

Shamrocks celebrate state title in hockey - Sports, B1

THURSDAY
March 19
2009

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY
3/19/09

Hometown Weeklies
Volume 53
Number 43
50 CENTS

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



Novi photo competition winners announced
Neighbors, A19

NOVI NUTSHELL 3-Day kickoff

Men and women dedicated to breast cancer research, education and prevention will participate in a Training Kickoff Event from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk in Novi. The special happening is a precursor to the 2009 Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60-mile walk scheduled for Aug. 14-16. The day's festivities will include three- and five-mile training walks, training clinics on proper stretching, warm-up techniques and injury prevention, along with a fashion show to showcase the latest in running and walking footwear and apparel. Proceeds raised from the Breast Cancer 3-Day will benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. For more information, visit www.the3day.org.

It's bunny time

The Easter Bunny will arrive at Twelve Oaks Mall Saturday and stay through April 11. The Easter Bunny will be located in the Central Park Garden, located in the lower level center court from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, with brief breaks throughout the day. For more information, visit www.shop12oak.com.

Book battle

From 1-2 p.m. this Saturday the Novi Public Library will host its sixth annual Battle of the Books at the Novi Civic Center. Twelve teams of fifth- and sixth-graders will compete for top honors in a contest that will challenge their recall and understanding of six books they've read since Dec. 15.

Mime show

Providence Park Hospital and Novi Community Education presents Rob Reider's Mime Show at 7 p.m. Friday at the Novi Middle School, 49000 11 Mile Road. The event is general admission and individual tickets are \$5. For more information, call (248) 449-1206.

Heroin: The demon among us

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

A charcoal drawing dated Christmas 2003 hangs on the dining room wall of Suzanne Okun's Country Place condominium, outlining the face of a 15-year-old boy who had

his whole life ahead of him. He was a straight-A student who wore the No. 50 for Wildcat football. A boy who had aspirations of becoming an attorney. But, if you look

closer, behind the almond-shaped eyes and charming smile, is a troubled boy whose last years of life were spent battling the demons of addiction.

"He hadn't gotten in trouble yet, but you could see that was where he was heading," Okun said of the sketch. Joshua Charles Short, or "Joshie" as Okun says when referring to her only child, died Dec. 11, 2008, of a drug overdose. He was 20.

"Josh was brilliant. You'd never know the kid was an addict," Okun said. "He had that charismatic personality, he could hide anything."

According to Novi police Chief David Molloy, Short was one of five heroin-related deaths in Novi since 2006.

"The kids, they're not snorting heroin, they are actually injecting it," he



Suzanne Okun places her hand on a photo of her with her only son, Joshua Short. Short died in December 2008 of a heroin overdose. He was 20.

said. "Kids are traveling with candles, spoons ... anything they can use to melt the heroin down."

Okun refuses to hide the truth of her son's death. "I'm not going to let my son's memory just fade away," she said.

Shooting up

Heroin is a highly addictive, illegal opiate drug, which users snort, smoke and inject, to achieve a feeling of euphoria.

According to the National Drug Threat Assessment for 2007 issued by the National Drug Intelligence Center, there is little change in the

overall amount of heroin use, but an increasing number of high-school and college-age students abusing the drug.

"My first 10 years on the bench, I saw maybe two heroin cases. This week alone, I've seen four," said 52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie. "It's more fashionable than it was five years ago. My guess is that heroin is becoming cheap again, and there's been an increase in production."

"It used to be an urban drug, but now it's a suburban drug too." The 52-1 District Court handles cases from Novi, Commerce, Wixom,

Walled Lake, South Lyon, Milford, Highland and Wolverine Lake.

Studies show a common effect of heroin is the addiction itself. A tolerance to the drug develops, causing users to take more heroin to achieve the desired euphoric effect.

"I've heard people say kids take it once and they're hooked," Okun said.

From gateways to graves

Less than one year before Josh's tragic death, another Novi mother, Sandy, lost her 20-year-old son, Kyle, to a heroin overdose.

Please see **HEROIN, A6**

Novi-based ITC proposes wind energy plan

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Novi-based ITC expects to lead the nation into the next century by tapping into the renewable wind energy industry with projects such as the Green Power Express.

"We continue to be well-positioned for continued growth," said ITC executive vice president and chief business officer Linda Blair.

During the past year, the independent electricity transmission company designed a project to address the country's

renewable energy concerns, as well as improve infrastructure of the transmission grid by increasing reliability and eliminating congestion.

"This is directly in line with President Obama's vision," Blair said. "The newest issue is this policy in the country to move toward renewable energy resources, reducing reliance on foreign oil and carbon emissions."

Green Power Express is a network of 3,000-miles of extra high-voltage transmission lines that would transmit power from wind-abun-

dant regions throughout the Midwest. The \$12 billion project will network through portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

"Everybody loves renewable energy right now," said Terry Harvill, vice president of energy policy. "Renewable energy and transmission go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other."

To accommodate the project, additional lines would be

Please see **ENERGY, A16**



ITC Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer Linda Blair, right, and Terry Harvill, vice president of energy policy, look forward to a future where the Novi-based transmission company can transport renewable wind energy.

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Novi goes for the green

District hosts largest fund-raising event this weekend

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Educational Foundation invites members

of the community to its third annual signature event, The 2009 Green Gala.

The gala is the foundation's largest fund-raising event of the year and takes place Saturday at the Rock Financial Showplace.

Event organizers said the evening will combine camaraderie

NEF GREEN GALA

Saturday, March 21
7 p.m. to midnight
Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave.
Tickets \$60 per person
For more information, call (248) 449-1206

with fun, food, chance and dance — all benefitting Novi Community Schools' students. Last year, nearly \$40,000 was raised for the Foundation as a result of the event and 21 grants were awarded throughout the district.

Chairman Warren Vallerand said the foundation is in its 22nd year of funding educational opportunities for Novi

Please see **GREEN, A16**

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EDUCATION

Life lessons

District students experience adulthood during Career Day event

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

In one afternoon, Max Reed experienced a lifetime of economic opportunities.

The eighth-grader learned if he wants to pay his bills as an adult, engineering would be a great college major.

"I'm thinking I want to choose this as a career," Reed said.

During the Novi Middle School annual Career Day event, the student went through an adult, economic simulation experience where he was given the life of a single civil engineer with no children.

He went through the Reality Store, stopping at various stations to see how expensive life could be.

"This is a great experience," said Marlene Danol with the Canton Business & Professional Women organization.

Danol helped the students learn their salaries and the dollar amount they would have to live off following taxes, according to their appointed profession.

After students learned their salaries, they would make housing choices.

Student Stephanie Vickers was a married writer with two small children for the day. She chose a three-bedroom apartment for her home.

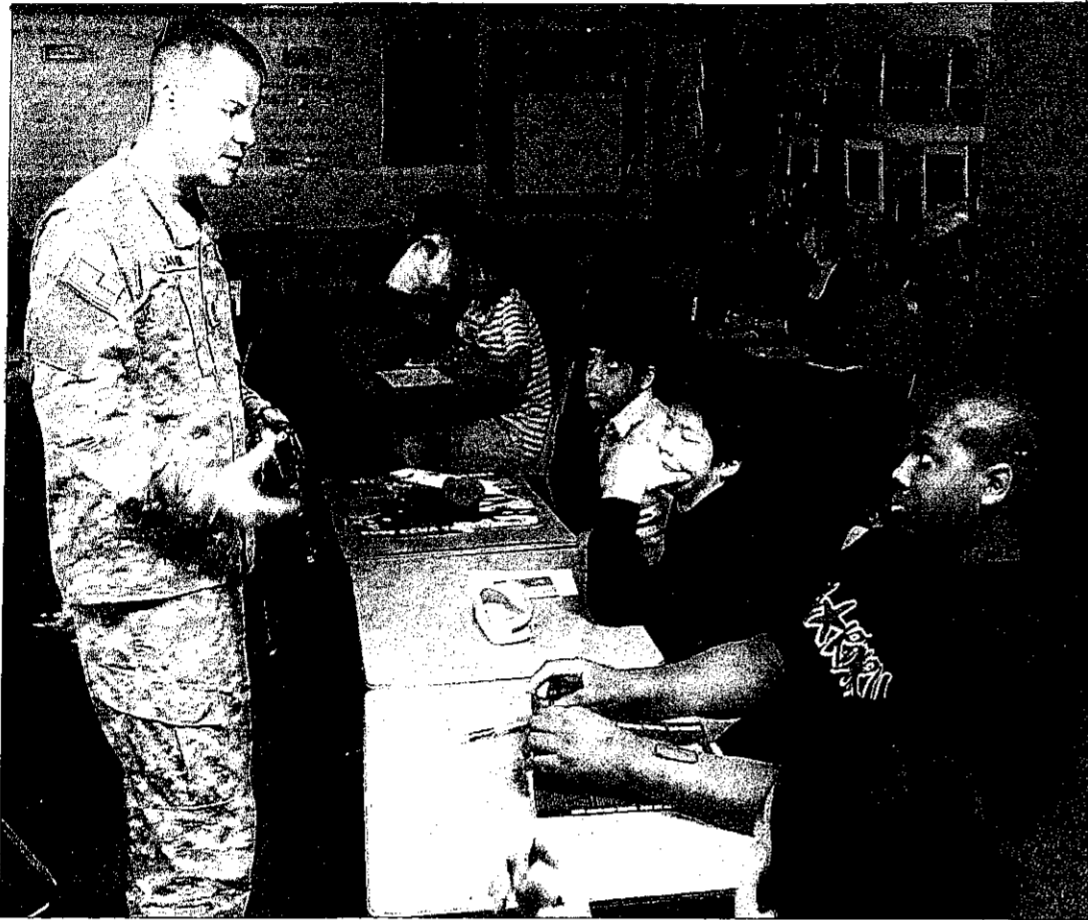
"I learned a house is much pricier, and I don't have that much money," she said.

Students made choices during the exercise including utilities, home electronics, food and transportation.

Volunteers were on hand helping students find a vehicle appropriate for their adopted lifestyle.

Choices included new or used and buy or lease. And, as most students wanted the Ford Mustang, they had to go with a sedan if they had children.

All participants learned how expensive items like health and life insurance could be if not covered by their career, and experienced a "reality check"



U.S. Army Maj. Ray Casher talks to Novi Middle School students about military careers during last week's Career Day event.

where they received a windfall, like a tax refund, or a pitfall, such as an unexpected home repair.

Savings and investments, travel and entertainment, charitable contributions and medical emergencies were all part of the decisions the students had to make.

"I thought it was pretty fun," said student Jacob Carter. "I learned how to build a budget, and child care costs a lot." Another large component of the Career Day event, funded in-part through a Novi Educational Foundation grant, was group speakers brought to the school offering presenta-

tions to their attentive learners.

Guest speaker Mark Gardner spoke about his previous career as a NASA space suit engineer at NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"The suit itself is like a little mini aircraft," Gardner said. He told the students a spacesuit weighs 250 pounds on earth.

Gardner also instructed the young adults on how they could have an engineering career.

"They're looking for people who are very accomplished," he said.

Requisites NASA looks for, Gardner said, include an engineering degree, being a team player, strong communication skills, a hard work ethic, being a leader and a love for space and adventure.

Other careers explored included how to become a cardiovascular technologist, which

requires two years of college science courses and a two-year vocational specialist degree.

Speaker Jack Cain, Providence Hospital director of invasive cardiology, said starting pay is about \$50,000.

Eighth-grade student Bhavana Tetali attended a career session on becoming a professional athlete.

"It is a very specialized career and many don't know about it," he said.

"It was really helpful information," she said. "I know a lot of people interested in this... you need to have a backup plan just in case."

She said the presentation made the largest impact.

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Novi High School students Ryan Dougherty and Courtney Morelock talk to Novi Middle School students about careers in theatre during last week's Career Day.

HOT JOBS

The United States will add 224,000 openings for accountants and auditors throughout the next decade, for an 18 percent overall increase. Accountants with a master's degree drew a median annual income of \$63,180 in 2007. Other rising careers include nursing administrator, massage therapist and management analyst.

Source: Yahoo! hotjobs

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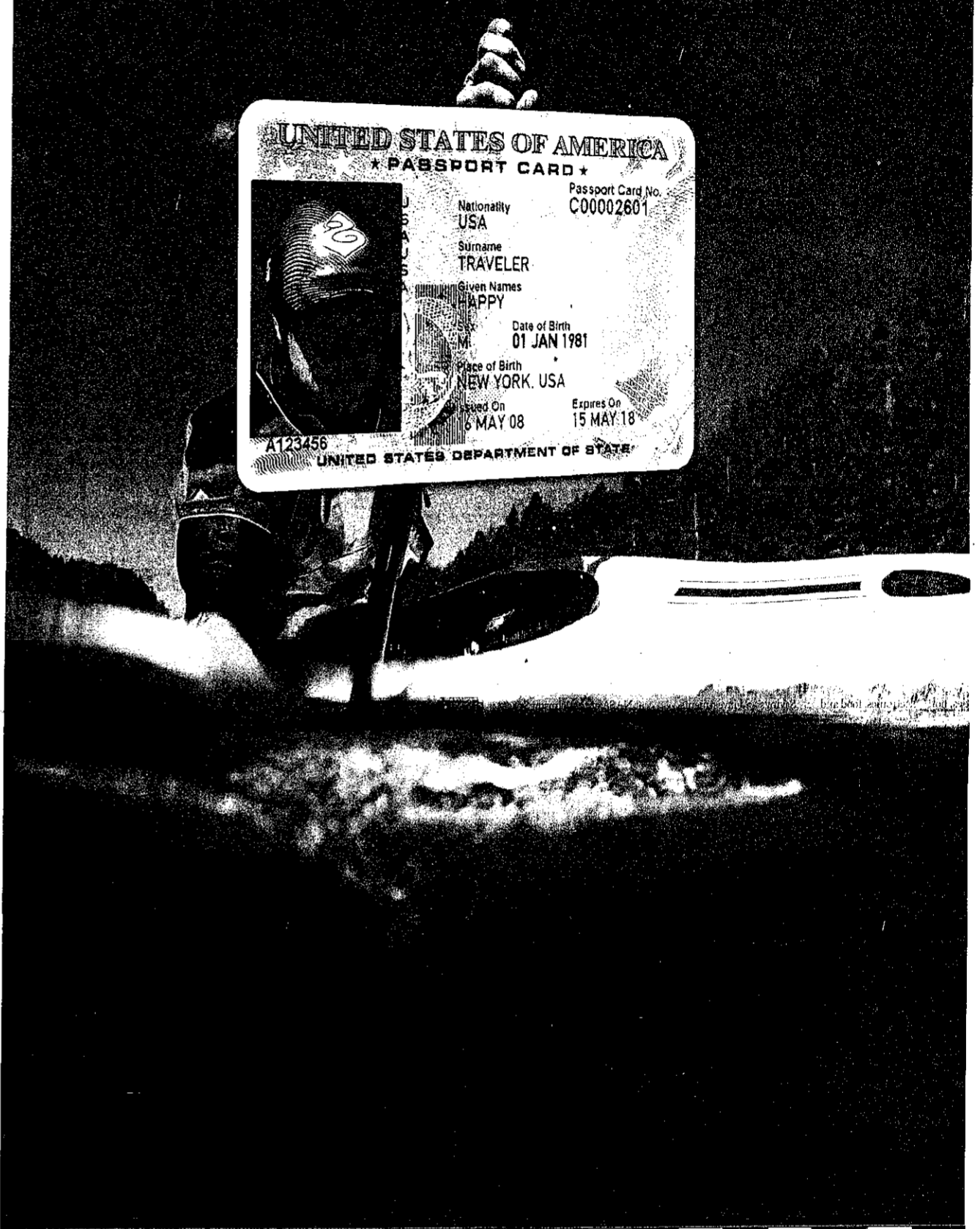
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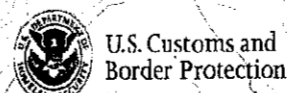
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Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
101 Lafayette
South Lyon, Michigan 48178
Periodical
At South Lyon, Michigan

Subscription Rates:
Inside Counties \$9 for 13 wks. home delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$20 for 13 wks., prepaid. Out of state, \$25 for 13 wks.

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Worship Services
Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday 11:00 AM
Sunday 5:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 PM

The Church Calendar
convened by Pastor Michael
Beane, and co-pastor of
the congregation, Pastor
Debra L. Smith, and
Pastor Emerita, Pastor
Debra L. Smith.

An event held in the
spirit of the church's
mission to love God,
love others, and
share the good news
of the Gospel.

The church's mission is
to love God, love others,
and share the good news
of the Gospel.

OBITUARIES

MAGGIE (BUTNER) ASKINS Of Jackson, MI, age 80, passed away March 10, 2009. Maggie lived in the South Lyon area for 20 years before moving. She is survived by five sons: Giles Carl Askins, Joe (Louis) Askins, James (Cedric) Askins, Wayne Askins, Sam Askins; nine grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Giles Askins, her daughter-in-law Doreen Askins, her parents Louis Butner, Sally P. Butner (Potter), and her siblings Earl Butner, Bill Butner, Lewis Butner, Rose Stewart, Murphy, Ruth Braaten, Dorothy Hoffland, and Ann Reel. A private family service was held. Arrangements by PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon.

DONALD CHARLES SCHMIDT Age 85, of South Lyon, died Thursday, March 12, 2009, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Don was born on January 1, 1924, in Livonia, MI, to Charles and Anna Schmidt. He grew up in South Lyon, MI, where he went to school and worked on the family farm until age 17. He was then drafted into the Army, serving in WWII in Germany at the Battle of the Bulge. His service earned him the Purple Heart, the Bronze Medal of Honor, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. After the war, Don returned home and became a local business owner, played basketball, became a husband and father, and participated locally in the VFW. His interests were vacationing with family "Up North", sports, mechanics, cooking for his family, and tending his garden and lawn. Don is survived by his wife Westlene Schmidt, daughter Nancy Schmidt of South Lyon, son Brian (Amy) Schmidt of Brighton; grandsons: Shawn Chapman and Gabriel Schmidt of Brighton; daughter Dawn Johnson of Howell; step-daughter Eve Graham of St. Johns, Eselle Heit of South Lyon and several nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held on March 21, Saturday, at 1 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. Afterward there will be a reception/buffet at the VFW Hall, 125 E. McHattie St., South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made directly to Westlene Schmidt, and collected at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake St., South Lyon, MI 48178. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

DONALD F. CARNEVALE Age 67, of Highland, died formerly of Livonia, March 12, 2009. He is survived by Carol, his beloved wife of 45 years; children, Louis (Lita), Dana (Bill) Wilgoin, Donald II (Michelle), grandchild, Medley, Andrew, Louis, John, Joseph, Nicholas, Michael; nephew, David (Eileen) Kastura and many loving extended family members and dear friends. A Funeral Mass was said at St. Mary Catholic Church, Milford, March 17, 2009. Fr. Ron Anderson officiated. Burial St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospital. For further information contact Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6845 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

PATRICIA A. COOPER Age 70, of Oscoda, formerly of South Lyon, passed away March 15, 2009. She was born on August 27, 1938, in Detroit, to Harvey and Alice (Fleming) Little. Patricia is survived by her beloved husband of 55 years Wayne Cooper; six children, Vicki (Dany) Fabian, Madona Lehtkamp, Nancy (Arno) Altar, Kimberly Kite, Michael Cooper, Dianne (Stacy) Dunlap; 13 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, her mother Alice Little, and brother James Little. She was preceded in death by her father Harvey Little and brother Donald Little. Visitation was held from 12-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral service was held at 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, South Lyon. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com

HARRY E.B. TUCKER JR. Age 80, of Northville, died March 6, 2009. He is survived by his wife, the late Alida Louise Tucker; four children, Jeffrey (Jeffery) Parko, Diane L. Wessels, Carlton B. Tucker, Dear grandfather of six; Dear brother of Robert E. Tucker. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends. A funeral service was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, Saturday March 14, 2009. Rev. Frank Pies, Jr., Rev. Christopher L. Thomsa officiated. For further information please call 248-684-6845 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

CLARENCE M. DROUILLARD Age 77, died March 7, 2009 at his residence in Northville. Mr. Drouillard was retired from Schroeder College. He is survived by two sons, John (Nelle) and Mike (Wendy) Drouillard; two grand-children, Jonathan and Shannon Drouillard; and three siblings, Ronald Drouillard, Marilyn LeBlance and Donna Sazza and their families. Memorial services were held at the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville on Friday, March 13, 2009. Deacon Don Dugley from Our Lady of Victory officiated. Interment was in Greenwood Memorial Cemetery in Windsor, Canada. Memorial contributions to the U of M Trauma Burn Center, Attn: Susan Polan, 1327 Jones Dr., Suite 107 A, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 would be appreciated.

CATHARINE L. SHERRICK Age 92, died March 5, 2009 in Providence Park Hospital. Mrs. Sherrick was a retired Occupational Therapist. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, dried flower arranging and was the first female bus driver in Plymouth. She is survived by her children: Peter (Ruth) Sherrick and Linda Dorett; four grandchildren, Anne Kubas, Barbara Knighton, Dana Sagrest and Kristine Hayes; and nine great-grandchildren and a sister Doris Close. Services were conducted 11 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2009 at Orchard Hills Baptist Church in Novi. Pastor Jon P. Hix officiated. Interment was in Rural Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the church or the American Cancer Society would be appreciated. Arrangements by the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home.



A portrait of Joshua Charles Short, who played football at Novi High School through his junior year.

"We had the suspicion he was dabbling into things, but not in excess, and certainly not into harder drugs. The whole idea is in an affluent community you don't think your kids are going to get involved with this stuff."

Suzanne Okun talks about her son's battle with drug addiction, and her plans of bringing awareness to the Novi community on the dangers of heroin use.

HEROIN FROM PAGE A1

Kyle, whose last name is being withheld for anonymity, died Jan. 26, 2008. Josh and Kyle were friends. They both began experimenting with gateway drugs at an early age. "The group of kids are not stereotypically how you would think of heroin users to be," said Claudia Walter of Novi Youth Assistance. "These were good kids, these were your neighbors and at some point the drugs took over." Kyle, who was an avid locke player, began smoking marijuana and drinking after losing his father to cancer at 15. By 16, he had his first run-in with the law and received a minor in possession citation. "Sometimes we're criticized for arresting kids for MIFs, but we see a trend of kids starting with these gateway drugs and it seems the progression is to go to heroin," Molloy said. "It doesn't mean that every kid that drinks a beer is going to end up addicted to heroin."

In Josh's case, he too received a minor in possession early on, and was prescribed medication while on probation. "We had the suspicion he was dabbling into things, but not in excess, and certainly not into harder drugs," Okun said. "The whole idea is in an affluent community you don't think your kids are going to get involved with this stuff." Kyle also abused prescription pills, which is what Sandra believes led to the heroin addiction. "No child starts off using drugs with the expectation that they'll get addicted to heroin," said Novi High School guidance counselor Donna Roemer. "It starts off often times with the pills, the Vicodin, the OxyContin."

Along with the painkillers, Molloy said the anti-anxiety medication Xanax is another prescription drug abused by young adults. "I'm concerned about heroin, but I'm more concerned about prescription drug abuse," he said. "That is something parents need to be cognizant of." Certified Adolescent Addiction Counselor Robin Walsh, of Henry Ford Maplegrove Center, believes prescription pills are the second most popular drug among young people today. "I say it cost him \$60 to die," Sandy said. "Traces of marijuana, heroin and cocaine were found in Kyle's system."

"In addition to the deadly health effects, it can also have an effect on the community because of the crimes they are committing to purchase the drugs," said Molloy, noting addicts often commit theft and robbery to pay for their habit. "They're getting money for it somewhere." For Josh, his addiction cost him his dreams. "He wanted to be an attorney. He would have been great," said Okun, noting weeks before his death Josh was accepted to Wayne State University. "I think Josh always thought he could beat it, he could give it up. He made a stupid mistake." Left behind Prior to the night of his December death, Josh had



A portrait of Joshua Charles Short, who played football at Novi High School through his junior year.

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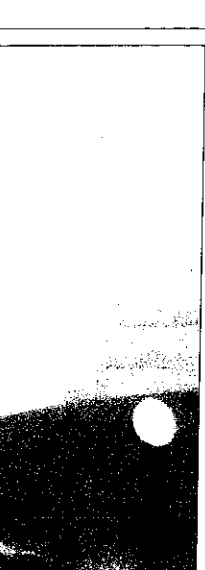


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HECKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HELP NOW Resources Novi Police Department (248) 348-7100 (non-emergency) Novi Youth Assistance (248) 347-0410 Oakland County Office of Substance Abuse Services (248) 858-0001 Prior Authorization and Central Evaluation (PACE) (248) 858-5200 Save Our Youth Task Force (Livonia) saveouryouthaskforce.com na.org

Substance Abuse Inpatient Treatment Facilities Brighton Hospital (800) 523-8198 www.brightonhospital.org Dawn Farm, Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor (734) 485-8725 dawnfarm.org Maplegrove Center, West Bloomfield (248) 661-6100 henryfordhealth.org Oakdale Recovery Center, Canton (734) 397-3088 www.hegira.net Havenview Hospital, Auburn Hills (248) 373-9200 www.psycolutions.com Insight Recovery Center, Clarkston (248) 625-0400 www.therecoverypeople.org

\$110 paycheck from his mother. She found him the next day with \$50 in his pocket. "I say it cost him \$60 to die," Sandy said. "Traces of marijuana, heroin and cocaine were found in Kyle's system."

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SAVVY SENIOR Online Resources for Advice Seeking Caregivers

Dear Savvy Senior, I rely on the Internet for many things but what Web site do you recommend to those caring for an aging parent? Seeking Information There's no shortage of free online resources when it comes to caregivers seeking advice. The question is, which Web sites provide the most practical and comprehensive information and are easy to navigate. TOP CAREGIVING SITES With approximately 32 million Americans serving as caregivers today, the need for fast, useful information has never been higher. While there are dozens of sites that offer good caregiving information, here are a few I've found to be particularly helpful.

AGIS.com: Short for Assist Guide Information Services, this is a fabulous Web resource for caregivers. At www.agis.com you can get information on topics such as home care, daily living aids, long-term care solutions, support services, legal and financial help and more. It also lets you ask questions, links you to other caregivers for support and information, and offers a variety of checklists that suggest tips on what to do as a caregiver and how to do it.

Caring.com: Relatively new on the scene, caring.com is another wonderful site that offers tons of practical information, articles, caregiving-to-do lists, links to local resources and much more. The Family Caregiver Alliance: This is the oldest and perhaps most respected organization that's helped serve the needs of caregivers. They also have a handy Web site (www.caregiver.org) that offers a Family Care Navigator map which lists a broad range of caregiving services in each state.

Family Caregiving 101: Created by the National Family Caregivers Association and the National Alliance for Caregiving, www.familycaregiving101.org is a great site for finding assistance, answers, new ideas and helpful advice for you and the person you're caring for.

AARP: At www.aarp.org/family/caring you can find tips and worksheets on a wide range of issues including long-distance caregiving, as well as access to their Caregiving Tool Kit. Strength for Caring: Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, this site (www.strengthforcaring.com) provides tips sheets on fitness and nutrition for caregivers, balancing work and family, respite care, reducing stress, caring for specific conditions and home safety.

MEDICARE HELP To help with your caregiving/Medicare questions the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently created a new Web site called Ask Medicare. At www.askmedicare.gov/caregivers you can find out what Medicare and Medicaid will cover, search for and compare home care and long-term care options and much more.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVING Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or some other form of dementia can present some unique and difficult challenges. To help, a top resource is the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org), or call (800) 272-3900. It puts caregivers in touch with local resources, support groups, medical professionals and provides caregiving tips to handle every behavior and phase of the disease. Also see the Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center at www.nia.nih.gov/ada/index.cfm.

CANCER CARE If you're caring for a cancer patient, a top Web site is www.cancer.gov, which provides cancer support services including counseling and education, as well as where to find financial assistance and get practical help. You can also call 800-818-4673 and get help over the phone. CARE COORDINATION If you're sharing caregiving responsibilities with other family members, friends or a home care aide there are Web resources that can help you coordinate together. Sites like www.lotsainhelpinghands.com and www.caregiverhelp.com let caregivers post updates about medications being taken, doctor's appointments, meal plans and anything else you want to communicate. These sites can help reduce the stress and time it takes to inform all caregivers involved so something isn't missed or overlooked.

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AGIS.com: Short for Assist Guide Information Services, this is a fabulous Web resource for caregivers. At www.agis.com you can get information on topics such as home care, daily living aids, long-term care solutions, support services, legal and financial help and more. It also lets you ask questions, links you to other caregivers for support and information, and offers a variety of checklists that suggest tips on what to do as a caregiver and how to do it.

Caring.com: Relatively new on the scene, caring.com is another wonderful site that offers tons of practical information, articles, caregiving-to-do lists, links to local resources and much more. The Family Caregiver Alliance: This is the oldest and perhaps most respected organization that's helped serve the needs of caregivers. They also have a handy Web site (www.caregiver.org) that offers a Family Care Navigator map which lists a broad range of caregiving services in each state.

Family Caregiving 101: Created by the National Family Caregivers Association and the National Alliance for Caregiving, www.familycaregiving101.org is a great site for finding assistance, answers, new ideas and helpful advice for you and the person you're caring for.

AARP: At www.aarp.org/family/caring you can find tips and worksheets on a wide range of issues including long-distance caregiving, as well as access to their Caregiving Tool Kit. Strength for Caring: Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, this site (www.strengthforcaring.com) provides tips sheets on fitness and nutrition for caregivers, balancing work and family, respite care, reducing stress, caring for specific conditions and home safety.

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Worship Your Invitation to Brighton, Milford, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, South Lyon, White Lake, Whitmore Lake, Crossroads Community Church, Immanuel Lutheran, Crosspoint Community Church, etc.

The truth about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

There's a great deal of information, and some misinformation, being circulated about the ARRA. We'd like to clarify a few points and offer some suggestions in how you communicate with your community and staff about this very important piece of legislation.

First and foremost, we are appreciative of the financial assistance to schools from the federal government. These dollars will help support existing programs that might otherwise be eliminated or reduced, and create new programs that wouldn't otherwise be possible. Simply stated, we don't know yet how the funding will be divided between K-12 and higher education so it's too early to tell what will be left for discretionary spending.

With that said, there are very important caveats to keep in mind when considering use of these dollars: The rules and regulations for the distribution of these funds aren't complete. No one at this point can say definitively how these funds can be utilized at the district level or how



Hayes

GUEST COLUMN

much will get to the local district. Funding will only be available for the next two years. We recommend that schools avoid using ARRA funds for ongoing programs and/or support ongoing expenses like analogs to what Michigan has done over the last decade. Additionally, use of these funds may in some instances create an obligation on the part of your district to continue programs you started with the ARRA funding. A large portion of the funding is targeted to specific programs

and won't be available for general operating expenditures. There are three major funding "pots" of money that will be distributed nationally. Two of the large pots are for IDEA and Title I programs, which must be used for those purposes and aren't discretionary. The third pot is the state stabilization money that must be used to fund any shortfalls in the budget for K-12, higher education, and community colleges. The shortfall in these areas keeps growing, so it's hard to judge how much, if any, will be available for district discretionary spending.

The ARRA doesn't reflect a "windfall" that will allow schools to maintain all existing programs and/or support ongoing expenses like pay increases. The good news is that a portion of the funds that go to states must be used for maintaining 2009 funding levels. This means that Lansing will use a portion of these funds to avoid the anticipated \$230 million cut to schools for 2009-10. While that is helpful, with schools' costs rising at the rate of inflation,

keeping our funding at existing levels may be a lifeline, but not a fully equipped lifeboat and certainly not a yacht! To be able to assist you with clarity and detail on how these funds may be spent, we'll have to wait until further clarification comes from Washington, and on actions of Michigan's legislature and governor for the portion they control. We believe it's important that school board members, superintendents, all school staff and your community have a realistic view of what the ARRA really means, and we appreciate your assistance in establishing reasonable expectations of what this means to your district.

MASB and MASA will continue to monitor this very important matter and represent your interests in the decision-making processes that will follow. Please contact the legislative departments of either of our organizations for questions or more information.

Kathy Hayes, executive director, MASA
William Hayes, executive director, MASB

Senate to consider vital foreclosure legislation, tax relief

When a residence has been "sold" at a foreclosure sale, homeowners usually have a six-month redemption period to secure the money to save their home. County registers of deeds were allowed to calculate and disclose the amount needed for a homeowner to redeem their home until the law was changed in 2005. So currently, they do not have the authority to release that information.

To find out the redemption amount, homeowners must contact the owner of their mortgage and pay them to provide the information, at a cost of hundreds of dollars. We must provide tools to simplify the process and reduce its cost to homeowners facing foreclosure. That's why I reintroduced a bill to restore the ability of registers of deeds in Oakland, Macomb and Kent counties to calculate and release to the homeowner the dollar amount needed to redeem their home from foreclosure.

Senate Bill 350 is not a mandate that county registers of deeds provide this service, only that they "may" offer the service if they decide to do so. It has been limited to the three counties (Oakland, Macomb and Kent) that have asked to be able to provide the service.

Ruth Johnson, Oakland County clerk and register of deeds, strongly supports the measure. Upon passage of the original bill last year by the Senate, Johnson said, "Families should have every opportunity to save their homes. It's only fair. We used to perform this service, and we could do it for a quarter of the current cost. I wish to thank Sen. Cassis for all her hard work."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

THREE TAX RELIEF BILLS HELP CONSUMERS, HOMEOWNERS AND JOB PROVIDERS

The Senate will soon consider three measures that will reduce the tax burden on Michigan consumers, homeowners and small businesses. The cornerstone is my legislation to provide business tax relief to small and growing businesses.

■ Senate Bill 60 would allow more small businesses to qualify for the 1.8 percent alternative profits tax by increasing the maximum officer compensation and adjusted business income barriers. This vital measure will help retain Michigan's current jobs and jumpstart our economy to create new ones.

As chair of the Senate Finance Committee, I often hear from our locally-owned small businesses about their tax liability skyrocketing under the Michigan Business Tax (MBT). Already struggling to make ends meet in a dire economy, their increased liability has forced them to make the tough decision to scale back and cut jobs, move out of the state or close their doors entirely. Turning around our state must start with bolstering small businesses that provide roughly 80 percent of the jobs in Michigan.

The bill also would allow startup businesses to grow and prosper. It expands eligibility for the Michigan Entrepreneurial Exemption (ME-2) and extends the credit for an additional three years. This will permit a business to eliminate its MBT liability attributable to increased employment costs through 2013. To qualify, a company would need to create at least eight jobs and make a capital investment of \$500,000.

■ Another measure of mine, Senate Bill 191, increases the homestead property income tax credit from \$1,200 to \$1,300 and allows more Michigan homeowners to

qualify for the full credit. This would be the first change to the credit in 25 years. The bill also provides an additional \$50 increase for seniors or totally disabled individuals and indexes the credit value to inflation. In these difficult economic times tax relief for homeowners is very important.

■ A third tax relief measure to be considered by the Senate is SB 201, sponsored by Sen. Alan Sankhorn, R-Richmond. The bill would help reduce the cost of purchasing a new or used vehicle. Currently, when an individual buys a new or used car, the state sales tax is applied to the full sales price of the vehicle.

Under SB 201, the state's 6 percent sales tax would be applied only to the difference between the price of a new car and the value of a trade-in. The bill would also apply to the purchase of a new or used boat, recreational vehicle, snowmobile or heavy machinery.

Bringing Michigan's sales tax structure in line with 35 other states, including all of our neighboring states will help local job providers, like Michigan CAT, to better compete. The company is a family-owned business located in Novi that sells and services construction machinery produced by Caterpillar, Inc.

These four bills will help us revitalize our housing market, our economy, and our hope for the future of our great state. I urge my legislative colleagues to swiftly approve these important measures.

For more information, visit my Web site at www.SenatorNancyCassis.com. Or contact me toll free at (888) 38-NANCY.

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

NORTHVILLE AREA CHURCH EVENTS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0991 or visit firstpresby-noville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30, 11 a.m.
Walking In the Park
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. every Saturday

LOCATION: Meet at the Visitor's Center of Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads)
DETAILS: Group meets for lunch afterwards.
CONTACT: Sue (734) 459-0016
Single Place Ministries
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. social time: 7:45 p.m.

ONE PINE CHURCH
LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
opening: 8-9 p.m. program, every Thursday.
DETAILS: Informative and entertaining programs of interest to singles, \$5 per person. Check Web site for details singleplace.org.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST OF NORTHVILLE
A Stephen Ministry church
LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Coffee hour at 11 a.m.
Healing Service
TIME/DATE: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month
Bible Study
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. first and third Thursday of every month
DETAILS: All women seeking to strengthen their faith and connect with other women are invited to attend, irrespective of church affiliation. Cost is \$25 per four-week session. Sign up for the entire year for only \$60. Dinner is served and child care is available on request.
Logos Youth Club
TIME/DATE: 5:15-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday, through May.
DETAILS: For children in grades 4-12. Every week this four part program includes Bible study, dinner, choir/worship and activities.

UNITED METHODIST
LOCATION: 4571 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnov1.com
Please see CHURCH, A13

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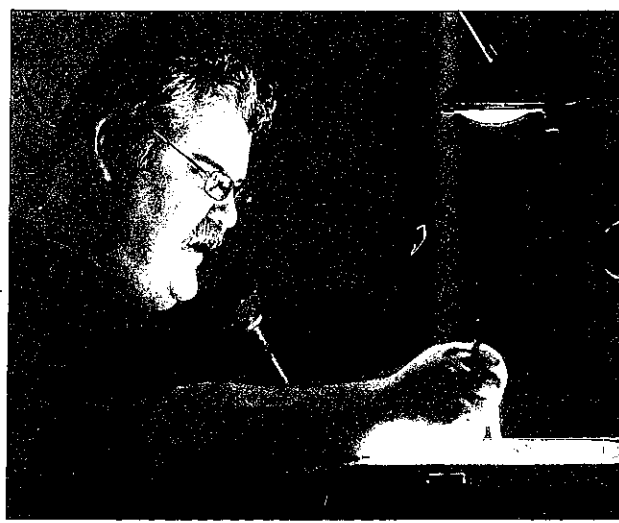
Presented by
HOSPICE of michigan

Except for Six—a documentary that will change the way you think about the end of life.
Watch it on Detroit Public Television (Check your local listings):
Mon., Mar. 23, 9 - 10 pm & Sun., Mar. 29, 4:30 - 5:30 pm. View the trailer: www.hom.org

3-D Art

Illustrator Mark Kistler draws on an overhead projector while teaching a 3-D illustrating class at Novi's Parkview Elementary School. Kistler taught a number of assemblies that day, going step-by-step through a series of assignments that gave kids, staff and parents an idea of how to create art in three dimensions.

JOHN HENDER: STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



CLASS NOTES

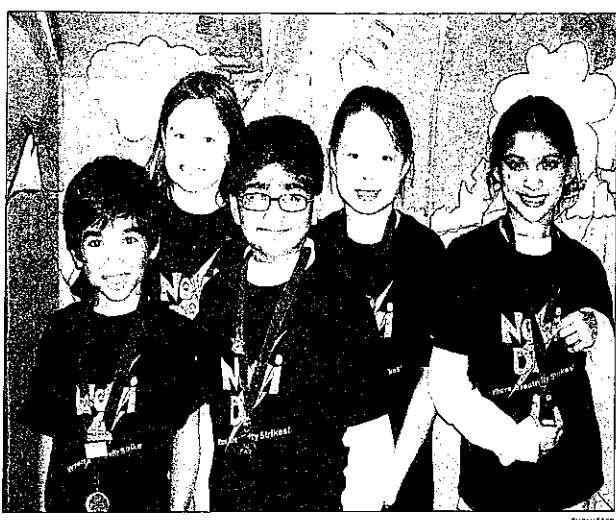
Quilters Needed

Novi Middle School students donated T-shirts for making a Spirit Quilt a few years ago. The quilt was about 18-by-36 feet. And now it is time to make a new quilt for this year. The project will be a Celebration of Diversity quilt representing the countries of origin of the school's student body. Project organizers would love to involve the community, parents and grandparents in the making of this intergenerational-international pride quilt. Each quilted, country-titled block would be made by one student and one community member after school, here at Novi Middle School. Yes, this is an adventurous project, but with our community's help we are up for the challenge. Assistant sewers are also needed. If you can help, contact Novi Middle School teacher

and volunteer club sponsor, Judy Williams at jwilliams@novi.k12.mi.us.

Forgotten Math Seminar for Parents

Area residents are invited to attend the new Sylvan Seminar "Forgotten Math for Parents." The interactive 90-minute seminar will help you overcome your math fears—so homework time with your child will be fun, not frightful. You will move from math station to math station, revisiting some of the skills you may have forgotten over time. Sylvan math teachers will put you on the right path. It is a fun way to show your child that learning is a life-long process. The free seminar will be held 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29 at Sylvan Learning of Novi, 22034 Novi Road.



Destination Imagination

The Novi Destination Imagination (DI) Team took second place in the regional competition on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Waterford High School. The team consists of five third-graders from various schools who have worked very hard throughout the last five months to prepare for the competition. Their work continues as they travel to state competition on April 4 at Central Michigan University. Photographed are: Mikaela O'Connor, 9, from Deerfield Elementary (back row on the left), Kiran Rishoto, 9, Deerfield Elementary (front row on the left), Michelle Lin, 9, Novi Woods (back row middle), Matthea Salto, 8, Orchard Hills Elementary (back row on the right) and Nikith Veluru, 7, Orchard Hills Elementary (front row middle).



Counting on Success

Members of the Novi Middle School Math Counts Team stop for a photo following a recent competition. Photographed are Andy Ying, left, Nishant Katar, Akhil Mistral, Raj Raina, David Mehl and Math Club advisor Lynn Serenson. Team members who placed fourth and are advancing to State Competition at the GM Tech Center in Warren on March 28 are: Akhil Mistral, Raj Raina, Nishant Katar and Mark Xu (not pictured). Also, Novi Middle school student Raj Raina qualified for the IMC Competition.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Navigational system suspected stolen

A global positioning system is suspected stolen from a vehicle between March 4-5, reports said. The Dodge truck was parked in the driveway of a residence on Adorne Drive near 13 Mile and Novi roads.

According to reports, the lock on the passenger door was punched out and pry marks were observed along the door's frame.

There is no further information at this time.

Assault complaint

Police responded to a domestic assault complaint at about 11:30 p.m. March 3 on Brookstone Drive, near 13 Mile and Novi roads.

According to the complainant, his girlfriend hit him and was driving away in a 2004 blue Ford Taurus.

Officers observed the suspect vehicle turn on Brookstone Drive, from Sandstone Drive, and initiated a traffic stop in the driveway of the residence where the alleged assault occurred.

Officers smelled an odor of intoxicants as they approached the female, who said she had about four drinks, but finished drinking more than one hour prior, reports said.

A preliminary breath test registered her

blood alcohol concentration at .21 percent. The woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Music, Rain-X and oil reported stolen

Random items are suspected stolen from a vehicle parked in a lot on Meadowbrook Road near Grand River Avenue, between 5 p.m. Feb. 27 and 6 p.m. March 1, reports said.

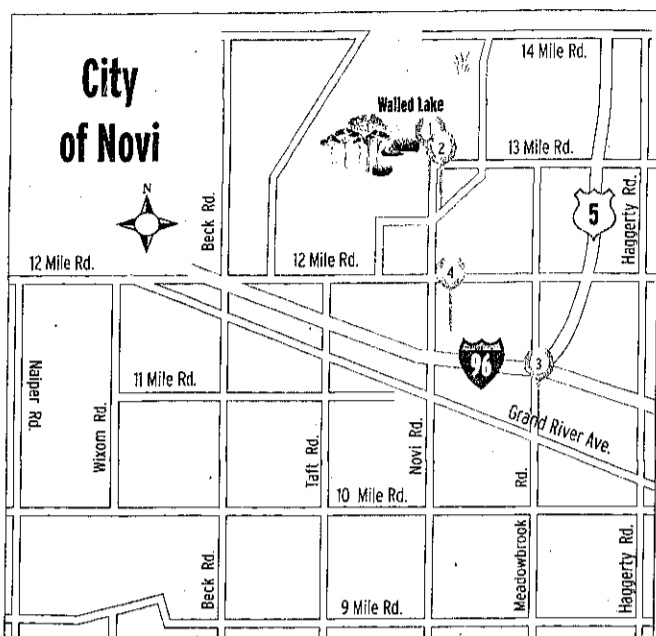
According to the complainant, he said he left the green Dodge parked in the lot over the weekend while traveling out of town for work. He returned to find about 12 compact discs missing, as well as a gallon of oil and a bottle of Rain-X.

The victim said he must have left the doors unlocked because there was no damage to the vehicle.

Vehicle parts suspected stolen

Four hub cap lug nut covers were reported missing from a vehicle parked in Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk between 6:30-8:15 p.m. March 8 near 12 Mile and Novi roads.

According to the vehicle owner, the black Chevy Tahoe was parked in the lot of Chuck E. Cheese while she and her family were inside. When they returned, the four small center caps, which cover the lug nuts, were missing.



Weight loss is teen's gain

Biggest Loser contestant more confident; maintains weight loss at Novi Sports Club

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Physically it is easy to see that Michael Morelli is a changed person.

Once tipping the scale at 388 pounds, the 18-year-old contestant on "The Biggest Loser: Couples" is now a slender shell of his former self and sporting a bright smile to go with it.

Morelli, a South Lyon resident, works out regularly and eats healthy, but it is his view on life, an internal change, that has evolved the most. "I have had a complete turnaround in my perspective of the world," he said last Friday. "I was extremely shy and introverted when I first started the show and since then I've gotten more comfortable in my own skin and realized what I'm learning at the ranch can help others. This knowledge isn't meant for just me, and I want to share that with other people."

He is still going to be 'same old Mike' around his friends, but his way of looking at weight loss and being healthy is much different. Since coming home from the ranch about three weeks ago, Morelli has been a staple at the Novi Sports Club and even joined his mother, Rebecca, at her Jazzercise class in the mornings. Their South Lyon-home is now filled with food from the Whole Foods Market, and he is educating everyone in the family on what to look for on labels.

In the time he hasn't been working out, he has visited his alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi, to speak to the homeroom classes, and stopped in at Barlett Elementary to read to the

students as part of March is Reading Month.

As far as being a celebrity, Morelli says not so much. But he is flattered by all the people who tell him or send him messages on Facebook that he has been their inspiration.

"It's all about paying it forward," he said.

Ron Morelli, Michael's father, South Lyon city councilman and member of the blue team, calls himself "the luckiest dad there is" because he got a first-hand look at his son's transformation during the last seven months.

"He has changed his entire focus in life and knows he can do anything he wants to," Ron said. "It's been a great thing (to watch)."

Even mom, who only gets to talk to him and see him sparingly during the taping of the show, said the change was obvious to her.

"It makes me really happy to see he is becoming more self-confident," she said. "He has so many wonderful qualities that he apparently didn't recognize because the weight was holding him back."

Michael and Ron headed back to California last week for another weigh-in at the ranch and are expected to come back March 23 and remain in home until the show's live finale in May.

Both men said their recent stint at home was a challenge compared to the ranch. Michael said eating was the hardest thing for him because he has lost so much his body is in maintenance mode and he was constantly hungry as a result of working out too much and not eating enough calories.

He has corrected that issue by de-intensifying his day in hopes it will help him continue to lose weight.

For Ron, finding time to

work out has been his issue. He did most of his work at the ranch in the pool or walking outside, and the Michigan weather in March isn't like California.

"Just real life has gotten in the way," he said.

On the last Tuesday's episode of the show, Michael and Ron survived another week. Michael is now down to 278 pounds and Ron to 337 pounds.

Continue to follow the Morellis' progress every Tuesday at 8 p.m. on NBC, or visit www.hometownlife.com.

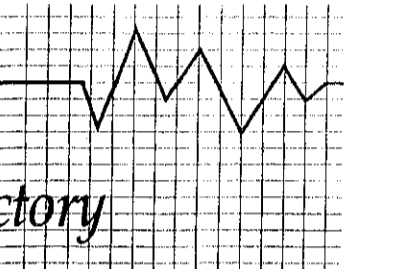
nmuelle@hometownlife.com
(248) 437-2011, Ext. 255



During a recent episode of "The Biggest Loser: Couples," Michael Morelli offered his reward of free groceries for a year to fellow contestant Aubrey Cheney, who has five children at home.

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- Chances to win raffle prizes donated by local merchants
- Cash Bar

The cost of a ticket is only \$60.00 per person. Your participation will help the Novi Educational Foundation, in its 22nd year, to continue providing scholarships and teacher grants throughout the district. Your support will help make a difference in Novi education.

Event Information

When: March 21st beginning at 7 PM
Where: Rock Financial Showplace, Novi, MI
Price: \$60.00

Rock Financial SHOWPLACE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

www.NoviEducationalFoundation.org

Live Auction	Donated By
Fishing Trip on Lake Erie with the superintendent Pete Don	Pete and Debbie Dion
1 week condo rental in Sanibel Island Florida	Paul Legpice
Nicklas Lidstrom Autographed old style jersey and 2 Red Wing Playoff tickets	Michael Pessendorfer and NEF
2 Tickets to the Final Four at Ford Field	Scott and Ellen Hulverson
Fall weekend house rental in Northport Michigan and more...	Karl Wiansky & Marcia Boynton
Silent Auction	
Autographed ball by Placido Polanco & 2 Tigers tickets to Tiger/Yankee Game	Comerica Bank
2 Dell 1530 XPS Laptop Computers	Dell
Full Facial with Glycolic Peel (\$110 value)	Blush Boutique
Kameleon Pendant	Novi Jewelers
Fishing Trip on Lake Michigan	Paul Cavanaugh
Oakpointe Country Club golf for 4	Dave and Stephanie Skown
Golf Lessons	Charlie
Jewelry	Amy Kilgore
Wine Gift Basket	By The Bottle
Barbeque Basket	Virginia Barbeque
6 month Fitness Membership	Sports Club of Novi
\$1000 Gift Card	Petland Twelve Oaks
Piston's Basket	Kathy and John Hrit
4 Detroit Shock Tickets	Maggie Sheeran
1 Colibri Cigar Lighter (\$100 Value)	Larson Jewelry Design
20" Strand of Multi-Color Freshwater Pearls (\$335 value)	Larson Jewelry Design
Ladies Sterling silver garnet and diamond ring (\$125 value) and more...	Larson Jewelry Design
Raffle	
\$30.00 Gift Card	China Café
\$30.00 Gift Card	China Café
\$30.00 Gift Card	China Café
\$25.00 Gift Card	Diamond Jim Brady's
\$25.00 Gift Card	Outback Steakhouse
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\$25.00 Gift Card	The Wash Zone
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\$50.00 Gift Card and more...	The Grapevine

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.

online at hometownlife.com

Page A12 (11N)
Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700 ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

OUR VIEWS

Are state ticket frenzies reality or urban myth?

Reports have been circulating that Michigan State Police launched a monthlong speeding ticket frenzy from March to April as a means to generate revenue.

According to the reports, the state estimates generating \$9 million through speeding tickets, and \$3.5 million for failure to wear a seat belt. The endeavor would cost the state \$1 million in overtime for troopers, who reportedly would be on duty at all times, patrolling main intersections and highways such as Interstates 96, 275 and 696, among others, and who would be required to pull a car over and write a ticket every 10-20 minutes.

Although the Novi Police Department has been known to participate in funded drunken driving crackdowns and the Click it or Ticket campaign, police Chief David Molloy said local law enforcement plays no part in ticketing on the basis of generating revenue.

We agree with that statement. A press release was also issued by the Michigan State Police verifying there is no speeding ticket frenzy under way, and reports of such an operation are false.

This is not the first time this topic has circulated the rumor mills, so what gives? Are the concepts of law enforcement quotas and generating revenue through ticketing nothing more than urban legends as police say, or is there some truth to these recurring tales?

BLOGS

I scream, you scream, brand new ice cream

Posted 3/11/2009 10:03 AM EDT on hometownlife.com

Just drove past the "historical" Cone Zone, and noticed a new sign, Stuart's ice cream and frozen yogurt. The Cone Zone sign is gone and the end of many memories for Novi residents. My husband used to take a child with him and we brought our children to the Cone Zone. Definitely a generational destination.

The closing isn't a huge surprise as the ice cream shop at the corner of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads closed abruptly during the season last year. We sent a reporter out, who learned from neighboring businesses it was due to personal reasons.

We welcome Stuart's to the community and look forward to learning more

Novi's 50s Fest postponed for the year

Posted 3/16/2009 12:17 PM EDT on hometownlife.com

Fantasygeek wrote: I am working now on a story about the Michigan 50s Fest postponed for this year. I posted the (initial) story on the Web. The economy is stated as the reason, as the level of sponsorship needed would not be viable.

I'm wondering what residents feel about this. The initial reaction I received from the few residents I've spoken with is that they either have never been or haven't been in a long time. I did hear an interesting story about how it was the place to be in Novi back in the day and was quite the social event.

And does it change your opinion on the need for a Signature Park? Having events like the 50s Fest was one of the items issued as to why the park would be an ideal addition to the community. In a statement, event organizers stated they look forward to coming back in 2010 and hopefully hosting the festival in the new Signature Park.

Join the discussion

Will Michigan State make it to the NCAA Final Four at Ford Field?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your opinion.

NOVI NEWS

GANNETT

Victoria Mitchell
Community Editor
Susan Rusiek
Executive Editor

Jeanne Parson
Senior Director of
Marketing

COMMUNITY VOICE

In honor of St. Patrick's Day this week, we asked area residents what they enjoy most about the holiday? We asked this question at the Corktown St. Patrick's Day parade



"The food."
- Evan Mitchell, Wixom



"Celebrating with friends and family. And the bagpipes."
- Tampatha Volk, Canton



"With the condition of Michigan right now, just having a reason to celebrate and enjoy myself with my friends."
- Tracey Shipley (right), Novi



"The state of Michigan is very disconnected right now but St. Patty's Day gives us all, young, old, employed, unemployed, a reason to get together and celebrate something."
- Brian Weipert (left), Novi

LETTERS

WE'RE LIVING IN AN ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE! NOTHING BUT SADNESS, SORROW AND...UH...
OH NO!



Dems must go

I read an article in the Detroit Free Press a couple of weeks ago that stated the Democrat Party was going to target Thaddeus McCotter's seat. A couple of days later I pick up the Novi News and lo and behold there are two letters to the editor saying the Democrat must go. Is this coincidence, I think not. The matching orders have been sent out from central planning and the letters are written.

The Democrats have controlled the congress for the last two years - this is their economy. They now can force through almost anything they want without a dissenting opinion from the minority Republican Party. It is apparent that the Democrats are going to try to push through as much as they can before the American people wake up. In two years since the '06 election the stock market has dropped 50 percent. If you are happy with your 401k, vote Democrat. I believe we need to have more balance in the government or the majority will ram through their policies and vision for a Socialist agenda.

We need to elect more Republicans to balance this power or a large portion of this country's people will not be represented. If you don't want larger deficits and debts, Nationalized Health Care, Mortgage bailouts, Cap and Trade to punish heavy industry, union card check to take away secret elections, higher taxes, income redistribution - basically the end of capitalism, then vote Republican. Join the revolution say no to Obama and the Dems. Join the "Party of Know."

Joe Brandis
Novi

Thanks for your support, Novi

Novi Youth Assistance wishes to thank the community for supporting the 27th Annual Bowl-a-Thon on Saturday, March 7. Over 150 participants joined together for a fun afternoon of bowling in an effort to raise funds to support the many programs that NYA sponsors, including the Jeanne Clark Summer Teen Center. Sponsors were Catholic Central High School, Dave & Kimberly Ascher, Diamond Castle Jewelers, Dick's Do-it's, Dr. Andrew & Dr. Elfring, Jr., DDS, Dr. Robert K. Brateman, M.D., PC, Dr. Steven Wolf - Legacy Podiatry, Implants, Lee BeGole and Michigan CAT.

Mitchell & Sheila Holly, Novi Community Education, Novi High School, Novi Rotary, Law Firm of Dale Quinn & Seymour, O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Orchard Hills Elementary, Peter Dion, R & B Maintenance, Sheila & Mitchell Holly, Sovel's Service Center, Spillane & Reynolds Orthodontics, St. James Catholic Church, Sylvan Learning Center, Terry & David Margolis, Town & Country Eyecare, Twelve Oaks Mall, Outline 1 Service - Fire Truck Repair, The Salon, City of Novi, Diamond City's, Dollar General, Fifth Third Bank, Fleming Steak House, Gina Agosta Salon, Haagen-Dazs, Hagopian World of Rugs, Huron-

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: vmitchell@gannett.com.
Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.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.

Clinton Metroparks, Hyatt Place Hotel- Livonia, Joan Morris, Kevin Rhea, Lisa DeMeo, Little Flower Shop, McDonald's - Twelve Oaks, Marriott Hotel- Livonia, Max Printing & Copy Center, No. VI Salon, Novi Bowl & Recreation, Novi Fire Department, Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry, Novi Police Department, Parisian, Putting Edge, Quality Driver Testing, Radisson Hotel, Residence Inn, Sears- Novi, Sen. Nancy Cassis and Domino's Pizza.
In addition, our annual event could not be possible without the help of our many volunteers, as well. Novi Youth Assistance is a non-profit prevention organization whose main goal is providing early intervention programs that offer support and education to families in our community. All Youth Assistance programs and counseling are offered free of charge and are voluntary and confidential.

John P. O'Brien, chairman
Novi Youth Assistance

Thank you, city council

It is important that we thank the mayor and city council of Novi when they do something that is difficult and right. At the March 9 Novi City Council meeting, the mayor and

Council did the right thing in rejecting the Singh Legacy Parc proposal for commercial and urban zoning and land use in the southwest quadrant of the City of Novi. The Council followed and supported the Master Plan for Land Use of our city. They followed and accepted the recommendations of their own appointed planning commission to reject the proposal. And, they appropriately recognized the expressed desires of hundreds of residents of the area to maintain the semi-rural residential quality of the southwest quadrant.

John A. Kuenzel, president
Echo Valley Civic Association

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We're looking for you! The Novi News is currently looking to interview local residents regarding the following topics:

- Are you a resident who recently returned to work or lost your job?
- Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?
- Do you spend more than \$200 a week on groceries?
- Do you have an interesting hobby?
- Do you have an unusual pet?
- Are you addicted to social networking sites like MySpace, Facebook and Twitter?
- Are you a family that has pulled together during difficult times?

E-mail Novi News editor Victoria Mitchell at vmitchell@gannett.com.

CHURCH

FROM PAGE A8

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil
TIME/DATE: Noon, first Sunday of every month
LOCATION: In front of the church
DETAILS: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
Advent Service
TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
Musical Notes
DATE: Sunday, April 5
DETAILS: The Easter Cantata will be presented during the Sunday morning worship service. The Cantata this season will be "Save in the Cross." Created by Mike Harland and Chris Meehan with arrangements by Richard Kingmore. This lyrical drama is written from the perspective of Paul's evangelistic preaching about the sacrifice of Jesus.

Springs Into Summer
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 13
DETAILS: Annual Juried Art/Craft Show. Go to www.umcovi.com to view some of the last year's vendor booths. All hand made crafts including but not limited to painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, needlework, lawn art, doll clothing, photography, glass, stained glass, wood carving and scrolling, sewn items, stone work, candles, wine lamps, children's books, face painting, frames, mulmuls and UMWN bake sale.
CONTACT: For an application to this juried show, e-mail your request to Pam Davis.

WINDYBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 40009 Six Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 374-7400 or (248) 374-5978
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Traditional 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.
Service Broadcast
DETAILS: 11 a.m. every Sunday on WRD 560, The 940z Word Station
Single Point Ministries - 45 and older
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Sunday for fellowship and Bible study
Single Focus Ministries - 35-50 years
TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. Sunday to deepen your personal relationship with Christ.
Single Purpose Committed - 20-30 years
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Sunday in the Chapel

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
LOCATION: 24525 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8841 or visit holymfamily.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 9, 10:30, and 12:15 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, 5 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Saturday
Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC
LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday, 5 p.m. Saturday
Mothers Group
TIME/DATE: 9:30-11 a.m. first and third Wednesday every month, through May 20
DETAILS: Providing fellowship, support and opportunities to grow faith. Childcare available. Suggested donation \$20. Don't have to be a parishioner to join.
CONTACT: Becky at (248) 305-5924 or Jeanne at (248) 380-6361

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE HAZARD
LOCATION: 21360 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 346-7600 or visit dcaaz.org
Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
Tuesday Schedule: Tuesday 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study with

chilicare available for through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study
Wednesday Schedule: 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$4 per person, \$12 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast
Thursday Schedule: 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group; 7 p.m. Tee Kwon Do

RECONCILIATION: beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment
Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month
DETAILS: Free, informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
The Gospel According to John
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., March 23
DETAILS: Leonard's Defilement will star in this one man production. This is a two-hour tour-de-force performance of the entire Gospel and is suitable for those ages 7 and older. Admission is \$8 per person/\$25 per family.
CONTACT: For more information, call (734) 283-9753 or e-mail aljohn@detroit1.com.



Labyrinth Walking Prayer

During these stressful times, people of all faiths are finding that labyrinth walking prayers are a calming practice. Several churches in the region offer walks, including First Presbyterian Church of Northville. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, there will be a joint "Healing in Body, Heart, Mind and Soul" through walking prayer workshop with Stephen Ministry grief counselors from FPC, First United Methodist Church of Northville, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church and Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi.

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunitynovi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Cantata "I Believe"
TIME/DATE: 4:30 a.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: A celebration of the Apostle's Creed in scripture and song
Mundy Thursday and Seder Meal
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. April 9
Easter Worship
TIME/DATE: 7 a.m. sunrise worship; 10 a.m. traditional worship and reception of confiteamans
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Blended; 11 a.m. Contemporary; 11:30 a.m. Traditional
HEADWATER CONGREGATIONAL
LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister: (248) 349-7151; visitmccoc.org or e-mail office@hmcoc.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
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 Journey's
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. every Sunday
Lenten Programs
Patuxent and Theatre
TIME/DATE: 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, April 1
Palms Sunday
TIME/DATE: 10:00 a.m., April 5
DETAILS: Worship followed by Pancake Breakfast
Mundy Thursday Worship
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 9
Community Good Friday Service
TIME: Noon
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church
Easter Sunday
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m., April 12
DETAILS: Worship with youth participation, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Traditional Easter service
Yoga/Fit classes
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Mondays
DETAILS: \$55/8 weeks, \$8 a drop in class
Rummage Sale
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m., Friday, March 27
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The Renaissance Chorus of Wayne County entertains the Novi Senior Center during its St. Patrick's Day party.

Novi Senior Center transforms into sea of green

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

It's been more than 60 years since Elizabeth Brines moved to the United States from Belfast, Ireland. But on Tuesday, the 88-year-old woman celebrated her Irish heritage, the American way, at the Novi Senior Center's St. Patrick's Day party.

"The Americans celebrate it more than we do," said Brines of the March 17 holiday. "But it's awful nice to wear green."

A sea of green filled the cafeteria as more than 100 people donned in green beads and shamrock stickers, attended the annual event in honor of the patron

saint of Ireland.

"It's about the tradition. It's nice for people to come by and have fun with other nationalities," said Lou Greka, who is of Polish descent. "The Irish are just happy people. They're very uplifting."

A traditional Irish meal was served, complete with corned beef, cabbage and potatoes.

"Sometimes corned beef can be very tough and tasteless, but this was nice," said Grace Walsh, 81.

Walsh, whose parents and husband were all born in Ireland, said she grew up eating so much corned beef and cabbage that now she only likes it in small portions.

Brines still makes traditional Irish

fare. Some of her favorites include Irish soda bread and bubble and squeak, which is boiled cabbage mixed with potatoes and then fried.

Novi resident Dick O'Donohue also enjoys the food, but said his favorite part of St. Patrick's Day used to be the green beer.

"I just like being green," said the 85-year-old fourth-generation Irishman. "My father was pretty proud of his Irish heritage. I like the music."

The celebration included live entertainment by the Westland-based Barbershop group, the Renaissance Chorus.

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



With a green shirt and a wee bit of Emerald Isle flair, Marion Cowan brings out traditional Irish fare - corned beef and cabbage during the recent Novi Senior Center's St. Patrick's Day party.



March is Reading Month!

State Sen. Nancy Cassis reads "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" written by Dr. Seuss to a group of Parkview Elementary first-graders last Monday. The Novi School is very involved in March is Reading Month activities and invited Cassis, whose children attended Parkview and who was once a Novi School District psychologist, to read to its students.



The Gift of Giving

Providence Park emergency room registered nurse Janice Richmond leads Girl Scout Troop #5719 of Novi Woods, including Lindsey Paputa, center, in a quick visit to the hospital's pediatric center on Friday, March 13. The Scouts visited Providence to donate DVDs, books and games they collected for the hospital's pediatric center patients.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NOVI BRIEFLY

Jazz Trio at Biggby

The last Thursday of each month the Tony Lannen Jazz Trio is at Biggby Coffee at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road. Doors open at 9:15 p.m. March 26 with music beginning at 9:30 p.m. A \$5 music donation will be collected at the door. Musicians are welcome to bring their instruments and jam with the Trio. Drink specials will be offered throughout the night. For more information contact Debbie Lannen at (248) 739-0987 or visit www.myspace.com/tonylannen or www.facebook.com/tonylannen.

Second annual Mutt Strut

Bring your favorite canine friend to Lakeshore Park for the second annual Mutt Strut 1-3 p.m. March 28. The event will include activities, demonstrations, the milk bone hunt and the Mutt Strut costume contest. Categories include Overall Fluffiest Dog Costume; Best Bonnet on a Dog; Best Dressed Couple (Dog and Owner); and more. Pre-registration is \$5 at the event. Canines must be people and animal friendly and have proof of current vaccinations. Contact Derek Smith for rules and more details (248) 347-0474. In case of inclement weather, the event will be relocated to the Novi Civic Center, 45777 W. 10 Mile Road. Call the Novi Parks Hotline at (248) 347-0473.

Flashlight Egg Hunt

Kids will set off in search of eggs filled with candy, toys and other goodies 8-9 p.m. April 1 at the Novi Civic Center, 45777 W. 10 Mile Road. After the flashlight egg hunt, kids will be able to create a craft, have their picture taken with the

Visit the Easter Bunny at Twelve Oaks Mall

The Easter Bunny will arrive at Twelve Oaks Mall Saturday, March 21 and stay through Saturday, April 11. The Easter Bunny will be located in the Central Park Garden, located in the lower level center court, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays, with brief breaks throughout the day. Children who visit with the Easter Bunny will receive a free gift, and photo packages are available for purchase. For more information visit www.slooptwelvoaks.com. Twelve Oaks Mall is located at Interstate 96 and Novi Road.

Primetime On Demand

Bright House Networks announces the launch of Primetime On Demand as another convenient way for consumers to catch up on missed shows. Primetime On Demand includes recent episodes of programs including NBC's "Heroes" and "Friday Night Lights"; CBS's "Survivor" and "CSI" series; "Monk" from USA; and "Nip/Tuck" from FX, among others. Episodes appear On Demand the day after the original air date and remain on the service for up to four weeks. Primetime On Demand is available at no additional charge to Bright House Networks Digital Video customers and can be found on channel 123. For more information about services from Bright House Networks visit www.mybrighthouse.com.

CORRECTION

The HP Notebook Computer model #HPG70250US/34099 in our Tab for the week of March 15th should read: \$50 MAIL-IN REBATE. We apologize for any inconvenience to our ABC Warehouse customers. www.abcwarehouse.com

"The purpose of the one true God... is revealing Himself unto men so to lay bare those years that he hidden within the mine of their true and earnest selves" The Baha'i Faith. To learn about the Baha'i Faith, inform a Q&A meeting every Wednesday, 7:45 PM, Brookwood Farms Clubhouse Library. Or call Michael at 248-491-5833.

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Stephen Lee, FOX-TV

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STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 20

du·plic·i·ty

1: a con
2: a scheme
3: "a very smart and sexy spy vs. spy caper!"

JULIA ROBERTS
CLIVE OWEN

DUPLICITY

www.duplicitymovie.net

*Sandie Newton, CBS-TV

OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 20
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATRES AND SHOWTIMES

Have you been looking for an automotive repair shop you can trust?
YOU JUST FOUND ONE...

HAL'S AUTO CLINIC
Auto Repair Professionals
NEW LOCATION IN NORTHVILLE

Hal's Auto Clinic is a family owned full service automotive repair shop with full certified Technicians committed to quality repairs done honestly.
Hal's Auto Clinic has been serving the Farmington/Farmington Hills/Novi area for over 23 years. Visit our new location in Northville and see why many of your neighbors have been enjoying the "peace of mind" service that Hal's Auto provides daily. Call for an appointment before this offer expires on April 15, 2009.
This is our way of getting acquainted with you, so your family can also learn to depend on our quality service. Having a mechanic you can trust is truly peace of mind. We look forward to meeting you.

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- Free pair of top quality Anco wiper blades (up to 20")
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Call the new Northville location at (248) 449-5182 or our Farmington Hills location at (248) 477-5951 For an Appointment Today
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BBB T.

EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES

METRO DETROIT - The Easter Bunny will hop into local malls this weekend and stay through Easter Sunday. On March 21, he'll arrive at Twelve Oaks, Novi, Westland Center, Westland, Oakland Mall, Troy, and Laurel Park Place, Livonia. The Village of Rochester Hills will welcome the Easter Bunny March 28 with a Kids Spring Scavenger Hunt from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting in Festival Park. Somerset's bunny, Nester Fairweather, will arrive April 2 at the North Grand Court amidst whimsical pop-up book decor and a labyrinth carpet. All locations offer photo packages. Check online for times.

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION WEEK

METRO DETROIT - Borders and Waldenbooks stores across the country will host Educator Appreciation Week March 19-25. Current and retired PreK-12 teachers, librarians, principals, homeschoolers, professionals, student teachers, religious educators and school support staff get 25 percent off regularly priced books, CDs, DVDs, gifts, stationery and cafe items.

They'll also be treated to giveaways and raffles, and a special reception at Borders stores 4-8 p.m. March 20. An Arbor-based Borders operates more than 1100 locations nationwide. Visit www.borders.com/educators or www.borders.com/inspire. DRESSBARN HELPS LOCAL TEACHERS METRO DETROIT - Dressbarn locations will host Teacher V.I.P. events March 19-22. The "Very Indulgent Parties" will offer educators personal attention, fashion tips and 15 percent off purchases. Dressbarn operates 833 locations nationwide, with stores in Troy, Southfield, Rochester Hills, Canton, Livonia and Farmington. Call your local store for specific Teacher V.I.P. event times, or visit www.dressbarn.com.

MULTIPLES MOM-TO-MOM SALE

PLYMOUTH - Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples will host a Mom-to-Mom sale 8:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 21 at West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail (at Sheldon) in Plymouth. The sale features department-style shopping, grouped by gender and size, of preemie to 61 spring

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

and summer clothing, including sets for twins and triplets, as well as shoes, gear, strollers and maternity clothing. Admission is \$1. Cash only. No strollers below 10 a.m. please. PARISIAN SHOE BREAKFAST LIVONIA - Shoes are on the menu as Parisian Laurel Park Place hosts a Shoe Breakfast 8-10 a.m. Saturday, March 21. Learn the latest shoe trends for spring and get 30 percent off Salon/Better shoe purchases for women and men. The event also includes mini makeover from LaComme, coffee and refreshments, informal modeling, a register-twin and more.

STEPPING OUT IN STYLE

LIVONIA - Parisian Laurel Park Place and Zonta will host the 15th annual Stepping Out in Style event March 22. Tickets, \$20 advance, \$25 at the door, benefit First Step victims of domestic violence. Event includes 20 percent discount throughout the store; food and drinks donated by local restaurants; platform modeling of spring's hottest trends; entertainment with DJ from Silver Sounds, raffles and more.

MATTRESS DONATION PROGRAM

METRO DETROIT - Art Van Furniture celebrates 50 years in business with a mattress drive on Sunday, March 22. For every customer who purchases a mattress set that day, Art Van will donate a mattress to a Michigan shelter. In Metro Detroit, beneficiaries include COTS, Salvation Army, Covenant House, CDC and Cass Community Social Services. Visit www.artvan.com. PARISIAN GOODWILL SALE METRO DETROIT - Parisian will host its semi-annual Goodwill Sale through March 24. Customers who purchase a mattress set that day will receive 20 percent off coupons toward new spring merchandise, including apparel and cosmetics. One coupon per donated item. Donations will be sold at Goodwill Industries retail stores, to benefit job training programs and career services. The fall 2008 Goodwill Sale brought in nearly 3.5 million pounds of clothing

and textiles, which generated \$15 million. Parisian is located at Laurel Park Place, Livonia; Village of Rochester Hills; and The Mall at Partridge Creek, Clinton Twp. Visit www.parisianclothing.com for information, closet-cleaning tips and spring trends. PENDELTON WELCOMES SPRING NORTHVILLE - Pendleton, 117 N. Center St. in downtown Northville, will welcome the season with a Spring Celebration March 26-28. View new spring merchandise for men and women, and get up to 40 percent off spring suiting for women in 100 percent lightweight wool woven in the U.S.A. With a purchase of \$250 or more, get a Lovely Lamb, and enter to win a "So Woolam" cuddly life-size sheep mascot. For a free gift, R.S.V.P. at (248) 596-9820. WEDDING FOR BRIDES-TO-BE PLYMOUTH - The Plymouth BDA will stage its 2nd annual Plymouth Bridal Show April 25. The event starts at noon in Kelllogg Park at a mock wedding party, head table, and live music from members of the Erickson

Flute Ensemble. From there, brides will follow their Bridal Stroll program on a matrimonial adventure through 35 downtown businesses offering locally-owned, personal wedding services, refreshments, discounts and drawings. Call (734) 455-0453 or e-mail dcohen@plymouthmi.us. TIFFANY AWARDS OPEN CALL FARMINGTON HILLS - Hairdressers and colorists are invited to enter the 7th Annual Tiffany Michigan Hairdresser of the Year Awards through 5 p.m. May 29. Contestants compete in four categories: Formal, Women's Editorial and Color are eligible to compete live for the title of Michigan Hairdresser of the Year at DREAMS, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, on Sept. 26 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. For information or to enter, visit www.thetiffanyawards.com or call (248) 347-7700 Ext. 2922.

ENERGY

needed to transmit the energy generated by the wind. "If this country is going to love renewable energy, it's going to have to start liking

transmission," Blair said. "We find transmission lines to be a beautiful thing, but not everybody does." Green Power Express is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by about 34 million metric tons, which translates into the amount of annual emissions from 10-12 million

automobiles. But Blair said the company is facing significant hurdles in seeing the project come to fruition. "There's a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done before we see steel in the ground," she said. "There does need to be federal

jurisdiction over who gets to determine what gets built, where it gets built and who is going to pay for it. "Having a national policy that we are all working toward is so critical. We have to get people on board to understand what the project does."

Joseph Welch, president, chairman and CEO of ITC testified before Congress last Thursday, urging lawmakers to facilitate renewable energy by updating policies that govern the country's power grid. "Never before has transmission been such a prominent issue in Washington," Blair

said. "What you're starting to see in Washington is two major pieces of legislation that would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction over high-voltage backbone transmission lines."

GREEN

public school children. In 2008, the Foundation funded educational opportunities including Spanish Artists traveling mural exhibits,

Science Olympiad, Novi High School Quiz Bowl resources, Cooking for Life, Cypress String Quartet assemblies, Earth Explorer's Day, the Summer Accelerated Reading Program and the Career Day program was held last week at

the school. "We want people to realize what the Green Gala does," said trustee Ellen Hulverson at the middle school event. "This is an example." Trustee Karl Wizinsky said the purpose of the Foundation is to provide expanded educational opportunities through-

out the community. "We believe the Foundation is a vehicle which can strengthen community participation by supporting expanded programs for children," he said. Ticket sales are down this year, so organizers hope the community turns out at the event to support the educa-

tional cause. The evening will feature casino night gambling, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, live and silent auctions, music and dancing, games, raffle prizes and cash bar. Auction prizes include two new Dell laptop computers and a condo for a week in Sanibel

Island, Fla. Other fund-raising opportunities throughout the year include the Foundation's annual Charity Golf Scramble and the TIGER Fun Run. Tickets are \$60 per person and available at every school office, at the door or by calling (248) 449-1206.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section



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LOCAL EVENTS

Breast Cancer 3-Day Training Kick-Off

TIME/DATE: Morning session 9 a.m., afternoon 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21 LOCATION: 12 Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk in Novi DETAILS: The Breast Cancer 3-Day Training Kick-off event signifies the beginning of the 24-week training season for Breast Cancer 3-Day walkers. New Balance staff will conduct a footwear seminar and host a fashion show displaying the right apparel to wear during the journey. CONTACT: Please visit www.the3day.org or call (800) 999-3DAY for more information.

Novi Co-Op Preschool Open House

TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. - noon March 21 LOCATION: 4167 W 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-3223 or novipreschool.com

Community Education Preschool Program

DATE: March 23-current students, March 25-new students LOCATION: Novi Community Education Preschool Program DETAILS: The mission of Novi Community Education's Early Childhood Program is to promote the physical, emotional and cognitive development of preschoolers. Children must be 3, 4 or 5 by Dec. 1, 2009 to attend classes. Children also must be completely toilet trained. CONTACT: For more information about the classes, call the Preschool office at (248) 449-1713.

Food Drive

DATE: March 24-April 4 LOCATION: Salvo D'AMARS 24079 Meadowbrook Road (south of 10 Mile in the Peachtree Plaza) DETAILS: Receive one raffle ticket for each non-perishable food item you donate. The raffle is for a gift certificate to Salvo D'AMARS. Food will be distributed locally through the Faith Community Presbyterian Church Food Closet. For more information, call (248) 465-9077.

Professional Children's Theater Series

TIME/DATE: All shows 7-9 p.m.; Bob Reider's Mime Show, Friday, March 20; Roland the Minstrel Pig, Wild Swan Theater, Friday, April 3; Cirque Amorous, Friday, April 24 LOCATION: Novi Middle School Performing Arts Center DETAILS: Professional Children's Theater is a non-profit organization offering a Professional Children's Theater Series. Each show is \$5 per ticket; all four shows can be purchased for \$17. CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

Forgotten Math Seminar for Parents

DATE: March 29 TIME/DATE: 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday LOCATION: Sylvan Learning of Novi, 20304 Novi Road DETAILS: This interactive 90-minute seminar will help overcome math fears - so homework time with your child will be fun, not frightful. Move from math station to math station, revisiting some of the skills forgotten over time. It is a fun way to show a child that learning is a life-long process. Reserve a spot.

Comfy Couch Concerts

TIME/DATE: Doors open 7 p.m., one Saturday per month LOCATION: Newport Furnishings, 29240 Lyon Oaks, Dr., Livonia DETAILS: Monthly concert series featuring live acoustic music. Casual, comfortable, comfortable family friendly event. Bring a dish to share and join the potluck before the show. Contact: comfycouchconcerts.com

Novi Rotary Club

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

American Business Women's Association Meetings

TIME/DATE: 6:15 p.m. second Wednesday of every month LOCATION: DoubleTree Hotel-Novi 142100 Crescent Blvd., southeast of 196th & Novi Road, near Bolly's DETAILS: Local chapter provides many advantages to today's working women and offers a strong community service program that includes raising money for scholarships. CONTACT: (248) 330-6315 or abwnovi.org.

ENGLISH BUILDING

AKC PUPS 7 wks, shots, health certified, \$1800. Can stand paws to paws or small, \$999-0765 WESTIE PUPPIES 1 female, 2 males, 8 wks, AKC, Chanson Street, non-pedigree, \$1100 248-823-1059

LOST CAT

Small grey, tiger, lost March 8th near Macomb & Joy. Any info please, 754-812-0290 or 734-444-4963

WATERGARDEN ESTATE SALE

March 19-21, Thurs. 9-4pm, Fri./Sat., 10-4pm, 1021 Woodrow on Fordlake Lane Rd. When Telephone 980-885, photohouse.com www.hometownlife.com 586-344-2948

1-800-579-7355



The Approach

Ann Woodward of "Team Keplers" gets ready to bowl at a Thursday afternoon senior bowling league at Novi Bowl. Seniors from Northville and Novi gather at Novi Bowl for their league beginning at 11:45 a.m. most Thursdays. For more information, call Novi Bowl at (248) 348-9120.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library LOCATION: 45245 W 10 Mile Road HOURS: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, CONTACT: (248) 349-0720 or novipublib.org Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library. Museum Adventure Pass DETAILS: Card holders can check out free passes, for two to four people, to many area museums, cultural centers and historical sites. See detroitadventurepass.org for more information. Senior Book Discussion TIME/DATE: Noon to 1:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month DETAILS: Book discussion group for older adults facilitated by librarians; please call to join. Library Board Meeting TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. third Wednesday of each month LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, City Council Chambers DETAILS: General meeting of the entire Library Board. Broadcast live on cable channel 13. Battle of the Books TIME/DATE: 1-2 p.m. Saturday, March 21 DETAILS: Enter this great event designed to promote the spirit of reading! Students read from a list of six books and then participate in a contest where each team answers questions about those books as first, second and third place teams. All

Novi Writers' Group

DETAILS: Provide an inspirational environment for writers to collaborate, critique and create with other writers. The group is facilitated by local writer Kathy Mutch. Writers of all genres are encouraged to participate. For 18 years and older. Please register online or call the library. "Twilight" Movie Premiere TIME/DATE: 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28 DETAILS: Ann Johnson from the DIA will show a new perspective on familiar works from the collections of the DIA. Uncover the clues hidden in the artworks themselves that reveal stories about the pieces and the artists who created them. Lego Club TIME/DATE: 6-6:45 p.m. Monday, March 30 DETAILS: Join us once a month for Lego show-and-tell and building activities. We supply the Legos, you supply the imagination. For grades K-4. Tuesday Evening Book Discussion TIME/DATE: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 31 DETAILS: Join your Novi neighbors in a broad discussion of fiction, non-fiction and history. Please register. Limited to 20 participants.

Novi Senior Activities Center

LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. CONTACT: (248) 347-0414. Massage by appointment: 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Thursday 9-11 a.m.: Line Dance 9:15 p.m.: Hearing exams by appointment 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Income taxes by appointment Noon Lunch 12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge Friday 9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall Noon Lunch 12:30 p.m.: Duyl. Bridge 1 p.m.: Bingo Monday 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall 12:30 p.m.: Pinchle 6-7 p.m.: Plates Wat Work 6-7 p.m.: Yoga Tuesday 8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread 9-11 a.m.: Line Dance Noon Lunch 1 p.m.: Bingo Wednesday 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength 10 a.m.: Body Recall 11 a.m.: TOPS, Blood Pressure 1:30 p.m.: Humana Presentation 6-7 p.m.: Dancing with the Stars

Livonia Public Schools Open Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students. Twenty seats are open to students across grades 1 through 5 in fall 2009. Limited Registration window: April 6-20. Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2009-10 school year. Registration will be open from April 6-20 at the Department of Elementary and Special Program, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria. For complete information on the application process, visit www.livonia.k12.mi.us or contact Charlotte Worthen, Director of Elementary & Special Programs at 734-744-2589.

DON'T LET THE DIGITAL TRANSITION LEAVE YOU IN THE DARK. The Federal Government has delayed the nationwide Digital Transition, which means you still have time to prepare. If you're currently using a TV with an antenna, your television will go dark on June 12th. Bright House Networks is the easiest way to continue to get your favorite programming and local news. With Basic Cable, you can watch all your local stations for just \$9.99 per month for 12 months. No contracts - No hidden fees - No extra equipment to buy. The Digital Transition is coming soon, so call Bright House Networks at 866-898-9101 today. bright house NETWORKS TV - HOME PHONE - INTERNET

Waltwood at Twelve Oaks Retirement Community
Independent Living Residence, Licensed Assisted Living, Licensed Dementia Care
LOCATION: 27475 Huron Circle (adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)
CONTACT: (248) 735-1500 or e-mail waltwood@twelveoaksretirement.com

Fox Run
LOCATION: 41000 W. 13 Mile Road
DETAILS: More than 800 people live at Fox Run in Novi, an Erickson full-service retirement community that combines a vibrant maintenance-free, active lifestyle with an ever-expanding host of amenities, social activities and wellness and medical centers.
CONTACT: Please call (248) 926-5200 for additional information on the community's apartment homes. For general information, call (248) 668-8610.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT
Novi City Council Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Community Education
CONTACT: To register, call (248) 449-1206 or visit novi.k12.mi.us/district/communityeducation

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Novi Chamber of Commerce
LOCATION: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201, Novi
CONTACT: For more information call (248) 349-3743 or www.novitchamber.com

After Five Networking Meeting
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 26
LOCATION: Urgent Care of Novi, 44000 Twelve Mile Rd., Ste. 101, Novi
DETAILS: Networking and refreshments - \$15 pre-registration; \$25 job fair

Job Fair
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 25
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Hosted at the Redwood Church, Call (248) 767-8626 for more information.

Novi Business and Taste Expo
TIME/DATE: 3-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 29
LOCATION: Hotel Baronnele, 27790 Novi Road



Live on Stage: 'Little Mermaid'

This spring, enjoy the musical "Little Mermaid" in downtown Northville at the Historic Marquis Theatre March 14-April 26. Swim deep in the ocean and meet the Little Mermaid who loves to hear about the world above her waves. The play also stars Novi Middle School student Emma Howe. Performance dates and times are: 2:30 p.m. Saturdays March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2:30 p.m. Sundays March 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; and 2:30 p.m. weekdays April 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Tickets for all performances are \$9.50. Please no children under 3. For ticket sales, group rates and reserved seating for 20 or more, call (248) 349-8110 or visit www.northvillermarquistheatre.com. The Marquis Theatre is located at 135 E. Main Street, in downtown Northville.

DETAILS: Sponsored by the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the City of Novi. Networking, cash bar, and refreshments. Early bird special for Vendor tables reserved before April 1.

ONGOING
American Legion Post 15 Monthly Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday every month
LOCATION: Rock Financial Center, East Entrance, 46100 Grand River Avenue

DETAILS: Comrades and fellow veterans, join our monthly meetings. Attendance is needed to grow our Post. If you are not a member, consider joining.
CONTACT: Commander Dennis Strickland (248) 376-7847, dstrickland@novi.org or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193, pnerick@aol.com

SWOCC Studio Tours
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington

DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios local community television showplace.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

Gardeners of Northville and Novi Monthly Meeting
LOCATION: Rock Financial Center, East Entrance, 46100 Grand River Avenue
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of month, Sept.-May

DETAILS: Visitors welcome.
CONTACT: Contact: Marica (248) 349-2352 or visit gardenersofnorthville-novi.org

The Ojai Center
DATE: Mondays and Fridays
TIME: 6:30-7:30 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-

Novi Toastmasters
TIME/DATE: 7:45 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
46100 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: Call (248) 348-5609 or visit http://rockfinancialshowplace.com for more information.

2009-11 Economic Forecast for Oakland County at 24th Annual Economic Luncheon
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 30
DETAILS: Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 24th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon on April 30. The 2009-2011 Employment Forecast for Oakland County, a joint venture of the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services (EPDS) and the Michigan State University's Center for Employment and the Economy at the University of Michigan, will be presented at the luncheon. Hosts for the luncheon are Chase, Oakland Community College and Oakland County. The cost is \$40 per person. Online registration begins March 16.
CONTACT: Call (248) 858-8706 for information.

Great Lakes Art Fair
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 17; 10 a.m. to 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 residents \$6.

HEALTH

St. John Providence Hospital
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave., corner of Beck Road, use Beck Road entrance
Providence Center for the Healing Arts http://stjohn.org/ProvidenceHealingArts

LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455 or e-mail James.Ketter@stjohn.org

Colorful Pencil Workshops
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: Beginners welcome. Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Thursday

DETAILS: Explore the Art of playing with clay. Express yourself in this three-dimensional art form. \$10 lab fee. Call to verify class times.
Kunlun Yoga
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., Wednesday

DETAILS: Join others and create hats and scarves for those in need.
Meditation
TIME/DATE: Meditation for individuals or groups by appointment.
DETAILS: Learn proper breathing techniques that can be used at home or on the job to help reduce stress; class held in reflection space; Cancer Center.

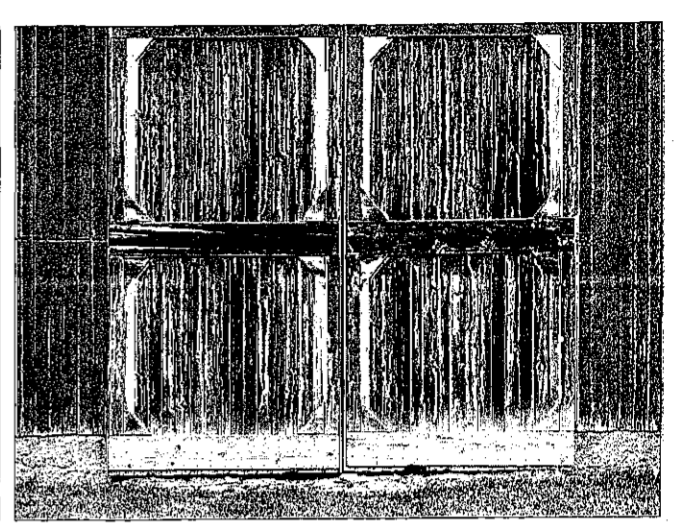
Transcendental Yoga
TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monday-Yoga for Backs: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday-Meditation: 4:15-5 p.m. Monday-Kid's Yoga I: 5:05-5:50 p.m. Monday-Kid's Yoga II: 6:17 p.m. Monday-Yoga for Special Needs Children: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday-Vinyasa: 9:30-10:30 Tuesday-Yoga for Backs: 11:45 a.m. Tuesday-Meditation: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Tuesday-Yoga for Seniors: 1:30-1:50 Tuesday-Meditation: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday-Night Life Yoga: 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday-Level I: 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Wednesday-Meditation: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesday-Yoga for Backs: 1:30-1:50 p.m. Wednesday-Meditation: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Wednesday-Teen Yoga: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday-Vinyasa: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thursday-Yoga for Backs: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Thursday-Slow Flow with Prenatal: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Thursday-Yoga for Backs: 8:30-10 a.m. Friday-Ashtanga: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday-Yoga for Backs: 1:30-2 p.m. Friday-Meditation: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday-Level I/II: 10:45-11:45 a.m. Saturday-Yoga for Backs: 11:30-12 p.m. Saturday-Kid's Yoga I: 2:15-3 p.m. Saturday-Kid's Yoga II

DETAILS: \$10/mk-in, \$80/10-class card, \$45/life-class card. Lunch and Learn Yoga seven-week session is \$60. Reservations required. Classes also held at Providence Hospital, Southfield. Call for details.
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.

NEIGHBORS



Carrie Burnett's photograph of a cow at the Michigan State University's Tollgate Education Center won first place in the Novi Historical Commission's third annual My Hometown Novi photo competition.



Kim Kozlowski's photograph of barn doors taken at the former Fuerst Farm last summer won second place in the Novi Historical Commission's third annual My Hometown Novi photo competition.

Novi photo competition winners announced

BY KATHLEEN MUTCH
SPECIAL WRITER

On Saturday, Feb. 28, the Novi Historical Commission announced the winners of its third annual My Hometown Novi photo competition at a reception at the Novi Public Library.

Three awards with cash prizes and an honorary People's Choice award were presented by Kathleen Mutch, chair of the Novi Historical Commission and commissioners Betty Niek, John MacInnis and Roy Prentice. The competition was co-sponsored by the Novi News.

Carrie Burnett won the first place award and \$100 for a photograph taken at Michigan State University's Tollgate Education Center.

"I always enjoy taking pictures, but occasionally I take a picture that I get really excited about," Burnett said. "This was one of those shots. Everything just clicked into place for me."

Kim Kozlowski, a first-time participant in the contest, had two winning images.

For her photograph of barn doors taken last summer at the Fuerst Farm, she placed second and was awarded \$50.

"I had always loved the farm and wanted to photograph it in a documentary form before it was torn down and lost forever," she said.

Another Kozlowski entry, a photograph of the Novi Civic Center, received the third place award and \$25.

"I live close to the Civic Center," Kozlowski said, "and late one night I was returning home and noticed the moon directly over the atrium and had to stop to take the shot."

Before the top awards were announced, those attending the opening reception were able to view all entries and then cast a ballot for a "People's Choice" award.

The winner of this honorary designation was Carrie Burnett. Burnett is a graduate of Novi High School studying photography at Columbia College in Chicago.

The three winners were selected by judges Marsha Valenti, a professional photographer with more than 20 years experience as a teacher of photography, and Phil Jerome, former Novi News editor.

Mutch said seven photographers entered a total of 27 photographs in the 2008 contest. She said that the competition encourages people to share their ideas of what "Hometown Novi" means. Entries featured modern as well as traditional scenes; people, animals, stills, and landscapes.

Historical Commissioner Roy Prentice was encouraged to see the variety of entries and the participation of younger photographers.

"The contest offers an opportunity for everyone regardless of age or experience to present his or her unique views of Novi," Prentice said.

The four winning photos will be on display at the Novi Public Library through the month of March in the window of the Local History Room.

Kathleen Mutch is a Novi resident and chair of the Novi Historical Commission.



Kim Kozlowski's photograph of the Novi Civic Center taken at night won third place in the Novi Historical Commission's third annual My Hometown Novi photo competition.



Carrie Burnett's photograph of Lou Citarel playing the accordion won the People's Choice award in the Novi Historical Commission's third annual My Hometown Novi photo competition.

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 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.
 Explore Art and Color with Darcy
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of every month
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 CONTACT: Call (248) 465-4488 for a recording of the latest in class changes.

Botsford Center for Health Improvement
 LOCATION: 39750 Grand River Ave.
 CONTACT: (248) 473-3100
Aqua Boot Camp
 TIME/DATE: 4-5 p.m. every Friday
 DETAILS: Get fit with a combo 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 BCH 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 BCH Members. Non-members may purchase a \$75 10-visit punch card. For information or to register, call (248) 473-3100.

Oakland Physical Therapy Classes
 LOCATION: 26850 Providence Parkway, Suite 365, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 380-3550
 Classes are free of charge
Yoga Classes
 TIME/DAY: 7:15 p.m. Mondays; 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesdays
 LOCATION: Pure Barre Fitness Studio, 133 W. Main St., Northville
 DETAILS: Classes feature "Pure Yoga" to increase one awareness of breath and body while building a strong, flexible back and core.
 CONTACT: (248) 305-8414

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
 DETAILS: Informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. No charge. Child care available; registration required.
 CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Bereavement 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

Angela Hospice Groups
 LOCATION: Angela Hospice Care Center, 14100 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 quilters group. Groups led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers.
 CONTACT: Joan Lee (734) 953-6012
General Grief Support Groups
 TIME/DATE: 1-6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
 DETAILS: Open to all losses.
Loss of Spouse/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
Grief Support Quilters Group
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. first and third Wednesday of month
 DETAILS: Register by calling (734) 953-6012

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op
 DETAILS: Using the co-op, you 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) 380-0998

Friendship Circle
 TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: St. James Catholic

Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck roads
 DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
 CONTACT: Norbert Monson (248) 851-6730, Florence Voight (248) 477-3032, Joy Iovaldi (248) 348-9138 or joyiovaldi@earthlink.net

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second Thursday of each month
 LOCATION: Wilch'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 Valley school conference are all welcome.
 CONTACT: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

MOMS 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: khanson13@hotmail.com or (248) 504-7736

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: jensungfleming@yahoo.com

Crohn's & Colitis 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 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Schizophrenics Anonymous Meeting - free
 TIME/DATE: 1:30-2:30 p.m. first and third Mondays
 LOCATION: Comfort Zone, 39575 W. 10 Mile Road - Suite 204, Novi-Just

West of Haggerty Rd.
 CONTACT: Joe at (248) 427-9762

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (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

CLASS REUNIONS

Pershing High School Class of 1960
 DETAILS: A 50 year reunion is planned for Sept. 2010. For information, call Joan (Mazie) Harrington at (734) 595-7508 or Sharon (Bailey) Forbush at (248) 994-0664.

REGIONAL

Day Out with Thomas
 TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 24-26 and May 1-3
 LOCATION: Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn
 DETAILS: Toot Toot! Thomas is rolling into town! The Hero of the Rails Tour is coming. Activities for the whole family, including arts and crafts, storytelling, video viewing, live music, a magician and puppet shows.
 CONTACT: Tickets available at Ticketweb toll-free (866) 468-7630 or www.henryford.org

City of Wixom

CONTACT: Community Services Programs, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom; (248) 624-2850
Senior Ongoing Programs
 Some activities have a fee.
Monday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
Tuesday: Noon to 2:30 p.m. Line Dancing
Wednesday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
Second Monday: 11:30 a.m. Lunch
Bunch
Second Tuesday: 10 a.m. Senior Commission
Second Thursday: 11:30 a.m. Bingo
Fourth Thursday: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Blood Pressure

St. Paul's Lutheran School Open House
 DATE: 10:45 a.m. Thursday, March 26
 LOCATION: St. Paul's Lutheran School in Northville
 DETAILS: Visitors will tour the school, meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum and the uniqueness of an education at St. Paul's. Children are encouraged to attend.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3146 or www.stpaulnorthville.org

Suburban Republican Women's Club
 DATE: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 26
 LOCATION: Pick-A-Bone Rib House, 30325 Six Mile Road
 DETAILS: The speaker will be candidate for Secretary of State, Judy Emmons.
 CONTACT: (248) 471-0415

Dead Composers Society (DCS)

DETAILS: The DCS invites young professionals ages 21-39 to enjoy food, classical music and meeting new people at the Dances Sacred and Profane concert, above. Food and drink will follow the concert at Cafe Habana, 211 E. Washington. Tickets for food and the concert are \$26 and must be ordered in advance.
 CONTACT: Visit Facebook "Dead Composers Society" and MySpace Music "Dead Composers Society".

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

LOCATION: 220 E. Huron St., Suite 470, Ann Arbor
 CONTACT: (734) 994-4801 or www.a2so.com
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 DETAILS: The DCS invites young professionals ages 21-39 to enjoy food, classical music and meeting new people at the Dances Sacred and Profane concert, above. Food and drink will follow the concert at Cafe Habana, 211 E. Washington. Tickets for food and the concert are \$26 and must be ordered in advance.
 CONTACT: Visit Facebook "Dead Composers Society" and MySpace Music "Dead Composers Society".

University Musical Society; University of Michigan
 PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS: Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Ave.; Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington St.; Power Center, 121 Fletcher St.; Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty St.
 CONTACT: (734) 764-2538; (800) 221-1229 or visit www.ums.org.

Kensington Metro Park
 LOCATION: 2240 West Bone Road, Milford; (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178. Golf course (248) 685-9332 or (800) 477-3178.
Nature Center Programs
 Pre-registration required.


Schoolcraft College Women's Resource Center

LOCATION: Schoolcraft College, 18500 Haggerty Road
 CONTACT: For more information and to register call (734) 462-4443
Divorce Support Group
 TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
 LOCATION: Women's Resource Center; Room 225 McDowell Center.
 DETAILS: For anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce; first meeting each month is group discussion; second meeting with facilitator Cynthia Kippin MA, LPD, LLP; no fee or registration required.

Ask An Attorney
 DATE: 5-7 p.m. second and third Monday of each month. Aug. - May
 DETAILS: Ask an attorney about divorce and family law; first come, first served; sign-in begins at 4:30 p.m.; no fee.
 CONTACT: (734) 462-4443
Money Matters in Divorce
 DATE: 5-7 p.m. first Monday of each month from Oct.-May
 DETAILS: Opportunity to ask a certified financial planner about the financial concerns related to divorce; walk-in; no fee; sign-in begins at 4:30 p.m.

Send your calendar items to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178; fax to (248) 349-9832 or e-mail to venitchell@gannett.com.

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LOCAL SPORTS

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MICROFILM COPY

Novi swimmer
earns all-state
honors

Page B3



CC DOMINATES NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Shamrocks win first team state title since move to Novi

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

It took just 41 seconds for Tony Thomas to score the game-winning goal for Catholic Central.

It took Howell more than a full period to record a shot.

The Shamrocks left nothing to doubt during a 7-0 thrashing of Howell in the Division 1 State finals Saturday at Compuware Arena.

Coaches are always trying to get their teams to be peaking around playoff time. It's hard to argue the Shamrocks weren't doing just that, finishing the playoffs with its fifth shutout in

Please see **CHAMPS, B2**

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

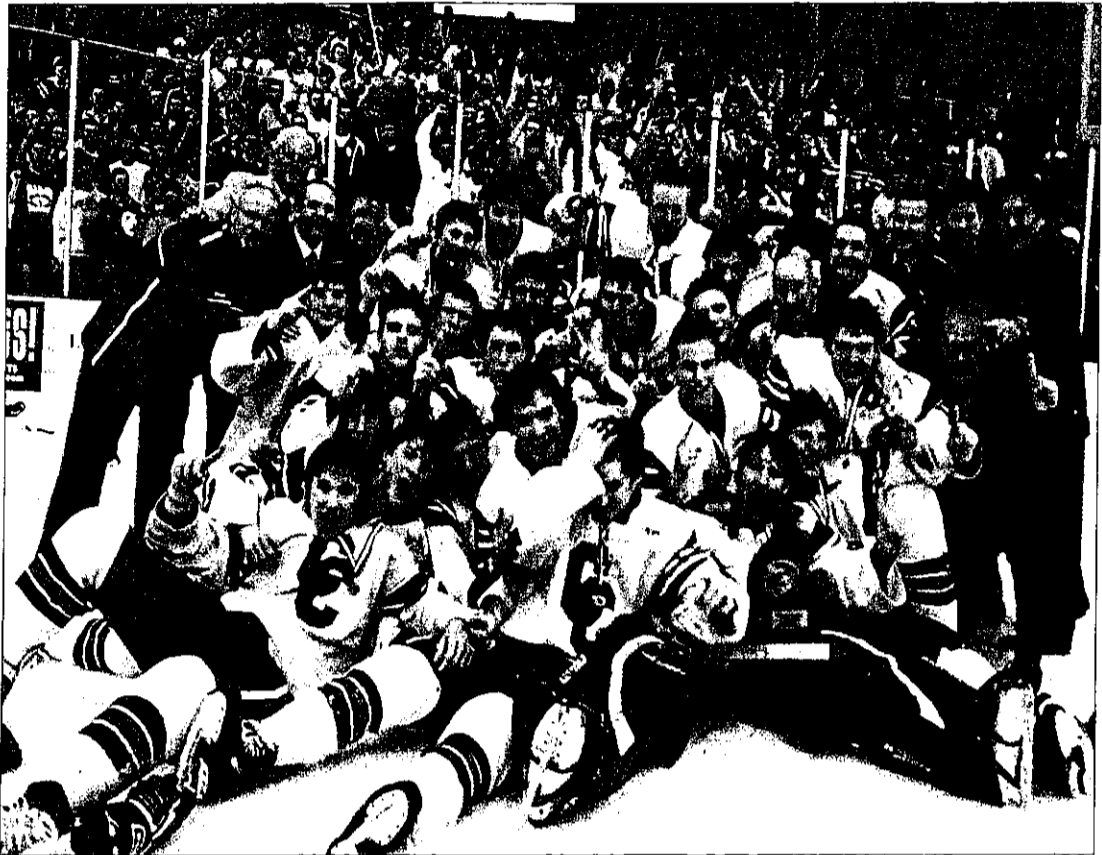
2 - Number of goals allowed during the six-game playoff run.

5 - Shutouts along the way.

6 - Different scorers in the finals while allowing just five shots.

13 - Total state titles won by CC - 1959, 1961, 1968, 1974, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2009

25 - Wins for CC - 25-3-2



DEANUS BARNES

The Shamrocks celebrate winning the Division 1 State title by beating Howell 7-0 Saturday at Compuware Arena.

Freshman Mooradian wins 112-pound title

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Wrestling coaches are always screaming at their athletes to finish strong. Catholic Central freshman Alec Mooradian proved it matters by winning the 112-pound State title with just eight seconds left in the match.

The match went scoreless until the final 10 seconds. Mooradian started the final period in the down position but couldn't get the escape point to take the lead.

Instead, he pulled off a late reversal that earned him a state title with a perfect 48-0 record.

"That was exciting," said Mooradian. "I just kept wrestling. He got a little too high, and I just went under his arms."

"It's the best feeling in the world."

Mooradian (48-0) becomes just the second freshman to pull off a state title.

The win also keeps alive a seven-year string of at least one State-title winner for the Shamrocks.

"Alec did a nice job," CC head coach Mitch Hancock said. "That kid works extremely hard for what he's done this year. He deserves it today, and I'm extremely happy for him."

"He's one of the best freshmen I've ever seen come into



SUBMITTED

CC's Alec Mooradian wins the 112-pound State title with a 2-0 victory Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

CC."

Mooradian got to the finals with a 12-0 win, a 6-1 victory and a 3-2 decision in the semis.

The Shamrocks had five others reach the podium to

earn All-State honors.

Todd Mellick at 103 pounds and Doug Eldridge at 130 each finished in fourth. Mellick started with a win

Please see **MOORADIAN, B3**

Deja vu for CC in district finals

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

He's known as the Diesel. Tim Dezelski delivered a heavy payload with 21 points and nine rebounds Friday as CC knocked off Novi 72-53 in the district finals at Novi.

"We knew that had no one in there with our size," said Dezelski. "We knew we had to take it in there strong."

"Our three captains, we started out as sophomores and went 3-18. Last year, we won the district, and that was a big step. We know we can go far this year. We're seniors now."

The Diesel poured in nine of CC's first 11 points for an 11-5 lead. The Shamrocks (17-6) went on to a 19-13 lead by the end of the first and stretched it to 37-28 by the half.

Novi's Brandon Bryant started the second half off with an old-fashioned three-point play to get within six, but CC answered with a 10-0 run and never looked back.

The Wildcats managed to trim the lead to 49-39 entering the fourth.

Novi's Nick Brockman scored the opening points to start the quarter, but again, CC fired back with an 11-2 run and sailed home from there.

"Having two in a row (dis-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wildcat Chris Bellamy tries to get a shot up between a Central Catholic double team.

trict titles) is a really great feeling," said CC head coach Bill Dyer. "We really felt our advantage against them was inside. They like to shoot

threes and we like to get to the basket and get to the free-throw line.

Please see **HOOPS, B3**



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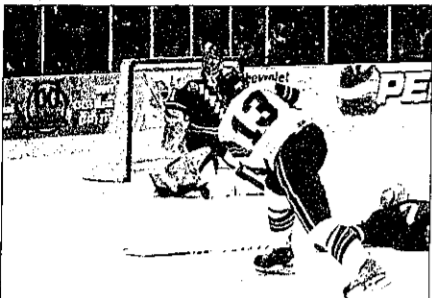
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Triples March 28, 2009



In what came a familiar pose, the Shamrocks celebrate a goal during the 7-0 win against Howell.



CC's Austin Hervey unleashes a slapshot against Howell.



CC netminder Zack Cisek gets ready before posting a 7-0 shutout in the finals against Howell. The Shamrocks shut out five of six opponents during the playoffs.

CHAMPS

FROM PAGE B1

six playoff games. "It's unbelievable," CC head coach Todd Johnson said. "Two goals and five shutouts, unbelievable. I never would've dreamed it and never would've imagined it."

Netminder Zack Cisek (five saves) admits he can get into a groove by seeing more shots, but winning the state title was something far better: than seeing a bunch of pucks from opponents. He was in net throughout the playoffs.

"We stuck to our structure and we believed in each other," Cisek said. "When I'm not getting shots I know my team is doing good. You can't be mad about that."

"This was the best thing I've ever experienced in my life." Senior captain Thomas

started scoring in the first minute with Dan Brown getting an assist.

Kyle Nelson scored the second goal with 11:50 left in the first, assisted by David Swiersczyk and Steven Hensley.

Nick Gatt scored the lone goal in the second period, with an assist to Eric Frago.

Third period goals came from Brent Darnell (31 seconds in), Eric Winkler (9:35 remaining) and Brad Wilhelm (scored the final two goals (5:36, 10:2).

Picking up third-period assists were Gatt, Chris Waterstreet, Wilhelm, Nelson, Brown, Austin Hervey and Frago.

Junior star Darnell (signed with Michigan State) was unsure if he will return for his senior season, but that was the furthest thing from his mind amidst the celebration.

"It was great," he said. "That's why I wanted to come here, to

win a State championship. It's the greatest of Michigan I think.

"My freshman and sophomore year were disappointing, but coming into this year, I knew I could make a difference. It's just the greatest feeling I've ever had."

The amazing run for the Shamrocks resulted in the first athletic team championship for the Shamrocks since moving to the Novi campus three years ago. It's the sixth state title for CC Hockey since the turn of the century and the 13th overall since the first in 1959.

"We knew we had great senior leadership this year," Johnson said. "Our guys bought into the structure, and the guys played the best hockey they could play for the last two weeks."

Johnson said, "Our guys bought into the structure, and the guys played the best hockey they could play for the last two weeks."



The Shamrocks celebrate winning the State title in front of the CC student section.

Late goal sinks Novi hockey

BY JEFF THEISEN

SPORTS WRITER

Two seasons ago, Muskegon Mona Shores eliminated Novi from the final four.

History repeated itself, but this time in heartbreaking fashion.

The Sailors Mike Soto scored with 55.6 seconds remaining for a 2-1 victory and a right to play in the state finals.

Despite the tough loss, Novi head coach Todd Krygiar knows his team accomplished a lot to get where they were.

"To finish in the top four in your Division at state, we worked all year and we came up short," he said. "We gave everything we had. I'm proud of our guys."

"It doesn't just take talent to get to the final four. It mostly takes attitude, hard work and believe and perseverance. We went through all of that this year."

Novi carried much of the action offensively throughout the contest, but a couple of bounces off the post and some spectacular goalkeeping by

Mona Shores' Scott Tieffenthal kept the Sailors in it.

Wildcat Evan Dixon opened the scoring in the second period. He slammed home a feed from the corner with Tyler Manning and Alex Cova earning assists 2:23 into the second.

The goal stood until the final minute of the second. Mona Shores kept the pressure on in the Novi zone and got the equalizer when Soto redirected a perfect feed from point-blank past Michael Pesendorfer. Tyler Greivous and David Coppock earned assists.

Both teams had quality chances to take the lead, but Pesendorfer and Tieffenthal stood tall.

Novi's Tyler Perpich broke in free with less than six minutes to play, but his shot went off the post.

Mona Shores' Soto broke in free with less than three minutes on the clock, and Pesendorfer closed the pads on a five-hole attempt.

Things appeared headed for overtime until a faceoff in the Novi zone with 1:01 remaining.

The Sailors won the drop and Soto sent a high shot from Pesendorfer's left, off his shoulder, off the pipe and in.

"It could've gone either way. I think we hit two or three posts today," Krygiar said. "This game was back and forth. It was a great high school hockey game, and I congratulate Mona Shores."

Novi's last chance came when the Sailors were charged with a penalty with 47.2 left.

Pesendorfer came out for a 6-on-4 attempt.

A mad scrum in front of the Sailor net was whistled dead with 11.4 left, and Mona Shores killed the rest of the clock to move on.

Krygiar was especially thankful for the leadership his nine graduating seniors passed on throughout the year.

"I congratulated them," Krygiar said. "We're going to finish in the top 15 in the state out of 174 teams, and out of 52 teams (in Division 2), we're going to finish in the top four."



Wildcat Shane McCosker brings the puck up ice against Walled Lake Western.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 09-125.21 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 09-125.21 to amend the City of Novi Code at Chapter 37, Woodland Protection Ordinance and adopt the updated Regulated Woodland Map.

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, April 8, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.236, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX A OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 97.18, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AT ARTICLE 31, AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE, SECTION 3400, PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO) AT SECTION 3400.D.3, APPROVAL OF REZONING WITH PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE TIMEFRAME AND THE STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXTENSION TO A REZONING WITH PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY.

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT TSLUP 09-006 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the petitioner for Home Depot of Novi is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit for outdoor seasonal display of plant merchandise to the business to be located on the sidewalk adjacent to the store front located in the West Market Square Shopping Center at 47950 Grand River Avenue north of Grand River Avenue and west of Beck Road from April 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009.

CC rallies past Stevenson, 43-39

BY JEFF THEISEN

SPORTS WRITER

The teacher managed to hold off his former student Monday during the regional opener at Lakeland as CC beat Stevenson 43-39.

Catholic Central head coach Bill Dyer coached Stevenson's skipper Mike Allie back when both were at Stevenson.

The first half belonged to Allie's bunch, holding a 15-12 lead in a massive attempt to slow the game down and negate a size advantage for the Shamrocks.

"I played for coach Dyer at Stevenson. I love the guy like a brother," Allie said. "He got me in round one of the battle."

"I assure you we'll see him again in regionals, and I'll find a way to get him."

The second half belonged to Catholic Central, outscoring the Spartans 91-24 in the final two quarters to stay alive in the state playoffs.

"I'm proud of my kids for hanging in there. I knew it was going to be tough and rough," said Dyer. "We survived. They made it super difficult for us."

The Shamrocks hit just four of 25 shots in the first half. Luckily for them, the Spartans were 6-for-17 shooting, staying within three at the half.

Stevenson opened up a six-point lead in the third quarter before the momentum swung wildly to the Shamrocks.

CC's Steve Harding scored the final five points of the third quarter, helping the Shamrocks to a 24-23 lead heading into the fourth.

An 8-2 run to start the fourth put the Shamrocks up 32-25 with 4:24 left on the clock.

Spartan leading scorer Richard Chrzasz (11 points) made all three attempts from the line after being fouled on a shot behind the arc and later hit the game's lone three-pointer to pull the Spartans within three with 2:10 left.

The Spartans eventually whittled the lead down to two, but the Shamrocks hit 5 of 6 free throws down the stretch, including both by freshman Matt Doneth

15.6 remaining for the final points.

Harding scored all 12 of his points in the second half to help ignite the struggling Shamrock offense. Tim Dezsaki led all players with 14 points.

"We knew the best way to get away from their stall and zone was to get rebounds and push it up the floor," said Harding. "We were able to get some easy baskets in transition."

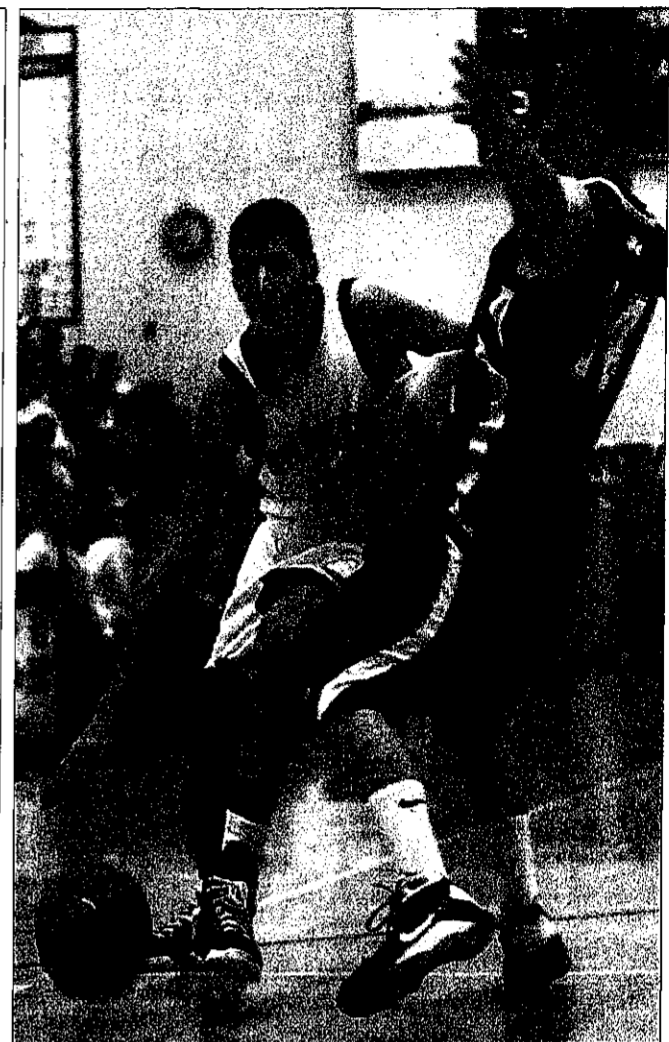
Robert Naubert and Austin White chipped in nine points each for Stevenson.

"We knew CC was big and would try to pound the ball inside," Allie said. "We tried to give them as few touches as possible by holding the ball."

"I thought our offense was very efficient in the first half. In the second half, their size caught up with us a bit ... and we got in foul trouble."

Catholic Central played for the regional final yesterday. If the Shamrocks won, they advance to the quarterfinals March 24 at Calihan Hall.

Log onto www.hometownlife.com to see how the Shamrocks fared.



Wildcat Samer Ozeir fights off a CC defender.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

Novi's leading scorer Chris Bellamy suffered an injury to the thumb of his off hand earlier in the week. Bellamy scored 13 points, but it came on 2-for-25 shooting. He went 8-for-9 at the line.

"We knew coming in ... if we make shots, we're going to be fine," Novi head coach Cory Heitsch said. "We didn't make shots for the majority of the game. They're a very,

very good defensive team. So things that look like they are there, maybe necessarily aren't."

Bryant was next with 11 points, followed by eight for Brockman.

Brett Smith and Steve Harding came up big for the Shamrocks, each scoring 14 points. Jamie Morris added all seven of his points after halftime.

"We're fortunate to have beaten them the last two years," Dyer said. "I don't think you win 19 games by accident. Their coach and

their staff have done a great job the last couple of years."

The loss ends the Wildcat season at 19-4, but Heitsch wanted to thank his seniors for a special season.

"It's the second-toughest worst time after cuts. It's awful," said Heitsch about the final game. "I didn't have to worry one day about this group. These are unbelievable kids, they're great athletes, they won 19 ballgames and they have a lot to hang their heads on."

Heitsch@qnet.net (248) 349-1700, ext. 228



Wildcat Joon Chung swims at Eastern Michigan University during the MHSAA State finals meet.

Novi's Chung swims to All-State

BY JEFF THEISEN

SPORTS WRITER

Novi swimmers put up some of the best swims in Wildcat history this weekend.

The Cats managed 13 points to finish 27th.

The biggest highlight came from Joon Chung. He earned All-State by placing sixth in the breaststroke in 59.57.

"Chung got a lifetime best in 100 breast," Novi head coach Eric Lynn said. "It was a very successful meet, and the boys did great."

The 200 medley relay team put up a new school mark, with Alex Zabinski, Chung, Tyler Vincent and Wes Smith

finishing in 1:41.31 in 17th, just one point from scoring.

The top 16 placers in each event scored.

"The 200 medley relay started the meet out very good, setting a new varsity record," Burch said.

The 200 relay of Chung, Zabinski, John Lu and Smith also set a season-best time (1:31.49, 18th in prelims).

Vincent also set a lifetime best in the 100 butterfly, and Zabinski set a season-best in the 100 backstroke, despite neither making the top 16 out of prelims.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL The Shamrocks accumulated 40 points to finish in 15th.

Highlights included the 400 freestyle relay team of Brady Small, Tony Thibodeau, Joe Brinkman and Derek Turowski swimming to All-State status with a seventh-place finish (3:19.22).

Small capturing ninth place in the 200 freestyle (1:48.01), Turowski finished 16th in the 50 freestyle (22:55), Keegan Foster placed 15th in diving (321.70) and the 200 free relay team of Small, Joe Brinkman, Tony Thibodeau and Turowski claimed 15th (1:30.7).

Seventh-place finishers included Trevor O'Connor at 152 and Mike Kinville at 189. O'Connor alternated with a win and loss through his five matches starting and finishing with a win. He beat Don Kril from Walled Lake Central 8-2 to earn seventh.

Shamrocks blast past Marquette into finals

BY TOM MORELLO

SPECIAL TO NOWHIS

Nothing comes easy around playoff time, and Marquette learned that the hard way last week in the final 15 minutes of the match-up against Catholic Central at the Compuware Arena.

The two teams had battled at the Trenton Showcase earlier in the season, with the Shamrocks earning a 3-2 decision.

History repeated itself for Catholic Central, as the Shamrocks outperformed their opponent in every aspect of the

game en route to a 6-0 win to advance to the championship game.

The Shamrocks (24-3-2 overall) did not hesitate to gain the upper hand on the Redmen, thanks to a goal by forward Brent Darnell just two minutes into the game.

Teammates Mike Zylk and Tony Thomas worked vigorously behind the net before finding a wide-open Darnell, who fired a shot from just outside the left faceoff dot.

Toward the middle of the period, Catholic Central was able to pad its lead thanks to junior Davey Middleton's maker at 8:48,

followed by Austin Hervey's a mere three minutes later.

Getting an early lead was something Shamrocks head coach Todd Johnson emphasized before the game, according to senior forward Dan Brown.

Catholic Central's potent offense remained on display in the second period, where CC fired 26 shots on Redmen goaltender Troy Anderson. Of those, the Shamrocks were only able to connect on one, which came courtesy of junior forward Eric Frago.

Special teams came into play for the Shamrocks late in the

Healthy Legs, Healthy You!

"I thought it was normal for my legs to ache at the end of the day."

You may have a medical condition covered by insurance known as Venous Insufficiency if you experience any of these leg symptoms:

- Pain/aching/throbbing
-Heaviness or fatigue
-Swelling of feet/ankles
-Restless legs
-Night cramps
-Itchy veins
-Venous ulcers
-Non-healing ulcers

Studies have demonstrated that there is a significant deterioration in the quality of life for persons with chronic venous insufficiency and this can be severe. Don't wait to get treated.

You're never too old or young to jumpstart your health and fitness program with healthy legs. Have your legs treated in under an hour with no-downtime, no scarring and NO STRIPPING using the latest technology.

New, safe & effective treatment for Rosacea & Facial veins with Veinwave™ Advanced Vein Therapies is the only location in Michigan with this technology.

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ADVANCED VEIN THERAPIES Jeffrey H. Miller, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board-certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous disease for nearly 25 years. 248.347.6700 www.avtherapies.com

Novi Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL HAPPENINGS

Salon D'MARS
Salon D'MARS is holding a food drive March 24-April 4 at their business located at 24079 Meadowbrook Road, south of 10 Mile Road in the Peachtree Plaza. Receive one raffle ticket for each non-perishable food item you donate. The raffle is for a gift certificate to Salon D'MARS. Food will be distributed locally through the Faith Community Presbyterian Church food closet. For more information, call (248) 465-9077.

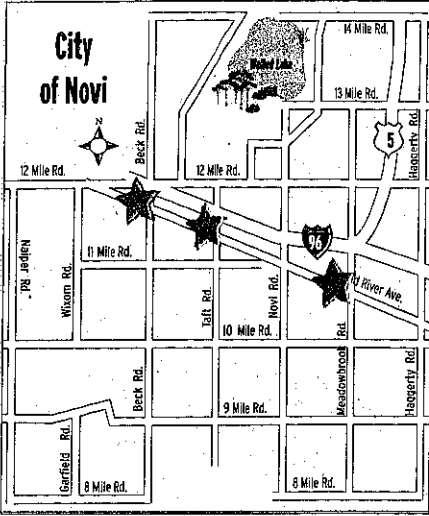
Rock Financial Showplace
The Easter Family Brunch returns to the Diamond Banquet Center in the Rock Financial Showplace 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday April 12. The annual event will offer a delicious buffet menu for adults, and a specially tailored sideboard for children. The Easter Bunny will also make an appearance. Adults \$27, Seniors \$25, Children 12 and under \$13, Toddlers 3 and under free. Free parking and cash bar after noon. Reservations are suggested, walk-ins are welcome. Call (248) 348-5600.

Tubby's
Tubby's Grilled Submarines® of southeast Michigan is now offering customers delicious chicken wings at all Tubby's locations as part of the regular menu. Tubby's wings are bigger, tastier and come in several flavors including Tubby's Original, Plain, Mild Buffalo, Fiery Hot, BBQ and Tequila Lime. Wings come in five piece and 10 piece meals and are available as boneless. Tubby's reminds customers it now uses zero grams of trans fat for fry products. The new Zero Grams Trans Fat logo will be used on new menus, advertising and store promotions to alert customers of the change. The Novi Tubby's is located on Grand River Avenue, west of Meadowbrook Road.

Olga's Kitchen
Olga's Kitchen will support the Michigan community by providing a Free Original® Olga sandwich on Wednesday, April 8 through Friday April 10 to anyone presenting a ticket stub from Jay Leno's show at the Palace, Tuesday, April 7. The offer will be good at all Olga's Kitchen restaurants, including the Novi location on Grand River Avenue, west of Beck Road. The offer will be limited to one per person per ticket stub, dine-in only, no substitutions. Visit www.olgas.com for more information.

RELOCATION
Boyne Country Sport
Boyne Country Sports in the Novi Town Center is closing its doors on March 22 and will reopen this summer in the Twelve Oaks parking lot across from Macy's.

Running Fit
The Running Fit store in Novi has once again relocated its position within the confines of the Novi Town Center. Long-time customers often reminisce about its fourth move in 20 years. This being its fourth move in 20 years, the new home for Running Fit's Novi location is situated on 11 Mile Road, the "Grand River side" of the Town Center, in a larger, more noticeable space. Recently the company added triathlon gear to its exceptional stock of running and walking shoes, apparel and equipment. The new store will also house an Endless Pool. The Endless Pool allows the multi sport gang to demo wet suits and analyze their stroke in the mirror on the pool bottom. For more information on Running Fit, visit www.runningfit.net.



ABC Warehouse
ABC Warehouse is offering free cooking classes and tastings at its Novi location in West Oaks Mall. Tonight

OPENINGS
Sleep Doctor Mattress
43443 Grand River Avenue
(248) 349-2071

Faithfully Fit
37955 Grand River Ave
(616) 533-0554

COMING SOON
Tuesday Morning
Grand River Avenue and Market Street
www.tuesdaymorning.com

Jeffrey Leflein
Jeffrey Leflein, M.D., has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital. Dr. Leflein is board certified in Allergy and Immunology and Pediatrics. He is a member of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Allergy and Immunology and the American Medical Association.

Bernadette Goddard
Bernadette Goddard, M.S., APRN, FNP-BC, has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital. Goddard is a board

certified family nurse practitioner and practices with Rehabilitation Physicians, P.C., located at 28455 Haggerty Road, Suite 200 in Novi. The office number is (248) 893-3200. Goddard received her Master of Science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Kentucky.

Larry Crepeau
Novi resident Larry Crepeau was recently inducted into UPS's Circle of Honor program, which recognizes drivers who have attained 25 years or more of accident-free driving. Crepeau works out of the UPS facility in Livonia. He and his wife, Sue, live in Novi. They have three children: Matt, 29, Adam, 22, Jenny, 34. UPS has long enjoyed an outstanding reputation for safety in the transportation industry.

Chamber Chat
The Novi Business and Taste Expo will take place 3-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 29 at the Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road. Sponsored by the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the City of Novi, the inaugural event will include networking, cash bar and refreshments. There is an early-bird special for vendor tables reserved before April 1. Watch your e-mail for the vendor and sponsorship application.

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

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Chamber Chat
An After Five Networking event is 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 26 at Urgent Care of Novi, 44000 12 Mile Road, Suite 101. Join us for networking and refreshments. Advance registration is \$15; \$25 after Tuesday, March 24. The Novi Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Relational Church will hold a Job Fair 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday Apr. 25 at the

Chamber Chat
Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 767-8626 for more information. 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.

Time to give your investment portfolio a spring cleaning

Spring is here — time to spruce up your house and get rid of your clutter.

But this year, don't confine your spring cleaning to your home and yard. Why not "freshen up" your investment portfolio at the same time?

Of course, you can't just take a mop and broom to your brokerage statement. But some of the same principles that apply to your basic spring cleaning can work just as well when you tidy up your investments.

Consider the following suggestions:

■ Take an inventory of your belongings. If you're like most people, you've got some things lying around your house that have outlived their usefulness. It might be that lawn mower that died in 2004 or the toaster that warmed its last slice during the Clinton Administration, but whatever it is, it's beyond repair — and it should go. And the same may be true of some of your investments. If one hasn't performed the way you had hoped or no longer fits into your long-term goals, this might be

a good time to speak with a financial advisor.

■ Dispose of your duplicates. If you went through your house carefully, you might be surprised at how many items you have that do the same thing. Do you really need two colanders? And how many radios can you listen to at one time? If you looked at your investment portfolio the same way, you might be surprised by some of the redundancies that pop up. For example, you may have several stocks issued by similar companies that make similar products. This might not be a concern when the stock market is booming, but it could be a definite problem if a downturn affects the industry to which these companies belong. Always look for ways to diversify your holdings. While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, it may help reduce the effects of market volatility.

■ Put things back in order. Over time, and almost before you're aware of it, the spaces in your home can get "out of

balance." Perhaps you have too many chairs in one corner, or maybe your new desk takes up too much space in your home office. With some rearranging, however, you can get things back in order. The same need for rearrangement may apply to your portfolio, which might have become unbalanced, with too much of one investment and too little of another. This situation could undermine your financial strategy, especially if the imbalance means you are taking on too much risk or, conversely, if your holdings have become too conservative to provide the growth you need. So, look for ways to restore your portfolio to its proper balance.

By giving your portfolio an annual spring cleaning, you can help make sure it's up-to-date, suited to your needs and well-positioned to help you make progress toward your key financial goals. And you can do it all without going near a dust cloth.

This article was provided by Mark Whitfield, Novi financial adviser, 43290 11 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

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734-453-5500
9900 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth Rd.

Cheer for the hometown, read today's SPORTS section