

THURSDAY
July 2,
2009

Hometown Weeklies
Volume 54
Number 6
75 CENTS

Happy Independence Day

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

MICROFILM COPY

Novi athletes well represented on All-Area teams
Sports, B1

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY 7/2/09

NUTSHELL

Novi auto show unlikely

Novi's chance to host the North American International Auto Show in 2011 appears to be dwindling after the state Legislature approved a package of bills on June 26 to all but assure the show remains at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

The package allows the city of Detroit to lease the convention center to a regional authority for 30 years, and the authority would receive \$9 million from the state to start the expansion and renovations.

There is no deadline for the Detroit City Council to approve the plan, but it must be decided by Aug. 1 so that ground can be broken at the Cobo Center or an alternate site if the council chose to reject the plan. However, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing has the power to override a rejection by council.

Should it get rejected and Bing not veto it, Oakland County would be allowed to use up to \$154 million in tax revenue to prepare another site, which would likely be the Rock Financial Showplace.

Blair Bowman, president of Rock Financial Showplace, said last week he supports keeping the show at Cobo, but is prepared to go forward with an expansion if necessary.

Farmers and artists wanted

Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk and ArtsNovi are working on a new project for a weekly Farmer/Artisan Market in the center of the shopping complex. The event would be Saturdays in August and would include live music. If you have some home-grown or hand-made wonderful flowers, great vegetables, jams, honey, herbs, paintings, sculpture, jewelry, etc., please call (586) 484-8797.

Office closed

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, the Novi News office (101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon) will be closed, but you can reach us 24/7 on the web at hometownlife.com to submit press releases, letters to the editor or email customer service.

Mackinac Center recognizes city's effort

Novi only second city in state to post public spending online

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council member Andrew Mutch said he has always been a big believer in transparency and accountability when it comes to spending money.

So it's no surprise that Mutch was behind an effort to put the city's public spending information available online for residents to see how their money is being spent.

"I think it's extremely important

from the viewpoint of government, because it helps the communication process," Mutch said. "The more information we put out there, the more informed our residents can be. By opening ourselves up, we are making it clear to the residents and taxpayers that we are willing to let them see what we are doing."

Novi is in the minority when it comes to posting its check registers online, as only one other city, Flint, and 42 public school districts in the state, including Novi Community



Mutch

Schools, do so. The city started posting its check registers online last fall, but recently improved the Web site to give people easier access.

As a result of its actions, the city was recognized by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy as a leader in government transparency. The Mackinac Center is currently trying to get everyone on board with this practice, and information about all those currently involved can be found at www.showmichiganthemoney.org.

"It's a great way to connect with the community and let them know everything is above board," director

DETAILS

The check registers can be found at www.cityofnovi.org under the finance department tab, while information about the stimulus projects is under the community tab.

Kenneth Braun said. "This is a good government thing and we want to praise them for doing it right."

Mutch said another reason he pushed for the streamlining of information was because the city has started to do projects with stimulus money and he wanted residents to be able to see how the money is being used and keep them up-to-date on the status of those projects.

nmuel@ganett.com | (248) 437-2011 ext. 255

Summer reading has its rewards

Library program offers prizes to top vacation readers

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

School is out, but reading is definitely in this summer at the Novi Public Library.

Nearly 1,300 people are expected to sign up for the annual Summer

Reading Program which features more activities and prizes than ever before.

Signing up is free, and the rewards are plentiful.

"We want to encourage kids to read throughout the summer and keep those skills up while they are out of school," said Suzanne Carpenter, youth in team services librarian. "Hopefully they will become life-long readers."

Through the first two weeks, more than 700 kids, teens and adults have gotten involved with the program. The age groups are broken down to birth through fourth grade, grades fifth through 12th and an adult category. Readers are rewarded for the number of hours they read, and they can earn up to five entries into the grand prize drawing.

Sarah Dwyer, 10, and her sister Maggie, 8, stopped by the library on Monday to pick up some new books and start logging hours.

Maggie is currently reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and her favorite



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nicholas Barron, 8, checks out a handful of books at the Novi Public Library on June 29. Barron and other kids can enroll in the library's summer reading program and keep track of the time spent perusing books for a share of prizes throughout the summer.

type of books are realistic fiction because "it makes me feel like it's happening right now."

Sarah just finished with *Charlotte's Web*, and was on the look-

out for a mystery or fantasy book.

"It just takes you to a whole different world, and it's fun," Sarah said about why she likes to read.

Christa Kondraciuk, 14, and

Kristen Lotrey, 15, also were at the library on Monday volunteering to sign people up and log their hours.

Please see **READING, A5**

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Fire department to benefit from new video technology

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Training and group meetings just got a lot easier for the Novi Fire Department thanks to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program that helped the department install video conferencing equipment at all four fire stations.

The \$1.3 million grant was divided among 16 other communities, with Novi receiving \$95,925. The city of Novi also kicked in about \$23,000.

"The best part about video conferencing is that it is two-way communication in real time," Fire Chief Frank Smith said. "The technology being used prior allowed us to talk to other fire



Smith

stations, but for them to talk back they had to call on the phone. It was a much more cumbersome way of communicating."

With the new system, the captain does roll call and a five-minute training session every morning from one station that is then broadcast to the other three. Any questions the firefighters at the other stations have can be asked and answered immediately.

For Smith, allowing his firefighters to remain at their respective stations, especially for

Please see **TECHNOLOGY, A5**

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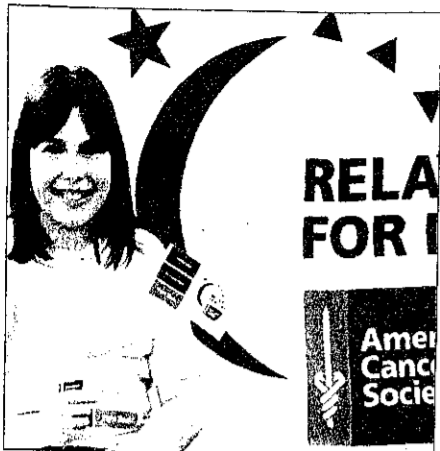
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Hope Drogmiller helped raise more than \$1,500 for the Novi Relay for Life.

Ruling Relay

■ Girl, 10, raises \$1,573 to benefit cancer research

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Hope Drogmiller was one-year-old when her mother Kathleen was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Nine years later the cancer hasn't returned, but Hope understands that it still could. And because of that thought, she, along with her mother, have been part of the Novi Relay for Life the last two years.

"When I knew she was doing it I wanted to join because I knew it was going to help cancer research," the 10-year-old said. "It's a lot of fun because you get to walk around the track and know you are raising money for a good cause."

Kathleen was one of the captains of the team Hope's Heroes. The team was the only one at the Novi Relay for Life to achieve purple status, which meant it raised more than \$10,000.

And of that amount, \$1,573 was raised by Hope alone. She solicited businesses, sent

post cards to friends and family and even wrote letters to some well-known leaders in the area, including Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Ford Motor Co. Chairman Bill Ford Jr.

On top of the fundraising, Hope also got Michael Carluccio, who impersonates Wolverine from X-Men, to make a stop at Relay to pose for pictures with fans.

"As a father, I could not be more proud of my daughter," said Curtis Drogmiller. "She came to her immediately when my wife said she was going to be a team captain and she continuously surprises me with her efforts."

And when asked what it was like to be able to walk that lap with her mom, Hope said simply, "the best."

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Novi Relay for Life 2009



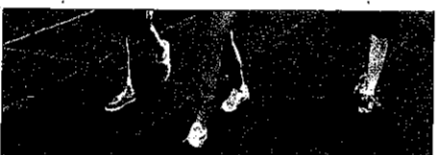
Dozens of tents and shelters and many walkers crowd the infield and track at Novi Middle School at noon on Saturday for Novi's Relay for Life event.



Derlene Campbell, part of Team CVS, implores passersby for money so that she can get out of "jail" during last Saturday's Novi Relay for Life event held at Novi Middle School. All money raised went to the American Cancer Society for cancer research.



Evan Layburn, left, and Nick Colacino, both Novi High juniors, raise money by playing guitar during last Saturday's Novi Relay for Life event at Novi Middle School. All funds raised by the teenagers and others at the 24-hour marathon, went to cancer research.



Walkers stride along the track of Novi Middle School during last week's Novi Relay for Life. Hundreds of Novi residents and businesses took part in the fundraiser for cancer research.

State Senate balances 2010 budget with \$1.3 billion in reduced spending

We all know that Michigan's economic recovery will be very slow. And the sluggish recovery is combining with structural spending problems to severely impact the state budget. The governor made an executive order with \$350 million in cuts to help balance the current year's budget. Even with those cuts, next year's 2010 budget will require the state to make additional cuts, tap federal recovery money and consider reducing refundable tax credits to balance a \$1.7 billion shortfall.

To this end, my fellow Senate Republicans and I recently led the effort to pass the 2010 budgets with \$1.3 billion in reduced spending, including many extremely difficult cuts to programs I have long supported. The state will receive approximately \$7 billion dollars in federal stimulus funds over a three-year period beginning with fiscal year 2008/09. A great majority of this money is already restricted by the federal government. We have \$1.1 billion dollars of discretionary stimulus money that was used to balance the current 2008/09 budget and over \$900 million for the state police budget for 2009/10. The question is whether we use all of this now. The Senate proposed to keep half of it for the 2011 budget cycle because of expected continuing revenue decreases.

In the budget process, I made a firm commitment not to support any budget that increases spending from the general fund. So when the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget included a 4.3 percent increase in general fund spending, I stood by my principles and voted no.

One program I fought for was the Michigan Promise Grant because the money should be going to students and not programs. I was the only senator to offer a con-



Lansing
Nancy Cassis

promise to the Higher Education budget that would have restored \$40 million of the program. My proposal would have reduced the grants from \$4,000 to \$2,000 and added a means testing to ensure that those most in need of the grant would receive it. Even though my amendment didn't have the necessary support, I was able to add a placeholder for the grant program to keep it alive as we work toward a compromise.

Another amendment I offered would have saved \$32 million in the promise grant program by eliminating scholarships for kids going to private colleges. We need to set the right priorities in budget decisions. I believe we should keep the Michigan Promise Grant, but we need to first fund Michigan students heading to taxpayer-supported public universities.

One example of cutting wasteful spending was a Senate Republican amendment to the state police budget that cut funding for a new headquarters in downtown Lansing that even the department didn't want. I believe it is unconscionable to be moving the state police into a new facility that will increase the cost to taxpayers by \$3 million next year while the state lays off 100 troopers due to lack of funds.

In fact, in December of 2007, I offered Senate Resolution 129, which "urged the developers in good faith to discontinue the project in light of Michigan's struggling economy and limited revenues." When introduced, the resolution had bipartisan support.

We must be as equitable as possible in making cuts.

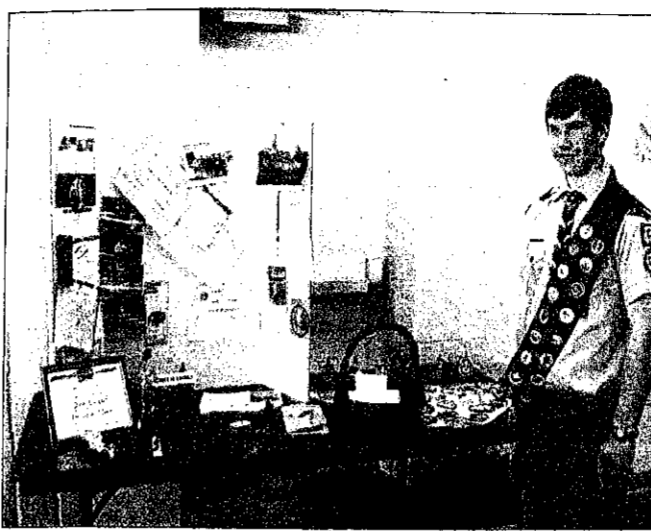
As difficult as this process has been, the Department of Community Health managed to reduce spending overall by 24 percent, while the Department of Corrections limped in with a cut of just 3 percent.

I voted against the Corrections budget because it lacked much-needed reforms and restructuring of the department, the second largest general fund spending item in the state budget.

If we don't address our structural spending problem, Michigan will continue to have budget deficits. The budget deficits for 2010 are currently in conference committees, comprised of members from the House and Senate. The conference committee process allows the two chambers to work together to reach an agreement. Importantly, it is the responsibility of the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader to agree to budget "targets" which set the spending limits of each budget in the conference committee.

I will continue to keep you informed as lawmakers deal proactively with both spending restraint and reductions. I am confident that an agreement will be reached that considerably streamlines state government spending to bridge the budget gap. It will not be easy, but it can be done.

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



Jacob Blossfeld achieved the Eagle Scout rank after completing his Eagle Project at Holy Family Catholic Church where he built three sets of storage units.

All in the family

■ Scouting brings brothers together

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Jacob Blossfeld's journey to the rank of Eagle Scout was not easy.

There were many long days, a lot of hard work to earn merit badges and finishing an Eagle Project among several other activities.

Blossfeld even thought about quitting when all his friends did, but he realized he couldn't let down himself or his two younger brothers that were following in his scouting footsteps.

"It means a lot to me," Blossfeld said of the Eagle rank. "I didn't take it seriously until I got older and it took a lot of work, but I was motivated because I like to do stuff that takes work and helps others."

It's that mindset that Blossfeld has passed on to Joshua, 11, and Kevin, 9. Joshua is a Boy Scout in troop 407, the same troop Jacob was in, and Kevin is a Cub Scout in pack 50, the same one Jacob and Joshua were in. The three brothers have done camps together, and



(Left) Jacob Blossfeld, 18, earned the rank of Eagle Scout last fall and has been a good role model for his younger brothers Joshua, 11, and Kevin, 9, who plan on achieving Eagle rank themselves.

on one of them Jacob carried Joshua on his back for a little while during a six-mile hike because he was tired.

"I think the younger brothers look up to him and think 'that could be me, that is my future,'" said mother Betty Jane Blossfeld.

Joshua said Jacob has always helped him when he had questions and wants to earn Eagle rank because "it

makes you one of the leaders of scout troops."

Kevin has the benefit of watching his two older brothers go through scouts, and also looks forward to Eagle rank.

"I know not very many people have done it, and I want to be a leader," he said.

And with Jacob's help, the prospects of his two brothers joining him with Eagle honors is a strong possibility.



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MILESTONES



Griffin A. Powers P.J. and Abby Powers of Plymouth announce the birth of their son, Griffin Allen Powers, born June 13, 2009, at St. Joe's Hospital.

Morris & Corlin Marcell Morris and Keith Corlin are engaged to be married August 29 at Brighton Church of Christ with a reception at Crystal Gardens in Howell.



The bride-to-be of Brighton, is the daughter of John and Norma Morris of Brighton. She is a full-time student at Eastern Michigan University and will be graduating in December.

Byrwa & Pawlak Vanessa D. Byrwa and Brent M. Pawlak were married July 18, 2008 at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.



The groom-elect, of Portage, is the son of Doug and Joan Corlin of Grand Rapids. He graduated with a degree in engineering from Western Michigan University and has worked for Denso Corporation in Battle Creek for 21 years.

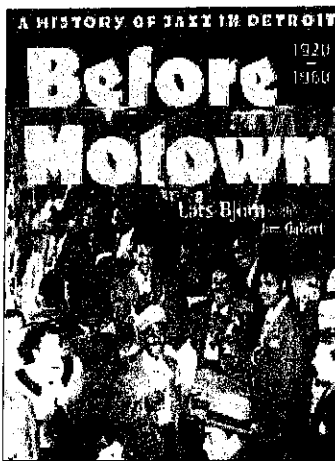
The bride is the daughter of David and Denise Byrwa of Novi. She is a graduate of Novi High School and earned her bachelor of science degree in engineering from University of Michigan. She is employed with Deloitte Consulting.

Advertisement for in-home services for seniors by SENIORS Helping SENIORS. Services include cooking, yard work, light housekeeping, companionship, personal shopping, and shopping.

Lively Detroit jazz scene is not new, library speakers say

BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Lars Bjorn and Jim Gallert share a passion for jazz history in Detroit. They wanted us to tell their story, Ferndale resident Gallert said of local jazz musicians.



in their younger days showed up in a photo with Goldkette from the 1920s. William McKinney had a group that became known as McKinney's Cotton Pickers. Those musicians were mostly college graduates, and from Ohio, but music was promoted that way to draw white audiences.

Bjorn and Gallert came to the Novi Public Library the evening of June 25 to share their story. Bjorn, a professor of sociology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and quality control engineer Gallert, who's done jazz broadcasting, took turns showing photos and sharing music with the attentive audience.

The men have acquired from musicians more photos since the book was published. They noted the need to gain musicians' trust to borrow and scan photos.

Detroit has produced many great blues piano players, including Major "Big Maceo" Merrimether. You can tell he's a fantastic piano player, Bjorn said.

Another photo of the Koppin Theater on Gratiot was part of Paradise Valley where such performers as Bessie Smith could be heard in the 1920s. There were a number of traveling shows that came through, and admission was a dime.

Gallert said Vernon and Irene Castle introduced close contact dancing in the teens. It suddenly became fashionable to dance. Black musicians performed for the Castles and other dancers.

Bjorn spoke of Detroit jazz including guitar, piano and drums as it became urbanized. There were also "society bands" such as the all-black Leroy Smith Orchestra. Their music, not really jazz, was orchestrated for dances like the fox-trot and started in the teens.

The Blue Bird Inn on Tireman was also popular, with Thad Jones leading the house band. His brother, Hank, is still alive and Bjorn was looking forward to an interview with him.

The Finzel's Arcadia Orchestra was all-white and didn't do much improvising. Leroy Smith ended up performing in swanky venues in New York City with the 1930s marking the start of racially mixed bands.

The Flame Show Bar at John R and Canfield drew huge crowds as the primary outlet for black performers in the 1950s. A photo showed Berry Gordy, Motown founder, with Billie Holiday at the Flame, which closed in 1963.

Bjorn and Gallert showed a slide of Hastings Street in Detroit, on the near east side, where listeners could hear blues up through the 1950s. Hastings Street is just about gone now as freeways went through the area.

The men closed their talk with a song from Mary Wells, the first female Motown performer to hit it big in the 1960s. It was created by musicians, Gallert said.

Impressive photos of The Graystone, a ballroom Goldkette bought at Woodward and Canfield, show room for 4,000. He wants music in that ballroom, Gallert said.

Detroit had some 11 major ballrooms in the 1920s. Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey

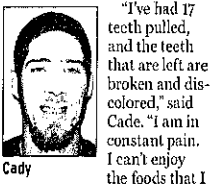
Project Smile: Dentist changes life of deserving metro Detroiter

Novi's Dr. Justin Geller provides complete smile makeover for man



Dr. Justin Geller providing a complete smile makeover to Paul Cade as part of Project Smile.

After losing both his job and his insurance seven months ago, Paul Cade and his family finally have a reason to celebrate. Cade, a resident of Wyandotte, has been chosen to receive a complete smile makeover, courtesy of Dr. Justin Geller's new community outreach program, Project Smile.



Cade

"I've had 17 teeth pulled, and the teeth that are left are broken and discolored," said Cade. "I am in constant pain. I can't enjoy the foods that I used to be able to eat, and I don't smile in any of my pictures, not even ones with my family and kids."

Cade has spent most of his 27 years avoiding the cameras. As a parent, he has always put his family's needs above his own. Today, trying to meet the day-to-day needs is a challenge, a reality that lessened his hopes of ever being able to afford the necessary dental procedures.

Project Smile builds upon JMG Dentistry's continual commitment to community outreach. In past years, Dr. Geller and the JMG Dentistry staff have annually chosen families that were financially unable to provide care for themselves and their children and fulfilled their dental needs at no charge.

"We did it because we have the ability to change someone's life by changing their smile or even just getting the patient out of pain," said Dr. Geller. "In the end, everyone feels great."



Author's words A Deerfield student reads a story of hers during their year end Lighthouse Writers' Coffee held on June 16.

Advertisement for 'KNOW THE SCORE' featuring today's Sports section.

READING

FROM PAGE A1

Both also are readers in the program. The best part about being involved with the program for Lotrey is "seeing the kids' faces when they get a prize because they are so happy."

For Kondraciuk, the library is like her second home. "Since I was little, the

library has always been a fun place for me to come," she said.

On top of the summer reading program, the library also is participating in the second annual summer reading sweepstakes program. The program offers parents a chance to win \$1,500 toward their child's college education and the library a chance to win \$1,000 toward future summer reading programs. Parents can register their child at the

library. Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Nowi, is hosting his first ever "Legislator for a Day" contest that is open to any student in grades first through sixth.

Contestants have to read 10 books, fill out a bookmark, and drop it off at the library. The winner and their family will spend a day at the state capital in Lansing with Crawford.

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TECHNOLOGY

FROM PAGE A1

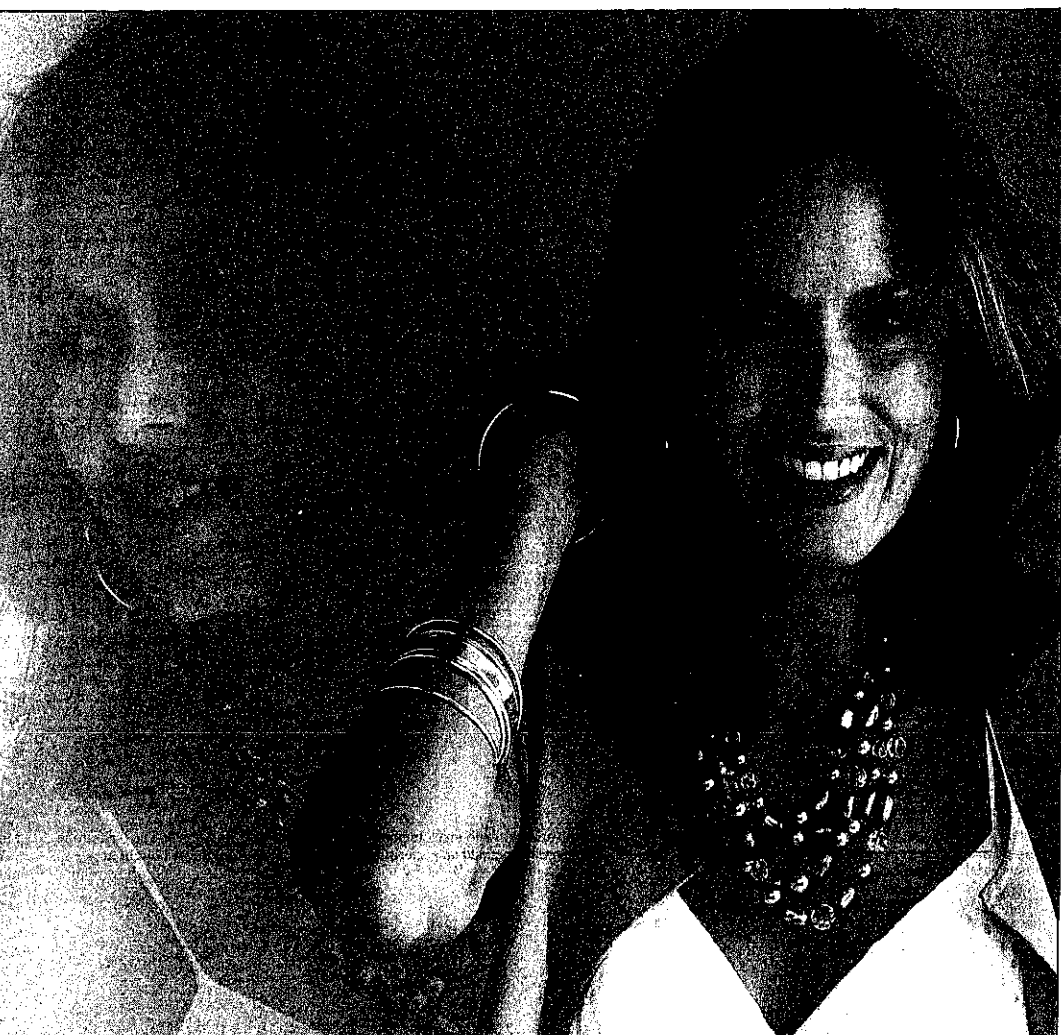
training programs, is key. "To do that before, we had to have everyone go to one station

and someone else would cover their district or it wasn't covered," Smith said. "Now their district is covered."

Another plus to the system is that it is connected with 15 other departments, including nearby Farmington Hills, and allows

those departments to cross-train and share programs with each other. The future plans also include connecting to a total of 56 fire stations, community colleges and local hospitals.

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EDUCATION

Teacher looks to drum up support for new percussion ensemble

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Parkview Elementary music teacher Matt Ownby has been working for years to start his own indoor competitive percussion ensemble.

And Ownby got his wish this March with the creation of Number 6 Independent Percussion, Number 6, which plans to open its inaugural season in November, is a non-profit competitive youth musical organization that will be competing at the national and international levels, and is open to musicians between the ages of 16 and 21. Ownby said it is a lot like marching band, but just with percussion instruments.

"It is something I have given a lot of time in my life and I want to give back to the youth what I have gotten out of it," he said. "It's an activity I feel strongly about and an activity I know well."

Ownby is in the process of securing sponsors and looking for mostly drummers to help fill out the group. He expects to have 33 members and perform throughout Michigan before closing the season at the 2010 Winter

Guard International World Championships in Dayton, Ohio, in April.

Students who are currently involved with a competitive band program at their high school are not eligible for the team. Ownby said he already has had a strong response from other high school students and graduates who want to join, and there will be tryouts in November to select the members.

"Students like it because it gives them an opportunity to compete against people from all over the world, meet some of the best percussion professionals in the industry and learn a lot about leadership and accomplishing goals," he said.

Ownby will serve as director and president of the group, and will be aided by several other music professionals. Ownby has two master's degrees in music, and was a member of The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, Ill. The corps won a World Championship in 1992 and the front ensemble won championships in 1992 and 1993. Ownby also was the 1993 Drum Corps International Solo Multiple-Percussion World Champion.



Telcom scholarships

Telcom Credit Union, headquartered in Novi, recently presented five high school seniors with \$1,000 college scholarships, as part of their new FUSE Young Members Program. The five recipients were selected from eligible students who are Telcom Credit Union members who plan to go to college in the fall. Telcom's FUSE program includes a FUSE Reward Savings account for children of all ages, a FUSE Checking account with a debit card, and a FUSE Visa credit card for members from 16 to 23 years old, as well as the FUSE Scholarship Program for high school seniors. Pictured are Telcom Executive VP/CFD Ron Lang along with scholarship recipients Linnea Jimison, Casey Ayers, Sarah Seewald, James Szymanski, and Beth Wloszek.

NOVI ON CAMPUS

University of Michigan

Jordan Reilly of Novi has been placed on the Dean's Honor List in recognition of outstanding academic achievement during the fall term 2008 and winter term 2009. Jordan earned a grade point average of 3.8 for both terms in the School of Engineering and is studying biomedical engineering.

Loyola University

Loyola University New Orleans dean's list for the spring 2009 semester for students completing the semester with a 3.5 grade point average or higher includes Jennifer Rudolph of Novi.



Reading is fun

Village Oaks Elementary School students parade around their school (above) on Fri. March 27, with their favorite books held high to celebrate the end of their activities of March is Reading Month. Parents and siblings line the route. Ian Kinnard (left) walks outside of Village Oaks Elementary on Fri. March 27 with a copy of "The Bears Picnic" held high as he and other pupils celebrated the end of March is Reading Month with a parade through the school's neighborhood.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Second Opinions: Why many seniors don't, but should get one

Dear Savvy Senior, Are second medical opinions worth the trouble or risk of offending your doctor? And does Medicare cover them?
Nervous Nelly

Dear Nelly Yes! A second opinion is good medicine and your right as a patient. Besides, good doctors welcome second opinions and will even offer referrals to help you get one. If they don't, you probably ought to find another doctor. Here's what you should know.

SECOND OPINIONS

There's a mountain of evidence that shows that second opinions saves lives, prevents mistakes and cuts costs. Yet most older patients choose not to get them because they're either afraid of offending their doctor, don't want to hassle with it, or fear their insurance won't cover it. But getting a second opinion from a different doctor may offer you a fresh perspective, new information and additional options for treating your condition so you can make a

SAVVY SENIOR

In most cases Medicare pays for second opinions under Part B, and will even pay for a third opinion if the first two differ. Most Medicare Advantage plans also cover second opinions, but some plans will require a referral first from your primary physician. If you have private insurance, you'll need to check with your insurance provider.

WHO PAYS

The key times you should seek a second opinion are when:
• Your doctor suggests surgery. You should always question elective procedures, especially if a less-invasive alternative is available.
• You're diagnosed with a life-threatening disease such as cancer or heart disease.

WHEN TO ASK

• You're not getting any better.
• Your regular doctor can't diagnose your problem.
• You're having trouble talking with your current doctor.
• You're having multiple medical problems.

research and teaching hospitals are smart choices, especially for rare or complicated conditions, because of their ongoing research and expertise in specific areas of medicine.

To locate and research potential doctors the American Medical Association (www.ama-assn.org) and the American Osteopathic Association (www.osteopathic.org) offer free doctor finding services that list virtually every licensed physician in the U.S.
Another good resource is Health Grades (www.healthgrades.com) which provides detailed reports on doctors for \$13.
Also see Vitals.com, a free service that lets you search for top-rated doctors based on their training, expertise, consumer ratings and recommendations from other doctors.

WHERE TO LOOK
When you opt for a second opinion, you can ask your first doctor for a referral, or, if that makes you uncomfortable, seek one on your own. Whatever route you choose, it's best to go with a doctor that has extensive experience in treating your condition and one that's affiliated with a different practice or hospital than your original doctor. Hospitals and practices can be set in their ways when it comes to treatments and are likely to offer similar advice. Physicians from

ONLINE ADVICE

If you're having a hard time finding or getting to another doctor for a second opinion, consider the Internet. Yes, Web-based second opinions are now available from top medical centers that allow you to consult with medical experts regardless of where they're located. Two good ones to check out are the prestigious Cleveland Clinic (clevelandclinic.com; 800-223-2273) and Partners Online Specialty Consultations (econsultpartners.org; 888-456-5003) which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School. The cost for this online advice ranges between \$500 and \$1,000 and is usually not covered by insurance or Medicare.

Savvy Tips: Before you get a second opinion you'll need to have your doctor's

office send your medical records ahead to the second doctor (you may have to pick them up and deliver them yourself), and be sure he or she knows about your original diagnosis, and the course of treatment recommended by your first doctor.

If they disagree, you may want to seek that third opinion, or go back to your original doctor for further consultation.

A helpful resource that can help you weigh your options is the Ottawa Personal Decision Guide (http://decisionaid.ohri.ca) which provides a worksheet for people facing tough health decisions.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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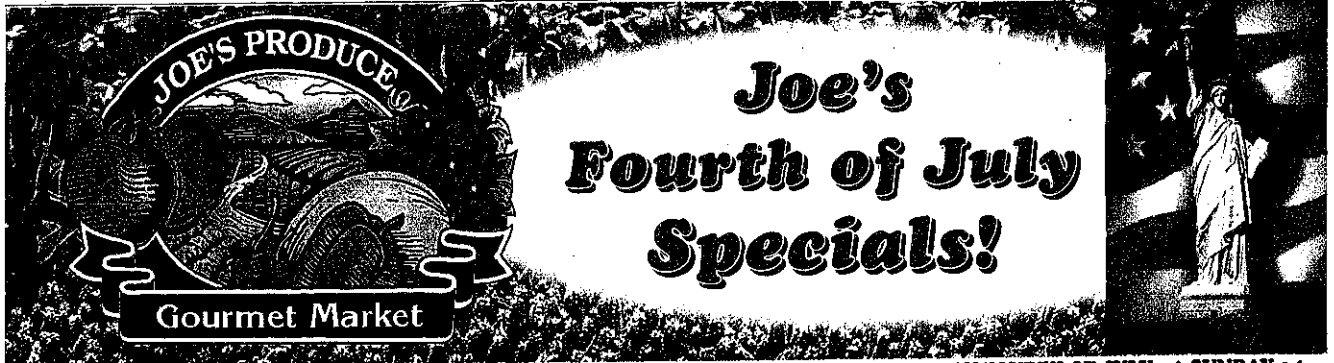
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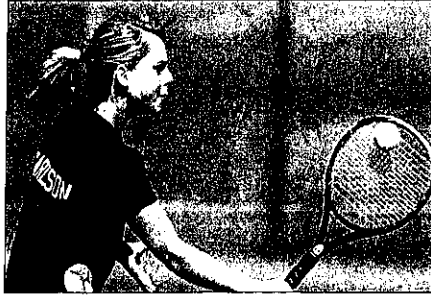
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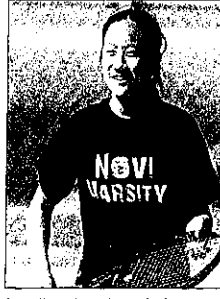
Dentist treats his patients as if they were his family
Strictly Business, B4



Wildcat Amanda Border played No. 1 singles for Novi and finished 18-5. The junior makes the All-Area First Team.



Wildcat Sara Carlson finished 21-4 at No. 2 singles and makes the All-Area First Team.



Abby Wang played No. 3 singles for Novi and made a run all the way to the State finals. She finished 22-7 and makes the All-Area First Team.



Novi's senior Jennifer Felcher finished 24-4 at No. 4 singles and made the State semifinals. She is on the All-Area First Team.

Northville No. 4 tandem best in State

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Northville tennis coach Sandy Woolfall knew her team was loaded in doubles heading into the season. It was proven by a couple of deep runs at the State tournament, highlighted by a No. 4 doubles title by Valerie Juan and Mackenzie Powers.

Juan and Powers are the 2009 All-Area Tennis Players of the Year.

"They just played really well that weekend... really determined," Woolfall said. "The depth we have makes them so strong at No. 4 doubles."

Juan is a senior, and Powers is just a freshman. But they make a perfect tandem on the court.

"Mackenzie is a great ball retriever and Valerie likes to be at the net," Woolfall said. "Mackenzie is very quick, a lot of speed on the court."

"Valerie is a senior, and varsity for two years. She's done a lot of playing." The lone loss for the duo came in a 7-6, 7-6 loss early in the year at the Grosse Pointe tournament. From there on, it was nothing but wins for a 29-1 record.

"They clicked right from the beginning," Woolfall said. "Mackenzie is the type of kid that never gives up. She'll be a great addition for us the next three years."

Woolfall also said she was thrilled to have Juan finish her career with a title.

FIRST TEAM

Novi and Northville dominated the area tennis scene, eventually tying each other for fourth place at State. Novi dominated the singles matchups between the two, and the

Please see **TENNIS, B2**

ALL-AREA TENNIS

Players of the Year

Valerie Juan and Mackenzie Powers

First Team

Amanda Border, Novi
Sara Carlson, Novi
Abby Wang, Novi
Jennifer Felcher, Novi
Lauren Felcher, Novi
Julia Thomas, Novi
Laura Taylor, Northville
Ursula Cauffiel, Northville
Abby Grajek, Northville
Sabrina Masciulli, Northville
Maudie Smith, Northville
Amy Bernstein, Northville

Second Team

Haley Johnson, Northville
Tanya Joseph, Northville
Joanne Weber, Northville
Erin Doud, Northville
Bailee Mamayek, Lakeland
Jenna Snyder, Novi
Megan Wenzl, Novi
Andrea Lollo, Novi
Meggie Riegel, Novi
Natalie Murphy, Novi
Shaheen Sheikh, Novi
Honorable Mention
Rachel Adriansen, Lakeland
Brittany Antonishek, Lakeland
Kalelin Deska, Lakeland
Lindsey Dehnobstel, Lakeland
Mackenzie McDougall, Lakeland
Autumn Blogg, Lakeland
Jenna Grezlik, Northville
Caiti Darish, Northville



Northville's Valerie Juan and Mackenzie Powers finished the season 29-1 and captured the State title at No. 4 doubles.

SUBMITTED

Queen of diamonds

Lakeland pitcher Meek finished 35-2 with 0.57 ERA

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Teams that make a run to the State quarterfinals almost always have one thing in common - a great pitcher.

Lakeland's Carlee Meek was just that, sporting a 35-2 record and an anemic 0.57 earned run average for the 38-2 Eagles. She also finished with 287 strikeouts while averaging close to a walk a game.

For her work, Meek was voted to the All-State First Team.

"She hates to lose," said head coach Joe Alsop. "Her best pitch is probably her drop and then her change-up. She really came on strong with the change-up. When she had her change-up working, batters had a really hard time hitting her. She has tremendous control."

As a freshman, Meek started at first base as the Eagles had star pitcher Lauren Memmer on the mound. After she graduated, Meek took to the mound and has delivered 65 wins the past two years, helping to lead the Eagles to a pair of district and regional titles.

"She's a heckuva player," said Alsop. "When she comes to play, she comes to win."

When not pitching, Meek played at short stop, a position



JOHN MEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wildcat Stephanie Hrit lays down a bunt against South Lyon East.

that will be open next year and filled partially by Meek when she's not on the mound.

"She can play a variety of positions," said Alsop. "She's been a real force for us the last years."

Alsop said Meek is also one of the pranksters on the team and helps keep things loose on a team where winning is expected.

"She's a great kid. She has a great sense of humor," he said.

"She works hard in the classroom. She gets along with all the kids."

FIRST TEAM

Kelsey Cleary
Lakeland sophomore
The sophomore stepped into a bigger varsity role and moved into the spotlight. She hit .396 and led the team with 37 stolen bases and 41 runs scored.

Cleary earned All-State First Team honors.

"She did a great job in the outfield for us," said Alsop. "In both the regional and semis, she had the game-winning hit."

Kelsey Johnson
Lakeland sophomore
The young catcher played more like a veteran. She allowed just four stolen bases all year, while pounding out a .406 average of her own and leading the team with 53 hits and 13 triples. "She had a phenomenal year as a catcher," said Alsop. "As a freshman, she was OK. She was probably our best hitter (this year)."

Erica Rizzo
Lakeland senior
Rizzo saved some of her best play for the playoffs. She had a huge part in a pair of wins to help secure the district title. She finished with a .375 average with a team-high nine doubles and second on the team with seven triples.

"She was on fire," said Alsop. "She really was a tremendous leader for us this year. She stayed after three or four times a week after practice. She was willing to pay her dues and become better."

Anna Armstrong
Lakeland junior
Armstrong was used mostly as a designated hitter for the



HAL GOULD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lakeland's Carlee Meek gets ready to release a pitch against Howell. She finished 35-2 and is the 2009 All-Area Softball Player of the year.

Eagles, but it was easy to see why. She fired out a .394 average and was second on the team with 31 RBI. She also connected on three home runs.

"She hit the ball harder than anyone on the team," Alsop said. "She came in all the time and would stay around an hour or an hour and a half after practice - just hitting."

"She will be a captain next year."

Sara Cupp
Milford junior
The numbers from the junior catcher for Milford are staggering. She hit .475 (48-for-101) and did it with power. She knocked out seven home runs, six doubles and two triples. She also drove in

39 RBI to tie for the team lead.

"She was one that I could count on almost every time she came up to bat," said coach Vaughn Richmond. "She's a very strong girl. She hit some of the longest home runs I've ever seen from a girl."

"She played almost the entire season with a pulled hamstring. She was still able to hit that well. She's a tough kid."

Richmond said it was the highest final average for a girl that he has coached, and she is being looked at by several Division 1 schools.
Lauren Smith
Milford sophomore

Please see **SOFTBALL, B2**

SOFTBALL FROM PAGE B1

Richmond calls her a diamond in the rough because she is a three-sport player, limiting her practice time in softball.

"This girl has so much raw talent," he said. "I think she is going to be an outstanding softball player in the future."

Sarah Roushifer, Northville senior. Consistency is the best word for Northville catcher Roushifer.

Danielle Godair, South Lyon sophomore. Versatility was a big part of Godair's game.

Olivia Wenzel, South Lyon sophomore. The young catcher was anything but raw at or behind the plate.

She pounded out 31 hits and added 10 more walks for a .400 on base percentage.

SECOND TEAM Rachel Hammer, Lakeland senior. The senior proved strong at the plate with a .325 average.

HERO HILLS. Now is the time to buy in the Midwest. Check out my website and see for yourself!

ALL-AREA SOFTBALL

Player of the Year Carlee Meek, Lakeland

First Team Kelsey Cleary, Lakeland; Kelsey Johnson, Lakeland; Erica Rizzo, Lakeland; Anna Armstrong, Lakeland; Sara Cupp, Milford; Lauren Smith, Milford; Danielle Godair, South Lyon; Olivia Wenzel, South Lyon; Sarah Roushifer, Northville; Stephanie Hirt, Novi

Second Team Rachel Hammer, Lakeland; Andie Dawson, Lakeland; Ashley Rizzo, Lakeland; Brittany Rheaume, Milford; Courtney Emery, South Lyon; East; Ally Stafford, South Lyon; Sam Doud, Northville; Mary Roushifer, Northville; Maddy Sinkovitch, Novi

Honorable Mention Allison Hirt, Novi; Kayla Craft, Lakeland; Lindsay Nosek, Lakeland; Cassandra Platt, Milford; Karly Fisher, Northville; Jennifer Buckingham, Northville; Alex Drew, South Lyon; Danielle Boore, South Lyon; Erin Schopp, South Lyon; Gabby Williams, South Lyon

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anything hit near her in centerfield for the Eagles. Alsop said she was one of the best defensive outfielders ever at Lakeland.

Richmond said she batted around .600 during the stretch run of the season. Richmond expects big things from her as a senior.

Mustangs made their points mostly at doubles. Amanda Border, Novi. The No. 1 singles player for Novi didn't back down from anyone, finishing 18-5.

Smith, a senior, was a two-year varsity player. It was the first varsity season for Bernstein, a junior.

They just got the job done," said Woolfall. "The won regional, conference and most of the tournaments throughout the year."

Julia Thomas, Lauren Felcher, Novi. The juniors proved to be a force by knocking off Northville to win the conference title, which was vital in the team capturing the KLAAs Kensington title.

There are two small sections in Rule 20 that are vitally important but cause most golfers grief. They deal with replacing a golfer's ball when it has been moved and his lie has been altered or when his ball has been moved and he doesn't know exactly where it had been.

Lie of ball altered. If a golfer's lie has been altered in some way and he knows what the original lie of his ball was, he can proceed in this manner.

Spot Not Determinable. If your ball gets moved, and you don't know what the original lie was, the procedure is different.

TENNIS FROM PAGE B1

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Spot Not Determinable. If your ball gets moved, and you don't know what the original lie was, the procedure is different.

Suppose you mark your ball on the green and step aside while another group plays through.

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TEE TIME Your local golf guide

Examining Rule 20: Lie of ball altered or spot not determinable

By Jeanne Myers. There are two small sections in Rule 20 that are vitally important but cause most golfers grief. They deal with replacing a golfer's ball when it has been moved and his lie has been altered or when his ball has been moved and he doesn't know exactly where it had been.

Suppose you mark your ball on the green and step aside while another group plays through. By mistake one of them removes your ball-marker. You will now have to proceed under the "spot not determinable" Rule and place your ball as near as possible to where it lay on the green, without penalty.

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Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Dentist treats his patients as if they were his family

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

We are a full-service dental office.

How did you first decide to open your business?

In 1980 I decided to open my own practice.

Why did you choose Novi?

In researching areas, I found that Novi was a growing, family centered community where I could put down roots long term.

What makes your business unique?

I pride myself on staying current with new technology and advanced dentistry. We were the first dental office in Novi to use Cerec Technology to make crowns in office in one visit.

How has it changed since you

DETAILS

Business Name: Novi Family Dental Center
 Address: 43410 West Ten Mile Road
 Your Name/Title: Dr. Allen Tuchklaper D.D.S.
 Your Hometown:
 Business Opened When: August 1980
 Number of Employees: 5
 Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday; 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday
 Your Business Specialty: smile makeovers
 Phone: (248) 348-3100
 Web site: www.novidental.com

opened?

Dental technology over the past 30 years has improved drastically -- from all white fillings, all porcelain crowns, to digital X-rays. We have been doing cosmetic dentistry and smile makeovers for over 20 years now.

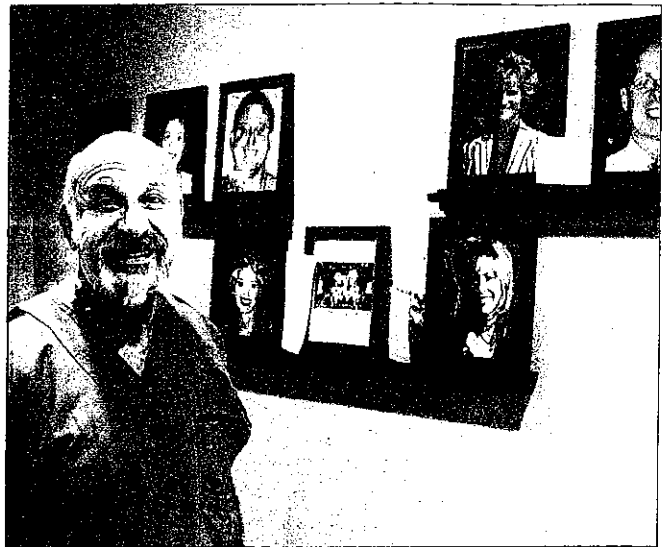
Do you have a funny tidbit or story about your experience as a small

business owner to share with our readers?

Being in Novi for 30 years, it is exciting to see the children of patients who were kids themselves when they started coming here.

How has the recent economy affected your business?

We are very fortunate that our patients understand the



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi dentist Dr. Allen Tuchklaper in his 10 Mile Road office with smiling portraits of some of his patients.

necessity to maintain their oral health even in hard times. We are always open to working with them and their budgets to make dental care affordable to them. We have many payment options available.

Any advice for business owners?

Always treat your patients (or customers) as if they are a part of your own family, and always exceed their expectations of you. Treat your employees with respect and you will have a loyal, dedicated staff.

What's in store for the future of your business?

We are now treating snoring, sleep apnea, and cpap intolerant patients with a dental appliance. This is one of the most insidious diseases affecting over 40 million Americans.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Simon to manage Novi Town Center

Simon Property Group, Inc. (NYSE: SPG) will assume leasing, management, and marketing duties of two high-quality shopping centers, Galleria Dallas and Novi Town Center on August 1.

"We are pleased to take on the property management functions of these high-quality assets at the request of the institutional owner," said Rick Sokolow, Simon's President and Chief Operating Officer.

Novi Town Center is an outdoor venue with 44 stores anchored by Borders, Old Navy, and TJ Maxx.

Simon Property Group, Inc. is an S&P 500 company and the largest public U.S. real estate company. Simon is a fully integrated real estate company which operates from five retail real estate platforms: regional malls, Premium Outlet Centers (R), The Mills (R), community/lifestyle centers and international properties. It currently owns or has an interest in 384 properties comprising 261 million square feet of gross leasable area in North America, Europe and Asia. The Company is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana and employs more than 5,000 people worldwide. Simon Property Group, Inc. is publicly traded on the NYSE under the symbol SPG. For further information, visit the Company's Web site at www.simon.com.

Zoup! comes to Novi

Zoup! Fresh Soup Company has opened a new location at 4799 Grand River Ave. in Novi (across from Providence Park Hospital). The new 2,000-square-foot Zoup! will seat 50 customers and feature all of the company's signature menu items.

An independently owned franchise, this is the first store for franchisee Danielle Williams. According to Williams, she was first attracted to the Zoup! concept because it is unlike anything else she had seen. "With its unique brand identity, fresh and healthy menu, Zoup! offers cost-conscious consumers tremendous variety and a strong value," said Williams. "I know we have a product sure to please and I can't wait to provide Zoup! to our customers." Zoup! Fresh Soup Company, LLC was started in 1998. The company currently operates six company-owned stores, 14 franchises and two licensed locations, throughout Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, with New Jersey, Indiana and Connecticut currently in development.

Country Inn's 'Sweet Deal'

Country Inn & Suites By Carlson Novi, located at 21625 Haggerty, announced a "Sweet

Deal" promotion for summer that provides 15 percent off each night of a stay of two or more consecutive nights in a standard room and a valuable offer from T.G.I. Friday's restaurants when staying at locations in the U.S. The offer, which requires a three-day advance reservation, is available through Sept. 13.

"This summer, we expect that a greater number of leisure travelers will try to stretch their vacation budgets by driving to their vacation destination or simply taking advantage of attractions that are closer to home," said Teuta Nokaj, general manager of Country Inn & Suites by Carlson Novi. "With more than 450 hotels in the U.S., Country Inns & Suites has a variety of great properties to choose from and our 'Sweet Deal' promotion makes it easier for families to get out the door and explore this great country."

Gorman's carrying Lillian August collection

Gorman's Home Furnishings and Interior Design announced the retailer of fine home furnishings and accessories is now offering the Lillian August Fine Furniture Collection. Produced by North Carolina furniture company Hickory White, Lillian August pieces will be offered at their three traditional furniture locations: Novi, Troy and Lakeside.

Gorman's will be stocking bedroom, living room and dining room pieces from the collection. Known for her handcrafted antique reproductions called Antiquaire, August's pieces are comfortable, colorful and evoke an engaging, classical European lifestyle. Lillian White offers more than 33 finishes, designer fabrics and signature upholstery frames defined by distinctive shapes and softened with curved silhouettes.

Preh Wins GM Supplier of the Year Award again

Preh received the General Motors 2008 Supplier of the Year award for the fourth consecutive year for its significant contributions to GM's global product and performance achievements. The 17th annual award was given during ceremonies June 5 at the GM Heritage Center in Warren.

Preh Executive Vice President-Sales and Marketing Christoph Hummel said, "Being recognized once again as one of GM's top suppliers is proof that our commitment to excellence in the development, manufacturing and supply of climate controls has been the right strategy from the beginning."

The award recognizes the sig-

nificant contributions of GM's suppliers in 2008 as part of the company's global product and performance achievements. The Supplier of the Year program started in 1992, and each year a global team of purchasing, engineering, quality, manufacturing and logistics executives determines the winners. The decisions are based on supplier performance in the areas of quality, service, technology and price.

Preh was founded in Germany in 1919. As a full-service supplier, Preh works directly with major automakers in the development and manufacture of complete interior control systems, sensors and electronic control units.

The company maintains in-house capabilities for plastics injection molding, precision mechanics, light-pipe design, electronics hardware, surface finishing, laser etching and software development.

With sales of \$448.1 million in 2008, Preh employs more than 2,000 people located in Germany, Portugal, France, Romania, Mexico and the U.S. More than 90 percent of Preh's annual revenue comes from its automotive business. Preh's U.S. customer service center is located in Novi.

ITC, Mitsubishi expand alliance

ITC Holdings Corp. (ITC), Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc. (Mitsubishi Electric Power Products) are expanding their existing business alliance to develop and produce extra high voltage 765 kilovolt (kV) circuit breakers and 765 kV power transformers.

The companies will concentrate on improving product development lead times, efficiency, technical design, material standardization and life cycle costs. Their efforts will help address a number of transmission industry challenges including the availability and supply of extra high voltage power transformers in North America.

Mitsubishi Electric will produce 765 kV transformers for use in ITC's Green Power Express project, a 3,000-mile long network of transmission lines that will move renewable energy from remote areas in the Upper Midwest to major Midwest and East Coast population centers.

In addition, ITC and Mitsubishi Electric Power Products have agreed to work jointly on development of a 765 kV circuit breaker that will go into production by 2011 at Mitsubishi Electric Power Products' Warrendale, Pa., manufacturing facility.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Hampton Hotel offers Webkinz Package

Hampton Hotels are offering parents that book the Hampton's Webkinz Package an exclusive Webkinz plush pet upon check-in that they can bring home to their little one.

Local hotels are located at 20600 Haggerty in Northville, (734) 462-1119, and at 169 Loop Road in Commerce Township, (248) 624-8100.

Webkinz parent company, Ganz, unveiled three new pets as part of the collection that will be available through the Hampton Webkinz Package:

Blossom Bird, Springer Spaniel and Guinea Pig.

Webkinz plush pets are a sensation among 6- to 13-year-olds. The pets are not only a plush toy but a virtual education tool that allow children to build an online version of each pet by accessing the pet's secret code.

Guests that book the Hampton Webkinz Package online at Hampton.com/toyoffer and complete their stay now through Aug. 30 at participating hotel locations in United States, Canada, and United Kingdom, will receive their choice of Blossom Bird, Springer Spaniel or Guinea Pig upon check-in while supplies last.

Why All the Household Dust?

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from desperate people complaining about dust. They tell me they dust the TV on Friday, but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch Desperate Housewives, and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag. Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your drywall was being sanded, your cold air returns sucked all of the dust through the system and it settled on the bottom of the duct lines where a little at a time gets blown back into your home.

This debris cannot be removed without a professional. Which brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use truck mounted equipment, which is like a shop vac that you would vacuum out your car with inside the back of a van, absolutely useless. Visit our website for photos of our equipment vs. truck mounted equipment at www.americanpowervac.com.

We use the right equipment to clean your duct work correctly...the power vac truck. It is the most powerful equipment in the

industry. This is where the entire truck is the vacuum and the truck motor powers the equipment. It's the size of an ambulance and when engaged twelve large air bags will come out of the roof.

What makes the difference in equipment? Power! To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 CFM's (cubic feet of air per minute), basically what you feel coming out of your register. Truck-mounted equipment only moves 4,000 CFM's.

American Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, more than quadruple the power of any truck-mounted equipment. The problem is that there are so many companies with inadequate equipment, advertising cheap prices in coupon books, that it gives people a false sense of what the jobs worth. The average price to clean your air ducts correctly with the right equipment ranges from \$374 to \$499+ depending on the size of your home. Any company who charges per register or who has "399 Whole House Specials" are companies you want to avoid. American Power Vac, Inc. is family owned. You never have to worry about inexperienced teenagers coming to your home. As always, I will personally be there to make sure the job is done correctly.

Stop your dusting and call for our

\$100 OFF FINAL WEEK
 at 888-61-POWER or 248-656-0600
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