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 Volume 55
 Number 42
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NOVI NEWS
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NOVI NOW
 29th annual Bowl-A-Thon
 Novi Youth Assistance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, needs you. The 29th annual Bowl-A-Thon is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12 at Novi Bowl, and teams are needed to help raise money for the summer programs. Consider forming a team, sponsoring a lane or donating a prize. All of the money raised is used to finance programs which benefit Novi children and families. A new teen center is scheduled to open June 20. For more information and to register your team, access <http://www.cityofnovi.org/Services/YouthServices/BowlAthon.asp> or call (248) 347-0410.

Nielsen speaking at BHM
 More than 30 million Americans suffer from chronic stomach disorders such as constipation, indigestion and heartburn. Several million more live with the devastating impact of Crohns Disease. Health and fitness expert Peter Nielsen has joined forces with the Better Health Market in Novi at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12 to answer your important questions and give you the solutions and guidance you need to make your everyday life better. The free seminar will be held at Better Health Market, 42875 Grand River Avenue, Novi. Phone (248) 735-8100 for reservations, or log onto the Better Health Facebook page or thebetterhealthstores.com.

'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change'
 The modern-day mating game is interesting and when set to music in the hit Off-Broadway production "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," presented by Andiamo Novi Theatre and Happenstance Productions March 23-April 10. Performances run Wednesdays-Sundays and tickets are now on sale. The critically-lauded musical, directed by Christina Johnson of Happenstance Productions stars the all-Michigan cast of Jennifer Graham, Aaron T. Moore, Krissy Hardy and Max Bolton exploring the trials and tribulations of being single, dating, marriage, loss and heartbreak. Individual tickets may be purchased at the Andiamo Novi Theatre box office, by phone at (248) 348-4448 (theater box office) or 1-800-745-3000 (Ticketmaster) or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com. The Andiamo Novi Theatre is located at 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi.

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Nine Mile pathway causes disagreement over safety

Residents say location is dangerous for motorists, pedestrians
 BY NATHAN MUELLER
 STAFF WRITER

The idea behind creating additional sidewalks and pathways in Novi is to improve safety for people walking or riding their bicycles. But a group of residents feel a proposed pathway project on the north side of Nine Mile between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads does the opposite. "Our standpoint is (the city) is putting dollars ahead of the safety of citizens and we don't think that is right," said Todd Stowell, a resident who lives on Nine Mile. "It's not the way it should be in the community, and it runs counter to what they are trying to do — and that is provide people with a safe place to walk or bike." The "dollars" Stowell is referencing is the \$146,200 federal grant the city received, with a \$97,480 match from the city, to fund the project. Because it's federally funded, the city must



Bon voyage!
 Jeff Kavanaugh gives a farewell push to Ryan, 10, and Lauren Bednar, 9, as they begin their trip down the hill of Novi's Lakeshore Park on Feb. 22. All of Novi's schools were off for a second day, as the area focused on cleaning up from the big snowstorm of Sunday.

City Council approves electric car chargers for Novi

Stations to be located near police department, library
 BY NATHAN MUELLER
 STAFF WRITER

Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle owners will soon have two places in Novi to charge their vehicles. The Novi City Council approved a contract on Monday for the installation of the two stations and entered into a two-year contract with Coulomb Technologies for operation and billing. The stations are part of the ChargePoint America program sponsored by Coulomb. The company is using money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Transportation Electrification Initiative administered by the Department of Energy to install these stations in nine select regions in the nation. "This project has been in the making for some time, and it is really trying to position us to be at the advanced part of the electric vehicle movement," said City Manager Clay Pearson. "This is hopefully the first of many." The only cost to the city for the first two years is installation, and that was estimated at \$14,250. Coulomb is waiving the cost of its contract for the first two years, and should the city choose to continue operating the stations it would cost approximately \$150 per station per year. One of the charging stations will be located at the Novi Public Library and

Fire department to implement long-term plan

Employees recognize they must adapt to changing times
 BY NATHAN MUELLER
 STAFF WRITER

The Novi Fire Department has had a plethora of success over the years without a long-range plan in place. While consistently given high praise from the residents, leaders of the department have acknowledged they must adapt to changing times, and for the first time in the department's history have taken a look at the next three-to-five years to ensure services are enhanced despite foreseen challenges. Jeff Johnson, director of emergency medical services and fire operations, has been with the department 12 years and called the Fire Department Strategic Planning Process an "all hands on deck" situation and credited the employees for their dedication. "The most critical part of it is for them to understand that in order to make the plan work they need to be involved in it," he said. "I think we took a really good look, a critical look and a candid look from all perspectives and we have identified what our priorities are."

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PATHWAY
FROM PAGE A1

adhere to certain guidelines, one being that the path must be 10 feet wide.

There was discussion at a January City Council meeting about changing it to an eight-foot-wide pathway, but the council rejected that proposal because the city would have had to give up the grant money.

Council member Andrew Mutch said in an e-mail that "based on all of the potential factors including available right of way, potential costs and safety considerations, a pathway on the north side was recommended over a pathway on the south side of the road."

A pathway on the south side of the road also is planned, but not in the near future.

He also noted that this segment has been ranked as the highest priority in the city — as it connects the I-275 shared use trail — and would not be completed if city staff or council had concerns about safety.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

City of Novi officials are considering placing a walking path along the north side of Nine Mile, west of Haggerty, along this property. Homeowners are worried that it will mean the destruction of a number of large trees.

"Our city staff takes these concerns seriously and I know that if city staff felt that the design of the path was creating unsafe conditions, they wouldn't have recommended its construction or would have made changes in the design to address those concerns," he wrote. "... We would never turn a blind eye toward a situation that would create a potential hazard to residents or others visiting our community."

Laura Barduca, who lives in the second house on Nine Mile from Haggerty Road, said her main issue is backing out of her driveway. "It's bad enough trying to back out into Nine Mile Road as it is right now," she said. "No one here wants a 10-foot pathway. It's not inviting people to walk, it's inviting people to ride their bikes to get to the I-275 corridor."

On that point, Mutch noted

this situation is not unique as there are sidewalks and bike paths along "almost every major north-south and east-west road in the city."

"Some of these roads have more driveways per mile (like Meadowbrook Road) and similar or higher traffic volumes than occur along Nine Mile Road," he wrote. "If this was creating safety hazards for drivers, bikers, walkers or other users of the path, we would have heard about it."

Barduca also is worried that construction of the pathway will require the city to remove some trees in her front yard that were planted by her children and have "sentimental" value.

Other issues the residents have with the project include a lack of communication during the project's initial stages and the value of the temporary easements the city must obtain to complete the work.

Mutch agrees that the city needs to look at notifying residents sooner for specific projects like this so thoughts and concerns can be shared before the design work is started.

Brian Coburn, engineering manager for the city, said the project is in the final design stages and they are working on ways to eliminate as many of the tree impacts as possible and decrease the number of easements needed. They also will work with the property owners throughout construction of the pathway, which is scheduled to start in late summer.

City puts focus on nonmotorized travel

Master plan to guide future projects

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

It seemed fitting that as gas prices in metro Detroit approach \$4 per gallon, the city of Novi moved forward with approval of its first non-motorized master plan.

The plan, funded by the Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, looks at the future of non-motorized travel in the city, including the addition of sidewalks, trails, in-road facilities, road crossings and connected non-motorized routes.

Norm Cox, president of The Greenway Collaborative, which was the lead designer on the plan, said it is going to be years before the system is complete, but when done will change how people travel in the city.

"We think you will have a multi-faceted non-motorized system, one that works for the whole range of citizens and their preferences as to how they want to bike and walk around," he said. "It will make a noticeable change in the quality of life for residents."

The city already has been recognized for current efforts

as it has received the Promoting Active Communities Gold Award four times. It currently has 225 miles of pedestrian and bicycling facilities with 90 miles more planned.

Still, residents indicated in a 2008-2009 survey they wanted more. The survey, which was completed by more than 200 residents, concluded that 65 percent of the households indicated a need for more walking and biking trails.

Input from the survey as well as two public workshops helped shape the master plan and implementation priorities.

Council member Andrew Mutch, who also chairs the Walkable Novi committee, said they learned that you have to set the big picture before "getting to the place where you want to be."

"It's important, when we look at a document of this size, to recognize it's a vision for this community that is going to extend out long past any of our time on council," he said. "This is going to be a document that is going to guide the work of city administrations and councils going forward for the next 20-to-25 years."

There are four key elements of the master plan — facilities, policies, design guidelines and outreach and education. Facilities are the physical changes, policies outlines proposed changes to how city supports the plan, design guidelines show how current best practices may be employed and outreach and education outlines the programs that will encourage additional and safer travel.

Cox said the changes indicated in the plan could replace over 18,000 miles of automobile trips with bicycle or pedestrian trips every day.

To learn more about the non-motorized master plan visit www.cityofnovi.org.

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PLAN

FROM PAGE A1

Through the process, the department looked at its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and also developed a mission statement and vision.

There are five strategic priorities the employees identified — equipment and technology, organizational culture, community outreach, training and partnerships — and those will be the focus over the course of the next few years. "Now we have a road map

on where we need to go with a combined set of goals and action items," said David Molloy, director of public safety/chief of police. "The number one thing that will come of this is everyone knows where we are headed."

Molloy also said the process will be implemented by flipping the organizational chart and operating from the bottom up. "I am at the bottom and they are at the top," he said. "One of the main goals of this is to create leadership at all levels. We have outstanding talent and we need to harness that and expand on it."

Johnson echoed Molloy's statement and said it was important the employees were driving the process. He also said that while it's a plan that is going to take place over several years, they are going to be critiquing its success.

"We can never let our guard down and say 'that is good enough,'" he said. "We are going to keep track of these goals or modify them to ensure they get done."

The Novi City Council is expected to approve the plan at an upcoming meeting.

nmolloy@novi.net | (248) 437-2011, Ext. 255

CHARGERS

FROM PAGE A1

the other near the Novi Police Department training center on the civic center campus.

Charles Boulard, community development director/building

official, said his department has seen "a fair number" of people in Novi who have them installed in their Novi homes, and only expects the number of electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle users to grow.

Boulard said he hopes to have the two stations, which can support at least two vehicles each,

in place some time in May. Users of the stations would pay with a credit card or ChargePoint card to initiate the charging session. Charges would include a 50 cents fee to start the session as well as a 7.5 percent session fee. The balance of funds collected would go to the city to offset energy costs.

"I think this is definitely the way the world is going," said council member Justin Fischer. "I don't think electric vehicles are a fad anymore and this shows we are willing to support these initiatives and innovations."



'Gypsy'

Tickets are now on sale for 'Gypsy' presented by The Novi Civic Theatre, which opens Friday, March 11. Mama Rose is a wildly determined stage mother trying to make her two young daughters into famous vaudeville performers. With many hit numbers such as 'Everything's Comin' Up Roses' and 'Let Me Entertain You,' the production stars Novi residents Julie Landry and Bruce Markham, and Livonia resident Kelly Buck as the infamous Gypsy Rose Lee. Lauren Sorrentino, Performing Arts Coordinator for the City of Novi is overjoyed to bring this classic to the Novi Civic Theatre Stage. "This play was the first of its kind on Broadway. It was the first musical drama with complex characters and relationships. It is fantastic that we are able to bring this show to our audience." The show is appropriate for those 12 and older. Some content may be inappropriate for those younger than 12. Tickets are \$18/adults, \$15/children and seniors. All seats are reserved. For more information, please call the Novi Parks office at (248) 347-0400.



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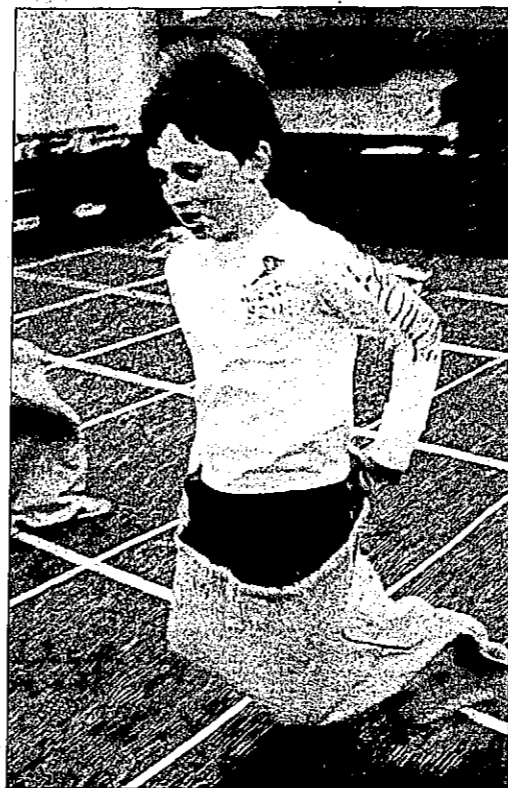
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EDUCATION

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PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Family Fun Fair

John Prishy (above left), 9, leaps around Parkview Elementary on March 4 during its Family Fun Fair. The fair featured lots of games for the kids set up all around the school including this sack race event where contestants had to leap a number of squares after a roll of the dice. Lindsay Allmacher, 14, colors the hair of third-grader Kavan Babu (above right). The spray on coloring would easily come out in the shower.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Cal Stone
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ON CAMPUS

Alma College

Over 400 students, including freshman Gwendolyn Greer of Novi, have been named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance during the 2010 Fall Term, including the following from Novi. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Western Michigan University

The fall 2010 Dean's List includes the following students from Novi:

Kelsey Baskins; Ryan Burdette; Thomas Dale; Michael DeLisle; Hanna Downs; Ashley Filipowicz; Zachary Foerg; Lorraine Govan; Stephanie Graf; Sara Haller; Kirsten Henry; Matthew Hohenshil; Mary Howell; Carol Howell; Jason Hughes; Lauren Kinnamony; Alexis Lewis; Jasmine Loney; Shari Montville; Jacquelyn Ouellette; Nicole Powell; Elissa Racon; Zachary Rothermel; Laura Sheeran; Tom Spisich; Thomas Szezygiel; Allison Szezyzka; Meredith Tarrant; Genevieve VanZandt; Eric Winkler; and Elizabeth Zielesch. WMU's fall 2010 graduation list includes the following students from Novi: Maria Acosta, bachelor, communication studies; Suzanne DeMarois, bachelor, film, video and media studies; Daniel Heilman, bachelor, electrical engineering; Steven Kish, bachelor, sales and business marketing; Michael Kreutzjans, bachelor, finance; Katelyn Naber, bachelor, speech pathology and audiology, magna cum laude; Nicholas Shafer, bachelor, sales and business marketing; Ellen Storch, bachelor, music performance, vocal, cum laude; and Genevieve VanZandt, bachelor, art, magna cum laude.

Central Michigan University

Novi's Alexander White was nominated for membership to The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the honor society for high achieving first- and second-year students. He was also selected for the College of Business Administration Dean's List for fall 2010.

St. Mary's University of Minnesota

Novi's Regina Barbosa was named to the first semester 2010-11 Dean's List. The list includes 349 undergraduates earning a grade point average of 3.60 or better.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Donations needed for Senior All Night Party

Organizers for the Novi High School Senior All Night Party are hard at work planning for the 2011 event and are requesting donations from parents, businesses and community members to make this year's event the best one yet. The annual Senior All Night Party, scheduled for June 4 at Novi High School, offers food, activities and prizes, allowing graduating seniors to celebrate in a safe, supervised environment. Checks may be made payable to NHS Senior All Night Party and should be sent to: NHS Senior All Night Party, C/O Dana Nussio, 22041 Shadybrook Drive, Novi, MI 48375. Information may be obtained by contacting Dana Nussio at nussio@earthlink.net or Anne Lewis at alewis13@mmrr.com. The SAMP Donations Committee is seeking raffle prize and monetary donations to cover the cost of decorations, entertainment and additional raffle prizes. Organizers encourage those planning to make financial contributions to do so as soon as possible so the committee can plan a budget.



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reading month

Author and Novi resident Maria Dismondly speaks to an assembly at Deerfield Elementary on March 7 about her newest book 'Juice Box Bully.' Dismondly is part of the schools March is Reading Month initiative and talked about the book's themes about kids working together to deal with bullies in school.

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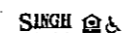
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Household hazardous waste collections

Spring fever is going around and with it comes spring cleaning. Be sure to dispose of old chemicals in an environmentally friendly way by taking those items to a household hazardous waste event.

RRASOC provides events to residents of the following communities: Farmington, Farmington Hills, Lyon Township, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom. Residency is checked.

This year RRASOC residents will have five events where they can safely dispose of household hazardous waste:

• April 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wixom DPW, 2041 Charms Road
• Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Novi City Hall, 45175 W Ten Mile Road.

Acceptable items at the HHW events include: oil-based paints, used automotive fluids, pesticides, aerosols, corrosive cleaners, pool chemicals, mercury, batteries, used computer equipment, televisions, and more.

Secure document shredding is also available at the HHWs. There is a 100-pound or three-box limit please.

For more information, visit www.rrasoc.org or call (248) 208-2270.

Help rebuild Oakland County

Rebuilding Together Oakland County ("RTOC"), a nonprofit affiliate of the national organization Rebuilding Together, is having an orientation/information session at 9 a.m. on March 19 for anyone interested in volunteering with RTOC in administrative, fund raising, skilled trades or operational areas.

The evening will feature an art gallery, a chance to have photos taken in a photo booth and dancing to the sounds of The Paul Koller Orchestra. Tickets are \$250 per person; tables of 10 are available for \$2,000.

24-Hour Movie Marathon for charity on March 18

Picture yourself watching new releases around the clock, enjoying unlimited pop and popcorn, and raising money for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKF).

The NKF's 24-Hour Movie Marathon will kick off at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 18 and continue through the night until 10 a.m. the next day. The event is open to individuals age 13 and older who raise a minimum of \$100, and will take place at Engauge Novi Theatre at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk in Novi.

Movie marathons are asked to preregister and have three participation options — the entire 24 hours, a half marathon, or a Movie Four-Pack. All Movie Marathons will be treated to unlimited pop and popcorn and a chance to win great prizes.

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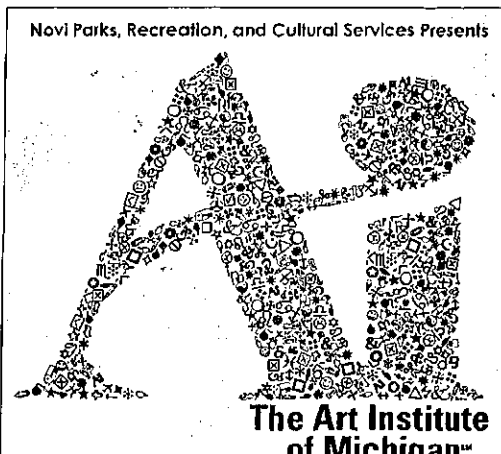
To register and learn more about the 24-Hour Movie Marathon, call the NKF's Kathy McGrath at (734) 222-9800 or visit the website: donate.kidney.org/24_hour_movie_marathon

The mission of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is to prevent kidney disease and improve the quality of life for those living with it. The NKF is widely known for providing more programs and services to more people than any other region or state. The organization was recognized for its success in sound fiscal management by receiving a 4-star rating from charity evaluator Charity Navigator.

Report potholes to road commission

As spring pothole season approaches in Michigan, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) asks residents and motorists to contact the agency directly to report potholes and other road safety issues.

If pothole complaints are called or e-mailed directly to the Road Commission, they are addressed as expediently as possible.



The Art Institute of Michigan Student & Faculty Art Show. Presented in partnership with RTOC.

Student, faculty art show

The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is partnering with the Art Institute of Michigan for the student and faculty art show at the Novi Civic Center. This dynamic, multi-media exhibit features artwork from over 20 talented artists and includes sculpture, painting, photography, and digital media.

The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is partnering with the Art Institute of Michigan for the student and faculty art show at the Novi Civic Center. This dynamic, multi-media exhibit features artwork from over 20 talented artists and includes sculpture, painting, photography, and digital media.

Mother-knows-best

Local woman and girls are invited to send us (in 50 words or less) the best advice you received from your mom. Include a photo of your mom or, better yet, of you and your mom. E-mail your best submission and photo (jpg format only) to estone@gannett.com. Include your first and last name, your hometown and identify your mother (first and last name, please). Include a daytime phone number or cell phone where you can be reached during business hours.

RTOC information meeting

Rebuilding Together Oakland County (RTOC), a non-profit affiliate of the national organization Rebuilding Together, is having an orientation/information session at 9 a.m. on March 19

for anyone interested in volunteering with RTOC in administrative, fund raising, skilled trades or operational areas. The meeting will be held at the RTOC office, 31700 West 12 Mile Road, Suite 201, Farmington Hills.

RTOC completes home rebuilding projects for low-income Oakland County residents who are elderly, disabled, military veterans, families with children and unable to do the work themselves. RTOC has rehabilitated over 450 homes and a number of non-profit facilities adding over \$4 million dollars in market value to the neighborhoods and communities in Oakland County since its founding in 1992. The plan for 2011 is to add an additional 45 homes, including a target block within the city of Pontiac.

If interested in being involved, please RSVP to (248) 889-5450 with name and personal contact information or contact us at JOBS.RTOC@yahoo.com.

Friends' Ball benefits Providence

The Providence Health Foundation 2011 Friends' Ball will be held at 6 p.m. on April 2 at the Garden Atrium, Southfield Town Center. Sister Xavier Ballance, DC, will receive the prestigious Order of Clarity award, and Chandrika M. Joshi, MD, and Robert K. Brantman, MD, will be the recipients of the Caduceus Society Physician of the Year award.

Proceeds from the event will support a new Women's Health Initiative, a coordinated, creative strategy to better meet the health needs of women throughout St. John Providence Health System's West Region. The area to be served includes the surrounding communities of Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield and Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

To be a corporate sponsor, place an ad in the program book or purchase a ticket, contact Lorraine Owczarek at (313) 343-7582.

Business to host art show

The Menagerie Room @ Co Reutter the Salon, located at 116 N. Lafayette in South Lyon, will be hosting an upcoming student art show. Students of all ages and mediums can enter up to three pieces of art work for free. The entry deadline is Saturday, March 12. There will be a reception Saturday, April 2 from 6-8 p.m. The student show will run until Saturday, May 28. For more information, call (248) 446-0411.

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 mot 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.

Wanted: vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Northville Record 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. Just 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!

Your news, now!

Breaking stories and news updates are always posted online at hometownlife.com. Check out the latest happenings in Novi throughout the day.

Get into the online discussions by clicking on Story Chat on each story, editorial, or letter to the editor. It's a great way to sound off and to connect with other readers. Check out the awesome photo galleries posted by our staff photographers and our readers, as well as video clips that help tell the stories in our community. Stop by the Hometown Weeklies' Facebook page and become a "friend" to receive news updates right on your wall. It's your news, on your time, in the format of your choice.

Cleaning for a reason If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides free housecleaning once per month for four months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. Find out more at http://www.cleaningforareason.org/.

Advertisement for the musical 'Mamma Mia!' featuring Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvaeus. It includes a quote 'IT'S IRRESISTIBLE' and a photo of a woman singing. The ad is for the Fisher Theatre, running from April 13-17.

Advertisement for Disney's 'Mars Needs Moms' featuring Halle Berry, Drew Barrymore, and other stars. It promotes a family quest sweepstakes and shows the movie's 3D and IMAX 3D format.

Advertisement for MBT (Monroe Bank & Trust) featuring the slogan 'There's a NEW Old Bank in Town'. It lists services like Personal and Business Banking, Wealth Management, and Over 150 Years of Service. It also provides contact information for Plymouth and Northville offices.

Tipping Point hosts Michigan playwrighting competition

Tipping Point Theatre is again participating in the Arts & Acts: A Made in Michigan Festival, taking place in downtown Northville June 24-26, via the Sandbox Play Festival.

For the past 21 years, Northville has hosted an annual juried art show, "Art in the Sun" and for the second year in a row Tipping Point Theatre will be joining the fun for the second annual playwrighting competition as part of the festival.

Tipping Point is now accepting submission of 10 minute plays for its Sandbox Play Festival. The spirit behind the festival is to encourage and increase exposure for Michigan theatre artists.

Prizes include \$100 for first place and \$50 for second place based on audience favorites. The top plays will be awarded a staged reading at Sunday's performance of the Sandbox Play Festival in June 2011. The exact number of plays that will be presented at the Festival depends on available space, time, and production requirements after the selection of the top prizes.

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Handbell Ensemble

Tickets are on sale now for the Detroit Handbell Ensemble's April 10 concert at 4 p.m. at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. Fourteen performers will present a variety of music under the direction of Michael Burkhardt. The ensemble will perform on five plus octaves of Malmrk handbells and five octaves of Malmrk Chimes.

The Detroit Handbell Ensemble is an additional concert choir and its members are church musicians, educators, composers, engineers, and business professionals from across southeastern Michigan. This afternoon of Music at Meadowbrook will have an Afterglow following the 4 p.m. concert. Tickets are \$8 presale and \$10 at the door for adults. For students over age 10, tickets are \$4 presale and \$5 at the door. Children 10 and under are free. The concert is open to the public. Meadowbrook Church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads in Novi. For further information, call the church office at (248) 348-7757.

Large advertisement for Perfect Floors featuring 'PERFECT TIMING PERFECT FLOORS PERFECT PRICE'. It includes 'CARPET SALE' and 'HARDWOOD SALE' sections with various flooring options and prices. A 'FREE CREDIT NO INTEREST for 12 Months' offer is prominently displayed. The ad also features a 'NEXT DAY INSTALLATION AVAILABLE' badge and a '40% OFF' promotion on Manington Vinyl.

Advertisement for PLYMOUTH PHYSICAL THERAPY SPECIALISTS. It features the logo, contact information for Jeffrey R. Sirabian, PT, MHS, OCS, CSCS, and a list of 9 convenient locations across the Novi area. The ad also promotes a Wednesday Runner's & Walker's Clinic from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Advertisement for Fox Run retirement homes. It features the slogan 'Less housework leaves more time for fun!' and a photo of a woman. The ad describes one-bedroom apartment homes with free maintenance and offers a retirement lifestyle guide. It provides contact information for Fox Run at 41000 13 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48377.

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- Heuer
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Proceeds will help send the Marching Band to Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City in November.

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NOVI'S SPARLING FINISHES EIGHTH IN WEIGHT CLASS - B3

SECTION B (NR)

SPORTS

VELVET PEANUT BUTTER SPREADS TO 500 STORES, BUSINESS - B4

THURSDAY, March 10, 2011 hometownlife.com



Novi defeats CC icers in triple overtime

Stunning 4-3 victory marks Wildcats' debut in Division I

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

The crowd got its money's worth last Wednesday as Novi's hockey team battled to a triple-overtime regional semifinal victory against host and two-time defending Division I state champion Detroit Catholic Central.

Senior Michael Kruse put an end to the seemingly endless 4-3 contest at Compuware Arena in Plymouth with a goal 5:17 into the third overtime.

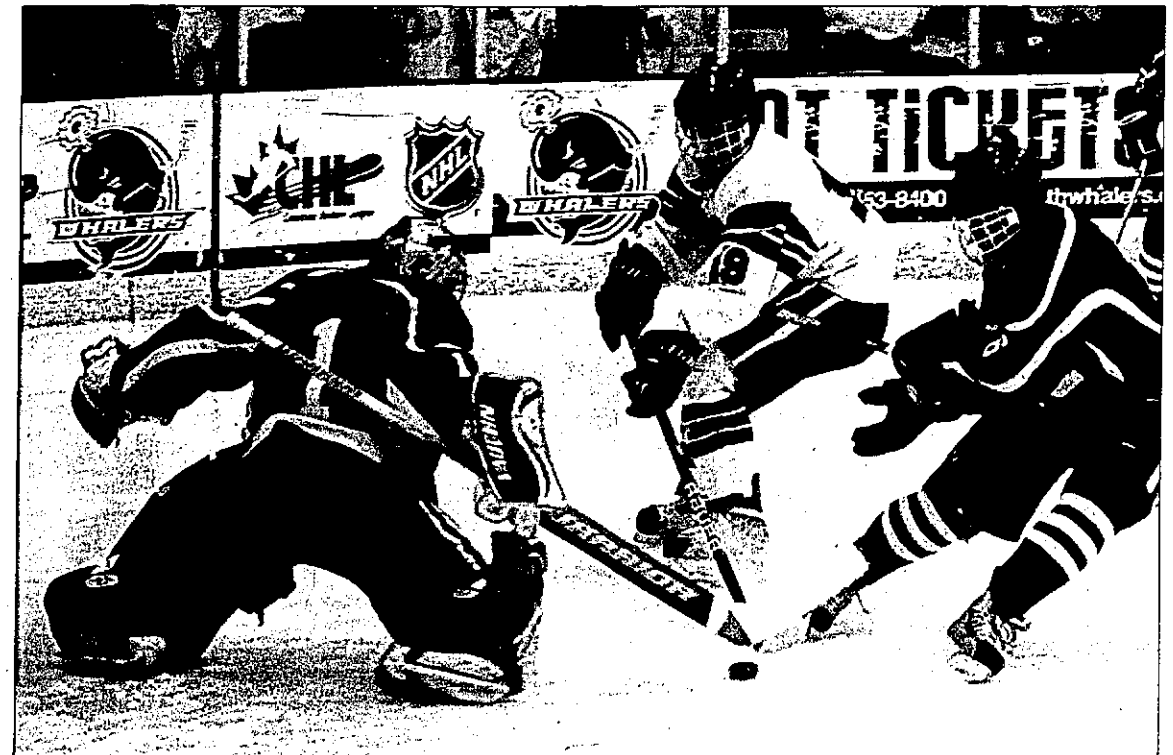
"We're very excited," Novi coach Todd Kryger said afterward. "It was kind of an odd man rush. Joey (Ferriss) went up the middle and Taylor (Howell) gave it to Kruse."

With Ferriss crashing the center and drawing both CC defenders, the senior captain dropped a pass back to his right side, where Howell slid the puck over to Kruse for a redirection from the left circle after more than 66 minutes of play.

"Someone had to lose this game and, unfortunately, it was our turn," CC coach Todd Johnson said.

Although the contest was between two of the final 32 teams alive in the Division I state tournament, it pitted the top two ranked teams against one another with No. 1 CC (16-9-1, No. 2 overall) and No. 2 Novi (21-5-1, No. 3 overall) hitting the ice. This is Novi's first season in Division I, having played in Division II the past 13 years.

"We're a hockey hotbed here," Johnson said. "Our guys played hard, their guys played hard. That's why it's a great tournament. There's a lot of emotions. We had a lot of emotions Monday."



Novi senior goaliekeeper Michael Pesendorfer makes a stop on Detroit Catholic Central senior Joe Steele as Novi senior Ryan Cordes tries to break up the play during the Wildcats' 4-3 triple-overtime win March 2.

Please see HOCKEY, B2

Big check
Members of the Novi Athletic Boosters including, from left: John Ferreca, Steve Zeris, and Jerry Jewell, present a check to the school for \$1 million during halftime of the Wildcats' Monday night basketball game.

Novi Athletic Boosters
8400 Beck Rd., Canton, MI 48187
www.noviatleticboosters.com

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Memo: \$1,000,000 & Coming Change

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chiefs chop through Wildcats in district championship game

Novi's lady cagers close season on 1-4 streak

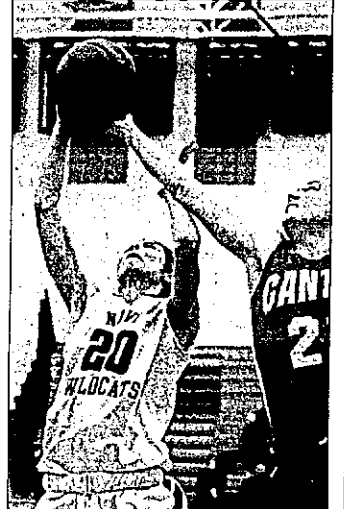
BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Coaches regularly say basketball is a game of streaks, but, in Novi's case, so was the season for its lady cagers.

After streaking to a 16-1 start, the Wildcats (17-5) lost four of their last five and ended the season with a 37-20 loss to Canton (21-2) last Friday in a district final at Northville's gym.

"I thought our girls played a great first half," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "Our goal was to make them play defense, which we did by spreading out our offense and to defensively take away the lane, which we also did. However, Canton is such a great team and play so well together that they played patiently and were very efficient."

The powerhouse Chiefs defeated Novi 37-20, but the contest looked to be an exhibition of the area's best early on. Canton led 8-5 after one quarter and 18-10 at the half. But a 10-0 third-quarter run where Novi couldn't find the bottom of the basket spread the gap to 28-10 and the Wildcats would not recover despite a 10-9 fourth quarter.



Wildcat Ally D'Annibale tries to corral a rebound as a Canton Chief fights for the same ball.

Please see GIRLS, B2

Novi boys cagers win KLAA championship

Laney's return spurs Wildcats past Plymouth, Stevenson, Pinckney

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

With the missing piece returned to their puzzle, Novi's boys basketball team's season is back on track.

With senior Rob Laney back in the lineup, the Wildcats (18-3) powered through to a KLAA crown last Thursday, defeating Lakes Conference champion Pinckney (15-5) in a 58-49 contest.

Laney, who had 12 points, six rebounds and six assists against the Pirates, had missed a month of action before returning for the association tournament.

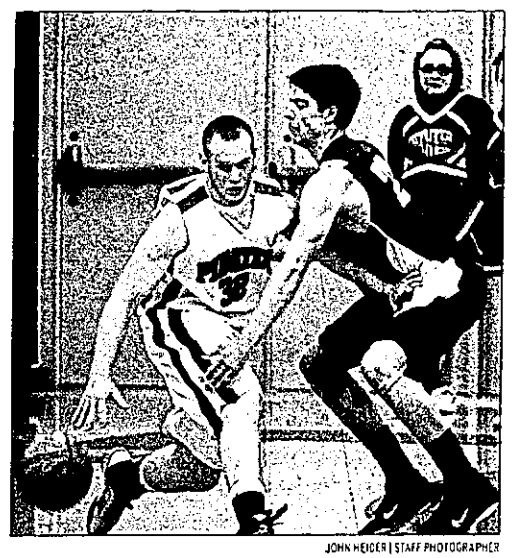
The Cats are 10-0 with Laney in the lineup and 7-3 without him, including two losses to Livonia Stevenson (17-3) and one to Plymouth (14-7).

Novi defeated Plymouth in overtime of a conference tournament semifinal and Stevenson for the Kensington Conference championship during the first two games with Laney back in the lineup.

"Rob does so many things for us that are visible to all observing, but also gives the rest of the guys a little extra bounce and confidence," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said. "When you have someone that can make others around him better and can score in multiple areas of the floor you become a dangerous offensive team."

With Laney - averaging 13.4 points, 6.2 rebounds, 4.7 assists per game - back on the court, opposing defenses have one more problem to worry about.

Seniors Samer Ozeir, Chris Milton and Brian Bush have been a formidable force all season, but talented squads had figured out ways to limit a three-pronged Wildcat attack. With Laney's ability on the court, the opposition is left scattered attempting to stop all four weapons.



Pinckney Pirate Stephen Waltersdorf nearly gets his pocket picked by Novi's Brady Sheldon during their March 3 game.

ON TAP

The Wildcats' boys basketball team (18-3) was scheduled to play in a district semifinal last night against Canton (15-5). A victory would put them in a district championship 7 p.m. tomorrow in Novi.

"With our full complement of players, we are very tough to handle for the opposition," Heitsch said. "In all levels of basketball, you are really a tough cover when you've got three guys consistently scoring in or near doubles. What is special about our group is we have five guys that have that capability, when you include Brady (Sheldon) into the mix. What is also nice is how the skill sets balance each other out. Milton is a killer on the offensive glass, Rob and Sam both can do it all, Brian stretches the floor and then Brady is just a great athlete."

The Pirates struggled against the Wildcats' squad in the first quarter last week, falling behind 13-8 and 27-24 at the half.

Ozeir dropped in 20 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had four blocks, while his fellow forward, Milton, notched 11 points, 14 rebounds and seven blocks.

"Sam and Chris have really made a philosophical switch for us this year on the defensive block and from help side," Heitsch said. "Last year, they jumped at everything and tried to block shots, but it would weaken us on the defensive boards because we were out of position. With their length, we are just asking them to wall up, and their block totals are both up, many times without even leaving the boards."

Please see BOYS, B3

Can Facebook really help you land a job?

Alina Dizik, Special to CareerBuilder

While Facebook can sometimes seem like a way to simply post a few photos or let your friends know about your birthday -- there are ways it can come in handy in your professional career. Facebook lets job seekers tap an informal network of friends or friends of friends who can be instrumental in creating success. "The collection of friends you have through Facebook are the ones most likely to have your back," says Jenny Foss, a job search expert who blogs at JobJenny.com. With so many different options, Facebook is a good place to start if you're job hunting or just seeking to network.

Here's what to do to get started:

Customize your avatar
In an online search, your avatar is typically the first thing a potential employer sees on Facebook. So if you're in job search mode, it's important to have a professional avatar that can help you get hired. "You can create a custom avatar that includes your contact

information and that you are in the job market," says Jessica Miller-Merrell, chief executive of Exceptional HR. Additionally, while your profile should be kept private, include an e-mail address and job history in the visible information so recruiters can reach out to you directly.

Use your status

Find a good way to let your Facebook friends you're looking. For example, refer them to your own site, which showcases samples of your work and a résumé, or ask them to drop you an e-mail if they know of a lead. Being specific about what type of job or company you're looking for can make it easier for people to help, Foss says. Throughout your job search use your status to update your friends on how it's going. Don't inundate friends with every little detail and make each status conversational and optimistic. "Keep it genuine, make it real," Foss says. "But don't come across as the saddest, most desperate

person alive."

Take out a Facebook ad

When Marian Schembari graduated from college and wanted to land a publishing job, she took out an ad on Facebook to target publishing houses. The ad showed up for Facebook users who listed companies like Random House



and HarperCollins as their employer. Once they clicked on the ad, users were referred to her personal website that contained her résumé. A person from each of the publishers e-mailed that he or she passed on her résumé to HR or wanted to meet, she recalls.

After placing her ad, others in the industry wrote about Schembari's pursuits and she was able to get her foot into the publishing world. "Facebook was the easiest and fastest way to network with a huge number of publishing people at once," she says. "It was like a networking event on steroids with an added bonus of never needing to leave my house or get out of my pajamas."

"Like" companies where you'd want to work

Since most companies have a Facebook presence these days, clicking the "like" button on that company's fan page will signal that you're interested in a job there, Foss says. Additionally, it's a simple way to learn the latest company news, which can help during an interview. Additionally, "some companies list their open jobs right on their [Facebook] pages," she says.

Keep it real

Since Facebook is a less formal network, people expect to see a more casual part of your personality so there's no need for a professional tone, points out Craig Fischer, vice president of sales at Ajax Social Media. "I have hired many people through Facebook," he says. "Many of my customers and job candidates are people who I network with [on] there."

Alina Dizik researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @CareerBuilder on Twitter.

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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Hey kids!

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List the dates and page number you find Scoop on!



March is National Reading Month!

Celebrate by reading about your hometown in this newspaper.

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Send your entries including your photo for the Hide & Seek Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound

c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170



Deadline for submissions: 3/31/11

All entries need to be received by close of the business day on March 31st, for winners to be announced in the April Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Hide & Seek with Scoop!

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

I found Scoop on page(s) _____ on date(s) _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry: (Phone, email, home address) _____

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Lucky winners from last month's contest



Brandon Falk
Age: 7 1/2
Milford
My dog Gabby guards our house and lets me lay on her when I am tired.



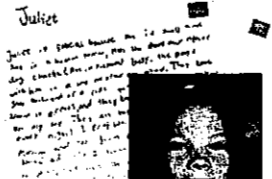
Maia Claiborne
Age: 9
Livonia
My dog Ginger makes me feel safe and plays hide n' seek with me.



Joshua McKay
Age: 10
Canton
My dog Benjiman loves playing catch outside and greets me with a hug when I come home.



Natalie Aulicino
Age: 10
South Lyon
My dog Vasco is special because he is a hospital therapy dog.



Grace Snell
Age: 10
Novi
My dog Juliet is special because she likes to play with me and my other dogs.

Scoop the newshound will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!