

Complete list of school bus schedules begins in the Sports section on page B9

THURSDAY
September
3,
2009

Hometown Weeklies
Volume 54
Number 15
75 CENTS

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



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NUTSHELL

Guide added to Novi's Web site

It's been said a first impression creates a lasting opinion and, in Novi, City officials and community members make a quality impression top priority. Code enforcement and its impact on maintaining community character was identified as a key driver for the City of Novi in a recent citizen survey conducted by the National Research Center. Code Enforcement is the commitment to provide safe, healthy and attractive living conditions for residents and businesses by ensuring the community's maintenance and integrity through the enforcement of City Codes.

To help communicate local ordinances and enforcement resources, the City of Novi has added an easy-to-find icon on the homepage of cityofnovi.org. The link connects visitors to valuable resources including contacts for assistance for agencies ranging from Novi Ordinance Enforcement, Police and Fire Department staff to the Oakland County Health Department and Oakland County Road Commission.

Novi encourages residents and businesses to logon to cityofnovi.org and use the resources available to keep up to date with pertinent ordinances and help report enforcement issues or concerns. Working together is the best way to help keep Novi the quality community it is known for.

For more information on the City of Novi, visit cityofnovi.org.



Community Ed brochure

Novi Community Education's fall brochure is now available. Sign up today for adult and youth classes and programs. The brochure and online registration is available at www.novi.k12.mi.us/District/communityEducation. For more information please call the Community Education office at 248.449.1206.

Alive with art

Storybook characters to adorn walls at Village Oaks

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The hallways at Village Oaks Elementary will have a more kid-like feel to them this year thanks to the work of a local artist.

Sara Russell, the parent of a pair of former students, was hired this summer by the Parent Teacher Organization to spice up the walls with murals that were customized to the school.

She spent the last two weeks armed with painting supplies and books, and the finished product is sure to draw rave reviews from the students when they make their way down the halls for the first time on Sept. 8.

"They were just screaming for murals as far as I'm concerned," Russell said of the plain, white walls at the school. "The kids will be super excited to see them."

The first mural that greets the students at the entrance is a space mural with the school



JUNI HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Sara Russell is creating a number of murals throughout Novi's Village Oaks Elementary featuring well-known characters from children's books. Here she works on one ten-by-ten mural in the school's south wing.

Please see ART, A2

Novi Road construction to cause delays

Project expected to be completed in early November

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The construction is located on Novi Road between Grand River Avenue and Twelve Mile Rd. Suggested routes of travel around it are Meadowbrook Rd. and Beck Rd.

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Motorists traveling on Novi Road between Twelve Mile Road and Grand River Avenue should expect major slowdowns for at least the next month.

The Road Commission for Oakland County will be handling the resurfacing project, which is expected to start on Sept. 8 and be completed by Nov. 2. The project calls for mill-

ing off the top layer of the existing road, repairing concrete joints and bad slabs, replacing curbs that are in bad shape and putting three inches of new asphalt down.

During construction, the road will be down to one lane in both directions.

"It's a major resurfacing project," said Craig Bryson, public information officer for the RCOC. "There will certainly be a lot of delays, and it's technically not closed, but people might

want to look at alternate routes."

The cost of the project is \$1.4 million, with \$827,000 of it being paid for with federal stimulus dollars and the remainder of the project, \$573,000, is being divided between the city of Novi and the RCOC.

City Manager Clay Pearson said the original plans only called for resurfacing between Twelve Mile Road and I-96, but because of the case the city made when it applied for federal stimulus money and its relationship with the RCOC, they added the stretch to resurface all the way to Grand River.

The construction on Meadowbrook Road, north of Grand River, is supposed to be reopened by the Michigan Department of Transportation by Sept. 5, Pearson said. And he suggested that people use that route and Beck Road to avoid the back-ups on Novi Road.

A second phase of this project, which will include traffic signal and sidewalk work, will take place next year.

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Budget cuts necessitate transportation changes

District eliminates routes, enforcing walk zone

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Cuts in the Novi Community Schools district's budget last spring will be changing the way some students get to and from school this year.

Included in the \$2 million in revenue enhancements and expense reductions approved by the board of education, were \$30,000 worth of transportation changes that eliminated bus routes in select areas.

The schools being directly affected by the changes include Village Oaks, Novi Woods and Parkview elementaries as well as

Novi High School.

"School funding is being stressed and everyone is having to make budget adjustments," said Gail Credit, assistant superintendent for business and operations. "As part of our budget process we looked at every department to reduce and keep adjustments away from the classroom."

At Village Oaks and Novi Woods, bus service will no longer be provided for the half-day morning kindergarten students to return home; while at Parkview, all students living in subdivisions south of Eleven Mile Road, from

Please see CUTS, A2

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Building a Novi Nation Tastefest event planned for Sept. 18

The Novi Athletic Boosters and the Novi Athletic Department are planning more than a "black-out" to give fans the chance to show their school spirit during the Sept. 18 Novi Wildcats Tastefest. They're hoping to build a "Novi Nation."

As a part of the Tastefest celebration, the "Novi Nation" spirit campaign celebrates student athletes and the community that cheers them to victory.

"We want to create a stronger sense of school spirit and unite our student body as well as our community," said Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis.

Andrea Mohr, co-organizer of the Tastefest event, described the "Novi Nation" concept as "our collective and competitive heart and soul" reflected in the accomplishments of Novi athletes.

"The definition of nation is a large body of people associated with a particular territory, that is sufficiently conscious

of its unity," and we believe this accurately describes Novi High School's fine student athletes, dedicated coaches and enthusiastic fans," Mohr said.

Central to the campaign is a black T-shirt with the words, "Novi Nation" silk-screened on the chest in the shape of a United States map. On its back, the shirt lists Novi High School's athletic accomplishments, including 11 state championships and 39 MHSAA regional championships. Last on the list is the declaration that "the best is yet to come."

"We have a rich athletic heritage, and we believe it's important for our student athletes to know where they come from as well as where they're going," Ellis said.

Ellis and Tastefest co-organizers Mohr and Angela Brown came up with the idea for the campaign during a Tastefest meeting. Although Ellis was responsible for the T-shirt design, Novi Athletic



Novi's Barbara Bloom (left) and Alora Adams.

Locals part of Spotlight Players production 'Oliver' begins Sept. 18

Northville resident Steven Collareo will play Noah Cypriote, Novi resident Alora Adams will play The Strawberry Seller and Novi resident Barbara Bloom serves as director and choreographer of "Oliver," presented by Spotlight Players.

Come to The Village Theater in Canton and "consider yourself at home" for the classic musical based on Charles Dickens' much-loved tale Sept. 18-27.

The show features a cast of local actors of all ages and follows the well known story of an orphan (Brett Moore) in Victorian London as he makes his way from the cruel workhouse to the even crueler streets, finding a home amidst a gang of lovable pickpockets and a best friend in The Artful Dodger (Jeffrey Selewski). You'll recognize such songs as "Consider Yourself," "As Long As He Needs Me" and "Where is Love," made famous in part by Lionel Bart's 1968 movie adaptation.

"This is truly a family show, appealing to all ages from the very young to the young at

heart. Not only do the characters span several decades but also the actors playing those roles include people ages 8 to somewhere in their 60's," said Bloom.

Cast members come from many communities including Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Novi, Ypsilanti, New Boston, Walled Lake and Ferndale.

Some of the cast include: Oliver: Brett Moore; Pagine: Ron Orulakowski; Nancy: Christine Kapusky; Mr. Brownlow: Robert Nelson; Bill Sykes: Christopher Plum; Mr. Bumble: Robert Doyle; The Artful Dodger: Jeffrey Selewski; Mr. Sowerberry: Drex Morton; Mrs. Sowerberry: Linda Trygg; Widow Corney: Leah Cobley; Charlotte Sowerberry: Brianna McCormack; Noah Cypriote: Steven Collareo; Bet: Rachel Curtis; Mrs. Bedwin: Meg daPonte; Dr. Grimwich: Tim Chanko; Old Sally: Robin Hoover; Matron: Bev Monty; Chairman: Jerry Carney; The Rose Seller: Kristina Monty; The Strawberry Seller: Alora Adams; The Knife Grinder: Ray Fraser.

Spotlight Players is the resident adult theater group for the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Formerly the Plymouth Theater Guild, Spotlight Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and has been a part of the community for 62 years.

"We found a lot of high school students don't even take the bus," Credit said. "So to make our routing more efficient it helps to know how many students will be on the bus."

For more information, call (248) 449-1245.

paint some of the stars. Down another hall there is a mural that reads "Have you filled a bucket today?" which is one of the main themes of the school, and the two other murals are dedicated to children's book characters such as Wimpy Kid, Winn Dixie, Arthur, Jack and Annie from the Magic Tree House Series and more. Another mural is planned for the ceiling in the school office.

Russell, who also does commercial and residential work, said painting at the school her

Hey, Daddy-O, calling all cool cats Fabulous '50s Sock Hop Extravaganza to benefit local senior centers

"He has quite a following, so we're very lucky to have him," said Barb Rollin, director of the Highland Adult Activity Center. "And we're opening this to all adults in the area. This is something even the baby boomers will like."

People are encouraged to wear 1950s attire, but it's not mandatory, Rollin said. Activities will include hula hoop and bubble gum blowing contests, as well as other "blast-from-the-past" competitions. Winners will be awarded prizes.

"People who've heard about the contests are getting pretty excited and they are practicing up ahead," said Nancy Hinzmann, director of the Milford Senior Center.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Jimmy James, WOLFE AM 40.0 radio disc jockey.

servicing seniors will also be on hand during the sock hop, providing information about their available services.

Dinner will be casual fare — hot dogs, sloppy joes and potato salad — and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are \$15 per person, available at participating senior centers. Rollin suggests people buy their tickets in advance.

Rollin added that Bakers of Milford is donating the space for the event, and 200 or more people can be accommodated. "We'd really like to have a good turnout, and it's going to be an exceptional program," Rollin said. "It will be a great time at a great place."

Hinzmann agreed. "Grab your saddle shoes and grab your socks," she said. "Come out and have a good time."

the students a "nice, safe route." The change at the high school is the enforcement of the one-and-a-half-mile walk zone, which eliminates service for the Cedar Spring Subdivision, south of Ten Mile Road between Beck and Taft roads (including White Pines Drive, Whitehall Drive and Argyle Drive from 23629 Argyle and south) and Ten Mile Road north to Cider Mill between Beck and Taft Roads. The change also does not allow stu-

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Novi Road widening included in county's road budget

RCOC's lays out 2010 projects

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) presented its proposed fiscal year 2010 budget at a public hearing Aug. 27 at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium in Pontiac.

Among the road projects included in the 2010 budget is the long-anticipated widening of Novi Road between 10 Mile and Grand River in Novi, which includes building a bridge over the railroad tracks.

The proposed 2010 budget, at \$105.15 million, includes \$31.1 million worth of road improvement projects or work toward future road improvement projects. This budget represents an increase of \$6.9 million compared to the \$98.2 million 2009 budget adopted in September of last year.

RCOC's fiscal year runs Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. Final adoption of the budget will take place in September.

The 2010 proposed budget is greater than the 2009 budget because of an increase in federally funded road projects planned for 2010, including some projects paid for with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or federal "stimulus" dollars.

While project-specific federal funds coming to RCOC are expected to increase in 2010, this proposed budget anticipates less state revenue than any budget since fiscal year 2000.

The state revenues, which are the main funding source for RCOC's operations, consist primarily of the agency's share of state-collected fuel tax and vehicle-registration-fee dollars. In 2010, these revenues will have been declining for four years after having peaked in 2007 for nearly 10 years.

"There is just no way to honestly discuss our budget situation in positive terms," RCOC Managing Director Brent Bair said. He noted that federal funding, which is generally tied to specific road construction projects and cannot be used for routine maintenance operations, tends to fluctuate considerably from year to year.

"We've pleased we will receive federal funding for more road improvement projects in 2010 than in 2009, but that will not help us with routine road maintenance activities such as patching potholes, plowing snow or grading gravel roads," Bair said. He added RCOC currently has 72 fewer staff members than in 2007, a reduction of nearly 13 percent.

"Many of those positions are truck drivers, who won't be available to plow snow and salt the roads this winter," he observed. The staff reductions put the RCOC workforce at fewer employees than virtually any time since the 1960s, when the county had had the population it has today and when traffic volumes were dramatically less than they are today.

"All these factors add up to only one conclusion," Bair told the audience at the public hearing. "We have no choice but to continue to reduce the level of service we provide for the residents and motorists of Oakland County. That's a real tragedy."

He added this situation is a tragedy not just because motorists will experience more potholes and slower storm response in the winter. "The real tragedy is the potential impacts these changes are likely to have on our ability to ensure motorist safety."

Bair pointed out that over the last 30 years, Oakland County has become one of the safest places in the world in terms of highway fatality rates for areas our size.

"A variety of factors contributed to this amazing shift, but the efforts of this agency have been critical," Bair said. "We have made many changes and advancements in the way we design, build and maintain roads. Over time, those changes have had a compounding

Proposed Budget	Amount
Revenues Source	
• State fuel tax and vehicle registration fees	\$57,751,600
• State highway maintenance contract	\$ 11,000,000
• State non-maintenance contracts	\$200,000
• Federal funding - road improvement projects	\$11,150,000
• Federal funding - Signal projects/SEMSIM	\$2,340,000
• Federal Funding - Medicare Part D	\$330,000
• State Transportation Economic Development Fund	\$7,300,000
• Contributions from local governments	\$10,010,000
• Fees and other revenues	\$2,492,000
• Appropriation from fund balance	\$2,580,248
Total revenues	\$105,153,848
Expenses Source	
• Road Improvement Program	\$31,105,000
• Operating Expenditures	\$71,223,848
• Southeastern Michigan Snow & Ice Management (SEMSIM)	\$2,250,000
• Traffic Signal Projects	\$2,600,000
Total expenses	\$105,153,848

2010 RCOC Road Improvement Program includes only projects that will be constructed in 2010, not those where design or right of way work is planned for 2010, but where construction will occur in a later year. Projects which are funded fully or in part with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or "stimulus" funds are followed by the ARRA abbreviation.

Safety Widening

- Novi Road, 10 Mile to Grand River (widen 2 lanes to 5) in Novi. Estimated cost: \$9 million
- Crooks Road, 14 Mile to Meijer (widen 2 lanes to 5) in Clawson & Royal Oak. Estimated cost: \$2.4 million
- Total Safety Widening: \$11.4 million**

Safety Intersection Improvements (intersection widening to allow for signalization and/or the addition of turn lanes)

- Location 1: to be determined: \$1.15 million
- Location 2: to be determined: \$1.15 million
- Total Safety Intersection Improvements: \$2.3 million**

Repair, Rehabilitate and Resurface (repair road base and add three or four inches of new asphalt to existing lanes)

- Total Resurface & Resurface: \$0
- Total Repair, Rehabilitate and Resurface: \$0**

Pave Gravel Road (provide paved surface on currently unpaved road)

- Ray Road, M-24 to Oxford Rd. in Oxford Township. Estimated cost: \$1.8 million (ARRA)
- Total Pave Gravel Road: \$1.8 million**

Bridge Replacement

- Parkdale Road bridge over Stony Creek in Rochester. Estimated cost: \$1.85 million
- Dundee Road bridge over Stony Creek in Rochester Hills. Estimated cost: \$2 million
- Total Bridge Replacement: \$3.85 million

2009 projects to be carried over to 2010

Projects to be built in 2010, but which were included in the 2009 budget and have not yet been carried forward to the 2010 budget:

- Repair, Rehabilitate and Resurface (repair road base and add three or four inches of new asphalt to existing lanes)
 - John R Road, 14 Mile to Maple in Troy. Estimated cost: \$1.2 million (ARRA)
 - Middlebelt Road, 8 Mile to 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Estimated cost: \$2.4 million (ARRA)
 - Oddyke Road, South Blvd. to Auburn on the Auburn Hills/Pontiac border. Estimated cost: \$1.7 million (ARRA)
 - 12 Mile Road, Evergreen to Southfield in Southfield and Lathrup Village. Estimated cost: \$1.4 million (ARRA)
 - White Lake Road, Clement to Dixie in Independence Twp. Estimated cost: \$1.3 million (ARRA)
 - Cooley Lake Road, Hiller to Cass Elizabeth in Waterford Twp. Estimated cost: \$1.6 million (ARRA)
 - Total Repair, Rehabilitate and Resurface: \$9.6 million**
- Rural Overlay (Simple 1.5-inch asphalt overlay)
 - Clyde Road, Fish Lake to Milford Road in Highland Twp. Estimated cost: \$82,000 (ARRA)
 - Grange Hall Road, Dixie Highway to Jossman in Groveland Twp. Estimated cost: \$755,000 (ARRA)
 - Romeo Road, Rochester Rd. to Dequindre on the Oakland Twp./Addison Twp. line. Estimated cost: \$327,000 (ARRA)
 - Total Rural Overlay: \$1.2 million**

Total cost of projects to be under construction in 2010: \$30.15 million.

"This does not include funds to be spent in 2010 on projects which will be constructed after fiscal year 2010, such as for design or right of way acquisition costs for future projects or any construction costs occurring after Sept. 30, 2010. It does include projects that are expected to be built in 2010, but which have not yet been added to the 2010 budget (the projects listed under the "2009 projects to be carried over to 2010" heading).

impact on safety. It troubles me greatly to oversee a budget that could result in a reversal of this trend toward constantly improving safety."

Other major projects to be constructed in 2010 include:

- The widening of Crooks Road from 14 Mile to Meijer Drive in Clawson and Royal Oak.
- The resurfacing of Commerce Road from South Commerce Road to Union Lake Road in Commerce Twp.

RCOC Board Chairman Richard G. Skarritt explained the proposed 2010 budget represents the agency's efforts to cut costs wherever possible while impacting services as little as possible. "We are no longer filling any position that is vacated unless it is absolutely critical. As a result, we are calling on our employees to continually try to find ways to



Chamber outing

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's annual golf outing, held at Tanglewood, included 150 golfers on Aug. 18. The day's event included lunch provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill and a pig roast dinner provided by Tanglewood. The hole-in-one contests were sponsored by Seller Buick-Pontiac-GMC and Varsity Lincoln Mercury. Major Sponsors were Lotus Bank, Providence Park Hospital, Twelve Oaks, Carrabba's Italian Grill, and Two Men And A Truck. Pictured above are (l to r) Pat McCarthy, Howard and Howard; Dale Long, Houghton International; Doug Kelly and Dave Breuch from Clark Hill. Below is Carolyn Bradley, Becky Becker, Geri Flowers-Messenbring and Connie Buidens-Paul.



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EDUCATION

Getting in gear: A back to school survival guide

Despite the warm temperatures and sunny skies, many students are feeling a shadow looming as back to school season creeps closer. After weeks of lazy, summer days, late nights, varying routines and minimal mental stimulation, the return to school can seem overwhelming to students of all ages.

To help parents and children get ready for the new school year, Sylvan Learning Center of Novi offers several tips to ease the transition from the beach to the classroom and jumpstart sluggish summer brains.

ADVICE

Minimize last minute cramming or deadline mix-ups by creating a detailed school schedule.

• Include all classes, assignments and key dates, such as project deadlines and test dates. Fill in new dates as they arise.

• Schedule specific times for studying, projects and extracurricular activities. The more thorough the schedule, the more helpful it will be to you.

Know The School: If you ever feel swamped with back to school madness, ask for help. Schools assist students with transitioning from one grade to another. Meet with your guidance counselor and/or teachers. If you are still nervous, ask your mom or dad to drop you off at school on the first day of class.

Be Adventurous: Step out of your comfort zone this school year by trying new things academically and in terms of extracurricular activities.

• Try every type of class and/or activity. You never know what you experience as much as you can.

• Challenge yourself. If you have the opportunity, take the hardest classes - not the easiest subjects.

Carve Out A Homework Spot: Whether it is in your bedroom, the basement, or a family office, find an area where you can work distraction-free and claim it as your official workspace.

• Pick a place that is always available and where you feel comfortable doing schoolwork.

• Stock the area with all of the supplies and tools that are needed to complete homework.

Get Organized: Organization is key to ensure you stay on top of the requirements for each subject.

• Use separate, labeled notebooks for each class.

• Create files for each subject. The folders can hold assignments, essays, handouts and notes taken during classes.

• Purchase a planner or calendar to keep track of important dates and deadlines.

Set Educational Goals: Whether it is striving for an A in a certain subject, handing in all homework on time or preparing for tests well in advance, setting goals can help establish a routine for the new year.

• Set goals that are measurable, specific, reasonable and have personal value.

Because each child is special, with different learning styles and academic needs, it is important to personalize the learning process. People learn in at least eight different ways, according to the Multiple Intelligences Theory: visually, verbally, physically, mathematically, musically, naturalistically, through group activity or through quiet thinking time.

Talk to your child's teachers about your child's learning strengths and how best to support them.

Get Back In The Routine: Ease the transition from lazy summer days to the structure of the school year by re-establishing bedtime, mealtime, reading and homework routines.

Talk with your child about the importance of structure and how routines help ensure that he is not overtired or overly anxious about schoolwork.

Develop A Family Event Calendar: One of the most helpful tools for getting organized is a family event calendar. To ease the class, track school programs, volunteer work and after-school activities.

Family time management is essential if you are going to avoid the tumultuous frenzy of disorganization.

• Depending on your children's ages, this calendar can be on construction paper with large squares to write in all necessary information, or it can be produced on a white board so that it is easy to revise.

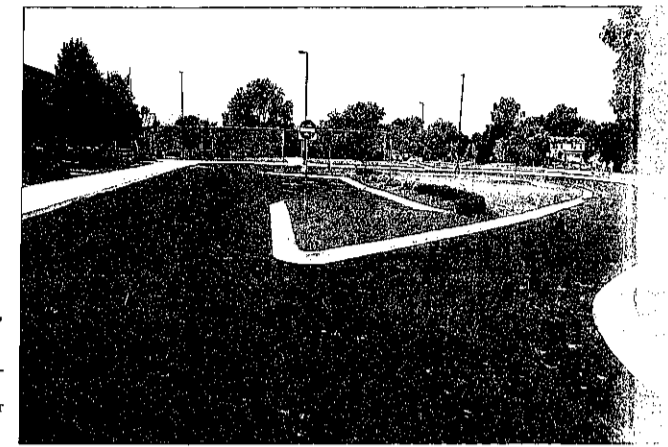
• If it is color-coded by family member, you can clearly see who has an activity scheduled and when the event occurs.

• Place the calendar near the telephone, so when a friend's mother calls to invite your child to a birthday party, you will know instantly whether it fits within your family plans.

Purchase School Supplies In Advance: Avoid the last-minute rush by purchasing supplies at least one week in advance. Take your child. She can feel excited and in control by choosing her favorite colors and designs.

Be A Cheerleader: Encourage your child to share any concerns he has about returning to school. Reinforce positive feelings by talking with your child about learning and achievement. Support his academic interests and encourage him to get involved in extracurricular activities at school.

Kathy B. Michel is center director for Sylvan Learning of Novi. She can be reached at kmichel@novi.sylvan.com or scg@sbai.net.



Novi's Village Oaks Elementary School had a facelift done to its east-facing parking lot to make it more accessible for school buses and giving it now only one entrance/exit.

District spruces up schools

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Principal Sue Burnham had to squint her eyes for the first time when she walked into the newly renovated cafeteria at Village Oaks Elementary. The formerly windowless facility, which once doubled as a gymnasium, underwent a major upgrade this summer as part of the \$2 million worth of projects funded through the district's sinking fund.

Parkview Elementary had its cafeteria modified with new paint, walls and floor, the addition of a connecting walkway from Eleven Mile Road to the front of the school, roof repairs, playground revisions, a new parking lot east of the school and south of the soccer field and boiler room work.

Orchard Hills Elementary received new paint throughout the school, ceiling tiles and a new floor for the cafeteria, casework and plumbing in several classrooms, boardwalk spillway repair and new curb installation.

Novi Middle School had repairs done on the track,

the classrooms and hallways and new casework and plumbing in several classrooms.

Five other schools in the district also received enhancements this summer as part of the \$2 million worth of projects funded through the district's sinking fund.

Parkview Elementary had its cafeteria modified with new paint, walls and floor, the addition of a connecting walkway from Eleven Mile Road to the front of the school, roof repairs, playground revisions, a new parking lot east of the school and south of the soccer field and boiler room work.

Orchard Hills Elementary received new paint throughout the school, ceiling tiles and a new floor for the cafeteria, casework and plumbing in several classrooms, boardwalk spillway repair and new curb installation.

Novi Middle School had repairs done on the track,

including fence posts, track subsurface and a new surface. Novi Meadows had the center track removed and irrigation installed.

And Novi High School had trainer room cooling installed and stadium and brick wall improvements, including underground drainage, completed.

Paul Credit, assistant superintendent for business and operations, said without the sinking fund, which is a voter-approved millage that provides the district with about \$1.1 million per year for major repairs and construction, none of this would have been possible.

"It takes the stress off the general fund, which provides the instructional piece, and allows us to maintain our facilities," she said. "It truly is a critical piece to how this district has been run."

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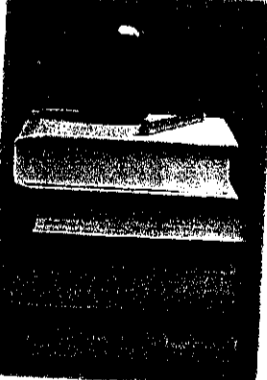
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Madonna University

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term were the following Novi residents: Sharon Ann Ales, Derek Samuel Blair, Lesley Suzanne Cartwright, Caitlin L. Graham, Ngina Kat James, Jason Lorenzo Mosley,

Valentina Marie Ramos, Jessica Sue Scott, Christine JoAnn Skouberdis, Megan Siedz, Alexandra Smith, Stephen M. Taylor and Amy Elizabeth Varhol.

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Math Leagues (4-4 graders) 3:00-5:00 PM
MathCount 1 for Middle School students, 3:00-4:00 PM
MathCount 2 (individual) for Middle School students, 3:00-4:00 PM
Leadership character traits/notes/essays/charms, how to make your leader/how to develop leadership in school and everyday life 8:00-9:00 PM
Elementary English Writing (W) 11:00-1:00 PM
Advanced Elementary Reading (R) 1:00-3:00 PM
Middle School English Writing (W) 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 A.M.
Middle School English Reading (R) 1:00-3:00 P.M.

• Vocabulary tests and skills
• Skill and scan skill and method on readings
• Quick memory on reading content
• Literature Appreciation

SAT English Writing (W) High School Students, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
• Improve and enhance the skills of English expression and writing ability
• Write and broaden the English Writing idea and thinking down • Grammar Multiple evidence

SAT Critical Reading (R) High School students, 1:00-3:00 P.M.
• Vocabulary tests and skills for SAT/ACT • Reading Skills and Method

Speech (S) Communications and Courtesy in Public (9-12 year old, limited to 12 students) 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Public Speech (S) Public Speaking and Interviews (9-12 year old, limited to 12 students) 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Debate/Forensics for Middle School and High School Students: 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Locations: <http://www.nccae.com> - now 131 September 18, 2009, \$20 registration fee waived if registered before 9/15/09
Time: Saturdays, total 12 sessions: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12
Workshop for 11th Graders (Start for 11th grade) and 10th Grade PBAT will be on 10/14 & 10/17
Only in just for your cramming before the test days: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12
Class: 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Days: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12
Math: 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Days: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12

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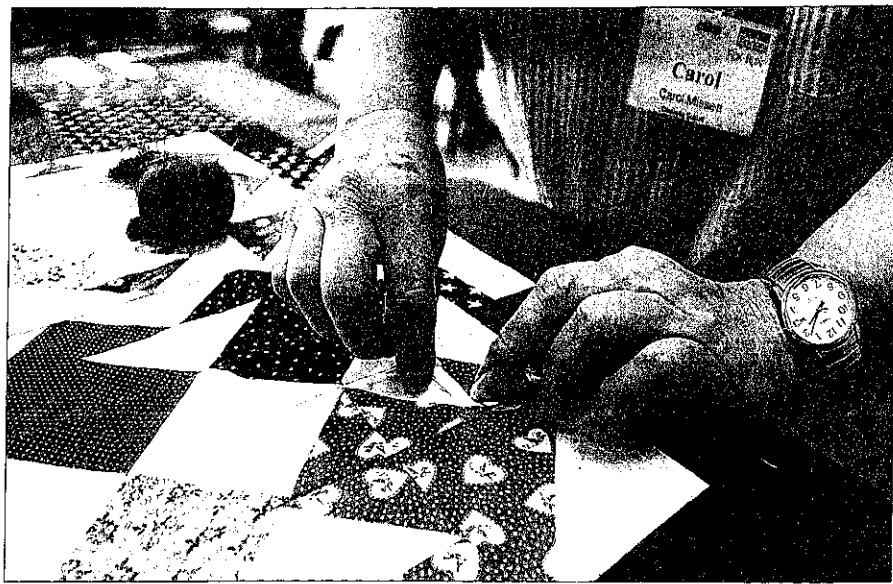
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Carol Missett works on pinning down a section before it's sewn into place.

Comfort quilts

Fox Run residents use skills to cheer up others

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It started as an avenue for residents of Fox Run Village in Novi to work on artistic quilting and explore new techniques.

But soon after the quilting group started in September 2004, the direction completely shifted. Instead of working on quilts for personal satisfaction, the group decided they wanted to use their talents to help others, most notably those who were staying at Renaissance Gardens extended care in the Fox Run campus.

Peg Quigley, a Fox Run resident who helped start the group, said she never envisioned this plan, but now looks forward to meeting every week. "We felt like it should be a charity thing to help others," she said. "It makes us feel good when we hear how comforting it is for the people when they go into their room for the first time and find one of these (quilts) on their bed."

Helping Quigley start the group was Mary Baciz, the daughter of a resident and a professional quilter. She joins the group every Tuesday during their two-hour meeting because she "loves" making quilts and enjoys being with the women.

"One thing that is interesting is a lot of people make quilts to help others, but it is also therapeutic for the people making them," Baciz said.

The quilts the group makes are called "lap quilts" and are designed to fit comfortably over a person and not get caught in the wheels of a wheelchair. They are made out of donated fabric and are fleece-backed.

Every Tuesday about 30 women meet and mass produce the quilts in a production line format. Every person has different jobs, and in a two-hour span, they make between four-to-five quilts. The most they have ever made in one session was 12, and since January they have made 573.

"I go home exhausted," said Barbara Balsar. But for all the women who dedicate their time, it's worth it.

"It's very rewarding to be (making quilts) for a purpose," Balsar said. "That is why I come every week."



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The busy crafts room at Fox Run Village on a Tuesday afternoon as the quilters take over and begin making quilts.



Peg Quigley, group founder, joins other Fox Run residents in the weekly quilting group. The quilters make "lap quilts" for those staying in Fox Run's Renaissance Gardens extended care facility.



Fox Run resident Val Trainor works on sewing a quilt that will be donated to a person at Renaissance Gardens.

PUBLIC SAFETY

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Car broken into at Sports Club

1 A red Ford F-150 was broken into between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 26 while parked in the parking lot at the Sports Club of Novi.

According to the police report, the owner of the truck and his wife went inside the gym to work out and when they returned they noticed several items missing from the vehicle. An inspection of the vehicle showed the suspect made a small punch mark to the passenger side door lock and was unable to unlock the door without a key.

Stolen from the truck were a GPS, purse, \$50, five credit cards, spare house keys and spare car keys. Police told the victims to cancel the credit cards and change their locks, and they will be looking for any fraudulent activity in Novi from the credit cards.

There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

Laptop stolen from parked car

2 A laptop was stolen from a vehicle between 11:30 a.m. and 11:51 a.m. on Aug. 26 while it was parked in the lot at Lifetime Fitness.

The owner of the vehicle said when he left the gym he noticed the passenger side window was broken and the suspect reached through the window to grab the computer. Police have no suspects at this time.

Drunk driver arrested after erratic driving

3 A Novi man was arrested on Aug. 26 for drunk driving after being pulled over by a Novi police officer while parking in his driveway.

The officer on patrol noticed the drive traveling southbound in the northbound lane of Taft Road when he turned around to pursue the suspect. The driver was back on the correct side of the road, but crossed the center line while the officer watched.

A traffic stop was attempted on Taft, south of Eleven Mile Road, but the man kept driving until he pulled into his driveway on Emerald Forest.

When the officer approached the driver, he smelled strongly of intoxicants and admitted to having one beer.

The man failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .13 percent.

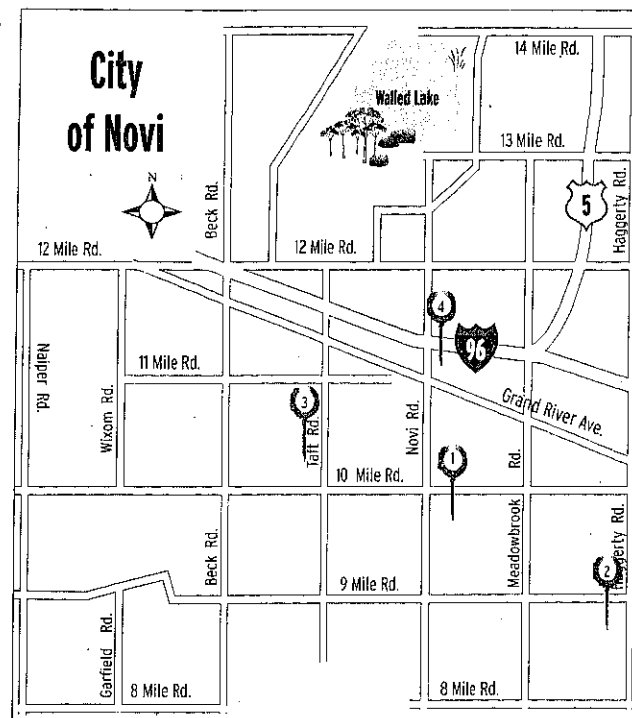
The limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

The driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated and transported to the Novi Police Department; his keys were turned over to his wife, who came outside.

Car damaged at Bally's

4 A Jeep Commander was keyed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Aug. 26 while parked in the south lot of Bally Total Fitness.

The owner of the vehicle said he first heard of the damage when a customer told management a car in the lot had been damaged. When he saw his



CERT volunteers to train with Coast Guard

Exercise taking place on Walled Lake

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The United States Coast Guard Reserve will be conducting a search and rescue demonstration next week on Walled Lake as part of a training exercise for the local Community Emergency Response Teams in the area.

Ron Boron, team leader for the CERT program in Novi, said the Coast Guard will use its helicopter to show the teams how to handle a situation when a person is trapped in the water.

"We thought since we are surrounded by a lot of water there could be some instances where people get trapped," he said. "We will be observing to see where we can find the best way to assist from the ground."

The CERT program is a volunteer-driven organization that supports local emergency departments in the event of a disaster that overwhelms local response capability. The

members go through training and exercises to be prepared to help if needed, and Novi has one of the largest CERT programs with about 180 locally trained individuals.

Joining Novi's CERT at the training on Sept. 9 will be CERT's from West Bloomfield, Commerce, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Walled Lake and Livonia. Oakland County also will have some emergency personnel on hand.

"We try to get the group together every four-to-six months to keep them sharp," Boron said.

To become a member of CERT, residents must take an eight-week training course that consists of 20 hours of instruction on disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster psychology.

For more information, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

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Seniors set to showcase their talents

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

There is no slowing the dynamic couple of Caroline and George Giese.

Even at the ages of 95 and 84, respectively, the two "feel young" and their performances in the annual senior production will not give any indication to think otherwise.

For the 15th consecutive year, the two Novi residents along with about 50 others will take the stage and show-off their skills at a packed house at the theater in the Novi Civic Center.

"We like to make fools of ourselves and it gives us something to look forward to," said Caroline.

Caroline is a fan of the comedy skits, while George is a heralded singer who Caroline said many of her friends gush over.

They said being in the performance makes them feel better, and they are sur-



Cast members rehearse 'Hello Dolly' for their upcoming Senior Variety Show called 'Music, Movies and Madness' at the Novi Civic Center.

rounded by people who have the same energy they do.

"It's all the other people that make it so much fun," George said. "We have a lot of friends in the theater."

This year's show is

called "Music, Movies and Madness," and will feature songs and skits inspired by movies from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Some familiar songs being performed are "Rainbow Connection,"

"Hello Dolly" and "That's Amore," and comedic acts include Abbot and Costello, Mae West and Groucho Marx.

Lauren Sorrentino, performing arts coordinator and



Senior Variety Show Director Lauren Sorrentino, left, helps Gayle Levan rehearse the song "Sisters" during a tune-up for the Novi Senior Variety Show "Music, Movies and Madness."

director of the show, said she is amazed by all the talent.

"I really love (this performance) because it has a little of everything," she said.

The production opens Sept. 10 and will be performed five more times. The luncheon performances start at noon on Sept. 10, 11, 17 and 18, and feature a lunch with the price

of admission, while the matinee performances will run on Sept. 13 and 20. Cost for the luncheon is \$20 and the matinee is \$15. Tickets are expected to sell out.

For more information or to get tickets, call (248) 735-5615.

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Back to school in style

Novi Youth Assistance helps students shop

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Noah McMahan had a detailed plan of attack for his shopping spree on Monday at Kohls.

He knew he had to get three essentials — pants, shoes and a grey sweatshirt — and the rest of the money was divided up among shirts, lunch box and anything else that caught his eye.

McMahan, 11, worked so hard that he was the first student done at the Novi Youth Assistance sponsored Back-to-School Shopping Spree.

He said "knowing my size and what I wanted" was the key getting done so fast. And he worked with the store with McMahan, said they didn't have to help much at all because he was so well-prepared.

"He had it all figured out," McMahan said.

Bob Steeh and Bruce Dyer, who navigated the store with McMahan, said they didn't have to help much at all because he was so well-prepared.

Steeh said. "He taught us a few things."

McMahan was one of five students from the Novi Community Schools district selected by Novi Youth Assistance to take part in the shopping spree. Each child received \$200 for clothes, backpacks, shoes and more with Kohls providing a 10 percent discount.

Co-chairs Mandy Lombard and Hope Spaniola organized the event that is now in its 12th year. Volunteers from the police department, school district and mentoring program escorted the students through the store, helping them pick out items to fill their closets.

Said Claudia Walter, caseworker for Novi Youth Assistance: "In today's economy there is obviously a lot more need."

The money for the shopping spree came from donations and fundraisers.

For more information, call Novi Youth Assistance, call (248) 347-0410.

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Noah McMahan, 11, gets some help from Novi Youth Assistance's Bruce Dyer, left, and Bob Steeh as McMahan picked out some school outfits at Kohls in West Oaks. The Novi Youth Assistance and Novi Police Department teamed up to help a number of kids get clothes and other items for the new school year.

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FLU: Parents, get you and your children vaccinated

There are two types of influenza (flu) to be concerned about this year. The first type is the seasonal flu that occurs every fall and winter. The second type is the novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) virus that began last spring.

The novel H1N1 flu has caused mild to severe illness and hospitalizations in both adults and children. Because children do not have immunity to this virus, they have been most affected and are considered at high risk of infection.

There are many things we can do to keep our schools open and functioning in a normal manner this school year. We need your help to do this. Get your

child and yourself vaccinated against both seasonal and novel H1N1 flu. This will involve getting two different flu vaccines this fall. It is important to make sure children get both kinds. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends both vaccines for all children 6 months through 18 years of age.

Online registration is now open for seasonal flu vaccine clinics, which begin Sept. 21. (Please visit oakgov.com/health to register). Novel H1N1 flu vaccine will be offered later this fall. The more people who get vaccinated with both seasonal and novel H1N1 flu vaccine, will help limit the

viruses from moving from child to child in our schools and spreading to your family.

If you suspect your child is getting or has the flu, it is important that they do not attend school or go anywhere else — such as group childcare, the mall, or sporting events — where other people could be exposed to flu germs. Both types of flu viruses spread easily. If your child is sick, keep them home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever, without fever reducing medication.

Teach your child how to reduce their risk of getting and spreading flu viruses by:

- Washing their hands often. Wash with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds.
- Using hand sanitizer. Gels and rubs with at least 60% alcohol are effective.
- Coughing or sneezing into their sleeve or elbow, not their hands.
- Not touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are spread that way.
- CDC is not recommending school closure if the flu continues to cause mild disease, but school closures may still be warranted in the event of overwhelming absenteeism. School leaders, along with the Oakland County Health Division, are closely

monitoring the situation and will inform parents as soon as possible if school closures will occur.

Plan ahead now by having a family discussion to decide who would care for your child if his/her school were closed. If school is closed, students should not gather at another location, but rather stay home to avoid continued spread of flu outside of school.

Get the most up-to-date information from Oakland County Health Division www.oakgov.com/health.

Kathy Forzley, MS, MPA, is manager/health officer with Oakland County Health Division's Department of Health and Human Services.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Community Schools registration open

Registration is now open for Novi Community Schools before and after school child care for the 2009 - 2010 school year.

The C.A.R.E. (Children's Activities in a Responsible Environment) program provides childcare before and after school for children enrolled in Novi's five elementary buildings, which include Village Oaks, Orchard Hills, Novi Woods, Parkview, and Deerfield. The Pre-Teen Club (P.T. Club) provides activities before and after school for students who attend Novi Meadows and Novi Middle School. P.T. Club is located in the Novi Meadows 5th grade gym. Hours of operation for traditional C.A.R.E. are 7 a.m. until school begins and after school until 6 p.m.

K-C.A.R.E. is for half-day kindergartners and students enrolled in the preschool program. Kindergartners are transported by bus to the Instructional Technology Center, (Community Education Building), 25425 Taft Road. K-C.A.R.E. is open from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m.

To join the C.A.R.E. program the student must first be registered and then scheduled. Once the student is registered (\$45 per), payment is made one month in advance for days that child care is needed. Payments and schedules are always due the 15th of the prior month.

The registration fee is paid by check only. Schedule fees are paid separately by check or charge.

For more registration information, please visit www.novik12.mius; look under Community Education - C.A.R.E.

C.A.R.E. is open during mid-winter, spring and summer breaks. Registration is ongoing throughout the year based on availability.

Scheduling fees for traditional C.A.R.E. are \$7.50 for the a.m.; \$10.50 for p.m.; and \$33 for a full day. Fees for K-C.A.R.E. are \$15.50 for a.m.; \$17.50 for p.m.; and \$33 for full day. There are no credits and all fees are non refundable.

Community Education Preschool program

The district is currently taking registrations for the 2009-2010 Novi Preschool Program for full-day and half-day morning and afternoon sessions.

Our program follows the Michigan Standards of Quality for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten and aligns with the K-12 Standards and Benchmarks for kindergarten.

This year, the preschool program is offering 3 hours for the half-day 3-, 4- and young 5-year-olds, along with the established variety of classes and times. Children must be 3, 4 or 5 years old by December 1, 2009 to attend classes. Children also must be completely toilet trained.

Preschool classes follow the Novi Community School District calendar, from August through June. To secure a spot in this fall's 2009-2010 session, parents must register their child at the Child Care Services office in the Instructional Technology Center, 25345 Taft, between 10 Mile Road and I-10 Road. Child care is also available for a fee for students attending the preschool. When registering a child (or children), please bring the following:

- A completed registration packet, available on the district's web site, www.novik12.mius
- Child's birth certificate or passport
- Non-refundable registration fee payment (\$45 for school district residents, \$50 for non-residents)

For more information about the classes, please call the Preschool office at (248) 449-1713.

Adult Ed openings

Novi Community Schools has openings for Adult Education for students over 21, and students who are not in a traditional high school ages 16-19 yrs) to earn their HSC or GED. Classes are Monday through Thursday from 10:45 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Students must have ID.

All teachers are certified and highly qualified. On-line classes are available.

Classes begin Sept. 8

ESL Classes are available through Novi Adult Education. Classes are Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Childcare is available for a fee. Registration is on September 9, 2009 and classes begin Sept. 15. Students must show ID such as VISA/Passport or Drivers License.

For more information on both programs, please contact the Adult Education office at 248-449-1717.

Local visits Michigan Tech

Novi's Gentry Oden, a student at Oak Park Preparatory Academy and the son of Gentry Oden Jr. and LaShawn Oden, learned about planes, trains and automobiles at the first National Summer Transportation Institute, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Michigan's NSTI is hosted by Michigan Technological University's Youth Programs.

Students enrolled in the National Summer Transportation Institute bunked in the residence halls on the Michigan Tech campus for two weeks. They explored areas of transportation with hands-on activities, learned about topics such as snow roads in Antarctica from role models working in the transportation industry, sharpened their team skills and took field trips, all while getting a feel for college life.

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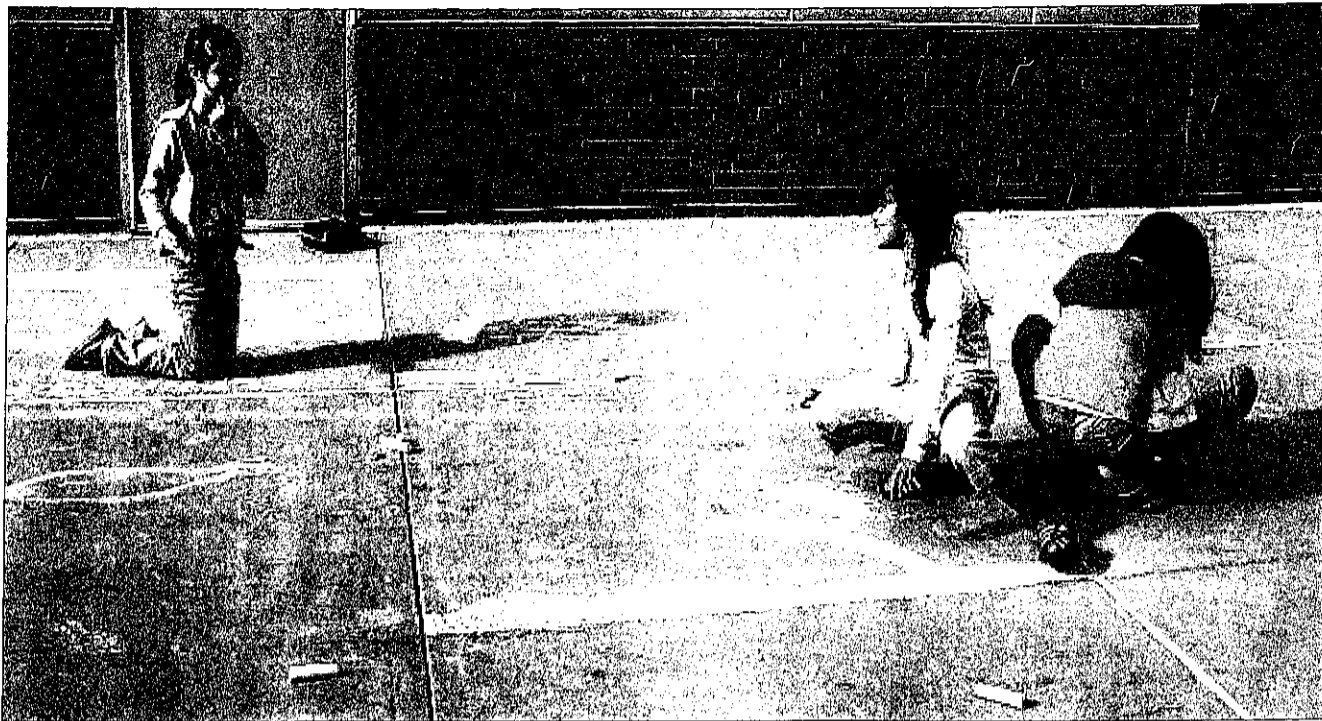
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PHOTOS BY WAINEL MCCLELLAN

Kids got creative with chalk art competition at Saturday's event.

Summer Sidewalk Series



Kids could get their faces (or their arms) painted at Saturday's event.



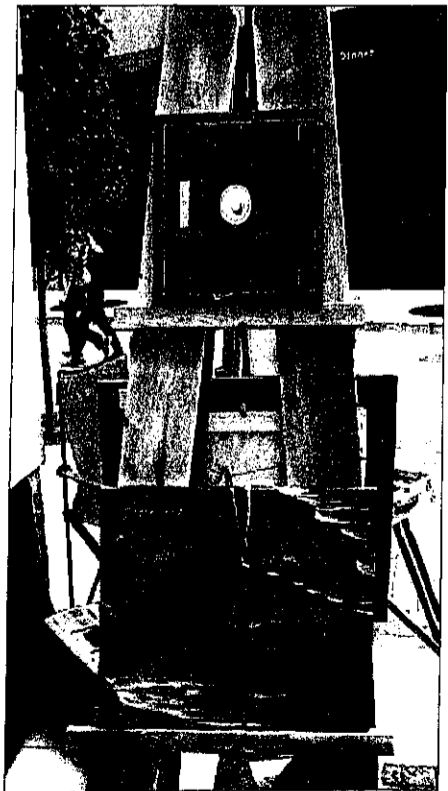
Family of Pets hosted a petting contest as part of the afternoon's activities.



The Kids color contest was one of many activities at the Summer Sidewalk Series final event on Saturday.



The weather was cool but that didn't keep kids from the face painting area.



Work by members of ArtisNovi was displayed throughout the mall's roundabout area Saturday afternoon.



The Spangler/Tope Trio
- Ralph Tope, guitar;
- RJ Spangler, drums; Dale
Grisa, organ - provided
live music for the folks at
Twelve Mile Crossing at
Fountain Walk.

White Lake teen arrested in connection with killing in Wixom

A brawl between two groups of teens in a Wixom subdivision ended with an 18-year-old Walled Lake Western graduate dead, hit in the back of the head with a golf club. The Oakland County Medical Examiner's office ruled Justin Hussin's death a homicide due to blunt force trauma to the head, investigator Ray Jankowski said this afternoon.

An 18-year-old White Lake teen is in police custody after the killing at 3:15 a.m. today, Public Safety Director Clarence Goodlein said this morning.

Just before 2 p.m., Goodlein said the suspect in the case could be arraigned as soon as tomorrow, when

police plan to take its case to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. The reason for the fight: the victim had taunted the White Lake teen in front of a group of friends days ago, which evolved into a series of text messages back and forth, and plans for the fight early this morning, Goodlein said.

He said at least nine people, mostly around 18-years-old, showed up carrying golf clubs and baseball bats. Goodlein said it's likely only the one suspect will be charged in Hussin's death, but others could face assault charges stemming from the brawl.

"It's a terrible set of circumstances," Goodlein said. "Now you have two families forever affected by what has

come to pass. The family of the victim has lost their son, and the family of the suspect - if he's charged and ultimately convicted - has lost their son, too."

The Wixom Police Department found the victim lying in a grassy area near power lines on Bell Coney in the Birch Park subdivision off Potter. At least four other friends of the two teens were there, but police suspect many other witnesses scattered after the fatal blow, Goodlein said.

"These young men, their egos are bruised very easily," Goodlein said. "Nothing is so important that you have to risk your life or risk taking another person's life. What people say to you, they're just words and

you can't let them affect you in that manner. You can't let your anger take control of your actions."

Investigators said the teens chose the spot in the victim's subdivision because it lacked lighting and was near a wooded area.

"I think everybody was going to go at it, potentially, but that kind of got short-circuited because I think the assault that resulted in the fatal injury occurred early on in the incident," he said.

Goodlein stopped short of calling the two groups "gangs," instead characterizing them as two groups there to support their buddies during a fight.

"Sometimes I don't think young

men have the patience or the wherewithal to deal with some of the feelings they have," he said. "And you see these events unfold here. And that's in every community."

Investigators were still interviewing witnesses today. Anyone with information is asked to call the Wixom Police at 248-624-6114.

Goodlein said the suspect will be held in the Oakland County Jail until charges are filed, most likely on Wednesday. If the suspect is charged, he will be arraigned in the 52nd District Court 1st Division in Novi.

By Tammy Stables Ballaglia and Gina Demron | Detroit Free Press

HEALTH CALENDAR

- Catholic Social Service of Oakland County teen-parent program - teens are paired with an adult mentor who will meet with them once a week, attend Lamaze classes and assist in the birthing process. If someone you know could use guidance and support contact (248) 233-3700, ext. 322.

- Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital offers community health programs. If you have questions or would like to register for a program call (248) 937-3314. Space is limited, so please call early to avoid disappointment.

- The Sinai Center for Women is hosting a series of lectures on Tuesday evenings. Tuesday Tea will provide a gathering place for women while educating them on women's health concerns. The programs take place in the lobby of the Sinai Center for Women. Tuesday Teas are free and held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and begin at 6 p.m. To inquire about topics or to register, please call (248) 937-5055.

- Yoga classes. The yoga class meets on Mondays at 4 p.m. Yoga is an ancient art designed to release stress, strengthen the body and increase energy and flexibility. Pre-registration required; call for information on fees. Classes ongoing, so start any time.

- Tai Chi for seniors will be offered for six weeks on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. Call the HVSH Office of Community Health for information on when the sessions begin and to register. \$40 fee for six week session.

- DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital is currently offering a variety of CPR classes to meet the needs of the community. Classes range from basic CPR intended for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification classes for those who need CPR for work and state licensure. First Aid classes are also available. Classes are offered on both weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies depending on the class that is chosen. Pre-registration is required to attend a CPR class. Class schedule and registration can be found at www.hvsh.com/healthcalendar or by calling (248) 937-3314.

- The hospital is offering the American Heart Association's CPR for Family and Friends class. This is a CPR class designed for lay responders who wish to know CPR. The class will cover CPR and choking for adults, children and infants. This is not a certification course and therefore does not meet requirements for workplace or state licensure. Cost is \$25 for the first person.

- The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Oakland County is offering its Families In Action Educational Program. This educational program is designed specifically for people with a loved one that has been diagnosed with a mental illness. It is a series of 10, two-hour weekly sessions facilitated by family members who have lived the hardships of mental illness and have been trained on how to share their experiences with others. Classes are held on the St. Regis Parish School Campus, in West Bloomfield and are open to all area residents. Class size is limited. Pre-register. (248) 348-7196 or www.amiokland.org.

- St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland offers a variety of programs and services designed to meet the healthcare and educational needs of the community. For dates and locations call the Mercy Health Line at (800) 372-6094.

- Wishes on Wheels makes available power (electric) wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens, 65 years and older, usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit required. The electric wheelchairs are provided to those who can't walk and can't self-propel a manual wheelchair in their home or independent living quarters and who meet the additional qualifications of the program. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled of any age. (800) 823-5220 or www.threewishes2.com.

- The Three Wishes Inc. Program makes available to senior citizens and the permanently disabled power (electric) wheelchairs at no cost to the recipient, if they qualify. The power wheelchairs are provided to those who cannot walk and cannot self-propel a manual wheelchair in their home, and who meet the additional guidelines of the program. No deposit required. (800) 835-9116.

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For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Nov. Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com. Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@hometownlife.com; by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Nov. News, 1074 Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48185. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

Local events

LIVE BLUES & JAZZ @ THE GRAPEVINE
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursdays, 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
LOCATION: The Grapevine of Novi, 43155 Market Street
DETAILS: Live music on the patio on Thursdays, inside on weekends; no cover. Schedule includes Thursday, Michael May & The MessArrounds.
CONTACT: (248) 344-4044

AUTHOR MARIA DISMONDY BOOK SIGNINGS

TIME/DATE: Sept. 15
LOCATION: Border's Bookstore, 43075 Crescent Blvd., Novi
TIME/DATE: 9-11 a.m. Oct. 11
LOCATION: Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 17111 Hauppauge Rd., Novi
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 10
LOCATION: Walled Lake Public Library, 1499 E West Maple Rd., Walled Lake
TIME/DATE: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Nov. 21
LOCATION: Wixom Public Library, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Maria Dismondy will be on tour at local facilities, reading, selling and signing her book, "Sagheti In A Hot Dog Bun." In today's society, it's important to remind children that, although we are different on the outside, we are very much alike on the inside. Unfortunately, bullying has become a major problem in the United States. It's not only painful for children, but occurring at an increasingly young age. Her book empowers children to positively

handle tough situations through its timeless message: have the courage to be exactly who you are, no matter what other people say.

ZINA KRAMER SIGNING
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12
LOCATION: Borders, Novi Town Center
DETAILS: Zina Kramer, author of "Hugging Grandma: Loving Those with Memory Disorders," will be holding a book signing and discussion in celebration of Grandparents Day.

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE
LOCATION: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 348-5600
Michigan Antique Arms Show
DATE: Sept. 12-13
DETAILS: Antique and modern arms and accoutrements, part and accessories, as well as other related merchandise. The show also features historical displays and presentations.

Brides Day Bridal Show
DATE: Sept. 13
DETAILS: This popular bridal event has fast become a bride's first choice for finding everything she needs to plan her special day; www.thebridalshow.com.

American Sewing Expo
DATE: Sept. 25-27
DETAILS: The American Sewing Expo is the largest independent consumer sewing show in the country. This show has everything relating to fiber arts including fashion sewing, quilting, needle arts, crafting, and much more; www.americansewingexpo.com.

International Gem and Jewelry Show
DETAILS: This is one of the largest exhibitions of gems, minerals and jewelry in the world with one-of-a-kind jewelry creations, estate jewelry, accessories, and deeply discounted products for everyone.



Just swingin' around

Melissa Christensen elicits a laugh from her son Soren, 1, as they play on the swings at Novi's Lakeshore Park on Aug. 25 after the Novi Parks Dept. sponsored "Puppets in the Park" event.

www.intergem.com.

Fall Camper and RV Show

DETAILS: The Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds present an expansive event featuring all types of recreational vehicles, parts and accessories, campground information, on-site RV financing and RV rentals; www.marvac.org.

Fall Home Remodeling Show

DATE: Oct. 9-11
DETAILS: The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan offers a wide variety of home improvements ideas, project advice, products and education; www.builders.org.

Great Lakes Art Fair

DATE: Oct. 16-18
DETAILS: Artists from across the region will offer works in the mediums of oil, watercolor, glass, photography, jewelry, fiber, sculpture and mixed media, along with select epicurean items; www.greatlakesartfair.com.

Great Lakes Swap Meet

DATE: Nov. 1
DETAILS: The largest Swap Meet in the Midwest is the Detroit Area Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet! Thousands of bikers will be buying, selling, and swapping; bikes, frames, motors, touring accessories, seats, wheels, tires, front ends, tanks, shocks, fenders, gauges, MX stuff, basket cases and take-offs. Every Known Brand! Every Hard to Find Part! Harley, Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Triumph, BSA, Norton, BMW and Guzzi; www.motorcycleswap.com.

Snowmobile Show and Sale

DATE: Nov. 6-8
DETAILS: This show offers all the latest in sleds, gear, clothing, accessories, performance products, trailers and equipment for the new season; www.snowmobileusa.com.

Michigan Gun and Knife Show

DATE: Nov. 14-16
DETAILS: One of the best and largest Gun & Knife Shows in Michigan! Shotguns, Rifles, Handguns, Scopes, Knives, Shooting Supplies, Ammunition, Reloading Equipment, Gun Cases, Pistol & Rifle Magazines, Military Surplus, Collector Items, Archery, Fishing Supplies, Safes, Custom hand made gun cabinets, Wild Game Jerky, and much more; www.mjgunshows.com.

Michigan Family Pet Expo

DATE: Nov. 20-22
DETAILS: The Michigan Family Pet Expo will showcase more than 150 exhibits of pet-related products and services; www.pelmichigan.com.

Michigan Antique Arms Show

DATE: Nov. 28-29
DETAILS: Antique and modern arms and accoutrements, part and accessories, as well as other related merchandise. The show also features historical displays and presentations.

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.

ABWA

99 Ways to shop 'til You Drop
TIME/DATE: 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9
LOCATION: DoubleTree Hotel, Novi
DETAILS: The Novi Oaks chapter of ABWA (American

Business Women's Association)

is hosting this event with many different vendors on site for an evening of shopping, networking and fun. Admission is 99 cents and includes light appetizers, while they last. A cash bar will also be available.
CONTACT: www.abwa-novi.org

Library Lines

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY LINES

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
SUMMER HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 a.m.-5 p.m.
STANDARD HOURS (resume after Labor Day): Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 a.m.-5 p.m.
Library will be closed on Labor Day.
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
WEBSITE: www.novilibrary.org

Story Times

Please see the library website or story time brochure for details.
Libraries and Little Ones
DATE: Thursday, Sept. 3
TIME: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Come and share some stories, songs, and rhymes with your preschooler! Sponsored by the Oakland County Child Care Council.
Registration required.

Mastering the Mouse for Seniors

DATE: Thursday, Sept. 3
TIME: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: This 100% hands-on class is designed to introduce seniors to using the computer mouse. We will complete a self-guided tutorial on the computer, learning and practicing all of the basic functions of the mouse. Registration required.
Booked for Lunch
DATE: Wednesday, Sept. 9
TIME: noon-p.m.
DETAILS: Join your neighbors in a lively book discussion during your lunch hour. Bring your lunch and the library will provide a beverage. Discussing The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls.
English Conversation Group
DATE: Wednesdays, Sept. 9 and 16
TIME: 1-2 p.m.
DETAILS: Make friends while you practice your English pronunciation and conversation skills.
Introduction to the Internet for Seniors
DATE: Wednesday, Sept. 9
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
DETAILS: This class introduces the basics of the Internet in a relaxed, supportive environment. You must know the basics of using a computer mouse OR have taken "Mastering the Mouse for Seniors."

How to Avoid Unexpected Problems in Your Estate Plan

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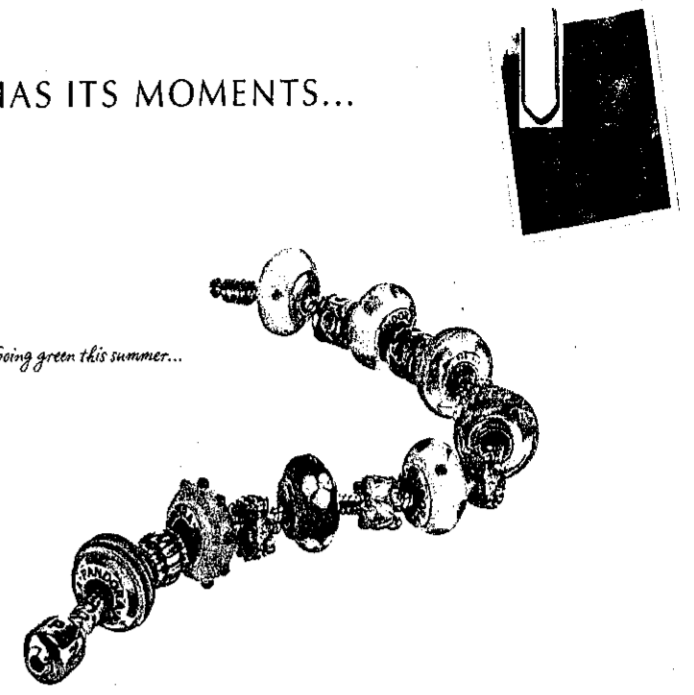
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Howling Herd

The Make-A-Wish Foundation's Wish-A-Mile bicycle tour finished Aug. 2 at the Chelsea Fairgrounds. Over 800 riders completed the 300-mile journey over three days to support wishes of Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions. The Northville Howling Herd of Trailies team is pictured here with 7-year-old Kennedy Mayville, their hero (l. r. front) Mike Miller, George Reilly, Kennedy Mayville, John Wheeler, Dave Gutman, (back) Scott Sargent (team captain), Mike Hedding, Casey McDowell, Walt Jakiela and Richard Garvey.

Employment as a lagging indicator of recovery

You might be hearing news that the economy seems to be in recovery, but at the same time, you hear other news about the high unemployment rate, further layoffs from major employers and other negative news. You are not sure what it all means as far as your chances for finding a job.

Martha D. Adamson

Employment growth is considered a "lagging indicator" in the world of economic statistics. This means that other signs of recovery from a recession begin to be seen before employment growth. What this means for you is that when economists start to talk about the recovery, employers are beginning to plan for new or replacement hiring that they have been deferring during the recession. As the economy improves, you won't see increases in the numbers of jobs posted for your area of expertise until you are well into the recovery and growth period that usually follows a recession. But you can assume that employers will be making plans for current or future hiring to help them implement their business plans and initiatives. After a period of retrenching, most businesses refocus their strategies to prepare for new or adjusted initiatives. Once they decide to launch these initiatives, they often need to hire new employees.

YOUR NEXT JOB

So this time period, when employment remains slow, but other economic indicators are looking positive for recovery, is a great time to get yourself in front of hiring managers. By targeting specific employers who need your skills and talents, and finding a way to get your foot in the door to talk with the person who will be personally interested in what you can do for them, you will be positioning yourself to be in the right place at the right time.

Remember that the hiring manager is not the HR Recruiter or HR Manager. The HR department does not have authority to hire you. They perform an important administrative function once a specific manager has authorized hiring to hire someone, but they cannot create opportunities. It is the authority of the leaders in each functional area of the business to decide how to staff their departments. These same leaders know which positions they need to fill and what kind of person they are looking for. They inform HR once they have permission from upper management to move forward with their initiatives.

You will need to define your skills, strengths and areas of expertise and target specific jobs or roles you can fill in organizations. You should be able to clearly explain how you can meet an employer's needs and help them solve their problems. You will need to target specific employers that you are interested in and who can use your talents. Then, using your network whenever possible, or directly contacting the firms if that is your only way in, you need to identify which hiring manager will be most interested in meeting you and learning what you have to offer. Once you identify the hiring manager, you need to meet them, have a discussion about their needs and problems, then tell them how you can help them succeed. This approach does not rely on a resume or application, but assertively puts you in a position to build trust and interest in your capabilities to put you ahead of competition and potentially land a job just when the employer needs you.

Martha D. Adamson is a consulting professional with a diverse background in Human Resource Management and Career Development. She is a Certified Career Development Facilitator, a Certified Career & Job Search Coach, and a Certified Professional Resume Writer. She is the co-author of Job Search Navigator, a workbook-style guide to assessing yourself and managing your job search (www.job-searchnavigator.com) which was first published in 1999 by Prentice-Hall and revised and republished by Success Press in 2005. From 1993 to 1996, she authored a monthly column "Your Job Search" in the Saratoga Springs, NY, newspaper - The Saratogian.

How to find cheaper prescription drugs

Dear Savvy Senior: I've heard that there are prescription medication discount programs out there to help those in need? I'm 63 years old and currently take three drugs that I can barely afford. What can you tell me? Barely Insured

SAVVY SENIOR

Dear Barely: There are actually a wide variety of programs that help uninsured and underinsured Americans dramatically reduce their medication costs - or even get them for free. Many programs can also help seniors with a Medicare prescription drug plan avoid their "doughnut hole" coverage gap, or reduce their costs once they reach it. Here's what you should know.

DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations, there are literally hundreds of programs available today that provide low-cost or free drugs to people in need. Although most drug assistance programs have income requirements, don't assume you won't be accepted because you think your income is too high. Many programs will consider applications on a case-by-case basis. Here are some great resources for finding and navigating the many programs that are available.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance (www.ppxa.org; 888-477-2609): This is a network of pharmaceutical companies and professional medical organizations that can match you to more than 475 public and private patient/drug assistance programs that offer more than 2,500 drugs at reduced cost or at no charge.

BUY GENERIC

Another big money saver is to ask your doctor or pharmacist if the medication you're taking is available in generic form. Many chains like Wal-Mart, Target, Costco, Kmart, CVS, Walgreens and Safeway offer great deals on many generic drugs. Wal-Mart for example charges only \$4 for a 30-day supply and \$10 for a 90-day supply with no eligibility restrictions. You can also find great generic deals online at sites like Rx Outreach (www.rxoutreach.com; 800-769-3880) and Xubex Pharmaceutical (www.xubex.com; 866-699-8239).

NeedyMeds (www.needymeds.org): This is a non-profit resource that will let you search for drug-assistance programs, download applications and find assistance based on disease. It also provides links to state sponsored programs that provide prescription drug coverage or subsidies to low-income people who aren't poor enough to qualify for Medicaid.

DISCOUNT CARDS

Another way to cut your medication costs is with drug discount cards, and a good starting point is Together Rx Access (www.togetherrxaccess.com; 800-444-4106). Backed by a consortium of pharmaceutical companies, this free prescription savings program provides a 25 to 40 percent savings on more than 300 brand-name and generic drugs. This program is available to people who don't have drug coverage with annual incomes of \$45,000 or less for individuals, \$60,000 for a family of two, and up to \$105,000 for a family of five. Other drug card programs you should look at include www.rx savingsplus.com, www.your-rxcard.com, www.rxfirstcard.com, www.pscard.com, www.familywise.com and www.free-drugcards.com. These are all free programs with no eligibility requirements.

Savvy Tip: If you find that you're not eligible for the drug-discount programs and generics aren't available, another way you can save money is by finding the pharmacies that offer the lowest prices. Go to www.destinationrx.com and register - it's free. Then type in the medicine you're looking for and click on "Compare Pharmacy Prices" for a cost comparison of online, mail-order and local pharmacies. 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.



A rainy night

Novi fans hide under their umbrellas during the nearly constant rain on Friday night at Millford. The Wildcats football team defeated the Mavericks 18-16.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section

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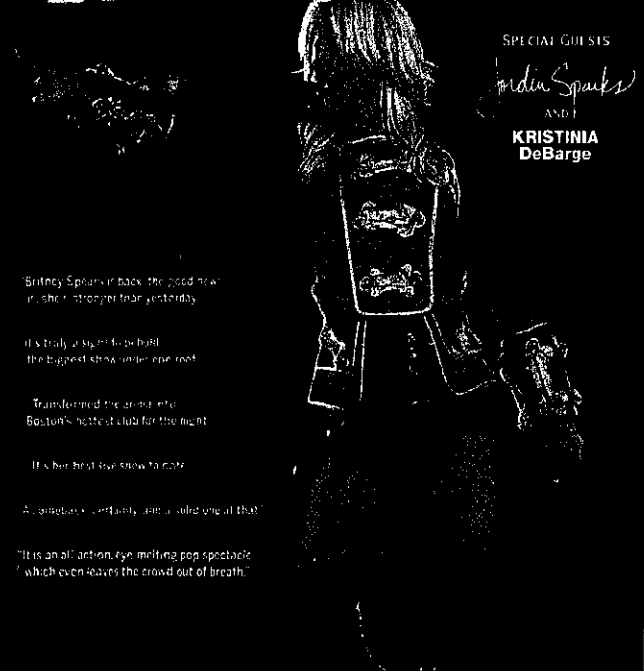
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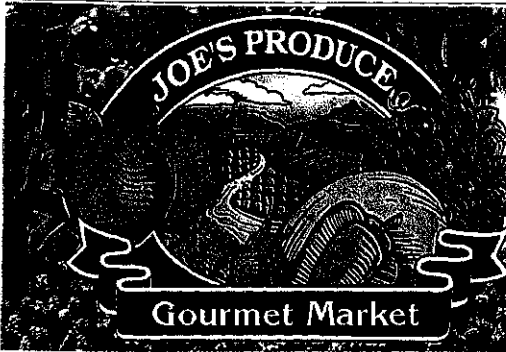
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Mike Blaszczyk, Joe Schubring, Brett Giampa, Geoff Giese and Alex Minghine at the South Lyon Invitational.

Wildcats repeat at South Lyon Invite

Runners improve on last season despite wet course

The South Lyon Invitational kicked off the start of a promising 2009 season for Novi's boy's cross country squad.

The Wildcats successfully defended their 2008 title against 10 other teams at Island Lake State Park Saturday, racing through a cool air and damp course still drenched from last Friday's downpour.

The wet conditions didn't slow the runners down much, as senior Mike Blaszczyk led the way, finishing third overall on the 3.1-mile course in 16 minutes and 29 seconds, just 44 seconds off his All-State pace from last season.

Of the 77 varsity runners representing 11 schools in the season opener, Novi had five of its seven in the top 15.

Junior Joe Schubring wasn't far behind Blaszczyk, finishing sixth in 17:01, just six seconds off his state meet time from last season.

"Joe had an outstanding summer. He put in a lot of quality miles, and now he is enjoying the fruits of his labor," said coach Robert Smith.

Seniors Alex Minghine (17:11), Geoff Giese (17:21) and junior Brett Giampa (17:27) finished 10th, 12th and 15th to round out Novi's top five racers. Giampa's time was a personal best.

"Brett has really stepped up his game. He is running about 45 seconds faster than he did last year at this time," Smith said. "Alex ran the smartest

ON TAP

The Wildcat harriers improved on their team pace from last season's South Lyon Invitational, a promising note as the season continues at Cass Benton 5 p.m. Sept. 15 against the South Lyon East Cougars.

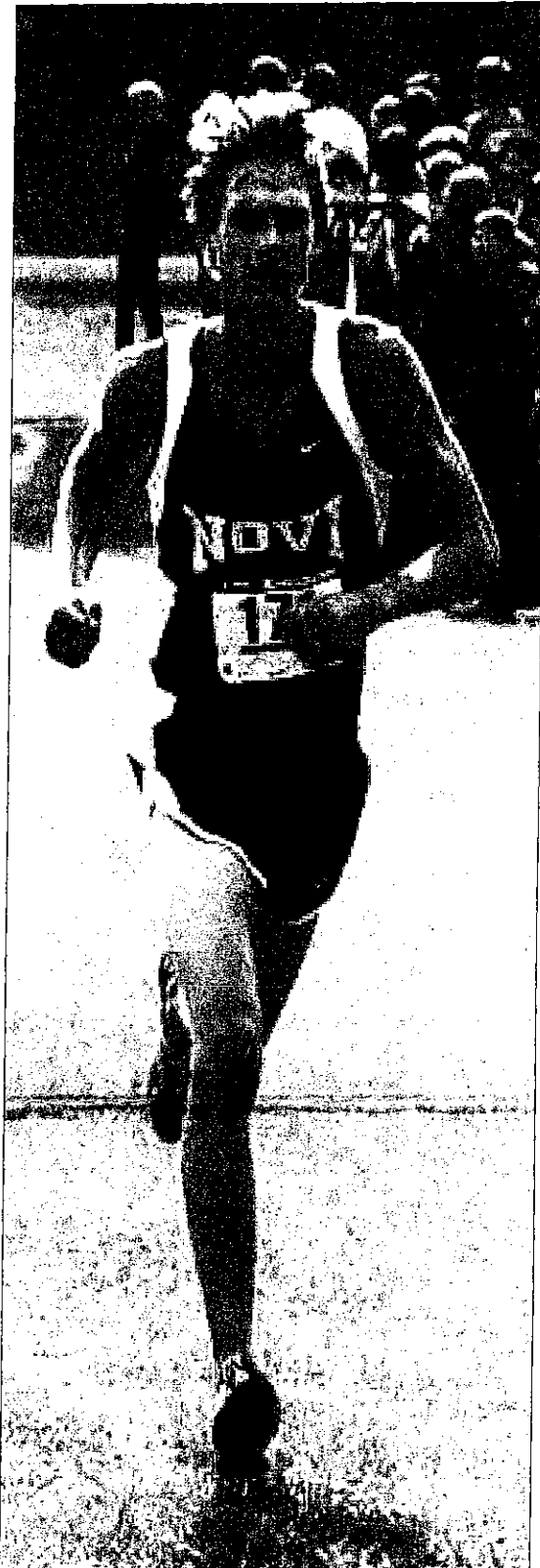
race of all of our guys today. Last year, he often started a little too slow. Today he ran his first mile more on pace for this time of the season."

Senior Dan Egner (17:36) and junior Chase Conrad (18:13) wrapped up the race for the Wildcats at 21st and 40th.

"Dan was a little off of his game today," Smith said. "Dan ran as our number two man many times for us last season. As he makes the transition from the 800 meters (spring track) to 3.1 miles, I am confident that he will return to challenge the rest of our top five. When that happens, we will be even more solid than we are right now."

Novi was solid enough to outpace Temperance Bedford by 21 points, earning a meet low 46. All of Novi's participating KLAA competition scored between 119 and 245, perhaps forecasting how Novi's race results will fare against some of their opposition.

Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.



PHOTOS BY KAREN MINGHINE (MAGNETARI)

Mike Blaszczyk at the South Lyon Invitational.

'Cats can't catch Milford

For photos of the game, see Page B5.

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

It was opening day for football last Friday, and the old KVC rivalry between Milford and Novi had a little bit of everything.

The Mavericks blocked a field goal late in the fourth quarter and held off the Wildcats 18-16 at home.

The game was played mostly in a driving rain, and a lightning bolt delayed the game a little more than a minute before halftime.

Despite the weather, the old KVC foes put on an impressive effort in front of the drenched crowds.

Novi won the offensive battle with 329 total yard to Milford's 155, but the scoreboard is the only stat that truly matters.

"I was very impressed with the effort these young men demonstrated today," said Novi coach Tab Kelleppourey. "Even when we had a play go against us, they got up and they went to work on the next play."

"I think that's really one of those strong qualities that if you possess it early in the season and you can turn things around... this team is going to turn into a great team."

Milford held on Novi's opening drive and the Maverick offense steamrolled down the field.

Quarterback Luke Johnson hit Bryan Miller with a 32-yard pass on third down to put the ball at the Novi 2. Miller ran it in on the next play for a 6-0 lead less than four minutes in. The extra point failed.

Novi answered later in the first when a play action fake by QB Brandon Rydzewski allowed Brett Kuhn to get wide open for a 33-yard touchdown pass. The extra point went off the post, and the teams remained tied, if only for a moment.

The Mavericks used a trick play to take the lead for good.

On the kickoff, Nate Varilone fielded the kick before handing off to a streaking Brandon Bell toward the Milford sideline. He made one tackler miss and was gone while flying by the celebrating Mavericks.

Again, the point after failed, and the Mavericks went up 12-6.

Novi scored the lone points of the second quarter when kicker Scott Stanford just cleared the bar from 25 yards out, pulling within 12-9.

With just 1:05 left in the first half, the teams decided to use the half-hour delay as halftime. After warming up, the teams played the remainder of the first half and started the third quarter shortly after.

Please see FOOTBALL, B2

Novi kickers defense holding up

Wildcats outscore opponents 13-0 over first 3 matches

If the Wildcats had any concerns about a brand new varsity defense, the boy's soccer team sure hasn't shown it, holding all of their first four opponents scoreless.

The team improved to 4-0 with a 2-0 win at Brighton Monday.

Junior Wes Smith and senior

Tommy Duquette split the game in goal as senior co-captain Doug McGinn scored the eventual game winner on a through pass from sophomore Chase Jabbori in the first half.

McGinn was fouled inside the goal box by the Brighton goalkeeper during the second half, allowing senior

co-captain Jon Bauer to convert on the penalty kick.

"This was a great win for us as Brighton was previously unbeaten and has an incredible large and athletic team," said coach Brian O'Leary.

Please see KICKERS, B3

ON TAP

The Wildcats' next opponent may be one of their toughest, as they visit Livonia Stevenson 7 p.m. Tuesday in what could be a preview of the Central Division championship. The team will then travel to South Lyon Sept. 10 for their fifth-straight road match, facing a talented Lions team.

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Trendon Hankerson (#2) had an 11-yard TD run for the freshmen Bobcats.

Varsity falls to Colts

The Novi Bobcats varsity squad fell to the Northville Colts 44-33 to open the 2009 season. The opening drive for the Bobcats was highlighted by a 13-yard gain by tailback Jeff Baker. After a punt the defense took the field and Graham Gausden recovered a fumble to give the ball back to the offense. On first down, quarterback Josh Schiesler hit wide receiver Austin Racicot with a 43-yard pass to the 3-yard line. Baker scored on a 1-yard run a couple plays later. Schiesler tackled on the extra point with a two-yard run. The Colts immediately responded by returning the ensuing kick-off 60 yards for a touchdown. The Colts went on top a series later with a TD pass. The halftime score was Colts 23 Bobcats 13.

NOVI BOBCATS WRAP-UP

Both defenses struggled in the second half as each team scored 20 points. The Bobcat offense was led by tight ends Keith Pravato and Charlie Ryan, tackles Ethan Roy and Brett Guiboux, guards Carston Cook and Josh Helfer and center Jack Twomey. The defense was led by Josh Helfer, who had five tackles, including one for loss, Austin Racicot, Jeff Baker and Nick Meadors who each had four tackles, Mark Ryan and Brett Guiboux who each had three tackles, and Charlie Ryan who had two tackles, including one for a loss. Safety Jack Pinkerton had a tackle and an interception. Jack Twomey had a tackle and pressured the Colt QB to the throw an incomplete pass. Cornerback Michael Ninkovich had two

tackles and broke up a fourth down pass. Carston Cook had a QB sack. Ethan Roy had a tackle and broke up a pass. Graham Gausden had a fumble recovery. Billy Ulie, Jalen Ward, Josh Schiesler and Easton Tally each had a tackle. Highlighting the offense was tailback Jeff Baker who had 19 rushes for 130 yards and three touchdowns. Jalen Ward was also impressive at tailback with 81 yards on seven rushes and a touchdown. Quarterback Josh Schiesler completed three of five passes for 100 yards and a touchdown. Wide Receiver Austin Racicot had three catches for 100 yards and a touchdown. Tomo Hotta had five rushes for 11 yards. Jack Pinkerton had one carry for 10 yards. Daniel Terrell had one carry for five yards. Quarterback Addison Lonergan had one carry for a yard. Head coach Bill Ulie hopes to even the Bobcats' record with a win against the Multi-Lakes Gators on Sept. 13 at Novi Middle School.

JV earns 13-0 win in opener

The JV Bobcats opened their 2009 season winning a defensive battle over rival and perennial powerhouse Northville Colts, 13-0. After a scoreless first quarter, Andy Mizerowski's lead block helped Andrew Schroeder break free for a 26 yard touchdown and a 6-0 lead. On the Colts' next possession, Anthony D'Annibale intercepted a pass and returned the ball 30 yards to the Colts 19-yard line. It looked like the Bobcats'

offense would stall, but on fourth down and 16, Ryan Moore completed a 22-yard pass to Bobby Fox who was tackled at the 3-yard line. Michael Ulie followed his center Scott Latham on a QB sneak, with Conner Moore and Dominic Colaluca pushing the pile into the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown. Ryan Moore converted the point after touchdown. Before the half ended, Spencer VanKirk recovered a fumble to preserve the Bobcats' 13-0 halftime lead. The Colts dominated the second half time of possession, with a 16-play drive down to the Bobcats' 21-yard line that ended when Ryan Moore intercepted a fourth down pass. After the Bobcats were forced to punt, the Colts' next possession ended with D'Annibale picking off his second pass of the game. On the Colts' last possession, Ryan Moore made his second interception, for the fifth turnover of the game. Andrew Schroeder ran 10 times for 56 yards, and Ryan Moore completed three of four passes for 55 yards. Fox had two receptions for 39 yards, but it was his kickoffs and punts that helped the Bobcats win the battle of field position. On defense, linebacker Christian Durham led all tacklers with 12 tackles and four assists, followed by Fox at corner with five tackles and two assists. Offensively, the game was closer than the score indicates, with a few big plays going the Bobcats' way in an otherwise equally matched contest. While exchanging handshakes both teams vowed to meet once again in the post season playoffs.



Jaylen Ward (#10) ran for 81 yards against Northville.

Freshmen lose to Northville 32-7

After a grueling two weeks of summer workouts, the Novi Bobcat freshmen had their first live test against the Northville Colts. At 11 a.m., they took the field under partly cloudy skies and 62 degrees. Novi's Eric Budd started the day kicking the ball to Northville. On the second play from scrimmage, Novi's Luca Saite made a backfield stop. After two changes of possession, the Bobcats gained a spark as Nicky Cloud made a nice tackle creating a fumble recovery for the Colts. Two plays later the Bobcats recovered a Bobcat fumble. On this possession, Northville would be the first to score, as Elijah Gash rambled for a 65-yard touchdown. The following series, Northville's Gardner,

intercepted a Novi pass, and two plays later Gash scored again on a 44-yard run. Down 14-0, Novi would not give up as Tyler VanKirk gave the cats some momentum at the end of the first quarter with a 16-yard run. The Colts started the second quarter strong as Colin Gardner took Northville into the red-zone on a 25-yard pass possession. Two plays later Gash would ramble in for a touchdown. The Bobcats would come back strong as Brendan Smith, had a 45-yard run for Novi, his longest play from scrimmage of the game. This would set up the Cats first touchdown of the season with Trendon Hankerson's 11-yard run. The second quarter would conclude with Northville's Elijah Gash and Jackson Stelmeyer scoring touch-

downs for the Colts. At half time, the score was 32-7. The third and fourth quarter proved to be a sea-saw battle. Hankerson scored a touchdown for Novi on a 50-yard run with 34 seconds left in the quarter, leaving the score 32-13 after the buzzer. Other Bobcat notables were Chad Howell, Ryan Davis, Chad Howell, Jason Robson and Brendan Smith, all with solid defensive efforts. The Bobcats go back to work at home at the middle school Sept. 13 at 11 as they take on the Multi Lake Gators. John Schiesler (Varsity), Ken Hixon (Junior varsity) and Todd Lewinski (freshman) are the designated media writers for the Novi Bobcats football organization and submit game wrap-ups and photos on a regular basis to the Novi News.

FOOTBALL FROM PAGE B1

Milford struck first again in the second half, following a Jordan Killewald fumble recovery at the Novi 30. The drive got to fourth-and-goal from inside a foot out when Johnson snuck the ball in with 5:53. A second botched snap on the point after left Milford up 18-9 with 5:53 left in the third. "We put our defense down a few times on the short field with the fumbles, and they really had to respond," said Kellepoury. "Coach (Jeff) Burnside had the defense ready to go." The Wildcats cut the lead to 18-16 in the fourth with an 88-yard drive. Rydzewski had completions of 17 and 39 yards to go with a personal foul to help get the ball to the Milford 2. Mike Brant ran it in from there off

or something, we're out of timeouts. "We rushed the kick a little bit I thought. It's experience on our behalf. It came down to the last 20 seconds of the game and we came up short with that one." Novi shot itself in the foot several times with penalties, mostly for illegal procedure. The Wildcats were penalized 10 times for 66 yards. Milford drew four flags for 49 yards. Milford also won the turnover battle, four to three. "It was first-game stuff for us," said Kellepoury. "It's early season with us and the mistakes are not correctable, fortunately for us." "We've got to hand onto the football and run our two-minute offenses and use the boundary better. We'll learn from these mistakes." jhelsen@nnews.com (248) 437-2011 ext. 228

Wildcats double up at invites

Novi tennis off to hot start

The Wildcats boys' tennis team didn't waste much time getting into their season, nearly sweeping both the Rochester and Port Huron Northern Invitationals last week. "I'm pleased with how the players played. We only lost one match each tournament," said coach Jim Hanson. Novi's netters went a combined 46-2 in matches during last Tuesday and Thursday's quad-style meets. Senior Carson Crandall led the Wildcats into both tournaments at one singles. At Aug. 25's Rochester Invitational, Crandall plowed through Rochester's one singles opponent 6-0, 6-0 and Utica Eisenhower's 6-1, 6-0, although he lost 6-3, 6-2 against Grosse Ile. In Port Huron, Crandall defeated Port Huron Northern 6-1, 6-2; Troy Athens 2-6, 7-5 (2), 6-4 and Lapeer West 6-0, 6-0. Making the switch from two doubles to two doubles, senior Peter Zhang also went 5-1 through the two tournaments. Zhang defeated Rochester 6-1, 6-2; Grosse Ile 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 and Utica Eisenhower 6-1, 6-0 at Rochester. He also defeated Port Huron Northern 6-0, 6-1 and Lapeer West 6-1, 6-0 at Port Huron Northern despite dropping a competitive 7-5 (10), 6-1 match to Troy Athens. Novi swept through the rest

of both meets, seeing little competition from anyone other than Port Huron Northern. "We got contributions from everyone," Hanson said. Freshman Pavan Rao swept through both tournaments at three singles, defeating Rochester 6-0, 6-1; Grosse Ile 6-1, 6-2; Utica Eisenhower 6-1, 6-1; Port Huron Northern 6-1, 6-4 and Lapeer West 6-0, 6-0. Four singles junior followed suite, defeating Rochester 6-1, 6-1; Grosse Ile 6-0, 6-0; Utica Eisenhower 6-2, 6-1; Port Huron Northern 6-1, 3-0 (retired); Troy Athens 6-0, 6-0 and Lapeer West 6-0, 6-1. Leading the way through doubles competition were juniors Nathan Farooq and Greg Richard at one doubles. They defeated Rochester 6-2, 6-1; Grosse Ile 6-2, 6-0; Utica Eisenhower 6-1, 6-0; Port Huron Northern 6-2, 6-2; Troy Athens 6-2, 6-4 and Lapeer West 6-0, 6-0. A veteran/rookie combo followed, as senior Kyle McGuire and freshman Jason Carless swept through Rochester 6-0, 6-1; Grosse Ile 6-1, 6-1 and Utica Eisenhower 6-0, 6-2 Aug. 25 as two doubles. They followed the effort last Thursday at three doubles by defeating Port Huron Northern 6-0, 6-0; Troy Athens 6-0, 6-0 and Lapeer West 6-1, 6-0.

ON TAP

The Wildcat netters look to continue their victorious ways 4 p.m. today at South Lyon and host Plymouth Salem 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Switching places with McGuire and Carless were junior Chaitanya Kanitkar and senior Vishnu Venugopal. The tandem defeated Rochester 6-0, 6-2; Grosse Ile 6-0, 6-1 and Utica Eisenhower 6-0, 6-0 Tuesday at three doubles before shifting to two doubles Thursday to defeat Port Huron Northern 6-1, 6-1; Troy Athens 6-0, 6-2 and Lapeer West 6-0, 6-0. Wrapping up the Wildcats' tournament championships were sophomores Bill Bell and Andrew Cho, who defeated Rochester 6-0, 6-1; Grosse Ile 6-0, 6-1; Utica Eisenhower 6-2, 6-0; Port Huron Northern 7-6 (5), 6-3; Troy Athens 6-2, 6-2 and Lapeer West 6-0, 6-1. Novi collected 23 of a possible 24 victories at both quad meets, ahead of second-place Grosse Ile's 16 at the Rochester Invitational and Troy Athens' 15 at last Thursday's Port Huron Northern Invitational. "We can't get a head of ourselves. We just need to take it one match at a time," Hanson said.

Chris Jackell is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

Field hockey falls to Saline

The Novi field hockey team dropped their season opener to the Saline Hornets 1-0. It was a hard fought game, with Saline's Jeni Tavaras scoring the only goal at the 5:07 mark of the second half. The Wildcats put on some offensive pressure late in the second half, but could not get the equalizer. Senior Katie Safford played a strong game in goal for Novi, turning away five of the six shots she faced. Safford was supported by a solid defensive core led by seniors Katelyn Sheilar and Chrissy Loney.

Novi Parks programs offered this fall

Just because summer is ending earlier and the weather is getting cooler, doesn't mean that a healthy, active lifestyle is out of reach. The Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department offers dozens of recreational sports leagues for adults and youth with many beginning soon. Registration is going on now. *Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues - Coed 2's and 4's,

*Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night leagues begin Sept. 8 at Lakeshore Park.

*Men's Flag Football Leagues - 5 on 5 Saturday morning leagues beginning Sept. 27. Join us for the opening day tailgate on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 9 a.m.

*Indoor Adult Volleyball Leagues - Men's and coed for Friday night leagues begin Oct. 2 and Jan. 8.

*Men's Basketball Leagues - Fall and winter leagues play on Friday nights begin Oct. 2 and Jan. 8.

*Youth Basketball Leagues - Grades K-3 leagues begin the week of Nov. 7. Winter leagues for grades 4-6 and 7-8 begin the week of Jan. 30.

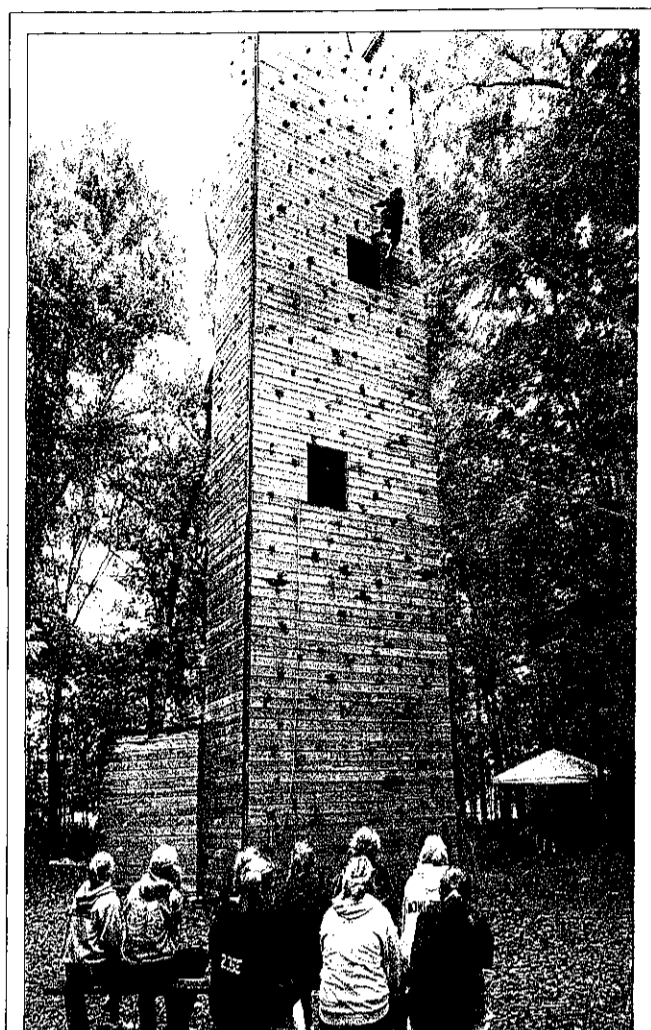
*Youth Volleyball Leagues - Grades 4-6 leagues begin the week of Nov. 7. Winter leagues for grades 7-8 and 9-12 begin the week of Jan. 30. *Fitness classes: Stay active is easy with a variety of fitness classes being offered this fall including Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, and more. For information or to register for the above mentioned programs, visit cityofnovi.org or call the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at (248) 347-0400.

KICKERS FROM PAGE B1

The team stayed on the hot note picked up with a 3-0 win last Thursday at Plymouth Canton. Tommy Duquette made six saves and came out of goal 10 times to cut off Canton's attack to earn the shutout, our team's third in three games, O'Leary said. Senior Kaito II scored off a cross from McClain in the first half to put the Wildcats ahead 1-0 after 40 minutes. Novi won the endurance battle with Canton, as sophomore Sean Hazen scored on a cross from Jabbori with 10 minutes remaining. Junior John DeLeon put the game out of reach with four minutes remaining on a through ball from Jabbori. The victory over the Chiefs followed a similar one two days prior when the Wildcats defeated the Pinckney Pirates 4-0 last Tuesday. Along with the five-save shutout, Duquette got the offense started with a punt that

bounced over the Pinckney defense and allowed Jabbori to run in and score, giving Novi a 1-0 lead at the half. "We struggled with the field conditions at Pinckney. The field is short, narrow and had very long grass," O'Leary said. "In the second half, we moved the ball around much quicker and it worked as we scored three goals in the second half." Jabbori set up DeLeon for the second goal, as backup goalkeeper Smith capitalized on a pass from junior Rob Razburg for the third. Freshman Matt Wilson tallied the final mark on a cross from Hazen. The Wildcats' next opponent may be one of their toughest, as they visit Livonia Stevenson 7 p.m. Tuesday in what could be a preview of the Central Division championship. The team will then travel to South Lyon Sept. 10 for their fifth-straight road match, facing a talented Lions team. Chris Jackell is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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Team building

The Novi varsity, junior varsity and freshman volleyball teams along with the girls' cross country team went to the Howell Nature Center for a team building retreat last Friday for several hours. The girls participated in several team building exercises at the Center's low ropes course and then supported and encouraged each other in climbing the 60-foot rock wall (The Tower). It was a rainy and muggy day but the girls had fun and felt they really benefited from all the exercises they participated in throughout the day. Shown, the Novi varsity volleyball team watches and encourages Anna Lu as she climbs her way up to the top of the 60 foot rock wall. The varsity volleyball team placed second to Airport Carleton at the Airports Tournament on Saturday. The team defeated Allen Park and Trenton in their pool and then went on to beat Allen Park in the quarterfinals and Dearborn in the semi-finals before losing a close match to Airport. The final game scores for the Airport match were 19-25 and 31-33. Erica Robb, Ally Hooman, Molly Marzotte and Julia Thomas all had great stats. The team as a whole has contributed to the success thus far.

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TEE TIME

Your local golf guide

Links golf in Ireland

By David Graham

If you ever have the chance, go to the Emerald Isle and experience "links" golf. The game originated in that setting in Scotland and is not that common for us in Michigan. We do have some samples of it around the state including the Gailes Course at Lakewood Shores resort in Oscoda and Arcadia Bluffs on Lake Michigan to name a couple. If you need tree-lined fairways to enjoy your golf avoid links golf. But if you want to try your hand at managing your game through the mounds and valleys of a links land, you might find it to be an extraordinary experience.

Over the past three years, the Golf Association of Michigan has partnered with Sullivan Golf & Travel to take groups to Ireland. The last two years we traveled to southwest Ireland and played the following courses: Waterville, Tralee, Ballybunion, Lahinch, Dooks and

Old Head. As noted, trees are quite scarce on these courses but you might be surprised to learn that Palm Trees can be found at Waterville (apparently the Golf Stream moderates the temperature enough for these trees!).

When playing these courses, it is always good to have at least one caddy serving your group. While they tend to carry doubles, a four-some can be served nicely by a single caddy who carries two sets of clubs but is able to provide direction to all of the members of the group on the tee when you are faced with the inevitable blind shot. While not common to have blind shots on courses in Michigan, it seems to be very much the norm in Ireland and can be found on many of the golf holes off the tee — aim for a distant mound or hill or church steeple. At Lahinch Golf Club, there is a par 5 hole (named "the Klondyke") that requires a long second shot over a

large hill covered in heather (very long and unforgiving grass). On the crown of the hill is a small hut where a club employee spends their day with a red flag. As you learn, the hole you are playing crisscrosses the 18th fairway and you cannot hit your shot until it is clear and you receive the red flag to play away!

Presuming you succeed making it over the hill with your second shot, you have a fairly simple third shot into the green but don't be too long as the wall behind the green or worse, over the wall onto the road. The next hole is a 185-yard par 3 called "the Dell." The right half of the green is visible from the tee and the left is hidden by another very tall hill covered in heather. There is a white aiming stone positioned on top of the hill that serves as your target. Depending on wind direction and strength, your caddy will direct you to aim at or to the right or left of the stone. If your

distance control is accurate, you should find your ball somewhere on the dance floor.

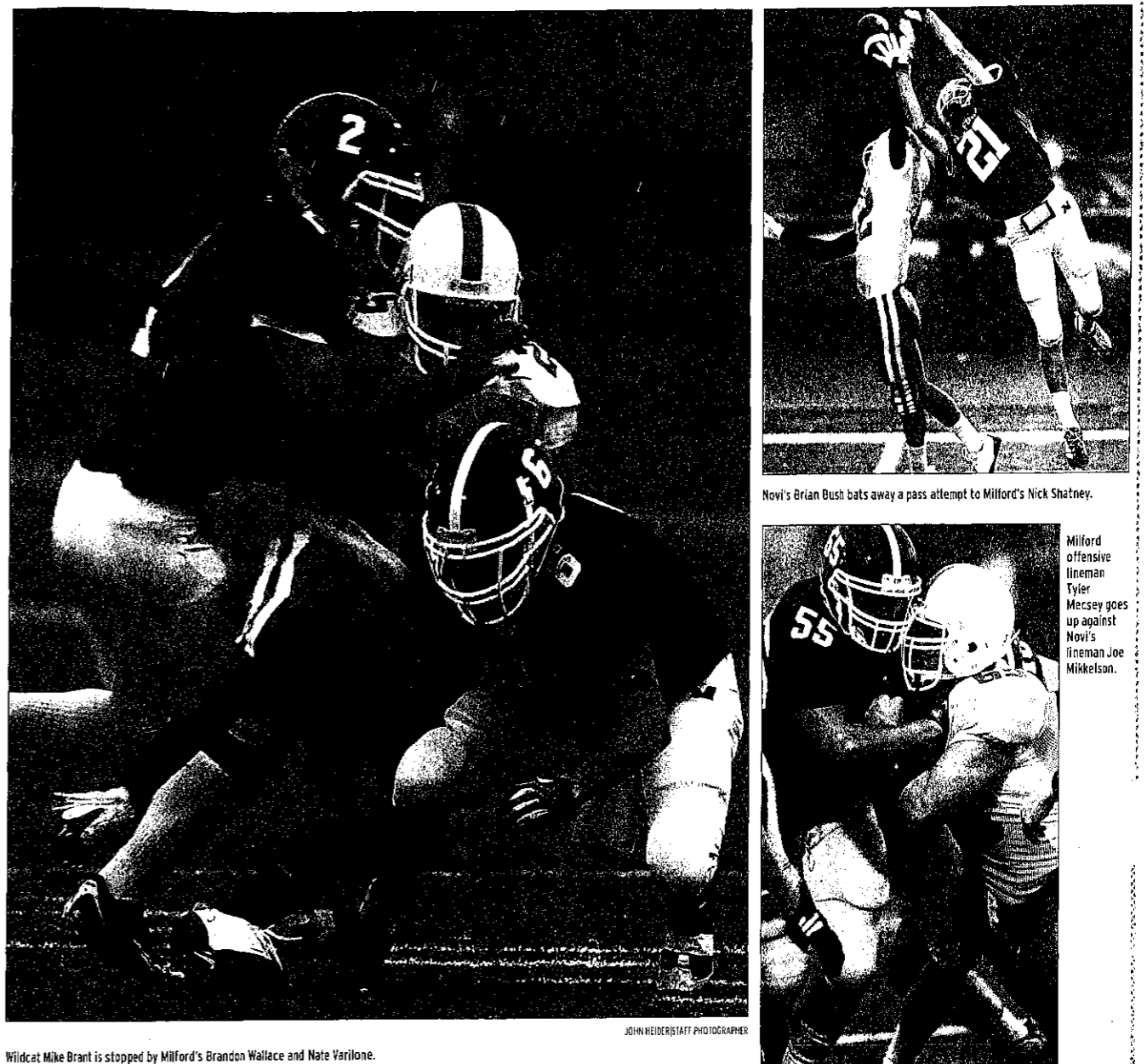
As noted above, the wind is a huge part of the experience on a links course. Since you are not protected by trees and located along side the sea, the wind has such an impact that the preferred ball flight is a lower trajectory that helps to minimize its impact. While it can be maddening to have your ball blown off track into the heather and worse, it is such fun to correctly assess its impact and to hit your ball to your target by correctly gauging its impact. At Ballybunion, we played on what seemed to be an extremely windy day. I estimated it to be a 3 club wind. When I asked my caddy if he had this strong of wind frequently, he smiled and replied that this was a relatively calm day and I should see what it would be like when it really blew. That day, it took a full driver to reach the green on one of the par 3's

into the wind. I was humbled to think what it would be like to play "when it really blew."

Beyond the wind, the heather and the blind shots, your visit also includes a visit with the gorse. If you hit your ball into the heather, if you can find it, the best you can typically do is hit your ball back into the fairway with your sand wedge. This will work most of the time. But with gorse, a plant that is a dark green, sprawling, prickly shrub, if you find the ball, chances are likely that you take a drop for an unplayable lie.

While it is interesting to look at, avoid at all costs. Golf in Ireland has proven to be an addicting experience that is truly extraordinary. Beyond the golf, the people, the food and the Guinness are beyond compare!

David Graham is the Executive Director for the Golf Association of Michigan.

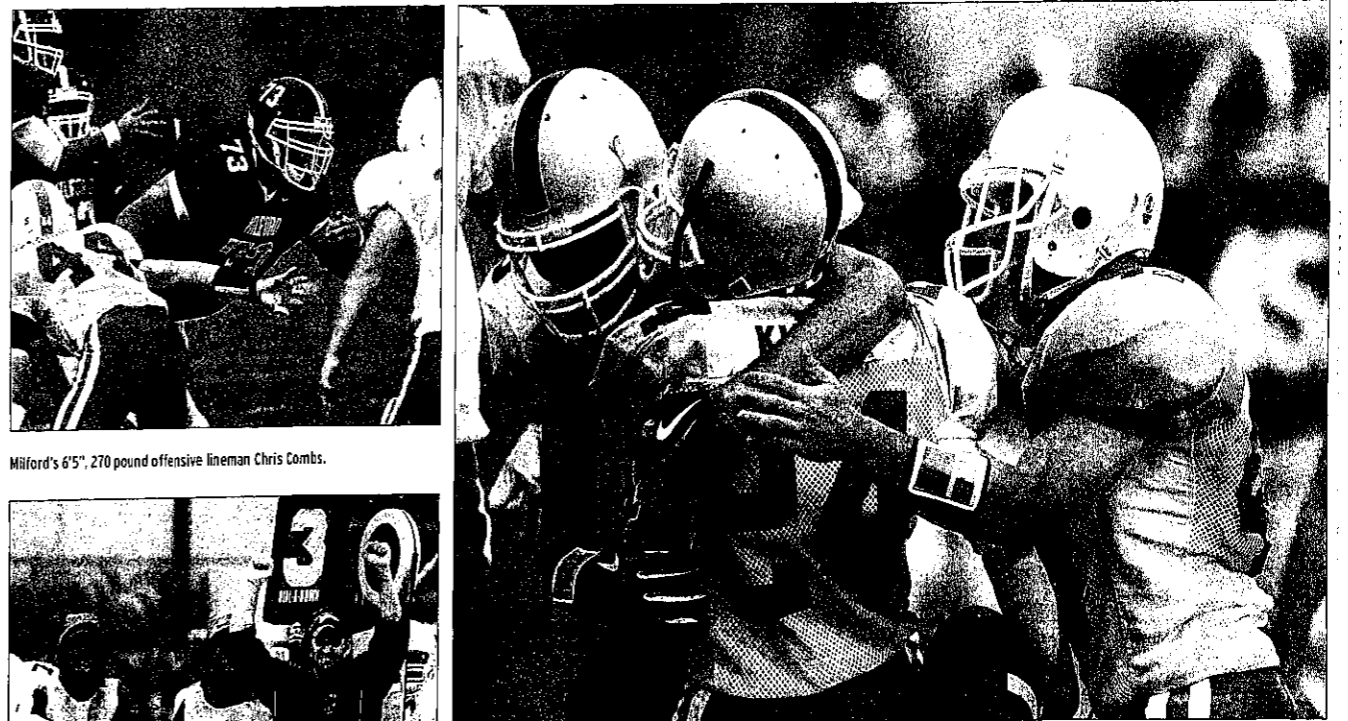


Novi's Brian Bush bats away a pass attempt to Milford's Nick Shatney.

Milford offensive lineman Tyler Mercsey goes up against Novi's lineman Joe Nikkelsen.

Wildcat Mike Brant is stopped by Milford's Brandon Wallace and Nate Varilone.

Novi vs. Milford

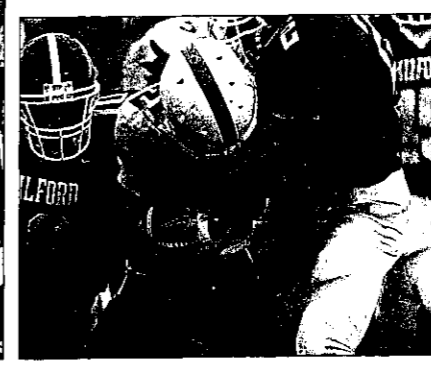


Milford's 6'5", 270 pound offensive lineman Chris Combs.

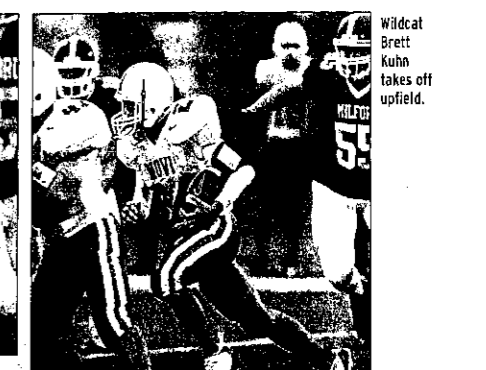
Novi celebrates its first touchdown against Milford.



Novi assistant coach Jeff Burnside seems elated that the Wildcats have made first down against Milford.



Milford Mavericks' Bill Schoenle and Brandon Wallace, right wrap up Novi's quarterback Brandon Ryzewski.



Wildcat Brett Kuhn takes off upfield.

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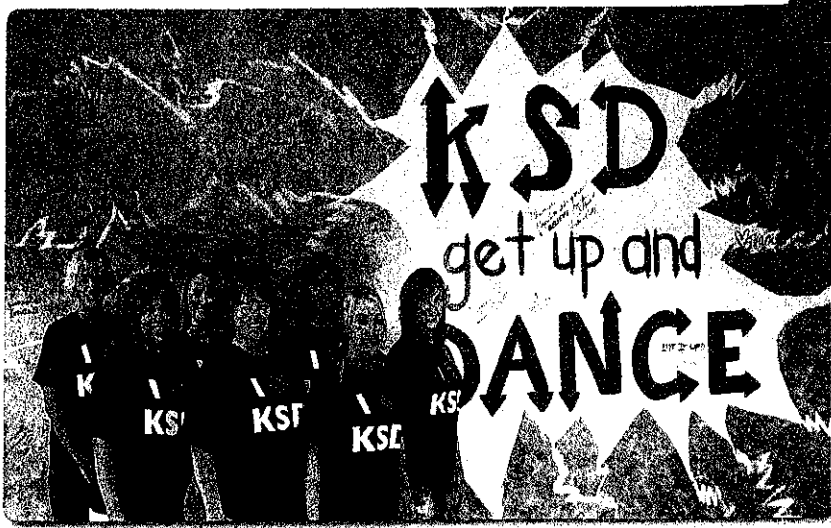
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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Dream, Believe, Achieve

Karen's School of Dance offers recreational and competitive fall programs



PHOTOS BY ALISON BERGSIKER
 (Back row from left) Maureen Hoye, Jen Smith, Liliya Ruhukya, Ashley Charlick and (front row from left) Karen Heimke, Karen Kern and Stephanie Fica make up the staff at Karen's School of Dance.

BY ALISON BERGSIKER
 ADVERTORIAL COORDINATOR

With the end of summer rounding the corner, Huron Valley residents are getting ready for back to school.

September also marks the start of dance season at Karen's School of Dance in Highland!

For 25 years, Karen's School of Dance has offered recreational and competitive dance programs to aspiring dancers in a family-friendly environment.

The studio has something for every dancer age 2.5 through adult, with Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Pre-Dance, Pilates, Zumba, Aerobics and Hip Hop offered once a week at different levels. New this year at the studio are acting classes, with the opportunity to go on casting calls.

"Fall registration is going on now through the end of October for dancers of any ability," said Karen Kern, owner and lifelong resident of the Huron Valley area. "We're excited to start a new year and offer such a wide variety of programs for our dancers!"

Affordable and fun

Prices at Karen's School of Dance have not been raised in five years to offer affordable dance classes to the Huron Valley community.

"We have the lowest prices in the area and offer a 10 percent discount for yearly tuition paid in full rather than monthly. That's basically the equivalent of one month of free dance."

With a focus on family, Karen's School of Dance has closed circuit TVs in every room, so parents can watch a session any time on TV or through a viewing window. The four dance rooms are individually air conditioned, and a study room is available for dancers with a microwave and refrigerator.

The rooms are creatively decorated and named to match their theme. The "Signature Room" has signatures of high school graduates who've left the studio to move on to higher education, and the "Disney Room" is decorated with Disney characters. A porch area outside allows parents to wait peacefully and patiently during the spring and summer months.

While many studios encourage dance as a solo sport, Karen actively encourages students to try other hobbies.

"I want my students to try other things, like cheer-leading and poms because many of them are too young to know

exactly what they like," Kern said. "We try to accommodate other interests."

Reputable, award-winning programs

The studio's dance company, the DanceSations, was awarded National Grand Champions this year at a national competition. They also won first overall and showcase winner.

Karen's School of Dance is ranked in the top 100 dance studios across the nation by the Federation of Dance Competitions.

Year after year, the school's dancers and teachers are consistently recognized for their outstanding performance and choreography.

The instructors at Karen's School of Dance are top notch. This year, two teachers took home Teacher of the Year awards, and two teachers won Choreographer of the Year.

Miss Petite America, Miss Junior America and several runner-ups were awarded to Karen's dancers.

"We have competed at both a regional and national level, taking top overall awards," Kern said. "Our students are dancing professionally all over, including Disney and Young Americans. Many have received college scholarships to continue dance after high school." Dancers interested in competi-

Group Recreational/Competition Classes

30 minutes	\$27
45 minutes	\$31
1 hour	\$35
1.5 hours	\$40

Ask about "Bring a Friend week in September!"

...tive dancing have several options at Karen's — they can join a competition class that meets once a week, audition to be a part of their Danceline or Precompany groups that meet for three hours on Saturday, or audition for Karen's company, DanceSations. All competition groups have the opportunity to compete four times a year at regional competitions and at a national competition.

Once a year guest choreographers and instructors are brought in to the studio to offer specialized training.

In June, dancers in both the recreational and competitive programs perform in an annual costumed recital at Milford High School.

Karen's School of Dance is located at 1185 S. Milford Road in Highland.

Visit www.danceatkarens.com or call 248-887-1807 to register for fall classes.



An afternoon class led by Stephanie Fica (left) and Ashley Charlick stretches in the "New York" room, one of four rooms at the studio.



REGISTER NOW FOR FALL DANCE CLASSES AT



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- ★ Our facility is top notch, closed circuit TV for viewing, study room, viewing windows, zoned heating and A/C, plenty of parking and outdoor seating.
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