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from Tinley Park, Ill. — A4

NOVI NEWS

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Winners

Haidee Bushey is the top prize winner in the Hometown Life Inspire "Christmas in July" contest. The Canton resident won \$250 and says she may spend it on school clothes for her teens, or possibly a late-summer trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park. Other prize winners are Teresa Long of Westland (\$125) and Maria Carmon of South Lyon (\$75). Nearly 800 entries were submitted. The winners were selected in a random drawing of all entries that correctly identified pages on which the holiday beach ball appeared.

Grub Crawl

Experience West Oakland will hold its second annual Grub Crawl from 5-9 p.m. today at 12 Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk. Featured venues include Bar Louie, Buffalo Wild Wings, Family of Pets (featuring dessert/pastries), The Great Indigos (featuring The Post Bar), Cold Stone Creamery, Hooters, Lucky Strike Lanes & Lounge, and Rojo Mexican Bistro. The cost is \$25 per person in advance, \$30 at the door. To register, visit <http://experiencewo.com> or call (734) 953-7361.

Movie Night

The City of Novi and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit have partnered to present a free showing of Disney's "Howl's Moving Castle" at Fuerst Park (corner of 10 Mile and Taft roads) at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20. The movie will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles. Families are asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs. Parking is available in the Novi High School lot on Taft Road. Please call the weather hotline for details at (248) 347-0473.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Novi firefighter carries a man from the scene of a house fire along Norfolk Court around 2 p.m. on Aug. 15. Personnel were alerted to a fire in the garage around 1:40 p.m. that day and had the fire out by 2:30 p.m. with some smoke damage to the home. The victim was transported to Novi's Providence Park Hospital for smoke inhalation.

Novi man rescued from smoke-filled home

Fire destroys garage, home spared from serious damage

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

A 56-year-old Novi man was carried to safety on Monday afternoon after a garage fire filled his home on 22000 block of Norfolk with smoke.

Four firefighters — Paul Mullett, Josh Bunsie, Kevin Pearce and Jeff Lechman — were notified by witnesses when they arrived on scene that the resident of the home was handicapped and could not get out on his own power.

The garage was on fire at the time, but they were able to locate the man in the rear of the home and get him outside before he was overcome with smoke.

Please see FIRE, A2



Smoke billows into the sky as Novi firefighters respond to a garage and house fire that damaged a dwelling on Norfolk Court on Monday afternoon.

Novi High School fails to make AYP

State Department of Education denies district plea

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Novi High School's decade-long streak of making adequate yearly progress came to an end this year as the Michigan Department of Education gave the school its first B grade.

According to Supt. Steve Matthews, the school did not make AYP, which is determined by performance on the Michigan Educational Achievement Program exam and the Michigan Merit Exam, because two subgroups at the high school were not at a 95-percent participation rate, which is required by the No Child Left Behind legislation for all students and each subgroup that has at least 30 students.

A press release issued by the district Monday morning noted that in the economically disad-

vantaged subgroup two students had their tests invalidated because they used cell phones while on their breaks, thus causing the drop below 95 percent.

The other subgroup drop was because a special education student refused to take the test, bringing the participation rate in that subgroup below 95 percent.

District officials appeals to the MDE, but it was denied.

"It just feels wrong to us because what it does is it encourages us to look the other way, which we aren't going to do," Matthews said. "But the state went by the letter of the law and didn't give any wiggle room."

The seven other schools in the district all received their usual "A" grade. And while the district will not receive any sanc-

Please see AYP, A2

Novi police spot identity theft suspect

Package had more than 100 fraudulent credit cards

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Two Novi police officers preparing packages for shipping at the FedEx store on Grand River Avenue on July 29 found a package of their own at the same time.

The officers, Assistant Police Chief Victor Lauria and Deputy Chief Tom Lindberg, were dropping off old and outdated soft-body armor ballistic vests that are no longer used by the department to donate to the Armor of God program when they saw a suspicious man at the store preparing his own package.

"We observed the male for several minutes, noting his odd behavior and developing additional information," Lauria wrote in a memo to Director of Public Safety David Molloy, that also was

received by the Novi City Council. "This information was relayed to Detective Amanda Kulikowski (and) she was able to develop probable cause to obtain a search warrant for the package."

According to the memo, the package contained over 100 fraudulent credit cards.

The man was not arrested by Novi police officers, according to Lt. Jarrod Hart, and the investigation has been turned over to the United States Secret Service. Lauria said agents informed the department that the man is part of a multiple-state identity theft ring.

Hart said as the investigation is ongoing, no other information could be released.

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CROP Walk set for Saturday

By **Lonnie Huhman**
Correspondent

This year's Northville/Novi CROP Hunger Walk on Saturday, Aug. 20, will be hosted by Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church and it's their hope the community will turn out in big numbers to help benefit the cause of local and international food distribution.

Sharing 25 percent of the proceeds from the CROP Walk are the Northville Civic Concern, Military Avenue Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Food Bank in Detroit, First Step Shelter in the Plymouth/Canton area, and the Novi Emergency Food Bank.

According to event coordinator Stan Koster, the walk is about recognizing the distance each day many people have to go to get their food and water.

"This is an important event for us because of what it means to the many people who are in need of food and proper nutrition," Koster said.

The walk will have a one-mile route and a 10K or six-mile route. Both will be in the Six Mile and Haggerty roads area and will begin at Ward Church. Registration starts before the walk at the church at 8 a.m.

Other Northville and Novi churches involved with the walk include St. James, Northville First United Methodist, Faith Community Presbyterian, Church of the Holy Family and Meadowbrook Congregational.

Participants can form a team or just walk individually. For those who cannot participate, donations can still be given online at the CROP web site, which is http://www.church-worldservice.org/site/R/2011FallCROP/HungerWalk/FR-Fall2011?fr_id=12657&pg=entry.

Nearly \$1,000 has already been raised online. Koster said this is a community-based event, so anyone can get involved. Ward is located at 40000 Six Mile in Northville. For more information contact Koster at (248) 374-5931 or by e-mail at stan.koster@wardchurch.org.

FIRE

Continued from page A1



Novi firefighters and EMS personnel place a victim of a house fire on a stretcher on Aug. 15 before transporting him to Providence Park Hospital in Novi. The man was being treated for smoke inhalation.

"Our firefighters did an outstanding job getting him out of there quickly in a timely fashion," said David Molloy, director of public safety/chief of police.

The Novi Fire Department was dispatched to the home around 1:42 p.m. — arriving within five minutes with three engines — to find the garage on fire. They were able to contain the fire to the garage, which had a vehicle inside, but the house did suffer "extensive smoke and soot damage," Molloy said.

The fire was under control by 2:10 p.m. and out at 2:26 p.m.

Fire marshal Mike Evans and the Oakland County Arson Investigation Unit remained on the scene through the evening trying to find the cause and origin of the fire.

"We don't suspect anything suspicious at this point," Molloy said.

AYP

Continued from page A1

tions for the high school's grade, Matthews said in some ways it gives the district a "black eye."

Novi High School was not in the minority, however, as more than 700 Michigan schools failed to meet the goals of No Child Left Behind during the 2010-11 school year.

That number is up 41 percent from the previous year, and the schools cited make up 21 percent of the schools in the state.

The NCLB law will eventually require that 100 percent of students be proficient on state exams by 2014, a number Oakland Schools Communications Manager Danelle Gittus says is "unrealistic."

"The goal of 100 percent proficient by 2014 was unrealistic when it was set in 2001 and still unrealistic now," she said. "The hope was that the law would have been changed by now."

Gittus said Oakland Schools is providing districts with consultants to help raise AYP scores and will continue to do so.

Ernie Bauer, director of research, evaluation and assessment programs at Oakland Schools, said there is "no simple answer" when it comes to the impact not making

AYP has on students. "Students are impacted when schools who have not made AYP for several years have to respond to the sanctions imposed on them," he said. "In some cases, responding to NCLB, AYP and their sanctions results in narrowed curriculum, limiting options for some students."

Assistant Supt. for Academic Services RJ Webber said while Novi finds itself on the list for the first time, it is not a major concern because "our graduation rate, our college-readiness rate and our ACT performance place us among the best high schools in the state."

Said Matthews: "Even though our report card will say B, I'll match our high school against any in the state."

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CORRECTION

The editorial "Musical chairs: Changing elected office mid-term no benefit for residents" in the Aug. 4 edition should have stated Ruth Johnson was re-elected to the Oakland County clerk position in 2008.



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Novi Library's 'Minute to Win It' contestant Mikaela O'Connor (above), 11, tries to pick up some rigatoni noodles with a single strand of spaghetti in her mouth during the July 20 event. Novi Library held the event for its summer reading program on that day, and kids were given the chance to try their hands at a number of fun, skilled games. Matt George (below left), 10, tries to keep two balloons in the air with steady, gentle bumps. Danielle Truax (below right), 9, tries to piece together a cereal box puzzle.



Incumbents plan to run for re-election to school board

Newcomer Cadwell puts name in the mix

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Novi residents will have three candidates to choose from for the two open seats on the Novi Community School District Board of Education this November.

The two candidates up for re-election are George Kortlandt and Bobbie Murphy, and they will be joined by newcomer Tracy Cadwell.

Kortlandt, who currently is the secretary on the board, has lived in the city since 1982 and was first elected 17 years ago. He said his parents taught him to give back to the community and serving on the school board is his way of doing that.

"Over the years why I've continued is I still feel I have something to contribute in this area," he said. "And it's actually a joy to do this job."

Murphy is finishing her first term on the board

and has two children still in the district. She said she feels the district is in good shape and is optimistic about the future. "I'm excited about this new cabinet and having a new superintendent that brings a lot of new energy into the mix right now," she said. "And I'm not ready to not be a part of that at this point."

"The two terms are four-years in length, and they will become part of a seven-member board. According to the school district's website, board members work together to establish policy, approve educational goals and curriculum changes, and work with the superintendent, administration, and staff to set direction for the district.

Cadwell could not be reached for comment as of press time.

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NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Community Ed preschool

Preschool registration for Novi's 2011-12 school is now open for full-day and half-day morning or afternoon classes. To secure a spot in the fall's 2011-12 sessions, parents must register their child at the Community Education office in the Community Education/ITC Building, 25345 Taft, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads. Child care is also available for students attending preschool. Space is limited. Call (248) 449-1206 for rates and availability.

Leadership exchange leads to long-term partnership

Tinley Park mayor plans to 'pursue' Novi's community survey idea

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Mayor Ed Zabrocki took a glance around the room during lunch at the Great Lakes Bistro at The Art Institute of Michigan on Monday and couldn't help but smile.

At every table in the bistro, members of his staff from Tinley Park, Ill., were sitting with their counterparts from Novi, sharing stories and brainstorming ideas as part of a Mayor and Leaders Exchange between the two communities.

Zabrocki said that type of interaction is the reason why the two communities chose to partner,

and it is something that will continue in the future.

"If any of us come back with two or three ideas it makes the trip worthwhile," he said. "Why should we reinvent the wheel? If someone has an idea, why not steal it?"

This was the first time Tinley Park officials have done an exchange in the United States, taking similar visits to Poland, Germany and Ireland in the past. For Novi, this has been a regular occurrence since 2006.

During their visit, Tinley Park officials were taken to the library, learned about the public safety department and non-motorized transporta-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tinley Park, Ill., Treasurer Brad Bettenhouse talks with city of Novi Dept. of Information Technology's Chris Blough during an Aug. 15 visit to Novi's Art Institute for lunch. Tinley Park visited Novi in a Mayor's Exchange Day of seeing how each other's administration works.

tion plan, and given a tour of the city including stops at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Lakeshore Park, TTC, Meadowbrook Commons and SWOCC Studios among others.

Novi Mayor David

Landry said the city has taken a great deal of information from past visits including ideas for pathways, city signage and the amphitheater to name a few.

"The more we can share, the better we can

get," Landry said. Zabrocki said one of the biggest things he took from his trip to Novi was the community survey, an idea Novi officials got from their trip to Portage. He also was

"The more we can share, the better we can get."

DAVID LANDRY
City of Novi mayor

impressed by the usage of art throughout the city.

"It's a fantastic idea and one of the things I am going to pursue," Zabrocki said of the survey. The relationship between the two communities also does not end when the visit is over. Landry said he still keeps in touch with several of the communities they have visited and expects the relationship with Tinley Park to continue as well.

Said Zabrocki: "I could see us checking with Novi (on future decisions) to see how they would do it."

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Quilters use talents to comfort others

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The Novi Needlers spend countless hours sewing quilts they will eventually donate to various organizations.

But the time these 16 women spend in front of their sewing machines is nothing compared to the lifetime of memories and comfort their creations provide.

"We hope they know someone cares about them and is thinking about them," said six-year member Norma Anderson. "It's a good feeling to be able to do this, and it's a way for us to give back to the community too."

The Novi Needlers have been around since 1995, meeting at the Novi



CALSTONE

Marci Schultz, manager of Providence Hospital's special care nursery, with Novi Needlers Cathy Grieshaber, Joanne Beard and Norma Anderson.

Senior Center on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. The

majority of the quilting is done at every member's own leisure, as they

use the meetings to brainstorm ideas and drop off finished quilts. Some of the recipients

of these unique gifts are veterans at the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital, the Salvation Army, Sinai-Grace Hospital, First Step, Catholic Social Services, Denby House and most recently Providence Park Hospital in Novi, among others.

The group has been bringing the quilts to Providence since April, and they have been met with rave reviews.

Margi Schultz, manager of the special care nursery, said the patients are surprised when they think they are getting a "plain old" hospital blanket and she walks in with one of the quilts instead.

"They love it," she said. "They are very grateful and surprised."

Novi resident Joanne Beard said she feels like a "little kid" while making the quilts because she takes so much "joy" out of doing it.

The group gave away nearly 400 quilts last year, and expect to donate as just as many this year. The quilts donated to Providence also have been given to children in the pediatric unit and adults.

Anderson said quilting is an "outlet for creativity," and joked that she has to give them away because "you can only have so many at home."

Since the group is all volunteers, the Needlers have to purchase their own fabric. Anyone who wishes to donate 100 percent cotton fabric can drop it off at the Novi Senior Center on Meadowbrook Road.

For more information about the group or to join, call (248) 347-0414.

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Rotary club of Novi awarded grant to provide clean water in Ecuador



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Abby Lamping of Cincinnati pitches in a game at Novi's Ella Mae Power Park on July 28 as part of an ASA national tournament that weekend that brought 30 teams from the Midwest to town. The event was estimated to have generated more than \$650,000 for the local economy.

Aging gracefully

Power Park turns 25, draws local and national tournaments

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Tournament organizers' willingness to choose Ella Mae Power Park as host site for softball tournaments is proof that the 25-year-old complex has gotten better with age.

A complete upgrade of the facility — costing just over \$1 million — was done about two years ago, and since then the park has hosted several national and local tournaments, as well as successful local recreational leagues.

Matt Ostermeyer, recreation supervisor for the city, said the improvements have paid off as the tournaments are proving to be pretty "lucrative" for the city as

a whole. "It's huge and important for our department, but also on a city level it attracts people here — and they stay in the hotels and eat in our restaurants," he said.

The most recent tournament took place at the end of July as the city hosted the 2011 Amateur Softball Association Northern National Girls 14 and Under Class B Fastpitch Championships.

Ostermeyer said 30 teams and 450 players and coaches spent the weekend in the city, estimating the economic impact at \$651,183.

The city hosted its first national tournament since the 1980s last

August, and also had two state tournaments come to town in 2009. The estimated economic boost to the city from those tournaments was nearly \$2 million.

The recreation softball program run by the city also had its highest participation numbers ever with 131 teams signed up this spring and summer.

Ostermeyer also mentioned the park's newest tournament taking place this month — cricket. "It's something new and different, and it's going off without a hitch," he said. "That is something we will continue to look to expand."

nmueller@annnet.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

The Rotary Club of Novi along with the Rotary clubs of Milan and Chatham, Ontario has been awarded a Rotary International Global Grant to provide clean water for selected communities in Ecuador.

On Sept. 25, Gary Sobotta of the Rotary Club of Novi will lead a team of certified technicians to conduct a workshop on the construction of a bio-sand water filters.

The workshop will be conducted in Cuenca, Ecuador and will be attended by designated manufacturers and community health workers from the participating rotary clubs in Ecuador.

This workshop will offer instruction and hands-on experience for participants in the construction of the filter, including molding and curing of the concrete housings, selection and installation of graded sand media, manufacture of diffuser basins and lids. Participants will gain a clear

understanding of the rationale behind the filter design, how to install and commission it and instruct householders on its correct usage.

Bio-sand filters are affordable and require little maintenance and remove 98.5 percent of bacteria, 95 percent of turbidity, and 90 to 95 percent of iron in controlled laboratory settings. The populations in the communities to be served are economically poor, not having any access to clean and safe water. Water is sometimes distributed through antiquated systems, mostly contaminated by ground waters. Other common water sources are polluted streams and rivers and shallow wells dug in areas where sanitation is nonexistent.

Water can be purchased at costs that exceed the economic possibilities of the families.

The selected manufacturers and community health workers will manufacture, maintain and monitor bio-sand water filters in each selected province, transferring their newly-acquired knowledge on to village residents using the water filters. This project will provide a total of 654 Bio-sand filters to be installed in 634 households and 20 Schools and over a period of 18/24 months.

Rotary recognizes the importance of safe and clean water and has made it one of its highest priorities. Rotary encourages its clubs and districts to support efforts which help people to provide themselves with safe water reasonably close to their homes using simple, sustainable technology. Rotary club members initiate thousands of projects each year to supply, conserve, and purify water — all with the goal of providing clean and safe drinking water to communities in need.



On Sept. 25, Gary Sobotta (second from left, sitting at table) of the Rotary Club of Novi will lead a team of certified technicians to conduct a workshop on the construction of a bio-sand water filters in Ecuador.

Extra fall date added! ★ Extra kids win Great new location!

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Tony Bennett sweepstakes

Our website, HometownLife.com, just started a new contest for Tony Bennett tickets at the Fox Theatre.



Tony Bennett

ArtsNovi multi-media art exhibit on display in the Atrium Gallery

The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department has partnered with ArtsNovi to bring an all-media art display to the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery from Aug. 5 through Sept. 19.

er's markets. Applications are being accepted for the 2012 art exhibition season at the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery.

Blood Drives

The following blood drives will be held in the Novi/Northville areas: Sunday, Aug. 28, 7 a.m.-12:45 p.m.; First United Methodist Church.

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1-6:45 p.m.: First United Methodist Church Novi; high school scholarship.

Novi News online

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often.

Co-workers, families and friends help stop diabetes

This year, more than 2,500 area residents will come together to be part of the Stop Diabetes movement at the Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Detroit Zoo.

"Diabetes is a devastating disease that touches us all," said Christina Johnson, ADA Special Events Manager.

Today, there are nearly 26 million Americans — over 1 million in the State of Michigan — who have diabetes.

Several local and national sponsors have already signed on to help change the future of diabetes.

National sponsors include Cary's Sugar Free Syrup, Equal 0 Calorie Sweetener, PureVia All Natural Zero Calorie Sweetener and Dignity Memorial Network.

See our online images You can see staff photographer John Heider's photos in print in the Novi News and Northville Record.

Share a photo of your favorite car or one that you drove as a teenager. Be sure to include your name, community where you live, and a one-line description of the car and why it is (or was) your favorite.

Share a photo of your special muscle car, street rod, custom car, collector vehicle or other car with readers. Then get ready for this year's Woodward Dream Cruise on Saturday, Aug. 20, and more than one million visitors and 40,000 cars cruising along Woodward Avenue.

The countdown has begun to this year's Woodward Dream Cruise — the world's largest one-day celebration of all things car and car-related.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

BROOKS, YVONNE LOIS

A long time resident of Highland Township, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2011.

KEMPER, CECILIA A.

Age 55, of Brighton, passed away suddenly on 8/12/2011. Funeral service was held on 8/12/2011 at Caserline Funeral Home of South Lyon.

SPAMAN, ELEANOR (OISENROTH)

was born in Leslie, MI on February 22, 1914, the second daughter of John and Lucy (Hocking) Oisenroth.

STYES, JACK EDWARD

Age 92, August 12, 2011. Services were held August 15 at Lynch & Sons, Milford, 248-684-6645.

FISCHER, MARYELLEN

8/4/2011, age 53. Mother of Kristin (Kenneth) Rillenburg, Grandmother of Michelle and Marissa. Sister of Stephen Sabatini.

MURPHY, JAMES JOHN

82, of Beverly Hills, FL died 8/11/2011 at the Life Care Center in Lecanto, FL.

MURPHY, JAMES JOHN

82, of Beverly Hills, FL died 8/11/2011 at the Life Care Center in Lecanto, FL.

TERPE, ALEXANDER M.

Age 76 of Milford passed away in the loving care of his family August 12, 2011. Memorial Service was held from Lynch & Sons.

GOBLE, WINNIFRED "WINNIE"

Age 76, of South Lyon, passed away peacefully August 14, 2011. She was born May 29, 1935 in Rapid City, Michigan to Louis and Ida (Hagen) Newton.

MURPHY, JAMES JOHN

82, of Beverly Hills, FL died 8/11/2011 at the Life Care Center in Lecanto, FL.

SMOLARZ, MICHAEL J.

Age 81, passed away August 8, 2011 at his home in the care of his family. He was born on April 24, 1930 in Detroit.

TURNER, BETTY ANN

Of Fenton & formerly of Milford, died at home Saturday, August 13, 2011. She was 76 years old.

HAYES, PAUL EDWARD

A life-long resident of Milford died, Thursday, August 11, 2011. He was 78 years old. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Kathleen (nee, Wakefield).

MURPHY, JAMES JOHN

82, of Beverly Hills, FL died 8/11/2011 at the Life Care Center in Lecanto, FL.

SMOLARZ, MICHAEL J.

Age 81, passed away August 8, 2011 at his home in the care of his family. He was born on April 24, 1930 in Detroit.

TURNER, BETTY ANN

Of Fenton & formerly of Milford, died at home Saturday, August 13, 2011. She was 76 years old.

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

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FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, North of Eight Mile Road. Contact: (248) 348-7600

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Location: 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia Contact: (248) 442-8822

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS Location: 40700 W 10 Mile Road Contact: (248) 427-1175

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE Location: 217 N. Wing Contact: (248) 348-1020

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road Contact: (248) 349-3647

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OUR VIEWS

Twilight Gathering

Help 'working poor' tonight

Fix a problem before it becomes one. Sounds simple enough. And that's the basic premise behind the Women's Caring Program, a Michigan nonprofit foundation gives financial support for quality child care and early childhood education to children from low-income working families via its ChildCare Commitment.

Break the cycle of poverty by promoting academic achievement early in the life of a child. Simple, yes, but it takes money. And here's how you can help.

To raise awareness of families in need, and raise funds, a Twilight Gathering party will be held tonight at 50595 Chesapeake in Novi's Island Lake neighborhood, hosted by two Novi Community Education preschool teachers

PARTY DETAILS

Tonight's party is being held in the Island Lakes of Novi, courtesy of Toll Brothers. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by longtime WCP supporter Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's fame. In keeping with WCP tradition, a group of seven male "winemasters" will take care of the women guests, adorned in shorts, bow ties and aprons. Music will be provided by Presence of Three, a trio of flute, cello and guitar. Adding to the fun will be a silent auction of numerous one-of-a-kind items. The event is partially underwritten by DMC Huron-Valley Sinai Hospital. Hostesses of the Novi Twilight Gathering include: Mary Brady, Debbie Dingell, Kimberly Green-Kerr, Shannon Hannon, Debi Hart, Jane Iacobelli, Judy Malburg, Sandy Paquette, Colleen Robar, Ann Tappan, Lynn Torossian, Tina Wheeler and Carol Walters. Cost for the event, which is open to all women, is \$100 (register online at www.womenscaringprogram.org or call (734) 786-1371).

The state-wide ChildCare Commitment program was created to help disadvantaged and working poor families not eligible for child care payments from another funding source. It gives tuition assistance for children from birth to 5 years for quality care and early education.

Families in 64 of Michigan's 83 counties have been helped with awards prioritized in high poverty and densely-populated regions. This whole concept began in 1979 when Carol Walters and her circle of friends became concerned about child care needs of working mothers, and they began to raise funds. By 1995, the Women's Caring Program was created, and that circle of friends is now in the hundreds.

In this current recession, as parents struggle to provide, children feel that stress and know all too well about disappointment and hunger.

"Unfortunately, the pain of deprivation being experienced by nearly one in four of today's Michigan children will not end when the economy picks up again," according to WCP's website. "Studies show that the physical, mental and emotional effects of poverty literally last a lifetime. Children whose formative years are colored by poverty often experience academic, social, physical and emotional challenges throughout their lives, leading them to sometimes make choices that affect the safety and economic well-being of our society as a whole."

Yes, there are assistance programs for the unemployed and extremely poor, but over one-quarter of this state's families are "working poor" — employed but unable to make ends meet. So, when the parent(s) working, who cares for the children? The ChildCare Commitment is Michigan's only program supporting quality childcare and early education for these families. The WCP is now asking for your help to reach and help more children.

How's this for a return on your investment: In 2005, a HighScope Perry Preschool study showed that every dollar invested in early childhood education nets \$16.14 in public return through crime prevention, education and welfare savings, and increased taxes due to higher earnings.

"We believe that, collectively, we all have one asset too important to fail and that is our children," said Carol Walters.

NOVI NEWS

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

A GANNETT COMPANY
Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your favorite reality television show and why?



"Big Brother." It gives you a lot of different viewpoints and it's funny to see how people act as their real self."

Shannon Rouston, 15
Novi



"Amazing Race." It's cool to see the different cultures and see how the rest of the world lives."

Evan Nielson, 16
Novi



"Pawn Stars." They always show a lot of unique things that have been lost in history and it's also pretty funny."

Daniel Larson, 16
Novi



"Keeping Up with the Kardashians." It's really entertaining and interesting to see how they live. The drama is also good."

Jackie Day, 16
Novi

LETTERS

A wake-up call

On Aug. 2, the U.S. and the world witnessed the end of a congressional logjam over the debt ceiling which was a phony diversion from the real issues of jobs and economic stimulus.

The lengthy crisis was created and manipulated by 80+ new Republican members of the House of Representatives. These half-educated ideologues elected by corporate dollars and Tea Party fanatics threatened to cut Social Security and other dire consequences. Thus our nation was saved from default but the poor and middle class will suffer even more in the future.

President Obama could/should have been more involved and combative.

He is a knowledgeable, pragmatic, experienced politician but is naive and conciliatory at times. Most Democrats fought hard but could not defeat irrational people who, while quoting and interpreting the Constitution to fit their agendas, paid more allegiance to Grover Norquist's pledge to never raise taxes. The guiding principle of many extreme right wing Republicans was and is "no compromise." Congress is now under the control of persons who do not behave in a civil, coherent, legal, or ethical manner.

What happened Aug. 2 must be a wake-up call for all concerned citizens. It is imperative that voters with moderate views be involved, active and as passionate and organized as they were in the 2008 election when Barack Obama was elected president. Many voters neglected to participate in the 2010 midterm elections. Contact and support representatives with your ideas, time and money. Let's begin NOW to battle these know/no nothings!

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce

Golf helps St. Jude

On Aug. 28, The Knights of Columbus, the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council #7444, will be hosting its fifth annual golf fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

The hospital opened in 1962 and was founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas. Its mission is to find cures for children, whose ages range from 1-19 years who have some type of cancer.

St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatment because of the family's inability to pay. Some 5,500 patients visit St. Jude yearly. Our golf outing will be at Mystic Creek Golf Course, located in Camp Dearborn. Registration is 8-9 a.m. There will be a continental breakfast

Joanne Braund
Royal Oak

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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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.

and a 9 a.m. shotgun start. We will have a hot dog, chips and soda at the turn and a buffet dinner following golf.

This will be a best ball scramble with longest drive, closest to the pin and putting contests. The entry fee is \$100 per person or dinner only for \$30 per person.

Sponsorships cost \$100 for a sign. To play, call Rob MacMain at (248) 685-2389 or (248) 787-2929. If you don't golf, but would like to make a donation, send checks to John Rogers, 3101 Sands Court, Milford, MI 48380. Make checks payable to Knights of Columbus #7444. Earmark them "St. Jude."

All proceeds go directly to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Some 40 years ago, Danny Thomas said "no child should die in the dawn of life." Can you help keep Danny's dream alive? But most of all, please help the sick children.

John Rogers
Milford

Good for all

The Republicans and especially the Tea Party Republicans are fond of saying "You can't raise taxes in a recession." Well, I say, "You can't cut jobs in a recession." For every person Republicans want to cut from the jobs force, it causes more deficit because these people cannot pay taxes and can't feed themselves.

If the Tea Party Republicans in Congress have their way, all the seniors won't have Medicare and Medicaid. Plus, they really want to get rid of Social Security. Their attitude is everyone for themselves. Why can't the Tea Party People see that keeping people employed works for the good of all of us? Has anyone noticed unemployment is up in Michigan? In a recession we have to keep people employed.

Of course, this is my opinion. What is yours? Let your voice be heard. Call your representatives and government officials in Michigan and in Washington, D.C.

Denise "Chip" Black
Milford

Way to go, NFPA!

We all know that our schools have been hit hard with financial realities and that our sports teams and clubs are in desperate need for funding and support. We all know that our local businesses are struggling in this current economic environment. And we all know that Northville families are finding it difficult to juggle all of the financial needs of our homes, schools, and community.

Congratulations to the Northville Football Parents Association for organizing a fundraiser that recognizes those realities and offers a collaborative way for all of us to benefit for \$20 — the price of one of their discount coupon books — I can support the NHS Football program, get discounts on sports gear at Dick's, and get discounts on washing my car and eating at 11 local eateries! Everyone benefits: the football program is raising much-needed funds, the car wash and local eateries will see increased business, and Northville families save money by doing what we generally do in the course of our days.

All I can say is: I wish we had thought of this first!! As president of the NHS Varsity Dance Company — I know that we are always looking for fund raisers that make sense. This one will be hard to beat!

Thank you, Dawson Laabs, for stopping by to offer a NFPA coupon book. Good luck, Mustangs. Your season is already off to a great start!

Mari Anne Guidobono
Northville

Free market myth

Many people believe that the free-market can solve our problems. This is a dangerous myth. The reality is that the free-market is not free and it cannot possibly solve all our problems.

The bottom line of this myth is profit. People and companies are putting profits over humanity, decency, honor and country. This is happening because the free-market perpetuates poverty, unemployment, ecological degradation and income disparity.

Gerard Anderson, a professor of health policy and management and the director of Johns Hopkins Center for Hospital Finance and Management, attributes the high cost of medical care to the market system.

Solving our nation's multifaceted problems requires citizens, especially business and political leaders, to cooperate and respect each other. As a nation, we need to find our way back to living ethically.

Denise "Chip" Black
Milford

Extremely drunk driver arrested

Novi police arrested a highly intoxicated driver at 6:05 p.m. on Aug. 15 for drunk driving in the area of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue after a witness observed him swerving in his lane and cutting off other cars.

The witness followed the driver until he stopped on Shiloh Drive and waited for police to arrive. When the officer approached the car, a strong odor of intoxicants was coming from inside the car. The man admitted to drinking four to six beers and was then given field sobriety tests. During the tests, the man did not comply with instructions and proceeded to call the officer an offensive name.

A preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .28 percent. The legal limit for adult drivers in Michigan is .08 percent. While waiting for his car to be

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

impounded, the man began to complain of back problems and asked to be taken to Providence Park Hospital. While at the hospital he was given a blood test and kept there because of his high BAC. The case has been forwarded to the prosecutor for warrant review.

Home, car vandalized
A Novi woman had a half dozen landscaping lights stolen from her Gálway Drive home overnight on Aug. 14.

According to the report, the woman said the suspect also rubbed dog feces on her car. She said she does not know who may have committed the crime, and police have no suspects.

Tires jacked from Camaro
A Chevrolet Camaro had all four tires and rims stolen off it on Aug. 10 while it was parked on Picnic Court.

According to the police report, an officer searching the area found the car while searching the area for clues

regarding another larceny that took place nearby. The Camaro was resting on pavers, and the officer was unable to find the owner at the time.

The suspect car for the first larceny was an older model Chevy Astro minivan.

Police have no suspects at this time.

Purse taken out of car
A 31-year-old woman had her Coach purse containing her

Coach glasses and Tag watch stolen from her car sometime between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on July 29 while it was parked in the parking lot at Lifetime Fitness.

According to the report, the woman said she was sure she locked the car but there was no sign of forced entry. The purse was on the floor and she had her keys with her in the building. The total value of the items taken was \$2,650.

Police have no suspects.

—Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

Civilian pistol safety class offered by Novi police

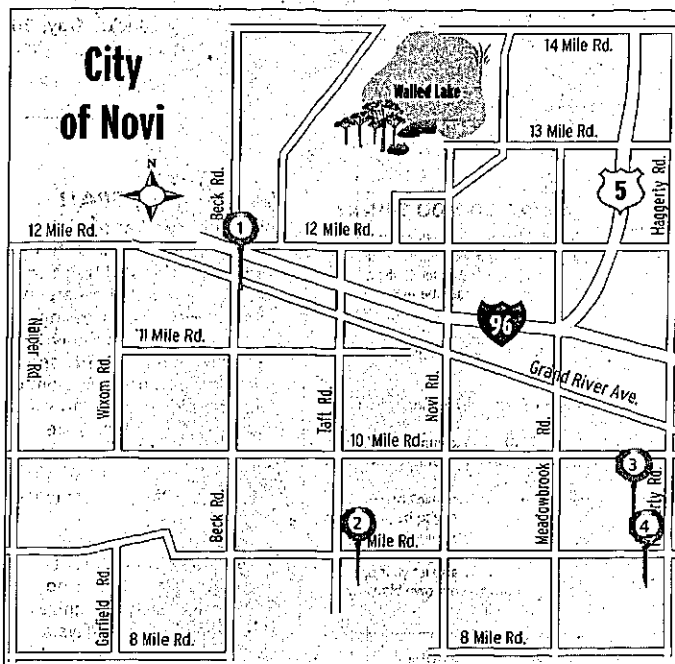
The Novi Police Department will host a Civilian Pistol Safety Class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. This course fulfills both the classroom and shooting requirements to obtain a Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL).

The CPL class will be held at the Novi Police Department Training Center, located at 45125 W. 10 Mile Road. After lunch, participants will move to the Novi Firearms Training Center to complete the training.

Participants must be 21 years old and can register online at cityofnovi.org or pick up a registration form at the Novi Police Department. The course costs \$200 and can be paid with cash or money order. All participants are subject to a criminal background check. Class size is limited.

Students must bring their own equipment, including a personal handgun, 100 rounds of ammunition, safety glasses, and shooter's earmuffs or ear plugs.

For more information, visit cityofnovi.org, contact Sergeant Michael Warren at warren@cityofnovi.org or 248.347.0572.



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India day



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Visitors to the Aug. 14 India Day watch and record young ladies as they perform traditional dances inside Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.



Meghana Keeta, 9, left, and Jahnvi Nalamola, 11, dance at the Aug. 14 India League of America — Michigan India Day at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. India Day featured lots of vendors of clothing, food and design for Indian Americans as well as showcasing the dance talents of dozens of performers.



Visitors to the India Day celebration were greeted by a statue of Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu god of success.



Sandhya Manivasagam, 7, gets her costume prepped by her mother, Anandhi, during the India Day gathering.



Visitors to the Suburban Collection Showplace take a look at a display of jewelry offerings.

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Dan Novak

Dan Novak of RE/MAX Classic of Novi has earned the Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE) designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales. This is invaluable expertise to offer at a time when many homeowners find themselves with

adjustments, unemployment and balloon payments forcing them out of their homes without a solution and in the foreclosure process.

Short sales allow the cash-strapped seller to repay the mortgage at the price that the home sells for, even though it is lower than what is owed on the property. With the decrease in property values, this can save many people from foreclosure and even bankruptcy. More and more lenders are willing to consider short sales because they

are much less costly than foreclosures.

"This CDPE designation has been invaluable as I work with sellers and lenders on complicated short sales," said Novak. It is so rewarding to be able to help sellers save their homes from foreclosure. I specialize in working with homeowners who are facing the process of foreclosure. As a Certified Distressed Property Expert, I am an advocate for families in need of a professional, knowledgeable Realtor to help them through the issues they are facing."

Joseph Serra

Dr. Joseph Serra attended the seventh annual International Association of Comprehensive Aesthetics (IACA) conference in San Diego, CA, from July 28-30.

The annual conference provided Serra the opportunity to learn and interact with the most progressive leaders in aesthetic dentistry and its related professions. Also, Serra was introduced to the latest techniques and materials available today.

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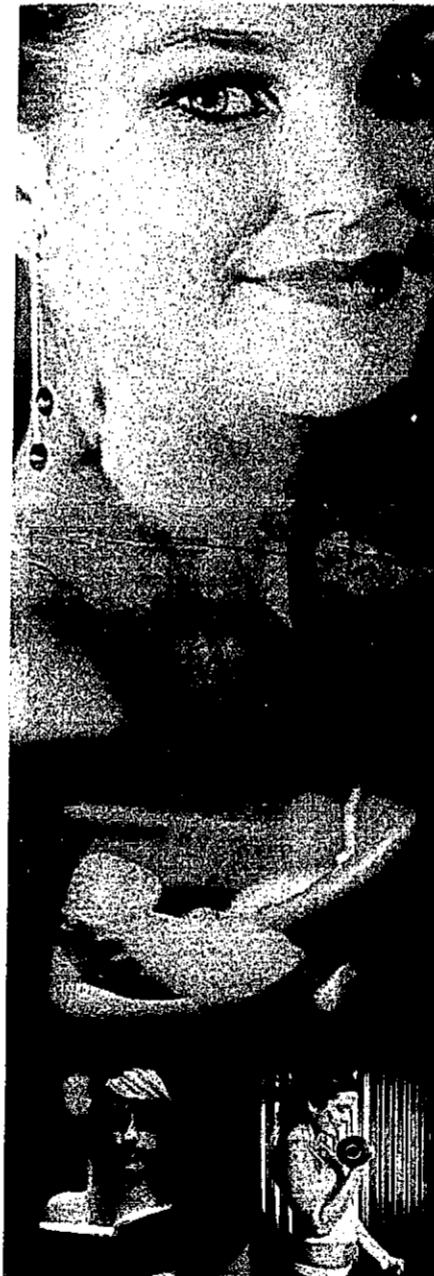
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Good cause



Walkers with the Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day for the Cure take off from Novi's Village Oaks Elementary around noon last Friday. Be sure to see John Heider's photo gallery and video online at www.hometownlife.com.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE SERVICE Milestones

Joshua Bridgeman

Navy Seaman Apprentice Joshua D. Bridgeman, son of Gloria E. Bridgeman of Greer, S.C. and Randolph R. Bridgeman of Novi, alongside other Sailors from Pre-Commissioning Detachment (PCD) San Diego (LPD 22) recently participated in a community outreach event onboard the USS Midway Museum. This annual event featured a special exhibit area, which allowed Sailors and museum visitors to interact.

PCD San Diego is the sixth ship in its class currently completing construction in Pascagoula, Miss., and will transit to its future homeport San Diego in early 2012. Bridgeman is a 2006 graduate of Greer High School of Greer, S.C. and joined the Navy in June 2010.



Reed & Marano

Abby Renee Reed and Steven Michael Marano, both of Chicago, are engaged to be married. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Tom and Carol Reed, of Sycamore, Ill.

She is a 2006 graduate of Kishwaukee College, Maitland, Ill., and is employed as a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago. The groom-elect is the son of Michael and Pamela Marano, of Novi. He is a 2006 graduate of Western Michigan University, with a bachelor's degree in business sales and marketing and in 2009 completed a master's of business administration degree from Walsh College, Troy. He is employed at Hollister Inc., Libertyville, Ill., a world-wide developer and distributor of medical supplies, as sales coordinator for the south-eastern U.S. A December wedding in Chicago is planned.

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INSIDE: MIKE MARTIN IS ROLE MODEL ON THE FIELD AND OFF, B3

SECTION B (NRNN)
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SPORTS

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Northville's Vinnie Bevins prepares to launch the game-winning homer.

JAMES PARKAS

Northville wins rematch with Novi

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

When the Northville and Novi 55-and-over men's softball teams met on the field of play a few weeks ago, the exciting finale and Northville's victory ensured another game would be played. That rematch, which was played Aug. 4, was just as exciting and just as much in Northville's favor when all was said and done. Northville's squad earned back-to-back wins in an unexpected double header, 13-1 and 5-3. "After the first game it was decided by all to go for two, so a double header was played to five innings," explained Northville Parks and Recreation director Charlie Gabbeart. In the first game, Northville simply dominated. By the top of the fifth inning, they were already ahead by 12 runs, all but guaranteeing the victory. In the second game, however, Novi

made quite a bit of noise. Their bats fired up and the Baseline bombers jumped out to a 3-1 lead. Northville, however, brought in some strong pitching to shut down those hot bats and their offense sparked to earn the come-from-behind victory in the nightcap. "This game could possibly be a glimpse at things to come for Northville and Novi. Northville is hoping to create a regular 55-and-over team while Novi is continuing to look for teams to play through the rest of this season. "A group of guys in Novi joined together for the first time this June, and are enjoying themselves so much that they are continuing to look for 'pick-up' games throughout the fall," said Tori Heglin of Novi Parks and Rec. The Northville games marked the second team Novi has played this year. The squad also played a team from Hartland twice—a new team this year similar to their own—and now three games against Northville.

"Our team is made up of players who have not played in many years to some who currently play in other leagues," said team manager Ron Megesi. "We did not get to pick our players. The team just kind of showed up. Surprisingly so, this team is competitive and loves to play ball." If Northville and Novi get their way, they will be in a league next year with teams from Hartland and possibly those from South Lyon, Livonia, Walled Lake and other surrounding communities. "We are interested in any teams from the local area that want to play softball," said Heglin. "At present, we are working with men, but women have joined in and we would form a women's league as well if there is an interest." For more information, contact Gabbeart at Northville Parks and Rec or Heglin at Novi Parks and Rec.

Sam Eggleston is a freelance writer and former staff sports writer for the Northville Record and Novi News.

2 state youth cricketers on USA's U-15 squad

Michigan Cricket Academy (<http://micricketacademy.wordpress.com/>) announced that two of its members, Gordon Makin, 15, of Dexter, and Rohit Mogalayaipalli, 14, of Novi, have been selected for the USA U-15 squad to represent the country in the International Cricket Council Americas Northern Division Tournament in Winnipeg, Canada, from Aug. 21-28. They are the first MCA players to be selected for a national team at any level (U-15, U-19, or senior). Both were born in the United States and have played all their cricket in this country. A sophomore, Makin also plays football for the Dexter High School JV team (outside linebacker) and rugby for Dexter Rugby Club; freshman Mogalayaipalli plays premier-level club basketball and is a quarterback for Novi High School freshman. Makin is an opening batsman and wicket keeper (cricket's equivalent of baseball's catcher); Mogalayaipalli also an opening batsman and medium pace bowler. Both play regularly for MCA and for Motown Cricket Club in the Michigan Cricket Association (adult) league—see www.micricket.org. They opened the batting together for Central East Region at the recently completed national inter-regional U-15 tournament in Hartford, CT, and together scored over 300 runs in four matches. Makin's career highlights include a maiden half-century at last year's inter-regional tournament in New Jersey (vs South West Region), 44 not out and the Man-of-the-Match award vs University of Michigan XI in the American College Cricket Cup in October 2010, scores of 47 and 72 at the California Cricket Academy U-17 Tournament this June, and two fifties in the recently completed inter-regional tournament in Connecticut. Mogalayaipalli's career highlights include 71 for MCA against Chicago in MCA's Memorial Day Weekend Tournament, 2010 (the highest score in the tournament, recorded by one of the youngest players), 68 and the Man-of-the-Match award for Central East Region against Directors' XI in the 2010 inter-regional tournament, 81 for Great Lakes Academy in Michigan's Great Lakes Cricket Conference this June—generally thought to be the highest score ever made in a Michigan adult league match by an under-15-year player; and his maiden hundred against the Directors' XI in the 2011 inter-regional tournament.

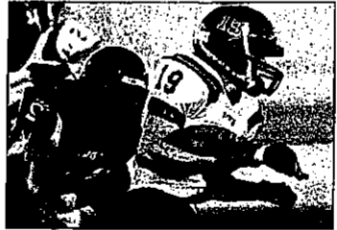
ABOUT THE SPORT

Cricket, said to be the world's second-most popular sport, is growing fast in the United States. If you don't know where to look, you might not see it, but all over Metro Detroit and in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Holland, and other parts of the state league matches are played every Saturday and Sunday. Many local cricketers are members of the area's fast-growing South Asian population, but some come from other major cricketing countries (England, Australia, South Africa, the Anglophone Caribbean, etc.) For the most part, cricket in Michigan is played by adults, but since 2004 one organization has been working to ensure that the State's children also learn the game: MCA has enjoyed steady growth since its inception and is now striving to be recognized as one of the Midwest's premier youth cricket programs. MCA runs year-round practices (indoors in gymnasiums in the winter; at Wixom's Lyon Oaks Park cricket ground from May to October).

KLAA shows dominance in fall sports

By Jeff Theisen
Staff Writer

Three years ago, the Western Lakes Activity Association and the Kensington Valley Conference combined to make a super-conference. The Kensington Lakes Activities Association was born in 2008 and filled out with three Walled Lake Schools and eventually Grand Blanc to fill out the 24-team, four-division format. The following is a look at how the young league is faring once put into playoff and at the state-level of competition from the fall sports standpoint—which is also one of its strongest seasons.



JOHN HEIDER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mustang Jonathon Alandt tries to evade the grasp of South Lyon East's Matt Kusynski. Alandt is the 2010 All-Area Player of the Year. Finishing out the KLAA placings were Grand Blanc in 11th, Waterford Mott in 13th, Lakeland in 15th, Walled Lake Northern in 19th and Plymouth in 20th.

"There is no other sport in the KLAA that has been the dominate conference at the state level like boys cross country," said Novi coach Robert Smith. "It is amazing just how many great teams there are year after year in a 24-team association. With a group this large there are usually cupcake teams. Not in the KLAA. Not in boys cross country." Milford won the cross country Team of the Decade for the first 10 years of the 2000s and started the next 10 with a fourth-place finish. "Since joining the KLAA we have yet to have a boys Team Champion, but we have many knocking on the door," said Salyers. "I believe the competition breeds success." As far as an individual, Waterford Mott's claimed the title last year. The KLAA also posted eight of the 30 All-State athletes for Division 1. In 2009, again Pinckney finished third.

Please see KLAA FALL, B2

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KLAA FALL

Continued from page B1

with Milford in fourth. Novi secured the 10th spot with Plymouth in 11th and Grand Blanc in 12th for five teams in the top 12.

Individually, Milford's Nate Huff led 10 KLAA All-State runners (top 30 are All-State) with a fifth-place finish.

In 2008, the KLAA had four teams in the top 16, with Pinckney in eighth, Plymouth in 12th, Novi in 13th and Milford in 16th. Individually, the KLAA had five All-Staters, led by Pinckney's Matt Wines in seventh. Two Grand Blanc runners also made All-State, but the Bobcats were not part of the KLAA until 2009. Grand Blanc also finished 18th as a team.

Girls Cross Country

Running right with the boys, the KLAA girls cross country is also extremely dominant.

In 2010, four KLAA teams place in the top 10, starting with Northville in fourth, Pinckney in fifth, Grand Blanc in ninth and Salem in 10th. Five more teams place in the top 25, with Milford in 14th, Brighton in 16th, Livonia Franklin in 19th, Waterford Mott in 23rd and Walled Lake Northern in 24th.

Of the 27 teams at the State Final, the KLAA had nine of the top 24 teams.

The KLAA also boasted an amazing 14 of the 30 All-State runners, led by Grand Blanc's Gabrielle Anzalone in second place overall.

One year earlier eight KLAA teams cracked the top 23 — Pinckney (5th), Salem (8th), Churchill (11th), Hartland (15th), Waterford Mott (16th), Milford (18th), Northville (21st) and Brighton (23rd).

Individually, seven All-State runners came from the KLAA, led by Hartland's Avery Evenson in second and Churchill's Sara Kroll just behind her in third. Seven KLAA runners finished in the top 40 for All-State status. In 2008, Brighton led six KLAA teams in the top 20 with a fifth-place finish. Eight runners finished All-State, led by Mott's Shannon Osika who finished second overall.

"In girls cross country, the KLAA is pretty impressive," said Northville coach Nancy Smith. "Last year four KLAA teams finished amongst the top 10 at the State Finals — also, nine teams of the 27 teams. That is pretty impressive. The competition is getting tougher and more competitive."

Girls Swim and Dive

The KLAA Central Division, made up of five teams — South Lyon, Novi, Northville, Salem and Stevenson — are all regulars among the top 10 in the state.

Last fall, South Lyon led the charge with a fourth-place finish. Livonia Stevenson and Northville tied for ninth with Novi finishing 11th. Salem finished 21st.

"As you can see, all five schools are very high in the state," said South Lyon coach John Burch. "This leads to great competition within the division. The KLAA Kensington Conference is one of the top four conferences in the state for swimming."

Other KLAA top finishers included Brighton in eighth, Grand Blanc in 15th, Hartland in 17th, Walled Lake Central in 25th, Livonia Franklin in 27th and Plymouth in 30th.

In all, 11 KLAA teams reached the top 30 at the biggest meet of the year.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Novi Wildcat Jason Carless serves.

The Wildcats next knocked off Catholic Central in the quarterfinals and Rockford in the semifinals before losing to Lake Orion in the finals. Of the final 16 teams in Division 1, the KLAA had five — Howell, Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Grand Blanc. Howell finished in the quarterfinals.

In Division 2, Walled Lake Central made a run to the final four. In 2009, Canton fell in overtime to eventual State Champ Catholic Central in the quarterfinals.

In 2008, Livonia Stevenson made a run to the semifinals, dropping fellow KLAA member Canton in the quarterfinals. Hartland also reached the quarterfinals.

In Division 2, Lakeland made a run to the quarterfinals. "I believe the KLAA can be, and is, as compet-

itive in the state playoffs as any other conference in the state," said Northville coach Matt Ladach. "We have had teams do really well in the past few years with Stevenson, Plymouth, W.L. Central, Canton, etc."

"The biggest downfall of the current MHSAA playoffs is the geographic breakdown of district pairings. Typically speaking, we end up playing our division and conference rivals in rounds one and two of the playoffs, so it is difficult to comment on exactly how we match up against the rest of the state."

Boys Soccer

Last year, the KLAA playoffs saw the KLAA take up half the final four and three of the final eight teams.

Novi, Canton and Grand Blanc each reached the final eight with Canton and Grand Blanc's run ending in the semifinals.

In 2009, it was a similar feat with Novi, Salem and Canton reaching the quarterfinals. Salem went on to reach the final four before ending its run.

In 2008, Stevenson reached the finals before losing in overtime. Salem and Grand Blanc also reached the quarterfinals.

Volleyball Despite plenty of quality teams in the KLAA, it's simply been the Churchill show in the playoffs. The Chargers reached the final eight in 2010, and the final four in 2009 and 2008.

Boys tennis Novi has led the charge for the KLAA in boys tennis. The Wildcats have placed fifth each of the three years of the leagues existence.

In 2010, Novi placed each of its four doubles teams in the semifinals with its No. 2 team finish-

ing runner-up. Also placing for the KLAA were Grand Blanc in ninth, Livonia Franklin in 13th and Churchill in 15th.

In 2009, Novi tied with Grand Blanc for fifth and Northville snagged the 11th spot. Novi again placed all four of its doubles teams in the semifinals.

In 2008, Novi finished fifth with Northville in 13th and Churchill tied for 14th. Grand Blanc was not part of the KLAA yet, but still finished seventh.

Girls Golf

The KLAA bunched five teams in the ninth through 13th spots at the Division 1 State Finals.

Novi grabbed ninth, followed directly by Northville, Plymouth, Brighton and Milford for five of the top 13 spots.

Plymouth's Kelsey Murphy led the individual charge with a fifth-place finish. Brighton's Hannah Pietila finished ninth with Novi's Megan Henry 10th.

In Division 2, South Lyon finished 12th as a team. In 2009, Northville led the way with a sixth-place finish. Brighton's Hannah Pietila finished ninth with Novi's Megan Henry 10th.

In 2008, the Mustangs of Northville swung their way to third place in Division 1. Walled Lake Central finished 10th with Brighton 14th.

Alicia Weber from Northville finished tied for third overall. Sarah Johnson was sixth with Emmie Pietila from Brighton tied for eighth.

jtheisen@annett.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 228

14U division champs



The Northville Bronco 14U travel fastpitch softball team was 12-1 in Western Wayne County League play to win their division. Pictured (l to r, front) Shea Heid, Jess Jones, Melissa Swart, Lexi Tiller, Alison Hige, Emily Hahn; (back) assistant coaches Bill Hahn and John Pawloski, Kendra Sayre, Ashley Bryan, Symone Abbott, Emily Marech, Tara Pawloski, Alysa Graf and head coach Dave Jerome.

Buddies



Members of the Northville High School varsity and JV pom-pom teams spent the afternoon of July 30th as "buddies" to players in a Miracle League of Southfield baseball game. The pom-pom team assisted Miracle League players in hitting the ball and "running" the bases. This is the second year that the NHS pom team has volunteered with the Miracle League of Southfield as part of the pom team's community service program. Shown (l to r) are Chandler Brown, Marissa Loszer, Carley Olander, Sara Lovelace, Faith Horbatch, Isabel Inchaustegui, Anna Fillar and Maria Demos.

Be like Mike

Martin is role model on the field and off

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

One pancake was enough for Mike Martin, thank you.

On Sept. 13, 2008, the Redford Township native and highly rated freshman defensive lineman from Novi-Detroit Catholic Central was sent to the turf by a Notre Dame blocker in just his third collegiate football game.

Using gridiron terminology, Martin was "pancaked."

"Defensive linemen are never supposed to cross their feet, but I crossed mine on that play," Martin said. "I got felled up. The next day at practice when we were watching film, the coaches replayed it over and over. I got the message."

Martin hasn't been pancaked since. Three years, 36 games,

108 tackles and 6.5 sacks later, Martin is a run-stuffing, quarterback-terrorizing force on the Michigan defensive line.

In July, his name was placed on the 65-player "Watch List" for the Lombardi Trophy, an award that is presented annually to the country's top interior lineman.

And when conversations regarding the 2012 NFL Draft heat up, Martin's name usually surfaces like cream in coffee.

"My time here has really flown by," Martin said. "I can't tell you how excited I am about this season. This team is really coming together and the seniors are determined to make sure we have no regrets once it's over."

New direction Martin is savoring the re-energized atmosphere

created by the January hiring of new U-M head coach Brady Hoke.

"Coach Hoke has a huge understanding about what it means to play football for the University of Michigan," Martin said. "He's created a lot of excitement and the guys are anxious to play for him. Every practice is upbeat with a quick tempo. It's been a lot of hard work, but it's been fun, too."

"The biggest thing coach Hoke harps on is team, team, team. We've learned a lot about Bo Schiembeckler and why Michigan was successful when he was here."

Not long after he was tabbed to lead the U-M football program, Hoke hired former Baltimore Ravens defensive coordinator Greg Mattison to join his rebuilding project.



Redford native Mike Martin hopes to lead a revamped Michigan defense for the 2011 season.

Armed with a Hall of Fame-caliber resume that also includes successful coaching stints at Florida and Notre Dame, Mattison didn't waste any time enhancing his new players' minds with sage advice.

"Coach Mattison's most important message is that if you're not fundamentally sound, you're not going to be successful," Martin said. "He's already taught us a lot of new techniques that

will help us become better football players. I'm standing up more (on the line) and moving around — whatever it takes to be in the best position to make plays."

Well-rounded man

Martin's extraordinary pursuit skills aren't limited to the playing field. In December, he's set to tackle a degree in communications in just 3 1/2 years — a remarkable accomplishment considering the added demands of playing Division I college football.

"I eventually want to run my own business and be an entrepreneur," he said, looking ahead. "I've focused a lot on marketing at Michigan. I feel comfortable speaking in front of large groups of people and I'm pretty organized."

Although he won't turn 21 until Sept. 1, Martin is already making a remarkable impact in the giving-back-to-the-community department.

He offered his assistance at several youth football camps this summer — including Detroit Lion Ndamukong Suh's clinic in Walled Lake — and he's an active volunteer for Live2Give, a non-profit foundation whose primary purpose is to help revitalize Detroit.

An example of Martin's L2G mission work included speaking to members of Young Builders, a group of 18- to 24-year-old Detroiters who are working toward earning their GED's.

"Mike doesn't do it for the publicity. He likes to get away from the cameras and get involved in the nitty-gritty stuff."

"His message to the young people he speaks to is, 'I'm from the neighborhood, too. I've shared your struggles and I want to help.' He's a great guy."

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NORTHVILLE/NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

14U girls softball tryouts

The 2012 Northville 14U girls softball travel team tryouts will be held at Millennium Park from 6-7:30 p.m. (registration starts at 5:45 p.m.) on the following dates: * Thursday, Aug. 18 * Friday, Aug. 19 * Saturday, Aug. 20 * Sunday, Aug. 21 * Monday, Aug. 22 * Tuesday, Aug. 23

For more information contact Robert Zwarka at bob.zwarka@wca.us.

The Northville 11U travel softball tryouts

The Northville 11U travel softball team is holding tryouts on the following dates:

- * Sunday, Aug. 21, 6-7:30 p.m.
* Saturday, Aug. 27, 10-11:30 a.m.
* Sunday, Aug. 28, 6-7:30 p.m.

All girls, ages 10-12, who are interested in playing fastpitch softball at a competitive level are encouraged to attend. Tryouts will be held at Millennium Field SE on 6 Mile between Sheldon and Beck roads (across from Northville High School, behind the Fire Department.) Refer to www.nbsaonline.org.

9U baseball tryouts

There will 2012 9U travel baseball tryouts at the following from 6-8 p.m. on the following dates at Hennington Fields * Thursday, Aug. 18 * Friday, Aug. 19 * Saturday, Aug. 20 * Sunday, Aug. 21 * Monday, Aug. 22

If your player is either older or younger than the 9U age bracket, please refer to the NBSA website for the appropriate tryout dates/times/locations: http://www.nbsaonline.org/Tryouts.htm

Tennis Camp

Northville Parks and Recreation is offering End of Summer Tennis Camps, morning and evening times, for ages 6-14 years. Beginner to intermediate levels are invited to attend. Join head coach Todd Beyer for games, point play situations and team tennis.

Camp (9:30-11:30 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.) is Aug. 22-25 and cost \$99. Register online www.northvilleparksandrec.org or e-mail khoupa@cic.northville.mi.us for more information.

Arts Beats Seats Royal Oak presented by CITIZENS Downtown Royal Oak September 2-5, 2011 Oakland County's Summer Festival Celebrating Art, Music, Cuisine & Humanity www.artsbeatsseats.com

PUBLIC COURSES COYOUE Senior Special WEEKEND SPECIAL \$26 WEEKDAYS \$15 WEEKEND \$23 TWILIGHT \$12 WEEKENDS \$12 COYOUE PRESERVE Weekday Specials Seniors = \$29 Mon/Tues = \$25 After 1 pm = \$40 After 3:30 pm = \$25 GOLF BRUCE MILLS 588.752.7244

SIDING WORLD Summer SALE CertainTeed & NAPCO VINYL VINYL SIDING \$44.95 SEAMLESS GUTTERS 6" GUTTER \$1.63 5" GUTTER \$1.10 VINYL SIDING \$54.95 DETROIT'S #1 ROOFING SUPPLIER www.SIDINGWORLD.com

DICK SCOTT CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM SUMMER CLEARANCE EVENT 2011 CHRYSLER 300 LIMITED MSRP \$34,085 BUY FOR \$27,237* LEASE \$289*/Mo. 2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO MSRP \$32,995 BUY FOR \$26,126* LEASE \$225*/Mo. 2011 DODGE DURANGO MSRP \$32,045 BUY FOR \$24,236* LEASE \$210*/Mo. 2011 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING MSRP \$21,700 BUY FOR \$15,241* LEASE \$150*/Mo. 2011 RAM 1500 SIT QUAD CAB 4x4 MSRP \$36,280 BUY FOR \$24,320* LEASE \$204*/Mo.

Comcast FlexPerks US Bank CITIZENS BANK AT&T HealthPlus Health Plans peopl US PARK Health Plans Soaring Eagle ROBERT MONDAY DISCOVERWAY OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN RESTAURANT Radisson THE WESTIN

Car Report

Advertising Feature

BMW, MERCEDES AIM FOR PHOTO FINISH IN LUXURY RACE

By Dale Buss

The battle of giants for the lead in the U.S. luxury market got even more interesting in July, as No. 1 BMW crept a little further into the lead over No. 2 Mercedes-Benz during the month; Lexus remained hamstrung by supplies; and other players were jockeying for the No. 3 spot. BMW brand sold about 135,000 vehicles year to date through July, and last month upped its edge over the Mercedes brand, which sold about 130,000 during the first seven months. Lexus brand sales were off by 19 percent in July and are off by 19 percent for the seven months, even though availability has begun to return to form. Audi and even Lincoln staged their own surges during the month as the entire segment began easing into the traditional summer sell-down.

One obstacle is out of the way for luxury sales for the rest of the year, at least for now: doubts seem to be fading among upper-income consumers about the U.S. debt and budget situation. To be sure, equity markets have taken a

beating during the last couple of weeks, a dip that, if extended, bodes ill for the willingness of many luxury-vehicle consumers to buy. Nevertheless, executives in the segment continue to profess confidence in their own future performances and, to some degree, the luxury market as a whole. "Despite the recent economic news, our BMW Group sales in July continued their good momentum," said Jim O'Donnell, president and CEO of BMW of North America.

Nearly every major luxury brand - including not only the Germans but also Buick, Lincoln and Infiniti - have embarked on bold plans to scramble at least closer to the top of the heap as Lexus has at least temporarily slipped off the pinnacle. BMW, like its rivals, scheduled launches of new products in the second half including the 528xi, the first all-wheel-drive, entry-level version of its hot-selling 5 Series. Recently, Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche was reminding employees in Frankfurt that the company will use rivals' success as "additional motivation."

Infiniti boasted that 10,000 new vehicles became available for consumer



The 5 Series is crucial to BMW's intentions to win the 2011 luxury-segment race in the U.S. market.

delivery as the brand pulls out of its supply difficulties. And Audi upped the ante in its embrace of big TV events in the U.S. market by announcing that it will serve as "the official automotive partner" of the television industry's 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards in September. Several players predict that full-year sales in the luxury market will end up about flat with 2010 after first-half sales this year were roughly flat as well, while general industry sales rose by 13 percent in the first six months.

"The overall [luxury] market is fragile and uncertain, so we're being cautious about that," said Matt Granger, general manager of retail sales for Audi of America. "The

luxury segment rose by 14 percent. Luxury sales were still rising, to a "torrid" pace in the first quarter, Poore said, when the earthquake and tsunami hit on March 11.

"We're just happy that we have something to sell again," Templin said. "It's like going back to basics. We're sharpening our knives." Yet Steve Cannon, vice president of marketing for Mercedes-Benz USA, paid homage to an even stronger competitor right now: BMW, with whom Mercedes-Benz is battling for the 2011 luxury crown. BMW sold about 114,000 vehicles in the United States during the first half, while Mercedes sold 111,000.

The Mercedes executive protested that the company is "not setting out to beat BMW" this year. Yet Cannon noted proudly, "We've closed an enormous gap with BMW over three years. In 2007, they outsold us by 45,000 cars" in the United States. "Now, we're neck-and-neck with them every single month."

And BMW's Creed seemed more than willing to focus on the brand's mano a mano contest with Mercedes-Benz, saying that he "feel[s] good" about the slim lead over its rival.

WHEELS logo and contact information for various services.

Beats/Motors advertisement for car audio equipment.

Boat/Vehicle Storage advertisement for outdoor storage.

Motorcycles/Motobikes advertisement for Harley-Davidson.

RV/Campers/Trailers advertisement for camping trailers.

Snowmobiles advertisement for winter recreation.

Auto Washed advertisement for car cleaning services.

ATM advertisement for financial services.

Trucks for Sale advertisement for commercial vehicles.

Mini Vans advertisement for passenger vans.

Sports Utility advertisement for SUVs.

'03 BMW X5 3.0 AWD advertisement for a luxury SUV.

'07 MERCEDES C-230 SPORT advertisement for a compact car.

'08 BMW 328XI advertisement for a sedan.

'11 BUICK LACROSSE CXL advertisement for a sedan.

'11 BUICK LACROSSE CXL advertisement for a sedan.

'07 CADILLAC SRX V8 AWD advertisement for a SUV.

'08 CADILLAC STS AWD advertisement for a sedan.

2006 CHEVY SILVERADO advertisement for a pickup truck.

'10 CHEVY IMPALA LTZ advertisement for a sedan.

'11 CHRYSLER 200 LIMITED advertisement for a sedan.

2007 DODGE CARAVAN SE advertisement for a minivan.

'10 DODGE CHARGER SXT advertisement for a sedan.

'10 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT advertisement for a minivan.

2006 FORD ESCAPE XLT advertisement for a SUV.

2006 FORD MUSTANG advertisement for a sports car.

2007 FORD EXPLORER XLT advertisement for a SUV.

2007 FORD FUSION advertisement for a sedan.

'08 FORD F350 LARIAT CREW advertisement for a pickup truck.

'09 FORD FLEX LIMITED advertisement for a SUV.

2009 FORD FOCUS 4 DOOR SE advertisement for a sedan.

'09 FORD FLEX SEL advertisement for a SUV.

'11 FORD TAURUS LIMITED advertisement for a sedan.

'08 FORD F150 XLT advertisement for a pickup truck.

'10 MERCURY MARINER PREMIER advertisement for a SUV.

2011 MERCURY MILAN advertisement for a sedan.

'09 JAGUAR XF LUXURY advertisement for a sedan.

'09 PONTIAC G8 GT advertisement for a sedan.

'07 SATURN VUE HYBRID advertisement for a SUV.

2004 JEEP GR. CRUISE advertisement for a SUV.

2009 JEEP PATRIOT advertisement for a SUV.

'06 LINCOLN ZEPHYR advertisement for a sedan.

'10 MERCURY MILAN PREMIER advertisement for a sedan.

2011 MERCURY MARINER PREMIER advertisement for a SUV.

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'06 LINCOLN ZEPHYR advertisement for a sedan.

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet advertisement featuring various car models and financing options.