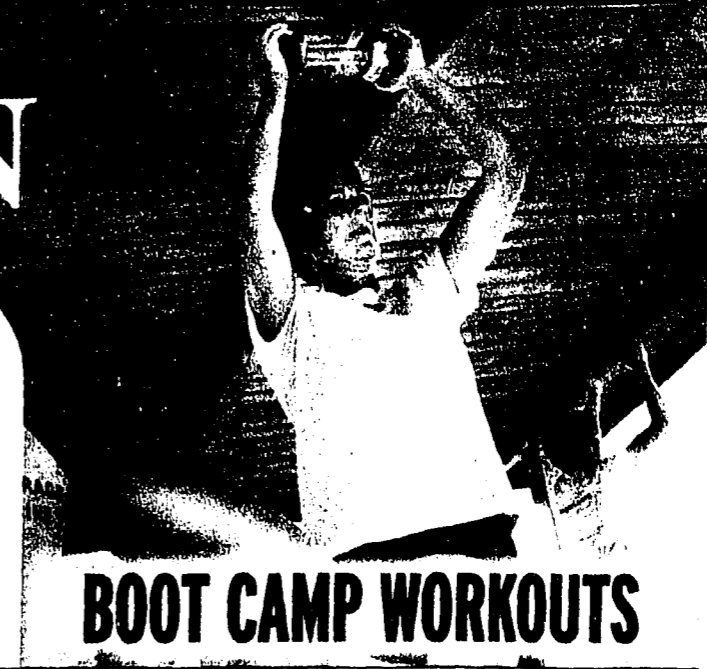


4-H CLUB GIVES KIDS VALUABLE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE, A6

Hometown Life WOMAN
SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

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THURSDAY
September 2, 2010

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
Volume 55
Number 15
\$1.00

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY 9/2/10

NOVI NOW Lynch to speak at Novi Public Library

Renowned author Thomas Lynch will be the guest speaker at the Friends of the Novi Public Library's 50TH Jubilee Celebration on Friday, Oct. 8 from 6-9 p.m. at the Novi Public Library. Lynch, National Book Award Finalist, will discuss "Apparition & Late Fictions" and his highly anticipated November 2010 release, a collection of poems, "Walking Papers". Both books will be available for sale and Lynch will do signings.

Lynch has read and lectured at universities and literary centers around the world and has appeared on C-SPAN, MSNBC and The Today Show. His essays, poems and stories have appeared in The Atlantic and Granta, The New York Times and Times of London, The New Yorker and Paris Review and more. His work was the subject of PBS Frontline's film documentary, The Undertaking, which aired nationwide in 2007 and won the 2008 Emmy Award for Arts and Culture Documentary. Lynch, a longtime resident of Milford, has been a funeral director there since 1974.

This year, the Friends of the Novi Public Library celebrates 50 years of volunteer service to the library and Novi community. In April 1960, a small group of citizens founded Novi's first library. The Friends is a non-profit group of dedicated individuals committed to supporting the Novi Public Library in a variety of functions.

This event is open to the public. Cost to attend is \$10 and includes the presentation by Lynch and book signing, refreshments, strolling exhibits, live music by world musician Ara Topouzian, a silent auction and a one-year membership to the Friends of the Novi Public Library.

Current friends members are encouraged to attend free of charge. Contact friends@novilibrary.org for advance membership or more information.

See our online images

You can see staff photographer John Heider's photos in print in the Novi News and Northville Record, but don't miss his videos of the Super Gardener, a young moth rancher and the Novi girls state soccer march. His photo galleries feature the Farmers' Market, Buy Michigan Now Festival, the Michigan Art Institute's open house, Novi High's Band Camp and much, much more. Visit hometownlife.com every day and see what's new!

Council OKs speed limit changes

Decision not yet made on segments near two schools

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Another wave of speed limit changes are coming to Novi roads.

In an effort to comply with the Uniform Traffic Code, which requires traffic control orders issued by a traffic engineer and approved by the city council to be on file for the enforcement of speed limit signs, nine segments of road in Novi could see increases in speed.

According to the Traffic Improvement Association, speed limits are set based on the number of drive openings or the 85th percentile speed.

The 85th percentile speed is "the speed at, or below which, 85 percent of the traffic is moving."

Brian Coburn, city engineer, said for a speed limit sign to be fully enforceable it has to have a traffic control order behind it.

"We looked at all the speed limits we have in place and identified those that lacked proper documentation and we are going back and addressing those," he said.

The goal is to have all road segments on file by the end of the year.

There is some concern that increas-

Please see **LIMITS, A2**

TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS

Approved

- 13 Mile Road: Meadowbrook to Haggerty roads; 45 mph (was 40 mph)
- West Park Drive: 12 Mile to West roads; 45 mph (was 40 mph)
- Crowe Drive: Novi Road to Ingersol Drive; remaining at 25 mph
- Ingersol Drive: Crescent Blvd. to Crowe Drive; remaining at 25 mph
- Crescent Drive: Novi Road to Town Center Drive; 30 mph (was 25 mph)
- Town Center Drive: Crescent Blvd. to 11 Mile and Grand River Avenue to 11 Mile; 30 mph (was 25 mph)

Awaiting approval

- Novi Road: 12 Mile to 1,640 feet south of 13 Mile; 45 mph (is 40 mph)
- Novi Road: 1,640 feet south of 13 Mile to 13 Mile; 45 mph (is 35 mph)
- Novi Road: 13 Mile to 14 Mile roads; 45 mph with 30 mph school speed zone (is 40 mph)
- Meadowbrook Road: 12 Mile Road to Meadowbrook Elementary; remaining at 35 mph
- Meadowbrook Road: 13 Mile Road to Meadowbrook Elementary; 35 mph with 25 mph school speed zone (is 25 mph)

Breaking down barriers

Ambassadors help make transition to high school easier

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Sara Hudgens is a year removed from wandering the halls of Novi High School for the first time as a wide-eyed and anxious freshman.

Now the sophomore is part of a group of more than 60 students who want to help others make that transition to high school an easier one.

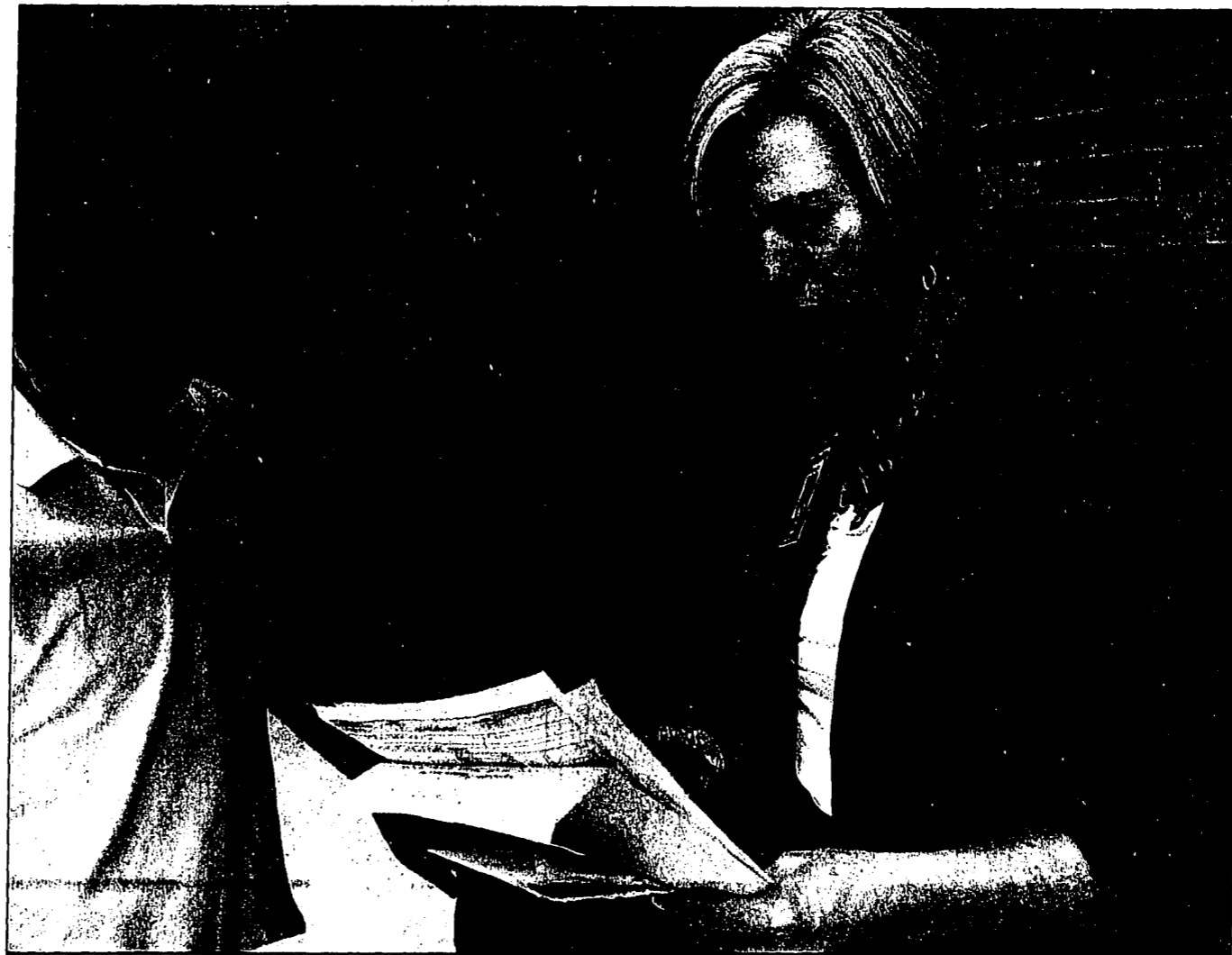
The group, called the New Student Ambassador Team, was created by the high school counselors and the Novi Interact Club to make all freshmen and transfer students feel more comfortable in their new surroundings.

Hudgens, who took several freshmen on tours of the school last week, said they had many of the same questions she did last year.

"It's difficult as a freshman," she said. "The teachers are very helpful but I think it's better coming from a student. Hopefully this gives them more confidence."

Counselor Amy Kilgore said she was shocked at the response she received from the upperclassmen at the school as 86 students applied to be ambassadors. About 60 students have gone through training and have been meeting with students during registration.

Every freshman at the high school will receive a handwritten letter from an ambassador, and the students will



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi High School Principal Carol Diglio goes over schedules and concerns with incoming freshmen Brian Stewart, left, and Ali Taha. The two freshmen will receive upperclassmen ambassadors to help them get acclimated to the school.

be available on the first few days of school to help them get acclimated.

The team consists of female

and male students from various racial and social groups, and allows the new students to be paired up with someone

like them.

"This has been the most inspirational and exciting thing that has happened for

me since I've been (at the high school)," Kilgore said.

Please see **TRANSITION, A5**

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Police command group agrees to concessions

City manager says he is hopeful more do the same

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Novi Mayor David Landry was effervescent in his praise of the city's police command group last Monday after the city council approved \$48,000 in wage/benefit concessions from the 12 union members.

The concessions will help the city with meeting the

\$1.1 million cost reduction target that is part of the 2010-11 budget, and also could encourage other groups in the city to do the same.

"This is almost culture-defining," Landry said. "This is leadership at its best because it's action."

The previous contract the command group had was approved before the economic struggles tightened its grip on

the city. The members were the only group in the city due a raise this year, but under the new contract will be giving it back.

They also were one of the few groups to not have an expired contract and be in negotiations.

"They understand the city is not in a position to be giving raises," Landry said.

Please see **CONCESSIONS, A2**



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CONCESSIONS
FROM PAGE A1

City Manager Clay Pearson said all the employee groups in the city were asked to consider voluntary concessions to avoid the possible elimination of jobs, and the command group is the first to formally do so.

The concessions include a wage reduction of 2.5 percent this year and those wages will remain the same for 2011 and 2012 with a 2.5 percent increase coming in 2013.

It also includes replacing their current Blue Cross Blue Shield plan with Community Blue and contributing 10 percent of the health care premium.

Mayor Pro tem Bob Gatt said the fact the 12 members, made up of lieutenants and sergeants, voluntarily made concessions speaks volumes.

"These are the men who make the decisions day in and day out and they should be commended for stepping up to the plate and recognizing an economic problem," he said.

Pearson said he hopeful more groups will come forward with concessions as well.

"I think everyone has taken a hard look at what the police command group did and realize that things aren't going to better any time soon," he said.

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So long, summer

Jason Shah, left, and Van Iszier, both age 7, wind down summer at Novi's Lakeshore Park beach with little thought to the dreaded back-to-school mantra.

JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIMITS
FROM PAGE A1

ing the speed limits will cause people to drive even faster, but Coburn noted that the changes in speed limits on 10 segments of road last year hasn't been an issue. The average change after the new speed limits were posted was plus-0.8 miles per hour.

"People tend to not understand that drivers, no matter what the speed is posted, are driving at a certain speed already based on their comfort level with the road," he

said. "Generally people don't hike their speed up when we repost."

The Novi City Council approved traffic control orders for seven segments of road last Monday and requested more information regarding five others.

The speed limit on 13 Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Haggerty Roads and on West Park Drive from 12 Mile to West Road is now 45 miles per hour. A 30 mph speed limit is now in place on Crescent Boulevard from Novi Road to Town Center Drive and on Town Center Drive from Crescent to 11 Mile Road

and from Grand River Avenue to 11 Mile Road.

Council member Andrew Mutch said he had qualms about two areas on Meadowbrook and Novi Roads that are close to schools as well as a segment on Novi Road that has pedestrian walkways close to the road.

The proposal to increase the speed on Novi Road from 13 Mile to 14 Mile to 45 mph and enforce a school speed zone of 30 mph. On Meadowbrook between 13 Mile and Meadowbrook Elementary the increase is from 25 mph to 35 mph with a 25 mph school speed zone.

"The concern I have is the elementary schools are used all hours of the day not just during school hours," he said, noting that raising the limit could pose a safety issue.

Rob Hayes, public services director and city engineer, said they are going to look at the pedestrian flow to the schools before, after and during the school day to see what type of traffic they are dealing with.

Recommendations following that research will be brought back to the council for approval.

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Charity organization is eager to help community
Plan is for group to be operational in 2011

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Michael Zerlich understands there is a sense of denial about people in need living in Novi.

The city is home to several successful businesses, million dollar homes and one of the best school districts in the state.

But Zerlich said all of that sometimes masks the problems people are having.

"In terms of what a poor person or a person in need looks like in Novi it's different," he said. "We do have economic issues in this city, and a lot of people don't know where to reach out.

Soon they will. A group of nine Novi churches are in the process of forming the city's first community-wide benevolence organization to help people through their struggles."

The churches have teamed up to become an affiliate of Love In the Name of Christ, a non-profit organization that helps people with basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation and more.

The organization has 130 affiliates nationwide with the closest one to Novi located in Livingston County.

Rev. June Smith, whose Novi United Methodist Church is one of the nine already on board, said she is "super excited" and expects the organization to grow once people start getting involved.

"When our church looks at what we can do as a small church, we are sometimes

CHURCHES INVOLVED

- First Baptist of Novi:** Pastor Gary Elfer, 45301 N. Eleven Mile Road, 248-349-3477
- The Relational Church:** Pastor Michael Zerlich, 24139 Brentwood Court, 248-767-8626
- Church of the Holy Cross:** Rev. Ann Webber, 46200 W. Ten Mile Road, 248-349-1175
- Grace Immanuel Bible Church:** Pastor Charles Sexton, 21900 Meadowbrook Road, 248-344-4465
- Novi United Methodist Church:** Rev. June Smith, 41671 Ten Mile Road, 248-349-2652
- Meadowbrook Congregational Church:** Rev. Art Ritter, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, 248-348-7757
- Faith Community Presbyterian Church:** Rev. Richard Henderson, 44400 West Ten Mile Road, 248-349-2345
- Detroit Japanese Christian Fellowship:** Rev. Kanji Fuki, 45301 Eleven Mile Road, 248-756-3336
- Crosspointe Meadows Church:** Pastor Danny Langley, 29000 Meadowbrook Road, 248-669-9400

overwhelmed," she said. "We do what we can, but to know we will be working side-by-side with other churches or other community organizations to augment what we can do, we are thrilled."

Zerlich, who is the pastor of the Relational Church, is serving as the acting director while the organization gets off the ground. He said they are already helping two or three families and "we haven't even opened our doors."

The first order of business for the organization is appointing a board of directors. There will be a presentation for people interested in joining the board or helping the organization on Oct. 8-9. The Oct. 8 meeting is from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. to get more information, and the Oct. 9 meeting is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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for those looking to get into a leadership role. Both meetings are at Faith Community Presbyterian Church.

"This is a grand opportunity for people to bring their talents together collectively," he said.

The goal is to be operational in 2011, helping all Novi residents regardless of if they go to church or not. One of the main areas Smith wants to focus on is educational support to help people get back to school and back to work.

"There is a spirit in this town of people wanting to take care of each other and this is an extension of that spirit," she said. For more information about Love INC, visit www.loveinc.org or call one of the nine member churches.



Thanks for the Memories

Act fast to enjoy Thanks for the Memories: A USO Tribute Show presented by the Novi Civic Theatre. The annual senior production is always a sell out and there are a limited number of tickets still available for both the luncheon and matinee performances. Luncheon performances will be noon Thursday, Sept. 9 and 16 and Friday, Sept. 10 and 17. Matinee performances will be noon and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12 and 19. The show is inspired by the incredible USO performances of the '40s and '50s. Sing along to familiar songs such as 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,' 'I'll Be Seeing You' and 'Sentimental Journey,' and of course, Bob Hope will be making an appearance. Tickets can be purchased online at cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Parks box office (located in the Novi Civic Center). Group rates available; purchase 15 tickets and get one free for the same performance. All performances will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, between Taft and Novi roads. For more information about the Senior Variety Series, please contact the Novi Civic Theatre at (248) 735-5615.

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Let's hear it!

The Novi High School varsity sideline cheer crew during the school's Aug. 27 home game.



New kids in town

Karen Kotcher escorts two foreign exchange students around Novi High on Aug. 30 as pupils registered for classes. Kotcher is the host for student Bjorn Haug, center of Norway. Student Peter Zinck-Munksgaard, of Denmark, will also be attending the school.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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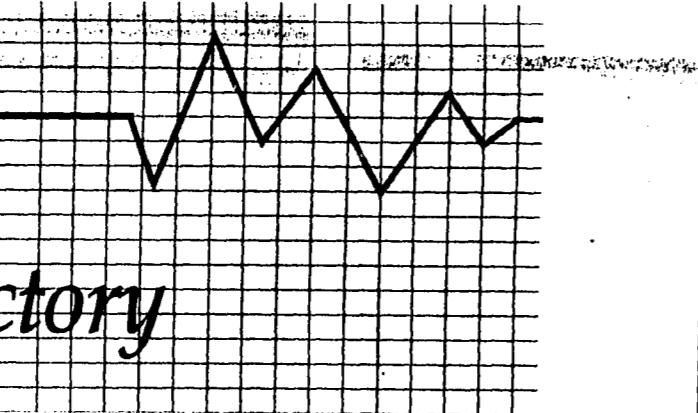


High-steppin'

The Catholic Central marching band performs at halftime.

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EDUCATION

Thursday, September 2, 2010 hometownlife.com

Making a difference
Local girls form project to benefit autistic kids

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Every day at school Morgan Krupic, Lauren Zwarych and Maddie Kohne interact with autistic students. But until this summer, the three 12-year-olds from Novi, Northville and South Lyon, respectively, did not know how serious of disorder it is.

The three know now and are doing their part to not only raise money, but also awareness for the fastest growing developmental disability that is affecting 1-in-110 children.

"Our hope is they will share what they're doing with other kids," said Janice Krupic, president and CEO of Paragon Leadership International. "Kids learn from other kids and are motivated by them."

The girls are part of TeamKAL, a community initiative developed by Paragon to encourage kids to get involved in community projects.

They spent their summer choosing a cause to support, settling on the Autism Alliance of Michigan, and have developed a logo, a line of apparel to sell to raise money and created a presentation to entice others to get on board.

"It's fun working together with friends and knowing you are doing something good for others," said Kohne.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Friends Lauryn Zwarych, Morgan Krupic and Maddie Kohne, all 12, organized The Helping Hands team this summer to raise funds for the Autism Alliance of Michigan by selling shirts and other items.

FUND-RAISING ITEMS

T-Shirts - \$12
Drawing bags - \$10
Sweatpants - \$22
Sweatshirts - \$30

To place an order or make a donation, contact Traci Grant at tgrant@gmail.com.

The name of their team is The Helping Hands and it's depicted in their logo with hands for the eyes and the mouth. They also used a font that was kid-like as a way to show they wanted to help kids who have autism. The logo is on T-shirts,

drawstring bags, sweatpants and sweatshirts. They started by selling their products to family and friends, and today will be selling them in the Town Center of the DTE cafeteria.

Last month, the girls gave a presentation to DTE Energy CFO and co-founder of the Autism Alliance of Michigan Dave Meador as well as 10 other DTE leaders.

Susan Lerch, president and CEO of AA of MI, said she is amazed by the girls' drive and their ability to take on a leadership role

and be successful. Lerch also invited them to sell their apparel at the Autism Speaks Walk in October at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

"I am so impressed when kids want to make a difference for other kids," she said.

Zwarych said she felt the impact of their work firsthand this summer when she was up north camping with her family and met a woman whose grandson was autistic.

"It feels good to be helping other kids," she said.

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Catholic girls school update

St. Catherine of Siena Academy Foundation has completed its \$33.4 million bond financing for the purpose of constructing a new all girls' Catholic High School facility in Wixom.

St. Catherine of Siena Academy will be constructed on a thirty-three-acre parcel of land located on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Napier Road by Ledcor Corporation, an leading international project development and construction company founded in 1947.

The 137,100 square foot state of the art facility will be capable of accommodating up to 700 students. The academy will include classrooms, science labs, computer labs, gymnasium with second story running track, sports fields and 400-seat chapel at the center of the building.

Construction will begin immediately. St. Catherine's first freshman class will start on Sept. 1 at the Academy's current location on 28700 Beck Road, Wixom. The Academy will move to its final location on 28200 Napier Road, Wixom in the fall of 2011.

TRANSITION

FROM PAGE A1

High school Principal Carol Diglio called the program "critical" because the school lost its seminar program as it makes the switch to a six-period schedule this year. She also wants to bring eighth-graders to the high school in the fall to shadow a student and get a feel for the school.

"The more we can work on the culture of the school and break down barriers the better we will be," she said.

Kilgore said she feels the team is already having a positive impact and is going to make the high school an even more welcoming place than it already is.

"It's always been a great place to go, but now it will be an easier transition," she said.

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VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE
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Schoolcraft College

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

PAMELA E. AHONEN Age 56, passed away, August 27th, 2010. She was born on July 29, 1954, in Detroit, daughter of Stanley and Blanche Peters. Pam was a loving and devoted mother. She enjoyed taking long walks and being outdoors. She loved animals, but most importantly, she loved being with her family. She is survived by: her beloved children, Nicole (Brian) Madden, Joseph Ahonen, her mother Blanche Peters and her brothers, Timothy (Liane) Peters and Stephen Peters. She will also be survived by her granddaughter, expected in December. She was preceded in death by her father Stanley and her former husband Thomas. A Liturgy of the Word funeral service will be held on Tuesday, September 7th at 11:00 AM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St. Online Guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com

BEVERLY ANN ANGELOSANTE Age 77, Aug. 23, 2010. Funeral, Aug. 27, 9:30 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 1105 5th St., Traverse City, MI 49684. Online condolences: www.obituariesonline.com

JACK B. ANGLIN II Age 63, August 26, 2010. Long time companion of Maria and her family: Jennifer (Ron), Jocelyn, Makyla & Diane (Leon). Former husband of Doreen Anglin. Dear father of Kimmy (Brian) Lockwood, Tami Anglin & Jackie (Shawn) Bakewell. Son of Betty and the late Jack Anglin. Loving grandfather of Jack, Jenna, Ally, Alyssa, Ronnie, Ben & Brody "Moses". Brother of Mary Kay Wagner and the late Doug Anglin. Jack was an avid classic car enthusiast and loved the outdoors. Funeral service was Monday August 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland, MI. Memorial donations may be made to Penick Center for Blind Children or International Fellowship of Christians & Jews. Online condolences: www.obituariesonline.com

RICHARD PAUL DORRANCE Age 58, of Gaylord, MI (formerly of Highland, MI) passed away Sunday, August 15, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Julie; two young sons, Patrick and Daniel; his daughters, Shari (Scott) Roselle of Milford and Tonia (Eric) Haines of Redford; parents, Dick and Virginia Dorrance & sister, Patti (Steven) Emma. Rick leaves behind his grandchildren: Ashley, Nathan, Mikey & Cayla Roselle and Aryn Haines. Many family and friends. Funeral services were held on August 19, 2010 at Nelson Funeral Home in Gaylord, MI.

JOSEPH A. BASS Age 51, August 25, 2010. Memorial service will be held on Sunday, September 19th, 2010 at 11:00am at Ridgewood Community Church in the Wikom Community Center. Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon.

CHARLES E. CLARK August 24, 2010. Beloved husband of Donna. Stepfather of Barb Covell and Donald Covell. Brother of Robert, Margaret, Larry, and Gary. Online condolences: www.obituariesonline.com

BETTY MAY DAVIS Passed away peacefully at her home on Aug 22, 2010. She was born Betty Durocher on Feb 22, 1930. She lived in the South Lyon area in the 1960s and worked at Jimmy's restaurant and Andy's Steakhouse. She is survived by all her children including local residents Charles Bennett, George Bennett, Steven Davis and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If you remember our mother we would be very grateful to hear your memories of her. E-mail: steven2003@charterm.net and you can visit her guest-book at: www.borakennings.com or mail 63 Emerald Cir, Whitmore Lk, MI 48189

JOSEPH A. KOVATCH Age 69, passed away, August 26th, 2010. He was born on March 27th, 1941, in Detroit, son of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Kovatch. In June of 1967, Joseph was married in marriage to his beloved wife Mary. He worked at the Ford-Rouge steel plant for 38 years prior to his retirement. Joe enjoyed fishing and was an avid hunter. He is survived by his beloved wife Mary, his children, Joe (Sharon), Jeff (Kathie), Vicki (Philip) Stanny, Sherry (Rich) Franz, his adoring grandchildren, Keytina, Shannon, John, Joey, Max, Ashley, Andrew, Alex and Cooper. He is also survived by his sisters, Joanne Richardson and Diana Mahoney. Visitation was held on Sunday, August 22nd at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A Liturgy of the Word funeral service will be held on Monday, August 30th. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Online Guestbook at: www.phillipsfuneral.com

OBITUARY POLICY e-mail your obit to: HTWobits@hometownlife.com Or fax to: 313-496-4968 - Att: HTWOBITS For more information on our services, please call: Char Wilson 588-976-7000 or Lisa Kater 588-976-7000. The first seven "lines" of an obituary are published at no cost. Additional lines will be charged at \$3 per line. You may place a photo of your loved one for an additional cost of \$25. Some obituaries may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.). Deadlines: Tuesday at 10 am for Thursdays. Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.



Sun, Water and Seeds 4-H students gathered at the MSU Tollgate Farm last Saturday to sell some of the produce they've grown over the summer. (From left) Jonathan George, 13, Claire Benschbach, 13, Sydney Clark, 13, Samantha Bates, 13, Lindsay Clark, 17, and Allison Leaning, 17.

Youth get chance to grow 4-H club gives kids valuable business experience

People searching for fresh produce grown locally have made farm stands a hot commodity. And for a group of students involved in the 4-H Youth Gardens and Farm Stands Project, it has turned into an educational experience as well. The Sun, Water and Seeds 4-H Club at MSU Tollgate Farm has been growing and selling its produce every other Saturday since June, and the students involved have a new perspective on what it takes to eat healthy and run a successful business. "It's a great experience because they learn about the produce they normally only see in the store and get an understanding of where it comes from," said Mary Hutka, volunteer coordinator. "And from an adult perspective, they learn business skills... and those translate to any occupation."

John T. Rogers Age 73, August 26, 2010. Funeral was August 31 at Our Lady of Victory, Northville. Memorials: Dept., P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48309. Online condolences: www.obituariesonline.com

CELIA ANNE WILLIAMS MEE BLOOM Aged 75, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died August 16, 2010. Celia was born in Northville Michigan in 1934; graduated from Eastern Michigan University and received a bachelor of arts, major in English and literature and later a special education teaching certificate. Celia was married to Robert G. Williams. Celia worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections as a basic education teacher until her retirement in 2002. Celia was survived by children Robert (Sharon) G. Williams Jr. of Westland, MI; Eve (Barb) Williams of Pittsford, MI; Kristin Williams of Fenton, MI; and John Williams of Ann Arbor; sister Martha (Dick) Lyon; grand children Jesse (Crystal) Williams, Avery, Giovanni and Avery Williams. A memorial service will be held at 11:00am, September 4 at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor; luncheon to follow. Donations in Celia's name may be made to the Alpha-1 Foundation.

Walled Lake resident Lindsay Clark, 17, a member of the Sun, Water and Seeds 4-H program at MSU Tollgate Farm, displays some of the radishes they've grown and are selling at their farm stand on the property. "I just like being outdoors and seeing the plants grow," she said. The farm also features a hoop house, which is an unheated, sustainable greenhouse that will allow the club to continue growing through the winter months. Mary Hutka said even though many students are consumed by various other activities and many would rather sit inside and play video games or work on the computer, the appeal of the farm stand is that it is "different."

COUNTER TOPS TENT SALE Wed. Sept. 1st - Sat. Sept. 11th FREE In-Home Estimates! Over 40 In Stock Colors Starting At... \$24.95 Sq. Ft. Installed Min. 30 Sq. Ft. CERAMIC TILE SALES INC. MARBLE & GRANITE SHOP 23455 TELEGRAPH ROAD SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033 248-356-6430

NOVI IN THE SERVICE

Daniel G. Williams Army Pvt. Daniel G. Williams has graduated from the Basic Field Artillery Cannon Crewmember Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. The course is designed to train servicemembers to maintain, prepare and load ammunition for firing, operate and perform operator maintenance on prime movers, self-propelled howitzers, and ammunition vehicles; store, maintain, and distribute ammunition to using units as a member of battery or battalion ammunition sections; perform crew maintenance and participate in organizational maintenance of weapons and related equipment; and establish and maintain radio and wire communications. Williams is the son of Melendia M. Grant and stepson of Ebenezer Tackie-Newton of Novi. The private is a 2008 graduate of Novi High School.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Varley & DePirro Denis and Ro Varley of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Varley, of Novi, to Christopher DePirro, of Grand Blanc, son of Phillip and Karen DePirro of Saucier, Miss. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Western Michigan University and works for Livonia Public Schools. The groom-elect is a graduate of Michigan State University and works for Logisticals. The couple are planning an Oct. 8 wedding at St. James Catholic Church.



Zoe Jacklyn Mason Erik and Krista Mason of Novi announce the birth of their daughter Zoe Jacklyn Mason. Zoe was born July 4, 2010. She weighed 6 pounds and measured 19 inches at birth. Zoe is the granddaughter of John and Nancy Dolan of Milford and Terry Masseran of Newport and Thomas Kallao of New York. She is the great-granddaughter of Don and Kathleen Rossman of Brighton.

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church listings for Brighton, Milford, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, White Lake, Plymouth, and South Lyon. Each listing includes church name, address, and service times.

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.

NOVI NEWS
 Cal Stone,
 Community Editor
 Susan Rosiek,
 Executive Editor
 Grace Perry,
 Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

So long, summer

Get ready for school and enjoy this weekend

Summer, where have you gone? While it's hard to believe, the football teams at Novi and Northville high schools took to the field for the first time last week to kick off the 2010 season. Activity has picked up at all the schools during the last week or so, as teachers and administrators began getting ready for a new school year, which starts on Tuesday. While many parents are probably celebrating the milestone, and the fact that the kids will be out of their hair, it still seems like yesterday when the kids got out of school in June.

More than New Year's Eve, the back-to-school season is when many families resolve to make changes for the better. And why not? The start of school is the best time to establish good habits that will help kids succeed in class. After a summer of staying up late, spending too much time in front of the TV and computer, and eating too much junk food, children are ready for a little more structure in their lives.

Here are several common-sense tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics and other child-advocacy organizations to help your child get off to a good start.

- Start the day off right by getting your children up in enough time to get ready without rushing and to eat a healthy breakfast.
- Develop a homework routine.
- Communicate with your child about his day.

- Ask specific questions.
- Check younger students' backpacks for notes, missed assignments, book orders, etc.
 - Limit the time your child spends in front of the TV and computer.
 - Communicate with your child's teacher.
 - Spend time at your child's school.
 - Set a bedtime and stick to it.
 - Read with and to your child; get your child a library card.
 - Be supportive of your child's teachers and the school system.
 - Be a positive role model for your children.

Let's face it, the beginning of the school year is kind of like the unofficial end of summer. All we have left, then, is this weekend — a three-day holiday weekend in which we celebrate Labor Day.

While Labor Day has come to signify summer barbecues and family vacations for most people, its origins date back to the late 1800s and the beginnings of the trade union movement. While it is still a big deal for most union members, many people don't really appreciate the meaning of this annual holiday. Of course, with so many people unemployed these days, the appreciation level has probably gained some momentum.

Let's all have a fun (and safe) holiday weekend, but also take a moment and reflect on the meaning of Labor Day and the importance of having a job, and how many people right now are without one. Keep them in your thoughts. If you are fortunate enough to be employed in this job market, you should give thanks. There are far too many who would be happy to change places with you.

And as you are cooking that burger or hot dog, sipping a cold drink and spending time with family, remember how nice Michigan summers are. Autumn is right around the corner, and we all know what comes after that.

CLARIFICATION

Last week's editorial, "Consolidation: Is now the time to combine Novi, Northville school districts?" included this statement: "According to Watkins, a study was done in the mid-1990s that demonstrated an annual countywide savings of up to \$10 million — but it was never implemented."

To clarify, Watkins indicated that "the \$10 million saving was for special education transportation in Wayne County, not just Northville/Novi... Imagine if reforms were initiated years ago?"

COMMUNITY VOICE

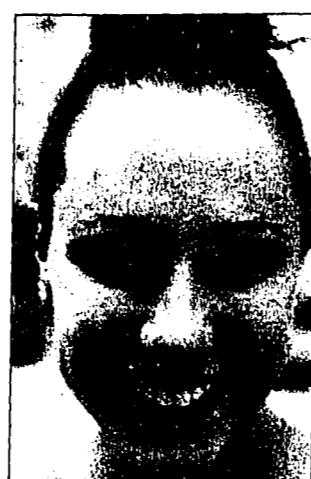
Why do you swim competitively?
 (Asked of Novi High School swim team members.)



"Because I love the sport and I'm good at it. It's relaxing, and I'm calm when I swim."
 Becca Berman
 Senior



"I swim because swimming has been my life for the last nine years. It's what I know and love."
 Jacque Carless
 Senior



"Because I like it and people say if I don't swim that I'm wasting a talent."
 Maranda Buha
 Sophomore



"I swim because my parents got me into it when I was young, and it's a sport that you can do your whole life."
 Andrea VanderMey
 Sophomore

LETTERS

Better off with Republican leadership

Letter writer Irene Piccone, in her Aug. 19 letter, is concerned that Democrats may skip the Nov. 2 elections, sweeping Republicans to power in Congress. Since we've had recent history of Republicans leading Congress (1995 to 2006) and Democrats in control (2007 to present), it is easy to compare results of the two parties, as follows:

- The average unemployment rate during Republican control was under 5.0 percent, and was about 4.6 percent when they ceded control to the Democrats. Under Democrat control, it has now more than doubled.
- The federal deficit averaged \$200 billion per year under the Republicans. It is now averaging \$1.2 trillion per year under the Democrats.
- Housing values increased about 3 percent per year under the Republicans, and decreased about 9 percent per year under Democrat control.
- The stock market increased by an average of 16 percent per year during the Republican years; it decreased about 5 percent per year under the Democrats.

Maybe some of the Democrats she's concerned about are worried about their jobs, homes and 401(k)s and are waking up to this realization: A Republican-led Congress is a

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats:
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 Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com
 Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.
 Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com

much better steward of the U.S. economy than a Democrat-led Congress.

Rick Engelland
 Northville

Cancer walk kudos

I would like to thank Pam Fleming and the Novi Nurses for allowing me to share my story and help raise awareness for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure. The heat and humidity Aug. 13-14 challenged the walkers,

Rob Mutch
 Novi

GUEST COLUMN

Welcome back to school: Public education remains vital in the U.S.

Welcome back to school — words that might be dreaded by some students, but celebrated by many students, parents and teachers. A quality education in America today cannot be considered a luxury, it is a necessity. In today's fast-paced, unpredictable, disruptive, technologically driven, globally knowledge economy, a child without a decent education may become the adult without much of a future tomorrow.

When we think about our children and students, we need to create every opportunity and condition for them to be successful learners. Preparation begins with the parents, so here's a message to Mom or Dad or the caretakers of kids: YOU are your children's first and most important and lifelong teacher. Please hug, love and read to them — even before they pop into this world.

Don't stop being engaged as they leave elementary school to enter those challenging teen years — stay involved! Child development brain researchers and Nobel Prize-winning economists have determined that up to 85 percent

of the human brain is developed in the first five years of life (See National Scientific Council on the Developing Child @ http://www.nscd.org/fsc/documents/CradleofProsperity.pdf).

Investing in these early years has the best economic impact for the child, community, state and nation. Send your child to school ready to learn, whether it's to kindergarten or senior high school.

In today's economic and political rancor, teachers may find it hard to recall why they devote their lives to this vital profession. But teachers DO make a difference and will be re-energized when they see students seated in a classroom ready and eager to learn. Teachers truly touch our collective futures with every lesson taught.

When we stop and think for a moment, public schools — whether traditional or charter — are the true Statues of Liberty in our great country. Can you name another American institution that takes the tired, hungry, poor children, kids with disabilities to give them the opportunity to learn? That is truly what our schools are all about.

If you believe as I do, that our schools are symbolic Statues of Liberty, then teachers are indeed the torch bearers, lighting the way for us all.

THE BEST YEAR EVER!

So as the new school year begins, let's remember these three basic ideals:

- In spite of the current economic challenges, great things are happening in our schools every day thanks to dedicated educators.
- The world is changing in dramatic ways as educators struggle to embrace and lead these changes.
- Our future is sitting in our classrooms today. The vitality of our state, the strength of our economy, the quality of our lives, the vibrancy of our democracy, and our place in the world depends on the quality of our schools.

All of us might reflect on the value of a quality education, re-dedicating ourselves to do our part in assuring our children, ALL of our children, get the education they need and deserve.

Let the school year begin. My hope is that this might be the year, as Bill Cecil, Michigan's 2003-04 Teacher of the Year (http://www.bestyeteacher.net/) calls it in his book, "The Best Year Ever!"

Tom Watkins is an education and business consultant in the U.S. and China. He was Michigan's state superintendent of schools 2001-05. He can be reached at: tdwatkins@aol.com.



Tom Watkins

A reason to smile: Novi periodontist gives free dental care to Southfield man

BY NATHAN MUELLER
 STAFF WRITER

Dale Roberts could not fight back his smile as he sat in the waiting room at Legacy Periodontics and Implants in Novi on Aug. 26.

And this was before he underwent extensive periodontal work and tooth replacement to fix problems caused by a lack of dental care for several years.

"I just love to smile," the 50-year-old Southfield man said. "Thanks to the help of Novi periodontist Steve Wolf, Roberts will be able to do that again, and do so without pain."

Wolf is the co-founder and spokesperson for the Adopt a Smile Dental Program of the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, and he and other dental professionals have been providing free dental care to people with disabilities and dental needs since 2003.

The MORC is a non-profit agency that serves 5,500 people with disabilities, and since the Medicaid budget was cut in July 2009, many people with disabilities have been unable to afford the dental care they need.

Wolf said he is hopeful the money will be restored to the Medicaid dental budget, but also is calling on his fellow dental professionals for help.

"We are struggling as a state with our resources, but that doesn't mean as a community we don't have the resources," he said.

In Roberts' case, the den-



Dr. Steve Wolf starts work on Dale Roberts, 50, last Thursday at his Novi-based practice. Wolf is the co-founder of the Adopt a Smile Dental Program of the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center and provided free dental care to Roberts, who also is disabled.



Novi periodontist Dr. Steve Wolf prepares to work on the teeth of Dale Roberts, right, on Thursday at Legacy Periodontics and Implants.



Dr. Steve Wolf, left, talks with Joe Dzenowagis, of the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, about getting dental work completed on patient Dale Roberts, a 50-year-old disabled man. Wolf has a dental practice in Novi and was donating his time and supplies to help fix serious dental and infection issues in Roberts' mouth.

tal care he is receiving from Wolf and Southfield dentist Kelly Giera will save his face, said MORC advocate Joe Dzenowagis.

"It's kind of like rescuing someone," he said.

Thousands of others face a similar fate if they don't get proper care as untreated

dental disease can lead to diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Many of the patients cannot even comment on their discomfort which makes diagnosis even more difficult.

Wolf said he was inspired by his grandmother to help others, and knows he has a gift

that can make people happy. And the smile on Roberts' face said it all.

"This is why we do what we do," Wolf said. "There is nothing better than helping people keep their smiles."

Dental professionals who want to volunteer to provide dental care for a person

with disabilities can contact Mary Jo Hollebrands, MORC nursing supervisor, at (586) 263-8769. nmueller@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

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More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

LOCAL EVENTS

Northville-Novu Newcomers Membership Tea and Kickoff

Location: Northville Hills Golf Club, Main Banquet Room

Details: Find out about the many activities the club offers. Tee and sandwiches served.

Contact: Claudia Snyder khunclaudia@hotmail.com/248-374-4093

Teacher Appreciation Day

Location: Just Baked, Twelve Oaks Mall (second level near Nordstrom)

Details: All day, teachers can receive a free Just Baked cupcake of their choice.

Contact: www.justbakedshop.com or call (248) 255-1441.

Jordan Rubin visit

Location: Better Health Store, 42875 Grand River

Details: It's not too late to change your life and experience extraordinary health.

Contact: Phone (248) 735-8100, then hit option #2 to RSVP

Free Varicose Vein Screening at Providence Park Hospital in Novi

Location: Providence Park Hospital, 47601 Grand River Avenue

Details: Do you or your family suffer with varicose veins and the discomfort they cause?

Contact: (248) 424-5748 to schedule. The free screening will be conducted by Comprehensive Vascular Care, P.C.

Rock Financial Showplace

Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Details: Adults \$6; members and children under 12 free.

Contact: (517) 676-4160 or www.michiganantiquearms.com

Michigan Gun & Knife Show

Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Details: Admission \$9. This popular bridal event has fast become a bride's first choice for finding everything she needs to plan her special day.

Contact: (517) 676-4160 or www.migunshows.com

MSU Extension
Location: MSU Extension Tollgate Education Center, 2815 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi

Business
American Business Women's Association - ABWA
Novi Oaks Charter Chapter Sept.

Good deed
When Northville resident Tom Murphy learned that one of his wheelchair meals on wheels clients, a stroke victim on his Novi route, needed a ramp to get out of her dwelling...

Fall Camper and RV Show
Time/Date: 2-9 p.m. weekdays; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday; Oct. 6-10

Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo
Date: Oct. 16-17

American Legion Post 19 Monthly Meeting
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesdays

Novi Chamber of Commerce
Location: 41875 11 Mile Road, #201, Novi

Novi Rotary Club
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday

Moargo
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi

Bar Louie
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi

The Grapevine of Novi
Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi

The Post Bar
Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Mixx Lounge
Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi



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Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi

The Post Bar
Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Mixx Lounge
Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi

tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, rhubarb, spinach, broccoli, radishes, turnips, mushrooms, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, blueberries, plums, peaches, cheese, fresh eggs, bedding plants, statice, flower baskets, herbs, baked goods, coffee, jams, sandwiches, and other concessions

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Bar Louie
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi

The Grapevine of Novi
Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi

The Post Bar
Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Mixx Lounge
Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi

Legislation needed to address MEGA audit findings

The confidence of taxpayers is a cornerstone of good government. That's why the Senate Finance Committee last week continued its important hearings on the state auditor general's review of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) and Michigan Strategic Fund.

rather than actual data." This was the most alarming finding in the report. We cannot lose sight of what is at stake. Michigan is on track to lose a million jobs this decade.

Information given to legislators and the public must be substantiated and accurate in order to measure the effectiveness of any economic development program.

her proposal is filling our current General Fund hole by shifting \$208 million in surplus School Aid Fund program.

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

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Contact: (248) 465-9600

Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 347-6499

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Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi
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Location: 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 465-9600

Location: 43155 Main Street, Novi
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Puppet show
Eugene Clark entertained a gathering at Novi's Fuester Park on Aug. 24 with his puppets and the tale of the Three Little Pigs.

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Drunk driver caught for second time

1 Novi police arrested a woman at 4:33 a.m. on Aug. 28 for her second drunk driving offense after an officer observed her vehicle crossing over the center lane line several times while traveling westbound on Pontiac Trail near Beck Road.

According to the report, when the officer approached the car it smelled strongly of intoxicants. The woman said she was going home after dropping a friend off in South Lyon, but when told she was coming from the wrong direction she said it was a friend's house in Wixom.

The woman failed field sobriety tests and refused to take a preliminary breath test at the scene. When the officer attempted to put her in handcuffs, the woman tried to pull away from the officer several times before eventually being cuffed.

The officer also found an open bottle of alcohol on the front passenger seat. At the Novi Police Department the woman agreed to take a breath test and registered a blood alcohol content of .22 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent. The woman was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated second offense, open intoxicant and resisting arrest. She was released pending issuance of a warrant.

Car keyed at Novi home

2 A Novi man had his Lincoln LS keyed overnight on Aug. 23 while it was parked in the driveway of a home on Chase Drive.

The owner discovered multiple scratches on all four doors of the vehicle as well as on the hood, trunk and roof.

He did not know who would have vandalized his car and will be contacting his insurance company to have the car repainted.

Car broken into at Novi High School

3 A woman had her Ford Explorer broken into between 10:40 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 24 while it was parked in the staff lot at Novi High School.

The woman said she left her purse in the passenger seat or on the floor when she went inside the school then the library. When she returned, the passenger side window was broken and her purse was gone. Her cell phone was found on the ground.

The purse contained her identification, gift cards and a small amount of cash.

Police are reviewing security cameras in the area to determine if any suspects or suspect vehicles could be seen.

Truck windshield shattered

4 A Novi man had the windshield of his Ford Ranger broken overnight on Aug. 27 while it was parked on the street on the corner of Broadmoor Park Lane and Northumberland Street.

According to the report, it appeared the suspect climbed on the hood and kicked the windshield with their foot.

The victim said he had no idea who committed the act and had no reason to believe he was specifically targeted.

Driver nabbed speeding

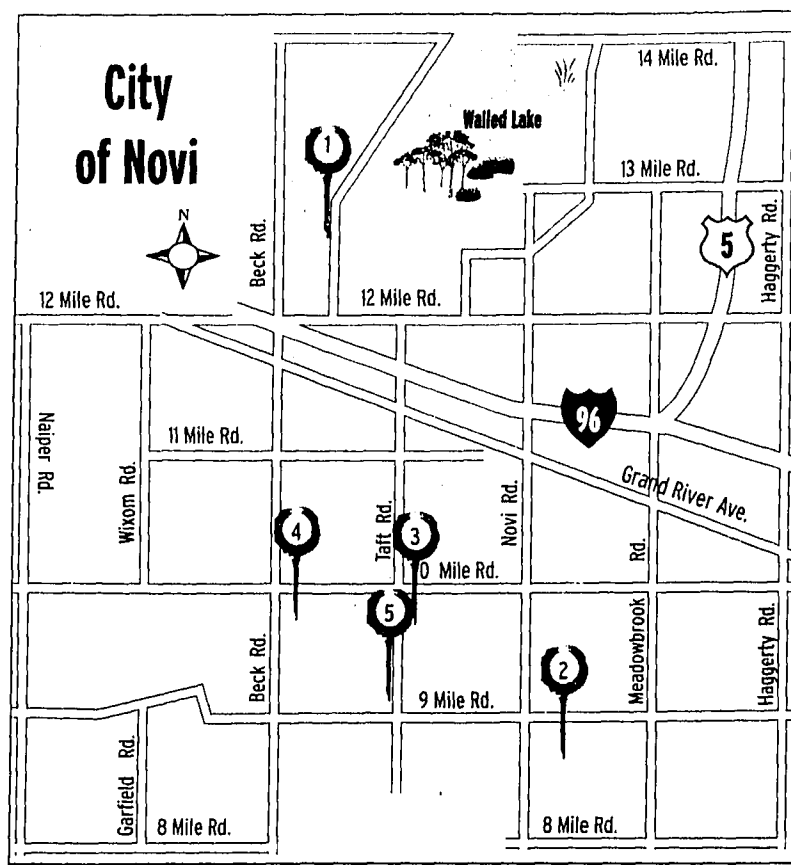
5 A 38-year-old woman was arrested at 1:32 p.m. on Aug. 28 for drunk driving after she was caught speeding on Taft Road near Nine Mile Road.

According to the report, the officer tracked the vehicle traveling 57 miles per hour in 35 mph zone and it crossed over the center line once.

The woman failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .197 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

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

- Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller



VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE
hometownlife.com

NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth Toastmasters Club

A new Toastmasters club will meet for eight one-hour sessions within the next few months.

Toastmaster members basically present short speeches to be peer critiqued during the meetings. Organizers are looking for enthusiasm and a positive hardworking attitude from dedicated young adults ages 11-18. The first meeting will be an information session.

Call or e-mail Pooja Singhi for more information: (248)-996-5253 or asinghi@yahoo.com.

Wanted: Vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Novi News along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here. **Be sure to include the newspaper in your photo.**

Send your photo in a jpg format to estone@gannett.com.

Identify everyone in the photo (first and last names) and tell us where they live. Tell us when the photo was taken and where. Tell us what was special about your trip, if you wish. Include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if necessary.

Then look for your photo in the newspaper and on our Facebook site under WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Under way: Novi Road link construction project

The long-anticipated Novi Road "link" construction project is underway. The project includes the widening of Novi Road to five lanes from approximately Main Street to south of the U.S. Post Office, connecting to the completed widening at the Ten Mile and Novi roads intersection. To enhance Novi Road to the five lane profile, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will construct a bridge over the CSX railroad tracks.

The City of Novi and the RCOC invite all community and business members to a an information meeting from 8-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15 at Gus O'Connor's, 42875 Grand River Avenue (at Main Street) in Novi to hear first-hand:

- Project timeline
- Roadway closure/detour information
- Marketing/PR tips, Don Tanner/Tanner Friedman
- Communication venues

If you cannot attend but would like to receive electronic project updates, visit cityofnovi.org and click on the Novi Road "Link" project icon to receive e-construction news.

For more information, contact the City of Novi Community Relations Office at (248) 735-5628.



JOHN HEDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scooterin' around

Carter Reece, 5, scoots around the basketball court of Novi's ITC Park on Friday, Aug. 27. Reece was at the park with his brothers Andrew and Garrett as they awaited a picnic party later that afternoon.

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For more information, visit stmarymercy.org and click on Community Open House, or call 734-655-1590.

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For more information or to register visit stmarymercy.org.

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SECTION B (NN)

SPORTS

THURSDAY, September 2, 2010 hometownlife.com

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BUSINESSES TO WORK FOR, B5

Lady golfers off to strong start

New team record, individual career lows set

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

The first week of Novi's girls golf season was filled with record-setting performances. The Wildcats' first trip was to the Fred Appleyard Invitational at West Shore Country Club in Grosse Ile, where the team finished eighth of 22 squads behind a 363-stroke performance. Senior Megan Henry led the way with a score of 83, followed by seniors Kathleen Koomen (91), Alyssa Miller (91) and Victoria Tomkinson (98).

"Very pleased with their performance," Novi coach Debra Harris said. "Megan tied her low score from last year and the rest set their new career lows."

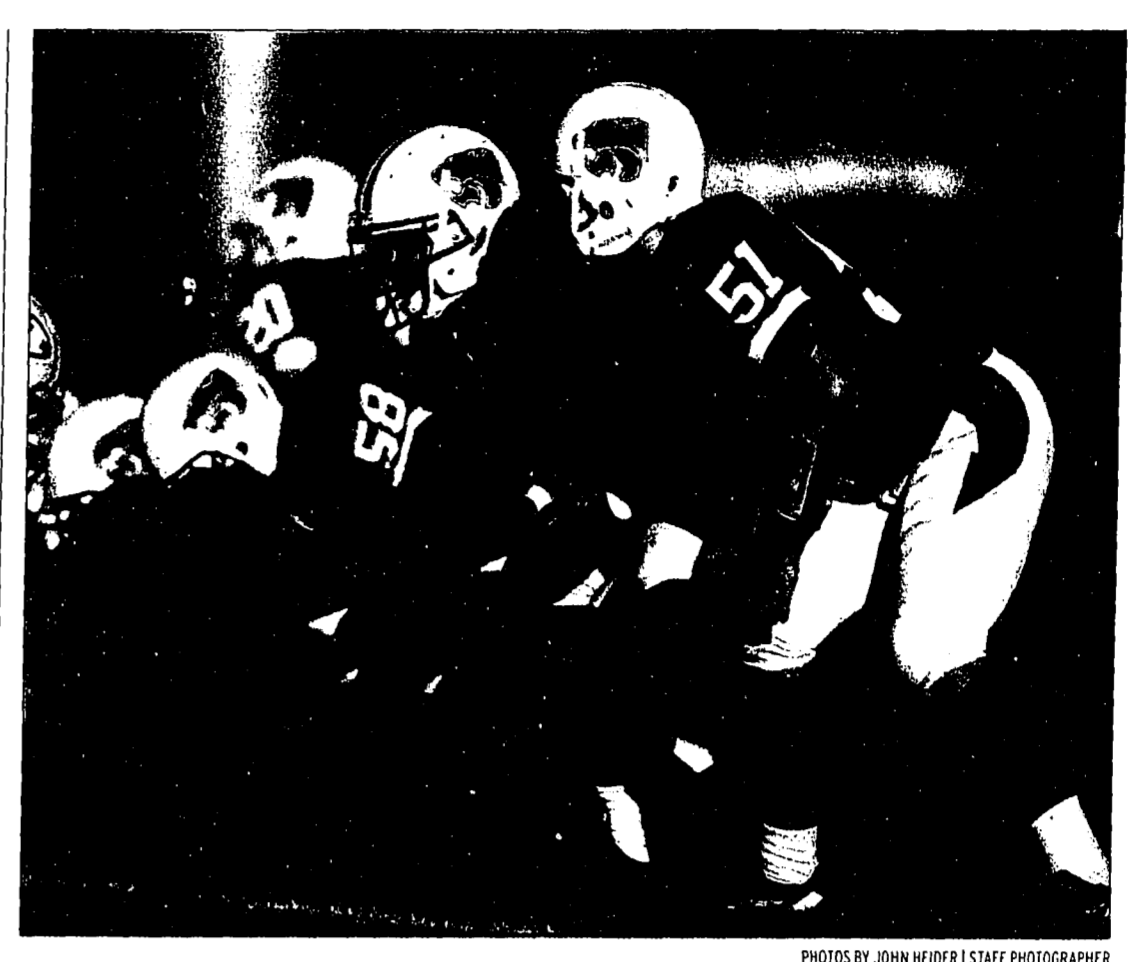
The same morning, the junior varsity squad had a strong 402-stroke performance at Hartland Glen during the Hartland JV Invitational. Freshman Lauren Cojei led the group with a 92, followed by freshman Hannah Wagenberg's 99 and sophomores Anna Gruelich (105) and Allie Krick (106).

The Wildcats followed up a successful start to their weekend with a runner-up performance of 15 squads at last Monday's Lady Maverick Invitational, which took place at Prestwick Village in Highland.

Koomen led all Novi scorers with a career low 84, followed by Henry (87), Miller (92) and Cojei (94).

The team's 367-stroke finish set a new school record, beating out the previous record of 362. "The girls are working hard and have great goals for themselves and the team. I am very proud of them," Harris said.

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



The Novi D-line prepares for another rush.

Rush-heavy Wildcats run into wall

Hawks claw up Novi 24-7

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Novi couldn't have asked for a worse opening play to the new football season. First-year coach Todd Pennycuff watched last Friday as Farmington Hills Harrison junior Jake Vento returned the Wildcats' opening kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown.

"They are extremely athletic. There's a reason (Harrison coach) John Herrington didn't take the incentive buyout every other teacher in the state took when he had this team," Pennycuff said. "They went the distance. You can't afford to make (mistakes)."

The silver lining on Harrison's opening drive was the extra point attempt, which senior Joe

Novi high football coach Todd Pennycuff talks to his troops in their first game of the year on Aug. 27.

'Cats dominate Pirates, fall to Chiefs

Novi allows 4 goals in game after allowing 3 total in first 5 games

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Looking at the scoreboard, one would think two different teams took the soccer field for Novi last week, but it was just two very different caliber opponents.

The Wildcats hustled past Pinckney Aug. 24 for a 7-0 victory before dropping a 4-0 decision to Canton two days later.

The contest against the Pirates was one for the stat sheet, as 11 different Wildcat players earned points. Juniors Chase Jabbori, Chris Park, Phil Soong, Aaron Quinley, Alex Ferrini, senior Wes Smith and sophomore Matt Wilson each got a goal, while Jabbori, Park, Soong, Quinley, junior Alex Brushier, senior Rob Razburgaj and freshman Matt Kiura each got an assist.

Junior Ricky Stone made

Wildcat Rob Razburgaj in action on Aug. 24.

over in the goal box made it 3-0 Canton on three shots. O'Leary said goalkeeper Smith didn't have a chance with the looks the Chiefs were getting.

"There was nothing he could do about any of the goals, the mistakes were such that the play would be too difficult to anticipate and the play was right on top of him before he could even react."

Canton would add one more goal for a 4-0 victory. The Chiefs outshot Novi 10-7, with just a 5-4 advantage for shots on target, as they dropped the Wildcats' record to 5-1-0.

"No one on our team played great, but no one played that poorly either; it was just one of those nights," O'Leary said. "We will see what we are made of by seeing how we bounce back from this one."

Another mistake early in the second half led to a 2-0 deficit before a turn-

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

NOVI HIGH SPORTS ROUNDUP

Boys Cross Country

The Wildcats finished second of 13 teams last Saturday in the South Lyon Invitational at Island Lake State Park. Novi's 92 points were enough to edge Northville's 103, but couldn't match Saline's 51.

Senior Joe Schrubinger led the Wildcats with a third-place finish in 16 minutes and 28 seconds. Senior Brett Giampa followed close behind with a 16:41 fifth-place finish. Senior Chase Conrad was a bit further back, finishing 20th in 17:34. Juniors Eric Gardner (24th in 17:37), Daniel Lee (40th in 18:23), Ryan Tigros (43rd in 18:29) and senior Chris Vera-Burgos (62nd in 18:57) wrapped up Novi's varsity performance.

Senior Steven Pravoato took sixth in the junior varsity race in 18:29 and sophomore Ben Jenkins finished eighth among JV runners in 18:38.

The Wildcats are out of competition and focusing on conditioning until their dual-meet opener 4 p.m. Sept. 14 against South Lyon at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

Novi Online

Can't make it to all the games and want instant updates on how Novi's biggest athletic events are going? Add "Novi Athletics" on Facebook and follow to "NoviSports" on Twitter for in-game updates throughout the year.

-By Chris Jackett

Freshmen Football

Novi's freshmen football squad had a difficult time in their preliminary game against Farmington Hills Harrison last Thursday afternoon. Although the score does not reflect the effort, our boys are learning to play well as a team and trying new strategies to move the ball down the field.

Harrison won the toss and had possession of the ball to start. Aidan Taha and Austin Racicot made some excellent defensive tackles in the first quarter. Keaton Figurski carried the ball a few yards with a pass from quarterback Isaac Burgess. Novi was down 22-0 at the half.

Jeffrey Baker had a great tackle in the backfield for negative yards in the third quarter. Baker scored a touchdown in the end of the third quarter, which left the score at 30-6 Harrison. Novi's Benin Serraj helped avoid the two-point conversion at the top of the fourth quarter. Josh Heffer helped push Harrison to the outside and out of bounds, delaying another touchdown.

Harrison finished with a 42-6 victory, overshadowing the effort of the freshmen squad. The next game was scheduled for yesterday versus Walled Lake Western.

-By Melanie Fisher

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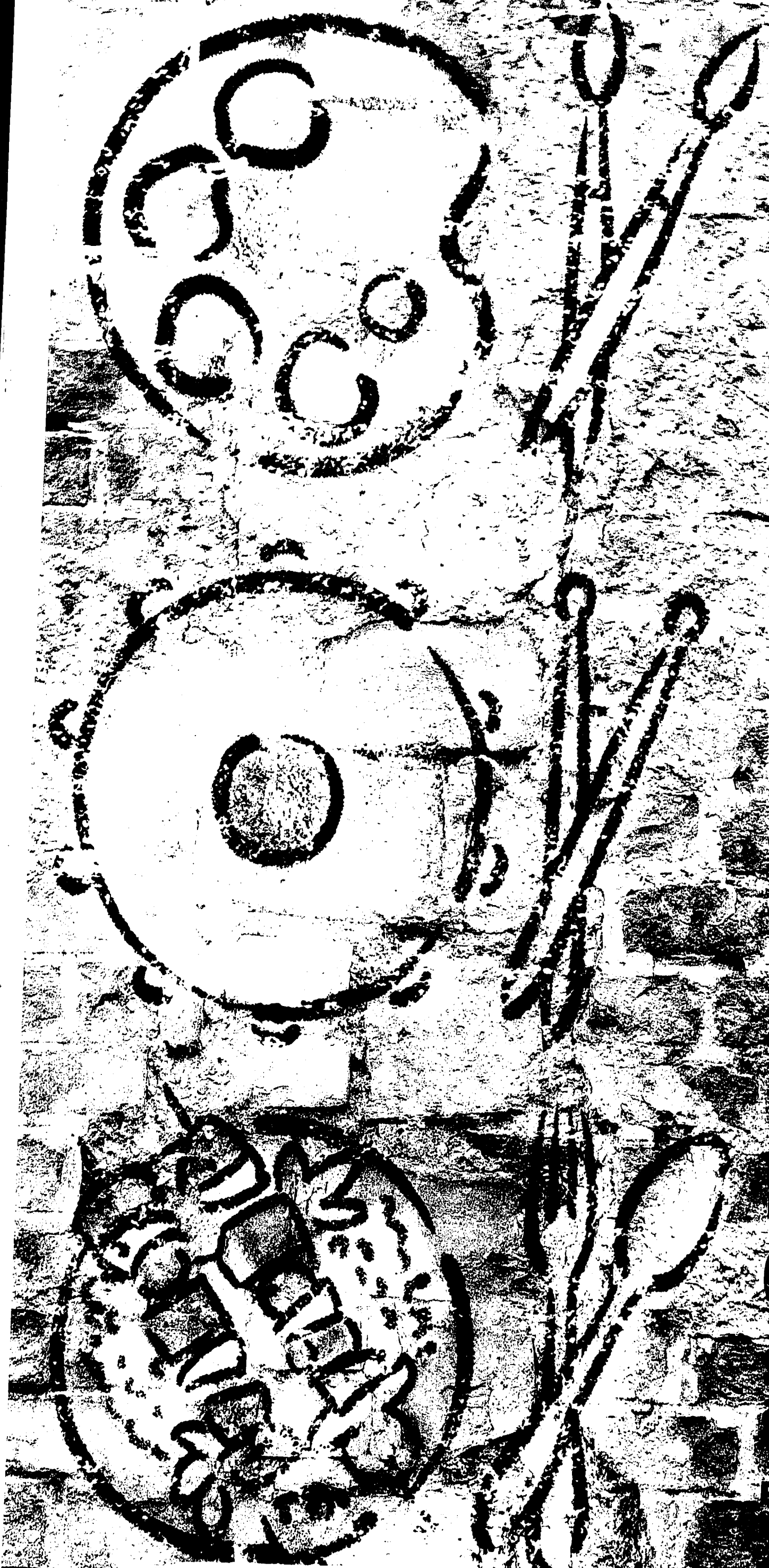
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