

Novi senior named area's top runner

Sports, B1



Tips on safe snow shoveling

Community, A5



Novi's first baby of 2009

Community, A2

Novi News

THURSDAY January 8, 2009

Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for 52 years

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Novi City Council appoints planning commissioner to vacant seat

Gatt named mayor pro tem

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

The navigation system in Brian Burke's vehicle tracks the everyday routes traveled by the 12-year Novi resident. And even he is amazed at how little he leaves Novi.

"I live in the city. I work in the city. I'm invested in the city," he said. "It's all about pro-Nov."

The Novi City Council appointed the planning commissioner, business owner and friend to fill former Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello's vacant seat at Monday's regular meeting.

"You can sit back and watch your city go one way or the other, or you can get involved," said Burke, who previously served on the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, and



Gatt



Burke

currently sits on the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Parks Foundation board of directors — all of which he will have to resign from with the appointment to

the council.

"This City Council is a very cohesive unit that I'm looking forward to working with," said Burke, 51. "I'm not a real verbose guy when it comes to sitting on commissions. I'm not going to talk just to hear myself talk."

"I'm going to sit back and listen and make my decision."

Burke will serve the former mayor pro tem's remaining one-year term. Capello was elected Oakland County commissioner of the 9th District in November.

"Following Capello, for anybody, would be a little difficult, but I think what I bring is the same mind-set as council," he said. "It's all about what's best for the city."

From a business standpoint, Burke, who has worked for Tom Holzer Ford since 1986 and owns the Grapevine in downtown Novi with his wife, Lori, said the city is going to continue to see businesses struggle.

"It's challenging because there's not the building growth of the '90s and early 2000s

here in Novi, so there's less taxes coming in," he said. "No one wants to raise taxes and no one wants to lose services."

Council members interviewed five candidates for Capello's seat on Dec. 15. Candidates included Burke, Justin Fischer, Michael Meyer, Marjorie Nanian and Ramesh Verma.

Novi City Councilman Bob Gatt was named mayor pro tem during the same meeting.

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



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Playful Perusing

Lana Frankling, 1, peruses the compact disc collection of the Novi Public Library while her mother, Jennifer, does the same on a recent visit.

Novi Fire Station No. 2 renovations complete

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

As members of Novi's City Council, staff and the community gathered for the re-dedication of Fire Station No. 2 Monday afternoon, Fire Chief Frank Smith thanked all those involved with the project he feels especially connected.

"I feel like a mother who has just given birth," Smith said. "It felt like my baby all the way through."

The baby, which Smith refers to, is the \$800,000 renovation project of Fire Station No. 2, located near 13 Mile and Novi roads.

The 28-year-old building received a 900-square-foot expansion and re-configuration of the existing 4,100 square feet, Smith said.

"That station responds to about 1,400 runs a year," he said. "It's our second busiest station."

In August 2007, CDPA Architects conducted an architectural analysis and needs assessment on three of Novi's four fire stations. With results identifying station No. 2 as the highest priority, the City Council approved more than \$750,000 in the 2007-08 budget for necessary improvements.

"The other two are on hold as of right now," Smith said.

Please see **STATION, A2**



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith stands in the newly-renovated Fire Station No. 2 on 13 Mile Road. The second busiest fire station in Novi recently underwent a major renovation including a brand new locker room/staging area seen behind Smith.



The City of Novi recently purchased this Pierce Arrow fire truck that will reside in Station No. 2. The truck runs about \$410,000 and can carry 750 gallons of water.

Walled Lake weeds grow board talks

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Greg Iszler is fed up with the weeds in Walled Lake and is seeking approval from the cities of Novi and Walled Lake in establishing a lake board to address the issue.

Iszler, who is the president of the Lakes Area Homeowners Association, said the growth of a non-native weed called Eurasian Watermilfoil is becoming worse and can be hazardous for boaters and swimmers.

"It seeds itself so it kind of just takes over the lake bed. It can be 12-, 20-, 25-foot tall," said Iszler, who lives near Lakeshore Park on the south side of Walled Lake. "The worse it gets it will affect already depressed property values."

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12
Council chambers at the Novi Civic Center
45175 W. 10 Mile Road

With the help of other residents, Iszler circulated a petition among lake-front homeowners, garnering support in establishing a lake improvement board whose sole mission is the treatment of invasive, exotic plants.

But some residents voiced concern that lake access homeowners weren't included in the petition.

"Lake access homeowners wouldn't have a voice in what might happen, any projects that would be done and they

Please see **WEEDS, A5**

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 8,000 households in Michigan.

*See back 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

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



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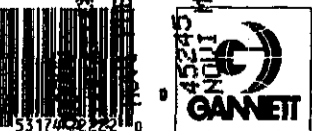
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Business newsmakers

Strictly Business, B4

Volume 53 Number 33



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State pays \$16 million in land seizure of Novi's M-5

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

The State of Michigan paid a developer \$16 million after seizing land for a highway project in Novi.

The settlement reached early last month ends 13 years of legal wrangling.

In 1995, the Michigan Department of Transportation used eminent domain to take 51 acres of vacant land to help build the Michigan 5 Haggerty Connector.

The state in 1996 paid nearly \$2.8 million for the land, which was owned by Haggerty Corridor Partners Limited Partnership. The developer said the land was worth more

because adjacent property it owned was rezoned later for high-tech offices instead of residential homes and agricultural uses.

The Michigan Supreme Court in 2005 threw out a \$14.9-million jury verdict and ordered a new trial, ruling the trial judge should not have allowed evidence that nearby land was rezoned in 1998. The state and developer settled before the new trial.

The \$16 million is in addition to the \$2.8 million already paid to the developer.

"I admire the government for realizing what's fair," said Alan Ackerman, an attorney for the

developer. "It's not easy to give money away, especially in these times."

A message seeking comment was left with an MDOT spokesman last Friday afternoon.

It was unclear how the settlement will affect the state budget, which Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration has said is facing a shortfall of at least \$106 million in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Senate analysts have estimated a \$266-million deficit.

The M-5 Haggerty Connector runs north from the interchange of Interstates 96, 696 and 275, and south from Pontiac Trail in western Oakland County.

Providence Park delivers Novi's first New Year's baby

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Deana and Eric Was didn't spend their New Year's Eve out with friends as planned, instead, the 2009 family celebrated the 2009 with nurses, doctors and staff of Novi's Providence Park Hospital.

"We were supposed to be going to dinner with some friends, but plans quickly changed," said Deana Was, 27.

At about 1:30 p.m. Dec. 31, the Was clan arrived at Providence Park Hospital, and less than 12 hours later, they welcomed the first addition to their family.

Ava Noelle Was weighed 6 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20-inches long. Born at 1:10 a.m. she was the first baby born in 2009 at the Novi hospital.

"We knew we were having a girl, but I was definitely not expecting to go early," said Deana, whose due date was Jan. 14. "I was expecting to be in labor for like a day, but it was so fast. I was only in labor for like eight hours."

In honor of Ava being the first baby born in the new year, Providence Park Hospital provided the family with a gift basket filled with diapers, towels, wash cloths, books, a stuffed animal and gift cards to Target and a salon for Deana.

Mother and baby were released from the hospital Friday afternoon.

"We could have stayed longer, but we were ready to come home," Deana said. "She's a great baby. She sleeps all the time."



Ava Was is the first Novi baby of the New Year.

Notes were taken from the Jan. 5 Novi City Council regular meeting. All council members were present. Next regular meeting: 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

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

PHOTO BY JOHN HEDER/NOVI NEWS

Four items of interest from Novi's City Council

Novi Mayor David Landry appointed councilman Bob Catt to the position of Mayor Pro Tem. Former Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello was elected Oakland County Commissioner of the 9th District, requiring him to leave his Novi City Council position one year shy of his tenure. Planning commission member Brian Burke was appointed to the vacant council seat.

Economic development manager Aya Topuzian and small business manager Cindy Uglow presented council with a 2008 economic development report and goals for 2009. Some of the accomplishments highlighted in the report include the

city's expansion, attraction and retention efforts; improvements in the internal development review processes; the creation of InvestNovi.org; and implementing Hollywood Novi to make the city a more film-friendly community. With a reduction in construction projects, the focus for 2009 will be in retention and expansion.

Council unanimously approved the first reading of a zoning ordinance text amendment to modify the standards for outdoor sales of produce and seasonal plants. Novi City Attorney Tom Schultz said the outdoor sales would have to be related to the principle use of the business.

Council unanimously approved to amend an engineering contract with FTCS&H for the Pontiac Trail Water Main project for an increased amount of \$25,850. The fee adjustment was requested because additional items were required to complete the project, making construction costs higher than what was estimated in 2006. The increase covers the construction engineering fee, which according to the city's contract is 6.2 percent of the total construction cost. The project is slated for completion in spring 2009.

Additional enhancements include the sleeping area for nighttime personnel, female bathrooms and showers, lockers and an exercise and fitness area.

"The building is designed with energy efficient heating, cooling and electricity.

"We have more light and use less energy," Smith said.

Novi Mayor David Landry said the project is evidence of the city's commitment to public safety services.

Novi Theatres is seeking a director for "Grease." This is a paid position. The ideal candidate must be able to work with a choreographer and vocal director. Performances for "Grease" will be May 6-7. For more information contact Lauren Sorrentino at (248) 735-9515.

Public input desired for potential Signature Park

The city is encouraged to attend the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, to give input regarding the Signature Park project. The city is proposing a Signature Park to create an image of who the community is and what it represents — a park for which the community is known. The park will offer a

full complement of active and passive recreation opportunities, structured programs and self-directed activities, as well as festivals and events for all ages.

The City of Novi, in partnership with the Novi Chamber of Commerce, will host the annual State of the City Address and Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22 at Rock Financial Showplace, 44100 Grand River Avenue. Tickets are \$25 per person. Mayor David Landry will provide...

Novi citizens and business partners an opportunity to reflect on 2008 accomplishments and goals to strive toward in 2009. Landry will also give a State of the City Address in conjunction with the Novi Homeowner Association Leader's Breakfast, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Novi Civic Center. The event is free, but registration is required.

There will be a Community Emergency Response Team public information meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Novi Police Department Training Center, 45125 W. 10 Mile Road. For more information or to register for the informa-

tion meeting, contact Novi Police Sergeant Kevin Rhea at (248) 348-7100 or khea@cityofnovi.org. CERT members complete a 24-hour training program that provides the critical skills necessary for emergency preparedness and response. The next eight-week training session will begin Wednesday, Jan. 28. Novi residents 18 and older, with a valid driver's license, may apply.

The survey takes about 20 minutes and only fully completed surveys will be tallied in the final report. Residents with questions about the survey can contact the community relations office at (248) 735-5628.

Novi gauge budget and service priorities. The survey takes about 20 minutes and only fully completed surveys will be tallied in the final report.

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Light lifting

Shoichi Tamura shovels a light dusting of snow on the sidewalks of his Jamestown Road home on New Year's Eve day.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEDER/NOVI NEWS

NOVI BRIEFLY

One month free at Sports Club of Novi

Anyone thinking about joining a health club can register for a free 30-day trial, no obligation membership at the Sports Club of Novi until Jan. 31. Located at 42500 Arena Drive, the fitness center includes cardio equipment with personal entertainment systems; resistance and free weight equipment; state-of-the-art yoga studio and classes; Scott Pilates mat classes; 12 tennis courts; an eight-lane, 25-meter lap pool; individual steam, sauna and whirlpool rooms for men and women; luxurious, safe and secure locker rooms with towels; cool down cafe; and a kids center is available. To take advantage of the offer, call (248) 735-8850.

Novi Theatres seeks director

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State of the City

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City survey online

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

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LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
JEWELRY GENIUS

A CHANGE OF SETTING
It is often the case that you ignore a piece of jewelry with a perfectly beautiful gemstone because the setting leaves a lot to be desired. Fortunately, there are countless ways to bring a piece of jewelry back to life by placing the gemstone in a new setting. For instance, if you have an engagement ring from a previous relationship, you may want to transform it into a cocktail ring that you will enjoy wearing. And diamond pieces are not the only lost treasures that can be rescued from the jewelry box and modernized. Sapphire, pearl, and other gemstones can also be treated to new settings that enable them to shine once again. Here are some ideas to help you choose a new setting for your jewelry.

WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI, the same you can trust concerning any jewelry question, will be happy to help you in the setting of your outdated jewelry pieces, choosing settings for new

stones, or custom designing original, one-of-a-kind pieces. Our knowledge of settings, previous metals, and gemstones and their singular characteristics ensures you'll have the best advice possible. And our commitment to using only the finest quality materials is certain to please. Visit soon at 4190 Grand River Ave., #12, 248-349-0303. We are licensed by the city of Novi to offer items 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.-4 p.m., Sun. & Mon. we are closed.

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Novi Athletic Boosters

The next Novi Athletic Booster meeting will take place 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 in room 160 at the Novi High School.

The Novi Athletic Boosters raise money to support Novi students athletes at the high and middle schools.

The Novi Athletic Boosters raise money to support Novi students athletes at the high and middle schools.

Mad Hatter Tea Party The Providence Center for the Hearing Arts presents its Seventh Annual Mad Hatter Tea Party...

OBITUARIES

RUTH E. CAMERON Age 88, passed away January 4, 2009 at Ashley Court in Brighton, Michigan...

MILDRED D'AGOSTINO Age 87, of Highland, formerly of Oak Park, January 4, 2009. Survived by her loving husband, Leonard J. D'Agostino...

ADAM J. KORR Age 41, died Dec. 22, 2008. Visitation was Dec. 26, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at St. Patrick Catholic Church...

JANET LOUISE (DRIVER) BALL Her legacy... Janet was born on January 11, 1933 in Detroit, MI. The daughter of Charles and Dorothy Driver. She was employed at Ford Motor Co. retiring in 1998...

ROBERT F. BEHRETT Age 68, of Leeland, FL. Long time resident, passed away suddenly on Jan. 2, 2009. Survived by beloved wife, Gail, and loving children, Gilman (Economy) Tracy...

VONDA "TONI" KAY BRADFORD Age 70, went to be with our savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009. She was born in Westmoreland, PA on April 25, 1938...

FRITZ HEINSS Age 73, of Mesick, Michigan and former Westland resident, died Friday, January 2, 2009 at Huron Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan...

DOUGLAS W. METCALFE Age 63, died Dec. 24, 2008. A Service was held Jan. 3, 2009, at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Lyon Township...

JAMES CLARE O'BRIEN Age 73, passed away Dec. 27, 2008. A Funeral Mass was held Dec. 31 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. Arrangements by PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME...

ROBERT F. BEARD Age 93, of Highland, Went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 1, 2009. Beloved uncle of James (Carole) Clark, Richard (Vicki) Clark, Robert (Patricia) Clark...

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

Obituary Policy e-mail your obit to: ETOBIT@hometownlife.com

High-Tech for Low Vision

Dear Savvy Senior, What types of products or technology can you recommend to help people with severe vision impairment? My wife has macular degeneration and I'm looking for some good low vision helpers.

Dear Looking, With around 14 million Americans living with incurable vision impairment today, more and more low-vision products are being developed that can help with almost any need. Here's what you should know.

There are literally hundreds of products on the market that can help improve the quality of life for the visually impaired. For example, to help with daily living tasks, you can find a wide array of "talking" clocks, watches, remote controls, thermostats and kitchen aids...

Portable video magnifiers: While hand-held magnifiers have been around for years, today there's a variety of small, high-tech options that provide much more clarity, contrast and flexibility than an ordinary magnifying glass. Some of these devices can even freeze an image on the screen, allowing you to take the image to another location.

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CLASS NOTES

Heating Arts presents its Seventh Annual Mad Hatter Tea Party...

Mad Hatter Tea Party The Providence Center for the Hearing Arts presents its Seventh Annual Mad Hatter Tea Party...

High School Daily Schedule Information A decision on the proposed high school daily schedule for implementation in the 2009-10 school year has been delayed.

Save the Date The Novi Educational Foundation's Green Gala is March 21 at the Rock Financial Showplace.

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

Your Invitation to Worship

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Whitmore Lake

South Lyon

Northville

Livonia

White Lake

Whitmore Lake

South Lyon

Northville

Livonia

White Lake

Whitmore Lake

South Lyon

Northville

Livonia

OPINION

Page 8 (NN)
Thursday, January 8, 2009 Community Weeklies

www.hometownlife.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Random Acts of Kindness

I met an old friend today in a pet store here in Novi and noticed that she was buying a large quantity of cat food. When I asked why, she told me that she was feeding homeless cats (4-25) that were now living in a Northville City Park. Strays are not unusual but in today's economy the number of house pets that are being turned out and abandoned by their families is increasing rapidly. I believe this lady's act of kindness towards these animals is worthy of recognition.

Ray Murphy
Novi

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: venitichell@gannett.com.
Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

OUR VIEWS

Fewer people mean bigger challenges for Michigan

No surprise, really, to anyone who knows what Michigan is going through that the state lost people again in the most recent Census reckonings — 46,368 people, to be precise, more than any other state.

Michigan also was one of just two states to shrink even as the nation continued to grow. The other was Rhode Island, which is already tiny and occasionally nipped Michigan this year for the dubious distinction of leading the nation in unemployment.

People are leaving Michigan for the same reason that thousands once came here: work. And the population that's hanging in is relatively older, meaning fewer children are being born in Michigan than in other states.

The Census data released in December shows Michigan is just 3,423 people away from dropping below 10 million in population, but is unlikely to lose its eighth-place ranking among the states, although Georgia, New Jersey and North Carolina are pressing to move up.

State demographers say they actually expected a larger population drop, but Michigan's out-migration appears to have slowed because of difficulty selling houses. Also, with the national economy in recession, there really isn't a "hot" job market anywhere in the country these days, unlike in Michigan's heyday when factories were hiring as fast as people could apply.

This marks the third straight year Michigan has lost people, although the state population remains higher than the 9,938,444 recorded in the 2000 Census.

On the upside, this means a little less traffic, a little less competition for whatever jobs are available, and less expansion needed of roads, schools and businesses.

On the downside, the state is very likely to lose another seat in Congress, and that means less clout in Washington, which generally pays more attention to growing areas anyway.

And there's also the question of who's leaving — Michigan continues to export too many college graduates for lack of opportunities here, and these would include the young, entrepreneurial types who are so essential to economic rebirth. They are the most mobile segment of the population, always in search of a "hot" economy in a cool place to live.

These days, Michigan is neither. There is hope, of course. But you can't eat that.

This editorial originally appeared in the Detroit Free Press.

Novi News

GANNETT

Published each Thursday

Victoria Mitchell
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Jeanne Parent
Senior Director of Sales & Marketing

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

What happens in China does not stay in China

This is part one in a two part series.

What has transpired in China over its 5,000 year history is amazing. The last 30 years have been both remarkable and universally acknowledged.



Tom Watkins

There once was a time when what happened in China had minimal impact on our lives. Those days are gone.

What now happens in China no longer just stays in China. We not only feel the ripple effects; the tsunami wave of change will continue to wash upon our shores as the 21st century unfolds. How we adapt to and lead the changes that are coming will define our state and nation.

As large and powerful as is China, few in Michigan or America know much about the country — its history, customs, geography, language, politics or people. This needs to change.

China punctured America's consciousness in many ways this past year — with the spellbinding Olympics, riots in Tibet, a devastating earthquake, poison in milk and toothpaste and lead in toys. The year 2008 is likely to be a year that China will make many more people, both within and without China, stand up and take notice.

The coming months are pitted with politically sensitive anniversaries that will focus China's and, depending on how their Communist leaders bent on quelling any dissent respond, the world's attention on the "Middle Kingdom."

In 1963, a great fourth grade teacher opened my eyes to China.

Why China? Looking back, I believe it was the juxtaposition of the "ideal" of what I was being taught about what America stood for against the reality I saw through my 10-year old eyes while growing up in our nation's capitol with segregation and poverty abounding. That, along with the Chinese propaganda that espoused total equality of all in China, created in me a life-long fascination with the country.

At 10, my developing mind wondered if China's ideals were any more or less real than the hate and inequality I witnessed between black and poor people in my small piece of geography between my Grandmother's house, a stone's throw from the nation's capitol, and our working-class Maryland home. I have had my eyes on China ever since.

I am far from a China expert, or "Old China Hand." However, I love the Chinese culture and people and have read and traveled in China enough to know more than the average Westerner. My hope is we can build on what China's President Hu Jintao calls a "harmonious" relationship with China while staying true to our ideals as a nation. This will become increasingly more difficult, as China is the largest holder of America's debt and holds \$1.9 trillion in foreign exchange reserves.

Changing the course of the world

With a 5,000-year history, China is a kaleidoscope of complexity and change. Many people remember learning about China as a backward, communist country, with our parents imploring us to "eat your peas — kids are starving in China." That was before China simultaneously modernized and opened to the world. Today, some would argue China is eating our lunch.

In December 2008, China marked the 30th anniversary of its opening to the world, something that transformed them into a global economic superpower. Today, 30 years after China's preeminent and ruthless leader Deng Xiaoping opened China, the nation has evolved into one of the world's largest trading partners and economies. In essence, China compressed hundreds of years of the

Industrial Revolution, which they seemingly missed, into a few decades. At the same time they also fast-forwarded all the problems (pollution, social justice, and inequality) these seismic economic and political shifts bring as well.

By changing China's course, Deng Xiaoping also changed the course of the world. Deng believed the criteria for success was determined by common sense and flexibility rather than by following Mao Tse-tung's rigid political ideology. Deng and the Communist Party knew the old ways were failing the people and, without the support of the people, the Party could topple. Prosperity was the ticket to staying in power. In explaining this shift in thought Deng would utter, "It doesn't matter whether the cat is black or white as long as it catches the mice."

By moving away from Mao's ideological straitjacket and into the world of industrial growth and international trade, Deng began the process that has lifted more people out of poverty than any other nation in the world. At the same time, he is also the one that ordered the People's Liberation Army to crush the people/students in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Today we are living through disruptive, transformational, unpredictable, technologically-driven global change. China and the United States are major players. Some argue the 20th century belonged to America and the 21st century will ultimately be led by China. I do not know if their arguments will withstand the test of time. However, I do know that our destinies are linked and we must find ways to live, work and solve problems together or we will surely fail together.

There are many major milestones in the evolution of a modern, revolutionary China. Perhaps none is more significant than Oct. 1, 2009. That date will mark the 60th anniversary of Mao Tse-tung proclaiming, at the gates of Tiananmen the founding of the People's Republic of China. With the takeover by the Communist party, it took decades before there was a thaw in relations between America and China.

China and the United States established formal diplomatic relations 30 years ago that ushered in a new era of exchange and cooperation. After many years of strained relations and the breakthrough of Nixon's "ping pong diplomacy," the United States of America and the People's Republic of China agreed to establish diplomatic relations on Jan. 1, 1979. The U.S. government acknowledged the Chinese position that there is but one China, with Taiwan a part of China. Both governments believed that Sino-American relations were not only in the interest of the Chinese and American people, but also to the cause of peace around the world.

Michigan's own Leonard Woodcock, former President of the UAW, was named by President Carter in 1977 to be chief liaison to China. Two years later, on March 1, 1979, Woodcock became the first ambassador to Communist China.

China has a very diverse ethnic population with more than 55 distinct minority groups. Not all the ethnic groups believe they are part of "one China." This is particularly true in Tibet. March 10, 2009, is the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising that prompted the Dalai Lama to flee to India in 1959. Last March, Tibetan anger exploded and spread to other cities with large Tibetan populations. While the protests were quelled, the anger and resentment toward what the Tibetan people call "Tibetan Genocide" has not subsided and could explode again.

If China responds with force, Western media and politicians will likely react negatively, resulting in the Chinese viewing them as interfering with their internal affairs." The Chinese reaction to Western behavior could spark, if not eggon, an anti-West, nationalist uprising among the Chinese people.

Tom Watkins is a freelance writer who has written extensively about China. He is an education and business consultant in the United States and China. Watkins was Michigan's superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla. from 1996-2001. He can be reached at tdw@tdw.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

Community Weeklies | Thursday, January 8, 2009 (NRNN) A9

Time to plant the seed: Detroit could be a green city

"For now, we see us through a glass, darkly, but then face to face..."
1 Corinthians, 13:12



Phil Power

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul caught nicely how we so often can glimpse only a blurred vision of ourselves and our future, but then as time goes on, gain a better, clearer understanding.

In these early days of the New Year, we can only see, at best, a fuzzy vision of Michigan's economic future. Yet while it may be unclear today, as the year goes on, the vision is bound to get stronger, more detailed and more compelling.

And for a clearer glimpse, you might focus on these major elements as the must clears:

High Technology Spin-Offs from Universities: The impact of new firms spun out from discoveries in university labs has been relatively slight, measured against our entire economy.

But two recent events provide hope that things may soon take off on a much larger scale. Last month, the University of Michigan announced it would buy the entire vacant Pfizer research campus in Ann Arbor for

\$108 million. At 176 acres and 2 million square feet of modern laboratory space, the deal may be the biggest real estate steal in recent memory. More to the point, the U-M says that over the next decade, the site will be used to create 2,000 new high-paying, public-private research jobs, mostly in the health sciences.

And the U.S. Department of Energy picked Michigan State University as the winner of a national competition for the Isotope Science Facility, a high energy atom smasher designed to explore how new elements are formed. Construction of the new \$550 million facility will take a decade and require additional federal funding.

But that lab, too, should generate substantial spin-off economic activity once it gets going.

Automobile Research, Engineering and Manufacturing: Now that the federal government has agreed to give bridge loans to General Motors, Chrysler and the

now-independent General Motors Acceptance Corporation, it's pretty clear the auto industry will survive and have a future in Michigan. But it won't be like the old days: High-wage, low-brain, insular companies producing bad products at high cost while dominating the state's economy and distorting its politics.

Even under the best-case scenarios, the auto companies will be net job losers, but the industry will still mean thousands and thousands of good-paying jobs in Michigan, supported by existing research and development and engineering operations.

We shouldn't forget, by the way, that more automotive engineers are working here than in any other place in the world.

Regardless of what happens to Chrysler, the jobs that will be left are likely to be more cost-competitive and less subject to union featherbedding than in the past. That's thanks in part to new pressure being put on the United Auto Workers' union by the feds, in return for the bailout loans. Hopefully, the surviving auto companies will be able to fend off incompetent and self-serving political pressure from Washington and

make cars that people actually want to buy.

Urban Re-Development: Drive over the hill into downtown Grand Rapids, and all you see is cranes and shiny new buildings. The new Grand Valley State University campus is bustling, and the health science Medical Mile is taking shape. The Gerald Ford Museum and the Grand Rapids Museum of Art are both top-notch. All are stimulating an urban renaissance of restaurants and bars that attract the kind of young, college-educated folks Michigan needs.

A couple of weeks ago, Michigan's resident Brain-Wave Maker In Chief, Craig Ruff, wrote a piece in the online magazine, Dome, that proposed an entirely new vision for Detroit. Ruff points out that Michigan's most rapidly shrinking big city offers something like 90 percent vacant, re-developable land, more than any large urban area in the country. Assuming that the city's incendiary and self-destructive politics actually turn around, Ruff offers an entirely new way of thinking about redevelopment of America's worst-off city.

Parks and open space. Urban forests and urban pioneers.

Neighborhood gardens and commercial farms. Safer living conditions, with plenty of space and easy access to amenities.

That won't happen overnight, but re-making Detroit as one of the greenest cities in the world is an idea that can excite the imagination and offer a truly distinctive future.

These days, it's conventional wisdom for the smereocracy to write off Michigan's future. But these elements of our future, even though seen darkly today, are real, ready to take form in the mist. They can provide hope for a prosperous future and an agenda for our state's leaders — if we have the courage and will to act on them.

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

CHURCH

FROM PAGE A4

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: 10 a.m., January 20
Yoga/Fit Classes
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., every Monday
DETAILS: Eight weeks, \$55 continuous or \$8 per drop in session.
Merry Widows Luncheon
TIME/DATE: 1:30 a.m., fourth Thursday of each month
Spiritual Journeys
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m., every Sunday
Nutrition for the New Year
TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m., Jan. 17

GRACEPOINT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOCATION: The Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers
CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 497-3178 or gracepoint@mac.com, and gracepointpecc.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: Nursery staffed by Nancy Popozin.

OUR SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOCATION: 140 S. Center, above Tallo's in Old Church Square, Northville
CONTACT: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m., with fellowship and food after service

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

LOCATION: 770 Thayer, Northville

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FRUIT

CONTACT: (248) 349-2621 or dinorthville.org
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

INTERSTATE CHURCH

LOCATION: 45301 N. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or frstbaptistchurch@novi.org
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Study: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., fourth Sunday of every month.

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

LOCATION: 4155 5th Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 348-9030

CROSSPOINT MEADOWS CHURCH

LOCATION: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 15 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointmeadows.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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOCATION: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
experience.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1075 or church@theholycross.com
Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care
TIME: 10 a.m. Worship and Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

GRAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

LOCATION: 22455 Novi Road
CONTACT: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Preschool/Kids Choir
TIME/DATE: 7:45-9:15 p.m., every Wednesday
DETAILS: For ages three to six; singing optional. No need to pre-register; all are welcome.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOCATION: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi

ST. JOHN LUHERAN

LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit sljohn-lutheran.org
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:11:15 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

Send calendar submissions via e-mail to news@northville.com

or by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Church Events/Northville-Nowi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

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JEFFREY H. MILLER, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly fifteen years.

248.344.9110 | www.AVtherapies.com

48225 W. 12 MILE ROAD | SUITE 335 | NOVI | West of Novi Road near I-96

As seen in the Yellow Pages

Annual January Sales Event
Jan. 8 thru Feb. 14

Buy one pair at regular price, receive the second pair 40% OFF

Must present ad to receive discount. Offer expires 2/14/09. Does not apply on previous purchases with any other offers before taxes. *Equal or lesser value

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To schedule a tour of the Merle and Shirley Harris Birthing Center at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, call (248) 937-5220. To schedule an appointment with one of our physicians, call (888) DMC-2500.

DMC
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital

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IN NATIONAL SURVEY

THE FRIDGE TOBOGGAN RUN OPENS FOR THE SEASON

The Fridge, Michigan's winter thrill ride, officially opens for the season tomorrow.

Katie Stawle, park supervisor for The Fridge, said, "Riders plunge 55 feet on their speed ups to 30 miles an hour. It's quite the rush."

11 and younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Bonus activities this season include: "Get Your Game On" game nights with prizes, 4-9:30 p.m. Jan. 8 and Feb. 5.

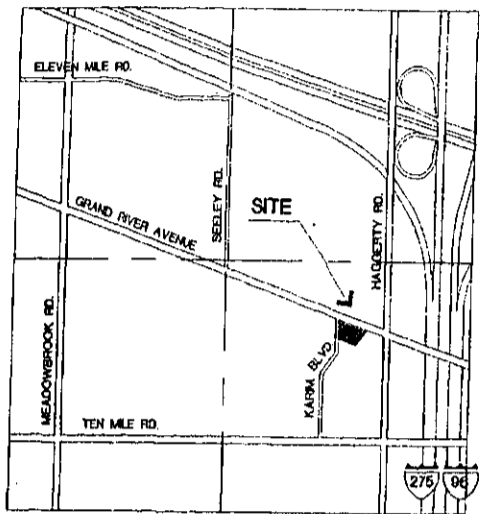
A Kiddie Sledding Hill, adjacent to The Fridge, offers traditional sledding. Guests must bring their own sleds. The lighted hill has a 10-foot incline.

Unlimited ride tickets are \$10 regular rate; \$7 Oakland County resident discount rate; \$4 children 30-45 inches tall; and \$2.50 single ride.

For group or scout rates, reservations or more information, call (248) 975-4440 or visit www.oaklandfridge.com.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider FAITHFULLY FIT SITE PLAN NUMBER 08-48 FOR SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 24, SOUTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE, WEST OF HAGGERTY ROAD, IN THE B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. The subject property is approximately 3 acre and the applicant is proposing a fitness center at 37399 Grand River Avenue.



LOCATION MAP

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

Planning Commission MA. PEHRSON, Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACTION

Date: Monday, January 12, 2009 Place: 48700 Grand River Avenue City: Novi, MI 48375 Time: 10:00 A.M.

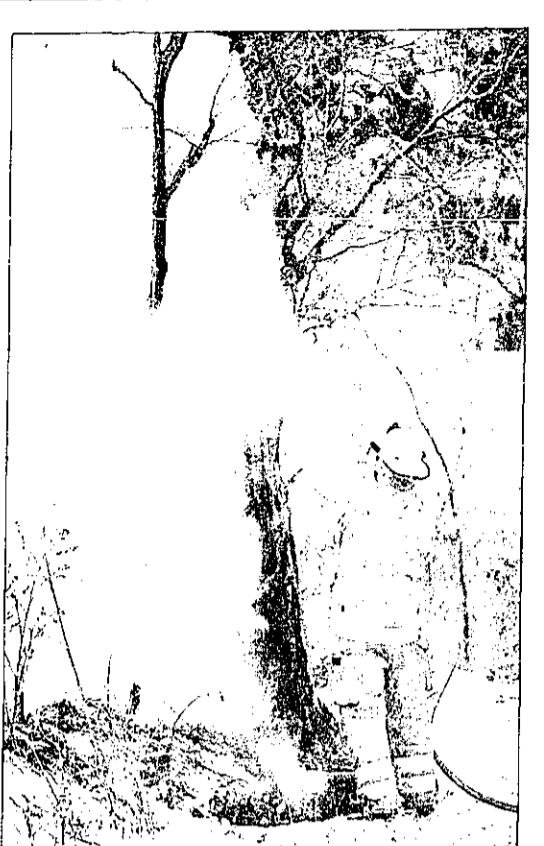
By virtue of default by Hamilton Concrete Construction, Inc. ("HCCI") under the Installment Sale Contract dated April 27, 2005 between HCCI as Buyer and Michigan Tractor and Machinery Co. as seller subsequently assigned to Financial Federal Credit Inc. ("FFCI") as Secured Party. FFCI will sell at Public Sale to the highest bidder AS-IS, WHERE-IS, WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR ANY WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, all of its right, title and interest to:

One (1), Used, Model 277B, Caterpillar Multi Terrain Loader, SN: MDH02440

Terms: 25% of purchase price payable by certified or cashier's check at the time of sale, with the balance payable in good funds by noon on the following business day, unless the bidder has pre-qualified by presenting us with a commitment for funding from a source and in a form acceptable to us in our sole discretion, in which case we will entertain bids up to the amount of such commitment, or the bidder has obtained credit approval from FFCI in advance of the sale date.

FFCI reserves the right to bid at the sale. Please contact the undersigned for additional description or to make inspection arrangements.

FINANCIAL FEDERAL CREDIT INC. 4225 Noville Road, Suite 265, Lisle, IL 60532 Gary Pace - (630) 955-1700



Smoking

Novi firefighters believe a cigarette was the cause of a tree fire in the area of 10 Mile and Wixom roads New Year's Eve day. "We're speculating that it was probably a discarded cigarette that started that tree on fire," said Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith. "It was not a wire down line was the case in so many places. There were no wires around there at all that could have started it."

Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze with no real damage or injuries, aside from having to cut down the tree. Eastbound traffic was also stopped on 10 Mile Road.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Novi/Northville MEDICAL SERVICE directory



Family Therapy advertisement for Northville Physical Rehabilitation, P.C. Fully Licensed & Accredited Staff. 215 E. Main & 300 E. Cady, Downtown Northville. 248-349-9339

Family Dentistry advertisement for Charles S. Shouery, D.D.S., P.C. 418N. Grand St., Northville, MI 48166. (248) 349-7014

Hand and Wrist advertisement for Michigan Hand & Wrist, P.C. 26750 Providence Parkway, Suite 220, Novi, MI 48375. (248) 596-0412

Family Practice advertisement for Doctors That Care... Are Closer Than You Think. 40015 Grand River Ave., Suite 100, Novi, Michigan 48375. (248) 349-7014

Family Dentistry advertisement for Abir Faraj, D.D.S., P.C. Family & Cosmetic Dentistry. Novi Professional Village, 23985 Novi Road, Ste B103, Novi, MI 48375. (248) 348-5151

Urology advertisement for Take Back Your Life! Tired of the embarrassment of your uncontrollable bladder? Don't SUFFER in silence. Talk to your doctor today! Sam Roseberg, M.D., F.A.C.S. Chief of Urology, Huron Valley Hospital. One Of Michigan's Most Respected Urologists.

Optometry advertisement for TOWN & COUNTRY EYECARE. Focusing on Your Family's Total Eye Health. high-tech eyecare • unique eyewear specialty contact lenses. 248-347-7800

Family Practice advertisement for Medical Clinic of Northville. Flu Shots Now Available. 308 South Main Street. 248-349-1900

Urology advertisement for Take Back Your Life! Tired of the embarrassment of your uncontrollable bladder? Don't SUFFER in silence. Talk to your doctor today! Sam Roseberg, M.D., F.A.C.S. Chief of Urology, Huron Valley Hospital. One Of Michigan's Most Respected Urologists.

Doctors advertisement for Your ad could be here. 248-437-2011

Acupuncture advertisement for Susan Jakary, M.S., L.Ac. "Nationally Certified" ACUPUNCTURE CHINESE HERBS. 26179 Novi Rd., Novi, MI 48375. Ph# (248) 380-7522

LIVING

NOVI BULLETIN BOARD

LOCAL EVENTS

Franchisee/Investor Collection Regular business hours. Location: President's Office 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.

Novi Public Library. LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, MI 48394. HOURS: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Novi Public Library. LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, MI 48394. HOURS: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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LIBRARY LINES

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NOVI SENIORS

Novi Senior Activities Center. LOCATION: Located in the Neoshobrook Commons Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375. Message by appointment: 1-4 p.m., Tuesday, Friday and 9 a.m. - noon Saturday.

Novi Senior Activities Center. LOCATION: Located in the Neoshobrook Commons Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375. Message by appointment: 1-4 p.m., Tuesday, Friday and 9 a.m. - noon Saturday.

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SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting. LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. TIME: 7 p.m. First and third Monday of month.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Novi Chamber of Commerce. LOCATION: 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375. For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novitchamber.com

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Novi Chamber of Commerce. LOCATION: 451

Job searching in tough times

The newspaper headlines and broadcast news stories present a bleak picture for Michigan. We led the rest of the states into recession, we have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, and the automotive industry, our leading employer, is struggling to survive. For the unemployed, the prospects of finding a new job looks bleak.

But even in these dire economic times, there are employers who are hiring and even growing. Who are these businesses and how do you find them? What do they do and how can you find out if your skills and experience might be a fit? Creative research using readily available information sources will get you started.

Your local newspaper, the region's specialized newspapers like Crain's Detroit Business and national news and business magazines are reliable print sources that can be found in most public libraries. Many of these also have online versions which are free or may be accessed for free at the library. Begin with the business section of the major newspaper, but be sure to scan the entire newspaper, because stories about area employers can be found in each section depending on the focus of the article.

In the business section, look for feature articles about specific organizations or industries and look for information that tells you if the organization or industry is healthy and growing. These stories might give you targets worthy of more research. "People in the News" features that describe job changes, promotions, volunteer activities or other news about individuals may also give you insight into organizations that are growing and thriving. You may also discover that you know the newsmaker. This is a chance



JOHN HEER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Caring clients

Matt Moskowitz of American Profit Recovery presents a check for \$500 to Marlene Kunz, second from right, and Northville Civic Concern as City of Northville employees Nickie Bateson and Wendy Gutowski. American Profit is a client of the City of Northville and decided to make the much-needed donation in lieu of sending Christmas cards this year.

to send a congratulatory note and reconnect with someone who might be a valuable contact for you.

Other sections of the newspapers or magazines may have articles about people or organizations that might give you ideas about jobs, employers or industries that you find

interesting. During poor economic times, commonplace approaches and job targets won't work for you. You need to find new ways to apply your strengths in the workplace.

You might look for the same sort of job you left but in a new industry, or you might look for a way to take your knowledge and skills and apply them in a new way. For example, if you've been a sales person, could you take your knowledge and become a buyer? Or if you've been an engineer in the automotive industry, can you transfer your skills and knowledge to other industries that require engineering skills? A vast amount of information about jobs, employers, and industries can now be found online. For job information, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the Occupational Outlook Handbook which can be found at www.bls.gov. You can link directly into information about specific jobs on this site, including basic job requirements, working conditions, educational requirements, expected wages and future demand projections.

To find local and regional employers who are new to the area or growing, go to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Web site at www.mecode.org. MEDC publishes a monthly newsletter with information on its efforts to create new industries and businesses to Michigan and feature articles on individual enterprises that are growing and creating jobs. Their Web site currently contains links to past newsletters as well as a comprehensive six page list of employers who have been creating jobs in the past year.

The Michigan Economic Development Agencies website includes links to local Economic Development agencies at www.ecodevdirectory.com/michigan.htm. For example, the link to Ann Arbor SPARK showcases the efforts Ann Arbor is making to draw new employers into the area and includes a career services link that guides job seekers to job postings, career and networking events, employer information, professional organizations and even career counseling services.

Finally, be sure to check out individual employer Web sites. If you don't know the Web site address, try to type the employer's full name into Google or another search engine. Usually the official Web site will appear within the first few options. You can usually find information about the core business, divisions, history, mission statement, and often a link directly into currently listed job opportunities.

Martha D. Adams is a consulting professional with a diverse background in human resource management and career development. She is a Certified Career Development Facilitator, a Certified Career & Job Search Coach, and a Certified Professional Resume Writer. She is the co-author of "Your Job Search," a workbook-style guide to assessing yourself and managing your job search.

Her book, "Your Job Search," which was first published in 1999 by Prentice-Hall and revised and republished by Success Press in 2005. From 1993 to 1996, she authored a monthly column, "Your Job Search," in the Saratoga Springs, N.Y., newspaper - The Saratogian.

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 Assistance for the Digital Conversion visit:
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 OR
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 "Call Us Today for a Free Consultation"

KNOW THE SCORE
 check out the numbers in today's Sports section

BOARD FROM PAGE A11

Line Dancing
 DATE: Mondays and Fridays
 TIME: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Beginners: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Intermediate
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: No partner needed; pay-as-you-go. Novi residents \$5, non-residents \$6.

Novi Toastmasters
 TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills; voice your opinion; polish your presentations and practice leadership.
 CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-2800

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE
 4610 Grand River Ave.
 CONTACT: Call (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.
 Parking is \$5 for most events.

The Ultimate Fishing Show
 TIME/DATE: noon-9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11
 DETAILS: The Midwest's biggest fishing show. Vendors, seminars, kids trout pond, fish fry and more. Cost is \$10 adults, \$4 children 6-14, free for children under age 5.
 CONTACT: (800) 328-6550 or UltimateFishingShow.com

Great Lakes Art Fair
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 17; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19
 DETAILS: The Great Lakes Art Fair replaces the successful touring Sugarloaf Art Fair, which has visited the area bi-annually for the past 10 years. The Great Lakes Art Fair will combine exclusive and desirable works from local, regional and national artists and be supported by an extensive marketing and

HEALTH
St. John Providence Hospital
 LOCATION: 24550 Providence Parkway, corner of Beck Road, near Beck Road entrance
 Providence Center for the Healthy Arts <http://cphah.org>
 CONTACT: (248) 465-5455 or e-mail James.Teller@cphah.org

Colored People's Workshop
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. second Tuesday of every month
 DETAILS: Beginners welcome.
 CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Yoga Classes
 TIME/DATE: 7:15 p.m. Mondays; 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesdays
 LOCATION: Pure Bare Fitness Studio, 133 W. Main St., Northville
 DETAILS: Classes feature "Pure Yoga" to increase one's awareness of breath and body while building a strong, flexible back and core.
 CONTACT: (248) 305-8414

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 DETAILS: Classes feature "Pure Yoga" to increase one's awareness of breath and body while building a strong, flexible back and core.
 CONTACT: (248) 305-8414

Recreation Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7:30-9 p.m. Third Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: Provides the opportunity for those in grief to share their story and to learn about the phases and tasks of grief. All are welcome, no fee.
 CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

Angels Recipe Groups
 LOCATION: Angela Hospice Care Center, 1100 Newburgh Road, Livonia
 DETAILS: Grief support groups include general grief, loss of a spouse, women's grief, parents who have lost a child and a grief support/killers group. Groups led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers.

Massage Therapy
 TIME/DATE: By appointment
 DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician's referral. \$50 for one hour session.
 Treats with Janis
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon each Monday
 DETAILS: Express yourself artistically in our peaceful and inspirational creative arts studio. Janis provides guidance in a variety of techniques and projects. \$5 suggested per session.
 Contact: Art and Color with Dany
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of every month
 DETAILS: Join volunteer artist Barcel as she guides you in transforming an ordinary block of wood into a multi-dimensional work of art. Cost is \$5 per session.
 Meet: Helen De Ba
 CONTACT: Call (248) 465-4488 for a recording of the latest in class changes.
 Novich Annual Mad Better Tea Party
 TIME/DATE: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 14
 LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center
 DETAILS: A showing of original artwork featuring a spectacle of stylized and imaginative leopards created by a variety of local artists.

United Center for Health Improvement
 LOCATION: 39750 Grand River Ave.
 CONTACT: (248) 473-3100
Auto Detail Camp



PHOTO BY JOHN HEER/NORTHVILLE NEWS

Revved Up!

A youngster tries out an all-terrain vehicle at last weekend's International Motorcycle Show at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace. All the major motorcycle manufacturers were represented at the show and there were hundreds of used bikes.

TIME/DATE: 4-5 p.m. every Friday
DETAILS: Get fit with a combination of strength and cardio in the lap pool. Pool is four feet deep providing excellent water resistance while still being able to touch. Free for BCI Members. Non-members may purchase a \$75 10-visit punch card. For information or to register, call (248) 473-3100.

Yoga Balance Basics
 TIME/DATE: 11:15 a.m.-noon every Tuesday
 DETAILS: Create harmony and balance in your life while becoming stronger, more flexible and balanced. A chair or ballet bar is provided for assistance. Free for BCI Members. Non-members may purchase a \$75 10-visit punch card. For information or to register, call (248) 473-3100.

CONTACT: Joan Lee (734) 953-6012
General Grief Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
DETAILS: Open to all losses. Last of Significant Other Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. first Tuesday of month
Men in Grief
 TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. fourth Monday of month
Suicide Loss Support Services
 DETAILS: Individual and family services offered free for those who have lost a loved one through suicide; call (734) 464-7810 for more information.
Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child
 TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. first Thursday of month
Great Support Builder's Group
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. first and third Wednesday of month
DETAILS: Register by calling (734) 953-6012

Novi Civic Center
 LOCATION: 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 937-3314

Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
 DETAILS: No pre-registration required. For information, call (248) 937-3314.

Al-Anon Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
 DETAILS: For family and friends of someone with an alcohol problem. No pre-registration required. For information, call (248) 937-3314.

Support Groups
Adaptive Parent Networking Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. Last Wednesday of each month
 LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
 DETAILS: Informal, child care available. Registration required.
 CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

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Someone living with cancer.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5163
New Parents Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month
 LOCATION: Hospital Conference Center
 DETAILS: A supportive environment for families to share their struggles, learn how to resolve issues after the birth of a child, discuss concerns such as sleep deprivation and coping with the emotions of parenting.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5166
Postpartum Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. every Thursday
 DETAILS: Postpartum depression can happen anytime within the first year after childbirth. Symptoms include sadness, lack of energy, trouble concentrating, anxiety and feelings of guilt and worthlessness.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5166
Support for Smokers
 DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Provides education and support to quit smoking, no charge, no pre-registration.
 CONTACT: Call (248) 937-3314 for more information.

Psychiatry & Counseling Services
 LOCATION: Northville Counseling Center, 215 E. Main St., Suite 201, Northville
Justify Your Anger/Parent Attack Support Group
 TIME/DATE: Second Wednesday of each month
 CONTACT: Call (313) 420-8175 for more information.

Space for Changing Families
 A nonsectarian community service of the National Council of Jewish Women/Leader and Leader Center
Women Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. every Tuesday
 LOCATION: National Council of Jewish Women, Hooper Evaluations Building, 26400 Lakeside Road, Suite 306, Southfield.
 DETAILS: Help for men and women dealing with the most conflicted feelings regarding divorce and separation. Led by a trained facilitator, Andy Mahler. Fee is \$5 per session. Pre-registration required. Call (248) 937-3314.

Neighborhood Baby-Sitting Co-op
 DETAILS: Using the co-ops and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
 CONTACT: Sue Tracz (248) 360-0598.

Friendship Circle
 TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Tall and Beck roads
 DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
 CONTACT: Norbert Monson (248) 851-9730, Florence Veitch (248) 477-3032, Joy Lovell (248) 348-9139 or joyval@earthlink.net

Assisting Valley Mothers of Multiples
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: Wilco's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon
 DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington

CLASS REUNIONS
Parkway High School Class of 1960
 DETAILS: A 50 year reunion is planned for Sept. 2009. For information, call Joan Krasner (734) 474-1200 or (248) 555-7508 or Sharon (Bailey) Forbush at (248) 994-0664.

Valley school conference are all well-coming. CONTACT: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

Novi Club of Novi East (for Novi moms east of Novi Road)
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. first Wednesday of every month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes. Multiple activities planned monthly.
 CONTACT: thanson3@hotmail.com or (248) 504-7755

MOMS Club of Novi West (for Novi moms west of Novi Road)
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. first Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes. Multiple activities planned monthly.
 CONTACT: jessmleming@yahoo.com

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Breakfast Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (Classroom C) Commerce
 DETAILS: No registration needed.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Colts & Colts Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. first and third Wednesday of each month
 LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
 DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left. CONTACT: Al Biggs (313) 805-7605 or Crutch's & Colts Foundation of America (800) 737-2322.

Take All Prends Sessily (TOPS) Chapter
 TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. weigh-in and 11:30 a.m. meeting every Wednesday
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
 DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership; includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.
 CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8646

Widows Friends Support Group
 DETAILS: Widowed Friends of the Archdiocese of Detroit is a peer support group.
 Marilyn at (586) 737-9406

Oakland County Youth Assistance Program
 LOCATION: 24550 Providence Parkway, Suite 365, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 300-3550
 Classes are free of charge

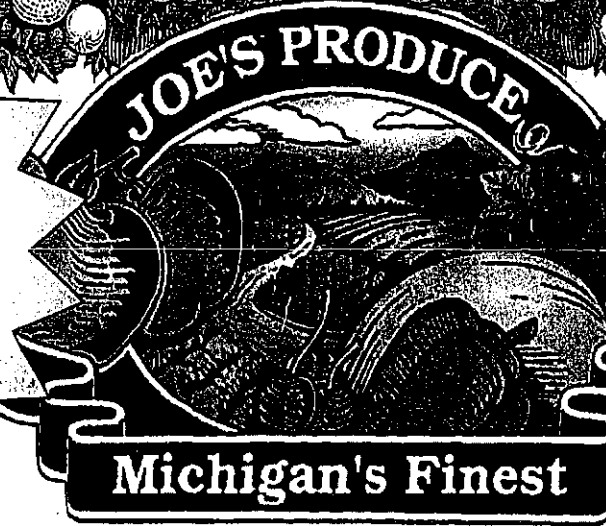
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Novi's Robinson is All-Area Runner of the Year

BY MIKE ROSENBAUM
STAFF WRITER

This year's All-Area girls cross country squad is a young group, with just two seniors among the seven first team runners. The remaining five harriers include three sophomores and two freshmen, insuring a bright future for area cross country teams.

The area's top runner, however, was senior Elle Robinson of Novi, an All-State performer who finished 19th at the Division 1 state meet in a time of 18:29.1.

"Elle is a good runner because she has the dedication and work ethic that it takes to be a good runner," said Novi coach Marsha Reid. "She trains in every aspect. From the conditioning, to nutrition, to the workouts she gives 100 percent all the time."

"She wanted to be All-State so bad and would have been disappointed with less. For me, I could not see someone more deserving of achieving that goal. This was a goal that we set after the race at the state meet last year. Along with breaking the school record (which she did) it was her focus for the entire year."

For her success, Robinson is the All-Area girls cross country Runner of the Year.

The All-Area team was selected based on a consensus of the area's coaches.

BECKY ALLOR, Lakeland: The senior wrapped up her cross country career by finishing 37th overall in the Division 1 state meet, in 18:56.9, her best time of the year. She was 18th in the Oakland County meet this season (20:07), 11th in the KLA Lakes Conference meet (19:31) and fifth in the North Division meet.

"Becky's success is due to her competitive nature," said Lakeland coach John Kababik. "She just doesn't like to lose. ... This was her best year. Everything kind of came together this year."

ABBY CHANDLER, Novi: One of two freshmen to earn All-Area honors, Chandler was the eighth-fastest freshman at the state meet, finishing 52nd in 19:10.4. She was 19th in the county meet (20:19) and eighth in the Kensington Conference meet (20:02). She earned All-Region, All-Conference and All-County honors.

"She was a first-year runner and was an incredible asset to our program this year," Reid said. "She is competitive and shows a bright future."

LAUREN KETTLE, Milford: Kettle was Milford's top runner in only her second season. She was undefeated in dual meets and won the KLA West Division championship (19:17). She was



Novi's Elle Robinson is the All-Area Cross Country Runner of the Year.

sixth at the Lakes Conference meet (19:07), fifth in the regional (19:13) and tenth in the county meet (19:39). She placed 64th in the state meet (19:20.6).

"As just a sophomore, Lauren did a great job of leading our team on the field of competition," said Milford coach Brian Salyers. "She was comfortable at the front of any field and was always near the lead when she unleashed her furious finishing kick."

BROOKE MC MAHAN, Novi: Another standout second-year runner, McMahan improved as the season progressed. She earned All-County honors, finishing 30th at the county meet (20:32). She was also All-Conference and was Novi's second-best runner at the state meet, finishing 48th in 19:07.3.

"She bounced from the number two to the number four spot all year on the team," Reid said. "She is a two-time

state qualifier and as a sophomore is looking to come back for a strong junior year."

GINA MCNAMARA, Northville: As a freshman, and a first-year competitive runner, McNamara led Northville, earning All-Conference honors after placing sixth in the Kensington Conference final (19:57). She ran a season-best 19:36 at the regional to finish 16th.

Northville coach Nancy Smith called McNamara "the best freshman to ever run in the Northville program during her rookie season."

RAEHEL MOORE, Lakeland: The sophomore, first-year runner posted a season-best time of 19:44. She finished eighth in the North Division meet and 15th at the Lakes Conference meet (19:48). Moore was 48th in the county (21:08) and 141st at the state meet (20:07.1).

"She just had a remarkable year," said



Wildcat Brooke McMahan ran her way onto the All-Area First Team.

Kababik. "She was Miss Consistency. She never had a bad race the entire season. She has a great future in the next couple years."

ELLE ROBINSON, Novi: In addition to her All-State honors, Robinson also earned All-Region, All-County and All-Conference notice. She finished eighth in the county meet (19:37.22) and fourth in the KLA Kensington Conference meet (19:43). But her numbers don't tell the whole story, according to her coach.

"She's the real deal, an all-around leader," Reid said. "One of her biggest accomplishments has been her contribution to leading this team to the state meet."

Of all Robinson's successes, "the best and the biggest was how she led as a captain and provided the leadership through running and encouragement," Reid said. "She has helped set the tone and set the bar for future teams."

Robinson, Reid added, is the best runner she's seen at Novi.

"I honestly cannot think of a more dedicated runner that I have coached. The part about her being a senior is that I will constantly be looking for another Elle. The runners that come after her will have big shoes to fill."

Robinson is undecided about running in college because she wants to focus on academics.

Minor amounts become bigger problems

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS KLEBBA

During some casual conversation with a long time close friend, top personal trainer and one of the most disciplined people I have ever known, I made the serious mistake of complaining about my weight gain of about five pounds from a year ago.

Robert, (the trainer) listened carefully as I explained I was turning 50 in about eight months and my metabolism seems to be changing. I had some sore joints so my workouts were a little less frequent - job, life, family, the list went on and on - while Robert just looked and nodded. Waiting for a sympathetic response he just thought for a moment and then simply said, "About a half a cookie per day too much." I looked at him and said, "What?" He continued, "Yep, about 47 calories over your limit per day."

My past personal training experience flooded back and I soon understood his simple, yet disturbing truth. I won't bore you with the math, (my wife says no one cares anyway) but with the undisputable laws of weight gain reduced

FITNESS

to simple math; for me to gain five pounds in a year, the measly 47 calories on average over what I needed to maintain my past weight, was the real and ONLY reason I was five pounds heavier. FORTY-SEVEN CALORIES! I could have passed on that half of a cookie, half of a glass of wine, one extra bite of mashed potatoes ... 47 little calories per day.

I share this simple truth with you today to not only remind you of small changes that can make a big difference but also to help you as you become inundated with the annual weight loss gimmicks, gadgets, and formulas. You know the ones guaranteed to help you lose weight and look like that model in the advertising. Maybe this year you can focus as I am on reducing just 47 calories a day and this time next year I will be at least five pounds lighter. Add a little exercise and it quickly becomes 10 or more pounds. Have a healthy 2009!

This column was written by fitness expert Chris Klebba. Chris owns and operates Planet Fitness in Northville and Waterford, and is a regular columnist and public speaker. For more information call 248-449-7634 or go to www.planetfitness.com.

Connor Caldwell wins title at S. Lyon Invite

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcats competed at the South Lyon tournament Saturday. Four Novi wrestlers medaled.

Connor Caldwell captured the title at 119 pounds. He beat South Lyon's Jordan Schafer 7-4 in the finals.

"He is wrestling well and we expect good things from him the rest of the

year," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "He is a junior who is a returning regional qualifier."

Clayton Caldwell wrestled to a third-place finish at 135. Clayton was also a regional qualifier last year.

Placing fourth were Shabaig Sidhu at 112 and Ryan Pollard at 125.

CC WRESTLING

The Shamrocks competed at the

ROUNDUP

Tournament of Champions on Dec. 30 in Goodrich.

Alec Mooradian highlighted the meet for the Shamrocks with a title at 112 pounds. He went 3-0 and earned the Most Outstanding Wrestler for Lower Weights honor.

Trevor O'Connor (3-2) had the next

highest finish for CC with fourth place at 152 pounds.

CC HOCKEY

The Shamrocks (6-1-1) skated past Grosse Pointe North 3-1 Saturday to open the 2009 calendar portion of the schedule.

Tony Thomas netted two goals and Brent Darnell dished out three assists to lead the offense.

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From Duck Lake to Yost Arena

By Mike Rosenbaum
Staff Writer

Local hockey fans probably don't have many fond memories of goaltender Ed Belfour, who was a fierce rival of the Red Wings, particularly when he starred for the Chicago Black Hawks.

But University of Michigan hockey followers might want to drop "Eddie the Eagle" a thank-you card for indirectly helping bolster the Wolverines' defense this season, by inspiring Huron Valley native Bryan Hogan to become a goalie.

Hogan began playing hockey around age five, as a forward, a position he enjoyed — until he met Belfour via a family friend. The future NHL star was then playing for Saginaw of the International Hockey League. Hogan doesn't recall a specific moment when he decided to make the position switch, but says Belfour sparked his interest and "definitely just got me into it."

This season, Hogan is Michigan's top goalie, posting an 11-1 record with a 1.95 goals against average and 91.7 save percentage entering this weekend's contests. Hogan recently posted his second shutout of the season, against Michigan Tech, in the Great Lakes Invitational Tournament opener. Hogan then stopped 19 of 20 shots in a 5-1 victory over Michigan State in the GLI final to earn first team All-Tournament honors, as well as CCHA Goaltender of the Week notice.

Hogan, a sophomore, began the season rotating with senior Billy Sauer. Hogan's season highlights include a victory over then top-ranked Minnesota and three wins against MSU. It was the home-and-home series with the Spartans on Dec. 5-6, in which Hogan started both games, that marked his emergence as the team's unquestioned number one netminder.

"The Michigan State weekend was pretty cool and exciting," Hogan says. "I never thought of playing in a rivalry game like that. It was so big and having a chance to play in that was something else."

The road that took Hogan to that MSU series included a few twists. The son of long-time Walled Lake Central hockey coach Jim Hogan, Bryan spent his early hockey days playing on local rinks and on nearby Duck Lake. He attended Lakeland High briefly, then transferred to Catholic Central, where he led the Shamrocks to the 2005 state championship as a sophomore. He was then drafted by Lincoln

of the U.S. Hockey League and spent two seasons with the Stars. It was there that he caught the attention of Michigan, as well as other notable hockey schools including Wisconsin, Bowling Green and Lake Superior State. Hogan committed to Michigan after his first year in Lincoln and signed with the Wolverines the following year.

"Michigan was one of the best programs in the country — all the history behind it," Hogan says. "It was a really easy choice to make as soon as I heard that they were interested in me. I had never dreamed of playing there, but as soon as I heard that they were asking for me to come there, I jumped on it right away. I had a few other schools that were looking at me at the time that were good schools as well, but there was no question in my mind that I wanted to go to Michigan."

Slated to see some action as Sauer's backup last season, Hogan contracted mononucleosis and missed almost all the season.

He made his debut against Ohio State and quickly faced an unusual baptism of fire — the first shot he saw was a penalty shot, which he stopped.

"It was definitely a fun time and experience playing in that game," Hogan recalls. "It definitely was an eye-opener to me and my family, thinking I would never play there and all of the sudden I'm there in a game and I have a penalty shot for my first shot."

After playing in just five regular season games, Hogan received another surprise when he was thrust into the NCAA semifinal contest against Notre Dame, when Michigan coach Red Berenson pulled Sauer with the Wolverines trailing. With his father watching from the stands, Hogan permitted just one goal in regulation to help U-M battle back to tie the contest, but then he allowed the overtime game-winner.

Playing in the semifinal "had my dad on the edge of his seat, for sure," Hogan says. "He wasn't expecting that. I didn't really have time to think that much about it. It was just spur of the moment and playing in front of that many people... on (national) TV, stuff like that, and me not having a lot of experience in college hockey, to be thrown in the mix like that was pretty exciting. I like playing with a lot of pressure behind me because it gets me going. But it was an experience I'll take with me forever and hopefully I can do this (again) down the road, eventually, knock



By MICHAEL MEDIA RELATIONS

Highland native Bryan Hogan has emerged as the No. 1 netminder for the University of Michigan this season.

on wood." To prepare for his sophomore season, Hogan says, he wanted to "work really hard to get the starting job. That's every backup goalie's position, they want to be the man. Right now it could change back and forth at any time. All I can do is keep working hard. My expectations are just, do whatever I can and not worry about the little things, outside, what people are saying and other stuff. Just focus on doing what I can do to control the outcome."

Despite his success, Hogan promises he won't become satisfied with the status quo. "I always think I could be better than what I'm currently doing," he explains. "I never really settle on anything. I think (my play is) OK. Of course, anything can be better, but it's OK. I look to improve coming up in the second half of the season."

For those not familiar with the game, it is similar to football except it has a continuous flow more like hockey but without the player substitutions. Indoor practices will begin in February and games are played outdoors from April and throughout May. Approximate cost for the season is \$200 which includes a rugby kit (shorts, socks, jersey) and membership to USA Rugby. A sign up meeting is 7 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Northville Public Library for all interested players and parents. The Knights team is open to all high-school age students in the area.

For more details contact Richard Mackie at (248) 259-5865.

Looking ahead to the second half of the season, which begins this weekend when U-M plays host to Miami (Ohio), Hogan hopes to "just give the team a chance to win every night. And then take it step-by-step and game-by-game to hopefully win the national championship."

SPORTS SHORTS

NOVI BOOSTER MEETING SET

The next Novi Athletic Booster meeting will be 7 p.m. Jan. 14 in room 160 at the Novi High School. Meetings cover the various fundraising efforts of the Boosters along with updates on athletics at the high school and middle school.

The Novi Athletic Boosters raise funds to support Novi Without a Doubt student athletes at the Novi High School and Novi Middle School. Proceeds are used to purchase uniforms, equipment, strength training and conditioning so that more students can participate in Novi athletics at a higher level.

KNIGHTS RUGBY NEEDS PLAYERS

The Knights Rugby team is looking for high school players to join the team for the upcoming 2009 season. Previous experience is not required and full instruction will be given. The team, sponsored by the Detroit Tri. Jesmen Rugby Club, is in its 12th season.

For those not familiar with the game, it is similar to football except it has a continuous flow more like hockey but without the player substitutions. Indoor practices will begin in February and games are played outdoors from April and throughout May. Approximate cost for the season is \$200 which includes a rugby kit (shorts, socks, jersey) and membership to USA Rugby. A sign up meeting is 7 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Northville Public Library for all interested players and parents. The Knights team is open to all high-school age students in the area.

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The culture of losing

Editor's note: This story was submitted before the holidays but was unable to run due to space issues.

By Sean Bak

As they just seemed to be gathering steam toward 0-16. So often, a team having a great year is called a team of destiny. Are the Lions the antithetical team of destiny?

That night, I watch my 6-year-old son cry after I beat him (for only the first time) in paper football. It reminds me how much losing can hurt. While on one hand, I am glad he has the desire to win, I also wonder what makes him take it so hard. There is a large body of research that shows losing not only produces emotional pain but actual physiologic changes that can become more severe with chronic

losing. Could Lionization be a real, physiologic phenomenon?

In a recent Canadian study, Olympic-level swimmers were shown videos of their own losing races while dynamic MRI of their brains were recorded. Brainwave activation similar to that seen in people with clinical depression was noted in the majority of the athletes (none of whom had any previous history of depression). One other area of the brain showed altered activity during this exercise. The portions of the brain corresponding to muscles utilized during swimming were noticeably suppressed. The athletes then underwent therapy sessions and subsequent viewings of their defeats resulted in less emotional

response and more appropriate signals in the motor portion of their brains.

Another study out of Florida State University showed suppressed testosterone levels in males who found themselves on the losing end of a given competitive situation. No hormonal difference was noticed between female winners and losers. So what does all this research mean? Maybe nothing. Maybe all it means is that WNBA teams are less prone to losing streaks. But these studies do seem to show not only a psychological aspect but also a physiologic aspect to losing.

Amongst sports psychologists (and most athletic coaches for that matter), there is also a school

of thought that some people are hard-wired to lose while some are born winners. The difference lies in how athletes respond to pressure situations. There are those who worry about not losing and tighten up, while others thrive under pressure and play to win. Think Bill Buckner and routine ground balls as opposed to Kirk Gibson in the '88 World Series. Greg Norman and 12-foot putts vs. Tiger Woods on a bum knee.

Perpetual losing leads to trying too hard which usually translates in the athletic arena to thinking too much. The goal is to play with instinct, let it flow. The best way of doing so is to have fun. Losing is not fun and therefore a losing streak is like a vicious cycle in which the more you lose, the less fun you have and the tighter you get. How do you break that cycle?

Emotion is one of the few elements of sport that can jar an athlete from the cycle of losing. Emotion helps the athlete avoid thinking and resume playing on instinct. This is why coaches and general managers so frequently "shake things up" and change the coach, change the personnel, change the lineup.

The rationale is not only to find a lineup that will be effective but also to show the team out of its emotional downward spiral and hopefully provoke some productive emotion, the key word being productive. Dr. Sean Bak is a Novi resident and an orthopedic surgeon.

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WEEK #19 GAMES DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2009

Baltimore at Tennessee
Arizona at Carolina

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009

Philadelphia at New York Giants
San Diego at Pittsburgh

Novi Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Big Boy

A group of volunteers, the National Day of Service, is answering the call to service by launching a Breakfast & Blankets Drive to benefit area residents in need. The group seeks donations of new blankets and non-perishable foods, especially breakfast items that don't require eggs or milk, such as hot cereals, pancake mix and breakfast bars. Drop-off boxes will be located at several sites including the Novi Big Boy at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads. The drive will take place Jan. 9-18. Donations may also be made by calling Susan at (248) 374-3992 or Connie at (248) 347-1257.

Sports Club of Novi

The Sports Club of Novi is offering a free 30-day, no obligation membership until Jan. 31. Located at 42500 Arena Drive, the fitness

center includes cardio equipment with personal entertainment systems; resistance and free weight equipment; state-of-the-art yoga studio and classes; Stott Pilates mat classes; 12 tennis courts; an eight-lane, 25-meter lap pool; individual steam, sauna and whirlpool rooms for men and women; luxurious, safe and secure locker rooms with towels; cool down cafe; and a kids center is available. Call (248) 735-8850.

Rock Financial Showplace

Walleye New Orleans anyone? "Dixie" Dave Minar will show how to prepare the delectable fare through daily demonstrations at the Ultimate Fishing Show Jan. 8-11 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.

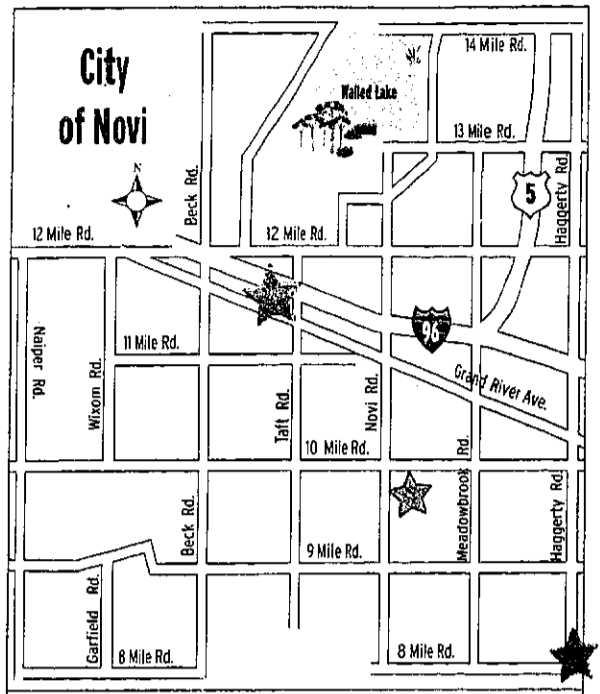
owner. The cost of the Class is \$10 in advance (must register by Jan. 9) or \$15 at the door. Call (248) 473-5566.

SALES

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

CLASSES

Yarmak & Company
Join us for our SMALL BUSINESS BOOT CAMP: SERIES 2 "CAN'T MISS BUSINESS TAX CLASS." This class will be geared toward the small business



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Located on the lower level near Center Court

Rojo Mexican Bistro
Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk
(248) 374-4600
44375 Twelve Mile Road

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Essence of Beauty

Q. Who is behind Body Essence Laser Centers of Novi?

A. Andy Sinishtaj, founder and CEO

Q. Your hometown?

A. Rochester

Q. When did this location open?

A. May 2008

Q. How many employees do you have?

A. Nine

Q. Your business specialty?

A. Non surgical, anti-aging treatments and laser hair removal

Q. Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

A. Body Essence Laser Centers is a cosmetic center that offers very affordable solutions for hair removal and anti-aging services. Our most popular services are the laser-based treatments. The IPL PhotoFacial is beneficial to everyone from the average teenager dealing with acne and acne scarring to men and women dealing with sun damage, sun spots and rosacea. Other services include:

- Laser Genesis. This is a great treatment for those who suffer from broken capillaries, redness and flushing of the skin, and just an overall dull complexion. Laser treatments have an added benefit of stimulating collagen production, giving the skin a tighter, more youthful



appearance.

- Skin tightening. This is another great service that we offer. This laser operates at a special wavelength that targets the deeper layers of the skin. This in turn causes the collagen to contract immediately while stimulating new collagen production. The results are long lasting and actually get better even weeks after treatment as the stimulated collagen is released.

- Microdermabrasion and chemical peels. These are great for the quick "lunch hour" treatment. Perfect for exfoliating the skin to reveal the healthy vibrant skin underneath. If you mention this article, receive a Microdermabrasion for \$25.

Q. What makes your business unique?

A. I would have to say our focus on client results. We've invested a lot of time, money and resources to ensure that we can meet our clients expectations. Our estheticians have between seven-12 years of experience.

Q. How did you first decide to open

the business?

A. My first experience with this industry was when I purchased a laser hair removal package from a local company roughly four years ago. In reality, the treatments were not as effective as I had hoped. About a year later I had visited a buddy in Seattle who also owns a medical spa. His business was doing great and after talking to him about the results I had before, he explained in great detail why results can vary so much. This was when the first thought of opening my own cosmetic center entered my mind. Now more than two years later and countless hours of researching and planning, we opened Body Essence Laser Centers. We know that many different factors can come into play that affect the outcome of a treatment. The most common include type of equipment used, the settings during treatment and the experience of the esthetician. With those three problems solved, we are very confident in our ability to deliver what we promise.

CHAMBER CHAT

■ The Economic Forecast Luncheon will take place 11:30 a.m. today at the Hilton Garden Inn at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 27355 Cabaret Dr. The event is sponsored by Lotus Bank and Yarmak & Co. Certified Public Accountants. Call (248) 349-3743. The cost is \$30 at the door.

■ The Business to Business Breakfast 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.

■ After 5 Networking at Gina Agosta Salon 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20 in the

Pleasant Run Plaza, 39831 Grand River Ave. Join us for networking, food, drink, raffles, specials/promos and mini spa services. Register online at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743. Pre-registration is \$15 and \$20 at the door.

■ Sponsors are needed for the 10th Annual Threads of Power scheduled for Feb. 11. All sponsors will be listed in the event program, media advertising, e-mail blasts and the Chamber Web site with a link to the sponsor's site. Visit www.novichamber.com for more information.

■ 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 at Newport Furnishings

- Sales Leads Group 3 - 8:30 a.m. Jan. 13 at Picasso Cafe
- ECHO - noon Jan. 13 at Bar Louie

- The Race in Amazing Novi - a new opportunity to help Rotary of Novi put on a fun community event and raise money for some good causes. Contact gsobotta@finlan.com.

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities. For membership information, visit our Web site at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

James P. Ryan

After more than 45 years in the profession of architecture, including the last 30 years at the helm of JPRA Architects in Novi, James P. Ryan has retired from active practice as of Jan. 1. He will continue to maintain an office within JPRA, the firm he started in 1978, and contribute his expertise from time to time as commissions or special projects may require. Ryan will retain the title of Chairman Emeritus and continue representing JPRA in industry and professional organizations, such as the International Council of Shopping Centers, Urban Land Institute and American Institute of Architects. Under Ryan's leadership, JPRA has grown into one of the leading design firms involved in national and international retail projects, acclaimed for its design contributions to the retail industry.

As JPRA continues its transition into the future, the current Chairman and CEO, James Grigsby, holds steadfast to the core values of passion, creativity, collaboration and pursuit of excellence in architecture laid down by Ryan.

JPRA Architects (JPRA) is a prominent 55-person architectural firm headquartered in Novi. The firm's work in the commercial sector encompasses both new construction and renovation projects including mainstreet, lifestyle, urban, mixed-use, entertainment and regional retail centers. For more information, visit: www.jptra.com



Sanjay Gupta

President-elect Barack Obama has approached CNN's chief medical correspondent, Sanjay Gupta, to be the country's next surgeon general, the cable news network said today. Gupta, who grew up Novi, earned his college and medical degrees from the University of Michigan. Gupta hosts "House Call" on CNN, contributes reports to CBS News and writes a column for Time magazine. He is a neurosurgeon and is on the faculty at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. During the Clinton administration, he was a White House fellow and special adviser to then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.



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