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NOVI NEWS



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NOVI NUTSHELL

Coffee with Crawford

State Rep. Hugh D. Crawford today announced the opportunity for local residents to meet with him in the community.

Coffee with Crawford will be at the Coffee Beanery, located at 49328 Pontiac Trail in Wixom on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10-11:30 a.m.

"As your voice in Lansing, it is important for me to stay connected with your needs and ideas," said Crawford, R-Novi. "I look forward to this opportunity for local residents to express their thoughts and concerns, and discuss what is happening in Lansing and our community."

An appointment is not necessary for district office hours. Residents unable to meet Crawford during the scheduled office hours can contact him at (517) 373-0827 or by e-mail at hughcrawford@house.mi.gov to make an appointment.

Book signing

Deerfield Elementary Principal Richard Njus will be hosting a signing for his book, "Touching Hearts Educating Minds," 4-6 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Borders Bookstore, 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi. The book is catered toward educators and parents and will be available for purchase for \$15.

Investment classes at library

The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of Better Investing will offer two free investment classes. Learn about excellent stock and mutual fund research tools—both online and paper based—and ways you can improve your selections by utilizing these library resources. On Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 7-8 p.m. "Introduction to Morningstar" and on Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7-8 p.m. "Introduction to Value Line" will be presented at the Novi Public Library, 42545 W. 10 Mile Road. Prior registration is requested. Email registration@semich.betterinvesting.net or call (734) 233-4290.



Volunteers and Parkview Elementary students gathered on Monday for a bake sale at the school to raise money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. All of the baked goods were donated and all monies raised will go to the Red Cross. Parkview Elementary has about 400 students.

Help for Haiti

Novi schools, community organizations donating money, supplies

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

People across the world continue to watch in shock as Haiti continues to cope with life after devastation.

Already one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere, the natural disaster crippled the people even further, leaving many without shelter, food, other basic necessities, or the worst case scenario — dead.

However, people all across the world have come to their aid, volunteering their time by traveling to the country to help or by donating money to the cause.

And students and community members in Novi are no different.

"It was kind of jaw-dropping," said Novi High School sophomore Callie Wright when she saw the footage. "I had to ask myself, 'Is this really going on?' We are so used to the amenities we have, and there they have nothing."

At the high school, the student council held a fundraiser to raise



Parkview Elementary School student Momo Miyama picks out one of her treats during the school's Haiti Relief Fund Bake Sale on Monday.

Please see HAITI, A2

Union president irked MEA cannot present to board

Teachers hosting own public forum Monday

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Education Association has been waiting three weeks to make a presentation to the Novi Board of Education regarding the board's request to look at opening their contract and taking concessions to help balance the budget.

But one stipulation is going to stop that from happening.

The teachers union wants its consultant from the Michigan Education Association to provide the update, while the board of education is saying they only want to hear from their local group.

Tom Brenner, NEA president, filed a grievance saying they have a right to be on the agenda, but Bob Schram, assistant superintendent of human resources, said the contract says "our local association can get on the agenda, it doesn't say the MEA." Brenner will be addressing the board tonight, but likely with few details.

"In my head it would be the NEA responding to (the board's) request to discuss the findings the MEA, as our consultant, would be advising us on," he said. "It's no different than them bringing in a consultant of their own to help them be more educated on a topic."

Schram said he didn't think the two scenarios were "similar at all."

Because the MEA is not going to be allowed to present before the board, the teachers have set up a meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday in the Novi Middle School auditorium so they can get the information to the members of the union and the public.

"We just wanted the opinion of someone other than the school district on the state of the district's finances," Brenner said.

He said he is comfortable with the public knowing how much he gets paid because he believes the residents of Novi expect their teachers to be compensated well.

"Right now we need to look at the big picture in terms of what do people expect to pay their teachers," he said. "If the public doesn't think we are worth it, then that is fine, but I'd rather have that out there for the public to discuss." The public is invited to attend the meeting.

OTHER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Schram indicated the administration would announce some concessions tonight, but declined to release details prior to the meeting.

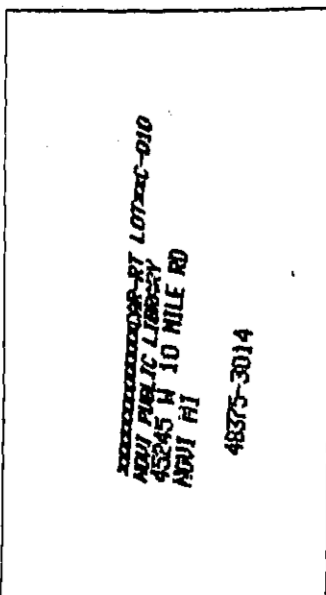
There also is an agenda item about filling two currently vacant positions — high school assistant principal and an executive secretary. Nicole Carter, currently the dean of students at the high school, is being recommended for the promotion to assistant principal, and Sheila Holly is being recommended for the secretary position.

"Right now we need to look at the big picture in terms of what do people expect to pay their teachers. If the public doesn't think we are worth it, then that is fine, but I'd rather have that out there for the public to discuss."

TOM BRENNER, NEA president

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Novi fire chief Smith announces retirement

Search for replacement to begin immediately

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith is calling it quits.

Smith, who was hired by the city in 2006, will officially be retiring on Feb. 19. He replaced former chief Art Lenaghan, who retired after 27 years with the city.

"It's never easy following a long-time leader like we had before, and we very much appreciate what he did," said Novi City Manager Clay Pearson. "He did a



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith talks with firefighter Todd Seog at Fire Station No. 1 on Grand River Ave. in this 2006 Novi News file photo. Smith, who was hired in 2006, announced his retirement effective Feb. 19.

Please see CHIEF, A3

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HAITI

FROM PAGE A1

money to donate to Haiti by putting bins throughout the school and hosting a Go Green Day. In just two days, the students collected \$2,255.66.

"Something as simple as giving your change is something anyone can do," Wright said.

For Jack and Samantha Lebo, the situation in Haiti is all too similar to the impact Hurricane Katrina had in 2005. The Lebo's were living in South Carolina at the time and became part of a Backpack Buddies program that shipped backpacks full of supplies to kids in New Orleans.

They have brought that program with them to Novi and are in the process of making backpacks for students in Haiti. The two Novi Meadows students are collecting donations from classmates and people in the district with the hopes of sending 50 backpacks to the country.

"It makes me feel sad they don't have what we have," Jack said.

Said Samantha: "We want them to have the essentials they need to get back on their feet."

Parkview Elementary also hosted a bake sale on Tuesday, with all the money from the sale going to the American Red Cross.

Wayne Bullen, past-president



(From left) Erin Cicero, Bryant Berrent, Ann Pierson (guest), Joe Carrier, Wayne Bullen, Gary Keiber and Todd Lockhart spent a Saturday afternoon collecting money for the Novi Rotary Club to purchase ShelterBoxes for people in Haiti. (Not pictured: Bob Limbriant and May Sanghvi)

of the Novi Rotary Club, said it was a no-brainer for the club to get involved. It held a one-day street corner campaign that netted over \$1,100, and are continuing efforts by collecting funds to purchase ShelterBoxes for people. Each ShelterBox supplies a family of up to 10

people with a tent and lifesaving equipment to use while they are homeless. The contents are tailored depending on the nature and location of the disaster. "I almost feel uncomfortable that we have so much here and they have nothing," he said.

The Novi Rotary Foundation also is accepting tax-deductible donations with 100 percent of it going to Haiti relief. Bullen said he was glad to see how many people were so willing to help in just one day's work.

"It tells me that people are very generous and realize there is a need to help people in other countries," he said. Wright said she too is proud of her school for rallying around the cause, but doesn't

want it to end. "We have to continue to give," she said. "Just because we are done with our fundraisers doesn't mean people should stop giving."

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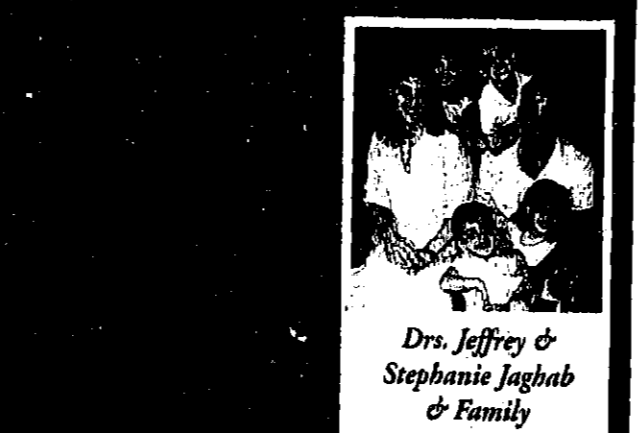
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Novi recognized by Governor's Council on Physical Fitness

The City of Novi was recognized on January 25, 2010 by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness with a gold level award through the Promoting Active Communities (PAC) program for the third year in a row. By using the online PAC assessment to evaluate local policies, programs, and built environment, the City of Novi has demonstrated outstanding achievements in making it easy for individuals to integrate physical activity into daily routines. Novi is being recognized for using innovative strategies to incorporate active living concepts into community design, which is helping to design for prosperity and create a high quality of life for Michigan residents. Novi was one of only four communities in Michigan to receive the distinction. Since winning a silver level award in 2006, the City of Novi has carried the momentum forward to receive gold level awards in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Community leaders and citizen-advocates have been using policies and infrastructure to design for physical activity, thus warranting gold level recognition for their efforts again this year. Within the past three years,

Novi has become a more pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-oriented community due in part to the implementation of a pathway and sidewalk prioritization and analysis process. Using this process, the Community Development Planning Staff and Walkable Novi committee have worked to provide a ranking of sidewalks. Novi also uses this prioritization procedure to annually evaluate and schedule construction and the construction of the non-motorized transportation system. This has helped to increase interconnectivity of neighborhoods, parks, and destination areas and since May of 2009, another 1,800 feet has been added to the over 250 miles of bicycle and pedestrian pathways. In addition to pathway expansion and improvement projects, Novi also has added several healthy, active recreation programs for all ages that promote fitness as part of daily routines. All these efforts are helping to make active living the way of life in Novi. Mayor David B. Landry accepted the award from Joan Lowenstein, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness Board Member, on behalf of the City of Novi. "It is an

honor to be recognized by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness for the work we do every day to enhance the quality of life of community members," commented Landry. "From constructing new bike paths to adding new programs for seniors to encouraging citizen engagement in youth, everything we do is about providing the best possible living and working environment for residents and business members. The PAC assessment tool was developed in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan State University, the Prevention Research Center of Michigan, and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness coordinates the Promoting Active Communities program and encourages all communities to begin working towards becoming an active Michigan community. The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness envisions a physically educated population with the knowledge and skills to enjoy a healthy, vigorous, and safe lifestyle in communities designed to support physical activity.



Mayor David B. Landry accepted the award from Joan Lowenstein, Governor's Council on Physical Fitness Board Member, on behalf of the City of Novi.

CHIEF

FROM PAGE A1

great job for us in one of the critical positions in the city." Smith came to Novi after spending 30 years at the Bloomfield Township Fire Department. He started his career in fire fighting in 1974 with the Farmington Hills Fire Department before becoming

a full-time firefighter in 1976 in Bloomfield Township. He later became a paramedic in 1978, a lieutenant in 1987 and captain in 1991. He retired as a shift captain in 2006. Pearson said they are going to start looking for his replacement immediately and doesn't expect the decision to take long. Some of the requirements the city will be looking for are someone who can handle a

combination department and sees the advantages of working together with the police department to form a strong public safety entity. When asked if Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Johnson would be in line for the job, Pearson said "time will tell." Smith was unable to be reached for comment as of press time. mmuller@gannett.com (248) 437-2001, ext. 255

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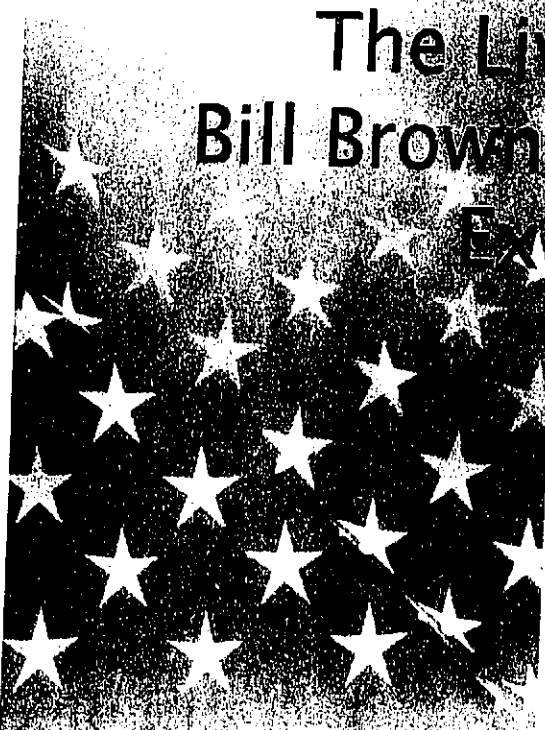
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The Livonia Chamber of Commerce and Bill Brown Ford welcome Ford Motor Company Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr.



Bill Ford Jr., Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Co. and the great-grandson of the automaker's founder Henry Ford, will talk about the progress being made with Ford Motor Company and answer audience questions.

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Admission, which includes a sit-down lunch, is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. For more information, call the Livonia Chamber of Commerce at 734.427.2122, or e-mail Public Affairs Director Dawne Toppa at toppa@livonia.org.



Ed Brown, (right) owner of Livonia's Bill Brown Ford, greets Ford Motor Chief Executive Alan Mulally (left) at the 2010 North American International Auto Show Charity Preview last month at Cobo Center.

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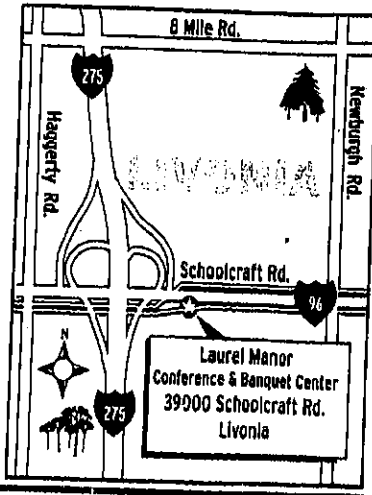
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EDUCATION

District admits bumps with new custodians, still happy with results

Former union leader says offer still on the table

BY NATHAN MUELLER
 STAFF WRITER

Novi Community Schools District Superintendent Pete Dion never expected the new custodians to transition seamlessly into the schools.

He understood there would be bumps in the road considering they only had a little over two weeks to get people in place, and he knew GCA Services Group would be under the microscope.

But he was certain of one thing — that the schools would be cleaned — and thus far he has been satisfied with the work.

"Developing relationships with new employees is going to take time," he said. "We are very happy with the working relationship we have with GCA. We want excellent employees and we want clean

buildings." Since GCA Services Group took over, rumors have been swirling about the quality of work, the number of employees and their character.

Gail Credit, assistant superintendent for business and operations, said they have been fully staffed at 47.5 employees for the last two weeks, and they have been shuffling some custodians around to find the best fit.

There also was an issue with a custodian who had improper interaction with a student at the high school, allegedly inviting them to a party. There were some questions about the validity of the claim and the custodian was moved to another school, but eventually he was terminated, Credit said.

"We decided he was too immature," Dion said. Background checks and

fingerprinting that took place prior to GCA Services Group taking over are still in place, and Dion said several of the new employees have very diverse backgrounds, from engineers and architects to plumbers.

Phil Light, the union steward for the former custodians, said he is concerned about a lot of the things he has heard, and plans to tell the board of education tonight that their offer is still on the table.

"What is acceptable now as cleanliness would not have been acceptable at all for us," he said.

During the board meeting, which starts at 7 p.m., the board also will be getting an update from administration on how the contract with GCA Services Group is working.

nmueler@planet.net (248) 431-2011, ext. 255



Hands-on view of math

Village Oaks student Alexis Rotondi (above) uses foam cubes to estimate the size of a toy dinosaur during a Jan. 19 visit by the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. During the assembly, there were a number of different stations to visit where students were given the opportunity to measure, weigh, observe and learn a bit about science and math. Cameron Gray (left) and other Village Oaks second graders see what happens when they put a golf ball in a small flask they put at salt water during a visit to the school by the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. Students learned a bit about science, buoyancy, density and a few mathematical tricks during their hour-long assembly.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NOVI ON CAMPUS

Western Michigan University

The following Novi students were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester. To be eligible, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all A's) in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Kelsey Baskins; Alex Brown; Samantha Chia; Stephanie Graf; Sara Haller; Andrew Hazen; Rachel Hughes; John Janssens; Ryan Johnston; Jasmine Loney; Michael McDonald; Katelyn Naber; Nicole Powell; Zachary Rothermel; Kelsey Sankovic; Laura Sheeran; Tom Spisich; Ellen Storch; Thomas Szczygiel; and Genevieve VanZandt.

Albion College

Several local students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above at the completion of the semester. This GPA must be based on at least three units in graded courses and a minimum of four units completed.

Emily Carlson is a first-year at Albion College. She is the daughter of Eric and Kimberly Carlson of Wixom and a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Kara Collins is a sophomore majoring in economics and management, with a concentration in the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management. She is the daughter of Kevin and Brenda Collins of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Aaron Croad was named a new Albion College fellow. To attain the honor of Albion College Fellow, students must maintain a 3.7 GPA for three consecutive semesters. Croad is a junior at Albion College with a concentra-

tion in the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management and Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service. He is the son of Terry and Lori Croad of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Melissa Moss is a sophomore at Albion College with a concentration in the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management. She is the daughter of Kevin and Lisa Moss of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Austin Probst is a first-year at Albion College, with a concentration in the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service. He is the son of Wayne and Christina Probst of Wixom and a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

Nicholas Salley is a senior majoring in history and minoring in anthropology and sociology. He is the son of Michael and Janet Salley of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Elizabeth Schulhoff is a senior majoring in English and theatre and minoring in psychology. She is the daughter of Michael and Diane Schulhoff of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Elizabeth Schulte is a senior majoring in economics and management and minoring in art history, with a concentration in the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Program in Professional Management. She is the daughter of Steven and Kathryn Schulte of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Anna Williams is a senior majoring in English education, and completing the elementary education program. She is the daughter of Daniel and Kathy Williams of Wixom and a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nature, up close

Parkview Elementary School parent volunteer Marybeth Mascari shows students a bear skull during a visit to the school by the Leslie Science Center and a hands-on nature day. Kids got to explore booths with animal skins, live bugs, tree nuts and met a few creatures live in person like a ball python.

NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS


Scholarships

Community Financial, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth (CFP) and the Ann Arbor Area Community

Foundation (AAACF), will be awarding 11 \$1,000 scholarships in April. Applications can only be made online by going to <http://scholarships.egrant.org>, creating an account and logging

in. Read the guidelines for our "Community Financial Margaret Dunning and George Lawton Scholarships." Deadline to submit four copies of your application is March 5.

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Farming in February

Tollgate looking for kids to be part of farm stand project

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Its early February and snow covers the ground, but Roy Prentice is already thinking about farming.

Prentice, the farm manager at the MSU Tollgate Education Center, recently got involved with a new program called the Michigan Youth Farm Stand Project and is searching for eager students in grades fourth through tenth to get on board.

Through the program, students will learn about the value of food and where it comes from, and also have the chance to make some money by marketing their product and selling it at farm stands.

"I think it's important for people, not just kids, to know where food comes from, know the kinds of inputs that go into providing that food, make decisions about fertilizers and pesticides and get a better idea of how to eat in a healthy way," he said. "We also want to show kids a novel and unique way of making money."

The program has been around since 2005, but this is the first time it will be in Novi. There also is another project taking place in Pontiac.

Bill Ploch, program coordinator, said the focus is on getting people to support local agriculture and to get better nutrition to families. He also would like the kids from Novi

to spend time in Pontiac, and vice versa, so the students see how both communities operate.

"I know there is such a huge need for good nutrition and I am a big believer and have been for years that we should be eating locally," he said. "Who wants tomatoes with jet lag?"

Prentice said he would like to kick the program off this month, getting the students started in a hoop house, which is a greenhouse with a plastic roof that allows them to start before the last day of frost.

The program is free and would not require a huge time commitment either. One of the biggest challenges the coordinators know they will face is getting students excited about farming and away from their computers and televisions.

Julie Sciolavito, youth development coordinator for MSU Extension for Oakland County, said it will be challenging, but it's all about the adults involved. If they have passion and energy, it rubs off on the kids, she said. "Kids will be getting all sorts of benefits from this project," she said. "And the sooner we can involve them and the more they learn at an early age, the more they will make healthy choices."

For more information about the program or to get involved, contact Prentice at (248) 330-3623. mueller@gannett.com | (248) 437-2010, ext. 255



Haiti relief challenge
Telcom Credit Union employees like a challenge. So when they received an offer from CEO Tom Reagan (shown with Novi employees), they responded. The challenge: for every dollar that Telcom employees would donate to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake, their donations would be matched by the credit union. Telcom's 130 employees rallied to meet the challenge and raised \$865 within three business days. Telcom matched the funds and sent a check for \$1,760 to the American Red Cross for the Haiti Relief fund.

Chamber helping job seekers get a fresh look

Gently used clothing to be donated to area organizations

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

With the job market being as tight as it is, the little things could make or break a job opportunity.

Even something as little as proper attire.

So in an effort to ensure people are dressed to impress, or at least feel comfortable, the Novi Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its 11th annual

philanthropic breakfast called Threads of Power. The event is co-sponsored by Telcom Credit Union, and the purpose is to provide gently used men's and women's business clothing to help people re-entering the business world. "It gives people a boost of confidence," said Dawn Peters, project manager and event planner for the Novi Chamber. "If they look good and feel good, it provides them with an overall better opportunity to find something."

The clothing is being delivered to the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan in Ann Arbor and Church of the Holy Family in Novi. A portion of the proceeds from the event also is going to the Transition Center at Schoolcraft College. All the organizations also provide counseling and coaching to help people get back on their feet.

"It's an event that supports groups locally and is tied directly to business," Peters said. "We feel like it is a good way to give back to the community."

For more information, visit www.novichamber.com.

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For more information, visit www.novichamber.com.

Tax help for lower-income seniors

Dear Savvy Senior
What are the 2009 IRS minimum filing requirements for seniors? My income was very low last year and I'm thinking I may not have to file tax returns this year. What can you tell me?
Exempted Eddie

Dear Eddie,
There are millions of seniors in your same situation. In fact, according to the Tax Policy Center, around 55 percent of Americans over age 65 won't have to file income tax returns this year mainly because their incomes are under the IRS filing requirements. Here's what you should know.

2009 FILING REQUIREMENTS
If your "gross income" is below the 2009

SAVVY SENIOR

IRS filing limits, you don't have to file a federal tax return this year. Gross income includes all the income you receive that is not exempt from tax, not including Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately. Here's an income breakdown for each filing status.

• Single: If your 2009 gross income was less than \$9,500 (\$10,750 if you're 65 or older), you don't have to file.
• Married filing jointly: You don't need to file if your gross income was under \$18,700. If you or your spouse is 65 or older the limit increases to \$19,800. And if you're both over 65, your income must be under \$20,900 to not file.
• Head of household: If your gross income was below \$12,000 (\$13,400 if age

65 or older), you don't have to file.
• Married filing separately: At any age, you must file if your income was at least \$3,500.

• Qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child: If your gross income was less than \$15,500 (\$16,150 if age 65 or older), you don't need to file.

Note: Just because you're not required to file a federal tax return doesn't necessarily mean you're also exempt from filing state income taxes. Check on that with your state tax agency before concluding you're entirely in the clear. For links to state and local tax agencies see www.taxadmin.org - click on "Links."

SENIOR TAX CREDIT
If you find that your gross income is more than the IRS filing limits, you'll need

to file a federal tax return. But depending on your income level, you may be eligible for an elderly tax credit, which can amount to as much as \$750 for a single taxpayer and up to \$1,250 for a couple.

To qualify, you must be 65 or older (or under 65 and disabled), a U.S. citizen, and your adjusted gross income must be less than \$17,500 for a single filer and the non-taxable part of your Social Security or other nontaxable pensions, annuities, or disability income must be less than \$5,000. Or, if you're married and are filing jointly and you both qualify, your income will need to be less than \$25,000, and your nontaxable Social Security or other nontaxable pensions must be under \$7,500.

To claim the credit you'll need to file either Schedule E, if you are filing Form 1040, or Schedule 3, if you are filing Form 1040A. To learn more, see IRS publication 524 "Credit for the Elderly or Disabled" at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p524.pdf, or call 800-829-3676 and have them mail you a copy.

TAX PREP HELP

If you do need to file a tax return, you can get help through the IRS-sponsored Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE). This program provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle- and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-406-9857 to locate a service near you. Also check with AARP; a participant in the TCE program that provides free tax preparation at more than 7,000 sites nationwide. To locate an AARP Tax-Aide site call 888-227-7689 or visit www.aarp.org/money/taxaide.

Savvy Tips: If you have tax questions the IRS offers a helpline at 800-829-1040, or visit a nearby IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center (see www.irs.gov/locations) where you can get face-to-face help for free. Also see www.irs.gov/individuals for a variety of tax tips for seniors.

Send your senior questions to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenioring, Jim Miller is contributor to the NBC Today show.

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>Brighton</p> <p>LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH 505 Pleasant Valley Road • Brighton, MI 48114 810-227-3113 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Rev. Dale Hordahl, Pastor www.lordoflifecol.org</p> <p>HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL at the corner of Winans Lake & Musch Rd. 810-231-9199 Fr. John Rocus, Pastor Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Phone at end of Street at Park Square and Book & Gift Shop</p> <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 12255 Old Rd. • 48434-0561 Between Grand River & Freedom Saturday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Traditional/Choral 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Sunday School - all ages 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Millford</p> <p>CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL & KID - Mo. Synod 620 General Motors Rd. Millford Church Office: (248) 684-0965 Regular Sunday Service 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Jun-Aug - Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. Monday Evening 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Richard E. Papp, Pastor</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST OF MILLFORD SISTERS WELCOME 133 Detroit St., Millford • 48055-5695 Pastor Steve Swagoe Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - 11 a.m. Worshippers 8:45-11 a.m. Avenue for 3 yrs., old - 20 (grade begins Sept. 16) Middle School Group</p> <p>SOUTH HILL CHURCH, S.B.C. 1200 South Hill Rd. Just south of Greenway Midway (248) 685-2560 www.Apostlesouthhill.com Sunday School 9:15 a.m. 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Children and Youth Groups Wednesdays 7:00 a.m. Call about our current small group studies.</p> <p>WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 11165 S. Hickory Ridge Rd., Millford, MI 48380 248-687-1030 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Ministries 11:00 a.m. Wednesday All Ages 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Novi</p> <p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 1 Mile & Meadowbrook Wisconsin Lutheran Synod Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Will resume September 13 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Monday 7:00 p.m. Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor • 248-3055</p> <p>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374 Saturdays 8:00 p.m. Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Reverend George Cantor, Pastor Parish Office: 347-7778</p> <p>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4440 W. 13 Mile, Novi, Mich. 248-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. www.fairfaithcommunity-novi.org Worship and Sunday Schools - 10 AM "Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"</p> <p>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 2195 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at S. 10 Mile 248-348-7757 • www.meadowbrook.org Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary service Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister</p>	<p>Novi</p> <p>NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 41871 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375 Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m. Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor 248-349-2552 www.noviumc.com</p> <p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 24905 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375 Westwood Saturday 5 p.m. (English) & 8:00 a.m. (Spanish) Sunday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. Fr. Timothy Hogan, Pastor Rev. Peter Mendes Parish Office: 348-8471 • www.holyfamily.org</p> <p>HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty Nov • Phone: 248-347-1175 Sundays 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist • Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m. Rev. Dr. Ray Babin, Interim Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com</p> <p>OAK POINTE CHURCH 50200 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi Saturday Worship 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary service Phone (248) 912-0043 www.oakpointe.org</p>
<p>Farmington Hills</p> <p>HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH 2300 Hanley Lake Rd. (248) 887-4566 Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sundays Saturday Night Service 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast: 2nd & 4th Saturdays 7:30-9:30 a.m. 3rd-8th Grade Youth Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. Pastor Nick Rutter</p> <p>NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 1200 South Hill Rd. (248) 685-2560 of Millford Rd. - 2-7/8 miles N of M-59 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. • Bible Study Wed. 7:00 p.m. Pastor: Curtis W. Miller 888-725-0787 ext. 4568</p> <p>HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 680 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48357 248-887-1311 • www.highlandumc.com Sunday Worship 9:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Kids Church 8:45 & 10:30 a.m. Youth Night - Wed. 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Confessions - Saturdays 11 a.m. & 6:15 p.m. Pastor: James H. Rebeck, Director: A. Noel, & more</p> <p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 3700 Hanley Lake Rd., Highland (248) 887-3354 Rev. Leo J. Lurio, Pastor Mass: Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Sundays 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Confessions - Saturdays 11 a.m. & 6:15 p.m. Pastor: James H. Rebeck, Director: A. Noel, & more</p>	<p>Highland</p> <p>HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH 2300 Hanley Lake Rd. (248) 887-4566 Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sundays Saturday Night Service 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study & Breakfast: 2nd & 4th Saturdays 7:30-9:30 a.m. 3rd-8th Grade Youth Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. Pastor Nick Rutter</p> <p>NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 1200 South Hill Rd. (248) 685-2560 of Millford Rd. - 2-7/8 miles N of M-59 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. • Bible Study Wed. 7:00 p.m. Pastor: Curtis W. Miller 888-725-0787 ext. 4568</p> <p>HIGHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 680 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48357 248-887-1311 • www.highlandumc.com Sunday Worship 9:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Kids Church 8:45 & 10:30 a.m. Youth Night - Wed. 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Confessions - Saturdays 11 a.m. & 6:15 p.m. Pastor: James H. Rebeck, Director: A. Noel, & more</p> <p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 3700 Hanley Lake Rd., Highland (248) 887-3354 Rev. Leo J. Lurio, Pastor Mass: Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Sundays 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Confessions - Saturdays 11 a.m. & 6:15 p.m. Pastor: James H. Rebeck, Director: A. Noel, & more</p>	<p>New Hudson</p> <p>NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation 57855 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48155 Phone 248-474-9100 Sunday Celebration of Life Service 10:30 a.m. Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister Worship and Children's Ministries 10 a.m. Website: http://www.uucongregation.org</p> <p>Northville</p> <p>NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN Experience Life Each Week Sunday Worship - 9:00 am & 10:15 am Sunday School and Children's Programs www.uscife.org 41355 Six Mile Road 248-349-0020</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE (248) 349-1141 8 Mile & Van Roads Worship 9:00 a.m. 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Steve Cook www.funorthville.org</p> <p>WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4000 Six Mile Rd., Northville 248-347-2400 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m. Contemporary 9:00 a.m. & 11 a.m. Newly 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. service Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 133 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Church 349-2621, School 349-2610 Religious Education 349-2650 Rev. Dennis Theroux, Pastor</p>	<p>South Lyon</p> <p>CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod) Pastor Terry Nelson 431-4810 • 486-4335 • Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile Worship 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m. www.cccsouthlyon.org</p> <p>Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church 22200 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Retiree Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Youth at 8:30 p.m. Rev. David Brown, Pastor 248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippe.org</p> <p>The Church of Christ 21860 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon, MI 48178 248-437-3595 • www.churchofchrist.org 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m. Rob Callicott, Pastor</p> <p>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 10774 Nine Mile Road at Liberty St. • 248-432-2682 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH 21215 Pontiac Trail, Westland, MI 48106 10 a.m. Sunday Celebration Pontiac Trail and 9 Mile (between Greening Center (Nursery & Children's programs) www.solidrockbiblechurch.org</p> <p>BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH Gathering in Jesus Name 601 S. Lafayette St. • South Lyon, MI 48178 Sunday 10:30 and 1:30 Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Mike Regan, Pastor 724-347-1983 pastor cell Old fashioned preaching</p> <p>FAMILY LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH A/G 28900 Pontiac Trail (across from Ewars Church) Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. Family Service 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Relevant, Bible Based Messages (248) 486-4645 • www.familylifecommunity.org</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 640 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760 Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:40 a.m. Nursery Provided Reverend Sandra Willcoxe southlyonumc.org</p> <p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Wisconsin Synod • Royalton Sweet Pkwy. 10000 Sweet Pkwy. • Novi, MI 48220 Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. All Classes 8:00 Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-2289</p>
<p>White Lake</p> <p>WHITE LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4000 Grand River Ave. • White Lake, MI 48190 248-347-2400 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Children's Church School 10:00 a.m. Child Care Provided This Friendly Church Established 1835</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 200 E. Main St. • Northville, MI 48161 Worship & Church School - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Children's Ministry 9:30 a.m. Youth League Prog. Wed. 6:15 & 7:45 P.M. & 8:15 P.M. Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. James H. Rebeck, Pastor</p>	<p>Living Water North Campus of St. Luke Lutheran Church Ann Arbor Worship Celebration Sunday 10:15 a.m. Wilmers Lake High School 7420 Wilmers Lake Rd. • Wilmers Lake, MI 48169 Clerg: Flynn, Minister 734-426-4006 • www.livingwater.org</p> <p>Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod The Savior Lutheran Church - Freehold Rd. 8 mile 13607 Freehold Rd. • Novi, MI 48220 (248) 347-2100 Sunday Service 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Children's Ministry 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Church Office: 248-347-2100</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church A church that shares the light of our Christ 574 S. Redwood Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170 248-475-9170 www.stjohns.org Services and Sunday Prayers at: 7:00 AM - Eucharist - meditative (holistic) music 8:00 AM - Eucharist with Contemporary Music 11:00 AM - Eucharist with Traditional Music</p>	

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

MAXINE D. CHAMNESS
Age 74 of Highland died January 31, 2010. She is survived by her beloved husband Dick, daughters, Charlene LaBonte of Alabama, Debra Chamness of Highland, a brother, Patrick, a sister, Fay, and her grandchildren. Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Millard, on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 1-7 PM. A Memorial Service will be held at Hardy United Methodist Church, 6510 E. Highland Rd., Howell, on Friday, Feb. 5, 11AM. Memorials may be made to the family. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit: www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

MILDRED E. DUFF
A resident of Millard and Charter Member of Christ Lutheran Church, went to be with the Lord on January 27, 2010. She was 90 years old. Mrs. Duff was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Albert, and sons, Ron and Rick Duff. She is survived by her loving son, Bob (Betty) Duff; daughter-in-law, Carol; grandchildren, Ryan and Craig Duff, Cindi Duff and Connie (Mary) Waters and great-granddaughters, Reese and Aubrey. Funeral Service was held at Christ Lutheran Church, Millard, January 29th, 2010. The Rev. Richard Page officiated. Burial at Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. Memorials may be made to Christ Lutheran Church. For further information please phone Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors at: 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

ROBERT H. KUEHNLE
Age 82, of Millard, January 27, 2010. Funeral was from Christ Lutheran Church January 30, 2010. Burial Highland Cemetery. Memorials to Christ Lutheran Church. For further info call 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

EDWARD E. PAGEN
Age 85, Jan. 24, 2010. Mr. Pagen was a WWII veteran and fought in the Battle of Anzio. Funeral Service was Jan. 30. Donations to HPH Hospice, 12260 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34613. Online condolences at www.obituariesvanillanet.com

MARSHALL W. LAWSON
Of South Lyon, "crossed over" on January 27, 2010, at the age of 76. Marshall was born in Detroit, MI on June 3rd, 1931. Marshall graduated from Northwestern High School in Detroit, and joined the Army upon graduation. After military service, Marshall was an electrician and member with Northwestern High School in Detroit. Over the years, Marshall volunteered to serve in the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, as an aide to the Special Education Program at Loon Lake School in Walled Lake. Bloomfield Hills Scamp Summer Day Camp, worked the Shrine Circus, and was active at the Millard Assembly of God. His parents were Noel Lawson and Ruth (McPherson), but Marshall's Great Aunt Agnes Buesing, raised him. Marshall will be loved and missed by his son Charles Lawson, of South Lyon and Marshall's brothers: Henry Steffen, James Steffen and family's, and extended McPherson family. In addition, his special family, Richard and Linda Stevens, Amy, Scott and Daphne Rasegan, Melanie, Casey, Avery, Grace, and Josie Hayes, will treasure their memories of Marshall. A Memorial Service will be held at the South Lyon Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center, at 700 Reynolds Sweet Parkway, South Lyon, MI, 48178 on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Lyon Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center. Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

WILLIAM E. LINFOOT
Age 87, of Northville, passed away January 31, 2010. He was born October 2, 1922 in Frankfort, Kentucky to William E. and Iola O. (Riley) Linfoot. He proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII, and joined the Army on March 1, 1947, and they spent 59 loving years together until her death in 2007. William, a retired foreman with Chrysler, attended services at First Presbyterian Church of Northville. He was a member of the Masons and the Shriner's. He loved his family, especially his daughter and granddaughters. William had a very sharp mind and was very generous. He enjoyed watching old movies, playing cards, and gardening. He also loved his wife's Southern Cooking. He is survived by his beloved daughter Linda (David) Draper, and his granddaughters, Danielle and Olivia. He was also loved by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, 1 brother and 4 sisters. The visitation will be held Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. A Funeral Service will be held Friday, February 5, 2010 10 a.m. with visitation beginning 9:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Rev. Kent Cise and Rev. James Russell will officiate the service. He will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Shriner Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607 or American Heart Assoc., 24445 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48075.

MARY TONON
Jan. 26, 2010, age 93. Wife of the late Joseph. Mother of Gina (Joseph) Burial Highland Cemetery. Memorials to Christ Lutheran Church. For further info call 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

OBITUARY POLICY
e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com Attn: HTW016
Or fax to 313-496-4968
For more information call: **Char Wilson 586-526-7028** **Liz Kester 586-971-7638**
The first seven "bullet" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All other lines will be published at the per line rate. You may place a photo of your loved one for an additional cost of \$40. Symbols used in this obituary may be included at no cost, including American Flag, religious symbols, etc.
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

The Reflections
Saturday February 13, 2010
8:00 PM - 12:30 AM
Doors Open at 7:00PM

V

Tata Technologies looks to hire 200 engineers

Company first looking at former employees

Tata Technologies is starting the year off on a good note. The engineering consultant is hiring. The firm, with North American headquarters in Novi, is looking for more than 200 engineers for vehicle design at its own locations and at automakers and suppliers, as well as design programs that Tata installs and supports. Most of the jobs are in Michigan, and pay between \$60,000 and \$100,000.

"We're hoping this hiring is sustainable over the next year," said Giulio Desando, Tata Technologies' human resources manager in North America. The hiring at Tata could be a good sign for hiring in metro Detroit, which has shed thousands of jobs as the auto industry cut positions during the three-year downturn in 2009.

"In Detroit, we have a lot of qualified individuals looking for work," Desando said.

Some positions, particularly at outside clients, could be temporary and end with the program. But Desando said Tata Technologies looks for ways to bring talented engineers into the company's internal operations. The hiring movement at Tata is so big that the company has

rehired two recruiters it laid off and added another person to the team.

As Tata fills its open jobs, the company is first going to the people it laid off last year.

In 2009, as automakers cut back their vehicle design programs because of a steep decline in sales, Tata laid off 188 people in North America.

"We spent a lot of time and energy in hiring these individuals and training these individuals and growing them," he said. "We certainly didn't want to lose them."

Of the 70 people the company has hired since September, about 35% were laid-off Tata Technologies employees.

Tiffany Tucker, 28, of Novi, lost her job at Tata in July after working for the company for three years. Tata rehired her in November.

"It's great to know that things are turning around," said Tucker, who moved into a smaller apartment after she was laid off.

With Tata hiring not just for its operations, but to beef up staffs at suppliers and automakers, Tucker said she hopes that a sign that "things are turning around."

Jewel Gopwani | Detroit Free Press



Dick Rohlfre, 56, left, of Lake Orion and Randy Hulten, 50, of Auburn Hills, are program managers discussing the timing of a parts program.



Tiffany Tucker, 28, of Novi is glad to be back at Tata Technologies in her hometown. She was laid off in July and was brought back by the engineering consultant firm as a help-desk support technician in November.

Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section



Novi/Northville

MEDICAL SERVICE directory



Family Therapy

Northville Physical Rehabilitation, P.C.
a tradition of excellence

Fully Licensed & Accredited Staff
215 E. Main & 300 E. Cady, Downtown Northville
248-349-9339

Optometry

TOWN & COUNTRY EYECARE
Focusing on Your Family's Total Eye Health
high-tech eyecare • unique eyewear
specialty contact lenses

248-347-7800
www.toyeyecare.com • Novi Road at Nine Mile Road

Family Practice

Medical Clinic of Northville
Early Morning & Saturday Hours
M-F 7 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Using training and lovability, Amos the dog calms kids in court

BY L.L. BRASIER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Amos, or Famous Amos as they're calling him around the Novi district court, is not your typical participant in the criminal justice system. He's got enormous brown eyes and routinely dispenses sloppy kisses. And he has four legs and regularly wags his tail.

A 2-year-old lab mix, Amos is Michigan's first court therapy dog, a pooch trained to comfort traumatized and anxious children who are victims or witnesses in cases of domestic and sexual assault. In the weeks ahead, he will be called upon when kids are summoned to court, befriend them, and perhaps sit with them when they testify.

Judge Brian MacKenzie of Novi 52-1 District Court is helping to sponsor the new Canine Advocacy Program, or CAP, by volunteering his courtroom for the first cases.

The program, a nonprofit victims advocacy foundation, and is funded by private donations, including a large check from the Waterford Optimist Club. Volunteers work as handlers and house Amos.

MacKenzie hopes therapy dogs will be a common sight in Michigan courtrooms someday. Amos will be on call, and referrals will come from social service agencies such as HAVEN and CARE House that treat distressed children.

"Amos is the first of what we hope will be many dogs," MacKenzie said as Amos roamed about his chambers. "Some of my colleagues were



Dave Moshenko of Commerce Township observes Amos last week and says at first he was startled to see him in the building. After being told what Amos will do, Moshenko said he thinks it's a great idea.

cautious when they heard about it, but it's a new idea, so that's to be expected."

The idea of using dogs to ease courtroom tensions is not new and is gaining popularity across the country. CourthouseDogs.com began

in Seattle when an assistant prosecutor in King County, took her disabled son's service dog to work one day a week and discovered that the dog had a profoundly calming effect on young witnesses. Now that county, and others

in Texas, Georgia, Montana, Florida and Maryland have dogs working courtrooms. There is little case law about allowing dogs into courtrooms. Defense attorneys have challenged the presence of dogs, saying they would gener-

ate sympathy from jurors for a complaining witness. But courts, for the most part, have lumped dogs into the category of "comfort objects" children are often allowed to bring into court, like dolls.

One recent January after-

noon, Amos was wandering the hallways in Novi, kissing up to judicial staff and wagging his tail at visiting attorneys. He stopped to greet the Oakland County Sheriff's deputies assigned to security -- they were eating lunch so he was attentive.

"I think it's a great idea if you can find a dog like him," said David Biel, a Wolverine Lake resident who was at the court to file papers and stopped to give Amos a pat. The irresistible pooch was sprawled in the hallway outside the courtroom, watching people walk by and reading for a nap. "He would probably let you lay on him."

Amos, who still has the floppy gait of a puppy but the placid gaze of a wise old dog, was trained at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester. He had a "career change," his handlers like to say, because they could not break him from pulling on the leash.

With \$20,000 worth of training, and more than a year of one-on-one time with trainers, he was the perfect choice for a courtroom therapist. Leader Dogs donated him to the program. In December, he started learning manners.

The dog appears to calm the staff, too -- workers who have to deal with members of the public who are stressed or angry. "I'm not even a dog person, and I want to take him home," said clerk Paula Hummel. "Everybody stops what they're doing to pet him."

For information, call CAP at 248-701-6611.

Contact L.L. BRASIER: 248-658-2262 or brasierl@freepress.com

Driver caught with drug paraphernalia

1 Novi police arrested a man for possession of narcotic paraphernalia at 9:52 a.m. on Jan. 27 after stopping the driver on Pheasant Run and Ten Mile Road for having a loud exhaust on his vehicle.

The driver and passenger were asked if they had anything illegal in the car and both said no. But when told the police dog was going to search the vehicle, the driver admitted to having a marijuana pipe in the center console.

Police recovered two pipes and a tin with marijuana residue. There also was residue inside the console and under the driver's seat.

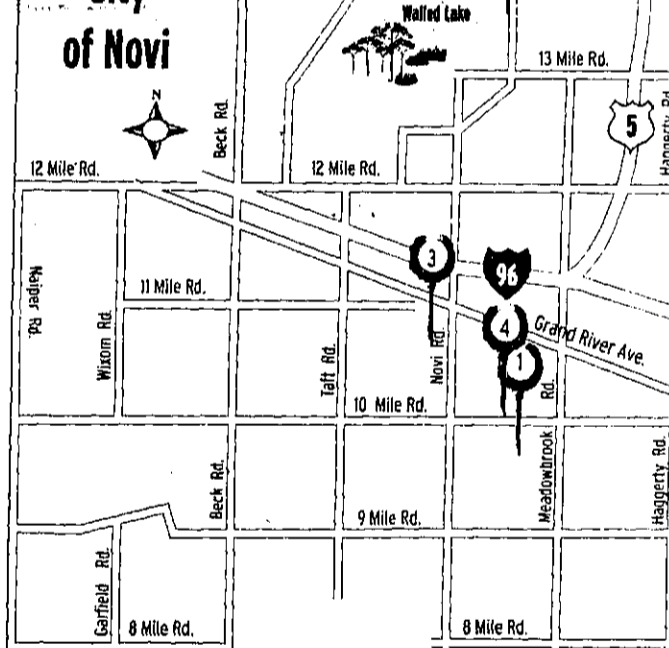
The driver was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation and released after posting bond. The passenger was released at the scene.

Saw stolen from construction site

2 A gas powered masonry saw was taken from Hickory Woods Elementary between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Jan. 27.

One of the workers said he last saw the saw near the exit doors he was working on that

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



morning. When he went to put it away later in the day it was no longer there.

He said during breaks the workers usually go inside to get warm and it likely happened during that time.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Drunk driver stopped

3 A 24-year-old man was arrested at 2:03 a.m. on Jan. 28 for operating while

intoxicated after being pulled over on Novi Road at Flint Street for not having his lights on while driving.

According to the report, the officer noticed the vehicle did not have its lights on and initiated the traffic stop to advise him his lights were not working. When he approached the vehicle he could smell a strong odor of intoxicants, but told the officer he did not have anything to drink.

He failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .08 percent.

He was transported to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation and released when sober.

Police nab drunk driver

4 Novi police arrested a drunk driver at 12:57 a.m. on Jan. 28 after observing the man's vehicle swerving on Ten Mile Road, west of Meadowbrook Road.

The officer on patrol watched the driver cross the double yellow line twice before initiating the traffic stop. The man told police he had nothing to drink, but when asked again admitted to having two beers.

He failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .096 percent. The legal limit for drivers is .08 percent.

He was transported to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released when sober.

—Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

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Water rates expected to increase in city

Declining usage, employment causes hike

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Novi should expect an increase on their water bill this year as the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department looks to combat lower revenue projections. Novi's estimated hike is 10.2 percent, raising the rates from \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.48. Much of the reason for the increase is a decline in employment and lower water usage in the area.

Detroit determines the rate using a formula that factors in how far the city is from a collection point, how high the elevation is and the city's usage. The only factor a city has control over is usage, and Novi officials have been implementing programs and ordinances to lower that number.

"Right now we are in a two-year time frame that Detroit is going to continue to gauge our peak demand and see if it is going to continue to be reduced," said Rob Hayes, city engineer. "When it ends in July 2011, we can renegotiate a rate because we will have a history of usage as more people get on board with our water management program."

The water management pro-

gram asks residents to reduce their water usage, such as watering their lawns during peak hours.

Hayes said rates could have gone up much more without the city and residents taking strides to curb usage.

"We need to have another successful summer so we can be in a good position to renegotiate," she said. Some possible future solutions to reduce the rate include working with Oakland County to use the Haggerty Station for storage, joining the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority to see their storage availability and conduct a study to forecast the cost/benefit analysis of potential options.

On average, rates are expected to rise 9.5 percent across metro Detroit. The rate increases must be approved by the Board of Water Commissioners and the Detroit City Council in March. Novi City Council will review the final rates in April or May.

mueller@novi.net | (248) 437-2011 ext. 255



Family fun

Novi Woods third-grade teacher Nancy Bain joins the fun and the students at Family Fun Night.

Cottage & Lakefront Living Show at Rock

Reminding us that winter will soon be gone and taking us back to our favorite retreat is the focus of the third annual Cottage & Lakefront Living Show at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi, Feb. 25-28. Sand Pirate Janet Schrader of Fairy Godmother Services in Lakeside, Mich., will help you escape at The Beach, a giant sandcastle complete with sand and carving tools. She will build a giant medieval sandcastle and offer lessons on the art of sand sculpture from towers and stairs to doors and windows. Showgoers will have the opportunity to turn a pile of sand into sandcastles at a sandcastle contest on Saturday and to storm the castle on Sunday.

Michigan artists will have the perfect item for your cottage or lakefront home at the Whisper in the Woods fine art show that includes nature and wildlife sculpture, photography, woodcarvings, watercolors and oil paintings for sale. Photographer Dallas Carlson of Holland will exhibit nature and wildlife photography and share stories and tips from his 20 years of experience taking photos during his presentation of "Nature Photography

at Your Cottage." Other artists' exhibits will include fine woodworking using Michigan hardwoods, primarily maple, cherry and black walnut from Lisa Ramlow of Pinekey; layered mixed media from Lori Taylor of Pinekey; pencil and ink nature art from Marie Rust of Pinekey; and aerial photography of Michigan lakes, islands, cities, bays and marinas from Aerial Graphics of Grand Rapids.

Professional photographer Kimberly Binschental will teach advanced photo skills and how to get the most out of a digital camera at Pure Michigan's Photography Classes (additional charge and registration required). "Digital Photo Boot Camp" will cover the basic technical skills of photography, the relationship between shutter speed, f-stop (aperture) and ISO, how to use histograms to ensure proper exposures, file size, cropping and color adjustments of images for printing and Web use. "Photo Design and Composition" will provide the guidelines for good composition, how to recognize and the steps to incorporate it and the art side of photography. "Top Ten Tips from a Pro Photographer" will improve the quality of your photography with simple techniques and tricks of the trade. "Photography Beyond the Basics" will explore natural lighting, focusing techniques and portrait and wildlife photo tips.

Cottage succession planning offered by experts at the Cottage Living Stage. Attorney Mike Weil of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, P.C. in Southfield will present "Keeping the Family in the Family Cottage." He will explain family trusts and other options that can be used if families wish to keep their cottage for several generations and how to avoid increased property taxes upon transfers.

Protection of Michigan's lakes will be covered during "The 10 Most Important Things You Can Do for Your Inland Lake" seminar presented by The Michigan Lake & Stream Association and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and "Green Practices for Lakefront Landscapes," "Low Maintenance Cottage Gardens" and "Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens and More" programs by Michigan Rain Barrels of Gaylord.

Attendees will vote for the photo that best depicts cottage and lakefront living at the Water & Woods Photo Contest Display.

DETAILS

Rock Financial Showplace is located at 4600 Grand River Ave. between Novi and Beck Road in Novi. Show hours are from 9-3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25-28. Admission is \$10; \$4 for children 6-14 and children 5 and under admitted free. Discount coupons for \$2 off Thursday or Friday adult admission are available at show's Web site and at participating Wendy's restaurants. Free crossover admission from the Cottage & Lakefront Living Show at Outdoorama. On site parking is available for a fee. For more information, visit www.NoviCottageShow.com or call (800) 328-6550.

DETAILS

All proceeds will be donated to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door; includes light appetizers and one raffle ticket for a pair of roundtrip tickets on AirTran. A percentage of food/beverage proceeds will be donated to the cause. Contact: <http://nlp.org/entry10/DR>

DETAILS

Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck roads. Details: Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post. Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or dstrikulis@wmrii.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or pnerick@aol.com.

DETAILS

Novi Community Education Contact: To register, call (248) 449-1206 or visit us online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/district/communityeducation. Details: Renee Chodkowski has been teaching Community Education cooking classes for over 20 years. She loves to share her passion for cooking and all things food with her students. Renee's emphasis is on making the process efficient and delicious while teaching little known tips and tricks for ingredients, techniques and cooking utensils. Visit her blog at www.greatfoodini.com. A Little of This, A Little of That! Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10

DETAILS

Location: Novi Middle School DETAILS: Seriously - just a bunch of great recipes that Renee hasn't been able to fit into a class - we have some great breakfast ideas, wonderful appetizers, easy entrees and of course, something sweet for a treat! Lots of new kitchen tips too. Cost is \$34. An 'Egg' stragvanza Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 11

DETAILS

Location: Novi Middle School DETAILS: From Appetizers to Entree - Let's wow your taste buds with the incredible, edible egg! One of the easiest and most affordable proteins out there. Cost is \$34.

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com. Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to csstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Gardeners Of Northville & Novi Club Meeting

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8
Location: Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street
Details: Social time and garden lecture - Posture & Poses; guests will be physical therapist, Renee Cottrill. The public is welcome. Contact: gardenersnorthville-novi.org or Renee (248) 231-2334

Drew Nelson & Chris Duhalis Concert

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13
Location: Newport Furnishings, 52504 Grand River Avenue, Wixom
Details: Comly Couch Concert with Chris Duhalis opening for Drew Nelson. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for students ages 8-18. Contact: <http://www.comly-couchconcerts.com>

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Fundraiser

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Saturday, March 6
Location: Bar Louie in Fountain Walk, 44375 West 12 Mile Road, Novi
Details: All proceeds will be donated to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door; includes light appetizers and one raffle ticket for a pair of roundtrip tickets on AirTran. A percentage of food/beverage proceeds will be donated to the cause. Contact: <http://nlp.org/entry10/DR>

American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. on third Tuesdays
Location: Rock Financial Showplace, Grand River Avenue between Taft and Beck roads
Details: Comrades and fellow veterans, please join these monthly meetings; attendance is needed to maintain and grow the Post. Contact: Commander Dennis Strikulis (248) 378-7841 or dstrikulis@wmrii.com or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193 or pnerick@aol.com.

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Contact: To register, call (248) 449-1206 or visit us online at www.novi.k12.mi.us/district/communityeducation. Details: Renee Chodkowski has been teaching Community Education cooking classes for over 20 years. She loves to share her passion for cooking and all things food with her students. Renee's emphasis is on making the process efficient and delicious while teaching little known tips and tricks for ingredients, techniques and cooking utensils. Visit her blog at www.greatfoodini.com. A Little of This, A Little of That! Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10

Novi Toastmasters Club

Time/Date: 7-9 a.m., every first and third Tuesday
Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leader-

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BUSINESS

Metropolitan Novi BNI
Time/Date: 7-9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of 8 Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metropolitan Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided. Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at 248-791-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities. Location: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201, Novi
Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com.

Threads of Power - 11th Annual Philanthropic Breakfast

Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10
Location: Nordstrom at Twelve Oaks
Details: Join us in our philanthropic pursuit to support those who need a hand with gently used business clothing in order to re-enter the business world. Clothes will be donated to the Woman's Center of Southeast Michigan in Ann Arbor and to the Church of the Holy Family in Novi. \$20 pre-registration + one item of clothing; \$30 at the door. Novi Chamber / EWO Networking Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16
Location: Marriott Detroit Livonia, 17100 N. Laurel Park Dr., Livonia
Details: Ruth Ann Hattori of Innovation Network will speak on the topic: "Get Creative to Build Your Business"; \$20 pre-registration by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, \$30 at the door. Business to Business Breakfast
Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Location: Nagopian World of Rugs, 43223 Twelve Mile Rd., Novi
Details: Join us for networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at the door.

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Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Location: Nagopian World of Rugs, 43223 Twelve Mile Rd., Novi
Details: Join us for networking and a light breakfast; \$5 payable at the door.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities. Location: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201, Novi
Contact: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novichamber.com.

Threads of Power - 11th Annual Philanthropic Breakfast

Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10
Location: Nordstrom at Twelve Oaks
Details: Join us in our philanthropic pursuit to support those who need a hand with gently used business clothing in order to re-enter the business world. Clothes will be donated to the Woman's Center of Southeast Michigan in Ann Arbor and to the Church of the Holy Family in Novi. \$20 pre-registration + one item of clothing; \$30 at the door. Novi Chamber / EWO Networking Luncheon
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BUSINESS

Metropolitan Novi BNI
Time/Date: 7-9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of 8 Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metropolitan Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of other business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided. Contact: For more information, contact Julie Paquette at 248-791-1665 or juliepaquette67@gmail.com; www.metronovibni.com.

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Threads of

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

online at hometownlife.com

OUR VIEWS

Newspaper investment enhances local lives

For the last couple of years, as Michigan's economy continues to tank and businesses everywhere have struggled, we have covered the efforts of local retailers to get people to "shop local" in an effort to get our readers to spend their dollars to help local businesses get through and, hopefully, thrive in tough economic times.

It's not only our sincerest desire to help those most invested in our local community, it's at the heart of our credo to help our readers and our advertisers - our businesses - to prosper in the community in which they work and live.

For 54 years, the Novi News has been proud and honored to develop a relationship with this community we serve. We are the hometown newspaper of record for your successes, your good news and bad.

It's our role to be the community watchdog, to keep an eye on the city council and Board of Education you elect, to watch them as they protect you, serve you and spend your money. We've been there to chronicle your state championships, your academic achievements, your business successes. We're at your festivals and community events, meetings and games.

If you doubt we're your hometown newspaper, look around and count the other media bringing your good news to this community. Sure, other outlets show up for the '50s Festival or when a major crime is committed or the school visits.

But we're there at president board meetings, and church group gatherings. We publish births, weddings and anniversaries. We cover the ups and downs of this city and are right there with you through it all.

We're at football games on Fridays in the fall, baseball games in the spring. We're at band concerts and school plays, spelling bees and festivals. We provide the things that end up on your refrigerator, hung there with a magnet for all to see. Our stories and photos end up in scrapbooks, preserved for posterity.

We use our editorial voice to shape the debate in our communities and, through our Letters to the Editor, provide readers with a voice of their own. In recent years, we've added a Web component (www.hometownlife.com) which not only updates your community on a daily basis, but provides yet another forum for discussion.

We've been privileged and proud to play this role in Novi for years. It's always been a mutually beneficial relationship - our stories and photos supply our readers with memories, and our pages are a proven advertising vehicle that drives customers into local businesses.

But here's a message that sometimes gets forgotten: We're a local business, too.

We depend on the support not only of our advertisers, but of our readers. Our papers have always been successful at carrying your advertising message, but the only way we can continue that success is if you continue to advertise with us. Likewise, we're happy and proud to provide the refrigerator and scrapbook-worthy stories of which memories are made. But we can't do that without a subscription base that keeps the engine running.

We understand times are tough. But times are tough in our industry, as well, and there's only one way to make sure your hometown paper is still around in another 54 years -- invest in it through your advertisements and your subscriptions.

An investment in your hometown newspaper is an investment in your memories, your local businesses and your lives.

NOVI NEWS

Cal Stone
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Grace Perry
Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?



I'll go with the Colts. You can't go against Peyton Manning.

Jason Pitts
Northville



Now that Favre's out - that's the team I was going for - I think the Saints will win it. They've rebuilt and have come back, and I think they have a strong defense.

Robert Eaton
Northville



I'm going for the Colts. My buddy lives in Indianapolis.

Derek Gibbs
Westland



I have to go with the Colts. Peyton Manning was on my Fantasy Football team, and that's who I would pick.

Lizz Hill
Commerce Township

The Mess, or the State of our State

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."
— Henry Ford

Governor Granholm, a former Northville resident, delivered his final State of the State last night. It is not the above quote that we should hope the Governor, state House, state Senate, Republicans and Democrats adopt as they begin the last year in office for them and the majority of those in their respective parties.

It is past time that our elected leaders solve Michigan's problems that have been neglected for too long.

The good news is the governor and Legislature closed out 2009 with two significant legislative victories: a state-wide smoking ban and significant education reform that could be worth \$400 million from the Obama administration. There was tremendous constituent pressure building to pass the smoking ban and the thought of being held responsible for losing potentially \$400 million of federal money for schools appeared to be the tipping point for the Legislature to pass education reforms that have been lingering in Lansing for a decade.

THE "GRAND BARGAIN"
Many Lansing observers doubt the distrust and dislike between Governor Granholm, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and Speaker of the House Andy Dill, mixed with election year politics, can or will be overcome to put the peoples' business ahead of the party or self interest.

It is not the priority of state Democratic and Republican parties to address the number one issue in this state, which is to create jobs and put people back to work. Their objective is to posture in ways that will tilt the upcoming election and political reapportionment in their direction. The jockeying and rivalry is already well underway and has nothing to do with solving the state's problems.

There is a fundamental clash of interests and values that can be soothed and managed for momentary victories but have yet to be managed to address the structural problems facing our state.

Unless the interests of either political party and egos change - and that's highly unlikely - the Michigan mess will continue.

Do our elected leaders see any value in doing nothing and allowing Michigan to implode? Will the innate fear of risk and change once again thwart progress?

COME TOGETHER
If there was ever a time for Republicans and Democrats to come together to address the problems hanging over our state, this is it. The pain families are feeling is not partisan but very real.

We need the governor, Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature to act on an old Chinese proverb, "When you are in a common boat, you need to cross the river peacefully."

Yet, for the past seven years, rather than working together to cross the river peacefully, they have been rowing in circles and drilling holes in the bottom of the boat.

With the highest unemployment rate in the nation, hovering close to 15 percent, and people and job creators fleeing our state in droves, we need everyone to come together and understand we are truly in this boat together.

There are profound disagreements between the political philosophies of Democrats and Republicans and personal ambitions among the key players in Lansing. However, it is critical for the citizens of the state and our collective future for the warring parties to come together

and put in place the reforms needed to reinvent Michigan and a 21st century tax system that allows us to be competitive on the world stage.

Perhaps the needs of the 10 million Michiganders clamoring for bold leadership and problem solving, or the political desire to create a legacy of leaving the state they were elected to lead in better shape than they found, will propel our leaders to come together, settle on a shared vision and common agenda and lead change. We will know meaningful reform has been implemented when it equally ticks off the state Chamber and organized labor. We need action that addresses both the structural reforms and creates a tax structure that invests in education and job creation.

The elective class of 2010 has less than one year to fix the problems. If they don't, the people of Michigan may.

On the November ballot the state's voters will be asked whether they want a constitutional convention to be held. If a majority says yes, delegates will be elected to rewrite the Michigan State Constitution - at which time all the special interest sacred cows will be up for review.

The Chinese have a saying that comes to mind at the prospect of a wholesale re-write of the Michigan Constitution: "When you open the window, all the flies can come in."

Our elected leaders have one final chance to come together to address the Michigan mess. As we witnessed in the Massachusetts U.S. Senate race, hell has no furry like voters scorned.

Note: For those interested in supporting a yes vote on writing a Michigan State Constitution go to <http://energizemichigan.com>.

Tom Watkins of Northville is a business and educational consultant. He served the citizens of the state as superintendent of public instruction (2001-2005) and mental health director (1986-1990) and an elected member of the Wayne County Charter Commission 1980-1982. Write to him at tdwatkins@aol.com.

COMMENTARY

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Tom Marcus Night

For over 30 years Tom Marcus has been a fixture at Novi football games, setting up the Novi pre-game tunnel, complete with its bright green "Cats eyes and smoke. Once the game begins, Tom enthusiastically patrols the sidelines, waving the Novi flag and using his signature duck call to encourage the team to victory.

In addition to his support of the football team, Tom and his wife Thelma have been very active in the Novi Community as business owners, members of the Chamber of Commerce and proud parents of their two Novi High School graduates.

To honor Tom and his contributions to the Novi Department of Athletics, we have selected Friday, Feb. 5 as "Tom Marcus Night." The "Tom Marcus Tunnel" - a modern, inflatable pre-game tunnel which will house future Novi Wildcat football teams during pre-game, will be unveiled for the first time and displayed in the atrium during the reception from 6:30 - 7 p.m. At half-time of the boys' varsity basketball game vs Northville, Tom will be honored with an honorary Novi Wildcat Varsity Jacket.

Join in celebrating Tom Marcus and his contributions to the Novi Wildcats. Should you wish make a tax deductible contribution toward the purchase of the "Tom Marcus Tunnel" an opportunity do so will exist during the pre-game reception. Please feel free to call 248-449-1500 if you have questions.

Crawford hosts free property tax appeals seminar

State Rep. Hugh D. Crawford today announced a Tax Appeal Town Hall for property owners who wish to appeal their property tax assessment.

The free "How to Appeal your Property Tax Assessment" seminar takes place Monday, Feb. 22 from 7-9 p.m. at the Rock Financial Showplace.

"It's your right to appeal your assessment, and this will be a great forum to learn the process of how to appeal your property taxes," said Crawford R-11. "Over the last several years, property values keep falling, but not property taxes. I'll keep working diligently in Lansing to address this issue, but while it works its way through the legislative process, this free seminar will help residents interested in the appeals

process." Crawford will also have on hand copies of his manual, "How to Appeal Your Property Assessment." Along with Crawford, attendees will hear from Mark Avery, a real estate investor and founder of www.ortaxandproperty.com.

Relieve, prevent stress

If stress and everyday activities have you reaching for pain pills or a heating pad to relieve back pain, Dr. Tom Neuner of the Michigan Head & Spine Institute has another option. Dr. Neuner will host a free seminar on how to relieve and prevent stress through chiropractic techniques. Join him from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Keystone Medical Center, 46325 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 100 in Novi. Refreshments will be served and attendees are eligible to win two tickets to a Red Wings game. Register at www.hnisi.us.

City of Novi rated AA+

The City of Novi received positive financial news for residents and business owners as Standard & Poor's, with refunding bonds to save on debt service payments with a confirmed high quality credit rating by Standard & Poor's, which provides credit ratings and other financial analysis, has confirmed the City of Novi's general obligation bonds as AA+. Standard & Poor's defines an AA+ rating as a "city having excellent financial security and being highly safe." The confirmed rating comes following a rating request pursuant to two refunding bond issues.

"The bond rating confirmation is one objective measure of how the City is managing taxpayer dollars," said Novi Mayor David B. Landry. "Given the financial conditions of many private entities and the status of the general Michigan economy, this confirmation is a outstanding news that the City of Novi is making sound financial decisions."

Novi City Manager Clay J. Pearson noted, "We've made decisions and maintain practices that keep us at a high credit rating, sometimes tough decisions to change and adapt to the economic climate. The Standard & Poor's rating and the upcoming sale of refunding bonds is a great affirmation of the work being accomplished here."

Standard & Poor's notes that "Novi's reputation as a desirable residence for professionals has reinforced its economic stability. In our opinion, wealth and income levels

as indicated by median household effective buying income were very strong at 157% and 154% of the state and national averages, respectively. The city's unemployment rate averaged 4.5% in 2008, which was well below the state average of 8.4%."

The confirmation goes on to state that "Novi has maintained a strong financial position despite previous reductions in state-shared revenues, the City's second-leading operating revenue stream, the City had built up its reserve levels dating back to fiscal 2003 ... management formally revised the reserve policy to maintain between 14% and 18% of expenditures in reserve."

Andiamo brings late-night laughs

Friday and Saturday nights just got a whole lot funnier. The Andiamo Novi Theatre has announced "Late Night Comedy Series" as part of their on-going entertainment line-up. Featuring national comic stand-up comedians, the "Late Night Comedy Series" kicks off Friday, Feb. 12 Sunday, Feb. 14 (special Valentine's Day performance) with Cec Jay and Josh Phillips. Through Andiamo Novi Theatre's recent partnership with Heffron Talent International, audiences now have the perfect chance to see some of the nation's funniest stand-up comedians on stage at the theater every week.

Tickets (\$15 each) for the following, including a special Valentine's Day show:

- Friday, Feb. 12 - 10 p.m.
 - Saturday, Feb. 13 - 11 p.m.
 - Sunday, Feb. 14 - 9 p.m.
- "Late Night Comedy Series" will be part of the Andiamo Novi Theatre's weekly entertainment line-up on Friday (10 p.m.) and Saturday (11 p.m.) evenings. Comedians scheduled to perform during "Late Night Comedy Series" at the Andiamo Novi Theatre for February and March 2010 include:
- Feb. 19-20 - Sid Davis
 - Feb. 26-27 - Shaun Jones and Ross Duncliffe
 - March 5-6 - Mark Klein and Chad Miller
 - March 12-13 - Mark Knope and Roy Haber
 - March 19-20 - Dan Swartout and Nicholas Anthony
- Tickets are available at the theater's box office, by phone at 248-348-4448 (box office) 1-800-745-3000 (Ticketmaster) or online at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information on "Late Night Comedy Series" call the Andiamo

Novi Theatre at (248) 348-4448. The Andiamo Novi Theatre is located at 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi.

Whole food vs. synthetic

Which is better and why is the subject of a seminar being hosted at select Better Health locations featuring natural health expert, Chris Herbert from North American Herb and Spice, who will speak at the Novi Better Health (42875 Grand River Avenue) at 2 p.m. on Feb. 20. "There has been a myth that all supplements have been created equally," says Herbert. "This myth is not true and this lecture is here to expose it. People will learn what most vitamins and minerals are made from and why choosing supplements from whole food sources is the best option. I will show why whole food supplements give you the best results and how to use them properly. People will also learn about wild spices, berries, herbs, mushrooms and other nutritious plants from around the world."

Seating for each of these seminars is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information, please call (248) 735-8100 or visit www.thebetterhealthstore.com.

'Spelling Bee' performed

After performing Les Miserables-School Edition to sold out audiences this fall, Walled Lake Western High School announced another musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, to be performed Feb. 4-6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for these performances will only be sold at the door. Ticket prices range from \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.

The one-act musical centers around a fictional spelling bee set in the geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. During the show, six quirky adolescents, in the throes of puberty, compete to win the championship of a lifetime. The contest is run by three equally-quirky grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves. Together they learn that winning isn't everything, and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikelyst of hit musicals about the unlikelyst of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

Rotary scholarships

The Lakes Area Rotary Club is accepting scholarship applications from Walled Lake High School students. Several scholarships will be awarded. Eligible students will have maintained a B (3.0) average, be in good standing with the school and have actively participated in community service during their high school years. Application deadline is April 1. Applicants can be secured through the school counselors or by contacting Rotarian, Lorrie McVey: (248) 390-8572.

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Friends' Ball to benefit Providence

The Providence Health Foundation 2010 Friends' Ball will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 6 p.m. at the Diamond Center at Rock Financial Showplace, Novi. This year, Art Van Elslander will receive the prestigious Order of the City award and physicians Bruce H. Kole, M.D.; Daniel R. Piper, M.D.; Bruce M. Silverman, D.O.; and Tack-Mun Soo, M.D., will be the recipients of the Caduceus Society Physician of the Year award.

The event will feature a champagne raffle, a chance to have your photo taken in a photo booth and dancing to the sounds of the Simone Vitale Band. The co-chairs for the event are Julie Curry and Charlotte Walker. Committee members include Andrea Bojak, Lauri Boloschneider, MCN, NP-C; Ann Conrad, Susan Glassford, Lou Grieshaber, Kathie Hautamaki, Michael Jacobs, M.D.; Sue Kolachalam, JoAnne Leslie, Maureen McCorry, Denise McLean, Beverly J. Moore, M. Elizabeth Moore, Rita Rainey, O.D., Jackie Schwartz, Niam Shinn, Dan Shava, Jennifer Stewart, Courtney Teagle, Betsy Thompson, Sandy Tohar and Marilyn Wick.

To become a corporate sponsor for the event, place an ad in the program book or donate an item to the silent auction. Please contact Providence Health Foundation at (248) 849-5744.

Registration is required. Call 866-501-DOCS

It takes a village to raise a child.

FREE Pediatric Lecture Series for parents, grandparent, and other caregivers on the Tuesdays in February

Providence Women's and Children's Services invites you to join us for a light dinner, followed by presentations that will provide information you can use to help keep the children in your life healthier and happier. Come to any or all of the pediatric lectures, but space is limited, so please register early. Call 866-501-DOCS to register.

DINNER AT 6 PM - LECTURES 6:30 - 8 PM
PROVIDENCE PARK HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOMS A & B

FEB. 9 "Common Childhood Illnesses" & "Immunizations"
FEB. 16 "Allergies and Asthma"
FEB. 23 "Obesity and Childhood Nutrition" & "Raising an Emotionally Healthy Child"

PROVIDENCE PARK HOSPITAL
A Campus of Providence Hospital and Medical Centers
A PASSION FOR HEALING
47601 GRAND RIVER AVENUE (I-96 & BECK ROAD) NOVI, MI

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- Convenience - free customer shuttle
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"They aren't any repair shop. They are my best and my favorite repair shop. They are excellent. Thanks." - Gracie Street

"I don't know how many times I've said that my car is in good health. I really appreciate being treated honestly and not being upsold on anything. I will absolutely be returning people to HAL's in the future and returning myself when needed. Thank you again for everything!" - Emily Whitten

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ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voice, on the Web at hometownlife.com.

School district looks to community for help

These meetings are a joke. The district doesn't listen, so why bother wasting the communities time having these meetings? They know what they are doing before the meetings.

I suspect that these meetings are being held on the behest of school board trustees. I think it is THEY who want to hear some ideas about where to cut, not necessarily the administration. The whole school funding system is screwed up. Lansing needs to fix it. I'm hoping once Jerry is gone, we'll get some real good reform.

If the board wants to show cuts and where to save money, it's time to remove Pete and Gail.

Sell the property at 11 Mile and Beck.

Letters to the Novi News Editor: Is raising taxes the solution?

Bring us the health care where insurance profits at the expense of the patient, millions have none and expenses go up faster than income.

There are lots of ways to reduce cost. That's what needs to be done first.

Yes, let's start with some medical liability reform.

Medical liability reform won't buy you insurance when you can't afford to pay for basics. We believe in health care reform but we won't support actual reform that would allow everyone to be covered.

The goal is to make it affordable for everyone, not to make it a taxpayer gift.

And we won't support reform that will make the current system worse for those who have insurance. There are lots of ways to reduce cost. That's what needs to be done first. Looks like you prefer to overhaul the whole system or nothing at all.

What on earth is Tindall talking about? Raise taxes to create jobs? Please tell me where that has ever worked. It appears Chuckie is preparing for another futile effort against Hugh Crawford. I doubt even the House Democrats would want him around. He is out of touch with reality and barely can articulate socialist positions.

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to stjohn@stjohn.org or by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/ Northville-Now, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

Church of the Holy Family
Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamily-novi.org

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

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

Crosspointe Meadows Church
Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org

Sunday Worship: 11:15 a.m.
Bible study classes: 10 a.m. for all ages
Details: Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene
Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit dcafnazarene.org

Sunday Schedule: 9:15 a.m. worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
Tuesday Schedule: Tuesday 9:30-11:15 a.m. Women of the Word Bible Study with childcare available for through age 5; 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study; 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study

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

Women of the Word

Time/Date: 9:25-11:15 a.m.
Details: The W.O.W. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study welcomes you to their study of the Book of Exodus. There is a \$15 registration fee, which includes interdenominational study materials. Childcare will be available in the morning for children through age 5.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 427-1175 or churchoftheholycross.com

Sunday Worship: 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care: 10 a.m.
Worship Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

Faith Community Presbyterian
Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Northville
Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays

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

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church
Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-3647 or firstbaptist-churchofnovi.org

Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
Location: 200 E. Main St.
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpres-novi.org

Sunday Worship
Time: 9:30, 11 a.m.
Walking in the Park
Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. every Saturday
Location: Meet at the Visitor's Center of Heritage Park (Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads)
Details: Group meets for lunch afterwards.
Contact: Sue (734) 459-0016
Single Place Ministries

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH EVENTS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. social time; 7:45 p.m. opening; 8-9 p.m. program, every Thursday.
Details: Informative and entertaining programs of interest to singles; \$5 per person. Check Web site for details singleplace.org.

First United Methodist of Northville
A Stephen Ministry church
Location: 777 W. Eight Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-1144 or fumcnorthville.org

Sunday Worship
Time: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Details: Rev. Dr. Steve Buck
Coffee hour at 10:15 a.m.
Healing Service
Time/Date: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month

Radical Joy
Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. first and third Thursday of every month.
Details: All women seeking to strengthen their faith and connect with other women are invited to attend, irrespective of church affiliation. Crafters and Vendors are needed

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Location: 41415 Nine Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 349-0565

Sundays
Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

Livonia Church of Christ
Location: 15431 Merriman Road, Livonia
Contact: For further information, please contact NSO Douglas K. Wells at (313) 964-6595.

Meadowbrook Congregational
Location: 21955 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Sermon: Having a Plan
Church School: 10-11 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.
Merry Widows Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month

Pilgrim Fellowship
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sundays
Asking Questions adult education class
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Tuesdays
Ash Wednesday potluck dinner
Time/Date: 6:15 p.m. Feb. 17

Northville Christian Assembly
Location: 41555 Six Mile Road
Contact: (248) 348-9030

Sundays
9-10 a.m.: Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children
9 a.m.: Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium
Details: Studying the book "Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage".
Contact: Joy Ruby at joy@oakpointe.org or call the church.

Orchard Hills Baptist Church
Location: 23455 Novi Road
Contact: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Preschool/Kids Choir
Time/Date: 7:45 p.m. every Wednesday

Details: For ages three to six; ongoing event; no need to pre-register; all are welcome.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
Location: 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 453-0326, ext. 221

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Location: 170 Thayer, Northville
Contact: (248) 349-2621 or olvnorthville.org

Saturday Worship
Time: 5 p.m.
Sunday Worship
Time: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Our Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Location: 1200 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
Contact: Pastor Bill Burke at (734) 927-0891
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. with fellowship and food after service.

St. James Catholic
Location: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday; 7 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Saturday

Mothers Group
Time/Date: 9:30-11 a.m. monthly, first and third Wednesday through May 19, 2010
Location: St. James Parish Hall A
Details: We provide mothers with fellowship, support and opportunities to grow their faith in order to nurture their children with confidence and Christian values. Through activities such as article discussion, crafts, and speakers, moms are given the opportunity to connect with other moms in support and friendship. Free childcare is available but children are also welcome to join their mothers during meetings.
Contact: Becky McKee (248) 305-5924 or Kris Endreszi (248) 946-4080

Novi - Northville Center for Jewish Life
Details: A Jewish center with events, programs and activities for all ages throughout the year - children's programs, Sunday school, adult Jewish classes, youth clubs, holiday services and programs, community social events.
Contact: Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Susskind at (248) 790-6075 or rabbi@novijewishcenter.com; www.novijewishcenter.com

Novi United Methodist
Location: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Contact: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com

Sunday Worship
Time: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month

Peace Vigil
Time/Date: Noon, first Sunday of every month
Location: In front of the church
Details: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.

Advent Service
Time/Date: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.

Merry Widows Luncheon
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month

Workshop Services
Time: 5:15 p.m. Saturday; 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday
Renew Life Ministries
Time/Date: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday

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

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Eagle Scout

Nathaniel Hill, 17, of Novi, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and will be recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Wednesday, Feb. 10. Hill, a junior at Novi High School, is the son of Dan and Natalie Hill and is a member of Troop 1826. Hill, began as a Cub Scout in Pack 555 in Littleton, CO. He earned his Duty to God Award and the Arrow of Light while in Pack 555 in Birmingham, AL. On his way to Eagle Scout, Hill earned 23 merit badges as well as the On My Honor award. For his Eagle project, Hill led a crew of 18 volunteers in redecking two piers at Maybury State Park. The project took 114 hours. Worthwhile Lumber, Friends of Maybury and family and friends helped in funding the project. Nathaniel thanks those who contributed to his eagle project.

NOVI NEWSMAKERS



O'Brien

The O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi, founded by T. P. Sullivan in 1898 in the Delray neighborhood of Detroit, would like to acknowledge John J. O'Brien for his 60 years of dedicated service. O'Brien joined the firm as an apprentice in 1950. He served in the Marines and Navy during the Korean Conflict after his return, he graduated from Wayne University Department of Mortuary Science in 1958, as a Board Certified Funeral Director. In 1970, O'Brien

assumed the role of president and he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. The Novi location on Grand River Avenue was opened in 1976. O'Brien strives to provide families with the most personalized service possible. "I have seen many changes in funeral services since I started, yet the foundation of my career is built

on the commitment of caring and compassion for the families that I serve," said O'Brien. "It has been an honor to carry on this tradition that was started by the Sullivan family over one hundred years ago." O'Brien is active in the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, Novi Lions, Novi Chamber of Commerce, Albamba, Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and Holy Family Church.

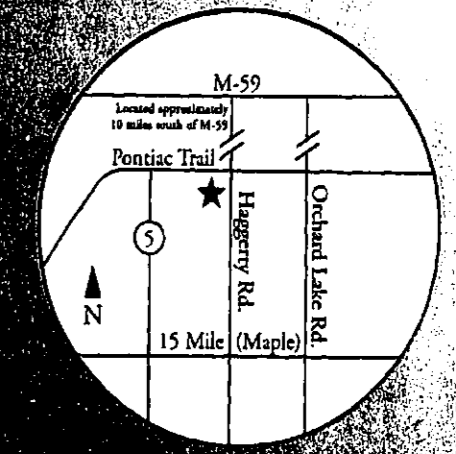


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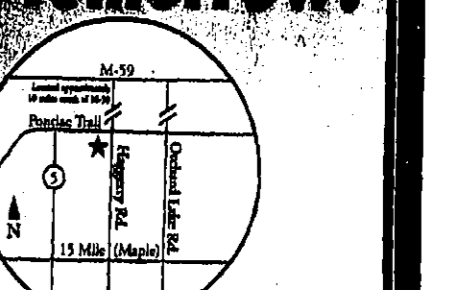
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THURSDAY
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SECTION B
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SPORTS

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Mary Beth Hurley, 12 of Novi wins Florida Tennis Journey, B2

Novi football's biggest fan to be honored tomorrow

30-year sideline figure Tom Marcus celebrated

Novi High School football super-fan Tom Marcus waves his "N" flag and gets the crowd into the game against Central Catholic.

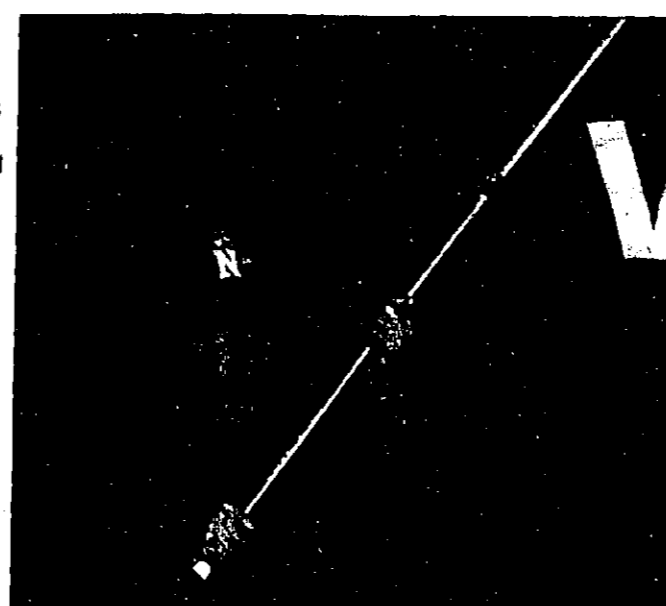


PHOTO BY JOHN REIDER | NOVI NEWS

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Join the Novi Athletic Department tomorrow for Tom Marcus Night at the high school. Marcus, a long-time Novi resident, has been helping out with the pre-game setup at Novi football games and cheering from the sidelines with his 10-foot Novi flag and duck call for more than 30 years.

A father of two Novi High graduates from the 1980s, Marcus and his wife, Thelma, are also former Novi business owners - Marcus Glass, now called Harmon AutoGlass - and members of

the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce. A current trustee for the Novi Education Foundation (founded in 1986), Marcus was also a member of the Novi Town Center Steering Committee in 1986 when the retail fixture was in its developmental stages.

The Athletic Department will honor Marcus before the 7 p.m. girls basketball game against Northville by unveiling an inflatable pre-game tunnel - dubbed the "Tom Marcus Tunnel" - in the atrium from 6:30-7 p.m. before presenting Marcus with an honorary Novi varsity jacket during halftime.

Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis said, "He cares deeply about the student athletes here at Novi High School and is always offering to help in any way he can. He is truly a servant leader and is, and always will be, Novi's number one fan."

For anyone interested, a chance to make a tax-deductible contribution toward the tunnel's purchase can do so during the pre-game reception.

Call (248) 449-1509 for more information on the event or in regards to making a contribution. Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

Girls basketball program cruising through season

Three teams win 91% of games

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

The girls basketball program at Novi High School has had its way with most competition this season.

Although the varsity team is in a race for the KLAAC Central Division title, the junior varsity and freshmen teams have been just as successful, as the full, three-team program was a combined 32-3 (.914) heading into Tuesday's contest at division-leading Plymouth Salem.

"All the coaches are on the same page - using the same terminology, running the same drills, teaching same offense and defensive principles, etc.," varsity head coach Bill

ON TAP

With the division title potentially riding on last Tuesday's result against Plymouth Salem (9-2, 6-0 Central), Novi (11-1, 5-1) needs to get the wins they're projected to get by defeating Northville (6-5, 2-4) Friday and Livonia Stevenson (3-9, 2-4) Tuesday. Both varsity games are 7 p.m. at home. The Northville game is also Tom Marcus Night, as the popular fixture at Wildcat football games will be honored at halftime.

Please see **GIRLS HOOPS, B3**



BY NOVI WRESTLING PARENTS

Sophomore Alejandro Albuerne holds on to Livonia Stevenson's 130-pound wrestler during Albuerne's win Jan. 27. The victory cut the Wildcats' deficit to 12-10, but the Spartans pulled away to win 40-16.

Novi wins battle of the Wildcats

Ice Plymouth 53-48 from the charity stripe

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

In a Kensington Conference crossover game between a pair of Wildcat teams, neither boys basketball squad led by more than six points, but Novi prevailed with a 53-48 victory at home thanks to a dominant fourth-quarter performance at the free throw line.

Plymouth jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead to start the game, forcing up-tempo play that their opponents had to adjust to, but Novi came back and the teams

ON TAP

Novi continues their push for the division title, visiting Northville (5-7, 2-4) Friday and Livonia Stevenson (8-3, 5-1) Tuesday. Both games are at 7 p.m.

Please see **BOYS HOOPS, B3**

Young wrestlers stepping up for injured upperclassmen

Wildcats split Livonia meet, prepare for KLAAC showdown

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Novi's grapplers capped off their dual meet season with a split of two meets Jan. 27 at Livonia Stevenson.

Battling for third place in the KLAAC Central Division, the Wildcats opened up the day against Stevenson. The meet went back and forth early on, as freshman Andrew Park (103 pounds) won a major decision and the Spartans followed with two pin fall victories before sophomores Giddiani Albuerne (125) and Alejandro Albuerne (130) both posted wins to narrow Novi's deficit to 12-10.

The Spartans took hold of the meet with four straight wins before senior captain Alex Engenbretson (160) won his match by pin fall. Down 28-16 with seven starters injured, the Wildcats couldn't get another win, as the Spartans

ON TAP

The team was hoping to get their injured wrestlers healthy for yesterday's KLAAC Team Championship Quad at Milford, where they would face Livonia Churchill and either Milford or Walled Lake Western. "If we wrestle tough... good things will happen," assistant coach Dan Jilg said Monday. Next up for the Wildcats is Saturday's KLAAC Individual Championship meet at Westland John Glenn.

claimed the last four individual matches to win the meet 40-16 and push Novi down to fourth in the division.

"Both coaches and wrestlers were very disappointed with the outcome of the Stevenson match," assistant coach Dan Jilg said.

Emotionally drained from the loss, the Wildcats started off slowly in their second dual meet against Livonia Franklin, who won the first three matches and took an early 14-0 lead. Alejandro Albuerne got his second win of the night to put Novi in the win column. Still down 14-3, Franklin won the next three matches to take a commanding 24-6 lead. The Wildcats roared back, however, winning five of the last six matches to edge past the Patriots for a 27-26 win. Engenbretson and junior Ben Farley (285) started the rally with wins by decision, while junior captain David Sparling (189) and junior Al Mencer (215) won by pin fall to reduce the deficit to 26-21. Park came into the final match and earned six points with a pin fall 30 seconds into his match. It was his second

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

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NOVI SPORTS WRAP UP

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Novi in the Olympics

Mickie Rzepka, a 2001 Novi High alum, qualified for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver at the primary push position (called a brakeman) of the U.S.'s top two-crew women's bobsled team.

The 26-year-old Rzepka, and partner Shauna Rohbock of Utah, will compete at the Olympics Feb. 23-24 after a thrilling 0-31-second victory Jan. 22 at the final bobsled World Cup in Igls, Austria.

After taking up the sport less than three years ago, Rzepka will join fellow Novi resident Emily Samuelson in the international games. The 19-year-old Samuelson is a figure skater and 2008 Novi alum who will compete in the pairs ice dancing competition Feb. 19-22 with her partner, Evan Bates of Ann Arbor.

Pro Soccer

Last fall's All-Area boys soccer Player of the Year and Detroit Catholic Central senior midfielder Josh Gatt signed a professional contract to play with Austrian club SCR Altach last week. The 18-year-old Plymouth resident had 22 goals and 14 assists last fall and 50 goals and 35 assists over his career with the Shamrocks. With multiple All-State and All-Catholic League honors under his belt, Gatt was previously planning to play at Indiana University next fall.

Gatt honed his skills with the Michigan Wolves premier club in Livonia and the U.S. Soccer Development Academy before gaining international recognition last summer while with the Discover Europe Tour, an elite team that took 18 American players to compete against teams in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium.

Youth Tennis

Mary Beth Hurley won the Bolletieri Junior Championships in the girls 12-singles tournament at IMG Bolletieri Tennis Academy Jan. 25 following a three-day tournament in Bradenton, Fla.

A 12-year-old Novi resident, Hurley was dominant in winning the competition that brings together the best tennis players from the southeast U.S. and other assorted locations.

After a first-round bye as the No. 1 seed, Hurley defeated Sophia Haleas 6-0, 6-0 in the round of 16, Anastacia Parkin 6-0, 6-0 in the quarterfinals, Sophia Gasca-Bandini 6-0, 6-0 in the semifinals and then defeated No. 4 seed Olga Basko 6-0, 6-1 in the finals.

Hurley's opponents came from Florida, Illinois, British Columbia and alongside her at The Pendleton School at IMG Academies.

Pendleton is a combination athletic and education training facility founded for tennis but now serving golf, baseball, basketball, soccer and performance as well. Ninety-eight percent of Pendleton's 110-plus 2009 graduates earned a college scholarship, while the other 2 percent went pro.

Notable tennis alumni include Andre Agassi, Maria Sharapova and both Serena and Venus Williams. Alumni in other sports include Kobe Bryant, Drew Brees, Vince Carter, LaDainian Tomlinson, Freddy Adu, Jozj Altidore, Josh Hamilton and others.

Boys Swimming

All-State Junior Joon Chung established a new school record of 58.39 seconds in the 100-yard breaststroke last Thursday when Novi hosted Plymouth Salem.

Bowling

After two months of competition, the bowling teams finally got the elusive first win out of the way with a 20-10 victory over baseline rival Northville on Jan. 26 at Novi Bowl. Novi's boys team (1-10-1) had tied the



Novi resident Mary Beth Hurley works on her forehand last Friday at IMG Bolletieri Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Fla. Hurley won the Bolletieri Junior Championship in the 12-singles category on Jan. 25.

Mustangs 15-16 earlier in the season. The girls squad didn't have as much luck, losing 23-7 to Northville.

The teams traveled to Super Bowl in Canton last Thursday to face Westland John Glenn. The boys squad lost 21-9 and the girls squad fell to 0-12-0 with a 19-21 loss.

The teams are back in action at Super Bowl today against Livonia Clarenceville. The Wildcats will then take on Plymouth Wednesday at Westland Bowl and Canton next Thursday at Super Bowl. All three meets are at 3:30 p.m.

Cheer

Novi's competitive cheer squad took fourth place of 13 teams at last Saturday's Northville Invitational. The host Mustangs took first place behind a 721.628-point performance. Followed by Troy Athens and Wyandotte-Roosevelt, Novi's 694.9812-point performance beat out several other schools, including KLA A squads from Livonia Franklin, Canton, Wayne Memorial, Lakeland and Howell.

The younger Wildcat cheer teams also did fairly well, as the junior varsity squad took fifth place of 10 teams with 537.2188 points (Franklin won with 556.2000 points).

At the middle school level, Novi's eighth-grade team took first of six teams with 306.7500 points, edging out the 365.1940 points from West Bloomfield's Abbott Middle School. The seventh-grade team took second place of five teams with 331.2970 points, having been beat out by Abbott's 351.6570 points.

A win against visiting Livonia Stevenson last night would give Novi's cheer squad a share of the Central Division title with Northville.

Next up for the varsity squad is the KLA A Kensington Conference Tournament, which takes place 9 a.m. Saturday at Livonia Franklin. The KLA A Association Championship is then 10 a.m. Feb. 13.

Hockey

The Wildcats won a thrilling 3-2 game in overtime on the road against a Farmington Unified team made up of

North Farmington and Farmington Hills Harrison students.

Seniors Tyler Perpich and Tyler Manning each scored for the Wildcats while assisting each other's goals. Senior Alex Cova also assisted both regulation goals.

Buttling to keep a strong record at the top of the OAA, Farmington Unified got two shots past junior goaltender Michael Penderford, who was solid in net for Novi.

Tied 2-2 at the end of regulation, senior captain Evan Dixon scored off a pass from Manning to improve the Wildcats' record to 14-2-1 (5-1 Kensington).

With strong backchecking and puck movement, Novi hoped to get the wins coming as they battled at Livonia Stevenson (14-2-1, 7-0-1) for the KLA A Central Division title last night. The teams tied 4-4 Dec. 9.

Next up is a road game against 7-3-3 Plymouth Salem 8:30 p.m. tomorrow before hosting 7-10-0 Northville 6:30 p.m. Monday.

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

SCHEDULE

NOVI HIGH SCHOOL

Boys Basketball
All games are at 7 p.m.
Fri 02/05 @ Northville
Tue 02/09 @ Livonia
Stevenson

Girls Basketball
All games are at 7 p.m.
Fri 02/05 Northville
Tue 02/09 Livonia
Stevenson

Ice Hockey
Home games at Novi Ice Arena
Fri 02/05 8:30 p.m. @ Salem
Mon 02/08 6:30 p.m. Northville
Fri 02/12 @ MIHL Showcase

Boys Swim and Dive
Thu 02/04 7 p.m. @ Livonia Stevenson
Fri 02/05 @ Oakland County Diving at Waterford Mott
Sat 02/06 @ Oakland County at Waterford Mott
Tue 02/09 7 p.m. @ Walled Lake Northern

Boys and Girls Bowling
All meets are at 3:30 p.m. unless noted
Thu 02/04 Clarenceville (Super Bowl)
Wed 02/10 Plymouth (Westland Bowl)
Thu 02/11 @ Canton (Super Bowl)

Competitive Cheer
Sat 02/06 9 a.m. @ Kensington Conference Tournament at Franklin
Wrestling
Sat 02/06 @ KLA A Individual Championship
Wed 02/10 @ MHSAA Team Districts

Boys and Girls Skiing
All meets are at 4 p.m.
Thu 02/04 Divisional Championships
Mon 02/08 KLA A Championships
Thu 02/11 Regional Championships

GIRLS HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

Kelp said of the success: "We stress not only the importance and commitment of being on a team, but being part of a program. For example, having all three teams in the same locker room so that the young girls can see how the older girls carry themselves, frosh/JV staying for varsity games, varsity coming in early for frosh/JV games, etc. We emphasize a 'family' program where kids can learn from each other."

The Wildcat family hosted South Lyon last Friday, with the varsity squad improving to 11-1 (5-1 Central) after a 55-44 victory over the Lions. Senior Kelsey Masserant led Novi with 24 points and 11 rebounds, while junior Alyssa Armiak had nine points and senior Jessica Gengel added seven points. Leading 23-22 at halftime, an 11-3 third quarter was the deciding factor.

The JV team won their game with a dominant 46-22 performance, led by freshman Jade Antoler (eight points) and sophomore Natalie Kozma (seven points, six rebounds). Sophomore Kelli Timar chipped in with four points and three steals as the JV

squad improved to 10-2 on the season.

Novi's freshmen also got the win, defeating South Lyon 45-19. Erin Dircks led all scorers with 21 points and five steals. Kelly Lewis (17 points, seven rebounds, five steals), Kasey Ozeir (four points) and Kelsey Lowney (two points, two steals) also came up big for the freshmen 'Cats. At 11-0 on the season, the overall Wildcats program is poised to have strong girls basketball teams for several years.

"We're only as strong as our players. We need to continue to push our players to stay active by playing other sports, AAU, summer basketball and getting stronger in the weight room," said Kelp, who has 106 victories in seven seasons as Novi's head coach. "The concern always is, with successful young teams, that they might become complacent and we have to prevent that from happening."

Plymouth

The girls program swept three games from host and KLA A South Division foe Plymouth on Jan. 26.

The varsity squad improved to 10-1 with a 70-35 victory over their Wildcat counterparts. Novi raced out to an

BOYS HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

25-21 lead into the break. Junior Samer Ozeir had a strong first half with 13 points, finishing with a game-high 19 points and 11 rebounds.

"Samer did a great job. I think Justin Hopton was good," Heitsch said, adding that seniors Jeremy Mims and Brandon Ryzewski were huge on defense.

Plymouth started the second half on a 9-2 run to regain the lead, 30-27, but five different Novi players scored the next five Novi baskets while clamping down on defense to finish the quarter ahead 36-34.

The black 'Cats got aggressive in that quarter, allowing Novi just three field goals early on from awkward angles or with hands in their faces. Plymouth's aggressive pace also resulted in several fouls, but Novi was prepared for the repeated trips to the free throw line.

"The two losses we had, that's what the kids pointed to was free throw shooting," Heitsch said. Novi went 11-for-12 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter, including 6-for-6 from Mims (10 points), to close out the 53-48 win.

"I was pleased. They're a very well-coached team," Heitsch said. Mike Soukup's Plymouth squad. (Junior Brennan Beyer), he's a man, its unbelievable. Number 10, (junior Mike) Nadratowski, is just a knock-down shooter."

Nadratowski finished with a

team-high 15 points and Beyer had 14 points for Plymouth.

Junior Pat Salo (seven points), seniors Aaron Thompson (six points), Dion Johnson (four points) and junior Jake Morris (two points) also chipped in for the black 'Cats, who dropped to 5-5 (2-3 KLA A South).

The home squad got contributions from seniors Ryzewski (10 points), Hopton (six points), Antwan Batwo (four points) and two points each from seniors Ryan Jok and Nick Regnier.

"I think we handled most things well. We again came out of the gate with unforced turnovers," Heitsch said.

The Wildcats used the cross-over victory as a springboard for last Friday's 58-45 road win against South Lyon, avenging a 50-49 loss from earlier in the season. Behind a well-spread team effort, 49 rebounds and 13-for-14 shooting from the free throw line in the fourth quarter (23-for-31 overall), Novi improved to 5-1 in the Central Division (20-2 overall).

The team was pushed to the win by Mims (15 points), Jok (11 points, nine rebounds), Batwo (nine points), Ozeir (13 rebounds, three blocks) and Ryzewski (four steals, seven rebounds). Junior Chris Milon also came off the bench as a steady presence for seven points, eight rebounds, two blocks and two steals as South Lyon fell to 5-7 (2-4 Central).

Novi didn't much care for the loss on a late three-pointer earlier

in the year to South Lyon, and the Wildcats let be known with a 58-45 victory Friday night on the road.

"They looked at that loss with the right perspective," said Novi coach Cory Heitsch. "It stung for a little bit, but we have been playing very well. It was nice to see."

The Lions came out and took a 6-2 lead, but it was all Novi for the rest of the first quarter. The Wildcats closed the quarter on a 14-2 run and led 16-8.

The second quarter stayed even throughout, but Novi managed to push the lead to 31-19 by scoring the final three points on free throws.

Novi pressured Jordan Short throughout the first half and held the high-scoring Lion guard to six points at the break and held the Lions to 7-for-21 shooting through the first two quarters. He managed a game-high 22 points, but 12 of those came in the fourth quarter with the game long-since decided.

The Wildcats crushed any comeback hopes in the second half, holding the lions to just three field goals in the third and pushing the lead to 41-25 heading into the fourth.

Jeremy Mims led Novi with 15 points, followed by Ryan Jok with 11 and Antwan Batwo with nine.

"He was fantastic," said Heitsch of Mims. "Ryan Jok had a career-high tonight. He was big in the third quarter with six points."

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

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

win of the day.

"Franklin is a tough team. Our wrestlers used the loss to Stevenson as motivation to get fired up to wrestle Franklin," Jigg said. "Sparling, Mencer and Park really stepped it up a notch! They needed to 'pin to win.' And they did."

The meets put the wrestling team's dual meet record at 4-4 overall (2-3 Central). Beaten up for much of the season, Novi's team headed into the two KLA A meets against the association's other three fourth-place teams.

"We have five upperclassmen out of our lineup: senior Connor Caldwell, junior Beau Bielski, senior Glen Malzer, senior Adam Trober and

senior Adam Paul. When you have five upperclassmen out of your lineup, it does 'some effect,'" Jigg said. "We are relying on our younger guys to step up. The good thing is that our younger guys are ready for that challenge so we are going to count our blessings not our worries."

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

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Feb 20	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)	Wine Sync, 122 W. Main	Feb 6
Feb 27	That Touch of Mink (1942)	Alexander's Custom Clothiers, 124 W. Main	Feb 13
Mar 6	Charade (1943)	Sincerely Yours, Inc., 110 N. Center	Feb 20
Mar 13	Paris When It Sizzles (1944)	Sizzling Slics, 144 Mary Alexander Ct.	Feb 27
Mar 20	Vertigo (1958)	Poole's Tavern, 157 E. Main	Mar 6
Mar 27	Easter Parade (1948)	Gardenviews, 202 W. Main	Mar 13*

*Gardenviews' new location this Feb. 117 E. Main

Tickets (\$3/ticket) are available for purchase exclusively at ticket-sponsor locations. The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all ages. See screen and color. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2010 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

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CC's Palazeti bulls into top spot

BY SAM EGGLESTON
CONTRIBUTOR TO THE NORTHVILLE RECORD

What can be said about this year's All-Area football team other than it's one of the best line-ups of pure talent this area has been lucky enough to witness.

Leading the way? None other than a guy who got used to that very role, pounding out yard after yard at Detroit Catholic Central's leading rusher, Niko Palazeti earned a slew of accolades for his performance this year, but the one that tops it all — above All-State and above the Free Press honors — had to be the State Championship.

Palazeti, who was not only an outstanding fullback but an outstanding down defensive lineman this year, helped restore Catholic Central to the prominence it once was. Some tough years happened between the Shamrocks' state titles this year and their last in 2003.

With the help of Palazeti, everyone forgot that there have been six years since the last championship. Palazeti made it feel like Catholic Central has been running over opponents every season for as long as anyone can remember.

Watching Palazeti run the football wasn't anything like watching poetry in motion. He didn't have moves. He didn't juke around you. He didn't spin. Hurdling tacklers was out of the question.

Watching Palazeti run the football was more akin to watching a Rotweiler strip raw meat from his favorite bone and then break it into pieces with his teeth to get at the succulent marrow inside. It was furious. It was devastating. It was pure strength and will power.

When the question of Player of the Year for the 2009 All-Area Football Team was presented, there wasn't even a hesitation.

"Niko Palazeti," was the answer. It was unanimous.

Tom Mach, Palazeti's coach, has seen some amazing running backs. The list of All-State players under his guidance over the past 30 years is staggering. He's seen some of the state's best athletes come and go.

Yet, he still named Palazeti as the best fullback he ever coached.

"He's something else," Mach admitted.

Palazeti picked up 1,279 yards this year on 224 carries. He ran into the end zone 24 times. Not too shabby, considering he sat out two games due to injury.

On defense, he collected 22 tackles and a sack this year.

The accolades piled up, too. All-State. All-Detroit Metro. All-Catholic League. All-Free Press. All-Detroit News.

And now, All-Area Player of the Year.

Sam Landry, Quarterback Senior
Catholic Central
It's not easy being a quarterback on a team that dominates in the run game. Landry didn't seem to mind, however, running the offense from under center and leading his team as a captain to a State Championship.

Landry was cool under pressure, picking up the yards when his team needed them through the air. His poise and his rock-steady performances made him an All-Catholic League selection.

Eric Kelly, Quarterback Senior
Lakeland
It was a rough year to be a Lakeland Eagle, taking too many losses to make the playoffs but playing well enough to earn some much-deserved recognition.

The Eagles were led this year by Kelly, a senior quarterback who threw for 1,167 yards and eight touchdowns. The All-KLAA selection earned four wins in his senior campaign, but each and every came to a team that earned a berth into the playoffs.

Anthony Capatina, Running Back Senior
Catholic Central
It's never easy being the guy who pats up nearly 1,400 yards rushing the football but still is considered to be the season's best player. Capatina didn't mind, though. From the start, his attitude has been toward getting the team goals met first, and then the personal goals.

While he may have missed out on the All-State voting, Capatina got respect where it counted most—from his teammates. Palazeti, the crushing fullback who often led for Capatina, continually commented about how talented the fullback was. Mach, his coach, said that Palazeti and Capatina were the best one-two punch ever in Catholic Central's backfield.

Capatina earned all-conference honors this season.

Cody Beck, Running Back Senior
Novi
It's hard to imagine just how good Beck would have been if he didn't have to wait to get his chance to shine. Beck, who had to wait until three-year starter Kyle Podvin graduated before getting his chance to rule the gridiron, earned almost 1,200 all-purpose yards for the Milford Mavericks this season, picking up 939 of them on the

ground and 268 receiving. Beck earned All-KLAA honors for his performances on the field, which also included some mean defensive pressure. He picked up 70 solo tackles and over 30 assists while compiling four sacks and three fumble recoveries.

Jimmy Pitcher, Running Back Senior
Novi
The first thing most people would notice is that Pitcher doesn't have the numbers that many players in his league or on the All-Area team compiled this year. He picked up just around 600 total yards this year, but it really wasn't his fault.

Pitcher started out running and receiving the ball as a premier halfback. Injuries forced him to play other positions. Wing Fullback. Eventually he found himself under center as the starting quarterback for the Wildcats Mustangs.

Pitcher didn't hesitate at the duties bestowed upon him, however, impressing everyone who watched him play to the point that he earned All-KLAA honors and a rightful place on this year's Dream Team.

Alex Chudzinski, Tight End Senior
Lakeland
In the KLAA, it's rare to see a tight end pull down very many passes. Usually they are kept on the end of the offensive line to act as an additional blocker. Chudzinski played that role, but he had hands, too. With a quarterback who was able to throw for over 1,100 yards this year, Chudzinski proved himself to be a favorite target. He hauled in 19 passes and over 400 all-purpose yards while finding the end zone three times.

He was an All-KLAA selection this year.

Justin Hopton, Wide Receiver Senior
Novi
Hopton found himself in a familiar boat with many good receivers in high school football are in: Their team was run-heavy and didn't rely on going to the air as often as it might have.

Hopton was there when his team needed him, averaging over 40 yards per game receiving and earning All-KLAA honors in the process. A go-to kind of receiver, Hopton was difficult to cover on the fade pattern and able to outmaneuver almost any defensive back he faced.

Ben Nicolay, Offensive Line Senior
Lakeland
As an offensive lineman, you know you're doing something right when your team names you an offensive most valuable player for the year. Nicolay, an

all-league selection this season, knew the importance of keeping defenders away from his quarterback. He worked at improving each and every day, and it paid off. His strength and knowledge of the game helped him become a standout lineman in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association this season.

C.J. Bona, Offensive Line Junior
South Lyon
Bona was another two-way player. He was an offensive lineman and a linebacker.

LaDarius McLaurin, Defensive Line Junior
Northville
That was a name that was getting called out plenty of times this season over the loudspeakers. The defensive lineman made his presence known from the first game until the playoffs for the Northville Mustangs. A presence on the field that forced double teams to stop him, McLaurin made up a solid college defense light end for the Catholic Central squad, and he can block like an offensive lineman. He can move like a defensive back, but it's hard to say. This guy has all the makings of a collegiate athlete, and it likely headed that way.

Cody Muirhead, Defensive Line Senior
Milford
Just try and force Muirhead out of the way. Please. He loves the impact of pads against pads. He lives for the rush of a good tackle. This guy is what offensive linemen have nightmares about. He's not the tallest player on the team, standing just around 5-9, but his low center of gravity and his quick feet make him a dream come true for a defensive coordinator. He knifes his way past blocks, disrupts plays and gets in the quarterback's face.

Jordan Jaborri, Defensive Line Senior
Novi
It's not often a defensive end is able to pick up 50 tackles in a season, especially when they're a force to be reckoned with. Jaborri found that out this season, picking up double teams and watching as offensive backs had no choice but to run away from him. Jaborri was an All-KLAA selection this season and a leader for Novi's defensive line. His key attributes, beyond being large and strong, were his ability to read a play and react accordingly. He always seemed to be in the right spot at the right time.

Joe Snyder, Defensive Line Senior
Catholic Central
Snyder must have gotten tired of hitting guys this year. It didn't seem like there were many plays that found him not crushing an opponent to the ground, or forcing a running back to change direction right into the waiting shoulder pads of another Catholic Central defender. Snyder, an All-CHSL

and won three medalist honors throughout the year. Roberts earned All-Conference honors with a sixth-place finish. She averaged 42.3 for nine and 89.7 for 18 holes, second on the team in both categories.

Theresa Damico, Lakeland
The Lakeland senior received All-State Honorable Mention honors after averaging 42 for nine holes and 86 for 18. She broke 80 three times throughout the season.

"She's very consistent. She's not a really long ball hitter. She keeps the ball in play," said coach Tom Milkovich. "She's a very determined, competitive and talented young lady who I think will have an even better year in her senior season. She will be one of our captains."

Dan Stern, Linebacker Northville
When the season started for Northville in the fall, Stern's coaches all said that he was one of the best athletes they had ever had the pleasure of instructing. Stern proved them right this year, playing just about every position on the field at one time or another. He ended up settling in a comfortable role of linebacker for the Mustangs, making his

Butch Herzog, Linebacker Catholic Central
"He looks like a tank." That was the statement made when a spectator saw Herzog for the first time this season. She was right. Herzog has the build, the speed and the mind of a linebacker. He's tenacious, refusing to give up no matter how many shoulder pads and hands are trying to block him. He chases the ball until the whistle blows, usually finding a way to make a hit before the play comes to an end. Catholic Central has long been known as the team that doesn't quit until the play is dead, and Herzog lived and breathed that this season. He was everywhere, it seemed, and wasn't about to be denied. In addition to being a crushing defender, Herzog took plenty of reps as a runner this year, too, and while he may not have had the numbers that Palazeti and Capatina did, he was effective nonetheless.

Megan Henry, Novi
The Maverick junior was the team MVP. She finished in the top 10 four times in the team's six tournaments and earned All-Lakes Conference honors. She averaged 43.9 for nine

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All the Novi Invitational Jan. 9, the Wildcats scored 686.02 for a first place finish.

FOOTBALL

presence felt in each and every game. He was fearless, not backing down from anyone, no matter how big they were or how strong they were. He stuck them without hesitation, which made him a defender to avoid for every offense he faced.

Mike Rizzo, Linebacker Senior
Lakeland
Lakeland's game plan is about steady offense and quick defenses, as it has been since John Maltese took over the program a few years back. Since then, the Eagles have been a contender for a playoff berth every year instead of everyone's favorite homecoming opponent. Rizzo fested off of the challenges put forth by his coaching staff. He loved the excitement and the pressure of playing linebacker for a defense that required him to be in on every play and hitting someone on every down. Rizzo picked up nearly 100 tackles in round three, scoring 686.02 for a solid first place finish. In second was Canton with 660.2 and N. Farmington in third with 656.7.

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Varsity cheer coach comfortable in her old shoes

The 2009-10 season for the Novi varsity cheer team started off as usual: tryouts, ordering new uniforms and choreographing their routines that would hopefully be good enough to get them to the state finals.

Then a strange turn of events left the team unsure of their future. Their head coach, who had stepped down from her position to move out west and the assistant coach prematurely left on her maternity leave, opening the door for former head coach Emily Parker Pohlonski to return to her very familiar job on the varsity cheer team.

Coach Parker, as the girls still call her, had coached Novi cheer for seven years before she took her leave due to the birth of her first child, unsure when or if she would return to the demanding job of coaching, as she still teaches full time and has her toddler to care for. Still, with a passion for cheerleading, she took on the role of the Novi Invitational Coordinator in 2008 and was planning another successful Invitational for 2010 when the Wildcat cheerleaders were in need of a coach. Lucky for the girls, she accepted the job and got to work.

Seniors Lauren Forche and Robyn Hurt were privileged to be on the Wildcats varsity cheer team in 2007 when Parker led her team to the Divisional 1 State Finals with a very respectful finish of seventh place. Both girls, and their present teammates, are working hard to repeat the amazing 2007 season in 2010. The team is excited to have Coach Parker take over the reins; she knows what she is doing and they all know her, so the transition was easy for the girls.

"Coach Parker even has a

Northville's Sakorafis leads tough All-Area golf pack

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Northville golfer Stephanie Sakorafis was almost always found near the top of whatever leaderboard she was involved with.

The junior Mustang shot her way into earning the 2009 All-Area Golfer of the Year honor. Sakorafis was medalist or tied for medalist in five of Northville's eight matches. She fired an 80 to finish second at the KLAA Conference tournament and shot an 83 at regionals to place third and help Northville move onto states.

"She's a very talented golfer with a wonderful gift to forget bad holes and recover and come through for a good round."

"This was her third year on varsity and each year she has been a major contributor to the success of our team," said Ossola. "She's a very talented golfer with a wonderful gift to forget bad holes and recover and come through for a good round."

Theresa Damico, Lakeland
The Lakeland senior received All-State Honorable Mention honors after averaging 42 for nine holes and 86 for 18. She broke 80 three times throughout the season.

"She's very consistent. She's not a really long ball hitter. She keeps the ball in play," said coach Tom Milkovich. "She's a very determined, competitive and talented young lady who I think will have an even better year in her senior season. She will be one of our captains."

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led his team without hesitation whenever the going got tough. Galdes was a key reason the Mustangs made the playoffs this season, putting his head into every down and his heart into every game.

Jon Savakus, Defensive Back Senior
Whenever anyone talks about Catholic Central football, the word defense is repeated again and again. There's a good reason for that, as the defense was the reason the Shamrocks not only earned eight shutouts this year, but won every title they could along the way. A key player in that was Jon Savakus, a defensive back who was lined up against every team's biggest receiving threat each and every game. Savakus had quite the job to do, too, as he went up against quarterbacks and receivers who weren't only good, they were great. Savakus stopped play after play, including several would-be touchdowns.

Jordan Scheffler, Punter Senior
Novi
It was unfortunate that Scheffler got to practice so much this year, but the All-KLAA punter was able to showcase his talent by kicking the ball away 35 times this season. He wowed more than one special team's player, often forcing them to backpedal like mad just to stand a chance at receiving his kicks. Scheffler averaged around 27 yards per punt, picking up 1,278 yards of his impressive foot. In addition to being able to rocket a football, Scheffler was also the leading tackler on Novi's kickoff team.

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Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Get in shape and have fun at MEGA

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

The mission of MEGA is to have fun and inspire greatness in others through sports and physical fitness. At MEGA the student is encouraged to set goals and explore new challenges. The student develops self-confidence and an innate worth that can last a lifetime.

Our goal is to serve our families in the community by promoting physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle. MEGA Fun and Fitness offers an array of activities for children of all ages (mom and dad can even get in on the fun and participate in our taekwondo school). MEGA offers gymnastics instruction, tumbling for cheerleading, fitness classes, and the kwon do. MEGA Fun and Fitness also offers field trips for your organization and MEGA hosts some of the best parties around.

If your child is interested in participating on a competitive team, MEGA Fun and Fitness also offers competitive teams in gymnastics and Olympic style Taekwondo. How did you first decide to open your business?

Owner Kim Tanskanen and husband Juha have been involved in the sport of gymnastics for over 25 years.

Juha was born and raised in Jyväskylä, Finland. He received a degree in physical therapy from Jyväskylä Institute of Finland. He has been involved in gymnastics since childhood and has experience as a



Mayor David Landry (left) officially welcomed MEGA Fun and Fitness to Novi by cutting the ribbon at the business' opening along with owners Kim and Juha Tanskanen.

gymnast, coach and judge. As a gymnast, he was a member of the Finnish National team and has vast experience in international competitions, including the World Championships. He has been a part of the Finnish Gymnastics Federation as a Head Team Coach for the Junior and Senior National Teams. He has produced many champions, including the 1997 World High Bar Champion. He also possesses the highest judging rating, the Brevet Judging credential, which allows him to judge internationally. Juha moved to the United States in 1998 to become the director and head

team coach for a gymnastics club in Lansing, Michigan. He is now happy to be working in his own gym, inspiring young children to be the best they can be. Kim started gymnastics at the age of 5. She continued in the sport through the collegiate level. Kim possesses a bachelor's degree in athletic training and a master's degree in business administration and healthcare management. She has coached and instructed beginner level gymnasts through the elite level. Most recently, she has qualified several of her young gymnasts to the USA Gymnastics TOP (talent opportunity program)

National Team. With our knowledge of business and sport, our passion was to create a gym that has a place for everyone. With the help from a very qualified working staff, MEGA Fun and Fitness is just that. We are very thankful for being given the opportunity to teach children of all ages all about healthy living in a very fun environment. We understand that accidents do happen, but we take pride in the fact that MEGA Fun and Fitness can offer a fun place that is also a safe place to learn. Our staff is safety certified by USA Gymnastics, first aid and CPR certified, and the owners

DETAILS
Business Name: MEGA Fun and Fitness
Address: 22475 Heslip Dr. (off Nine Mile Road, between Novi and Meadowbrook roads)
Your name/Title: Kim and Juha Tanskanen- owners
Business Opened: Aug. 2005; Dec. 2009 in Novi
Number of employees: 15
Hours of Operation: 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday
Your business specialty: gymnastics, taekwondo and fitness classes
Phone: (248) 344-9344
Web site: www.mega-gym.com

We have worked with the Novi Youth Assistance for several years, and it just felt right to move to Novi.

What makes your business unique? Our business is unique in that it has that family feel when you walk in the door. It is always nice to walk into a business and be greeted by a staff who knows your name. Our front office staff does not miss a beat.

Our instructors love children! They love to teach, and most possess a bachelor's degree in teaching. It is about fun and learning. We understand that accidents do happen, but we take pride in the fact that MEGA Fun and Fitness can offer a fun place that is also a safe place to learn. Our staff is safety certified by USA Gymnastics, first aid and CPR certified, and the owners

both have backgrounds in the medical field. There are specific procedures in place to take care of our students should an accident occur. How has the recent economy affected your business?

We are so thankful that so many parents believe that their children should remain active and participate in physical fitness activities. We hope that parents will continue to keep their children active through physical activity.

MEGA Fun and Fitness is offering a 2 for 1 special through February 2010 to help those who are on a tight budget. Two students can take class for the price of one. It can be a sibling, friend, cousin, etc. We know how important it is to teach kids a healthy lifestyle and stay active.

Any advice for business owners? Always know why you are running or owning your business. Know your purpose and stick to it, even through difficult times. Know your core values, abide by what you believe, and never give up. Believe it or not our process to open our business in Novi took over two years. Trust in others and have a lot of patience. What's the saying -- good things come to those who wait... and wait... and wait!

What is in store for the future of your business? We are planning on continued growth in Novi, and being able to give back more each year. We are planning on adding a fitness course in the gym, and a zip line for some added fun.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Organize This!

Sharon Wrobel, owner of Sharon Organize This! LLC, will highlight the steps that led her to open her own business at the Feb. 10 session of "Organize This" at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi.

Sharon Organize This! was born out of the desire to help others achieve the feelings of freedom, preparedness, and calm that she feels from being organized. Sharon's formal education includes a bachelor of business administration in marketing from Walsh College.

Dinner/meeting reservations are \$16. This is an open invitation for any women in the community that would like to attend the program to visit

www.abwa-nov.org to download a mail-in registration form or to register using PayPal (\$17).

Play It Again Sports honored

Play It Again Sports of Novi, a local provider of new and quality used sports and fitness equipment, has been recognized for going above and beyond with its business operations.

The retailer has achieved a "Gold Standard" distinction, which is reached when a store achieves a set of standards set forth by its franchisor during the evaluation process. In particular, the Novi store excelled in the customer satisfaction, store operations and product quality standards.

This is the third year the store has earned this honor.

"Achieving Gold Standard status is an accomplishment that is highly revered throughout the Play It Again Sports organization," said Ian Somerville of Play It Again Sports of Novi. "This distinction indicates that we are providing consumers in the Novi area with superior product assortment and customer service, two elements that combine to form a rewarding

shopping experience."

Franchised and branded under Winmark Corporation - a company that develops franchises and provides financial services for retail stores that buy, sell, and trade new and quality used merchandise - Play It Again Sports has nearly 350 locations in North America, and its stores are individually owned and operated.

"We recognize that in today's economy, a greater number of shoppers are looking to resale shops as a convenient way to get the most value for their dollar," said Somerville. "And, as our Gold Standard status proves, consumers do not need to compromise quality for savings at Play It Again Sports of Novi."

Busch's launches new program

Local grocer Busch's Fresh Food Market has introduced Busch's MyWay, a free online program that saves money, time and effort for Busch's shoppers.

Exclusive to Busch's, MyWay alerts members to sale prices on their favorite items. Each week via e-mail, members receive sale price alerts for the next two weeks, offering shoppers the advantage of shopping around upcoming sales. MyWay members can also place online orders for easy curbside pickup.

Busch's MyWay members can use their home computer to create personalized shopping lists based on their needs. Shopping lists can also be generated from a MyWay member's personal shopping history, which grows with every shopping trip.

Members can create as many lists as they like: a quick list for tonight's dinner, another for the weekly grocery trip, one for parties, special recipes and more. Lists can also be developed to accommodate special dietary needs, such as gluten-free or organic items. Lists can be saved in the MyWay member account for repeated use.

MyWay is available in all 15 Busch's stores, including the Novi and Northville/Plymouth locations.



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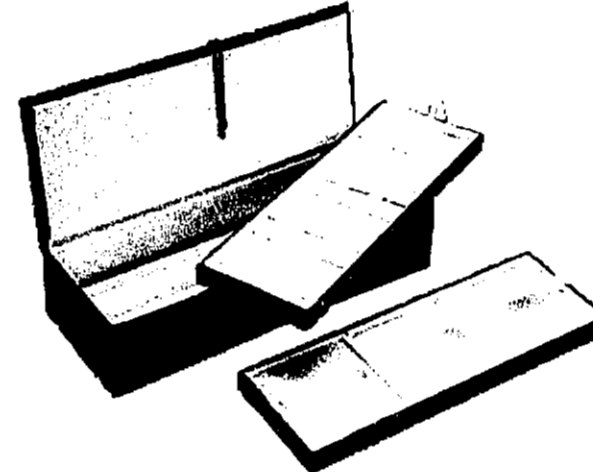


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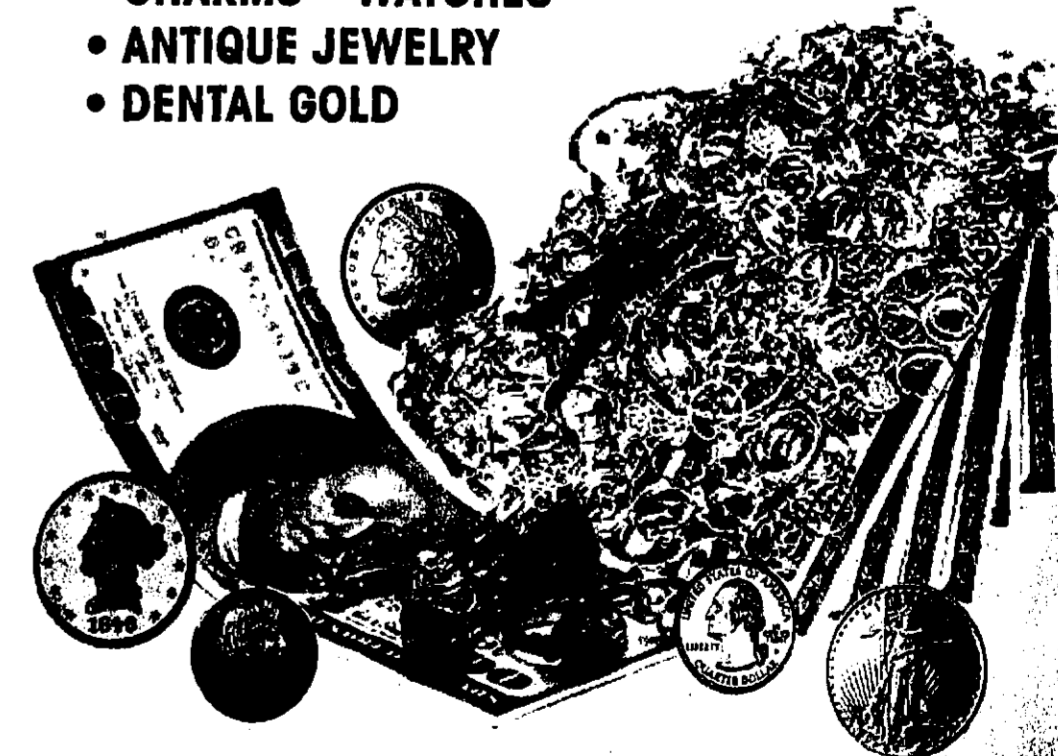
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BY ALISON BERGSIKER
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

With the Internal Revenue Service increasing its standards for tax preparers this year, the chances of being audited are higher than ever.

Consulting a tax professional that can prepare an accurate return, is well versed in tax law and can resolve controversies as they arise is critical.

"Many people across the state and country have been faced with losing their jobs, retirement savings and homes," said Gregory S. Sobczak, CPA.

"The thought of preparing an accurate return or dealing with the IRS over an audit or collection matter compounds an already stressful situation. We provide taxpayers the representation they need throughout the entire tax process."

Sobczak, a former IRS agent and appeals officer of 21 years, has associated with Jacob R. Strecker, CPA, who has practiced in South Lyon since 1978.

The associates have more than 50 years of combined experience, clientele across the state and country and a high success rate in all tax matters. As CPAs, both Strecker and Sobczak renew their credentials every two years, follow a code of conduct and consistently continue their education.

"There's a good part of the tax industry that is part time," Strecker said. "They do tax returns January through April and may go through a round of training once a year, but you can't keep on top of tax issues that way. We keep on top of tax issues by working on them day to day year-round."

Unique specialties

Strecker and Sobczak each offer extensive experience and unique specialties that have allowed them to establish a rapport with clients including professionals, small business owners, contractors and some celebrities.

Strecker is nationally recognized for his success in equine tax law, focusing on business owners who are involved with racing, breeding, training, boarding, selling and showing horses.

"South Lyon used to be the horse capital of Michigan," Strecker said. "A large portion of our business today is still related to horses. You won't find many people that are as involved in



PHOTOS BY HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

(From left) Gregory S. Sobczak, CPA and Jacob R. Strecker, CPA offer professional representation on a complete range of tax services, including planning, preparation, controversy resolution and IRS policies and procedures.

this specialty as we are."

Along with equine tax law, Strecker and Sobczak offer tax planning and tax preparation for individuals and businesses, as well as tax controversy resolution expertise. They have helped hundreds of individuals and businesses resolve or avoid many types of tax problems.

"A good gauge of any tax professional is how they handle tax controversies that occur after the returns are filed," Sobczak said. "Even well-prepared returns can result in audits. We can provide audit and appeals representation, settlement and collections negotiations and assistance with liens, levies and installment agreements."

Many people have found themselves in the unfortunate position of not filing for many years.

"We can assist them in getting

current in their filings and working with the IRS and state to resolve any taxes due," Sobczak said.

Perspective from the inside

Sobczak's previous experience as an IRS agent and appeals officer coupled with Strecker's renowned reputation and their vast knowledge of tax law allow the associates to represent clients with a high level of success.

"We frequently assist other tax professionals with issues their clients are facing," Strecker said. "Because of our knowledge of IRS policies and procedures, we are often asked to review IRS audit results and evaluate the hazards of challenging



Strecker is nationally recognized for his success in equine tax law, and Sobczak's previous experience as an IRS agent and appeals officer brings a unique perspective to clients.

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the audit findings."

CPAs, attorneys and enrolled agents are already subject to IRS oversight, but a much larger group of tax return preparers are not. Due to a number of issues from unregulated preparers in recent years, the IRS will have heightened scrutiny on returns for the 2010 season.

"The IRS has added service personnel which has led to an increase in audits and collection activity," Sobczak said. "We offer our clients a sense of confidence that comes with understanding how tax administration works."

Long-term and new clients of Strecker and Sobczak can expect a thorough approach and the most up-to-date knowledge on a wide range of tax law matters.

"Our clients work directly with us," Strecker said. "This allows for a better understanding of their tax needs and increases the likelihood of a successful outcome."

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**Tax Questions/Problems...
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work for you!**

GSS

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