midway through the final stanza, but the Shamrocks put the final 13 points on the board for the victory.

CC finishes the 2008 portion of the schedule a perfect 4-0.

LOCAL PERSONALITIES GO HEAD TO HEAD

11-5 143-81	11-5 136-88	13-3 141-83	12-4 141-83	9-7 146-78	13-3 147-77	13-3 149-75	11-5 144-80	11-5 139-85
Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta
Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

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WEEK #18 GAMES POST SEASON WILD CARDS

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Best Mexican, lowest prices at Rio Grande

New Hudson eatery offers healthy food at a convenient location

BY KATE PHILLIPS
SPECIAL WRITER

La Casa del Rio Grande is the best place to come for authentic Mexican food at reasonable prices. During a time when most people are pinching pennies, Rio Grande is a better budget alternative than pricey restaurants.

"You can eat a good meal here for the same as you would pay for fast food," said owner Dawn Salvati.

Those that eat out in Novi will find the 10-minute drive west refreshing, because there's usually no wait and the prices are much better. The fun little restaurant is located on Grand River Avenue in New Hudson, near the I-96 exit at Milford Road.

Construction finished!

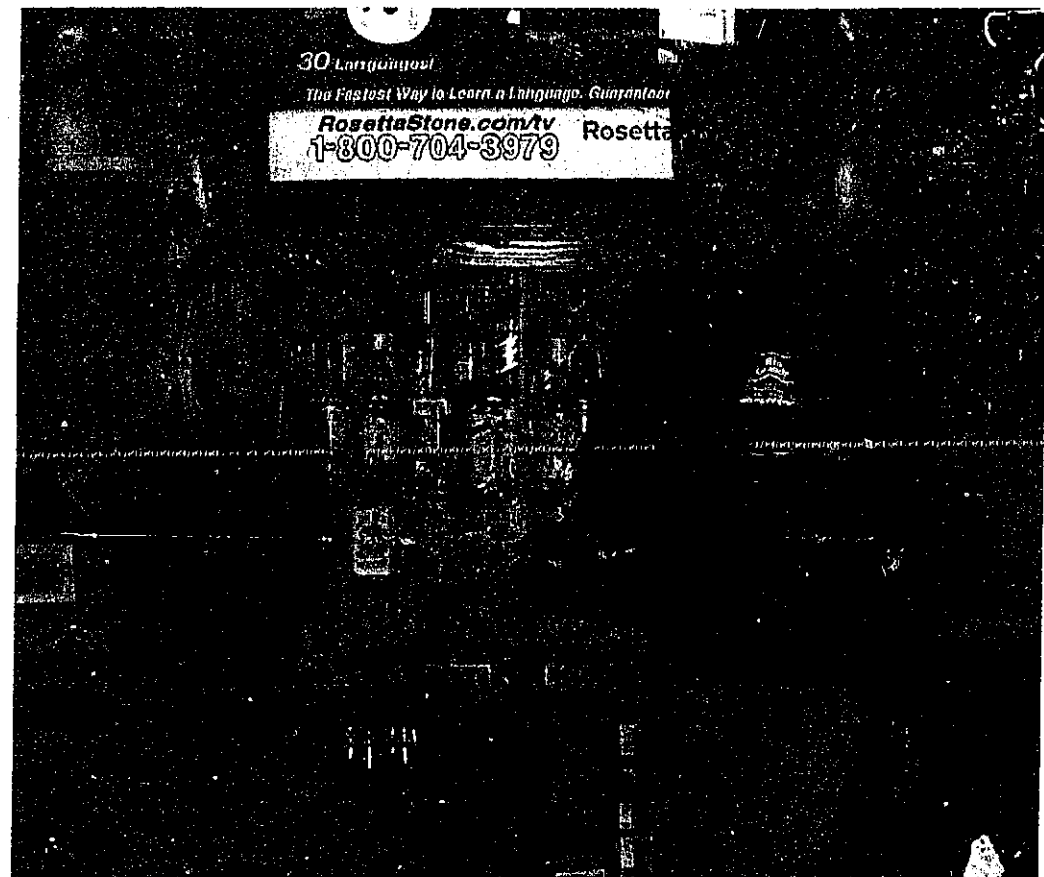
La Casa del Rio Grande invites the public to try out the restaurant once again, now that the local road construction is finished. Although the construction signs are still up, the road is open — so come on in. The restaurant has suffered a big hit due to the five-and-a-half month road closure for the construction of the roundabout at Grand River Avenue and Lyon Center Drive. This road closure made it impossible to get to Rio Grande during lunch, so the summer lunch crowd was lost. This loss was extremely devastating for the business as summer lunches are normally the busiest time of the year. The restaurant is inviting its former customers to come back to a familiar place for a great meal.

Amazing food

The food at Rio Grande is so good because the recipes come straight from Mexico. It's mild, not spicy like the Tex-Mex at many other restaurants. Everything can be made extra mild or spicy to taste.

Fajitas are a customer favorite. This sizzling dish can be served with either steak, chicken or steak, chicken and shrimp. You can include sautéed vegetables such as green peppers, tomatoes, onion and mushrooms — in any combination, or leave them out all together. It is truly a culinary delight.

Another house specialty is the tacos. Choose any filling — like ground beef, shredded beef, chicken or the original bean and potato taco. Tacos are served up three different



PHOTOS BY KATE PHILLIPS

The bar is always open, and the giant TV is always on at Rio Grande. Owner Dawn Salvati and her husband Jeff Clark hang out with the customers.

ways. There is a traditional corn fried taco and a flour soft taco, but the house favorite is a flour fried taco. The shell is fried up crisp especially for you — that's something you can't get everywhere.

"All the food at Rio Grande is awesome," said Salvati. "For those that don't want Mexican, we have lots of great American food and the best burgers in town."

As for dessert, a local secret is Carmen's Cookie Dough Xanga. It's a flour tortilla filled with chocolate chip cookie dough, then deep fried until golden brown. Yum! The crispy creation is drizzled with chocolate and served with a mound of ice cream.

All of the famous Rio Grande food is also available for take-out and catered events.

Bring the family

Rio Grande has a very family-

friendly atmosphere. Kids are celebrated with special dinner prices on both Saturday and Tuesday. Everyone is welcome.

The festive atmosphere at Rio Grande sets the tone for fun, casual dining.

"It's family dining that's fun and casual," said Salvati. "You can dress up if you want, or come as you are and bring the whole family."

With the first basket of chips and salsa free, the fun starts as soon as the family takes a seat.

The dining room keeps the atmosphere moving with festive Mexican music, while the bar plays Classic rock.

The full-service bar is a great hang-out place, with sports on the large-screen TV.

Both the bar and dining room are a good place to catch the big game on TV while enjoying a dinner with the family or drinks with friends.

allowed to smoke in the bar or on the patio when weather permits.

Come home

La Casa del Rio Grande is located on the site of Dawn Salvati's childhood home. The name is Spanish for "the house on Grand River." This property has been in her family for more than 40 years.

"I am a true New Hudsonite with close ties to the community," said Salvati. "This place is very meaningful to me."

Salvati hopes you will come home again — to her home.

The friends that gather at Rio Grande become an extended family.

"When you come here, everyone knows your name," said regular customer Sharon Dahl. "I love this place."

La Casa del Rio Grande

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Owner Dawn Salvati is served a crispy Chimichanga by Chef K.C. Rapp. Sharon Dahl is enjoying a huge burger with onion rings. The American food is just as scrumptious as the Mexican fare at Rio Grande.

Order it your way

Special orders are part of the good service at Rio Grande. All of the food is made fresh, so adding or subtracting vegetables and toppings is encouraged.

"You can order anything you want and we will make it for you if we can," said Salvati. "Our chef loves to create things that customers want that aren't even on the menu."

The restaurant is happy to work with special diets and allergy concerns. Those needing gluten free or dairy free food can be accommodated. Vegetarians can dine without worries, as no lard or chicken stock is used in the beans and rice.

Most items can be adapted to follow low-carb or low-fat diets.

"We can make you a very healthy meal," said Salvati.

The restaurant also offers smoke-free nights in the dining room on Friday and Saturday.

On those nights patrons are

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